



National Pg 3 Dar ready to start flights to Guangzhou



National Pg 5 Muslims urged to pray for peace



National Pg 6 Healers urged to surrender govt trophies



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Envoys say free media is essential for Africa

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

TANZANIA, Africa and the rest of the world can attain speedy progress in all aspects of life if media outlets operate freely and responsibly, two heads of foreign diplomatic missions have declared. Addressing media executives and

practitioners during a tour of IPP Media houses in Dar es Salaam yesterday, on occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the UK High Commissioner David Concar and his Canadian counterpart, Pamela O'Donnell, said media freedom is an essential catalyst for development that any

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British High Commissioner David Concar holds a copy of Monday's issue of The Guardian yesterday moments after being briefed alongside his Canadian counterpart, Pamela O'Donnell (C), on newspaper production at The Guardian Limited newsroom in Dar es Salaam. The envoys were on a World Press Freedom Day tour of IPP media outlets in the city. Looking on are The Guardian Limited Director Joyce Luhanga (R) and The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (2nd-R). More photos on Page 4. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

QUARRY ACCIDENT

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EDUCATION QUALITY

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BARRICK GOLD

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Govt sacks TASAC and Posts chief executives

■ Obasanjo meets Samia, conveys condolences for Mkapa, JPM

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made major changes at the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) and the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC), revoking appointments of their top executives.

Chief Secretary Hussein Katanga said in a statement yesterday that the president has relieved TASAC board chairman Prof Tadeo Satta of his duties, alongside Postmaster General Hassan Mwangombe



Obasanjo also congratulated President Samia for becoming president and wished her success in her responsibilities

and Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) board chairman Dr Haroun Kondo, while dissolving the TPC board of directors.

The president has also revoked the appointment of six TASAC board members with effect from April 30, 2021, following a notice she issued early last month when swearing in permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and heads of key state agencies at the State House.

President Samia declared at the time that she was disappointed by misuse of public

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo to Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Left is Foreign and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula. Photo: State House

Speaker: 19 Special Seats MPs are 'in good hands'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai has allayed fears over the 19 Special Seats MPs from the leading opposition party, Chadema saying they should continue with their responsibilities without any fear as they were in good hands.

Ndugai was forced to provide the clarification yesterday following remarks from the party's top leadership demanding President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene on the issue of the legality of the said MPs, to be in the

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High Covid-19 case nations: Govt restores quarantining

By Guardian Reporter

INCOMING travellers from countries with new COVID-19 variants and a large number of cases on the basis of daily updates by the World Health Organisation (WHO) will be subjected to 14 days' quarantine upon arrival in Tanzania.

This is one of the measures taken to control the threat of infection from air, sea and land entry. Travellers will be subjected to enhanced checks and controls in view of enhanced alert in the worldwide Covid-19 situation, the government declared yesterday.

Prof Abel Makubi, the Permanent

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Speaker: 19 Special Seats MPs 'are in good hands'

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legislative chamber.

Party chairman Freeman Mbowe said in widely quoted remarks that the 19 MPs led by Halima Mdee, the former chairperson of the party's women organisation, BAWACHA, were expelled from the party in November last year.

The differences arose after they were sworn in as MPs, a move the party contested saying it had not cleared the party's participation in the legislature.

The MPs are Agneta Kaiza, Nusrat Hanje, Asia Mohamed, Felister Njau, Stela Fiyao, Halima Mdee, Grace Tendega, Esther Matiko, Cecilia Pareeso, Esther Bulaya, Jesca Kishoa and Hawa Mwaifunga.

Others are Tunza Malapo, Naghenjwa Kaboyoka, Sophia Mwakagenda, Kunti Majala, Anatrophia Theonest, Salome Makamba and Conchesta Rwamlaza.

Clarifying the position of the House leadership, Ndugai said there were procedures to be followed to expel an MP.

"I like to tell political parties that I am an experienced Speaker, I have been here in Parliament for 20 years, approaching 25, I have sufficient experience, there are people making noises that Ndugai is violating the constitution, they do not know what they are talking about," he declared.

"The secretary general of any political party can write to me a letter on a controversial issue touching on the constitution. Do not write me a leaflet saying 'I am so and so and say the Speaker take action, expel so and so from Parliament...,'" he said.

"He should write me a letter attached with his party's constitution because I, as Speaker, cannot know party constitutions. He should also attach minutes of the party sitting that made the decision to expel the MPs because it is possible the secretary just wakes up and writes a letter requiring me to expel MPs. I will be an amazing Speaker if I did that," he further stated.

"Just write an official letter that I should read and then pass it to my legal experts, as I have many of them to evaluate it, if it is OK. They will check whether the members of the party's central committee that decided to expel the MPs were legally constituted. I will then ask the Registrar of Political Parties for advice."

There are political parties being run dictatorially, employing patriarchy, he stated, elaborating that even if such a letter came from the ruling party it would be taken up just like this letter from the opposition. "If it is like this one I would have disregarded it," he affirmed.

Political parties also need to stop undermining women in representative positions, he added.



Bulyanhulu Gold Mine community liaison officer Mary Lupamba (L) briefs Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), on the company's compliance with safety requirements. This was during the just-ended Workplace Health and Safety Week commemoration, organised by the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) and held at national level in Mwanza city. Barrick emerged first winner in the Mining Companies category. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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country aspiring to make progress must enshrine.

They said free and responsible media drive social, economic and political development of a nation and without it, disastrous events break out in a country without being noticed. "Free media is not just something nice to have; it is essential," said Concar.

"For instance, if you live in a country where political leaders are elected; you need the media to tell you who they are and what they stand for so that you make an informed decision."

He argued that free media plays a crucial role in informing the public to the point of being a crucial element of consumer protection in a world of cutthroat competition in business.

"If a company wants to sell you a certain product, you need to know the company's record and credibility before you purchase what is being sold," the envoy underlined.

O'Donnell said journalism matters because for progress to take place in a society or nation,

Envoys say free media is essential for Africa

people need information from diverse sources and that is only possible if media outlets are free.

"There are so many things that go on in any society that only free media can bring to the limelight," she said.

High Commissioner O'Donnell asserted that although journalists need to operate in a free environment, they also have a huge responsibility to undertake their duties professionally, given the impact of what they write.

The visit by the two envoys was taken up for the World Press Freedom Day 2021 whose theme was 'Information as a Public Good.' The day is marked on May 3 to highlight the work of journalists and the difficulties they face in seeking out a factually accurate version of what is given to the public.

The High Commissioners visited The Guardian Limited, publishers of The Guardian and Nipasha newspapers, along with ITV, Capital TV, East Africa TV, Radio One, Capital Radio and East

Africa Radio studios on the other side of the street.

The UK and Canada are co-chairs of the Global Media Freedom Coalition, formed in July 2019 at the Global Conference for Media Freedom. It is a partnership of countries working together to advocate for media freedom and safety of journalists and hold to account those who harm journalists for doing their job.

Local media organizations yesterday raised their voices and called on the various authorities to recognize the contribution of journalists and adopt freedom of access to information as a constitutional right in both parts of the Union.

Judge (Ret) Mathew Mwaimu, the chairman of the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) said in his message to mark World Press Freedom Day, that the government must continue ensuring the rule of law and improve regulations governing the media industry.

He also suggested the need for the government to meet media stakeholders to discuss information challenges and work to create a more conducive working environment for private media outlets including providing government advertisements to private media outlets.

Retired Judge Mwaimu urged media practitioners to adhere to professional ethics and use the relevant regulations in demanding the review of media laws said to inhibit press freedom in the country.

"Media stakeholders should know that freedom comes with responsibility. The media is responsible for informing, educating and entertaining the society; but such roles must be executed in respect of the country laws and in keeping with demands of professionalism," he said in a statement.

He asserted that political leaders should recognize the role of the media in national development, cautioning the

public to avoid sharing and circulating information from unreliable sources, as such acts may constitute a breach of the peace.

Dr Mzuri Issa, the director of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) for Zanzibar said access to information significantly contributes to the development of the country. There is every reason for ordinary citizens and journalists to be assured of freedom to work unmolested, she said.

Touching on the issue of sexual harassment of women journalists in the islands, she asserted that if there are journalists who are subjected to such acts or see indications of potential harassment they should not remain silent and should report to the relevant authorities."

A lecturer from the Zanzibar State University (SUZA) Imane Osmond Duwe pointed at the need for journalists to do their job in accordance with the profession. They will know in detail what they

are doing and what they seek, for the national interest and society as a whole, he stated.

Prof Chris Maina Peter of the School of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam said that in marking World Press Freedom Day "everyone should be aware that freedom of access to information is one of the basic human rights of every human being."

From that foundation both the Union and Zanzibar governments saw its importance and placed in the respective constitutions the right to access information. So when a person or institution deprives others of access to information that violates the constitution, the don intoned.

Morogoro District Commissioner (DC) Bakari Mbulwa urged journalists to adhere to professional ethics and be patriotic when conducting their duties, for the country's peace and development.

"Journalists should be very careful when reporting various incidents. What I insist here is for you to be more patriotic instead of reporting something which may bring havoc or even breach the



Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani addresses residents of Mbande village in Kongwa District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

High Covid-19 case nations: Govt restores quarantining

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Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, said in statement late yesterday that there is an increased risk of importation of new variants of viruses that cause COVID-19.

In that case, the country has updated the travel advisory no. 5 of 5th /august 2020 to become travel advisory number six effective from May 4, 2021, which seeks to accommodate additional measures related to international travel.

The notice reinforces preventive measures for travellers and staff at points of entry, including hand hygiene, use of alcohol-based sanitisers, physical distancing and wearing of face masks.

It said that all travellers

are required to 'truthfully' fill in an online Travelers Surveillance Form available at <https://afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz> within 24 hours before arrival to the country.

It similarly requires that all travellers, whether foreigners or returning residents will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test certificate upon arrival. "The test should be based on real time polymerase chain reaction (R-PCR) using sample collected within 72 hours before arrival" it stated.

Similarly, such travelers will be subjected to enhanced screening for COVID-19 infection including a rapid test to those arriving home from countries with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, citing the cost of the rapid test as 25 US

dollars per traveler.

"All travellers, whether foreigners or returning residents arriving from countries with new COVID-19 variants based on WHO daily updates or those who have traveled through those countries in the last 14 days regardless of route taken shall be subjected to rapid test at point of entry, followed by 14 days mandatory quarantine at their own cost."

Travellers who will be subjected to quarantine will be provided with information with toll free number and advised to self monitor for symptoms and signs, and in case they develop any symptoms and signs, they will be tested and treated at designated health facilities by the government at their own cost, the statement underlined.

Govt sacks TASAC, Posts chief executives

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funds at TASAC, noting that the board held 23 dubious meetings within one year at a cost of more than 600m/-.

She expressed intense disappointment with the TASAC board conduct, returning to its head office Kaimu Mkeyenge, a veteran port administrator spirited off to Mwanza, as the new director general with a mandate clean up the institution.

Meanwhile, President Samia yesterday conducted discussions

with the retired president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo at the Chamwino State House.

Presidential communications director Gerson Msigwa said in a statement that in the meeting Obasanjo conveyed his condolences to President Samia for the deaths of two former heads of state, Benjamin William Mkapa and Dr John Pombe Magufuli who passed away on July 23 2020 and 17 March 2021 respectively.

Obasanjo also congratulated President Samia for becoming

president and wished her success in her responsibilities.

The two discussed disturbing security issues on the African continent and how to find solutions to the conflicts causing death and desperation to millions of innocent people, including large numbers of women and children.

They also exchanged ideas on development issues, stressing the need for African countries to enhance cooperation by removing obstacles to extensive trade integration and investments.

Arusha quarry accident: Three die

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

At least three people died and three others seriously injured, after being buried by rubble in a marble quarry located in Engorora Village, Arumeru District, Arusha Region.

Arusha Regional Police Commander Justine Masejo said that the incident occurred yesterday morning when the miners were conducting their activities at the mine.

"There were six people at that time in the mine while going on with their extraction activities, the topsoil collapsed and buried them," he said.

He named the deceased as Nurdin Rajabu (29), Idd Hussein (26), and Bonkila Martine (27), all of them were residents of Ngorbobo, in Arumeru.

RPC Masejo said that preliminary reports named the

better for our experts to go and conduct more investigations and come up with recommendations," he said.

In April 2019, three people killed and two others injured after one of the mine pits at a sprawling murrum quarry they were working in collapsed following heavy rains in Arusha Region.

Police were quoted as saying that the construction material mining pit buried the trio at around 8 am at Moivoro area, Moshono ward in Arusha region.

Reports said that the accident occurred when the quarry miners continued working in the pit when it was heavily raining.

According to police reports, the walls of the pit collapsed after being overwhelmed by the downpour, calling on the workers in the area and other quarryies to put their safety first then money.



Commissioner General of Immigration Dr Anna Makakala (2nd-L) has a word with legislators at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Anthony Siame

Indonesia 'drawn to' investment opportunities in Songwe Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE Indonesia government says it has been attracted by investment opportunities in various sectors in Songwe Region including agriculture, mining, trade, and dry port and has shown intention to invest in those areas. This was revealed at the weekend by the Indonesian ambassador to Tanzania Prof Ratlan Pardede during his two-day visit in Songwe Region to see for himself investment opportunities that would benefit both Tanzania and Indonesia in Songwe Region.

Prof Pardede, who is also his country's envoy to Burundi, Rwanda and Comoro mentioned project and area which they consider as investment opportunities as the agriculture sector of which his country will facilitate the construction of livestock fodder factories. "AS you have indicated in your report submitted here today in regard to agriculture - in this area we have identified big investment opportunities in livestock fodder factories to benefit farmers," said Prof Pardede. He mentioned other areas as including the Tanzania/Zambia border at Tunduma which is a

gateway to SADC countries saying it has big opportunities for trade, and aim to open big shopping malls stocked with Indonesian goods, as well as the construction of a dry port. The Indonesian envoy also said already his country has entered into initial agreement for the construction of a big factory soap and body lotion in Mkuranga District in Coast Region. Songwe Regional Administrative secretary Dr Seif Shakalaghe who represented the Regional Commissioner said the envoy's visit has been of great success for the region which is a major producer of food crops.

"We have identified opportunities for our farmers to trade in avocado which are widely grown here, but also the soya bean crop which has a big market in Indonesia," said Dr Shekalaghe. For his part, the TCCIA Songwe Region Chairman, Charles Chenza said they expect to use the opportunity provided by the two countries in strengthening trade in food crops. The Indonesian envoy who was accompanied by his deputy Wahono Yulianto, and an official from Tanzania's Foreign Ministry Luangisa Emmanuel were able to visit Ileje, Mbozi and Tunduma Districts.

Air Tanzania: We'll this week officially start flying to China

By Henry Mwangonde

AIR Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) will this week officially start flying to China in a route with strict measures aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19 as the airline strives to expand its wings globally. The airline's managing director, Ladislaus Matindi, told journalists yesterday that the company will on 8th May this year start flying to the Chinese city of Guangzhou twice a month with only Chinese passengers allowed. He said Tanzanians and other nationals with special permits will be allowed into China as visa will only be given on conditions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is applicable on the going trip but for Tanzanians who are in China and want to return home, this will be in the hands of Chinese authorities as they are the one to allow them," he said. According to Matindi the idea to launch the route came as a result of high demand from passengers whose majority are Chinese saying flights may increase as time goes depending on demand.

In China the company will use agents to sell tickets from various Chinese cities adding that the flight launch has been long overdue. He said the company was confident that the new route will be profitable due to the high demand currently saying it will adhere to all measures required to control the pandemic. Commenting on the new wave of the pandemic in India, Matindi said the company will continue with the Mumbai route until it receives advice from relevant bodies on the way forward.

"We have relevant bodies who are monitoring the situation when they advise us to do otherwise we will do so but for now we will continue with the route because we haven't been told anything," he said. So far the government has spent 1.2trn/- in purchasing eight aircrafts for ATCL in an effort to revive the airline. In 2016, Tanzania developed a programme to revitalize its national carrier which included purchasing six new aircraft between 2016 and 2018, payment of debts and provision of start-up capital, improvement and modernization of business. The aircraft is part of Air Tanzania's plan to grow its operations across Africa as well as to international destinations. Air Tanzania was established as Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC) in September in 1977 after the collapse of the regional East African Airways. Since then, the airline had been operating at a loss and depending on government subsidies.

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“We have relevant bodies who are monitoring the situation when they advise us to do otherwise we will do so but for now we will continue with the route because we haven't been told anything”

Kairuki pharmaceuticals all set to start production of intravenous drips this June

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE 45bn/- worth Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited (KPIL) factory in Zegeleni, Kibaha District in Coast Region which is set to commence production in June this year, becomes the first industry to produce intravenous (IV) drips in the country.

Currently, the Medical Store Department (MSD), imports IV drips from Uganda, China and India which cost the government millions of funds.

Vice chairperson of Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN) Dr Muganyizi Kairuki stated in an interview that the industry will also have a modern laboratory for investigation and research of different medicines.

He said the factory will also train pharmaceuticals students and will have a comprehensive system to manage environmental and air pollution within.

"The industry will have modern machines to process water (drip water) which is the first of its kind here in Tanzania which will adhere to all international rules of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), Tanzania Medicines and Devices TMDA and World Health Organization (WHO) standards," he said. When he visited (MSD), in 2018 the late

President John Magufuli challenged them to produce IV drips inside the country by using local experts.

The MSD director general, Major General Gabriel Mhdize, told this paper yesterday that if Kairuki Pharmaceuticals industry will start the drips production will be good news to them and will become the first industry to do so in the country.

He said if they will produce the product of the quality that is needed and certified by TMDs, MSD will be their client because it will reduce the cost of importing outside the country.

He said currently MSD has started producing ten types of medicine, painkillers and antibiotics adding that he is optimistic that in the future they will produce drips.

Dr Muganyizi said they have already imported raw materials which will be used for production of medicine and they expect them to be in the country this May and they have completed

recruitment of the staff who will attend the industry.

He said 60 percent of the medicine will be for the local market while 40 percent will be for East Africa countries and Southern African Developing Countries SADC countries.

He said KPIL has the capacity of 55 million bottles of intravenous infusion annually and to start with, they will be manufacturing nine types of intravenous infusion.

He added that in future they will expand to manufacturing of tablets,

capsules, suspension and medical devices.

"We are based on the latest technology of production of intravenous infusion using polypropylene bottles and eurocap, will have 200 direct employment and indirect employment of about 500 people," he said.

He said the investment cost is about 20 million USD, and it has been conceived at the backdrop of the fact that Tanzania faces challenges of inaccessibility of affordable and quality pharmaceutical products and

the ongoing industrialization drive in the country as articulated in the 2016 - 2020 National Development Plan and Tanzania vision 2025.

He said the project will also exploit the export potential of IV fluids to the sub-Saharan African market.

"Our mission is to grow and become the pharmaceuticals company of choice for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and our mission is to produce a broad range of high quality pharmaceuticals and medical products for the local and the International market at competitive

prices," narrated Dr Muganyizi.

On the production strategy, Dr Muganyizi said production at KPIL is envisaged to proceed in three main phases.

He said in the first two phases, the plant will have two production lines with a capacity of producing 576 million units annually.

According to Dr Muganyizi, in phase one the plant will start with the production of Pharmaceuticals generics focusing on small and large volume solutions-based medications.



**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CANCELLATION OF
TENDER NO. PA/068/NDC/2020/2021/INV/01
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF A MODERN TYRE MANUFACTURING
PLANT AT ARUSHA**

Following the tender advert appeared on the Guardian newspaper of 13th, 15th, 20th and 22nd April 2021 and on our website www.ndc.go.tz for tender No. PA/068/NDC/2020/2021/INV/01 Expression of Interest for Construction of a modern tyre Manufacturing Plant at Arusha, we regret to inform you that the Tender has been cancelled until further notice.

Please accept our apology for inconvenience(s) caused.

**National Development Corporation,
Development House,
Kivukoni Front/Ohio Street,
P. O. Box 2669,
Dar es Salaam,
TANZANIA**

**Telephone: +255 22 2112893
Fax: +255 22 2113618
Email: info@ndc.go.tz**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT REGISTRY
AT DAR ES SALAAM
EXECUTION NO. 6 OF 2021
EXIM BANK (T) LIMITED.....APPLICANT
VERSUS
ARNOLD MATEMBA t/a KISAKI.....1ST RESPONDENT**


TO:
ARNOLD MATEMBA
a/t KISAKI STORES
DAR ES SALAAM.
TANZANIA

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, the above mentioned case has been fixed for mention **06th day of MAY 2021 AT 11:00 AM** before **Hon. CHARLES MAGESA -DR** you are required to appear in this court without fail and must produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your case.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your appearance on that day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

GIVEN under my **HAND** and **SEAL** of Court this **23rd day of APRIL, 2021**



**DEPUTY REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
DAR ES SALAAM**

**TANGAZO LA
KUFUNGA KAMPUNI**

KAMPUNI YA
DEEPAK'S LIMITED
Uongozi na wamiliki wa
Kampuni ya DEEPAK'S
LIMITED yenye namba
ya usajili 10109, iliyopo
plot namba 1280, block
namba 84, Zanaki
Street, iliyosajiliwa
mwaka 1984
wameamua kwa hiyari
yao kuifunga Kampuni.

Canadian and British envoys tour IPP media outlets in Dar



The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (2nd-R, gesturing) briefs British High Commissioner David Concar (L) and Canadian High Commissioner Pamela O'Donnell (3rd-R, foreground) on newspaper production when the envoys paid a World Press Freedom Day visit to The Guardian Limited (TGL) offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Joyce Luhanga - Director, TGL. Photos: Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochl



Director Joyce Luhanga (C) introduces TGL acting general manager Srinivas Chintaluri to the Canadian High Commissioner



TGL printing manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (L) explains to the two envoys how printing press works.



East Africa Radio manager Lydia Igarabuza (R) briefs the VIP guests on operations in the station's Newsroom.



East Africa Radio presenter-cum-producer Irene Tillya (2nd-L) explains how programmes are aired.



Radio One deputy director Abdallah Mwaipaya (L) briefs the VIP guests on the airing of radio programmes.



ITV channel director Pius (R) explains how TV programmes are aired.



The VIP guests have a feel of operations in the ITV studio from where news bulletins are aired.

Mbarali District councillors request talks with TANAPA officials on herders' killings

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

ONLY days after three people were found to have been killed and their bodies thrown into the Great Ruaha River, Mbarali District councillors have requested for a meeting with Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) officials to discuss how to stop frequent killings in the Ruaha National Park.

The motion to have the killings to be discussed was given at the weekend at the council's meeting by the Chimaha Councillor Charles Komba who claimed that the council is supposed to issue a joint statement on the killings.

Kimba said the killings in the park happen so frequently and every time TANAPA wardens have been suspects and that no steps were being taken to stop the killings.

He said in the period of four years more than 12 people have been killed in Ruaha National Park involving herders in the district.

However, the motion spurred a debate between the management and the council for its being a committee for discussion in regard to the killings.

The management claimed that regulations allow the council to transform into a committee aimed at discussing discipline of council workers and not any

other issues.

Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfune said the issue raised should not be discussed as it concerns security claiming that defence and security organs were still dealing with the issue.

"No one likes killings to happen in our district, this is an issue of security, hence it will not be good to deal with it while state organs are already dealing with it", said DC Mfune.

The statement prompted the Council's Chairman Twalib Lubandamo to stop the debate but said there was a need for the DC to bring together councillors and TANAPA officials to discuss on how to stop the killings.

On April 26 this year three people were found to have been killed and their bodies thrown into Great Ruaha River, the bodies of two of them were recovered and only a head belonging to the third was recovered.

In addition, three other people who are believed to be together with the deceased are also missing making the total number of people believed to be killed six.

"No one likes killings to happen in our district, this is an issue of security, hence it will not be good to deal with it while state organs are already dealing with it"



Bank of Africa acting director Wasia Mushi (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting foodstuffs to Kalamu Education Foundation programme manager Said Ali for use as Ramadhan-period iftar by orphans, widows and the elderly. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Use month of Ramadhan to pray for peace, PM tells Muslims

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has appealed to Muslims in the country to use the Holy Month of Ramadhan by praying to God to continue blessing Tanzania, its leaders and the people to maintain the existing peace and solidarity.

Majaliwa made the remarks at the weekend during the finals for the 29th World Recital

Competition at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam that involved 15 participants from 11 countries.

The prime minister also called on Muslim believers in the country to live by the teachings they receive during the Holy Month of Ramadhan in their daily lives.

"I appreciate the huge contribution of Muslims in the maintenance of peace by

following guidelines from our leaders, hence there should be no need to mar that peace," he added.

He said peace is the result of robust foundations from the country's founding fathers, hence he added, they should honour and protect them for the interest of the nation.

He added: "The huge response we have witnessed in this competition is the

result of that peace, unity and solidarity."

The PM also said it would be better for the youth who recited the Quran to also be educated in other professional fields as their presence was important in building up a better and ethical society.

He said it is not easy to see an expert who is able to recite the Quran to go against the ethics called for in his profession

because Quran alone is sufficient to make that expert to spurn all unethical acts.

He also called on various stakeholders to support efforts being made by various organisations on Quran recitals in the country so as to build a nation of youth with ethics and fear of God.

For his part, Tanzania's Mufti sheikh Aboubakar Zubeir used the occasion to mobilise Muslims

to build up a culture of reciting the Quran.

Earlier, the Chairman of Tanzania Quran Recitals Sheikh Othman Kaporo appealed to various Islamic institutions to work together in the upkeep of the youth and adopt of ethics.

In the competition, a participant from Yemen Mohammed Abdo Ahmed (22) scooped the first position and received USD 5,000 prize.



Bank of Africa acting director Wasia Mushi (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting foodstuffs to Kalamu Education Foundation programme manager Said Ali for use as Ramadhan-period iftar by orphans, widows and the elderly. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Works minister directs staff to work diligently

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

WORKS and Transport minister Leonard Chamuriho has directed executives and staff in the ministry to fulfill their obligations efficiently and with due diligence so as to achieve all the priorities for the country's development.

Officiating the ministry's workers council meeting yesterday here, Eng Chamuriho said that he will not hesitate to take stern measures to those who

will be thwarting development initiatives in the ministry.

The minister said that all executives under the ministry are required to discharge their duties as per set guidelines and principles so as to push forward national development agenda.

"Whenever we will find any worker going contrary to what he/she is supposed to do, stern measures will be taken, I will not hesitate to push someone aside and assign another who is much committed to work," the minister intoned.

Eng Chamuriho said the ministry is responsible for building roads, bridges, ferries as well as government buildings to the required standards for development of people and it is not required to go against that, he said. He commended the works sector for having workers' council, saying that organ is important for uniting the ministry and workers.

Secretary of the council, Fanuel Muhoza said that they have received directives from the minister in a positive way

therefore workers should make sure that all time they adhere to professional ethics when executing their duties so as to achieve the intended goals.

"If workers will stick to professionalism, the implementation of projects will go smoothly and on time, so what we need to do is to improve service delivery," he noted.

Muhoza said that council will make a follow-up to ensure that all projects are being managed and implemented accordingly for the country's development.

Concern rampant over invasions of wildlife corridors in Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

CONSERVATION stakeholders in the country, including wildlife experts have met in Babati, Manyara Region to discuss how to fight interruptions on conservation activities in national parks.

The interruptions cited on the development of conservation activities in the country include the invasion of wildlife corridors.

Submitting his report to the meeting of what was going on, Manyara Region Wildlife Officer Felix Mwasenga said there was the question of villages being established in the country's national parks.

He said: "The situation is not calm in our wildlife areas, the animals disappear in the corridors. Herders have changed, they are welcoming poachers and destroy the ecosystem and sell land."

He mentioned the reasons that contribute to the destruction and disappearance of the wildlife corridors as including farming activities in wildlife areas, increase of human population, human

settlements and new poaching that has erupted using long machetes.

Areas with good condition in Manyara region include the Tarangire National Park and the Burunge Wildlife Community.

For her part the Manyara National Park Senior Conservation Officer Rehema Kaitila, in her report said the number of wildlife corridors were dwindling year after year.

She said the grass areas have dwindled by over 65 per cent, while farm areas have increased by more than 35.6 per cent.

Researcher from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) Dr Edward Kohi said in 1990 there were 45,000 wildebeests, but as for now their number has been reduced to less than 25,000.

Dr Kohi said there isn't even a single wildebeest in the Tarangire National Park due to them having migrated to Simanjiro District.

Opening the meeting, the Manyara Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti called on the officials to oversee the laws and show the people the boundaries.



The situation is not calm in our wildlife areas, the animals disappear in the corridors. Herders have changed, they are welcoming poachers and destroy the ecosystem and sell land

Agri-Connect tells southern regions better market for coffee is assured

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

COFFEE farmers in the Southern Highlands Zone have begun benefiting from a special programme for increasing profits from the crop aimed at enhancing the crop's quality and connecting them to markets.

The crop's quality improvement is being undertaken by AGRI-CONNECT Programme that aims to improve the crop's value chain under the European Union (EU) sponsorship.

Speaking at a meeting, AGRI-CONNECT Programme Team Leader Collin Scott said the programme aim at improving six areas of the crop's value chain.

He mentioned the areas as including the improving of the coffee business policy and environment, increase profits from production and processing, improving rural road infrastructures to connect farmers to the markets, warehouses and factories and to simplify transport for farming inputs.

Scott further said the programme aims to assist investment in the private sector in particular in the crop's value chain, increase jobs for the youth and women and mobilise for better nutrition.

"This programme, apart from its being implemented in the Southern Highlands Regions, is also being implemented in Zanzibar, and in all these areas, the programme expects to reach 150,000 small farmers," Scott said.

He explained that the programme, apart from adding the value chain to the coffee crop, it also dwells in adding the value

chain to tea and horticulture products.

He said the programme is being implemented in collaboration of the ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Planning, Industry and Trade, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), the Prime Minister's Office as well as private sector stakeholders.

In regard to the EU sponsorship in adding the value chain to the coffee crop, the EU Representative Andrea Massarelli said Tanzania has many opportunities in the agricultural sector.

He said Tanzania has ample land that can assist to increase profit from various crops including coffee, and that is why the EU decided to sponsor the programme.

Some stakeholders in the value chain to the coffee crop said the quality of coffee produced in the Southern Highlands Regions has begun to go up, hence there would be assurance for its reliable market.



This programme, apart from its being implemented in the Southern Highlands Regions, is also being implemented in Zanzibar, and in all these areas, the programme expects to reach 150,000 small farmers



Manyara Media Club chairman Zacharia Mtigandi (3rd-R) presents foodstuffs to Manyara Holistic Centre director Joshua Johnson at Babati yesterday in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Minister instructs traditional healers to surrender govt trophies for registration

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

DEFENCE and National Service Minister Elias Kwandikwa, has called on traditional and alternative medicines healers who possess government trophies which they inherited for their trade to surrender them to the government as soon as possible to obtain legal permits for their possession.

Kwandikwa who is also an MP

for Ushetu issued the directives at the weekend at a public meeting in Uyogo Ward, Ushetu district when he was answering to his constituents' problems, and added that such people were frequently being arrested by the police.

The minister said continuing to possess the trophies were an offence according to the laws, hence they should surrender them to the government for recognition and issuance of special permits for traditional healing purposes.

"I am ready to assist you to obtain the permits for possession of the trophies, what you are required to do is to register them with the government - the defence and security organs to avoid frequent police harassment," said Kwandikwa.

He said the exercise will help in identifying herbalists who provide the right medicines and comen who have been palm reading for ill intentions causing killings in rural areas.

For his part, Masunga Bundala,

a representative of traditional and alternative medicines healers from Uyogo Village said the step will assist to reduce unnecessary conflict in the community with law enforcers and called on owners of the trophies to surrender them to the government as advised by the minister.

Mwandu Madeleka, who is a resident of Uyogo village said the trophies in question included monkey's tails and limbs, salamanders' skins, leopards and hyenas' and lions skulls.



Said Saleh, manager of Stanbic Bank's Kariakoo branch in Dar es Salaam, speaks at iftar hosted in the city on Sunday for SME stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Zanzibar gives seven days to private health centres to finalise registration

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children has given one week to 12 private health centres which have not finalised legal registration processes to do so, failure of which the health centres will be closed.

Speaking to owners of some of the health centres in his office yesterday, the Minister, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said the government does not like to close the health centres but the country's laws have to be adhered to.

He said private hospitals and health centres were stakeholders and value their contribution in the development of the health sector and that the government will continue to provide all assistance

to ensure they provide quality health services to the people.

He called upon owners of private health centres to continue working together with the government, and that whenever they feel there were any oppressive laws, they should not hesitate to inform the ministry of their recommendations.

For his part the assistant Registrar Private Hospitals Advisory Board Khamis Makame Haji, said owners of private health centres were supposed to finalise new registration processes for 2021 by January 15, but due to challenges that came up, the extended the deadline till end of March and still many failed to

meet the deadline.

He said the board made big efforts to mobilise them to do so to enable their centres continue providing health services, but some decided to ignore.

Some owners who are yet to finalise registration processes pledged to do so within the one week given by the Health ministry.

Among health centres that were required to finalise registration processes include Utapoa (located at Mfenesini), Imani Clinic (Mwembemimba), Mahonda Clinic (Mahonda, Ahsana (Nungwi), Maungani Clinic (Maungani) and Mustafa Unali (Kisauni).

Meanwhile minister Mazrui

received a consignment of medicines from Wide Spectrum Limited of Dar es salaam for use by the people of Zanzibar.

Wide Spectrum Marketing Manager Khamis Saleh Fakir presented the minister with the consignment saying it was a donation during the Holy month of Ramadhan.

He said his company was a big health stakeholder, adding that last week they were in Pemba where the donated medicines at Wete and Chake Chake Hospitals and that they will continue working together with the Health Ministry to assist hospitals and health centres in the Isles.

Trade union awards Ikungi DED as Singida Region best employer

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIA Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) in Singida Region has awarded the Executive Director of Ikungi District Executive, Justice Kijazi as this year's best employer.

The award was presented to Kijazi at the weekend by the Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi during May Day celebrations.

The criteria used for awarding Kijazi were cited as his caring for the interests of those under him, solving their inconveniences, a God fearing man in implementing his public duties according to the laws and regulations governing public service.

Singida Region TALGWU Secretary Pandauyaga Ntulillah said the aim to establish the award was to mobilise employers to work closely with trade unions in ensuring workers' interests are appropriately addressed.

"We have awarded Justice Kijazi for his concern for benefits of workers, his openness to all workers without discrimination, his recognition of trade unions and his prompt solving of workers' complaints without causing any conflicts," he said.

Speaking soon after he received the award, DED Kijazi said workers' problems include those with family problems needing the employer's prompt attention.

He said he did his level best to build better relationship at work places, adding that in regard to family problems such as deaths all workers participate.

"Truly, I did not expect this and we must thank God for enabling us in Ikungi District Council to solve numerous challenges

facing workers but our unity and solidarity has enabled me to get the award which in fact belongs to all council workers," he said.

In a statement read on behalf of workers, the Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE) Secretary Ethel Kahuluda mentioned some of the challenges faced by many workers in the private sectors as including ignorance of the laws and regulations at work places, the law of Workers' Compensation Fund and the law on safety at work places.

The event's official guest, Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi called upon the Tanzania Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (TUICO) to adopt the culture of educating employers to enable them understand the importance of health insurance to their employees.



Truly, I did not expect this and we must thank God for enabling us in Ikungi District Council to solve numerous challenges facing workers but our unity and solidarity has enabled me to get the award which in fact belongs to all council workers

WASH services in schools to boost education quality

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has to scale up efforts to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in schools throughout the country so as to reach targets on quality of education and retention of students in schools, especially girls, the recently launched SWASH Assessment, has recommended.

The 2018 School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) Assessment is the first comprehensive, nationally representative survey of primary and secondary schools has highlighted challenges and how to address them.

“Without the political commitment and allocation of sufficient resources, WASH in schools is likely to remain externally subsidized. This would lead to continued low progress towards moving the scale towards ensuring that every school in Tanzania has adequate WASH services for a better learning environment,” reads the report.

It is recommended to identify high level political champions to support efforts at ensuring that school WASH is given the priority it deserves in every school if SDG targets of leaving no one behind are to be attained.

The results of the assessment conducted in 2,385 primary and secondary schools selected with equal probability systematic sampling, through a stratified random sample, provides representative results for each of the 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland and the five regions of Zanzibar with respect to different background characteristics such as location of the school either rural or urban areas, ownership of the schools.

It says that so far, efforts to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene in schools have been piecemeal and on a small scale.

According to the report, for the government to reach targets on quality of education and retention of students in schools, especially girls, it is essential to scale up efforts to improve WASH services in schools across the whole of Tanzania.

To achieve this, it is recommended that a national prepare plan of action

with a realistic budget be developed to guide implementation of WASH in schools.

This would be an important initiative given the current situation where resources for school WASH interventions are scattered among agencies and often as sub-components under larger budget lines.

It explains that the national plan of action will further guide decision makers as they plan future efforts to scale up actions against inadequate WASH services in schools.

Considering the availability of resources and existing capacities and opportunities, the report says that the most practical means of improving school WASH services would be through the adoption of a progressive approach.

The report authored by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) also states that the progressive approach should aim to upgrade services from no service through basic services across all WASH dimensions.

“Ultimately, this would ensure healthier learning environments and improve learning outcomes. It would also improve attendance and retention rates,” says the report.

It suggests that children with access to basic WASH services in schools and who have learnt appropriate WASH practices are more likely to positively influence WASH practices at their homes, among family members and in the wider community.

In this respect, a national handwashing campaign should be initiated in all schools to emphasize the importance of positive WASH practices.

Such a campaign can be achieved on a meagre budget and yet yield great benefits for schoolchildren. Such a campaign can be held at the national, regional or even at district level.

Speaking while officiating at the launch of the report, deputy minister of State, Prime Minister’s Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Ernest Silinde directed all the local government authorities to ensure they mark the annual handwashing day, celebrated globally on 15th October every year.



A meeting of Ikungi town councillors in progress yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Special campaign to increase drug abuse awareness coming

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

AN Italian nonprofit organisation-Association Casa Famiglia Rosetta (ACFR) has embarked on a special campaign aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness on the harm caused by drug abuse among the youth in Tanga Region.

The 100-day campaign will reach youth and other groups in two districts of Tanga and Muheza.

The campaign which commenced this week involves training of various groups of the society, including teachers, religious groups, sober houses, councilors and the media is part of a project being implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

It is under the project dubbed ‘Improving the capacity of the network of drug use disorder treatment services to provide ethical, evidence-based and humane treatment to persons with drug use disorder in Tanga which was commended

last year’.

Project Coordinator, Pietro Cipolla said this during the virtual conference which involved several groups, including the media and sober houses, Police Officers, Social Welfare Officers and sober houses among others.

He said that for the next 100 days communities in Mbaramo, Lusanga and Tanganyika Wards in Muheza Township and Makorora, Kisosora and Majengo Wards in the Tanga City would be grilled with positive messages aiming at coaxing communities to increase awareness on community care of victims of drugs abuse.

Cipolla said that involvement of the various groups was crucial for the success of the campaign which would be conducted in schools, streets, markets, mosques, churches or other religious centres.

“Our campaign logo for the whole project is ‘Awareness in a Caring Community’ where all our efforts should be directed to

the instrumental objective of ‘awareness’ but also to the fundamental ideal of ‘caring’ in the faith sustained hearts of your communities.” Cipolla said.

The organisation’s director in Tanga, Irene Almasi the campaigns would include bonanzas that would comprise among other things, mental illness advice, sugar, weight checkup and HIV screening.

Regional Coordinator for Mental Health, Anita Temu said the media has a crucial role to play in teaching young people the harm caused by drug abuse.

The organisation has been running services for children living with HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities for nearly 20 years at Raskazone in the Tanga City.

Rev James Temu, one of the participants warned that drug abuse would continue to be tormented by drug abuse if Tanzanians refuse to change their living systems.

Rev Temu said that parents must be at the forefront to teach their children about the negative effects of drug abuse.



A truck stuck in muddy water along the Kitunda-Kivule road in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday following a daylong downpour. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Over 200 teachers drilled on how to solve their challenges

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 200 primary and secondary school Islamic teachers have benefitted from the training on how to solve different challenges facing them in their carrier.

The World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS) representative Amina Mbarouk said over the weekend that the aim of the training is to share experiences as well as to solve emerging challenges.

“WIPAHS has conducted training to build the capacity of teachers to enable them to overcome the number of challenges facing them,” she said.

She said that the training will also enable them to increase network among them hence improve efficiency.

Sheikh Abutch Saidi from the WIPAHS in Coast region said teachers have a special role to change students’ behavior that’s why WIPAHS decided to conduct training for them.

“WIPAHS believes that teachers are primary sources of changes, therefore, are an important tool to create changes,” he said.

Khadija Hamadi, a primary school teacher at Kingungi said that they have been taught to be a source of change.

“We have been tough to be a source of changes and to be accountable that to me

will help to increase efficiency,” she said.

Mwandege Secondary School teacher in Mkuranga District, Coast region Saleh Ngakovale said the training has added value to their knowledge.

“As teachers, we have increased our knowledge through experience and networking,” he said.

WIPAHS is an organisation based in Dar es Salaam. It is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), started its activities in early 1985/86.

For the past 23 years, WIPAHS has improved the living conditions of the indigenous community of Tanzania, which has been suffering from poverty, diseases, and illiteracy.

WIPAHS’ impact can be seen by its vast amount of projects which promote rural development through education, access to water, economic sustainability, and the enhancement of religious learning.

The vision of WIPAHS is to transform individuals into an egalitarian and literate society through supporting and promoting community education to people irrespective of their ethnic linguistic, provincial or religious background.

The organization provides humanitarian support across the country including drilling of water boreholes, services to orphanage centers and own primary and secondary schools that are fully supported.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

Women, girls and PwDs living with HIV/Aids are among groups experiencing high level of stigma

WOMEN, girls and People with Disabilities (PwD) living with HIV/AIDS have been named as among the groups that experience high level of discrimination and stigma in the society something which affect their progress.

UN-Women AIDS programme coordinator Jacob Kayombo raised the concern over the weekend here during the training provided to district council leaders and HIV/AIDS networks.

Kayombo said that stigma and discrimination hampers effective HIV programming and is a violation of human rights.

Coordinated by the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) with support from the Global Fund, the training objective was to educate the leaders to enable them go in the community level in wards and villages to educate the

public on the HIV/AIDS.

He noted that for the country to meet the global target of ending HIV/Aids by 2030, it has to invest much effort to end stigma towards people living with the scourge.

Kayombo said that people living with HIV/AIDS are still left behind and neglected from various opportunities with some of them facing challenges even to access

health services.

“So, we have brought these leavers here so as to capacitate them with more skills to enable them take good care of people living with HIV but also consider them in various opportunities available in the district councils, this should be applied also to PwDs,” he said.

Kayombo said: “The fight

against HIV/AIDS started many years ago but we fail to meet the targets due to several challenges including discrimination based in gender, age, health situations, employment as well as religious.”

Judith Luande, TACAIDS gender issues coordinator noted that discrimination is one of the main causes of depression to people living with HIV /AIDS thus calling

on the members to support fight this challenge.

She said that through several programmes, the government has enabled a number of people living with HIV/AIDS to access health services as well engage in various economic activities.

Data from TACAIDS shows that the national HIV prevalence among adolescents and adults aged 15-49 years decreased slightly from 5.1 to 4.8 percent in two years ago but prevalence among women is higher compared to men which are 6.2 percent versus 3.7 percent.

TUESDAY 4 MAY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Stakes are high in President Samia's State visit to Kenya

IN what is billed to be a high profile visit, President Samia Suluhu Hassan is starting a two-day state visit to Kenya today meant to cement ties between the two East African countries, following an invitation from President Uhuru Kenyatta. Unlike the president's maiden visit to a neighbouring country for signing the East African Pipeline (EAPOC) construction accords, this time there is a charged schedule, of a more participatory character. Apart from state level talks a high-profile business forum is also being organised.

President Samia will noticeably address the Kenyan legislature after holding talks with President Kenyatta, and the next day she will attend a joint business forum with members from the two countries' business community. The rapidity with which the visit has been arranged in the wake of taking over from late president Dr John Magufuli underlines the keen interest in exploring ways to improve business relations between the two countries. Despite that Kenya is among leading investing countries in Tanzania business ties are mostly rocky with a protracted stand-off in maize cross border trade shining out lately.

This visit will be a stern test for the incoming national leader, as scarcely any past president was able to make trade with Kenya trouble free, part of the reason being that the two economies compete in most of what they do, and Kenya has enjoyed a traditional advantage which arises from policy inclinations on this side of the border. High taxes have usually made it lucrative for crop dealers both in Tanzania and Uganda to purchase coffee directly from farmers and whisk it to markets in Kenya, where it is less taxed. More excruciating, this logic has also worked for

tanzanite trading and plenty of informal gold mining.

Noticeably, the problems besetting Kenya-Tanzania trade are quite similar to commercial tiffs between the Union authorities and Zanzibar, as lobbies on the Mainland have perennially worked to close off the 'Zanzibar route,' where cheap commodities make their way into the market. Despite its being announced that the issue had been solved, traders say only small parcels of five to ten kilos are exempt from taxes, not proper commercial cargoes. If President Samia would commit to taking up port charges similar to those applied in Zanzibar, and similar direct taxation levels as those applicable in Nairobi, trade tiffs would be settled once and for all and businesses would grow, but it would call for reform of parastatals.

It isn't easy to recall another time when a sitting president made himself available for a highly powered business forum, outside meeting with leaders of business organizations at the local level or the East African Business Council (EABC) as a regional unifying forum. President Samia is going to talk directly with members of the business community, which implies more forthright exchanges and deeper projection of sentiments from both sides, a situation that can make a substantial input to preparing business sector mindsets to reform, or to signal to the other side limitations of reform on this side. It is an open trajectory.

All the same it can be expected that the visit and the Tanzania-Kenya business forum in Nairobi will help to diminish the frequency of non-tariff barriers to trade, and facilitate investments. That may just be adequate for the time being, enabling higher integration in due course. Rome wasn't built in a day....

Creative industries are critical to sustainable development agenda

WORLD Creativity and Innovation Day is a global UN day celebrated on April 21 to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the 'global goals'. The day was created with the support of 80 countries. The first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated on April 21, 2018.

The purpose of the day is to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking at the individual and group levels which, according to a special report on the creative economy by UNESCO, UNDP, and UNOSSC, has 'become the true wealth of nations in the 21st century.'

After a year of pandemic-induced lockdowns, there couldn't be a better time to appreciate the creative economy. The United Nations is doing just this as it marks 2021 as the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. UNCTAD, alongside UNESCO, WIPO, UNIDO, the WTO will drive the annual celebrations and observations of the year.

UNCTAD Acting Secretary-General Isabelle Durant said the resolution was timely. "The creative industries are critical to the sustainable development agenda. They stimulate innovation and diversification, are an important factor in the burgeoning services sector,

support entrepreneurship, and contribute to cultural diversity," she said.

There may be no universal understanding of creativity. The concept is open to interpretation from artistic expression to problem-solving in the context of economic, social and sustainable development. Therefore, the United Nations designated 21 April as World Creativity and Innovation Day to raise the awareness of the role of creativity and innovation in all aspects of human development.

Creativity and innovation, at both the individual and group levels, have become the true wealth of nations in the 21st century, according to the findings of the special edition of the Creative Economy Report "Widening local development pathways", co-published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) through the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

The creative economy - which includes audiovisual products, design, new media, performing arts, publishing and visual arts - is a highly transformative sector of the world economy in terms of income generation, job creation and export earnings. Culture is an essential component of sustainable development and represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and community.

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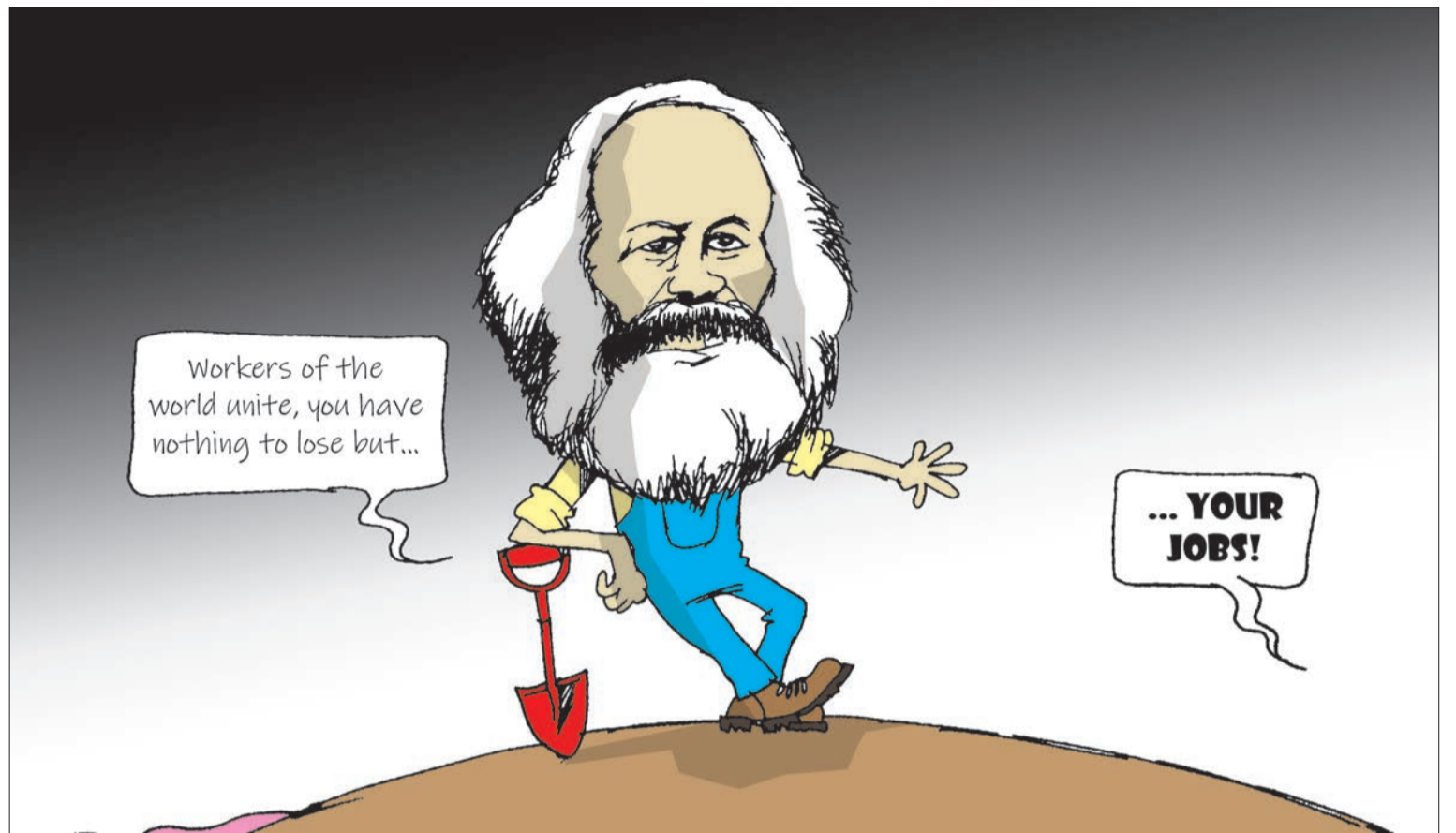
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How Ghana grew into the 'Gold Coast' without destroying itself

By Cameron Duodu

THE most dishonest fiction currently being propagated in Ghana, is that "artisanal small-scale mining" is the same as the galmsey that is destroying our rivers, streams, water-bodies, food and cocoa farms, and forest reserves.

Yes, gold mining has been carried out in Ghana since the 15th century and earlier. But it was never destructive.

A brilliant scholar who has carried out extensive research into the subject is Dr Emmanuel Ofori Mensah of the History Department of the University of Ghana. In articles in learned publications, he makes it clear that our traditional methods of digging gold did NOT, repeat NOT, injure the land or destroy streams, rivers and water-bodies - as galmsey is doing.

Traditional gold-mining was carried out to conformed to the religious beliefs of our people. No mining was done near water-bodies on the "sacred" days allotted to them, or on days designated locally as "dabone" (a festival day like Adaye). The ancestors were remembered on such days by pouring libation to them, and sacrificing fowls or sheep. Everyone knew they were keeping an eye on them, and that misdemeanours by citizens would be punished by the ancestors.

But the most interesting aspect of the mining was the technical proficiency with which it was carried out. Care was taken not to harm the people of the community. A European eye-witness called Romer, wrote in 1760 that the Akyem people "dug a slanting pit in the ground, which looked like a staircase, with each step measuring about 3 feet high. Sometimes, a shaft had 50 to 60 steps, and on each step, stood a man who passed up trays full of soil and passed down the empty ones".

The depth of the pits varied between 12 feet and 30 feet but occasionally, a pit was found that exceeded 150 feet. Some had steps cut into the sides for entry. Others were entered by means of ropes made of creepers.

Another eye-witness wrote that "A native miner ... rarely makes his shaft more than three feet in diameter (so that the danger of anyone falling into the pit is



minimised). Planting one end of his digger into a recess in the shaft, the miner places the other end diagonally against the opposite of the shaft, and supporting himself by it, his foot is placed in another of the recesses. He then lengthens out his body and fixes his back firmly against the side of the shaft. Thus supported, he removes the digger, plants it in another recess below the first, and by repeating the operation, gets to the bottom of the shaft. A tunnel, which cannot be long (as his neighbour's shaft is only fifteen to twenty feet from him) is next driven.

"Organised on a family basis, panning for alluvial gold ... was primarily the work of women, adolescent girls and young boys. Adult males might also participate ... Women's alluvial gold washing could be dictated in some states by strict customs. Thus, in one Wassa sub-state, panning for gold was restricted to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays."

Yet, "experienced prospectors from Australia and South Africa reiterated that the skill of a West African woman with a brass bowl, far exceeded anything they had seen at Ballarat or on the Rand".

In Wassa and Asante, the most typical intermediate-sized mine was the bell-shaped or bottle-shaped excavation known as nkron, narrow at the top but widening at the lower levels into a dome-shaped mining chamber. A "soil chisel" was used to dig a vertical shaft through the hard laterite crust until the end of the gold-bearing earth or the shaft hit the water table. Such a shaft might also continue for hundreds of metres twisting and turning, as

the miners followed the gold until the source ran out.

The roof of the shaft was supported with timber to prevent it from caving in or collapsing. To safeguard the public, the shaft was made so narrow that miners could only support themselves between its walls when descending through it. As stated above, steps were cut into the sides of the shafts to help miners climb up and down. When it became too difficult to go any deeper, the work in the shaft was abandoned and another was dug, often only a few meters away. To help light up the dark underground, miners developed a special lamp, made of clay and lighted by wicks of cotton cloth, soaked in palm oil. A horizontal tunnel linked the bases of the shafts.

By the 1860s and 1870s, miners in Wassa and Asante were using bamboo poles bound together by ropes and reinforced with cross-timbers - to shore up their vertical shafts. Some gold fields were "honeycombed" by a complex network of shafts connected by short tunnels from 4 to 20 ft in length. Between the main shafts, a series of small openings were used for ventilation. In addition, miners at Wassa built palm-leaf sheds over their mine holes to protect against the rains.

It was through these intelligently-devised methods that our people were able, through their painstaking labour, to entice the Portuguese (who built "La Mina" [Elmina] castle) the Danes, the Dutch, the Brandenburgers and the British, to come and carry out the lucrative trade in gold with them. In his book, *El Dorado*

in West Africa, [Ohio University Press/James Currey Oxford, 1998]; ISBN 0-85255-769-8 (cl), Raymond E Dummett said:

"Writing in the 1930s, R Junner suggested [that] a total of 11,200,000 crude ounces of gold, or about 40,000 ounces per year (1,243 kilograms) for the peak period 1471-1750 and a total of 500,000 ounces, with an average of 10,000 ounces per year, during the half-century 1751-1800." were exported from Ghana."

More recent figures of exports of gold from Ghana exist, of course, but this article is about indigenous methods of gold production, not gold produced from mechanised mines. What is indisputable is that our people, using their native ingenuity, produced so much gold that the Europeans with whom they traded gratuitously gave this country the name, "Gold Coast".

Yet, unlike the fools in our midst who engage in galmsey today, our ancestors left us healthy, potable water sources, such as the Ankroba River, Tano, Ofin, Birem, Oti, Densu and others to drink from. Our generation is the only one which is so stupid that it actually imports foreigners to come and kill our water-bodies and carry our gold away as booty in return for undermining our future survival as a nation. They bring us such skills as operating excavators in rivers and washing gold with chanfangs. And they threaten to harm our Operation Vanguard personnel and concerned local citizens, with pump-action shotguns and AK-47s.

Alas! Ghana, is this you, after 64 years of nationhood?

Second wave of COVID-19 batters India's economy

NEW DELHI

INDIA is going through the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic as the single-day spike crossed 400,000 cases last week, and the total tally almost reached 20 million.

Amid the prevailing conditions, the overall Indian economy, mired in a recession since last year due to COVID-19, has been dragged down further by the second wave of the pandemic.

Most industries and the manufacturing sector are either shut or working at a much lesser capacity. The workforce in non-essential services has moved back home and is working online. Once again, offices have been closed and supplementary businesses depending on corporate employees, like the food and hospitality sector, have been hit hard.

In a bid to curb the raging pandemic, more than 10 states, including Delhi, have imposed partial or complete lockdowns, and five states, such as Nagaland, are observing night curfews.

While essential services are allowed to operate, the rest have been shut till further notice. The work-from-home mode in both government offices and private enterprises is encouraged, and people are suggested to stay indoors unless it is very urgent to step out.

FOOD INDUSTRY HIT HARD

Small restaurant owners, online food suppliers and hotel chains are the worst hit. Ramesh Chandrikant, who runs a chain of restaurants in Gurugram, an IT hub adjoining Delhi, said he had expected things to return to normal as new COVID-19 cases per day had come down to the level of below 10,000 by the end of January.

"But then this second wave hit the country, and the situation changed from bad to worse. After nearly one year of the pandemic, we were expecting that it was all over and all IT and software firms' employees would return to their offices. Now, I don't see them coming back anytime soon this year," said Chandrikant.

"Most of the IT and software firms' employees stay here alone or as a couple with both husband and wife working. Most of them depended on our food services, and we had a good business all these years before COVID-19," he added. "Now, since nearly 90 percent of them are working from homes located in different states, our business is totally ruined."

Ulhas Shantaram Muke, president of the largest tiffin suppliers' association in the financial capital Mumbai, also had a similar story to tell.

"We have nearly 5,000 tiffin suppliers in our association. We are into the business of supplying tiffins to one and all in Mumbai who work here, be it an office, business establishment, a factory or Bollywood. Tiffin-supplying is one of the oldest and most popular businesses in Mumbai," he said.

But now with the second wave of the pandemic, "we have been rendered jobless once again," he added. "Now we have no source of livelihood and are dependent on others' charity or donations for arranging food for our own family."

However, patients suffering from the pandemic and in home isolation depend on food delivery. Ashok Dixit, a senior citizen and resident of Gurugram under home quarantine for over two weeks with his wife and daughter, said his family orders food from a local kitchen every day.

"All three of us are sick. We are not in a position to cook for ourselves. We have no option but to order food from outside. Our regular maid, who used to cook in normal times, has been asked to stay at her home," Dixit said.

He added that a local residents' welfare society has authorized a couple of restaurant owners, who were rendered jobless, to supply food by delivering it to their doorstep.

HOTEL INDUSTRY HIT HARD

It's summer time in India. Around this time, schools are shut for annual vacations and families normally venture out, particularly in the hills. The four months from April to July used to be the peak season for the hotel industry, particularly thanks to domestic tourists.



Patients receive treatment inside a COVID-19 ward in a hospital in Bangalore, India, on April 30, 2021. (Xinhua)

industry, particularly thanks to domestic tourists.

The second wave of COVID-19 and resultant lockdown have again brought the travel industry to a halt. The Hotel Association of India (HAI) has written to the federal government to seek liquidity support in the form of lower interest rates, and further customization in the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

According to reliable sources in the hotel industry, the HAI has also sought a complete or partial waiver of statutory expenses like property taxes, lease rentals, license fees, and excise fees. The letter to the association emphasized that the second COVID-19 wave has stopped the recovery of the hospitality and tourism sector.

The hospitality sector, including the hotel industry, was shut for nearly 6-8 months last year. It was allowed to reopen in a staggering manner, and was on a path to recovery thanks to domestic tourism, weddings and family get-togethers.

But that progress has been reversed by lockdowns in some states, night and weekend curfews, reduced limits on the number of guests allowed for functions and other restrictions.

"The hotel industry has the business season only for a few months, and the rest of the year we pay our employees from the money gener-

ated in those few months," Shashank Pandey, who runs four hotel properties in north India under his brand name "Aspen Adventures," told Xinhua.

"The present months, i.e. April to July, used to be the peak season for us every year. But this year absolutely no business as the COVID-19 second wave occupies everyone's mind," Pandey said.

HOTEL BOOKINGS FALL 75 PCT

Shahzad Aslam, head of sales at Leisure Hotels Group told English daily Financial Express that due to the prevailing second wave, hotel bookings have fallen by over 75 percent.

He said this year's summer vacation period is going to be a lean one, though he seemed hopeful about bookings from travelers in the form of staycations and workcations at resorts.

He told the newspaper that the pandemic continues to wreak havoc on all industries, with travel, hospitality and aviation bearing the brunt. Yet he said he remained optimistic, because the forthcoming vaccinations would help lift bookings from June.

"We continue to receive inquiries this month from travelers searching for staycation and workcation packages in our resorts, which are naturally isolated and in remote locations," he added.

GROWTH PROJECTION MIXED

Last month, global rating agency Moody's said that the targeted curbs imposed by the Indian government to control the surge coupled with rapid vaccination will mitigate the second wave's overall adverse impact on the Indian economy.

In its forecast amid the second wave, the rating agency stated that India's gross domestic product (GDP) was still likely to grow in the double digits in 2021.

The International Monetary Fund had last month raised its growth forecast for the Indian economy to 12.5 percent from 11.5 percent estimated in January. However, it mentioned that the forecast faced downside risks due to the second wave of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, India's own rating agency ICRA had forecast that the country's GDP would grow by 10-10.5 percent in the financial year 2021-22 due to the second wave of COVID-19. It also stated that the present wave will dampen the recovery pace for India.

S&P Global Ratings stated at the end of April that it may revisit its growth projection of 11 percent for India this year, and added that the rise in infections dampens the country's economic recovery with several indicators losing momentum.

Xinhua

Is press freedom incompatible with gender empowerment?

UNITED NATIONS

IN the contemporary world of journalism, female reporters face a double jeopardy: they are increasingly targeted both as journalists and as women—particularly in repressive regimes and misogynistic societies.

As the United Nations intensifies its campaign for women's rights worldwide—even as it annually commemorates World Press Freedom Day on May 3—one of the questions lingering in the minds of women activists is: Is press freedom incompatible with gender empowerment?

Marianna Belalba Barreto, Civic Space Cluster Lead at CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance based in Johannesburg, told IPS the CIVICUS Monitor has documented many cases of women journalists facing online harassment and the gendered nature of it.

In its annual report: People Power Under Attack (PPUA) 2020, CIVICUS documented the use of intimidation as a tactic to deter journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs).

In particular, several cases of intimidation of women journalists were documented in the Balkan region, with threats often gendered in nature.

In North Macedonia, a woman journalist received messages via Facebook and Twitter containing verbal abuses and hate speech. She received dozens of messages threatening her with rape as well as death in response to her work.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina a woman journalist was threatened for reporting on an environmental rights story.

In Bulgaria, a woman journalist, whose story portrayed a far-right group in a negative light, had to flee the country with her family after allegedly receiving threats from unknown people against her and the family, with her personal information leaked online.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris and the Washington-based International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) conducted a global survey last year to assess the scale and impacts of online violence targeting women journalists, "and to help identify solutions to this pernicious problem."

ICFJ says it is the most comprehensive and geographically diverse survey ever undertaken on the theme, having been offered in five languages and receiving responses from 714 women journalists* across 113 countries.

The top findings include: Nearly three in four women respondents (73%) said they had experienced online violence; threats of physical (25%) and sexual violence (18%) plagued the women journalists surveyed; and one in five women respondents (20%) said they had been attacked or abused offline in incidents seeded online.

Lucy Westcott, James W. Foley Emergencies Research Associate at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), told IPS women journalists around the world face a number of safety hazards while reporting, and risk having their voices silenced for being both journalists and women in public life.

CPJ has spoken to women journalists across the world—including in many of the countries highlighted from the UNESCO-ICFJ report, such as Brazil, South Africa, the U.K. and the U.S.—who described dealing with threats to their safety while reporting, online harassment, misogynistic attacks, and threats of sexual violence and death.

She said women journalists are also at risk of physical attack while report-



Women journalists in Kabul in June 2019. (File photo)

ing in the field, especially if they are reporting alone. Freelance women journalists face a particular risk, as they lack the backing of a traditional newsroom and its support. "Online harassment continues to be one of the biggest risks to the safety of women journalists globally, and online threats can and do spill over into a real-life setting. The impact of online harassment is far-reaching, and can also result in trauma and mental health difficulties, said Westcott, a former staff writer for Newsweek, and UN correspondent for Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency.

She added: "Journalist safety is a press freedom issue, and women journalists should be able to do their job and report the news without fearing for their safety and livelihoods. Editors need to be aware of the risks their female journalists face, and help them take steps to mitigate those risks."

Tara Carey, Head of Media at Equality Now told IPS women journalists around the world are speaking out about their experiences of online violence and harassment, and studies are reporting a disturbing increase in misogynistic digital abuse targeting female journalists. "Online trolling and psychological abuse manifests in various ways and is carried out to intimidate, stigmatize and silence women. It can range from sexual harassment, and threats of sexual and physical

violence, including murder, through to privacy violations such as hacking, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and "doxing", which involves personal information and contact details being leaked to the public.

"Trolling is sometimes part of an orchestrated campaign involving multiple attackers, and abuse is often worse when it intersects with other forms of discrimination, such as associated with race, nationality, religion, caste, ethnicity, and sexual orientation," she said.

Online violence and harassment can take a heavy toll, leaving those who are targeted feeling stressed, scared, depressed, and in some instances, at greater risk. Worryingly, digital abuse is closely associated with offline violence, with many women journalists confirming they have experienced threats, abuse or assault in face-to-face encounters whilst working, said Carey.

"This onslaught is curtailing women's participation in the media and undermining our ability to engage freely in public debate, report on contentious issues or challenge discrimination. Some women are being pushed to censor what they say, withdraw from public online conversations and frontline reporting, or even abandoning journalism entirely.

"Online abuse against women journalists is an attack on

freedom of speech and expression. A reduction in female representation in news reporting erodes gender diversity in public discourse and risks marginalizing gender-sensitive reporting on issues impacting women and girls," declared Carey.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of International Women's Day last March, UNESCO launched a campaign to highlight the specific risks faced by women journalists online.

Guy Berger, Director for Policies and Strategies, Communication and Information, at UNESCO, says, "this violence harms women's right to speak and society's right to know".

"To tackle this increasing trend", he adds, "we need to find collective solutions to protect women journalists from online violence". This includes strong responses from social media platforms, national authorities and media organizations.

IPS

Said Zahari: Unsung 'Mandela' of Press Freedom

KUALA LUMPUR,

HAVE you ever heard of a workers' strike or similar labour action for press freedom? And how long do you think it lasted? A day? A week? A month? And where and when do you think this happened?

Workers strike for press freedom

Six decades ago, in 1961, Said Zahari (pictured), the editor of the Malay language daily, Utusan Melayu, led a strike of journalists and other employees. The protracted strike, in both Malaysia and Singapore today, was for press freedom rather than employee welfare.

Against all odds, the strike lasted over a hundred days! It also marked the end of the 'honeymoon' for the post-colonial government after independence. The historic strike was remarkable for many reasons, with two deserving special mention.

First, it involved ethnic Malay workers where such industrial actions had mainly been associated with ethnic Chinese and Indian workers, first brought to Malaya as indentured labour in colonial times.

Second, and perhaps uniquely, the strike tried to resist the imminent takeover of the previously independent anti-colonial newspaper to serve the propaganda needs of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). UMNO was the dominant partner of the governing coalition after the first Malaysian elections in 1955 under colonial rule.

In 1957, the Federation of Malaya became independent, but without Singapore with which it was closely integrated, economically, politically and even socially and culturally before the Japanese invasion in 1941-1942.

With the Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak, Singapore joined the expanded Malaysian confederation of British possessions in the region in 1963 before seceding less than two years later.

UMNO-led ruling coalitions ruled Malaysia until 2018 when it lost the general election despite great gerrymandering in its favour. But after a 'palace coup' in March 2020, UMNO joined the current ruling coalition.

Out of the frying pan into the fire

To break the strike, Singapore-born Said was banished by Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman from re-entering peninsular Malaya after visiting striking colleagues on the island.

In early February 1963, Said was arrested by Lee Kuan Yew's government of Singapore, then still under British tutelage. This happened hours after he agreed to lead the left populist Parti Rakyat Singapura (Singapore People's Party) when PRS allies were still very influential in the region.

Arrested with over a hundred other political dissidents in Operation Coldstore, he was incarcerated without trial for 17 years. In the early 1970s, Said's poems were smuggled out of prison and published in Malaysia. Said's resolute determination despite his ordeal inspired countless others.

Inspiration

Said's memoirs, published at the start of the new millennium, reveal how he came to make heroic sacrifices for a better, more just and democratic post-colonial Malaya with no thought of personal gain or advantage.

His memoirs are not just political, but also personal, candidly sharing reminiscences, but without the cosmetic editing that 'great men' typically demand for their biographical narratives.



Born on 17th May 1928 in a rustic Singapore which no longer exists, the young Muslim Malay youth came of age under British colonialism, interrupted by the 1942-1945 Japanese Occupation. His working life began at the Utusan headquarters in Singapore.

The newspaper was published by Yusof Ishak, later Singapore's first president, and edited by A. Samad Is-

mail, the doyen of Malaysian journalism. As independence for Malaya without Singapore became imminent, Said was sent north in 1955 to head the Kuala Lumpur office.

He arrived in time to cover the historic Baling peace talks between the electorally victorious Alliance and the communist-led guerrilla movement driven underground

in mid-1948. Then Chief Minister Tunku confided to Said that he never wanted the talks to succeed, but had agreed to have them to gain political advantage.

Generosity of spirit

After his release in late 1979, Said remained humble and modest, always affable, even avuncular and generous in his dealings with all. Other Utusan comrades too came out of the strike with so much of their dignity and humanity intact despite losing their livelihoods and much else.

Despite his prolonged incarceration, his magnanimity and generosity of spirit contrast with so much contemporary political hypocrisy and petty vindictiveness. Some who had caused him much grief later sought to redeem themselves with him, often to the chagrin of comrades.

Yet, he always remained principled, defiant and uncompromising when it counted. Although he said little about it until his passing five years ago, despite his modest means, he sought to compensate his family for its ordeal. This must surely be one of the heaviest burdens he had to bear.

Many partook of his love for humanity, truth, freedom and other cherished universal values. His was truly a life of much sacrifice for values and principles which still move many, so many decades later.

One cannot but be inspired by the Utusan strike, for over a hundred days, for press freedom. Those of us who cherish freedom of the press owe the strikers a debt which can never be repaid.

The name Said Zahari deserves to be immortalised worldwide as symbolising the now universal struggle for press freedom. Today, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, let us all salute Said Zahari and his Utusan comrades of 1961.

IPS

Media and mental health: Women journalists suffer PTSD from online violence

By Karabo Mafolo

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) recently published a report which found that online violence against women journalists often results in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

According to the study, sustained online abuse against women journalists also compromises their mental health. A number of the respondents were suffering from PTSD connected to online violence, and many were in therapy as a result. The mental health impacts were also the most frequently identified (26%) consequence of online attacks among survey respondents. Twelve percent of respondents said they had sought medical or psychological help because of the effects of online violence.

The study, *The Chilling: Global trends in online violence against women journalists*, found that online abuse against women journalists was often "inextricably bound up with disinformation, intersectional discrimination, and populist politics".

The study is based on a global survey of 901 journalists from 125 countries; long-form interviews with 173 journalists and experts; and two big data case studies assessing more than 2.5 million social media posts directed at prominent journalists Maria Ressa and Carole Cadwalladr.

A case study on Cadwalladr, an award-winning British journalist whose investigative work exposed the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal that led to the biggest fines in history being imposed on the social media giant by privacy regulators, found that the online violence directed at Cadwalladr was often misogynistic and intended to erode the public's trust in her reporting.

"From the moment The Guardian and Observer newspapers published the first story in Cadwalladr's ongoing investigative series into the scandal that compromised the Facebook accounts of up to 87 million users, the journalist became the target of a malign, misogynistic, disinformation-laced campaign of online violence which has grown increasingly threatening over time," reads the report.

The study, released ahead of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, conducted a big data analysis of nearly 2.1 million English language tweets directed at Cadwalladr from 1 December 2019 to 14 January 2021. Some 10,400 tweets identified by artificial intelligence tools were categorised as clearly abusive and were subjected to granular analysis.

According to the case study on Cadwalladr, the sexist, misogynistic, and explicit abuse targeting her represented 40% of obvious abuse in the personal attacks category and 21% of abuse detected overall.

"According to our research, the main goal of the abuse levelled at Cadwalladr is to discredit her professionally, thereby undermining trust in her critical reporting of the Cambridge Analytica scandal and its aftershocks,



including questions regarding the accountability of the platforms for disinformation and hate speech," reads the report.

In terms of reporting the incidences to employers and law enforcement, women journalists reported not getting adequate support from either party. Responses they received included: no response (10%) and advice like "grow a thicker skin" or "toughen up" (9%), while 2% said they were asked what they did to provoke the attack.

"In some cases, women journalists are actively discour-

aged from speaking about their experiences of online violence or engaging with those attacking them. They are also sometimes told to avoid discussing 'controversial' topics on social media as a preventive measure. In the worst cases, they have been suspended or sacked from duty in the midst of a major attack," the study found.

Only 11% of the respondents said they had reported the online abuse to the police.

The study made a number of recommendations to better support women journalists who have experienced

online violence. These included that intergovernmental agencies should "develop and provide training and education for lawmakers, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to enable them to deal more effectively and appropriately with online violence against women journalists".

DM

AAR now becomes Assemble Insurance Tanzania Limited

By Guardian Reporter

THE leading Insurance Company in Tanzania, formally AAR has officially launched a new brand identity—Assemble insurance Company Limited, a move aimed at quality of services and expansion.

During an Iftar event with the company stakeholders in Dar es Salaam, a representative of Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), Saidi Mpmbo who was a chief guest, commended the company for the step taken which was preceded by localizing of its shareholding structure.

TIRA representative said he believes the historic event of the company will go hand in hand with improvement of quality of services and expansion.

“I would like to wholeheartedly applaud Assemble for the progress they have made, especially for making 100 percent Tanzanian ownership of the company. This move will encourage Tanzanians to participate in investing in the insurance sector in the country, thus increasing local investors,” added Saidi.

He said the authority in collaboration with other government agencies will continue effectively playing the regulatory roles to create a favorable environment for local and foreign investors.

Speaking earlier, Managing Director of Assemble Insurance Company Limited, Violet Mordichai said the change is part of the process of restructuring and rebranding the company.

She said, before changing the name the company went through a major transition and managed to localize its shareholding structure to 100 percent local content and became a separate entity.

“AAR was previously known for health insurance, however, now with the new Company name, Assemble Company Limited, we will be providing a variety of non-life insurance services under one roof. The new name itself reflects the collection of services, both for general and medical insurance,” said Mordichai.

The Managing Director also promised that the company will continue to offer unique products to their customers, by providing flexible and competitive insurance solution.

She said for those opting for medical cover, for example, their insurance cover will provide compensation in the event they sustain body injuries



Assemble Insurance Company Limited managing director, Violet Mordichai along with the board of directors of the company during the official launch of the firm's new logo. On her left is TIRA representative, Saidi Mpmbo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

caused by violent, accidental, external, or visible means.

The covers, according to Mordichai are avail-

able for individuals and families, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and corporates.

The company has its presence in all major cit-

ies of the country including Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Zanzibar, and Dodoma, with more than 50,000 members covered.

Bank offers assortment of food items to the needy for Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa (BoA) Tanzania has donated assorted food items to Kalamu Education Foundation (KEF) to support the underprivileged communities during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Acting Managing Director of the Bank, Wasia Mushi

said in Da es Salaam yesterday that the donation worth 11m/- was handed over to KEF officials who will distribute them to their beneficiaries scattered in different districts across the country.

“We do banking services, but we have a program and our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy re-

quires us to give back to the community. We are grateful to support the foundation which has over 120 members,” said Mushi.

According to him, KEF would successfully hand over the food to its beneficiaries including orphans, widows, elders and underprivileged youth who are

fasting. The donated food items include 2,500 kilograms of rice, beans (750kg), sugar (450kg), Bambara groundnuts (450kg) and 450 litres of cooking oil.

KEF Project Manager, Saidi Ally Sudi thanked the bank for the donation, saying it will help many Muslim fami-

lies as well as students who are fasting during this holy month of Ramadhan. He said the donated food will benefit 281 people in the districts where they operate which are Tunduru, Masasi, Kilwa, Mafia, Kondoa, Kibiti, Kisarawe and Mkuranga. Among the beneficiaries, 54 are orphans and 72 widows.

“Your donation will make a huge difference to these communities because most of the families struggle to get daily meals,” he stated.

According to him, KEF also works to support underprivileged communities in education and empowering youth to discover their potential. He said the foundation oper-

ates in rural areas by 80 percent. “We support rural communities in their struggle in the education sector and helping them to improve their standards of living. We collaborate with the District Commissioner and district education officers in identifying the children,” added Sudi.



Barrick Gold emerges overall winner in OSHA safety week

By Guardian Reporter

BARRICK Gold Corporation has emerged the overall winner in occupational and safety at work for 2021 in the mining sector.

The mining company was awarded in the just ended Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) safety week organised by the authority in Mwanza Region.

A statement from Barrick said: “For Barrick Gold, the award demonstrates how one team with one strategic goal can bring about positive results.”

The award was handed over by the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled), Jenista Mhagama.

According to Barrick Gold, the award further cements how the mining company has been implementing, protecting, encouraging and strengthening safety and health of its employees, contractors and stakeholders.

Barrick Gold is grateful to its employees, contractors and all stakeholders for supporting its policy and strategies that aim to remind the importance of voluntarily observing safety and health of every individual while implementing their duties. Apart from winning the prestigious award, Barrick aims to ensure that safety rules are observed in all its work areas to observe international standards.

Barrick Gold Corporation jointly owns three gold mines of Buzwagi, Bulyanhulu and North Mara with the government.

The safety week is held each year to recognize the success of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep workers safe.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on strategies to strengthen national occupational safety and health (OSH) systems to build resilience, in order to face crises now and in the future, drawing on lessons learned and experiences from the world of work.

Banker-turned-poultry-farmer becomes champion of Africa's agriculture

By Special Correspondent

“IF we must satisfy Africa's food security with our growing population, then there must be high commercialisation of agriculture. That is modern farming,” says Ayotomiwa Yinka Ogunsua, poultry farmer

When Ayotomiwa Yinka Ogunsua got a job as a loan officer at a micro-finance bank in Ibadan, Nigeria, after graduating from university, he thought he'd done well for himself. Then, he spotted an online advertisement for a youth agricultural training program and signed up, owing to his interest in farming as a hobby.

Selected to interview for a place in the poultry rearing course, Ogunsua promptly quit his bank job and, he says, prayed he would get in. “I knew I wanted to follow my passion for agriculture full-time,” the 29-year-old Nigerian said.

Ogunsua did win a place in the course, organized last March by the

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation program, or TAAT, a program of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and partners including the CGIAR, a global research partnership. TAAT works to harness high-impact agricultural technologies to boost crop output and create viable opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.

Soon after, Ogunsua bought 50 chicks and started a business.

The African Development Bank's Director for Agriculture and Agro-Industry, Dr. Martin Fregene, said TAAT has the resources, scientific and technological expertise, as well as proven implementation plans to benefit millions of African farmers like Ogunsua.

“As the continent's leaders gather for the High-level Dialogue on Feeding Africa (<https://bit.ly/2QBkjrN>) at the end of the month, Ogunsua's experience serves as an inspiration for governments to commit to investing in Africa's food systems,” Fregene added.

“After the training, I saw agriculture as a proper business, not just a passion,” Ogunsua said via telephone from his farm, as roosters crowed in the background. “I realized this is something I must make income from, as something to pay my bills - something that I can build on as an enterprise,” he added.

The CGIAR's International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, based in Ibadan, southwestern Nigeria, provides TAAT training courses that offer capacity building and technical assistance to African “agripreneurs”.

The training, Ogunsua says, gave him the technical know-how to expand his start-up, Vive Verde, from water, agricultural and environmental services into livestock production. Atops Farms, Ogunsua's poultry business, grew to include 500 birds by early 2021. Then something wonderful happened.

“We sold out of birds for Easter,” Ogunsua said, noting that he makes

more money from agribusiness than he did working as a loan officer.

As head of Atops Farms, Ogunsua does his part to advocate for Nigeria's agriculture sector, appearing regularly on radio and television programs, and working to change society's perception of farming as a pastime.

“Farming, for one, is to make profit. It is also to ensure food security of the land, or the nation - of the continent,” he recently told Inspiration 100.5 FM radio (<https://bit.ly/3gljFD0>). “If we must satisfy Africa's food security with our growing population, then there must be high commercialization of agriculture. That is modern farming.”

Currently, he is expecting a shipment of new chicks to restock his coop, and while he waits for his chickens to mature, also rears turkeys, rabbits and goats to generate cash flow and build his agricultural business.

“I am still a small farmer, but by the grace of God I am growing and I will get there,” he said.

Djibouti looks to Ethiopia in effort to gauge its economic future

By Selam Tadesse Demissie

DJIBOUTI'S president Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, who has been in power for 22 years, won a fifth term in office by a landslide 98% of votes. The country's political opposition criticised the 9 April election process for lacking transparency and fairness.

Guelleh's new term isn't likely to face significant challenges internally. And the international community shows little interest in Djibouti's lack of democratisation. The political opposition is weak due to a repressive state, and so can't constructively take issue with the government. Freedom of the press as a platform for alternative public views and criticism of authorities is also lacking.

However, it won't be plain sailing for Guelleh. His leadership may face economic constraints due to recent regional shifts, particularly related to its key financial partner – Ethiopia. These developments could worsen internal socio-economic grievances.

Djibouti's economy and 85% of its gross domestic product rely on the service sector, which includes port, logistics and related services. This sector revolves around the country's strategic location as a Red Sea transit point on the world's busiest shipping lanes connecting Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Its geopolitical location, coupled with the global war on terror and piracy in the waters off Somalia's coast, has also made Djibouti a desirable location for foreign military bases.

But this could all be disrupted by changes in the economy of its biggest customer – Ethiopia. Djibouti has provided the principal maritime harbour for imports and exports to and from landlocked Ethiopia since 1999.

A country of 112 million people, Ethiopia relies on Djibouti's port and transport-related infrastructure for 95% of its maritime trade. According to the World Bank, in 2013 85% of Djibouti's port activities derived from Ethiopia's import and export transactions. Not much has changed since, with Ethiopia contributing substantially to Djibouti's overall economic growth.

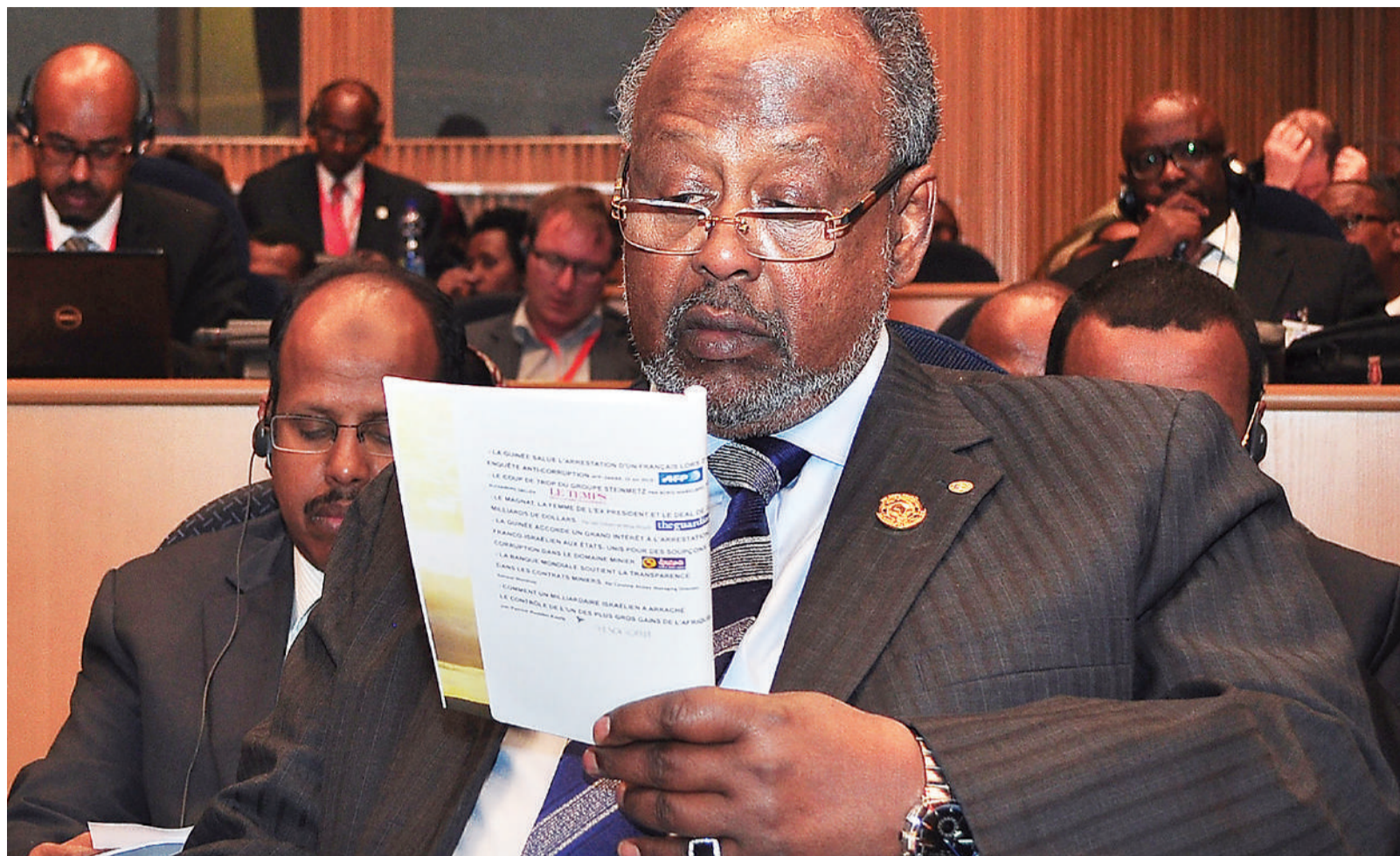
Any disruption in Ethiopia's economy will hurt Djibouti. At the same time, Djibouti's stability is critical to Ethiopia's economic well-being, indicating the interdependence of the two Horn of Africa countries, both economically and regarding security. Given their ties, two regional developments could damage Djibouti's economy if they slow down financial contact with Ethiopia.

The first potential problem is political instability in Ethiopia. Beyond the adverse effects of Covid-19 on Ethiopia's trade in 2020, the political disruption associated with recent social unrest will weaken its economy, at least in the short term.

Extensive ethnic-based violence across the country, and the subsequent destruction of business properties and internal displacement, means the government will struggle to implement its 10-year development plan that guarantees private sector-led growth. In this uncertain economic environment, risks are raised and investments will likely reduce.

The upheaval related to the recent Tigray conflict also puts pressure on Ethiopia's economy. If the instability in the northern part of the country persists, business uncertainty will rise, and trade and transactions will suffer. Overall, the crisis will negatively impact economic growth through less foreign direct investment, tourism and exports.

This will, in turn, dampen Djibouti's economic prospects in the short term. According to the International Monetary Fund, Djibouti experienced a 1%



Djibouti President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh attends meeting of the Peace and Security Council at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

slowdown in economic performance in 2020 but is predicted to grow by 6% in the coming years. However, this forecast is based on Ethiopia's rapid expansion in trade and private investment – which now seems unlikely. Concerns about the effects on Djibouti's economy are shared by the country's Finance Minister Ilyas Dawaleh.

The second regional development that could affect Djibouti relates to Ethiopia's policy of diversifying

its port connections. Ethiopia is aware of the danger of relying on one outlet, as exemplified in the 1990s when it went to war with its neighbour Eritrea – then Ethiopia's main route to the sea. This 1998-2000 war led to Djibouti emerging as Ethiopia's primary outlet for its trade.

The Ethiopian government has bought a 19% stake in Berbera Port in Somaliland to diversify its maritime outlets. Developments are also underway

to use the Ports of Massawa and Assab in Eritrea. And Ethiopia has expressed interest in Port Sudan in Sudan.

Ethiopia's rapprochement with Eritrea and the opportunity to use the latter's harbours could help Ethiopia diversify its sea outlets.

The construction of the Melodoni-Manda-Bure road project, which connects Ethiopia with Eritrea's port of Assab and serves as an alternative route to Ethiopia's foreign market, officially started in January.

Berbera Port in Somaliland is another option. In March 2018, Dubai Ports World, Somaliland's administration and Ethiopia signed an agreement for shared port management, with Ethiopia having a 19% share. The port is under development and expansion, with a road being constructed between the port and Ethiopia.

Djibouti currently retains a significant infrastructural advantage over its potential port competitors in the re-

gion. But its port services have become expensive over the years and may lead to Ethiopia seeking alternative options. This could impact Djibouti's economic performance in the medium to longer terms.

Instability in Ethiopia, coupled with its diversification of port outlets, could undermine Djibouti's economic prospects during Guelleh's fifth term. With a high unemployment rate and cost of living, further financial pressures could pave the way for socio-economic grievances. Djibouti's new administration will need to consider these threats to avert instability in the country. **DM**

Cabo Delgado insurgency: The shifting shape of the illicit economy in northern Mozambique

By Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime

THE conflict in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, has changed dramatically in the past year. The sophistication and scale of attacks staged by the insurgent group known as Ahlu-Sunna Wa-Jama'a (ASWJ), which has been staging attacks in Cabo Delgado since late 2017, have increased significantly. The attack on the coastal town of Palma that began on 24 March 2021, in which dozens are reported to have been killed, is another sign that the insurgency is maintaining momentum.

The ongoing fighting has had a knock-on effect on the illicit trafficking routes that have long been deeply entrenched in Cabo Delgado, but not in the ways that many observers expected.

Atrocities and a bloody escalation

UN refugee agencies have warned that the number of people displaced by the conflict in Mozambique is expected to reach one million by June 2021: currently, almost 700,000 are displaced, a tenfold rise in the past year. Data from the Armed Conflict & Location Data Project estimates that 2,600 people have been killed in the conflict between October 2017 and March 2021.

Horrific human rights abuses, from kidnappings and sexual abuse to mass beheadings of civilians, including children, have been documented. Human rights organisations have accused all sides in the conflict of committing war crimes, including the Mozambican military and the Dyck Advisory Group (DAG), a private military contractor employed by the Mozambican government to provide an aerial response to the insurgency. DAG has disputed the claims. The Mozambican government has also been widely criticised for blocking media and humanitarian access to the conflict.

There was a sharp rise in the number of insurgent attacks until the rainy season started in late 2020, together with a shift in tactics adopted by the insurgents. ASWJ moved from conducting guerrilla raids on towns and villages – which included looting for supplies and money as well as terrorising residents – to attacking ever-larger targets and taking control of the town of Mocimboa da Praia in late August.

The security forces have allegedly been attempting to regain control of Mocimboa da Praia and drive the insurgents from key transportation routes. Helicopters operated by DAG with support from the Mozambican government have been deployed offshore from Mocimboa da Praia in order to cut off supply vessels reaching the insurgents by sea. As a result, local boat traffic along the northern Mozambique coast has fallen sharply.

However, with only four helicopter gunships based at Pemba (the capital of Cabo Delgado province) and a large active conflict area, this blockade has been intermittent. Supplies and new recruits are understood to be reaching the insurgents in Mocimboa de Praia from Mtwaru in southern Tanzania by dhows travelling mostly at night to avoid detection and possible helicopter fire.



A Dyck Advisory Group helicopter conducts a rescue operation for people fleeing the insurgent attack on Palma.

A local source says there are rumours that a temporary logistics staging base for this supply route has been established among the islands of the Rio Rovuma estuary. Small amounts of supplies are also reportedly smuggled overland, both from southern Tanzania and across the front lines in northern Mozambique itself. The front lines have been described as very porous. However, the fighters were reportedly experiencing food shortages.

There has been renewed fighting in recent weeks. Insurgents began an assault on the coastal town of Palma on 24 March 2021, just hours after oil and gas giant Total announced that it considered the security situation to have improved enough to resume work on its gas plant on the Afungi Peninsula, very close to Palma. Dozens are estimated to have been killed in the fighting and thousands of residents have been forced to flee into neighbouring districts. In the aftermath of the attack, Total has declared force majeure and withdrawn its operations from Cabo Delgado.

Local residents and foreign gas workers were also evacuated from Palma by DAG helicopters and a collection of volunteer vessels including ferries to the port of Pemba to the south. The attack on Palma – which has been claimed by Islamic State (as have previous attacks by ASWJ) – has been seen as another major escalation in the conflict. Mozambican security forces announced that they regained control of Palma town after several days of insurgent occupation.

The growing scale of the conflict has brought with it international pressure on the Mozambican government to accept military support. On 10 March 2021, the US government designated ASWJ as a "foreign terrorist organisation", describing it as an affiliate of Islamic State. US special forces have begun a training programme for the Mozambican military. Portugal is also finalising a bilateral agreement with Mozambique to provide military training, and French naval forces are patrolling the Mozambique Channel.

Predictions vs reality

These developments in the conflict have had impacts across the region, including a knock-on effect on the various trafficking routes – for heroin, rubies, gold, timber, wildlife – and migrant-smuggling routes – which have been entrenched in Cabo Delgado for decades. However, this has not taken the form that many analysts, including us at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC), expected.

When the conflict first broke out in 2017 and in its early stages, many observers issued warnings about the potential for the insurgents to capitalise on trafficking routes. Our analysis found that the insurgents' strategy may have been aimed at taking control of trafficking routes and transport hubs to make money from the illicit economy.

Our research at the time found that the insurgents' links to organised crime were largely ad hoc, and trafficking routes did not form a major part of the funding streams for the organisation. The links between criminal markets and insurgency at the time were more reflective of the fact that illicit economies made up a large part of economic activity in Cabo Delgado.

For example, we found that there were possible overlaps between the insurgents and drug-trafficking networks (using the same dhows for local transport, and operating in the same vicinities), and that there were opportunities for them to capitalise on other commodities such as the smuggling of rubies and gold. The insurgents reportedly recruited from the gemstone and gold artisanal-mining communities in Cabo Delgado and Niassa provinces at the outset of the conflict.

The fact that the profits from both licit and illicit markets in Cabo Delgado were being channelled to a narrow political and military elite left people in the region impoverished and angry, contributing to the growing insurgency. For example, some early recruits into the organisation were reported to be drawn from the communities of

artisanal miners operating in Montepuez. Initial recruits from this area were attracted by ASWJ's rhetoric of rejecting a predatory government that they felt was excluding them from mineral resources on their land.

However, our assessment in 2020 also warned that insurgent control of trafficking routes was a risk: "If territorial control were achieved – along the coast from Quissanga to Palma as well as on the key inland transport corridor along the N380 road and the town of Macomia – this could vastly change the dynamics of the insurgency. Control over key sea and land routes would allow the insurgents to 'tax' licit and illicit economies in the region more systematically. While there may already be some protection of heroin trafficking and involvement in the gold and ruby trade, this could expand to include human smuggling, timber trafficking and possibly a share of the illegal wildlife trade. The locations of recent attacks – which include coastal landing sites, transport hubs and the sites of natural resources – suggest that the insurgents may be targeting the illicit economy as a more substantial source of future revenue."

Contrary to these perceptions and predictions, our research in northern Mozambique in January and February 2021 has found that there is little evidence to suggest that illicit economies have become a major source of income for the insurgents. In fact, the insurgent-controlled area and the highly militarised surrounding region have become logistically difficult for trafficking networks to move contraband through. Damage to road infrastructure, the risks of violence and the presence of government forces have meant that trafficking routes in the region have dramatically changed from those mapped a year ago.

However, perceptions that the insurgents are profiting from trafficking still persist. On 11 March this year, John Godfrey, a US counterterrorism envoy, referred to "a nexus between terrorism finance and narcotics trafficking in Mozambique that's particularly problematic" in relation to the US designation of ASWJ as a foreign terrorist organisation.



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EPZA, TPA, TBS and NEMC ordered to trace whereabouts of 300 containers of expired molasses

By Francis Kajubi

A CROSS-SECTION of government regulatory authorities and security agents at Dar es Salaam Port have been put to task by Minister of State in the Vice President's Office responsible for Union Affairs and the Environment, Selemani Jafo, for negligence regarding importation of more than 300 containers of expired molasses since 2019 allegedly for 'Shisha' production.

Jafo (pictured) who visited the port this week doubted the competence and integrity of officials from Tanzania Ports Authority, Tanzania Revenue Authority, National Environment Management Council and Export Processing Zone Authority for allowing the unidentified bogus investor who imported the substance and abandoned it at the port and other bonded warehouses.

Jafo accused the regulatory agencies' officials at the country's prime port for enabling the fake investor known only as Kaissy, to import the forty feet containers of expired molasses with the intention of establishing a 'Shisha' manufacturing plant in the country.

"Only six containers are still here at the port which means that the rest are at bonded warehouses and inland container depots across the country. To the best of my knowledge, EPZA are behind this bogus investor who has imported poisonous material for dumping in our country through the special economic zones," he charged.

"It does not make any sense for EPZA to approve an investment that allows for the establishment of a 'Shisha'



manufacturing plant that will lead to our youth being drug addicts," the fiery Environment docket Minister argued.

According to the minister, Kaissy arrived in the country in 2019 on a tourist visa but a few months later he turned into a molasses importer and investor under EPZA's special economic zones arrangement.

"What kind of negligence or dishonesty is this by regulatory authorities responsible with this issue to allow the importation of such deadly products since 2019. I am giving you three days to establish where the rest of the containers are currently. In addition, I am also giving ten days to all of you to identify and take measures against importers of expired fertilizers and pesticides," he ordered.

Briefing Jafo, TRA's Customs Manager, Godfrey Fe-

liciane said they recently realised that 353 forty feet containers of the molasses were imported into the country through Dar es Salaam Port.

"It is just a few months ago that we discovered this through an inspection done by Tanzania Bureau of Standards that later consulted NEMC to find out they were aware of the product," Feliciane said adding that after a joint meeting, they realised that there was no such an investment in place.

Elaborating on the matter, NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said that the so called investor has not even acquired a poison importation permit from the council. "It's horrible that such poisonous materials are imported into the country without my office's approval," Dr Gwamaka charged while warning that there is a possibility that of a cartel being at the port.

SICPA defends Ewura's extension of fuel marking technology tender

By Smart Money Reporter

A fuel-marking technology tender that was supposed to expire in December 2019 has been extended by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority because of a number of reasons including the coronavirus outbreak last year.

In a written response to The Guardian last week, the Swiss based technology firm, SICPA SA which won the three year tender in 2016 in partnership with Global Fluids International, said the contract was extended by Ewura legally.

"All the extensions were done by Ewura following all legal requirements in view of the prevailing conditions and has nothing to do with SICPA or its partners,"

the company said in its statement as the extension has now entered second year following a case filed by the Swiss company over Ewura's decision to award the contract to Intertek International of UK. SICPA won the case filed with Public Procurement Regulatory Authority which nullified the contract and ordered that Ewura restart the process as it was bogged with a number of irregularities.

Earlier this month, the Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA) nullified the tender process that had led to the award of the tender to Intertek International Limited. Intertek International Limited was awarded the tender which Ewura had floated on November 11, 2019 because its bid price was the cheapest compared to the three other bidders.

In its decision, the PPAA ordered Ewura to restart the tender process in strict observation of the law.

Last week, Gairo lawmaker, Ahmed Shabiby said in parliament that the government should assign the role to Tanzania Bureau of Standards to save consumers from paying hefty prices for the service currently being offered by multinational corporations.

"The annulment means that Tanzanians will continue to pay almost twice as much for fuel marking services because the status quo will be maintained until a tender is awarded as per PPRA ruling," Shabiby charged. The nullification came after some unsuccessful bidders had lodged multiple appeals against the Ewura and Intertek International in consortium with Authentix Inc.



Gairo lawmaker Ahmed Shabiby speaks in parliament last week.

Drivers demand Uber put 'exploitative' low-cost service on hold

JOHANNESBURG

UBER driver partners and operators have rejected the e-hailing company's newly-launched low-cost UberGo service, urging the company to put it on hold as it will negatively affect their earnings.

At a media briefing in Sandton yesterday, Uber announced the nationwide rollout of UberGo, which it said would offer price-sensitive riders a more affordable option, making use of smaller, fuel-efficient hatchback vehicles, while unlocking further earning opportunities for drivers.

As part of the new service, the ride-hailing firm has extended its partnership with Moove, a flexible vehicle rental and drive-to-own company, to provide UberGo drivers with access to compact and cost-efficient vehicle choices, at affordable rates, to make it possible for more drivers to one day own vehicles. The Uber service, which was being trialled in various parts of the country, competes with rival Bolt's low-cost Bolt Go service, which introduced

a fleet of low maintenance hatchback vehicles last year.

Uber's normal price starts from R7.50/km, while the new low-cost service will start from R6.00/km. Bolt's low-cost service starts at R5.50/km, while its normal prices start from R6.00/km. Some Uber drivers told ITWeb they are aggrieved, labelling the low-cost service as a form of exploitation.

Melithemba Mnguni, Uber driver and secretary-general of the South African E-hailing Association and also of the E-hailing Operators Interim Committee, says the new service allows an influx of new vehicles, which will lead to Uber operators and drivers earning a fraction of what they currently take home.

"Operators are aggrieved and they feel undermined. We requested Uber to put on hold the GO category as it was the main grievance on our previous protest against Bolt, but they have ignored our request. UberGo is against good business practices; it is exploitation at its best," he says.

In April last year, aggrieved ride-hail-



Frans Hiemstra, GM of Uber Sub-Saharan Africa.

ing drivers and operators lobbied government to include them in the COVID-19 Relief Fund, fearing their vehicles would be repossessed as their business took a knock as a result of the pandemic-induced lockdowns. In July, thousands of Bolt drivers protested over the Uber rival's similar low-cost service shortly after it was introduced.

According to Mnguni, the lockdown resulted in some of the worst hit e-hailing drivers and operators taking home only 30% of their wages, as fewer riders utilised their services during the lockdown. "Drivers' earnings are impacted negatively in a sense that the salaries have decreased, yet the cost of business has increased immensely and most of all drivers have to put in more hours to make ends meet."

Outrageously overpriced

Speaking at the launch yesterday, Frans Hiemstra, GM of Uber Sub-Saharan Africa, explained the affordable fares on UberGo aim to attract passengers who may not otherwise be able to hail a ride through the platform, while increasing demand for drivers and boosting their opportunities to earn.

After successful launches in Nigeria and Ghana, Uber's local partnership with Moove will enable local drivers on the UberGo platform to have access to a new Toyota Ayga from R1 599 per week for rental, or for R1 950 per week for drive-to-own deals, covering maintenance and insurance - a deal which Moove claims is 25% less than what is offered by competitors.

Responding to media questions about drivers' concerns of potentially earning less income, as a result of the new service, Hiemstra explained: "While their concerns are very valid, the opportunity and access to more affordable vehicles is going to allow them to overcome some of the challenges they have been encountering from the onset of the lockdown.

"Our evolution of the product is all based on making sure we have access to vehicles at the right price, with increased economic opportunity. The rates offering creates a platform where drivers can actually make the money they need to grow. In terms of bringing on more drivers, the Moove partnership doesn't only target new drivers but existing drivers as well."

Another Uber driver, who did not want to be named, told ITWeb the vehicle offering is outrageous and overpriced. "To buy the Toyota Ayga, an Uber driver would have to cough up significantly more than what a consumer would have to pay through a bank vehicle finance option. Where will R7 800 a month come from if riders are paying less than the average rates?" An Uber rider welcomed the introduction of UberGo as a good move.

"I totally understand their [the drivers'] concerns; however, most people have not been spared from the current economic challenges. I think they need to look at the matter holistically. "Consumers are a key part of the value chain and drivers need to also understand that customers are in trouble and anything that helps them alleviate the economic pain is welcome. Drivers and Uber must engage in a way that does not make them lose customers," he told ITWeb.

I&M Holdings, Orient Bank chiefs laud deal in Uganda

By Smart Money Reporter

A deal reached between I&M Holdings Plc and 8 Miles LLP and Morka Holdings Limited to acquire majority stake at Orient Bank Limited paves way for a much stronger bank in Uganda. Currently OBL is the 12th largest licensed and established commercial bank in Uganda.

I&M Holdings Plc and Orient Bank Limited signed an agreement in July 2020 to acquire 90 percent shareholding of the Ugandan entity. The acquisition was completed on 30th April 2021 after receiving the necessary approvals from the Central Bank of Kenya, Bank of Uganda, Capital Markets Authority of Kenya and the COMESA Competition Authority.

"I&M Group aspires to be Eastern Africa's leading financial partner for growth. The acquisition of OBL will place I&M Bank in an advantageous position to capitalise on the growth in the Eastern African economies and thereby ultimately increasing shareholder value," said I&M's Group Executive Director, Sarit Raja Shah.

"This acquisition is expected to give the group greater capacity to grow profitably, through extending our network to our regional customers. Further it demonstrates our continued leadership role in the industry across East Africa," Shah added.

Shah noted that Uganda has made great strides in improving access to financial services across the country. "The partnership with Orient Bank Limited is very timely since the Group plans to play a significant role in the growth of the banking sector in Uganda, as it has done in other East African markets," Shah concluded.

The move underscores I&M Group's commitment to its growth and expansion strategy in Eastern Africa, where Uganda was the missing link in its strategic effort to set up its presence in all EA countries. A key focus of this strategy is to seek opportunities to invest at a local and regional level enabling



I&M Group's executive director, Sarit Raja Shah.

the bank to serve the needs of all customers while promoting trade flows within the region.

Commenting on the deal, Dr Ketan Morjaria, a founding member of OBL and continuing shareholder and director said, "This acquisition marks a great milestone in the history of Orient Bank. We are proud to be integrating into a regional group like I&M Holdings Plc and this synergy will allow our customers to benefit from more seamless and superior banking products whilst continuing our tradition of trust."

Through the acquisition, I&M Group has acquired an additional customer base of close to 70,000, a staff component of 340 employees and a network of 14 branches and 22

ATMs across Uganda. "The acquisition of OBL into I&M Holdings Plc will see the new entity rise to greater heights and allow us to broaden our market reach and penetration. The management of OBL are excited to be part of a large and fast growing group and look forward to serving new and existing customers alike with better products, digital platforms and regional services," said OBL's CEO, Kumaran Pather.

The transaction with OBL adds to a list of previous strategic alliances that the group has effectively completed such as the acquisition of Giro Commercial Bank Limited in Kenya, I&M Burbidge Capital Limited in Kenya and Uganda, CF Union Bank in Tanzania, BCR Bank in Rwanda and First City Bank in Mauritius.



Emirates Airlines chief operating officer Adel Al Redha.

Emirates, Dubai Health debut digital Covid-19 verification for residents

By Smart Money Reporter

RESIDENTS of Dubai who travel abroad will have their coronavirus testing and vaccination verified digitally by taking a PCR test thanks to collaboration between Emirates Airlines and Dubai Health Authority (DHA).

Emirates travellers who have undertaken a PCR test in Dubai can choose to check-in without presenting their physical COVID-19 PCR test report. Moreover, customers who have received their COVID-19 vaccination at a DHA health centre in Dubai can, together with their COVID-19 PCR test results, have their documents synchronised during flight check-in.

The new streamlined verification procedures will enable secure and faster processing times for customers departing from Dubai International Airport. The information will then be matched-up with the entry requirements of the destination.

The integration comes less than two months after the signing of an agreement between Emirates and the Dubai Health Authority, and is a first-of-its-kind agreement between an airline and a government health authority. The integration also makes Dubai one of the first cities in the world to implement full digital verification of traveller medical records related to COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

"The UAE government has been very supportive and is one of the leading countries in the use of technology and digital applications. This initiative is in line with the government's vision and we are delighted to take this step within the aviation sector to cooperate with DHA in linking our systems together to enhance the customer experience by processing the relevant documents in a more efficient, secure and effective manner," said Emirates Airlines

Chief Operating Officer, Adel Al Redha.

Al Redha said the partnership with the Dubai Health Authority in managing passenger travel is unique and is a first step towards other initiatives that will be launched in the near future. "This is a testament to Dubai's progressive approach in delivering innovative digital solutions across all aspects of services," he added.

Commenting on the deal, DHA CEO of Joint Corporate Support Services, Ahmed Al Nuaimi and DHA Director of IT, Kleitham Ali Al Shamsi said the DHA has been strongly foraying into paperless healthcare over the past few years to enhance patient convenience and further improve healthcare delivery.

"Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have deployed and fostered the use of digital healthcare. The strategic foresight into investing in digital healthcare has paved the way today for such a pioneering integration," Al Nuaimi said.

Al Shamsi backed him saying DHA's strategic investment and focus on healthcare technology has significant benefits not only in the health sector but also in the travel sector: "This partnership reinforces that technology has the potential to securely, conveniently and effectively assist airlines to receive the verified COVID-19 test results and vaccination records," he noted adding that DHA has worked tirelessly to connect all the laboratories that process COVID-19 test results in Dubai into DHA's outbreak management system an integration which has been instrumental to help develop such a unique integration with Emirates Airline.

Emirates is one of the airlines that has introduced best business practices and applications to reenergize and stimulate international travel. In the coming months, the next phase of digital verification will see secure integration of health records within the IATA Travel Pass as another option to help facilitate travel for passengers.

Central bank seeks identity of major NSE gold traders

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya is seeking to know the identity of big traders at the Absa's gold-backed exchange-traded fund listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) after the counter picked up trades during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The NSE notified traders to provide information directly to the banking regulator and identity of any investor buying gold stock worth more than \$10,000 (Sh1.08 million). Trade in gold stocks surged last year as investors shifted to safe assets to hedge against the falling shilling, declining equities and uncertainties in other asset classes.

"In order to ensure compliance with the applicable laws, upon request from Absa Group Limited, market participants would be required to submit, directly to the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), the required KYC (know your customer) information and supporting documentation of the respective clients who invest in the NewGold ETF in amounts exceeding \$10,000 or its equivalent in any other currency carried out by the Market Participant," said NSE chief executive Geoffrey Odundo in a circular.

The NewGold ETF, which is the largest gold ETF in Africa and the first in East Africa, was listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange in 2017. It is primarily listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with secondary listings in Kenya, Botswana, Nigeria, Mauritius, Namibia and Ghana. The

fund is fully backed by physical gold bullion and offers institutional and retail investors the opportunity to invest in gold bullion.

Since it tracks the international gold price "spot price", the prices quoted to local investors in Kenya shillings and are subject to foreign exchange currency conversion that is closely monitored by the banking regulator. The Absa gold launched in 2017 and with a market capitalisation of Sh576 million is now worth Sh742 million at the price of Sh1,855 a unit.

The New Gold ETF has been a dormant counter since its listing in February 2017 and only traded sets of 100 units to 800 units ten times in the first three years. Absa had initially issued 400,000 shares and cut to 150,000 due to low demand.

However, at the onset of Covid-19 in Kenya, investors in the gold-backed ETF enjoyed a big increase in the value of their holdings following a sharp rise in the global price of the precious metal as gold is seen as a haven investment at times of economic shocks.

Barclays has since unlocked the entire shares, which has seen foreigners scoop up 207,500 shares as of February, dwarfing individual local owners and institutional owners with 15,000 and 26,100 shares, respectively.

According to the Capital Markets Soundness report, the listed new gold ETF has been on a decline during the quarter save for February that recorded a turnover value of Sh54.17 million with other months recording zero turnover values.



Nairobi Securities Exchange CEO Geoffrey Odundo.

Lion breeding and rhino horn trade won't be backed by SA

JOHANNESBURG

LION breeding in South Africa and trade in products such as their bones should be ended and the country won't lobby for the lifting of global restrictions on the rhino horn and elephant ivory trade, Environment Minister Barbara Creecy said.

Still, the country should position itself as a destination for hunting of some of the world's most iconic animals, she said at the release of the High Level Panel report on the management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros on Sunday.

The recommendations of the panel show the difficult path South Africa, cognisant of its role as guardian of some of the world's most important populations of endangered animals, is treading in a country where many of those animals are held and owned on private land.

"We fully understand that the breeders will have things to say," Creecy said, promising consultations after an unidentified member of the audience interjected at the end of the meeting to say that the recommendations adopted would lead to the destruction of the species the government seeks to protect. "No change in policy can be made in a democracy without the participation of those affected," she said.

Rhino owners

While the country has been vocal in the global fight to halt the trade of rhino horn and elephant ivory, it had also attracted criticism for allowing the breeding of lions for hunting and the sale of their bones to East Asia where they are believed to have medicinal properties. Private rhino owners, who own the bulk of the country's rhinos, have lobbied for the resumption of legal horn trade to fund the costs associated with protecting their animals against poaching.

While the majority of the 25-member panel recommended ending lion breeding and placing curbs on the keeping of captive rhinos, some members dissented and there was also disagreement on the controls on rhino breeding.

South Africa is home to almost all of the world's remaining rhinos and has key populations of elephants, lions and leopards. Hunting of all these animals is permitted under strict controls and generates significant revenue for the country as it attracts sport hunters mainly from the US.

"The captive lion industry poses risks to the sustainability of wild lion conservation resulting from the negative impact on ecotourism, which funds lion conservation and conservation more broadly," Creecy said. In addition there is a "negative impact on the authentic wild hunting industry and the risk the trade in lion parts poses to stimulating poaching and the illegal trade."

Tourism, ecotourism

South Africa's trophy hunting industry generates about R5 billion annually, according to a paper released by researchers at South Africa's North-West University in 2018. The ecotourism industry forms a key part of the country's tourism trade, which makes up about 7% of the economy. A call and email to the South African Predator Association, which represents captive lion breeders and hunters, were not immediately responded to.

The panel also had to consider a number of other issues such as the use of animal products, such as leopard skins, in traditional practices and the killing of leopards that prey on livestock, she said. A policy paper on the recommendations for public comment will be released within about two weeks, Creecy said. That's a key step toward enacting legislation.

AgResult Project helping dairy farmers increase yields through proper nutrition



Vetfarm Tanzania's extension officers showcasing quality minerals for complete nutrition in increasing dairy productivity. Second right is managing director Dr Emanuel Swai.

By Smart Money Reporter

MAIMUNA Nyakanazi is a struggling dairy farmer based Dawaka in Morogoro Rural District. Her herd of 30 cows which includes three bulls and eight calves is mainly kept through a traditional free range system.

"It's not easy to get fodder here especially during the dry season because the grass is dry and water is scarce. Nyakanazi who is a mother of four knows very little about raising cattle using modern livestock keeping practices.

Because of tradition methods of cattle keeping, her cows provide less than seven litres of milk per day which experts argue is too little but is a result of poor nutrition to the animals. According to The International Livestock Research Institute, it estimates that lactating cows in Tanzania suffer from a 30 percent nutrient deficiency, but when they are fed properly, they can increase daily milk production from six litres to 13 litres.

"Well-fed cows are also more disease-resistant and are more likely to reproduce regularly," said Neema Mrema who is AgResults Project Team Leader. The AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project is a four-year, US\$4.9 million prize competition that aims to increase dairy productivity by encouraging private sector input suppliers to

deliver inputs to smallholder farmers.

Mrema said local dairy farmers face two main obstacles to good nutrition: First, farmers have historically used communal grazing lands and cut-and-carry livestock keeping systems, so they do not see the value in buying critical feed resources such as roughages (hay/fodder) and concentrates (standard dairy meal and molasses).

"Second, even if farmers want to buy quality fodder and meal, there are logistical challenges. Supply of standard dairy meal and hay is low, and transportation costs drive up overall costs, limiting accessibility among farmers," she said. The AgResult Project Team Leader further noted that feed companies, meanwhile, have little incentive to produce dairy meal because of the small customer base, choosing instead to focus on producing poultry feed, which has a higher and more reliable return.

"These supply and demand dynamics build on each other, leaving farmers and dairy cows without quality feed," she argued while noting that the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project is encouraging private sector input suppliers to deliver high-quality inputs to the farmers. AgResults' Pay-for-Results prize competition model uses monetary prizes to reward competing private sector actors - known as competitors. In Tanzania, competitors earn prizes for selling different bundles of inputs to farmers, along with providing extension services. The inputs include nutritious feed as well as parasite control, vaccines, and artificial insemination.

She argued that well-fed cows are also more disease-resistant and are more likely to reproduce regularly as such the competition is aimed at encouraging dairy farmers get access to such inputs supplied by the private sector.

The completion seeks to wean farmers from using communal grazing lands and cut-and-carry livestock keeping systems, so they do not see the value in buying critical feed resources such as roughages (hay/fodder) and concentrates (standard dairy meal and molasses).

Feed companies, meanwhile, have little incentive to produce dairy meal because of the small customer

base, choosing instead to focus on producing poultry feed, which has a higher and more reliable return.

One such feed company is Vetfarm which is one of the six AgResults competitors and has more than 19 years of providing consultancy services and training on animal management practices to farmers in Pwani and Dar es Salaam Regions.

"In 2019, we sold more than 35 tons of minerals, vitamins and urea molasses blocks," said Dr Emmanuel Swai, the Vetfarm Managing Director. When joining the AgResults competition, Dr Swai however acknowledged that it would be difficult to fulfill the nutrition bundle requirements due to unreliable and insufficient sources of hay/fodder as well as lack of access to standard dairy meal.

Vetfarm chose a hybrid approach, forming a partnership with IDACOS, a dairy cooperative union, to produce dairy meal and collaborating with Vikuge, a government farm, to procure 1000 bales of hay, each weighing approximately 20kgs.

"Vetfarm complemented these efforts by providing streamlined advisory services to its farmers, focusing on the importance and correct use of hay," he explained while adding that through such coordination, the company increased farmers' access to hay and standard dairy meal with sales of 9,618kgs and 988kgs, respectively.

MTN Rwanda listing on Rwanda Stock Exchange: Just what does it mean for our capital market?

By Pierre-Célestin Rwabukumba

MTN Rwandacell Plc, the leading mobile telecommunications company in Rwanda, will on 4th May 2021 list her shares for trading on the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE). The listing of MTN on RSE is without single doubt good news but also propels us to reflect as to what this listing means to our capital market and the country in general.

The whole process originally started in the summer of 2015 when MTN Rwandacell's single local shareholder, Crystal Ventures who at the time owned 20 per cent of the company floated its shares to the public for listing and trading on the RSE.

The company did this by creating a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Crystal Telecom (CTL) specifically created to hold the 20 per cent shares of MTN Rwandacell and the general public bought the shares in the SPV thus allowing them to indirectly MTN Rwandacell shares.

So for the past 5 years and a half, the company shares have been exchanging hands on the market while the remaining 80% remained in private hands (MTN group) until last now that both sides, the public held side and the privately held agreed to join hands and list the entire company under one brand of MTN Rwandacell PLC.

The process, after all, regulatory approvals from the Capital Market Authority and Rwanda Stock Exchange, must have CTL shareholders in the registry of holders on April 28th, 2021 recorded directly under the books of MTN Rwandacell PLC and CTL PLC subsequently delisted from the Exchange's trading boards and deregistered from the Registrar of Companies at RDB prior to the official listing of MTN Rwandacell on the RSE on May 4th, 2021.

The official closing price of CTL before suspension from trading on April 26th, 2021 was Rwf 190 and the official price of MTN Rwandacell after their valuation is Rwf 269. On the listing day, the market shall use all the information readily available in the Information Memorandum (IM) of the company and other sources and make up its own mind in the secondary market in a process called market price discovery which is determined by the forces of supply and demand in the market place.

MTN joining the capital market especially this time as we celebrate our 10 years of operations as an Exchange is another big milestone for our market. MTN listing is particularly significant as it increases RSE's market capitalization in a big way being of a good size and it adds on the number of leading brands to the Exchange and offering more visibility into the company's operations the general investing public which in turn should trigger more interest from potential new investors going forward

Leveraging on the history of FIRST that MTN has made in this country, We hope that the Yello powerful brand recognition brought by MTN on the market will attract more private sector companies both locally and internationally to join the market and enjoy the benefits of listed companies. For the investor community and the general public at large, this listing offers an opportunity not only to partake in MTN Rwandacell activities but also to have direct ownership of the company.

Rwanda Stock Exchange Limited was officially launched on 31st January 2011 with the objective of carrying out stock market operations. The Exchange has in 10 years of existence made remarkable progress and played a significant role in the economic development of the country. Key highlights during RSE 10-year journey were but not limited to the following: 10 Listed companies in 2021 up from 1 company in 2011, a total of Rwf 1.15 trillion or USD 1.72 billion was raised, equities and bonds valued at Rwf 239 billion or USD 243.3 million and Rwf 79.19 billion or USD 80.6 million were traded in the secondary market, respectively bringing the total of transacted value in the market to about Rwf 1.468 trillion or USD 1.5 billion so far.

The market is also in final stages of linking to the rest of other EAC Exchanges in a bid to take advantage of the larger pool of investors and investment opportunities in the EAC region. MTN joining at this stage, therefore, is a good opportunity for us to attract other investors in the region to also tap into what the company and market have to offer.

One could mistakenly think that these are solely the Exchange's achievements when in fact these are feats for our financial sector built on consistent achievements of the country as a whole for the past 15 years at least. It is a collective success story of which the backdrop is in the country's continuously improving conducive environment. The foundation has been laid down for us and now is the opportunity for us to take advantage of.

The author is CEO of the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE) and Chairman of the East African Stock Exchanges Association (EASEA).

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Livestock Wealth founder crowned IT Personality of the Year

JOHANNESBURG

FOUNDER of livestock crowd farming platform Livestock Wealth, Ntuthuko Shezi, has scooped the coveted 2020 IT Personality of the Year award; while Nomthi Nelwamondo, chief information officer (CIO) of Assupol; and Dr Stanley Mpofu, CIO of the University of the Witwatersrand, are the joint winners of the Visionary CIO of the Year award.

The winners were announced on April 15 during the Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) virtual President's Awards. The 2020 awards, which were delayed by Covid-19, were themed "Excellence in Adversity" and celebrate IT professionals who excelled during a particularly challenging year.

IITPSA CEO Tony Parry says IT professionals played a crucial role in minimising the impact of the lockdown, keeping public services running, enabling businesses to keep operating, and helping citizens to continue learning, working, transacting and communicating digitally.

Serial entrepreneur and innovator
For the prestigious IT Personality of the

Year accolade, presented by the IITPSA in association with ITWeb and the Gordon Institute of Business Science, Shezi competed with two worthy finalists: Lynette Hundermark, digital and mobile marketing guru and co-founder of mobile solutions consultancy Useful & Beautiful, and Karen Nadasen, CEO of PayU South Africa and chairperson of the E-commerce Forum of South Africa.

Shezi, a serial entrepreneur and innovator, was born in rural Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal, and blazed the trail to become the first in his family to graduate at a university. His latest venture, Livestock Wealth, is a simple method of investing in farming. It presents new investment opportunities for the South African market where users invest their money in agricultural assets as they grow on a farm rather than unit trusts and shares.

Through a web and mobile application, potential investors can buy vegetable tunnel gardens, macadamia trees in orchards as well as cows online. Shezi holds two patents, 12 trademarks and over 80 local and international domains.

In his acceptance speech, Shezi said: "I am so pleased about this award. I am totally



Livestock Wealth founder Ntuthuko Shezi.

honoured. I am pleased with the work that we have done in bringing agriculture to everyone. It's been six years of hard work and it's finally paying off; and the recognition from yourselves is a cherry on top. It makes all our sleepless nights worthwhile.

"My staff have carried the company so much; so thank you team; this is for you and the work that you are doing and the world is starting to see. Most importantly, my wife as

well, who has had to put up with all my late nights."

Visionary leadership

For the Visionary CIO 2020 award there was a tie between Wits University's Mpofu and Assupol's Nelwamondo. The other finalists were Ashley Singh, CIO of Sanlam Corporate; Mervyn Goliath, managing executive of Data Networks at BCX; and Helen Constantinides, group CIO and exco member of AVBOB Mutual Assurance.

A high-performing and solutions-driven CIO with over seven years' experience at executive level and 20 in ICT, Nelwamondo is passionate about improving customer experience and interactions, using technology as an enabler for business as well as ultimately transforming lives through technology.

She joined Assupol in January 2019 to fulfil the role of CIO. Prior to joining Assupol, she was CIO of Liquid Telecom South Africa and previously fulfilled a divisional CIO role at Telkom. Said Nelwamondo: "Mike Tyson one day said everyone has a plan until they are punched in the face. I think the pandemic did that to us. Fortunately, many

of us were able to rise. Assupol's IT team and its leadership were such a team. I receive this award humbly on their behalf. Thank you for the recognition and the nomination."

Mpofu has a proven track record of excellent delivery in his 27-year career. He is described as an exec who copes well in difficult terrain and in situations where there is chaos that needs to be fixed. He has proven his abilities at Eskom Enterprises as well as at Wits University.

Within a short space of time, he has been able to transform Wits's technology capability by positively influencing methods of learning, teaching and research. His concept of an implementation of the "Smart Classroom" gave Wits an advantage in its response to COVID-19 and the university adopted full online learning and teaching in less than a month under his stewardship.

"Firstly, I would want to appreciate the humbling experience of being nominated. I want to start by thanking my family, which is my wife and kids. I also want to thank my Wits ICT team, of which if it wasn't for this team, there will be nothing I would have delivered or even have been nominated," Mpofu said.

WORLD

One in two people globally lost income due to pandemic

NAIROBI

ONE in two people worldwide saw their earnings drop due to the coronavirus, with people in low-income countries particularly hard hit by job losses or cuts to their working hours, research showed on Monday.

US-based polling company Gallup, which surveyed 300,000 people across 117 countries, found that half of those with jobs earned less because of COVID-19 pandemic disruptions. This translated to 1.6 billion adults globally, it said. "Worldwide, these percentages ranged from a high of 76 percent in

Thailand to a low of 10 percent in Switzerland," said researchers in a statement.

In Bolivia, Myanmar, Kenya, Uganda, Indonesia, Honduras and Ecuador, more than 70 percent people polled said they took home less than before global health crisis. In the United States, this figure dropped to 34 percent.

The COVID-19 crisis has hit workers across the world, particularly women, who are over-represented in low-paid precarious sectors such as retail, tourism and food services.

A study by the international charity Oxfam on Thursday said the pandemic



Hundreds of people queue outside an Australian government welfare centre, Centrelink, in Melbourne, as jobless Australians flooded unemployment offices around the country after Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned the coronavirus pandemic would cause an economic crisis akin to the Great Depression. (File photo)

had cost women around the world US\$800 billion in lost income.

The Gallup poll found that more than half of those surveyed said they temporarily stopped working at their job or business - translating to about 1.7 billion adults globally.

In 57 countries including India, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Kenya, Bangladesh, El Salvador, more than 65 percent of respondents said they stopped working for a time.

Countries where people were least likely to say they stopped working were predominantly developed, high-income countries.

Fewer than one in 10 of those who

had jobs in Austria, Switzerland and Germany said they had stopped working temporarily. In the US, the figure was 39 percent, research showed.

The poll also showed that one in three people surveyed lost their job or business due to the pandemic - translating into just over one billion people globally.

These figures also varied across nations with lower income countries such as the Philippines, Kenya and Zimbabwe showing more than 60 percent of respondents lost their jobs or businesses, compared to 3 percent in Switzerland and 13 percent in the United States.

European Parliament president hopes Russia will lift sanctions against him

ROME

PRESIDENT of the European Parliament David Sassoli has expressed optimism that sanctions imposed against him by Moscow will be lifted and he will be able to pay a visit to Moscow in the foreseeable future, he said in an interview published in La Stampa yesterday.



According to Sassoli (pictured), his ban "is not personal but affects the head of parliament to punish the whole institution. We believe in dialogue, the force of diplomacy, multipolarity, trade, we are not moving troops and we are not aggressive," he said.

"I hope that this measure (entry ban - TASS) will be quickly lifted and I will be able to go to Moscow to discuss human rights and political freedoms. I think that the nation of this great country expects and deserves it," Sassoli said when asked if he believes that a Russia-EU summit can be held soon.

On April 30, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement that included a list of EU citizens prohibited from entering Russia.

Apart from Sassoli, it features Jorg Raupach, Berlin's chief prosecutor, Ivars Abolins, Chairman of Latvia's National Electronic Media Council, Maris Baltins, Director of the Latvian State Language Center, Jacques Maire, a member of the French delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Asa Scott, Head of the CBRN Protection and Security Division at the Swedish Defense Research Agency, Ilmar Tomusk, Director General of Estonia's Language Inspectorate, and Vera Jourova, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency.

Russia's action followed the European Council's sanctions against six Russian nationals of March 2 and 22, 2021.

UK finance chief: Scottish vote would risk COVID-19 recovery

LONDON

A referendum on Scottish independence would put Britain's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic at risk, British finance minister Rishi Sunak said yesterday, campaigning ahead of Scotland's parliamentary election.

Scotland will vote on Thursday for its devolved parliament, in which a victory for the Scottish National Party (SNP) is expected to create more pressure for an independence vote that has so far been rejected by the British government.

Making a campaign visit for the Conservative Party, which runs the British government but has less political influence in Scotland than the SNP, Sunak stressed the need to finish dealing with COVID-19 and start rebuilding the economy. "There is one clear risk to this shared goal, and that is the uncertainty of a second independence referendum," he said in a statement distributed by the Scottish Conservative Party.

"It would needlessly divide our country and at the worst possible time."

The SNP is expected to win the elections and, if it achieves an outright majority, will step up efforts to hold another independence referendum. In 2014 Scotland voted to remain part of the United Kingdom.

The SNP has stated that any fresh vote should wait until after the coronavirus pandemic is over, with the Scottish parliament to decide the timing. Speaking on Monday, SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon told ITV: "we have to patiently build the case and build the majority support for independence."

The Scottish parliament has sole responsibility for some policy areas, but adheres to policy set by the British government in others.

As the law stands, to hold another referendum legally, Scotland needs the permission of the British parliament, but the SNP could decide to challenge this by holding one anyway and force the British government to challenge it in the courts.



British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak

Vaccine hesitancy, variants growing concern for US battle against COVID-19

WASHINGTON

VACCINE hesitancy and spreading variants are causing growing concern for the U.S. battle against the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed over 575,000 Americans over the last year.

Health experts sounded the alarm as the country is ramping up efforts to vaccinate its population under President Joe Biden's administration. More than 144 million Americans have received at least one COVID-19 shot, accounting for 43.6 percent of the population, and 30.5 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The seven-day average cases, hospitalizations and deaths from the virus in the country have been going down from their highs in recent weeks.

However, the latest CDC estimates using statistical modeling indicated that about 35 percent of all Americans have been infected with COVID-19 over the last year, with 114.6 million infections accumulated from February 2020 to



Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. CDC, testifies during a hearing of U.S. House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis in Washington, D.C., the United States, on April 15, 2021. (Xinhua)

March 2021, including 97.1 million with symptomatic illnesses and 5.6 million hospitalizations. Some of the discrepancy in the number of cases could be because some people are asymptomatic and fail to get tested, the CDC said, or because even if someone does have symptoms, they may not seek medical care or a test to confirm their COVID-19 status.

To suppress the spread of the virus, somewhere between 70 percent to 85 percent of the U.S. population needs to be immune in order to reach herd immunity, experts said.

The "biggest challenge" for the Biden administration "will

be reaching the 20 percent of people who say they don't want to be vaccinated," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua, adding, "That number is down from a few months ago, but still is a large group of people."

A new CNN poll showed that a quarter of American adults said they would not try to get a coronavirus vaccine, and Republicans were the group most likely to say they would not seek a shot.

Some 44 percent of Republicans expressed that view, compared with 28 percent of independents and 8 percent of Democrats. Resistance to vaccination was the strongest

among younger Republicans.

"In the first few months, we were capturing the part of the population that really wanted these vaccines," infectious diseases expert Dr. Mati Hlatshway Davis told CNN on Saturday. "But now we've reached the 'wait and see' crowd and the outright 'I don't want it' crowd."

Davis said officials now need to double down on their efforts to address two key challenges of "vaccine confidence" and "access" to vaccines.

The number of willing COVID-19 vaccine recipients is rapidly diminishing and supply will exceed demand in the coming weeks, according to a recent analysis by nonprofit health policy group Kaiser Family Foundation.

"While timing may differ by state, we estimate that across the U.S. as a whole we will likely reach a tipping point on vaccine enthusiasm in the next 2 to 4 weeks," the Foundation said in its report published on April 20.

"Once this happens, efforts to encourage vaccination will become much harder, presenting a challenge to reach-

ing the levels of herd immunity that are expected to be needed," it said.

Eleven states have reported a decrease in shots given for three weeks in a row or more, according to a CNBC analysis of CDC data on Sunday.

The "slow erosion of vaccine confidence unfolding over the last two or more months is cause for concern," the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation wrote in its latest COVID-19 briefing.

A slowdown of vaccine demand could complicate the Biden administration's efforts to combat the pandemic as virus variants may continue to mutate and spread, the experts warned.

The highly transmissible variant which was first identified in Britain has already become the dominant one in the United States. "The more virus and viral replication, the virus has more chances to mutate and this means additional opportunities for variants to evolve," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said at a White House COVID-19 briefing on Friday. **Xinhua**

of troops in one country, he said.

Until now, the US and NATO have received no promises from the Taliban that they will not attack troops during the pullout. In a response to questions, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the Taliban leadership was still mulling over its strategy.

The insurgent group continues to accuse Washington of breaching the deal it signed with Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, more than a year ago. In that agreement, the US said it would have all troops out by May 1.

Agencies

US formally retreats from its longest war

KABUL

THE final phase of ending the United States' "forever war" in Afghanistan after 20 years formally began on Saturday, with the complete withdrawal of the last US and NATO troops to take place by the end of summer.

US President Joe Biden had set May 1 as the official start of the withdrawal of the remaining forces, about 2,500-3,500 US troops and about 7,000 soldiers from NATO countries.

Even before Saturday, the herculean task of packing up had begun.

The military has been tak-

ing inventory, deciding what is shipped back to the US, what is handed to the Afghan security forces, and what is to be sold as junk in Afghanistan's markets. In recent weeks, the military has been flying out equipment on massive C-17 cargo planes.

The US is estimated to have spent more than US\$2 trillion in Afghanistan in the past two decades, according to the Costs of War project at Brown University, which documents the hidden costs of the US military engagement.

US defense officials and diplomats told The Associated Press the withdrawal has involved closing smaller bases over the last year. They said that since Biden announced the end-of-summer withdrawal date in mid-April, roughly 60 military personnel had left the country.

The US and its NATO allies went into Afghanistan together on Oct 7, 2001, to hunt the al-Qaida perpetrators of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks who lived under the protection of the country's Taliban rulers.

Two months later, the Taliban had been defeated and al-Qaida fighters and their leader, Osama bin Laden, were on the run.

In his withdrawal announcement last month, Biden said the initial mission was accomplished a decade ago when US Navy SEALs killed bin Laden in his hideout in Pakistan. Since then, al-Qaida has been degraded, while the terrorist threat has "metastasized" into a global phenomenon that is not contained by keeping thousands

China and the United States," said the 97-year-old veteran diplomat, whose secret visit to China in 1971 paved the way for the rapprochement between the United States and China after decades of hostility.

The mix of economic, military and technological strengths of the two heavyweights carried more risks than the Cold War with the Soviet Union, he said, calling on Washington to take a two-pronged approach in its policy toward China - standing firm on U.S. principles to demand China's respect, while maintaining a constant dialogue and finding areas of cooperation. When addressing the China Development Forum 2021 via video in March, the acclaimed diplomat

said it is of necessity that the United States and China sometimes have a different view of practice because of their different cultures and histories.

"But at the same time, the modern technology, the global communications and the global economy require that the two societies begin ever more intensive efforts to work together, because the peace and prosperity of the world depend on an understanding between the two societies," Kissinger said.

Joseph Nye, a distinguished U.S. political scientist, said in his forthcoming column for Project Syndicate that "this great power competition can be dangerous if mishandled, but it can also be healthy if we play it right."

"In the domain of ecological interdependence, power becomes a positive sum game. We cannot simply think in terms of American powers over others. We must also think of power with others," said Nye, who has developed international relations theories including neoliberalism, soft power and smart power.

"On many transnational issues, empowering others helps us to accomplish our goals. The United States benefits if China improves its energy efficiency and emits less carbon dioxide. We have to cooperate at the same time we compete," he added.

Nye suggested in an interview with Xinhua in March a "cooperative rivalry" between the two large countries,

and that relationship requires careful management and constant communication, such as regular strategic dialogues, to avoid possible miscalculation.

In the China-U.S. Joint Statement addressing the Climate Crisis issued after talks between China Special Envoy for Climate Change Xie Zhenhua and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in Shanghai last month, the two countries agreed to each implement the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbon production and consumption reflected in the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

An article on the Natural Resources Defense Council said the movement

provides a strong signal to the rest of the world that the two biggest economies will "help bring other countries along to deliver its environmental and economic benefits."

As one hand cannot clap, the United States and China have to create "guardrails" within their relationship to ensure the ties stay on a predictable and stable track, Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, told Xinhua recently. As the two sides once again re-engage and search for areas of commonality, where they are and where they prosper mutually and beneficially, he hopes that these areas will far exceed the areas where they have differences. **Xinhua**

US, China need to build 'guardrails', keep constant dialogue to avoid confrontation - experts

WASHINGTON

THE United States and China have to build "guardrails" around the consequential bilateral ties and maintain constant communication to avoid possible miscalculation and confrontation between the two major countries, U.S. experts and scholars have said.

During the McCain Institute's Sedona Forum on global issues on Friday, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said strains with China are "the biggest problem for America, the biggest problem for the world."

"Because if we can't solve that, then the risk is that all over the world a kind of cold war will develop between

EU reserves right to respond to Russia's sanctions – senior officials

BRUSSELS

THE European Union reserves the right to respond to travel bans, imposed by Russia on several European officials, the presidents of the European Council, Commission and Parliament said in a joint statement on Friday.

"This decision is the latest, striking demonstration of how the Russian Federation has chosen confrontation with the EU instead of agreeing to redress the negative trajectory of our bilateral relations.

The EU reserves the right to take appropriate measures in response to the Russian authorities' decision," reads the statement, issued by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel and President of the European Parliament David Sassoli.

The senior EU officials condemned Russia's move, saying it is "unacceptable, lacks any legal justification and is entirely groundless." "It targets the European Union directly, not only the individuals concerned," the statement reads.

Earlier on Friday, the Russian Foreign Ministry published a statement listing eight EU citizens who are banned from entering Russian territory. Besides Sassoli, the list includes Berlin chief prosecutor Jorg Raupach, Head of the CBRN Protection and Security Division at the Swedish Defense Research Agency Asa Scott, and Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova.

The measure was taken in response to the European Council's sanctions against six Russian nationals of March 2 and 22, 2021.

Lion breeding to be brought to an end in South Africa

By Bloomberg

LION breeding in South Africa and trade in products such as their bones should be ended and the country won't lobby for the lifting of global restrictions on the rhino horn and elephant ivory trade, Environment Minister Barbara Creecy said.

Still, the country should position itself as a destination for hunting of some of the world's most iconic animals, she said at the release of the High Level Panel report on the management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros on Sunday.

The recommendations of the panel show the difficult path South Africa, cognizant of its role as guardian of some of the world's most important populations of endangered animals, is treading in a country where many of those animals are held and owned on private land.

"We fully understand that the breeders will have things to say," Creecy said, promising consultations after an unidentified member of the audience interjected at the end of the meeting to say that the recommendations adopted would lead to the destruction of the species the government seeks to protect. "No change in policy can be made in a democracy without the participation of those affected," she said.

While the country has been vocal in the global fight to halt the trade of rhino horn and elephant ivory, it had also attracted criticism for allowing the breeding of lions for hunting and the sale of their bones to East Asia where they are believed to have medicinal properties. Private rhino owners, who own the bulk of the country's rhinos, have lobbied for the resumption of legal horn trade to fund the costs associated with protecting their animals against poaching.

While the majority of the 25-member panel recommended ending lion breeding and placing curbs on the keeping of captive rhinos, some members dissented and there was also disagreement on the controls on rhino breeding. Creecy said she had decided to adopt the majority view.

South Africa is home to almost all of the world's remaining rhinos and has key populations of elephants, lions and leopards. Hunting of all these animals is permitted under strict controls and generates significant revenue for the country as it attracts sport hunters mainly from the US.

"The captive lion industry poses risks to the sustainability of wild lion conservation resulting from the negative impact on ecotourism, which funds lion conservation and conservation more broadly," Creecy said. In addition there is a "negative impact on the authentic wild hunting industry and the risk the trade in lion parts poses to stimulating poaching and the illegal trade."

South Africa's trophy hunting industry generates about 5 billion rand (US\$345 million) annually, according to a paper released by researchers at South Africa's North-West University in 2018. The ecotourism industry forms a key part of the country's tourism trade, which makes up about 7% of the economy.

"South Africa is the top exporter of lion trophies in the world - and most of these are lions who originate from the country's notorious captive lion breeding industry," Humane Society International said in a statement. Between 2014 and 2018 "4,176 lion trophies were exported from South Africa (as well as 25 captive-source tiger trophies)," Humane Society said.

Breeding of lion cubs to be petted by tourists at safari parks will also be stopped, she said.

A call and email to the South African Predator Association, which represents captive lion breeders and hunters, were not immediately responded to.

The panel also had to consider a number of other issues such as the use of animal products, such as leopard skins, in traditional practices and the killing of leopards that prey on livestock, she said.

A policy paper on the recommendations for public comment will be released within about two weeks, Creecy said. That's a key step toward enacting legislation.

Modi loses key state in sign of voter backlash after virus surge

By Bloomberg

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party lost an election in a key state he visited frequently before the recent virus surge forced him off the campaign trail, adding to growing signs of a backlash over his government's handling of the world's worst COVID-19 outbreak.

In West Bengal, incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress won more than 70 percent of 292 seats up for grabs, while Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party took 76, according to results posted on the Election Commission of India on Monday.

Last month, the prime minister predicted his party would win more than 200 seats in the state, which held voting over eight phases starting on March 27.

Modi's opponents won in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, while his party kept power in the northeastern state of Assam and gained the federally-controlled territory of Puducherry, where it contested in alliance with a regional party.

He conceded West Bengal in a series of posts on Twitter, congratulating Banerjee while also noting the BJP made gains in the state.

Grim scenes of overcrowded crematoriums and pleas for oxygen have overshadowed the election in recent weeks, with Modi coming under fire for campaigning in front of huge crowds as infections were spiraling.

Daily deaths in India hit a record 3,689 on Sunday, while the number of cases slowed slightly after the country became the first to cross the mark of 400,000 cases in a day.

"As three strongly anti-BJP regional leaders have emerged victorious, they are likely to be the nucleus of the opposition challenge to Modi in the months ahead as he battles the backlash to his mismanagement of the Covid crisis," said Arati Jerath, a New Delhi-based author and political analyst who has written about Indian politics for nearly three decades.

The results weaken the government and indicate there are "huge political and constitutional challenges ahead for Modi."

The vote count on Sunday came a day after 12 patients, including a senior doctor, died when a hospital in the capital New Delhi ran out of oxygen after sending out desperate calls for help - the third such incident in the last 10 days. Shortages of beds, oxygen and medical supplies at major hospitals during the latest virus wave have shown a spotlight on India's underfunded health



Supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wearing face cutouts of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend a public rally being addressed by him during the ongoing fourth phase of the West Bengal's state legislative assembly elections, at Kawakhali on the outskirts of Siliguri on April 10, 2021. (AFP)

system.

"We have been raising this kind of alarm to the government, because it is an ongoing situation that is worsening everyday," Sudhanshu Bankata, the executive director of the Batra Hospital, said by phone.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Saturday his administration had told both the courts and the federal government that his state had only been allocated 490 metric tonnes of oxygen per day, about half of what it needs.

"How are things supposed to work out?" Kejriwal said in a statement Saturday. "Delhi needs oxygen."

In the elections, Modi's BJP had sought to expand its footprint in the country's east and south, where it has struggled to gain traction. The victory for his party in Assam, where a religion-based citizenship act spurred protests, could further embolden the government to implement the controversial law across the country. Still, it failed to unseat West

Bengal's Banerjee, one of the most outspoken critics of Modi's pro-Hindu agenda.

In Kerala, a coalition led by the communist party is poised to retain power in a blow to the Congress party, which had ruled India for decades and has been the main opposition party at the federal level. It failed to win back either Kerala or Assam.

Rahul Gandhi, the former Congress leader and great-grandson of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, will come under increasing pressure, according to Sandeep Shastri, a political analyst and vice-chancellor at the Jagran Lakecity University at Bhopal.

The Congress party "would gradually lose its position as a nucleus of the anti-BJP political force and Rahul Gandhi's role will surely come under fire," he said.

'Red' bookstores witness rising Chinese enthusiasm on revolutionary history

NANCHAN

AT the main entrance of the largest shopping street of old town Jingtangshan, the "cradle of the Chinese revolution" in east China's Jiangxi Province, stands the Red Bookstore.

Red not only refers to its red decorations, but the "red" revolution spirit it represents, which is attracting more and more people to revisit places like Jingtangshan and connect with the revolutionary past of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

READ TO PAY HOMAGE

Many people enter the Red Bookstore with eyes glistening in excitement. Visitors mill around statues of China's veteran revolutionaries, and as many as 10,000 revolutionary books, audiovisual products and cultural derivatives can bring people back in time.

"This is a good place to purify my mind," a visitor wrote in the bookstore's guest book. "When people have ideals, their country will have the strength and their nation will have a bright future," said another visitor.

When customers leave, some get their freshly acquired books stamped with a famous quote from an essay of Chairman Mao: "A single spark can start a prairie fire." This quote is often taken as a symbol of Jingtangshan's role as the earliest revolutionary base.

READ TO MARK LANDMARK

This year marks the centennial of the founding of the CPC. Strong foot traffic has been observed in the bookstore since the beginning of the year, said manager Pan Min, who added that 70 percent of them were tourists coming to Jingtangshan.

Sales have climbed both on year and on month according to Pan, in line with industrial forecasts in a market report released in Beijing in late March.

Traditionally a season of thin trading, the first four months of this year logged an increase of nearly 180 percent in sales compared with the same period in 2019, the year before the outbreak



A local resident reading a book at a "Red" bookstore in Zunyi, southwest China's Guizhou Province. (Xinhua)

of COVID-19, said Pan.

Best-sellers included collected works of Chairman Mao, catalog records of the Jingtangshan revolutionary base area and an oral history of the struggles in the region, according to the manager.

A similar scene was also found in Zunyi, southwest China's Guizhou Province, an "unusual one" according to the staff at a local revolution-themed Xinhua Bookstore branch. More than 900 km to the west of Jingtangshan, Zunyi hosted a CPC meeting in 1935, which is widely considered a watershed event in the history of the CPC.

Sales soared 30 percent in the first quarter compared to the same period of 2019, according to Zhan Huijing, head of the Zunyi bookstore. "Many readers made a point of visiting here, asking when a much-expected title on CPC history is available," said Zhan.

READ BEYOND BOOKSTORES

Revolution-themed bookstores are not the only players promoting "red" reading. Many general and private bookstores are also exploring new ways to better engage the public.

Zhongshuge, a chain bookstore startup renowned for its surreal design, has furnished a section at its Zunyi branch with bugles and medical kits that can hark back to the warring era, displaying revolutionary productions and facilitating in-store reading.

In April, the Wangfujing Book-

store in central Beijing joined hands with nearby primary and secondary schools to bring theme book fairs to the campuses, featuring "red" publications for children and young students.

On the high-speed trains between Beijing, Tianjin and Xiongan, passengers were offered a free reading service on board, more than 200 digital books and audiobooks, many of which are the revolution history of the Party.

China Bookstore, a famous publisher of classic Chinese books, launched an online exhibition of "red" memories in March, bringing together 100 revolution-themed comics, 100 posters of revolution movies and more than 50 newspapers published on the previous birthdays of the CPC.

The offline version of the exhibition is currently on tour in its physical bookstore outlets, which became a hit during this year's World Book Day.

The popularity of books about revolutionary years reflects a collective recognition of the Party's leadership over the past decades, which is a natural assertion of current social psych ahead of such a milestone, said Zheng Dongsheng, a professor at the Party School of the Guizhou Provincial Committee of CPC.

The reading preference also reflects the personality and history of a city, as well as the status of its social and cultural development, said Zheng.

Ayatollah criticizes Iran's foreign minister over leaked remarks

DUBAI



IRAN'S supreme leader on Sunday criticised its foreign minister, who said in a leaked interview that the elite Revolutionary Guards had more influence in foreign affairs and Tehran's nuclear dossier than him.

In the interview, aired by the London-based Iran International Persian-language satellite news channel last week, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said he had "zero" influence over Iran's foreign policy.

Zarif has been the public face of Iranian diplomacy as it deals with a host of issues, including talks with world powers on how to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear accord that Washington abandoned three years ago.

Relations between pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani's government and the Guards are important because the influence of the hardline force can disrupt any rapprochement with the West.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, speaking in a televised speech, did not call Zarif out by name but said of his comments: "This was a big mistake that must not be made by an official of the Islamic Republic."

"Nowhere in the world the foreign ministry determines foreign policy. There are higher ranking officials that make the decisions and policies.

Of course, the foreign ministry is also involved." In an Instagram post after Khamenei's speech, Zarif apologised for comments that had "annoyed" the country's top authority, who has the last say on all state matters.

Iran has imposed travel bans on 15 people for alleged involvement in the leaked audio recording, which authorities have said it was produced for state records rather than for publication.

Using language rarely heard in politics in Iran, Zarif in the interview complained about the extent of influence of the late leader of the Guards' clandestine overseas Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, had over foreign policy, hinting that Soleimani tried to spoil the 2015 nuclear deal by colluding with Russia.

Soleimani was a pivotal figure who built up Iran's network of proxy armies across the Middle East. He was killed in a US drone attack in Iraq last year.

"The Quds Force has been able to put into action the independent policy of the Islamic Republic in the region, which is based on honour," Khamenei said.

Although Zarif has repeatedly said he has no intention of running in a presidential election next month, his name has been suggested by moderates as a possible candidate for the election.

Several prominent Guards commanders are also running for the top executive post. Some critics said Zarif's comments in the tape were aimed at attracting votes from Iranians disillusioned by a stalled economy and lack of political and social freedoms.

SPORT



Herry Chibakasa

Hussein's manager sheds light on challenges facing local soccer players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE manager of Simba Sports Club's assistant captain, Mohamed Hussein, Herry Chibakasa, alias 'Herry Mzozo', has set the media agenda of local sports in recent days.

His stance on the fate of the left fullback on whether the player will remain with Simba SC or leave the club has made the manager a pearl for sports journalists who have repeatedly called him or interviewed him face-to-face.

Unlike many other managers, who manage their clients when their contracts expire, they make statements to give the players' clubs a first chance at negotiating a new contract, the situation has been different for a dispute he (Chibakasa) has come up with.

Chibakasa said that he and his client had already agreed that they would not extend a new contract with Simba as the player had not been shown great respect and value within the team for about seven years he served.

The manager noted that despite Hussein's great contribution to the team, the fullback has been paid a little salary during his tenure and a low signing fee for his new contract unlike other players in the team.

He went further by saying that Simba have always valued foreign players more than locals who are not given the respect and value they deserve at the club.

Luckily Hussein has reached an agreement with Simba and he has extended his three-year contract to serve the Msimbazi Street-based big guns.

I try to reflect on Chibakasa's statements in both sides of the coin, which one is the truth and legitimacy of what he is saying and managing ethics but also the other side is that of the manager's mistakes in his statements.

With a view to fighting for the player's interests, Chibakasa has done the right thing because he is the one who has the ultimate responsibility to manage the rights and entitlements of his client.

He must create a better environment and enable the player he is managing to get the best interest through a new contract, be it for the team he serves or another side.

It is possible that Chibakasa has been making the remarks with the intention of pressuring Simba to give his client a lot more money than even what they were thinking of giving the defender they roped in from Kagera Sugar.

Chibakasa also said that he has already reached an agreement with other clubs so what he is talking about is probably due to the fact that there is a possibility that he and his

client will get a large amount of money from other outfit.

On the contrary, there is some way in which Chibakasa has not done justice to Simba SC and the manager would have been advised to apologize for his statements which could affect the club's logo and status.

Chibakasa's allegations that Simba do not value local players in relation to the delay of his player signing a new contract is incorrect and should not have been made by someone like him.

Hussein is one of the elite players who has served Simba for so long that he has been selected as the team's assistant captain.

If the locals were not valued, could he be given the assistant skipper role at the club on the expense of the foreign ones?

The answer is simply no, because he and the club's skipper, John Bocco, are both Tanzanians while the foreigners are left out!

Hussein joined Simba at a young age of below 20 again not as a big-name player or with a guaranteed number in the Kagera Sugar starting eleven squad, but Simba trusted him and gave him a chance to make him what he is today.

If the native players were not valued could he be given all these chance and grow into a player he is today.

But before Hussein, several players managed by Chibakasa have played for Simba successfully at different times and some have been favourites within the team.

The players include forward Athuman Iddi Machupa and midfielders Haruna Mushi 'Boban' and Ramadhan Chombo 'Redondo'.

If Simba did not care about the local players I do not think Chibakasa would have continued to agree to work with them to this day under his managerial of Hussein.

We need to have managers and supervisors who will fight for the interests of their players in the right ways that do not disrupt relationships between their players and the clubs they turn out for.

There is a lesson to be learned from the Chibakasa and Simba SC saga in dealing with the issue of players' new contract.

Others should use it as a class including respective clubs that delay to extend contracts of key players.

Such players find themselves in the position of being free to negotiate with other clubs due to the eligibility of them having a six month remaining contract on their paperwork.

It is advisable for clubs to extend the contracts of their key players one year before the players enter the six-month term of their remaining contract in order to do away with the pressure we have learned from Chibakasa and Simba SC saga.

SPORTS

Rock bottom: When Tanzania has two confirmed athletes for Tokyo Olympics

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHAT was to be feared is now nearly a certainty, though there is room to increase somewhat the number of Tanzanian athletes capable of participating in the Tokyo Olympics, still known by their Tokyo 2020 tag and as yet remain in abeyance.

The Japanese are undecided about allowing tens of thousands of athletes and officials into the country even with a vaccination passport as with the year's pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, where such a stamp will be enough.

Japan is far more populous and circumspect, hesitant.

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general Filbert Bayi made this observation in the past month, saying there was still room for other athletes like boxing and swimming in particular to get confirmation of qualification from the Games organizers.

It was also observed that even in the past most Tanzanian athletes to have qualified for Olympics were drawn from auxiliary extras after failing in the qualification test itself, but this year the chances are even narrower.

Open events and interactions have been strained on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, which also forced the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics last year.

Looking at the tally of how Tanzanian athletes have qualified for Olympic Games in the past three or four decades, there is no question that there is a gradual decline that is noticeable for its persistence, it is not a situation of ups and downs but clear and consistent decline.

That means there is nothing that has happened practically since 1974 that could have reversed or corrected this situation, which implies that the issue is not in the first place one of leadership, as this has changed once in a while.

Still there is a tendency at persistence of leaders Tanzania Olympics Committee leaders, regularly re-elected by field stakeholders.

As the country's qualification ability has consistently declined and the TOC leadership and other areas (for instance in the Athletics Association) has remained stable, that implies the



Tanzanian athlete, Failuna Abdi Matanga.

leaders and especially Bayi have never been blamed for the situation.

It implies that both the leaders and their field companions, namely field stakeholders like officials of the various athletics bodies contributing delegates to either AAT or TOC do not have the feeling that it is leadership failure that brought about this tendency, and instead it is natural forces of some sort.

Simply, competitions are held but good talent doesn't come up.

On a similar note, athletics officials have not been beard - or rarely so - to openly grumble about the way in which the government dissociates or fails to associate itself with TOC in seeking out talent, providing the right environment for young talent to build, etc.

That is not to say there are not unmet expectations in those ranks but they rarely break out into the open as clear differences of perspective, or dissent in the various professional categories, but just unfulfilled wishes on their part.

In addition, it also appears that they comprehend the level of athletics facilitation by the government, that it is not special or entitled to special consideration, since other games like swimming and especially boxing have usually fared better.

That is precisely where the problem is located, that while there have been negative conditions for the growth of athletics and international prowess for most of the past 40 years, or more intensely for the past 20 years, other games have done better.

Swimming is a relative newcomer and conspicuous talent has come up in that regard, but as it is not a sufficiently popular sport, some youngsters showing plenty of promise in that field were 'abducted' by interested professionals outside to develop their talent elsewhere.

Once they are outside the sphere of local competition, there is scant possible media mention afterwards, removing the role model function of such talent when

they make strides, earning meals in other countries.

Since there are games that are doing well but athletics is doing badly, and has largely continued to flop as the years go by, we need to look closely at the issues to figure out what is missing.

Most poignantly is the lack of full blow talent to come from the Rift Valley regions in like manner not just as in nearby countries but also here, in the past, with the bigger Arusha region and to an extent Singida region giving the country an excellent crop of athletes from independence to the early 1980s.

Then for some reason we appear more or less incapable of raising new talent, or it is once in five or 10 years, with isolated athletes.

It is actually hard to say what the problem is, but one reason could be the lack of resources in education where schools scarcely maintain regular athletics pitches or other games, like gymnastics or swimming, etc.

For some reason village and school-based sprout of talent stopped or thinned out, where education policy targeting higher enrolment helped many pupils to reach school, but pared down facilities.

There is also less endowment of private schools compared to our neighbours, despite some rural academies having facilities where international contests can be held, as in Manyara region lately with a Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-20 tournament.

Chui Riders' cricketer holds sway in Tanzania T10 League

By Guardian Reporter

CHUI Riders cricket team's senior all-rounder, Jitin Pratap Singh, has expressed his determination to lay his hands on the Tanzania T10 League's top wicket taker's prize, given he is now the showpiece's leading wicket taker.

Singh's impressive bowling displays have seen him post seven wickets in seven outings.

The all-rounder has bowled 10 overs, gave away 65 runs in the clashes. He so far boasts of the best economy rate, 6.50.

Singh put his best bowling displays when Chui Riders confronted Buffalo Gladiators in the first semi-final, dubbed 'Qualifier 1', which took place on Sunday.

The all-rounder took four wickets to steer Chui Riders to nine-wicket drubbing of Buffalo Gladiators and make it to the final.

Simba Heroes' Ramesh Alluri comes second in the leading wicket takers' list, given he has notched six wickets in four clashes.

Alluri has given away 49 runs in seven overs he has bowled, having an economy rate of 7.00.

Rhino Challengers' Vishal Patel is placed third, as he has taken five wickets in four fixtures the outfit has featured in.

Patel has given away 37 runs in six overs he has bowled, boasting of an economy rate of 6.17.

Simba Heroes' Jatin Darji and Buffalo Gladiators' senior player, Kassim Nassoro, are placed fourth and fifth respectively in the list.

Darji has taken five wickets in four games, he has bowled eight overs and given away 56 runs.

Although he has tied Patel on wickets taken, Darji trails the latter because he has an inferior economy rate.

Nassoro has taken four wickets in five matches that Buffalo Gladiators have taken part in, giving away 74



Chui Riders' cricketer, Jitin Pratap Singh. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

runs in nine overs he had bowled.

The spinner has an opportunity to boost his pursuit of the top wicket taker's prize, as Buffalo Gladiators will battle it out in the competition's second semi-final, scheduled for today.

Nassoro's team mates, Nisar Ahmed and Seif Khalifa, are placed sixth and seventh respectively in the leading wicket takers' list.

Ahmed has recorded four wickets in five matches, having notched an economy rate of 8.56. He has given away 77 runs in nine overs bowled.

Khalifa has posted three wickets in five fixtures, he has conceded 22 runs in 3.2 overs bowled which have seen him notch an economy rate of 6.60.

Mohammad Ali of Twiga Masters and Ally Mpeka of Buffalo Gladiators come eighth and ninth respectively.

The duo has taken three wickets apiece but Ali has, in three outings, recorded a better economy rate, 7.17, leaking 43 runs in six overs bowled.

Mpeka's economy rate stands at 8.00, he has, in five outings, leaked 64 runs in eight over.

Tembo Rangers' Suraj Pala wraps up

the top 10 of the leading wicket takers.

Pala has, as it is the case for the other two bowlers, taken three wickets, he, nevertheless, has 8.50 in economy rate, giving away 34 runs in four overs bowled.

The 10-over formatted showdown, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), is expected to climax tomorrow.

The TCA information officer, Atif Salim, stated six teams, namely Rhino Challengers, Buffalo Gladiators, Tembo Rangers, Chui Riders, Simba Heroes and Twiga Masters are battling it out in the showpiece.

The clubs are made up of competent players who also take part in various club tournaments that are regularly taking place at the domestic level.

He noted the showpiece is organized in memory of Tanzania's fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli, with all encounters taking place at Leaders Club's venue.

The Tanzania T10 League's sponsors, Salim stated, are GI Security Group Limited, KFC, Sayona Drinks Ltd, Pepsi and Hitech Sai Health Care Centre.

United's American owners facing strongest opposition yet

MANCHESTER, England

IT has certainly been a year of sporting contrasts for American businessman Joel Glazer.

In February, he was in celebratory mood, raising the Vince Lombardi trophy as his NFL team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl, led by veteran quarterback Tom Brady.

Three months later, Glazer's Premier League soccer team, Manchester United, had to call off their match against rivals Liverpool following violent protests against the American's ownership of the club.

The Florida-based Glazer family have owned United since 2005 and have faced fan opposition from the moment they completed their takeover but the leading role they played in the failed attempt to launch the European Super League last month has reignited the protests.

United were due to play traditional rivals Liverpool on Sunday but the game was called off by authorities due to safety concerns after protestors clashed with police and some invaded the field. [LIN2MP071]

One group of supporters broke through security and into the stadium, which was closed to fans due to COVID-19 restrictions, protesting on the field and damaging some property inside the ground.

The late Malcolm Glazer, the family patriarch who made his fortune in real estate and stocks, bought United in May 2005 for 790 million pounds (\$1.09 billion), after entering the sports business in 1995 with a takeover of the Buccaneers.

Since his death in 2014, his two sons Joel and Avram have been co-chairmen of United with the former playing a prominent part in the recent Super League controversy -- he was named the short-lived breakaway's founding vice-chairman.

That affair has relit the always smouldering protest movement amongst United fans and had now thrown the club into crisis.

Glazer has apologised for the club's involvement in the project, which would have seen 12 of the top clubs in Europe breakaway from the established structures to create a privately owned championship.

But United fans have not accepted the apology.

"Actions speak louder than words and he and his family have shown time and again that their sole motivation is personal profit at the expense of our football club." The Manchester United Supporters Trust said in a statement on Friday.

Former United captain Gary Neville, now a prominent television analyst, said on Sunday that Glazer's hope of "rebuilding trust" was a forlorn one.

GENERAL DISTRUST

"The Glazers say they want

to rebuild the trust but they never had the trust of the supporters. I think (the protests are) a warning to the owners of the football club that ultimately they're not going to accept what they've done in the last couple of weeks," he said.

"This is a consequence of the Manchester United owners' actions two weeks ago. There is a general distrust and dislike of the owners, but they weren't protesting two or three weeks ago."

The initial hostility to the Glazers was focused on the nature of their takeover -- a leveraged deal in which United took on loans of 525 million pounds to finance the acquisition.

An effigy of Malcolm Glazer was burnt in the street during mass protests and there was even a new club, FC United of Manchester, created by fans in 2005.

But the retirement of the club's hugely successful manager Alex Ferguson, who won a record 13 Premier League championships and two European Champions League titles, led to another wave of opposition to the Glazers.

United have not won a Premier League title since Ferguson's departure in 2013, struggling to compete with local rivals Manchester City and Liverpool.

Many protests have focused on the Glazer appointed executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward who, while widely praised for the club's commercial success in striking global sponsorship deals, was blamed for a succession of poor player signings and coaching appointments.

Woodward tendered his resignation in the midst of the Super League fall-out but his departure has done nothing to calm the anger of hardcore United fans.

Neville agrees with the protesting fans that the Americans should now sell the club.

"My view is quite simply that they're going to make a fortune if they sell the club and if they were to put it up for sale now I think the time would be right, and it would be the honourable thing to do," he said.

But the Glazers have lasted 16 years in the face of hostility and there has been no indication they plan a quick sale.

United issued a statement on the protests on Sunday but did not address the question of their owners' future or provide any comment from Glazer.

"Our fans are passionate about Manchester United, and we completely acknowledge the right to free expression and peaceful protest," the club said.

"However, we regret the disruption to the team and actions which put other fans, staff, and the police in danger." (\$1 = 0.7242 pounds)

REUTERS

'Dortmund would let Sancho go for €100m'

BERLIN

BORUSSIA Dortmund would let England international Jadon Sancho leave the club for €100 million, sources have told ESPN.

The 21-year-old is under contract at the Westfalenstadion until 2023.

Sancho was tipped to leave Dortmund last summer but a deal never materialised as Dortmund were reluctant to let him leave for under €120m and interested clubs, such as Manchester United, were unwilling to pay that much.

However, as the summer transfer window approaches, Dortmund have re-evaluated their previous valuation and reduced it to €100m.

Sources have told ESPN that there isn't a deadline this summer as to when a deal must be completed by.

Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said on Saturday on ARD TV that "under certain conditions" Dortmund would let Sancho leave this summer.

ESPN

What caused Man United fans' anger? What happens now?

MANCHESTER, England

IT is widely-accepted that every figure of authority involved in the failed attempt by 12 clubs to form a European Super League last month misjudged the mood of their team's fans -- and those of many others -- before hastily pulling the plug on the whole idea. None, though, stirred up a hornet's nest quite like the Manchester United-owning Glazer family.

Supporters have always been suspicious of the Glazers' motives ever since they took control in 2005, believing them to be driven purely by money and the opportunity to exploit the club brand's commercial power.

As such, their involvement in the Super League cabal merely confirmed those suspicions and deepened their unpopularity. But Sunday's shocking events at Old Trafford, when protesting fans forced the postponement of the Premier League game against Liverpool, offered a stark example of deep-rooted enmity.

While post-Super League protests elsewhere had been, on the whole, peaceful, the botched breakaway plans simply poured salt into existing wounds at United and triggered rebellion that led to the fixture regarded as the English game's biggest being called off because, in the words of the Premier League, it created a "dangerous situation that should have no place in football."

And it was dangerous; a Greater Manchester Police statement, released after the postponement was confirmed, revealed one officer required emergency hospital treatment after sustaining a "significant slash wound to his face" from a thrown bottle. Police added that "bottles and barriers" were thrown at horses and that United staff had to "lock themselves in rooms" as protesters breached the Old Trafford security cordon.

Images of the protest, which had been publicised in the days prior to the game, saw fans let off flares at the United team hotel before up to 200 forced their way into the stadium and onto the pitch, where they climbed on goalposts, stole corner flags and footballs and entered the tunnel area and dressing rooms, which saw COVID-19 protocols breached in the bio-secure red zone.

While the trouble flared, United and Liverpool players remained holed up in their hotels, with nei-



Manchester United fans took their disdain for the Glazer family to new levels at Old Trafford on Sunday. (Agencies)

ther able to make the short journey to Old Trafford.

United supporters' antipathy toward the Glazers dates back 16 years, when the Florida-based family plunged the club into debt to the tune of £540 million with a leveraged takeover. There was protest at the time, with warnings voiced that such an ownership model would see club money spent on the servicing of loans rather than the acquisition of star players.

Glazer brothers Avram, Joel and Bryan needed a police escort to escape a group of over 100 angry fans at Old Trafford in the days after the takeover, and supporters have railed against the owners ever since. Indeed, some simply stopped following United, with one group forming nonleague team FC United of Manchester in protest.

However, many remain loyal and, pre-pandemic, the club boasted the largest average attendance in the Premier League, with more than 75,000 consistently attending home games. And therein lies the contradiction -- despite their disdain for those in charge, fans still turn up in their thousands, and the Glazers know it.

Conservative estimates suggest that debt payments and share dividends have seen over £1 billion taken out of the club under Glazer ownership, figures that contrast the actions of Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, who has poured over £1 billion into United's neighbours since his purchase of the club in 2008.

In 2009-10, United fans attempt-

ed to oust the Glazers with a "Green and Gold" campaign based on the colours of Newton Heath, the club which grew into United in the early part of the 20th century. The aim was to force the Americans to sell to the "Red Knights," a group of wealthy United fans, but despite David Beckham -- then playing for Milan but a United legend -- donning a green-and-gold scarf in an apparent show of support, the movement ran out of steam.

The Glazers, who have owned the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers since 1995, rode out that storm and have done likewise with others and, pre-pandemic, would regularly attend United games. One source told ESPN that they are unfazed by the hostility and unlikely to sell due to the prestige they place on being owners.

Their supporters -- and they don't have many -- would argue they have always backed their managers with funds for new signings. Since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, United's net spend on new players amounts to £742m; only City (£864.5m) have spent more among English clubs.

But a lack of communication with supporters, combined with the team's lack of on-pitch success post-Ferguson, led to increased hostility toward the Glazers. The announcement earlier this year that Avram was selling £70m worth of shares, with none of the proceeds going back into the club, only added weight to fans' claims they were only in it for the money.

Amid that background, the Super League plans proved to be the

final straw for those fans who took matters into their own hands on Sunday. With new impetus, many years of resentment, anger and frustration reached boiling point.

With high-profile figures such as former United captain Gary Neville condemning the Glazers as "scavengers" in wake of the breakaway revelations, the Liverpool game was identified as a perfect stage to remind the world of their determination to force the owners out.

United fans want not just a change of ownership, but reform of football governance to ensure supporters of all clubs can have a voice on issues such as ticket prices and kickoff times, as well as preventing unscrupulous owners taking charge of clubs that have been rooted in communities for over 100 years.

But beyond the short-term impact of Sunday's protests, they will not force the Glazers into selling United and that creates a problem for the club and Premier League. If the fans cannot get what they want, there is a risk of Sunday's violence and disruption happening again.

There is no obvious middle ground or compromise that could see the two sides reach a truce and so, after a day of shameful scenes and imagery, England's most glamorous fixture has been called off amid the sound of breaking glass and the roar of an angry mob.

Nobody emerges with their reputation enhanced, and damage has been done to all sides.

ESPN

Man Utd fans condemned by UK government

LONDON

VIOLENCE during Sunday's protests from Manchester United fans, which led to the Premier League game with Liverpool being postponed, has been condemned by the UK government's sports minister and the mayor of Greater Manchester.

United fans protesting against the club's American owners, the Glazer family, stormed into the stadium which was closed to fans due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A flare was thrown at the broadcasters podium as fans ran on to the field and protesters clashed with police outside the ground.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) said two officers were injured with one requiring hospital treatment after he was attacked with a bottle and suffered a slash wound to his face.

"Passions are running high in football but there are ways to protest and make your voice heard without hurting or endangering others," Nigel Huddleston, Minister for Tourism and Sport, said. "We understand the frustrations, but the violence by a small minority of fans at Old Trafford yesterday was unacceptable."

The fan protests against the Glazers, which have taken place since they bought the club in 2005, have been reignited since United's involvement in the attempt to create a breakaway European Super League.

Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham expressed support for the aims of the protesters but criticised the violence.

"I fully understand the long-stand-

ing concerns of Manchester United supporters about both the ownership and financing of their club and the wider running of football," he said.

"It is important to make clear that the majority of supporters made their protest peacefully...however, there is no excuse for the actions of a minority who injured police officers and endangered the safety of others."

British foreign office minister James Cleverly said there was a need to understand the mood of football supporters.

"[We] cannot, cannot condone the images that we've seen about storming the ground," Cleverly told Sky News. "But we do need to understand the frustrations that fans have not just with Manchester United, but with a number of clubs across the game."

GMP Assistant Chief Constable Russ Jackson said the behaviour of the fans was "reckless and dangerous."



SPORT

What caused Man United fans' anger? What happens next

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Company now sponsors Dar swimmers' trip to South Africa

By Guardian Reporter

GREATLAKES Freight and Transport Company Ltd has sponsored Tanzania's swimmers who are searching for qualifying marks for the Olympic Games set to take place in Tokyo, Japan, from July 8 to August 23, this year.

The swimmers, Collins Saliboko and Hilal Hemed, have been selected by Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) to search for the Games' qualifying marks in Stellenbosch Town, South Africa on May 7-8.

While Saliboko is sponsored for gym and swimming training, Hemed, who was training in Dubai, has his air ticket to South Africa sponsored in order to feature at the qualifying marks event.

Greatlakes Freight and Transport's General Manager, Fahmy Ahmed, said they have decided to support the swimmers as the firm's part of involvement in the corporate and social responsibilities (CSR) as well as developing the game in the country.

Ahmed said the support is also targeting to inspire young and talented swimmers' involvement in the game and fight for their country. He called upon other firms to support the sport.

He disclosed: "We have many swimmers in the country that we believe can promote the country abroad through their talents."

He stated: "However, many talented swimmers have failed to do so because they lack support, particularly sponsorship, from society."

"Many companies have penchant for sponsoring football and boxing because they view the game of swimming as a sport, which has no productivity and is not well recognized," the official noted.

He added: "Our company has decided to support the game of swimming in order to raise talents that, we believe, will promote our country through featuring in international competitions."

"This support is just part of how private companies can support different sports without largely depending on the government," he said.

Asmah Hilal, TSA vice-chairperson, thanked the company for its big support for the swimmers to get prepared for searching for the Games' qualifying marks.

Asmah also thanked Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) and Just Fit sports gear shop for supporting the swimmers.

The swimmers are now in South Africa with their coach, Alex Mwaipasi.

In the list is also promising Tanzanian swimmer Austin Okore who will attend a special African swimming governing body (CANA) training camp.



Chui Riders cricket outfit's senior all-rounder, Jitin Singh (R), is presented with man of the match prize by one of this season's Tanzania T10 League's coordinators, Ashish Nagewadia, shortly after Chui Riders had posted victory over Buffalo Gladiators in the showpiece's first semi-final, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Chui Riders make it to Tanzania T10 League final

By Guardian Reporter

CHUI Riders cricket team have booked a place in this year's Tanzania T10 League's final, commanding a nine-wicket win over Buffalo Gladiators in the first semi-final, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The clash, termed as 'Qualifier 1', involved outfits which ended first and second after the completion of the league matches.

The round robin stage culminated with Chui Riders leading the rest of the pack with seven points in five outings, claiming victory in three ties, conceding loss in one whilst the other clash was abandoned because of downpour.

Buffalo Gladiators ended a point below the tournament leaders to finish second, posting victory in two outings, defeat in one whilst the remaining fixture was abandoned because of downpour.

The tie had Buffalo Gladiators get the chance to start batting, posting 79 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 10 overs.

Opening batsman Nisar Ahmed's 30 runs, which included three fours and two sixes, were instrumental in Buffalo Gladiators' acquisition of the total.

The muscular performer gave his all to ensure his squad ends with a convincing score, sparing the blushes of fellow top order batsmen, Nassib Kelvin and skipper Kassim Nassoro, who endured a frustrating morning.

Kelvin, who opened the innings with Khan, was a victim of early dismissal given he could so far record one run and his efforts to flex his muscles were frustrated by Chui Riders' spinner, Tambwe Rashid.

Nassor was sent back to the pavilion by Chui Riders' Singh, with Buffalo Gladiators' skipper notching mere three runs.

Youthful batsmen, Amiri Sadiki and Nyenje Hashim, ended their stints with two-digit figures, as Sadiki posted 12 runs whilst Hashim recorded 10 runs.

Low order batsman, Rijali Fentu, ended three runs short of two-digit figure, wrapping the innings with an unbeaten spell, as it was the case for Kelvin Anjelo, who registered unbeaten two runs.

Chui Riders' Singh had the most impressive bowling spell, ending with a four-wicket haul and giving away three runs in two overs.

Spinner Rashid as well made his presence felt, given he took two wickets and gave away 19 runs in two overs.

Chui Riders later chased the modest total posted by Buffalo Gladiators with plenty of zeal, dropping one wicket on their way to notching the emphatic victory.

Khan and Singh made their experience count for the encounter's eventual winners, substantiating their prowess at the crease with skilful shots.

The duo commanded unbeaten spell, with Chui Riders' skipper Khan, who opened the innings, leading the onslaught with a half century, which included three fours and four sixes.

Morrison a special player for Simba SC, says Gomes

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa, has identified midfielder Bernard Morrison as a natural fit for the team and a player who can decide games on his own.

Gomes is quite glad to have the Ghanaian attacking midfielder in his own squad.

On Saturday, Morrison entered the pitch in the second half and took 10 minutes to grab an equalizer for Simba SC against Kagera Sugar in a round of 16 clash of this season's Federation Cup, played in Dar es Salaam.

Ten minutes later, he set up forward Meddie Kagera winning strike to send Simba SC to the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup.

Coach Gomes was quick to heap praises on Morrison during his post-match press conference.

He explained how he had to lift Morrison from the bench to break a stubborn Kagera Sugar defense.

He stated: "Generally we had a good game, we dominated a lot even though we were not consistent enough in the first half. We left too much space for counter attacking and Kagera used that very particularly in the first half."

He disclosed: "At half time it was very important for us to inject speed and a powerful attacking player, we know the quality of Morrison."

He said: "He is able to do many things. After fifteen minutes I also put a second attacker, to push the opponent's defense."

After Morrison's introduction, Simba SC pressed high up the pitch and did not give Kagera Sugar any chance to breathe.

Morrison helped in creating several goal-scoring opportunities, he was directly involved in all the two goals for Simba SC.

Gomes was coy about whether he would start Morrison against Yanga in Saturday's Premier League encounter, nicknamed 'Dar Derby', and the CAF Champions League quarterfinal tie with South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

The coach responded: "I don't know, we will see. Morrison is a special player, he is able to break a match, he is very important."

He stated: "He is a free player, we have to be careful. When he plays we need to cover him but for sure this performance today is very positive."

He noted: "You know against Yanga



Bernard Morrison

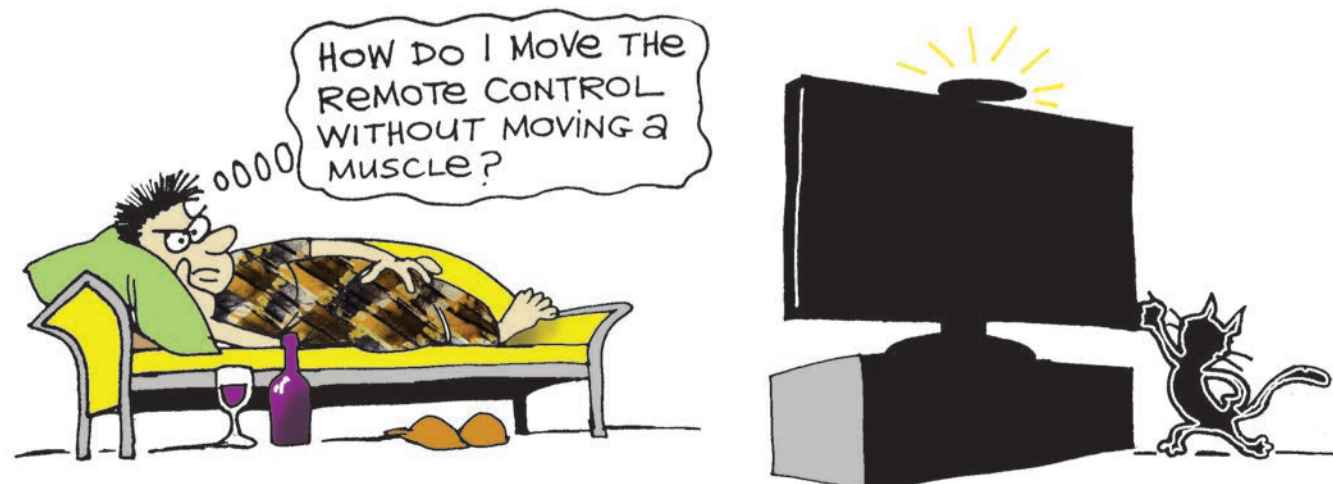
it is another thing and also against Kaizer Chiefs we play away, maybe we need to be balanced particularly like we did in Congo. We will see, Morrison is a special player."

Morrison completed a perma-

nent transfer to the Msimbazi Street club on a two-year deal at the start of the 2020/21 campaign.

He has scored five goals and assisted eight in all competitions despite not being a regular starter.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV
TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM