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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7999 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER, 2020

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Govt: Vote result will be respected

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has sought to reassure the international community that the ongoing electioneering process

and next month's general election will be free, fair, transparent and credible.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi reiterated the government's position yesterday

while receiving the credentials of the new British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar.

A Foreign ministry statement said Prof Kabudi told the new envoy that the government is committed to ensuring that the ongoing

campaigns, voting, counting, tallying and announcement of results adhere to laws and set standards.

"He (Kabudi) assured Concar that the decision made by Tanzanians through the ballot after the ongoing

campaigns on who to lead them will be respected," it elaborated.

The statement quoted Concar as saying that apart from election

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'Tanzania on course to realise SDG No 6'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA is on course to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal number six (SDG 6) given massive investments in water and sanitation projects, the government has declared.

Briefing reporters here on progress in implementing SDG 6 in the country, the Director for Water Resources Dr George Lugomela said that indicators show that Tanzania is highly likely to achieve the goal before the set 2030 deadline.

SDG 6 targets countrywide access to clean and potable water and improved sanitation for all.

Dr Lugomela said Tanzania's encouraging progress is attributable to its membership in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) linked with the Global Water Partnership agency.

IWRM is a process for promoting the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, the director explained.

"So far our performance rate is medium to low both globally and regionally. With sustained investment in water and sanitation projects, we stand a better chance of attaining this goal," he said.

An implementation report is being prepared by the Ministry of Water in collaboration with Global Water Partnership Tanzania as the key



Dr John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election as Tanzania's President in the upcoming (October 28) General Election as the ruling CCM's candidate, addresses a campaign rally at Bariadi in Simiyu Region yesterday. Photo: State House

JPM promises cotton ginneries, garment factory

By Henry Mwangonde, Bariadi

CCM presidential aspirant Dr John Magufuli yesterday promised to set up cotton processing plants and a mega garment factory in the Lake Victoria Zone to end farmers' woes and create jobs if he is re-elected.

Addressing a rally at Somanda Primary School in



We as a listening government decided to pay the farmers and as I speak we have paid almost 2bn/

Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, the president said he will ensure that by the end

of his second term, Lake Victoria Zone regions will be equipped with industries to process cotton and other crops grown in the area.

"My plan is to ensure we process our cotton before we export. This will add value to our crops hence empower our farmers," he said.

The candidate, who is seeking re-election, said with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus globally, cotton markets were shaken, compelling the government to allow dealers to buy cotton from farmers on indicative prices set by the government.

Most of the buyers did not pay the farmers as directed and instead took the crop on loan with farmers getting almost nothing, the candidate affirmed.

"We as a listening govern-



Tundu Lissu, the opposition Chadema's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in late October's General Election, addresses a rally in Dodoma yesterday at the start of his series of campaigns in the central zone regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



So far our performance rate is medium to low both globally and regionally. With sustained investment in water and sanitation projects, we stand a better chance of attaining this goal

consulting agency.

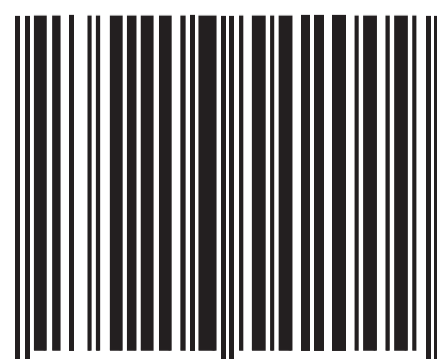
The report organized on the basis of sections covering the Rufiji Basin Development Authority, the central regions, water body zones like Lake Tanganyika, Lake Rukwa, the Ruvuma region water system, Coast Region as well as two southern regions bordering the sea, he stated.

He said the report preparation is ongoing with regard to implementation of conservation strategies for Wami River basin, the Lake Victoria Basin and Mangani River basin.

United Nations data shows that while substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, billions of people—mostly in rural areas—still lack these basic services.

Worldwide, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water, two out of five people do not have a basic hand-washing facility

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No food in campaign, PCCB alerts Rungwe

By Guardian Reporter

CHAUMMA presidential candidate Hashim Rungwe's inaugural campaign rally in Dar es Salaam today may not come with huge tin pots of rice and chicken for attendees as earlier intimated, following a warning from the state anti-

graft agency.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that serving food at campaign rallies is tantamount to bribing voters and hence a criminal offence.

Speaking during an interview with a local

radio station, the PCCB commander in Ilala police region, Christopher Myava cautioned Rungwe and other candidates with such plans to abandon them or risk arrest and prosecution for engaging in electoral corruption.

Rungwe told this paper on Thursday that he had made

arrangements to ensure that his inaugural campaign at Manzese suburb in the city today becomes a memorable event since attendees would have eaten rice and chicken and the same would continue in his other campaign rallies.

However, Rungwe who has recently been attending

interview sessions with a plate of rice did not explain how he would fund such expenses in his campaign since multitudes were likely to turn up.

Since his nomination as his party's flag bearer in this year's polls last month, Rungwe declared that his main priority is welfare of Tanzanians,

especially unhindered access to three nutritious meals per day.

And to demonstrate that he was not joking, Rungwe has been quoted in various interviews saying that he would start by serving

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Covid-19: Kenya's caseload rises to 34,884 after 179 more test positive

By Victor Raballa

KENYA now has 34,884 declared cases of the coronavirus following the recording of 179 more infections after analysis of 4,178 samples on Thursday.

In the daily briefing on Friday, Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Rashid Aman also announced that 415 more people had recovered, 161 of them at home and 254 in hospital, raising the total number to 21,059.

Dr Aman reported four more deaths, raising the death toll in Kenya to 589.

Of the new patients, 162 were Kenyans and 17 foreigners, the youngest a year old and the oldest 75, and 126 male and 53 female.

With the 4,178 samples, the total tested in Kenya by September 4 rose to 467,677.

CAS Aman gave the update in Bomet following a tour by health ministry officials to assess steps the county has taken in its fight

against the coronavirus.

Governor Hillary Barchok said Bomet had recorded 126 cases of Covid-19, including nine deaths, and that 63 patients were being treated at home.

Barchok also said Bomet had met the requirement for at least 300 bed for patients with Covid-19.

He added that 191 health workers had been recruited and sent to facilities across the county and that at least 1,000 community health workers had been trained on monitoring. The governor also said vocational centres had been asked to produce a million face masks and had made 200,000 by Friday. He said the county had received 4,710 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the national government.

The governor further said 22 secondary schools were being used as quarantine centres whereas some hotels had been identified and assessed for use by health workers.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi signs a condolence book at the Indian consulate in Zanzibar yesterday following Monday's death of former Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Looking on (L) is India's Consul General in Zanzibar, Shri Bhagwant Singh. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Tanzania on course to attaining SDG 6'

FROM PAGE 1

with soap and water, and more than 673 million people still practice open defecation.

The UN observes that the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of sanitation, hygiene

and adequate access to clean water for preventing and containing diseases. The World Health Organization similarly notes that handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including

the Covid-19 virus. Yet billions of people still lack safe water sanitation, and funding is inadequate.

Availability and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are fundamental to fighting the virus and preserving the health

and well-being of millions, experts maintain.

SDG 6 is one of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by UN member states in 2015, providing a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and

into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), described at their promulgation as an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.



Education, Science and Technology ministry deputy permanent secretary Evemaria Semakafu (R) on an inspection tour of a special needs secondary school project at Patandi in Arumeru District on Thursday. Behind her is Patandi Teachers College principal Lucian Sengesela. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

No food in campaign, PCCB alerts Rungwe

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people with plates of rice and chicken in his rallies.

This would change depending on the region, he said, noting that after hearing this plan, people from Lake Zone complained, since rice is not their staple food.

"I've heard you, don't worry; food during my rallies in the Lake Zone regions will be ugali and fish," he was quoted as declaring.

Apart from food, Rungwe has also promised that he will construct a Suez-like canal from the commercial hub of Dar es Salaam to the capital city Dodoma to ease marine transport of goods and passengers.

"It is possible, it's doable. It just requires determination. I will do it," he said in an interview.

The 193.30 km artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt that inspires Rungwe connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. The distance from Dares Salaam to Dodoma is 400 km.

The Chamma chairman is not new to Tanzanian multiparty politics, usually adding spice to the campaign trails with his promises and anecdotal speeches. He was among eight presidential aspirants in the 2015 general election and a High Court advocate

JPM promises cotton ginneries, garment factory

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ment decided to pay the famers and as I speak we have paid almost 2bn/-," he said.

Predicaments facing famers will be a song of the past if the country has industries to add value to the crop, he stated.

Dr Magufuli said that almost half of the cotton produced in the country comes from Simiyu, so the region needs to have a processing plant for the crop so that farmers see the value of their produce.

Explaining the thrust of development projects he has initiated, the president said that globally many countries started with setting up infrastructure which later facilitated and stimulated economic growth through job creation.

Seeking re-election, he took time

to list down achievements attained in the region during the past half decade, including the construction of a referral hospital which is now saving lives, especially with expectant mothers and infants.

He said Simiyu region alone has received 36.3bn/- in the last five years for improving health services as well as 73.8bn/- used for education, mainly on desks and building classrooms.

During the rally, Dr Magufuli announced that the government was set to announce the recruitment of 13,000 primary and secondary school teachers any time soon.

"I have talked to the minister responsible for local governments who has assured me that the placements are being arranged. Therefore we are ready to improve education," he added.

Govt: Vote result will be respected

FROM PAGE 1

matters, his discussion with the minister dwelt on how to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

The envoy noted that they touched on how to make the Tanzanian business environment more attractive to investors and the UK's investments in health, water

and education sectors in Tanzania.

Prof. Kabudi also received credentials of the new Pakistani High Commissioner, Mohamed Saleem.

The minister's assurance concerning the general election follows a joint statement by ten foreign missions at mid-week, expressing hope that the process and the outcome will

be credible.

Released by the heads of missions of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, the statement called for enhanced transparency through means like internal and external observation, broad, free and equitable media coverage,

as well as clear and fair adjudication of disputes.

The diplomatic reminder underlined that these conditions will strengthen the legitimacy of the whole electoral process among Tanzanian citizens.

"We call on all stakeholders to commit to ensuring a secure environment for all contestants, respect for the rule

of law and full impartiality of the institutions and authorities in charge of managing the elections," the envoys appealed.

"As representatives of our countries we recall our longstanding interest in and support for development and democracy in Tanzania based on our long historic and close relationships," they affirmed.

They expressed hope and

anticipation that the process will see pledges for free and fair elections come true, underlining their support for the democratic process and the functioning of democratic institutions in the country.

Tanzanians go to the polls on October 28 where the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament and the Zanzibar

House of Representatives as well as ward councilors will be elected.

President John Magufuli is seeking reelection for his second and final term, with his serious challengers being Tundu Lissu of the main opposition party, Chadema and former Foreign Affairs minister Bernard Membe of ACT-Wazalendo.

EABC calls for public, private sector collaborations to promote intra-regional trade and investment

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for deeper collaborations between the public and the private sector as a strategy to boost intra-regional trade and investment.

This follows a consultative CEOs roundtable meeting organised by the EABC in collaboration with GIZ Creating Perspectives Project which convened company Chief Ex-

ecutives in Arusha Region.

The meeting aimed to deliberate on approaches that the private sector can explore to revamp their businesses amid the pandemic.

The business leaders lauded the Tanzanian government for its commitment towards sustainable economic growth, following the attainment of the middle-income status from the World Bank, this year.

The leaders also noted that the decision to keep the econ-

omy open, offered the private sector a major relief in terms of business resilience as it also strengthened local supply chains.

This happens in the background of a recent report by the African Development Bank (AfDB), indicating that Tanzania's economy is estimated to grow at 5.5 percent in 2020, recording the highest growth in the region.

EABC CEO, Dr Peter Mathuki called upon businesses to re-

purpose their business models to tap into the new emerging opportunities such as e-commerce, digital technology and biotechnology.

He said: "Innovation, value addition, embracing our local content and tapping into our regional supply value chains are some of the imperative solutions that will drive us towards economic growth."

Dr Mathuki noted that, as Tanzania shares its borders with eight countries in the

region, the move to keep the borders open has sustained intra-regional trade and replenished the region's food basket.

"EAC economies are interdependent and the move to have borders open has seen the supply of staple food and basic necessities across the region maintained," he added.

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Speaker, Martin Ngoga challenged the business community to form

a stronger unified front and defend their business interests in one collective voice through the EABC.

"The security of the EAC community should not just be entrusted to the goodwill of individuals but should be pegged strongly on the law and structures of the community. It's time for the business community to challenge policies put in place and even petition the EAC Parliament to promptly resolve some of the

bottlenecks you are facing," Ngoga said.

According to the World Bank, the pandemic is set to cost East Africa partner states between \$37 billion to \$79 billion in output losses.

The business leaders are appealing to the EAC governments to embrace regional integration to enable businesses to tap into the EAC Common market of over 177 million people and the regional supply chains.

'Participatory rural land use planning is crucial'

By Guardian Reporter

LAND use planning at national, zonal, district and village level has been cited as one of the significant methods in conserving the country's natural biodiversity.

This is because conservation in Tanzania faces many challenges, which among them, the major one is loss of habitat through cultivation, overstocking of livestock, deforestation, use of pesticides and pollution.

Dr Stephen Nindi is the Director General of the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC), he said that since agricultural activities have been found to be the most contributor in habitat loss, there are needs to enhance the land use planning to demarcate areas for various uses.

According to Dr Nindi the competing land uses include, village lands (small scale holders, urban centres, game reserve, national parks, wildlife management areas (WMAs), wetlands (Ramsar Site), forest reserves, agriculture and tree forest plantations.

He said that land use planning supports protection of biodiversity

because all human activities are implemented separately as well as establishment and protection of roads and migratory routes of wildlife and livestock.

He said that with the land use plan, forests are jointly managed by villagers, establishment of WMAs, water sources conservation areas are identified and protected as well as livestock keeping areas.

He said there are several rural land uses which affects biodiversity including agricultural activities, livestock keeping areas, settlements and economic activities, encroachment of vegetation and land use conflicts including human wildlife conflicts.

He said since the concept for establishment of NLUPC in 1984 was introduced in 1980s in the context of natural resource management. It was developed as a standard tool for addressing rural development challenges.

The main purpose of the NLUPC is to have sustainable land management systems which address issues of land degradation and conflicts in order to maintain peace and harmony.



Gift Kik, director of a Tanga-based NGO known as Village to Town Development Organisation, makes remarks at a meeting for development stakeholders held in Tanga city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

TOSCI embarks on special programme set to improve quality of seed varieties

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) is implementing a special programme to equip seed breeders, institutes, and other relevant stakeholders with useful knowledge on how to produce quality seed varieties.

The state-owned institute is responsible for field and seed inspection, sampling, seed testing, variety evaluation and verification through National Performance Trials (NPT), Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability tests (DUS) as well as control plot testing.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian, TOSCI Director General, Patrick Ngwediagi, said the institute was very determined to push for increased production of seed varieties in Tanzania in order to cut seed dependency from outside the country.

According to him, the strategy is also to ensure for more investments in the country's seed production sector, the move which goes in tandem with efforts to encourage existing seed producers to increase levels of production and quality.

Ngwediagi observed that Tanzania was still importing seeds of a number of plant varieties due to poor pace of home seed production.

"For instances, during 2019 the quantities of seeds importation in terms of tones were, maize (9267), sunflower (152), paddy (4) round Potatoes (970) and vegetables seeds 482," he said.

He said that in Tanzania, there are currently at least 586 plant varieties of 33 different crops registered by the institute.

He named the crop species with number of available varieties in brackets as maize (160 varieties), rice (20), wheat (25), sorghum (15), beans (30), cowpea (5), pigeon pea (6), sesame (4), sweet potato (15), cassava (15) and sunflower 7 varieties.

Others are vegetables (210), coffee (15), cashew nut (40), sugar cane (7), tea (7), and round potato 7 varieties.

And he added, to have the situation improved, the institute will continue working in partnership with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) which has mandate on variety development as well as other private breeders so that new

plant varieties can be released and registered by TOSCI to provide better choices to farmers.

He however stated that in recent years the amount of seeds produced home (Tanzania) has been increasing as it currently mounts to at least 81pc of the total of certified seeds used within the country.

He also assured that TOSCI was standing at forefront to supervise, monitor, inspect and test all seed varieties produced home to ensure they meet recommended standards and quality.

With its headquarters based in Morogoro, the institute (TOSCI) is now recognised internationally since it has been accredited to International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) admitted to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Certification Schemes, whereby seed produced in Tanzania and certified by TOSCI can now be sold in the country and the excess can be exported to other countries.

Tanzania is also a member of the International Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), since 2015.

NCCR-Mageuzi to launch General Election campaigns at Zakhem grounds

By Guardian Reporter

THE opposition NCCR-Mageuzi is today expected to launch the General Election campaigns at the Zakhem grounds in Mbagala, Dar es Salaam, promising to conduct peaceful campaigns highlighting its priorities aimed to address challenges facing Tanzanians.

Speaking yesterday, NCCR-Mageuzi Head of Communications and Publicity department, Edward Simbeye said that the launching

timetable is expected to commence as early as 8am.

He said that during the event, they will also launch the party's 2020 election manifesto.

"We will use the opportunity to analyse party's priorities touching various sectors. Our candidates are going to market the manifesto all over the country telling people why they are pioneered to lead the country," he said.

Simbeye said that the party is also well prepared to surprise others during

general elections as they are going to collect majority of votes.

"So we will not have time to waste, soon after the launch, the party will proceed with campaign rallies in Makete, Njombe Region on Monday.

He said: "Our candidates will go all over the country to conduct peaceful campaigns as the schedule of the National Electoral Commission (NEC). So we are reminding the public to get prepared to listen to the NCCR-Mageuzi policies that

are going to address their challenges."

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CHAMA CHA WALIMU TANZANIA (CWT)

NAFASI ZA KAZI

Chama cha Walimu Tanzania ni Chama cha Wafanyakazi kutoka kada ya Ualimu ambacho shughuli zake zipo Tanzania Bara tu. Chama kimesajiliwa kwa Namba 004 chini ya Sheria ya Ajira na Mahusiano Kazini Namba 6 ya mwaka 2004 na kinaajiri Wafanyakazi kwa ajira ya kudumu ambao wapo katika kila mkoa. Ili kuboresha huduma bora kwa wanachama, zoezi la kuajiri kadri ya uhitaji halikwepeki. Hivyo Chama cha Walimu Tanzania kinahitaji kupata walimu wenye sifa na moyo wa kukitumikia kadri ya taaluma zao kwa nafasi ya Katibu wa Wilaya Tanzania.

1. KATIBU WA WILAYA – NAFASI 12

- (a) **Majukumu ya kazi**
 - Mtendaji Mkuu wa shughuli za Chama za kila siku katika ngazi ya Wilaya.
 - Mtezi Mkuu wa haki na wajibu wa wanachama ndani ya Wilaya.
 - Mtezi na msimamizi wa taaluma na utaalumu wa ualimu pamoja na elimu bora kwa wote.
- (b) **Sifa za mwombaji**
 - Awe ni mwalimu wa cheti cha daraja la IIIA na kuendelea.
 - Awe na uelewa, ujuzi na uzoefu wa Chama na masuala ya walimu na elimu nchini.
 - Awe mwalimu aliyejiririwa na Serikali, mwenye namba ya utambulisho wa ajira (TSC Namba).
 - Awe mwanachama kamili wa CWT hadi sasa na aliyechangia miezi kumi na mbili (12) mfululizo ada ya uanachama hadi tarehe ya tangazo hili.
 - Awe ni mwenye tabia na mwenendo unaokubalika katika maadili ya taaluma na ualimu.
 - Awe ni mwenye uwezo wa kujenga na kuendelea mahusiano mema kati yake na wanachama, viongozi wa Chama, waajiri na wadau wa elimu.
- (c) **Mshahara**
Mshahara utatolewa kwa mujibu wa Kanuni zinazotawala utumishi ndani ya CWT.
- (d) **Namna ya kutuma maombi**
Maombi yatawasilishwa na mwombaji kwenye ofisi ya CWT ya Wilaya yake anapofanyia kazi. Barua ya maombi iambatane na vivuli vya vyeti vya masomo, stakabadhi ya mshahara (salary slip) wa mwisho na kitambulisho cha uanachama wa CWT pamoja na barua ya ajira.
- (e) **Mwombaji atapatiwa fomu maalum na Katibu wa Wilaya na atajaza taarifa zake na kuambatisha na barua yake ya maombi.**
- (f) **Mwisho wa kupokea maombi**
Mwisho wa kupokea maombi ni tarehe 21 Septemba, 2020 saa 10.00 Jioni.

Imetolewa na:

Mwl. Deus G. Seif
KATIBU MKUU – CWT.
05.09.2020

KATIBU MKUU
CHAMA CHA WALIMU TANZANIA (CWT)
MAKAO MAKUU - DODOMA

NCBA Bank CEO Margaret Karume pays IPP media houses in Dar a visit



NCBA Bank Tanzania Ltd CEO Margaret Karume (L), who paid courtesy calls at IPP print and electronic media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday, shares a light moment with (from-R) IPP director Joyce Luhanga, The Guardian Limited Printing Press manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam, The Guardian Limited Legal and HR manager Emmanuel Matondo, and Nipasha newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe. Photos: John Badi



The TGL printing press manager (L) briefs the guest on newspaper production, as IPP Director Joyce Luhanga (R) and NCBA head of marketing and communications Caroline Mbaga look on.



CEO Margaret Karume visibly elated as she has a feel of activities inside the East Africa Radio studio.



Radio One Stereo director Deogratius Rweyunga (gesturing) briefs CEO Margaret Karume on operations in one of the station's studios.



The NCBA chief executive (2nd-R) has a first-hand account of activities in the Capital Radio studio.



CEO Margaret Karume (C) shares a light moment with East Africa Television and Radio managing director Regina Mengi (R) and ITV/Radio One and Capital TV/ Radio managing director Joyce Mhaviile (L).



ITV/Radio One channel director Koigi Macharia takes CEO Margaret Karume through routine operations in the Capital Radio studio.



Koigi Macharia briefs the NCBA chief executive on how ITV news bulletins are prepared - and aired.

Mkuchika calls on Tanzanians to make better use of PCCB services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Capt (rtd) George Mkuchika, has appealed to Tanzanians to properly utilise the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) offices at their respective areas by sharing information with law enforcement agents.

Mkuchika (pictured) said that sharing information with law enforcers including the anti-graft agency would promote social development. He said corruption is the enemy of development and of good governance.

The minister was speaking yesterday during the launch of PCCB offices in Ngorongoro District in Arusha city. He said the best way for every Tanzanian to participate in the country development is by



revealing corrupt officials as well as avoid to be involved in bribes especially during general elections.

Mkuchika noted that avoiding corruption during elections would enable the country to get better leaders who will spur the country's development agenda.

"You must avoid voting for corrupt aspirants from any of the political parties," said the minister.

He however congratulated PCCB in Arusha Region for recovering 2,490,396,226bn/- in the 2019/2020

financial year. The monies, he said were to be embezzled by an unscrupulous official through implementation of development projects.

The minister noted that the government has now embarked on a strategy to nationalize all the properties attained illegally so that they are used for development activities.

He said the government will continue to empower the anti-graft agency so that it continues curbing corruption across the country.

Earlier, the Acting PCCB Director General Sabina Seja said the building's inauguration was testimony that the Phase V government was bent in fighting all corruptive practices and embezzlement of government resources in the country.

She assured the minister that PCCB workers in Nantumbo District will use the building as their base in the fight against corruption for the benefit of the nation.



National Board Accountants and Auditors marketing manager Magreth Kageya pictured yesterday explaining an issue to students who visited the board's pavilion at the ongoing Higher Education, Science and Technology exhibition organised in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzania Commission for Universities. To her right is Michael Mwakifuna, a research officer with the board. Photo courtesy of NBAA

NBAA develops new online system

By Getrude Mbagu

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) has developed a new online system to allow students and stakeholders conduct applications wherever they are instead of spending time and money seeking for services at the board's offices.

NBAA Marketing Officer Magreth Kageya said this in Dar es Salaam at the ongoing exhibitions on Higher Education, Science and Technology.

She was speaking on behalf of the board's Executive Director Pius Maneno. She said that earlier, students, stakeholders and members had to travel miles away from upcountry to Dar es Salaam or Dodoma seeking for the services.

"The world is moving so fast in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). For the board to continue to operate remarkably it had to also adopt technological changes. In view of that, the board developed a Member and Examination Management System (MEMS) to

support smooth service provision to its members, candidates, tutors and other stakeholders.

According to her, the presence of this online system gives board's stakeholders the opportunity to register, apply, check status, process payment and access results online.

She said that the effective use of this online system will increase performance, efficiency and integrity to the public, private and general public as a whole.

The officer went further and called upon youths with dreams of becoming professional accountants to register with NBAA for various courses and then acquire CPAs and be best accountants wherever they go.

She said that the board offers a number of courses like Certificate and Diploma in IPSAS, Accounting Technician Certificate (ATEC), Diploma in Accounting/Accounting and Finance (NTA level 6).

Kageya also said that the board sends stern warning for the people who call themselves accountants and

practicing the profession without having the required qualities to stop doing so as legal action will be taken whenever caught.

CPA Winnington Makaka, NBAA audit, quality review officer urged accounting and auditing firms to conduct their activities faithfully and legally and avoid facilitating fraud by producing false financial statements, something which denies the government its revenues.

He said that the board has already banned several firms practicing accounting and auditing activities in the country for violating law and the profession's ethical conduct.

NBAA is an examining body for the accountancy professional qualifications. However, NBAA does not train candidates who are preparing to sit for its examinations, but is collaborating with a number of training institutions, both public and private institutions to train candidates for its examinations. Training can either be on full time or on part time basis, depending on one's choice.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians move to re-install a water pipe swept away by heavy rains earlier this year, as found yesterday at Bunju on the outskirts of the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE STAKEHOLDERS' AND PARTNERS' ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT POLICY ADVOCACY CAPACITY, POWER BASES, ROLES AND ENGAGEMENT ON BIODIVERSITY POLICY DIALOGUES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

1. Introduction and background

Tanzania has just recently been promoted to the middle income category by the World Bank, five years earlier as the aspiration was to achieve this in 2025. The country is rich in natural resources including terrestrial and marine landscapes with diverse habitat and species. Despite increasing amounts of land area under protected status (approximately 38%), widespread dependency on natural resources creates significant challenges in trying to resolve the trade-offs between conservation and basic human survival. The results has been degradation, biodiversity loss, declining ecosystem services and reduced livelihoods benefits from forests, marine, wildlife and water resources.

The direct drivers of biodiversity decline are habitat loss and degradation; and overexploitation of species (WWF, 2018, Living Planet Report). Habitat loss and degradation is caused by several human activities including unsustainable agriculture, logging, transportation, residential or commercial development, energy production, mining and freshwater abstraction. Overexploitation of species is directly caused by unsustainable hunting and harvesting – whether legal or illegal, for subsistence or for trade. Further, wildlife crime, including poaching and trafficking, is a development issue as it undermines the rule of law, threatens peace and security. It is also facilitated by corruption and aggravated by human rights abuses. Underlying drivers behind the causes of biodiversity decline include a growing demand for resources from domestic and international markets; limited livelihood opportunities for people living in poverty and marginalized sections of local populations; inefficient, undemocratic and often corrupt governance systems; the growth and proliferation of wildlife crime syndicates; and the effects of climate change.

The geographic areas projected to be most affected by these negative factors are home to large groups of Local Communities (LCs), several of whom are living in conditions of poverty. Due to their strong dependency on nature and its contributions for subsistence, livelihoods and health, these communities are at risk of being disproportionately affected. Within these communities, women are often among the most vulnerable given factors such as divisions of labour and recognition of rights to access, manage and inherit natural resources. At the same time, it has been proved that governance and co-management regimes involving local communities are important factors that can help safeguard nature and its contributions to people. This fact is also supported by the Tanzania Forest Policy of 1998.

In 2020, the world will take a set of decisions that fundamentally affect our capacity to address biodiversity loss and its impacts on humans: a post-2020 biodiversity framework under the CBD, the review and update of biodiversity related SDG targets that run out in 2020, and the upgrading of Nationally Determined Contributions for the Paris Climate Agreement. Another key policy process for biodiversity is the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), with its next COP in 2022. The protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources needs to gain momentum and take a more central position in the development agenda, from local to global level, for these agreements and decisions to be properly implemented. With this background, the meaningful participation of local communities, CSOs, INGOs and decision makers is crucial in these efforts.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Office is implementing the Voices for Diversity project aiming at safeguarding ecosystems for Nature and People. The Voices for Diversity project intends to raise voices for biodiversity in the wake of changing climatic conditions including vast economic and social development throughout the world. It is based on this background that WWF is seeking to recruit a consultant or a team of consultants to undertake assessment of stakeholders' and partners' current capacity on policy advocacy, power bases, roles and engagement on biodiversity conservation policy dialogues at national, regional and global levels.

2. The problem

The main problem the programme will address is the acute loss and degradation of biodiversity and the effects on local communities. Despite their importance for conservation of biodiversity, communities are not sufficiently included in policy formulation and implementation, and management of natural resources. This is reflected in the variability in how communities are represented and reflected in the global treaties.

3. Justification

Tanzania is signatory to different regional and global biodiversity related agreements and protocols. On the other hand, the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources needs to gain momentum and take a more central position in the development agenda, from local to global level, for these agreements and decisions to be properly implemented. WWF Tanzania in its new programme of Voices for Diversity -safeguarding ecosystems for nature and people aim to engage various stakeholders and the public in formulating and implementing policies and legal frameworks on biodiversity conservation at national, regional and global levels. On local level, the programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of marginalized communities to make their voices heard and enable them to influence decisions on natural resource use and management and strengthen local CSOs to be actively involved in formulating and implementing national policies on biodiversity conservation. On national and global level, the programme will, for example, support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and participation of Tanzania in international policy dialogues (e.g. CITES, CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD); and East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop and/or enforce the wildlife and forest protocols in addressing human wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade.

4. Objective of the assignment

The main objective of the assignment is to undertake assessment of stakeholders' and partners' current capacity on policy advocacy, power bases, roles and engagement on biodiversity conservation policy dialogues at national, regional and global levels. Specific objectives include:

1. Establish current level of policy advocacy capacity to guide in the implementation of the proposed intervention in the voices for diversity Project,
2. Determine the areas of influence, power and potential roles of the partners in biodiversity conservation policy formulation and implementation dialogues
3. Identify areas of strengths and weaknesses within the organisations to enable more effective future support, investment and partnership,
4. To determine the level of engagement and commitment of the organizations with Government and or other key players in areas of
 - i. Vision, strategy and management (organizational strategy, strategic review, leadership development, governance and management conflict resolution and gender and social diversity)
 - ii. Skills – technical and process skills of individuals and organizations
 - iii. Programme planning and sustainability (financial planning and accountability, financial sustainability)
 - iv. Advocacy strategy development, constituency building, and power of influence,
 - v. Engagement impacts and advocacy with national government private sectors
 - vi. Monitoring, evaluating and learning
5. Development a national Policy advocacy engagement plan for ongoing National, regional and global level (SDG, CBD, RECs) processes
6. Organize and facilitate one day validation workshop to solicit more inputs from interviewed stakeholders

5. Methodology

Sample selection must be of statistically significant representative of the identified stakeholders. The consultant is expected to apply robust and acceptable qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis tools. Data should lead to understanding the stakeholders, their positions, spheres of influence, powers (block/promote) and their interest in biodiversity conservation. The methodology should be able to capture stakeholders' political and social forces and the potential power struggles among groups and individuals to help identify potential strategies for negotiating and engaging at sub-national, national, regional and global levels. The methodology is expected to include but not limited to:

- Document/ Literature reviews
- Field work: The consultant is expected to undertake a suitable field trip in order to collect high quality information and discussion with SCOs or NGOs in capacity and level of engagement.
- During document development process the consultant will, facilitate stakeholders meeting to collect further inputs.

6. SCOPE OF CAPACITY LEVEL ASSESSMENT

The capacity assessment will be conducted to a total of 30 identified organizations (Public, CSOs and NGOs) working in the Ruvuma Landscape, SOKNOT and Water Tower Landscapes to be engaged during the project implementation phase on Wildlife, Forest, marine, freshwater and Energy policy advocacy.

7. DELIVERABLES OR KEY OUTPUTS

Upon signing the contract, the consultant is expected to deliver the following: -

- Inception Report: It should be produced explaining the Consultant's understanding of the TOR, the general approach to the assignment, the methodology to be used (approach, teams, personnel, coordination) as well as a tentative work plan and financial details. The Inception Report must be approved by the WWF-TCO following a presentation by the consultant before the next steps of contract and agreement signing.
- Draft assessment report document: detailing the main findings and recommendations of the stakeholders engagement in the project
- Final report Document and Submission: The report will be reviewed electronically by WWF-TCO before final submission.
- List of recommended CSO's, NGO's for potential engagement in the VFD project
- Report on a one day validation workshop

8. Expected Work plan, Working days and Time frame

The assignment must be completed within 30 Days after commencement. The consultant is expected to conduct the following activities to achieve the outputs:

9. Payment terms/schedule

The rate per day will be subject to the consultant's qualifications and experience. The costs for travelling, accommodation and per Diem will be covered by WWF when the consultant delivers the work. The payment will be paid in three instalments as follows: 1st Instalment 40% paid after Inception/Work plan, 2nd Instalment 40% paid after submission of the first draft and 3rd Instalment 20% paid upon submission of the final report.

10. Qualifications and application procedure:

- Higher University degree MSc and/or PhD in social science, natural resource management, anthropology, socioeconomics or rural development, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Please send a 1 page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience in reference to this consultancy and 2 - 3 pages CV of the Leader should also be attached.
- A concise –maximum of 5 pages technical proposal, highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition and timings of the process.
- A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying time, professional fees and proposed implementation costs.
- Other information and requirements will be provided by WWF Procurement committee.

WWF will provide the documents for literature review, these will include but not limited to:

1. Project document
2. List of stakeholders and location

It is the duty of the consultant to collect relevant literature and reference materials for this assignment. Interested parties should submit the above full proposal documents (technical and financial) to: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org; not later than 5.00PM, Wednesday 16th September 2020 East African Time.

LGAs to allocate funds to menstrual hygiene management awareness activities in schools

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

LOCAL Government Authorities (LGAs) have been called upon to set aside funds for menstrual hygiene management (MHM) awareness education activities in primary and secondary schools.

The activities include provision of menstrual pads to school girls as well as educating them on how to manage their monthly periods.

Coordinator of the MHM project, Devota Cassian said they have started to implement the project in Tanga Region in collaboration with Service Health and Development for People Living with HIV/Aids (SHIDEPHA).

She said the project is now implemented in Tanga, Mkinga, Muheza, Pangani and Korogwe districts whereas ten schools will be reached in each district.

Speaking during the project launch which was attended by members of the Tanga Regional Secretariat and Tanga city council officials, she said the 98m/- project is financed by AmplifyChange from the United Kingdom.

Devota said that AmplifyChange supports advocacy and activist groups working on priority areas namely eliminating gender-based violence, removing barriers to safe abortion, challenging stigma and discrimination, and increasing access to reproductive health.

The main objective of the project is to help communities to solve girls' problems related to menstrual health, she said.

"We encourage local governments to

allocate funds for implementation of activities that supports menstrual health management among school girls", she said.

Devota said that under the project they will ensure availability of infrastructures including changing rooms with flowing water to enable the girls to stay clean at schools during menstruations.

She said that girls will also be provided with free pads so that they don't miss classes during monthly menstrual periods.

Tanga District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Faiza Salum said that the project is a relief to school girls in the city. She insisted on the district council to ensure availability of required infrastructures at girls' toilets.

She underscored the need for the MHM education to also involve boys so that they reduce stigma to the girls.

Faiza called upon the organisation to encourage parents and schoolgirls to make their own pads.



We encourage local governments to allocate funds for implementation of activities that supports menstrual health management among school girls



Elieth Msenga (L), a diploma student at Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, briefs the academy's rector, Prof Shadrack Mwakalila, yesterday on a gas cylinder measurement device she has made. This was at MNMA pavilion at an ongoing exhibition organised in the city by the Tanzania Commission for Universities. Photo: Romana Mallya

Govt executed 1.2trn/- worth water projects, Majaliwa says

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa said on Thursday that the government has implemented 1,423 water projects worth 1.2trn/- in 28 towns across the country including Longido District in Arusha Region.

According to the Premier, more Tanzanians are now having access to clean and safe wa-

ter compared to previous years. He said that in 2015, only 47 percent of the country's population had access to clean water, but the number has this year increased to 70 percent.

In major towns and urban areas, the service has now reached 84 percent of the people compared to 74 percent in 2015, said the Prime Minister when speaking at a campaign rally in Lon-

gido District where he asked the residents to vote for President John Magufuli in the general election scheduled for October 28th this year.

He said the residents have for a long period been struggling to access clean and safe water, hence the government allocated 15.8bn/- for water a project in the district. He said the project has already been completed and

most of the residents are now enjoying the service.

Majaliwa said apart from 15.8bn/- project which sources its water from River Simba in Kilimanjaro Region, the government has also set aside 4.5bn/- for implementation of a water project at Namanga town in Longido District. He added that feasibility study has been completed as the job is expected to

start soon.

He said the government has also allocated 12bn/- for implementation of water projects in Tingatinga, Ngereyani, Noon-doto, Irkaswa, Kamwanga, Mairowa, Karao, Lesing'ita, Munda-ra and Orgira villages in the District.

"The CCM government aims to ensure availability of clean and safe water services to all the

villages across the country, President Magufuli has embarked on special campaign to ensure no woman walk for long distances in search of the precious liquid," he stated.

He appealed to the residents to vote for CCM candidates at presidential, councillorship and parliamentary seats.

Addressing a rally at police grounds in Longido District yes-

terday, Majaliwa said the government is determined to ensure completion of the initiated development projects across the country.

He said the ruling party has been working to implement its election manifesto whereas priorities are also directed on improvement of social services such as education, health, infrastructure and water.

CSOs and the media discuss digital space technologies use for profit maximisation

By Guardian Reporter

A SOCIAL Enterprise-Paradigm Initiative (PIN) has brought together stakeholders from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the media to discuss and share expertise on various issues concerning digital rights and freedom aiming to expand the proper use of digital space technologies in the country.

Speaking during the forum held in Dar es Salaam this week, the organisation's coordinator Peter Mmbando said the discussion also aimed to go through and look on the digital policies and laws between Tanzania and Nigeria.

"Participants also got an opportunity to hear how other countries like Nigeria and Kenya are implementing policies and laws on digital rights, media people were capacitated on the importance of reporting development issues including digital space and its proper use," he said.

Mmbando noted that the expansion of Africa's digital landscape means that the internet is fast becoming a human right and affects a lot more people.

"It is my plea to all internet users to ensure that they adhere to rules and laws laid by the country. But whenever there are laws, reviews and changes, the public should come forward to provide their opinions," Mmbando said.

Paradigm Initiative's Digital Rights Programme Manager Adeboye Adegoke said that: "Our firm believe that so much is possible when citizens, civil society, and government work together in shaping the future, through policy interventions that support innovation and protect the people."

He said that PIN is a social enterprise that builds ICT-enabled support systems and advocates for digital rights in order to improve the livelihoods of under-served young Africans.

"Our digital rights advocacy programme is focused on the development of public policy for internet freedom in Africa, with offices in Abuja, Nigeria (covering the Anglophone West Africa region); Lome, Togo (Francophone West Africa); Yaoundé, Cameroon (Central Africa); Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa) and Lusaka, Zambia (Southern Africa)," he added.

The forum underscored the critical role of stakeholders and the government across the region in the formulation of Internet policies, regulation and legislation that are favourable and meant to transform communities.



Tigo device manager Mkumbo Myonga (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the Samsung-make smartphones. He is with Samsung Tanzania country manager Suleiman Mohamed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zimbabwe mysterious elephant death toll rises to 22

By Jerry Fisayo-Bambi

THE number of elephants dying from a suspected bacterial infection, possibly from eating poisonous plants in western Zimbabwe has risen to 22, and "more deaths are expected," a spokesman for the country's parks agency said Wednesday.

Tinashe Farawo, spokesman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, said most of the elephants dying in the Pandamasue Forest, located between the vast Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls, were young or weak.

With food scarce, younger elephants that can't reach higher tree

branches "end up eating everything and some of the vegetation that they eat might be poisonous," said Farawo.

He said the problem could persist through the dry season.

Zimbabwe has been facing successive climate-induced droughts in recent years, leaving animals with less water and vegetation for food. Apart

from possible bacterial infection, some of the animals could be dying due to the stress of walking long distances for food and water, said Farawo. Farawo said overpopulation had become "the biggest threat" to animal survival in the wild-life rich southern African country.

The dead young elephants were found with the tusks still on their

bodies, ruling out poaching.

In recent years poachers in Zimbabwe have poisoned dozens of elephants with cyanide and then have taken their ivory tusks to sell them to illegal traders.

Investigations will also try to establish if there is a link between the deaths and those reported in neighboring Botswana.



Tanzania Revenue Authority customs officer Eustadius Mutatua (L, with microphone) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday taking heads of various institutions through an electronic system meant to facilitate the collection of cargo from Dar es Salaam Port. Others are TRA deputy commissioner general Msafiri Mbibo (2nd-L) and the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy and Coordination), Dorothy Mwaluko (3rd-R). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kongwa DC wants construction of vocational training college hurried

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

KONGWA District Commissioner, Dr Selemani Serera has directed authorities supervising construction of the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) College to complete the job by September 30th this year.

He made the directive here yesterday during his tour to inspect the project's progress implementation. He was concerned that there are many youth in the district who are waiting to be enrolled at the vocational college.

"I want this project to be completed by September 30th, there are many youth waiting to undertake various vocational courses", said the District Commissioner noting the district aims to churn out a big number of human resources with skills for sustainable industrial development.

Dr Serera added that the district is working on strategies to improve the current education system by coming up with methodologies which will ensure better academic performances to primary school students.

"We want to improve academic performance amongst O-Level secondary school leavers; we want to more youth to join A-Level secondary school education," he said.

Kongwa District Executive Director, Dr Omari Mkulo promised to work on the DC directives saying the contractor will have to work day and night to complete the project within the deadline.

He said they have so far completed con-

struction of 13 buildings, noting the contractor is now doing final touches. He said the college has been constructed as per required standards.

Chairman of the project implementation committee, Paschalina Duwe said a total of 2.137bn/- have been allocated for the project whereas they have so far spent over 1bn/- for construction of 13 buildings which comprises classrooms.

"This project is implemented using a 'force account', the delays has been caused with poor road infrastructures that affects transportation of construction materials. Some materials from abroad were delayed due to lockdowns caused by outbreak of the novel coronavirus," said Duwe.

In July this year, when inaugurating the Ileje District VETA College, Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako said the government plans to finalize the construction of VETA colleges in all regions and districts in the country by 2025.

She said to reach that goal the government through her ministry continues to allocate funds for the construction of the colleges that are in various stages of construction, whilst in some regions they are already complete.

She said in the fiscal year 2019/20, the government set aside over 40bn/- for the construction of VETA colleges in 25 districts.

Prof Ndalichako called upon parents and guardians to take their youth to the colleges already built to acquire skills that will enable them get employment or in self-employment by establishing small factories.

Majaliwa promises Simanjiro residents reliable water services

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has promised Simanjiro residents in Manyara Region that water blues facing the area will soon become a thing of the past following completion of a 40bn/- water project to serve the residents.

The project which fetches water from Ruvu River is set to benefit thousands of residents in the district,

most of whom are pastoralists and farmers who are usually forced to walk long distances in search of water for themselves and their livestock.

Addressing a rally yesterday at Orkesumet primary school grounds during the launch of election campaigns for the Simanjiro constituency, Majaliwa said that the government is mullied to address all water challenges in the country.

He also appealed for voters to exercise their right by voting for Christopher Ole Sendeka describing him as the best leader who will represent them well in the parliament.

"The project which has been completed by 89 percent with its operation slated for early next month. The government has also implemented several other water projects including the drilling of irrigation dams that

are already providing services to the people," he said.

He said other projects which currently being implemented in the district include drilling of 18 deep wells in the areas of Kitwai, Tembo Forest, Mirerani, Londrekes, Loibosoi, Kityangare Namalulu, Terrat, Olbili, Nadojuku and Okutu.

The Premier also said that the rehabilitation of 13 water wells has been completed with construction of 95 water centres.

"Construction of the Narakauo dam to be used by both livestock

and people is also underway through the Ministry of Livestock at a cost of 413.9m/- which is equivalent to 36 percent," he said.

Majaliwa said the project would be a great savior for farmers and pastoralists in the entire Simanjiro Region.

He further said the government has also spent 412.7m/- to implement a water project from Nomokon to Narakauo which will also help reduce water scarcity for pastoralists of the Loibosiret ward.

The Premier said despite the implementation of water projects, the

government has allocated 500m/- for the improvement of urban roads in the Simanjiro district council, a work is ongoing.

On electricity, Majaliwa said 38 villages out of 56 have electricity where he promised that the remaining 18 villages will also be connected to power.

"President John Magufuli wants to see every Tanzanian house is connected to power and at low cost. To fulfill so, the government has set aside enough money to supply electricity to all villages including Simanjiro

district. The cost of connecting electricity has decreased from 177,000/- to 27,000/-," he added.

He added that the people will no longer pay for poles costs because all those costs have already been covered by the government.

Majaliwa used the opportunity to urge Simanjiro residents and Tanzanians in general regardless of their political party affiliation, to vote for President Magufuli and give him five years more so that he accomplishes his initiated projects for the country's development.

Pigeon pea farmers in Tunduru District, fetch 318 million/- in sales through WRS

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

FARMERS in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region have fetched 318m/- after selling 402,559 kilogrammes of pigeon peas through the warehouses receipt system in the 2019/2020 harvesting season.

Five years ago, the government established the system so as to ensure that farmers and traders benefit from the farming sector by keeping produce in safe places, selling them at fair prices as well as facilitating them secure loans in financial institutions.

Speaking during the auction held at the grounds of Mlingoti Madharibi cooperative union offices of the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Unions (AMCOs), the Tunduru Cooperative Union (TAMCU) Immani Kalembo said that two potential buyers shown interest to purchase the produce whereby one of them won by bidding to produce at higher price.

"The buyers purchased the peas at 790/- per kilogramme which is an increase of 10/- compared to last auction, the 318m/- found will be distributed to farmers through their cooperative unions," he said.

Kalembo pointed out that after the sale, a farmer is deducted some fees amount whereby 15/- goes to TAMCU,

35/- goes to AMCOs, 2/- is deducted for education contribution, 47/- to 70/- is for transport cost. This amount is per kilogramme of farmer's produce.

TAMCU chairman Mussa Manjaule commended buyers who participated in the auction saying that the "Warehouses Receipt System" is the best as it has transformed the lives of thousands of farmers in the district.

He said that currently the district is doing well and farmers are reaping big from their activity.

"We are working to persuade more farmers to continue joining cooperative unions so as to sell their produce at a good price for their own development benefits," he said.

Manjaule further said that if the prices it will attract more farmers to stop sending their produce to neighbouring districts to sell them at worst prices which in-turn do not benefit them.

Recently, the Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said that the warehouse receipt system (WRS) for selling crops is the best because it incorporates other crops.

Speaking at his Dodoma offices, the minister said among the crops that have successfully yielded positive results in the new system include cotton.



Dr Mkasange Kihongole (L), TB and leprosy coordinator in Tunduru District, pictured earlier this week sensitising herders living at Mkwela village on ways to combat the two diseases. Photo: Correspondent Neema Hussein

T CRS in Morogoro Region donates items worth 17.5bn/- to PwDs

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

THE Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS) in Morogoro Region has donated various items worth 17.5bn/- to people with disabilities in four wards in Morogoro Municipal Council.

Speaking during the handing over event here yesterday, TCRS

Empowerment Officer, Gasper Werema said the organization is concerned with the many challenges facing people with disabilities, hence decision to assist them.

Werema said that the donated items include solar powered radios to enable them have access to information especially during this time when the country prepares for the general election. He said they have also given them

with hand washing facilities such as liquid soap and personal protective gears (PPE) to protect themselves against Covid-19.

He said the people with disabilities have the right to information like any other individuals. He said the group will now be able to listen to educative radio programmes, election news and several other issues related to the country's development.

"The donated items will be dis-

tributed to 389 PwDs as well as primary schools and health centres," he said.

Speaking on behalf of PwDs, Hemed Mvuambaya, a resident of Lubungu village in Mikese ward said that the radio will help him to make follow up on the policies and pledges made by the presidential candidates from all the political parties. He commended TCRS for the support saying it has come at the right

time.

"Most of the PwDs stay at home throughout the day, they cannot attend campaign rallies, with the radios they will have access to all the news and educative programmes especially those talking on the rights of PwDs," said Mvuambaya.

Chief Medical Officer at the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital, Robert Manyerere appealed to other public and private insti-

tutions to also assist people with disabilities in the region.

He said the organisation has been supporting various society groups in Morogoro Region as well as primary and second schools and health centers.

"It is our responsibility to assist people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups," said the medical officer.

TCRS works in some selected villages and districts with high-

est vulnerability to disaster and greatest concentration of poverty. It focuses on remote and vulnerable areas where adequate local capacities and services are not available.

Currently, TCRS is working in 11 selected districts in Tanzania i.e. Ilala, Kakonko, Kibondo, Kigamboni, Kilwa, Kinondoni, Kishapu, Morogoro Rural, Ngara, Temeke and Ubungu.

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SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2020

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Campaigns ought to focus more on rows involving farmers, pastoralists

THE ongoing campaigns by political party candidates vying for the country's presidency have, very understandably, not ignored the vexing and indeed painful question of sporadic violence pitting livestock herders against farmers.

One line of the campaign is to enhance the welfare of each group specifically, which hopes that modernisation is either being taken up or is accepted by both groups. There is usually an effort at not taking sides on the differences and causes of violence.

A different line of engaging with the issue came up in an opposition party's campaign, where the candidate - who has experience in government for a decade - said that he would adopt a policy of separating livestock keepers from farmers as part of a strategy to stem the conflicts.

He candidate dwelt on the proposition that the two groups be far one from each other, thus not working in contiguous territories or zones and by implication preventing the chance of the trespassing of animals into cropland. This view looks a more engaged format of examining the issue, but it is possible others imagined it, balking at its precepts.

One thing about election campaigns is that they introduce either new ideas or new methods of tackling familiar problems, in which case it isn't necessary for an opposition candidate to win so that an idea that was raised in his or her campaign is adopted, be it at the constituency or presidential level.

It is sufficient that voters would have been mentally or psychologically prepared for that kind of approach, in the sense of its being different from 'business as usual'. Raising an approach during an election campaign gives it a measure of legitimacy in that campaign platforms relate to key demands of vari-

ous sections of the population.

Thus, this idea of separating livestock herders from farmers is something that both the party of the specific candidate and others can work around, for none of them would say the conflicts don't matter and can just continue, as if it is a sport.

However, the possibly the most relevant or decisive element in that proposal is distance - economic, rather than the social distancing we had started being used to.

Again, it also means leaving a wide 'no man's land' in between so that the two groups don't encounter each other too often or habitually. But this expectation is kind of untenable as their conflict by interaction already points to land shortage, especially for grazing.

That is where the first line of campaign intervenes, that is, that of modernising livestock keeping - in which case it is more properly located on limited stretches of land, chiefly targeting milk production and meat to an extent.

The whole idea of raising improved breeds tuned to the local environment takes shape in this context, and a service delivery approach stops its gaze there, whereas the problem remains unscathed - that of the targeted population not taking it up seriously enough to be of real benefit. That is where new methods come up like the one suggested during Benjamin Mkapa presidency by his visiting friend, the famed Peruvian economist Professor Hernando de Soto.

One way to solve this problem would perhaps be to have each farmer and each livestock keeper settling on a portion of land and being provided with a title deed. That would abolish nomadic practices and grazing cattle on crops, as the herder won't have a title to such zone. It thus comes as an idea well worth considering.

Discovery of blue monkeys in Manyara and the threats they face merit action

SOMETHING new has been trending among those studying primates and their ecological or bio-geographical challenges. This is not one other than the discovery of - and the raising of alarm over - a species of blue monkeys endemic to Manyara National Park in Tanzania's northern tourism circuit.

An environmental and scientific writer was taking note in the past two months that the species is new to science, and yet it is already threatened by human activity.

The scientific piece noted that much of the animal's living zone lies in protected areas, chiefly in and around Lake Manyara as well as in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, but researchers assess it as endangered.

Known scientifically as *Cercopithecus mitis manyaraensis*, the species faces the same human-driven threats as other primates whether in Tanzania or neighbouring countries, as the zone faces identical environmental threats.

The key factor is the swelling of population growth and lack of agricultural mechanisation and industrialisation, which makes too large a portion of the population depend on farming or livestock rearing.

Extensive agriculture includes the degradation, loss and fragmentation of forest habitat; poaching; loss of wildlife corridors; fires; invasion of exotic plants, meanwhile as climate change abates.

What is not clear is whether it is organisations within Tanzania or similar agencies elsewhere that can do the needful at this moment: cataloguing the region's various animal and plant species to conserve them against these threats.

It is also unclear whether the demand as to recognising the Manyara monkey as an endangered species can make a change in how

the zone is organised, or the only change is to work with them to make changes.

The scientific piece said such recognition will likely draw more attention and research on the subspecies, adding that as a newly identified subspecies of diadem monkey in Tanzania, its survival also relates to giving wider room for those who are specialised in primatology as a whole.

This is a different kind of routine attention expected from trained but generalist conservators looking at the breadth of northern circuit tourist attractions. Even within limited resources, the kind of attention given and timely interventions made can make a big difference, as well as building a global network for those purposes.

The breadth of land in which the Manyara monkey is to be found is estimated at between 1,500 and 5,900 square kilometers around the lake, which is a small area for northern circuit management, but a vast tract of land for specialised attention.

At times there is need for minute collection of data and interventions of an administrative sort, which would call for specialised institutions like the Dr Jane Goodall Foundation. The world-famous primatologist is no stranger to Tanzania.

There are other organisations like the Bernard Grzimek Foundation and its close associate, the Frankfurt Zoological Society - as well as a number of other similar societies.

As is often done in the health sector, NGOs are created for specific and tailor-made needs, to work with relevant ministerial departments and executive agencies. Instead of waiting for them to discover this, we could safely make recommendations to that effect.

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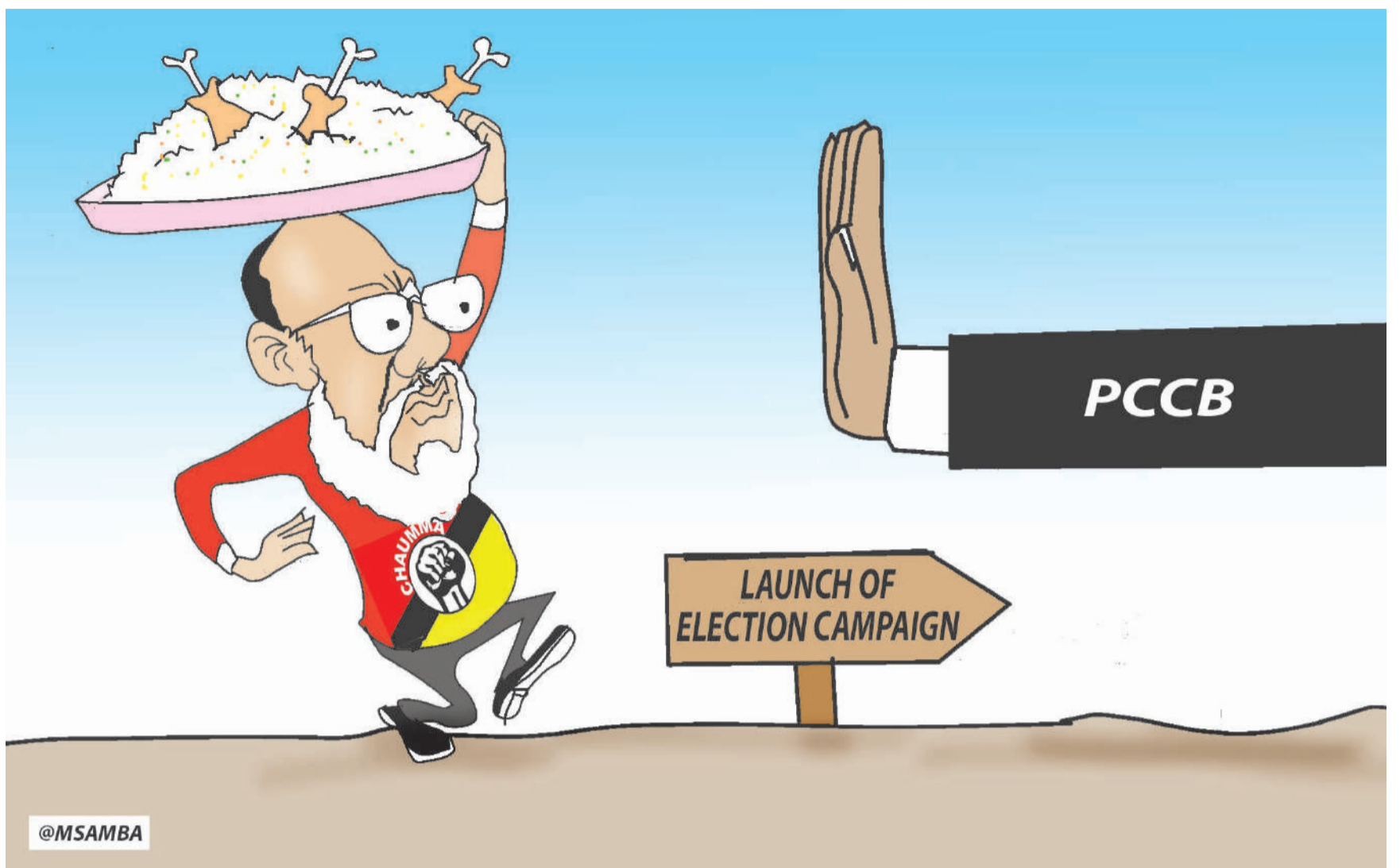
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As diabetes increases in sub-Saharan Africa, so will blindness

By Sara Jerving

PEOPLE from all over Tanzania have for years been travelling to Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (more commonly known as CCBRT), located in Dar es Salaam, for specialised medical attention - particularly eye care.

The healthcare organisation is the largest provider of eye services in the country. Increasingly, a larger number of patients are arriving with diabetic retinopathy - a complication of diabetes that can lead to permanent blindness.

Dr Cyprian Ntomoka, head of the organisation's ophthalmology department, is however saddened by the fact that many of those seeking attention report there too late.

The patients, often not knowing that they are diabetic, go when they already have an advanced stage of the disease. This means that they are too late for early-stage treatments like lasers or injections, and only surgery can save them from blindness.

But Ntomoka's team does not have the resources to conduct the surgery, so it refers patients to a private hospital, where he says the cost of the surgery can range between US\$2,500 and US\$4,000. His team refers between ten and 20 patients per week for this surgery.

But many of his patients cannot afford this. "Maybe this person could not even afford the transport fare to Dar es Salaam; maybe they got it from a friend. And now you tell that person that an operation costs US\$4,000. Instead, they go back to their village and declare themselves blind," Ntomoka said.

"That's what faces me every day, and I can assure you I go back home sad because I find myself useless," he added.

Diabetes is on the rise globally, including in sub-Saharan Africa, fuelled chiefly by the adoption of unhealthy diets and inactive lifestyles.

A 143 per cent increase is expected in the number of diabetes cases in Africa by 2045. Currently, 79 per cent of people with diabetes live in low- and middle-income countries.

While the number of people living with diabetic retinopathy was 146 million in 2014, this could increase to 180.6 million over the next ten years. By 2040, there will be an estimated 50 per



cent increase in the number of people that need regular screening for diabetic retinopathy.

About 15 per cent of diabetics in Africa have diabetic retinopathy, which comes to a prevalence up to five times higher than that for European populations.

Globally, the condition is the leading cause of blindness in working age adults. "That has implications for that person's ability to work, engage with society, and look after their family," according to Dr Charles Cleland, a research fellow at the International Centre for Eye Health and the lead author of a study examining a screening programme for diabetic retinopathy in Tanzania.

The Covid-19 pandemic has compounded this. The Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania had planned to conduct outreach screenings for diabetic retinopathy in hospitals in areas around Dar es Salaam. But, largely because of Covid-19, it was not able to undertake these activities - logistically and financially.

Additionally, patients may not go in for follow-up care owing to fears of contracting Covid-19 - and health systems are overburdened, said Imran Khan, global technical lead for eye health at Sightsavers. Type 2 diabetes increases a person's risk of having a severe case of Covid-19.

"We would expect, actually, diabetes and the complications of diabetes to get worse. I think we've taken a step back because of Covid-19," Khan noted.

Proper management of diabetes - such as keeping hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) and high blood pressure under control - is key to preventing vision impairment from diabetic retinopathy.

Because people do not typically have symptoms in the early stages of diabetic retinopathy,

diabetics should receive regular eye screenings. But many do not even know that they have diabetes.

Of the estimated 463 million people that have diabetes globally, 232 million do not know that they have it. Because of this, the disease might not be caught early enough for treatment to prevent irreversible blindness.

"There is a period, a window, in which you can treat it and maintain people's sight," said Dr Philip Burgess, an ophthalmology specialist at the University of Liverpool who has worked with diabetic retinopathy patients in Malawi.

A big challenge to screening for this disease in resource-strained environments is that there is often a low number of ophthalmologists to take retinal pictures, analyse the imagery, and provide treatment.

For example, in Tanzania, there is less than one ophthalmologist for every one million residents. The equipment needed for screening and treatment is also expensive.

"Basically, at the moment, nobody really knows how to make the screening cost-effective in a low-resource setting," Burgess said.

Other challenges relate to educating people about the need for screening, as well as encouraging them to follow up for treatment.

Cleland reported that a study that examined the success of a mobile screening programme around Mount Kilimanjaro found that only about 42 per cent of people went to a follow-up appointment at a hospital when problems were detected. He said challenges included those with respect to a poor understanding of the disease and treatment options, as well as how the referral process worked.

Burgess said diabetes can also cause cataracts, particularly at younger ages, but the treatment for that involves a one-time, low-cost surgery that can restore lost vision - so there is less of a need for screening to catch it early. However, there are still many barriers for people to access this surgery.

The use of artificial intelligence technology could help make screenings for diabetic retinopathy more affordable, according to ophthalmologists. Traditionally, diabetic retinopathy screenings require a person to sift through the imagery, but new technology allows automatic analysis of images.

"That's very helpful, especially in an environment where you don't have enough eye doctors," Cleland said.

According to a study published last year in JAMA Ophthalmology, the performance of automated systems at two eye care centres in India was "equal to or exceeded" analysis by humans.

In Mexico, VisionQuest Biomedical Inc. has screened over 30,000 patients for diabetic retinopathy at the Clinicas del Azúcar using artificial intelligence software. This completes each analysis in less than one minute and has a sensitivity rate of over 90 per cent in detecting the condition, according to the company.

AI technology could also reduce the number of people referred to hospitals. Cleland said that, in the Tanzania study, researchers suspected that there were people who were told to go for a follow-up appointment but did not really need it. He said that health workers were not quite sure whether they had detected an abnormality, but to err on the side of caution, they told patients to visit the hospital.

Traditionally, health services in low-income settings have been set up for one-off episodes of care, such as for pneumonia, childbirth and malaria, Burgess said. While this alone is a challenge to provide comprehensively, care for chronic disease is an even greater challenge.

Cleland said in low- and middle-income countries, there is a transition from blindness due to infectious conditions like trachoma and river blindness, which is caused by a worm, to blindness caused by non-communicable diseases like diabetes.

Sightsavers' Khan meanwhile said that to best manage diabetic retinopathy, a holistic approach is needed to address the underlying cause.

He gave the example of Pakistan, where he said Sightsavers has a programme that links diabetic retinopathy services at eye health facilities with general health facilities. Counsellors encourage patients to take their medication, follow healthy diets, and exercise, as well as to return for regular follow-ups.

Achieving universal health coverage crucial for mothers, newborns

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE National Five Year Development Plan 2016/17 - 2020/21 (FYDP II) health objective is to provide quality health care ensuring that people are fit to participate in social economic activities.

Addressing this depends critically on strengthening of health service delivery system with service delivery geared towards improving the health of mothers and children.

Speaking in an exclusive interview last week TGNP Knowledge Centre Mobilizer at Zirai Ward, Muheza District, Salome Kingazi said that although the policy of the government was to ensure at least each village has a health centre across the country, this has not yet been attained.

"At our area we don't have a health centre, people have to walk for one and half hours to reach a health centre in a different ward," she said.

She mentioned some of the challenges they have been facing as lack of female nurses, health midwives. And as a result some women even give birth while on their way to health centres. But due to rough roads and lack of reliable transport, some women die on their way before reaching a health centre.

Kingazi has commended TGNP for their continuous knowledge they have been offering to women in those areas on how they can give birth without cot of lives.

"Through our knowledge centre, we have been meeting with women to discuss on safe motherhood, and their essential needs as expectant mothers."

Meanwhile, Kingazi has requested the government in collaboration with other stakeholders to send female nurses to health centres where they go for health services.

"There are some private issues that should be told to a fellow woman; so lacking them in some of our health centres is a challenge of which the government needs to address."

She has also called upon the government to fulfill its policy of ensuring at least each village or ward has a health centre so as to minimise congestion of patients currently experienced at one health.

"We also need means of transport to take expectant mothers and other patients in critical conditions to nearby health centres or hospital, as our main means of transport have been boda boda."

For her part, an accountant at Zirai knowledge health centre, Amani Sub-Division in Muheza District, Tanga Region, Raheiri Andrea concurred with former speaker by saying "the situation is tense, because health centres are far away. We need a health centre at our village as the national policy indicates."

However, she has urged stakeholders like TGNP in collaboration with the government to give education awareness on safe motherhood to avoid deaths of mothers and children caused by ignorance.

She has advised the government to supply them with female doctors, because they are only having two male doctors.

Andrea commended TGNP for the education awareness they offered to them.

"Their training has brought positive changes. We are experiencing in some families, husbands and wives discussing on family planning and other essential needs for their children," she noted.

Other findings have shown that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs-2030) has a specific goal on good health and wellbeing and aims at ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for

all ages at all times. Significant improvements have been made in increasing life expectancy and quality of life.

However, only half of women in developing countries have received the health care they need. And for Tanzania it also requires continuously, focus and effort to reach the important goal.

The overall objective of the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020, (HSSP IV), is to reach all households with essential health and social welfare services, meeting, as much as possible, the expectations of the population, adhering to objective quality standards, and applying evidence informed interventions through efficient channels of service delivery.

The specific objectives include; quality improvement of primary health care services, delivering a package of essential services in communities and health facilities.

Others are equitable access to services in the country by focusing on geographic areas with higher disease burdens and by focusing on vulnerable groups in the population with higher risks.

Active community partnership through intensified interactions with the population for improvement of health and social wellbeing; a higher rate of return on investment by applying modern management methods and engaging in innovative partnerships and social determinants of health.

The health and social welfare sector will collaborate with other sectors, and advocate for the inclusion of health promoting and health protecting measures in other sectors' policies and strategies.

The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 document identifies health as one of the priority sectors contributing to a higher-quality livelihood for all Tanzanians.

Quality care requires the availability of people with the rights skills, and an en-



Quality care is particularly important at birth, the riskiest time for mothers and babies. File photo

abling environment (including essential equipment and medicines). Quality of care is critical to saving lives but often is not measured in a standard way. The lack of real-time nationally representative information for tracking coverage, equity and quality of care makes it challenging to accurately assess and plan for the future, and highlights the need for better data for decision-making.

It is hoped that the Tanzanian Health Management Information System (HMIS), scaled up nationally in 2013, will fill this gap.

Quality care is particularly important at birth, the riskiest time for mothers and babies and a time when a delay of even

minutes can cost lives.

Tanzania's ultimate aim is to achieve universal coverage and high quality care in all essential interventions across the continuum of care, and to end all preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths.

Achieving universal coverage means reaching every mother, newborn and child with essential interventions. Providing high quality services means doing the right thing, at the right time.

Current coverage of interventions across the continuum of care varies widely, with women from the lowest socioeconomic group often being left behind.

Herd immunity is not a strategy: What the term actually means, and what it does not

By James Hamblin

ONE of the Covid-19 pandemic's most insidious misconceptions is getting closer to explicit national policy. The Washington Post has reported that a top Trump medical adviser, Scott Atlas, has been "urging the White House to embrace a controversial 'herd immunity' strategy".

Atlas subsequently denied the report, though during his time as a Fox News commentator he consistently argued in favour of fringe approaches that go hand in hand with the idea: namely, that city and state shutdowns are deadlier than the coronavirus itself.

The idea of abandoning preventive measures and letting the virus infect people has already gotten traction in the Trump administration. Atlas recently moved to ease up on the most important strategy to fight the virus - widespread testing - by telling the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to change its guidelines to advise against testing asymptomatic people.

The president then referenced the concept in an appearance on Fox News, explaining: "Once you get to a certain number - we use the word herd - once you get to a certain number, it's going to go away."

But "herd-immunity strategy" is a contradiction in terms in that herd immunity is the absence of a strategy. Herd immunity is an important public-health concept, developed and used to guide vaccination policy. It involves a calculation of the percentage of people in a population who would need to achieve immunity in order to prevent an outbreak.

The same concept offers little such guidance during an ongoing pandemic without a vaccine. If it were a military strategy, it would mean letting the enemy tear through you until they stop because there's no one left to attack.

We may hear even more talk of herd immunity as the election nears, since Trump has an incentive to claim that the Covid-19 pandemic is almost over even if it's not.

So now is a good time to revisit exactly what herd immunity means and, perhaps more importantly, what it doesn't.

I talked with Howard Forman, a health-policy professor at Yale University who has followed the data on how "herd-immunity strategies" have gone in various countries.

The full conversation appears on the latest episode of Social Distance, which I host with Katherine Wells, The Atlantic's executive producer of podcasts. This transcript has been edited for length and clarity. Listen to the interview here:

James Hamblin: What do you make of news about a "herd-immunity strategy" reportedly being discussed in the White



House?

Howard Forman: This is one of these topics that very few people understand. People use the term herd immunity flippantly. Some talk about it as a policy prescription without knowing what it even means. And I think that there's a lot of nuance here. In a situation like this, where we've already lost 180,000 lives, we shouldn't be flippant about things. We should be thinking about how to avoid as much death as possible, and resume life as well as possible. Whenever people talk about herd immunity, whenever they talk about "ripping the Band-Aid off" or any of those things, it is an absolutely dangerous idea. Now, I think there are lessons to be learned from Sweden, and no one should be flippant about saying Sweden was horrific or the worst thing that could have happened. But Sweden ultimately did not pursue the policy that we seem to be pursuing right now.

Katherine Wells: I thought they did?

Hamblin: Sweden became this reportedly textbook case of using a herd-immunity approach, or at least, they initially said they were going to.

Forman: It started off with Sweden and the UK talking about pursuing herd immunity. Then England got cold feet and Sweden supposedly proceeded with this, but they didn't. Sweden did a lot of things to curtail the spread. What people seem to not understand is that we do things in our country, even in some areas that are "still shut down", that would not be tolerated in Sweden. They still have a ban on gatherings of 50 people or more.

Wells: Oh! I feel like the picture of Sweden I have in my mind is everyone outside without masks, enjoying the summer, all together...

Forman: For the most part, they are without masks. But they still have a complete ban on visiting retirement homes. They still have a ban on public gatherings of 50 people. Gatherings for religious practice? Banned. Theatrical and cinema performances? Banned. Concerts? Banned. And this is what bothers me. Our president (Trump) did a rally in Tulsa. That would have been banned in Sweden.

Hamblin: So, if anything, we're the country that's maybe closest to this herd-immunity approach? I don't even want to use that term because we're doing a lot as well. But no one is honestly just letting the thing run wild, as the idea might suggest.

Forman: That's absolutely correct. If you have a good understanding of herd immunity, then you know that it means that if we achieve a certain per cent of immunity in the population then you cannot get an epidemic outbreak in that community. You can still get spread. You could still have a person come to our country with measles and go into a classroom and somebody will get measles from that person, but you will not have a measles outbreak because there are sufficient numbers of people that are immune to measles that in the process of trying to spread, the virus will extinguish itself. You might get two or three people infected, but it will never take

off again. That's herd immunity. That requires individuals to be truly immune to the virus, which means that the virus not only doesn't affect you and cause you to get sick, but you actually can't get infected. You can't spread the virus if somebody comes in proximity to you.

Wells: And we should mention that while just always keeping in mind that herd immunity maybe a relief now would have come at the cost of many lives.

Forman: At the cost of many lives, and potentially, morbidity that we don't know about yet. I say this with a lot of caution, but we have no idea whether having had this infection means that, ten years from now, you have an elevated risk of lymphoma. [Lymphoma is cancer that begins in infection-fighting cells of the immune system, called lymphocytes. These cells are in the lymph nodes, spleen, thymus, bone marrow, and other parts of the body. When you have lymphoma, lymphocytes change and grow out of control.] There's not any indication that it would, but we just don't know. We know that hepatitis C leads to liver cancer. We know that human papillomavirus leads to cervical cancer. We know that HIV leads to certain cancers. I don't want people to panic over that possibility, because I think that's unnecessary, but just to make the point that we don't know. So even if you thought you could get to a vaccination-equivalent immunity through infection, you still run risks beyond the immediate mortality and the immediate morbidity.

Hamblin: Right - there are things we're not seeing that we need to consider. And so, without suggesting specifically that this virus is causing cancer, we have no idea what the long-term effects will turn out to be, and so we don't want to mess around with infecting anyone who doesn't need to be infected.

Forman: Right. And by the way, there's never been a real case of herd immunity through infection.

Wells: For any disease ever?

Forman: Correct. In fact, the term itself didn't arise until just a few decades ago, when we had vaccination programmes. There are cases where, as large waves of infection passed through communities, you had lower levels of outbreak in most years, and then you would have epidemic outbreaks other years. That probably is the closest thing, but that's not herd immunity. You're still having outbreaks all the time. You're just having bigger waves and smaller waves.

Wells: The term herd-im-

munity strategy makes even less sense to me than it did before.

Forman: We know how much testing alone could do to help us here. Combine massive testing with things like masking and social distancing, and then you have to ask yourself: Why would you allow people to just die in such large numbers when you have these alternatives that are readily available to us? And that, quite frankly, could allow us to get much closer to a normal life than we are right now.

Wells: Well, what's the answer?

Forman: Honestly, I am at a loss. I'm hoping that, by the end of November, the entrepreneurs who have been developing these cheap tests are going to allow us to test at such a massive scale and at such a low cost that we'll be able to substantially impact this in a way that we haven't so far. But I'm also 100 per cent convinced that if our federal government had thought about this back in February and March and decided that they were going to commit even merely one-tenth of the amount of money that they have committed to a vaccine to a cheap testing initiative, we would have already saved tens of thousands of lives and certainly would have saved tens of thousands more going forward.

I co-wrote an op-ed two months ago where we said that testing is the vaccine. And at that time, I was quarrelling about whether we should say US\$10 or US\$20 per test as being achievable. Now we're talking about US\$1 to US\$5 for these tests. This is the way out until we have a vaccine.

A piece originally published in The Atlantic - where Yale School of Public Health lecturer James Hamblin, MD, is a staff writer.

European countries brace for new school year amid COVID-19 resurgence

LJUBLJANA/BRUSSELS

THE recent resurgence of COVID-19 in many parts of Europe is challenging the preparation work of most schools, as they are set to open their campuses to students for the new school year in the coming days.

Ensuring the compulsory education while keeping kids safe has become a top priority for many European governments, which are rolling out various measures to hope to make it work.

MULTIPLE MEASURES, ONE GOAL

Spain has registered 43,747 cases in seven days last week, the worst weekly figure since the end of March. France's data released on Friday showed the highest daily COVID-19 tally since March 31. Infections are also rising in the United Kingdom, Germany and some other European countries.

Different authorities across Europe are working for one goal this time -- avoiding another blanket closure of schools this autumn.

The Spanish Health Ministry and Education Ministry published a list of 29 measures and five recommendations for the start of the school year. Key measures include taking teachers' and students' temperature every morning, wearing of masks for children over six years old and cleaning their hands at least five times during the school day. Schools are required to apply extra hygiene measures and create stable "bubble groups" of children, in which closer contacts will be allowed.

In Italy, where the reopening of schools on Sept. 14 is seen by many as the biggest challenge after the COVID-19 lockdown feat, wearing of face masks will be mandatory for teachers and staff all the time, and for students in primary and secondary schools (from six to 18 years old) every time the one-meter safety distance rule cannot be observed.

Similar face-covering measures were also announced in countries such as France, Britain, Ireland, Croatia, Serbia, although the age and prerequisite for the wearing varied.

In addition to some already observed preventive measures, such as social bubbles, social distancing and frequent hands washing, some countries adopted more sophisticated measures based on color-coded systems or flexible learning.

The Austrian government launched a four-color coronavirus "traffic-light" system to help avoid a second wave of the pandemic. The system is intended to increase public health awareness and thus prevent a second wave in au-



A mother takes a walk with her child at the Palais Royal in Paris, France, Aug. 29, 2020. Photo: Xinhua

and the capacity to appropriately use a mask with minimal assistance. Aged 6-11 should be based on some factors, such as whether there is widespread transmission in the area, where the child resides, the ability of the child to safely and appro-

priately use a mask. Aged 12 and over should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults.

According to the Society for Virology, the largest virological society in Europe, infection rates in children and their role in the pandemic have so far only been incompletely recorded by scientific studies. And it warned against the notion that children are not involved in the pandemic and transmission. Such ideas are not in accordance with scientific knowledge.

Some Romanian health experts even admitted that the start of the new semester will bring more new cases to the country. Not only the children themselves, but more parents and grandparents will become new infected ones.

Lithuanian Minister of Education Algirdas Monkevicius voiced similar concerns. "We cannot be sure that the infection will not affect Lithuanian schools, therefore, we must be prepared for it and know what actions must be taken immediately," Monkevicius was quoted as saying in a press release recently. Parents have mixed feelings in sending their kids back to school.

"I look forward to the new school year with concern, not so much for my children's health, because it seems kids are less at risk even if infected, but for

the great uncertainty in terms of family organization," Rosanna Magnano, a Milan-based journalist and mother of two, told Xinhua.

Another working mother, Cristina Zen from northern Alessandria, Italy, worried about the broader impact of school reopening on the country.

"Since the end of the lockdown, this is actually the first such large movement. What if infections ramp up again and we need another lockdown?" she wondered.

Stevanic, a father of a student from Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, said although the school took various preventive measures, he was still a little worried about the pandemic, due to the increase in infection cases recently.

In Germany, where daily infections exceeded the 2,000-mark last Saturday for the first time since April, Chancellor Angela Merkel called on German citizens to prepare for difficult COVID-19 times in the coming months on Friday.

She stressed that everything had to be done to ensure that children would not become the losers of the COVID-19 pandemic. Education was the most important and "schools must not leave anyone behind."

Xinhua



Children pose for photo at the Smile Safari, an Instagram and TikTok museum, in Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 7, 2020. Photo: Xinhua

There are only hard facts and harder decisions. Welcome to the pandemic

By Ryan Holiday

ONE thing the Covid-19 pandemic has shown is that people have a problem facing facts. I don't mean facts in the sense of the scientific data - although that's clearly a problem as well, judging by the litany of conspiracy theories that have become acceptable even in polite company.

I mean "facts" in the more colloquial sense - of coming to terms with reality and accepting it on reality's own terms. We've taken a merciless but increasingly well-understood virus and turned it into a divisive, partisan argument.

We have somehow come to believe that what we think about the coronavirus, or our own personal needs in relation to it, have some relevance to its spread from person to person as well as its ability to kill with ruthlessness and painful efficiency.

Because we can't bear something, we believe it doesn't have to be borne. That's why we see people going ahead with large, in-person weddings or looking for hookups on Tinder because they "need the spontaneity." It's why our Instagram feeds are filled with vacation photos and stories from nights out.

Back in reality, it is a truth of human existence that some crises are inescapable. They force us to stop doing things we'd like to do and to live instead in a state of extended uncertainty. They cost us things we really can't afford.

Imagine someone living in America during World War II. No one could have told them when they'd be able to travel to Europe to see their aging parents again.

No one could have told them when the rationing would stop. No one would have been able to say when their son would be released from the Army.

No one could have promised them that they were safe in their homes and would ultimately survive. The war was a fact, and everybody had to live with it.

Life is like this. It's uncertain. It's uncomfortable. It doesn't really care whether we really want or need something. It doesn't care about us at all, really. It just is.

When we talk about facing facts, we are in part talking about making the hard choices that life demands. "At the top, there are no easy choices. All are between evils, the consequences of which are hard to judge."

That's what Dean Acheson, US Secretary of State from 1949 to 1953) once observed about the US presidency. He meant that all the simple, easy stuff gets handled by people lower down on the chain. The obvious stuff never makes it to the Oval Office at the White House.

And so it is with life, too - we don't give much thought to the easy



stuff. We don't need to. There's never any uncertainty about the things that don't require any sacrifice and pain.

I think Acheson also meant that it's not the choices that are hard. In fact, the right thing is often obvious. It's the consequences and the costs of that choice that are hard. It's the complicated, difficult, unpleasant stuff that we end up having to wrestle with on the other side of our deci-

sions that make them seem so difficult.

I see this with some of my friends, pushed to a breaking point after so many months in Covid-19-induced lockdown, making choices they would have considered reckless not that long ago.

What they're saying when they throw up their hands is something like: "I have a sense that I'm not making the right decision but, if I act bewildered, it excuses me from the consequences."

Or: "I get that generally that this is a really bad idea, but my specific circumstances should be exempt from the otherwise unfavourable facts."

How has the track record for not listening to expert opinion gone in the United States over the last five months? Oh, right, it's created one of the worst coronavirus breakouts in the world. We're zeroing in on 200,000 dead.

Sixty-seven 9/11s. Four Vietnams. Eight American Revolutions.

Yet here we are, talking about how life has to go back to normal sometime. We all need a lot of things. I do. My children certainly do. But the facts come first, so we're staying home. They aren't going to school, and my businesses remain closed. Not because that's what any of us want but because, in truth, there is no choice.

There is not much upside in a pandemic - certainly not this one. But there is a lesson in it. It's a lesson that we have done our best not to learn, that we have resisted for some time now.

That lesson is this: Life is hard. It is filled with hard facts and hard decisions. We have to face the truth and do the hard thing.

So now the question is: How do we adjust our societies and lives based on these hard facts in a way that supports everyone?

This might mean calling for schools to send students hot spots so that they don't need to use Taco Bell's Wi-Fi to do their class assignments. It probably means paying people to stay home.

It means asking colleagues what you can take off their plate. It means listening, really listening, when friends and neighbors tell you how they're doing.

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do," Eleanor Roosevelt (US first lady from 1933 to 1945, wife of 32nd US president Franklin D. Roosevelt) said.

Do the hard thing. Even if we think we can't do it. We can. We have to.

• **A report by Forge, a Medium publication about personal development. Ryan Holiday is the bestselling author of 'Conspiracy,' 'Ego is the Enemy' and 'The Obstacle Is The Way.'**

UNICEF leading global scheme to procure, supply Covid-19 vaccines

By Guardian Correspondent

UNICEF is leading efforts to procure and supply Covid-19 vaccines as part of the global vaccine plan of the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

With several vaccine candidates showing promise, UNICEF, in collaboration with the PAHO Revolving Fund, will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of Covid-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX Facility for 92 low- and lower middle-income countries whose vaccine purchases will be supported by the mechanism through the Gavi COVAX AMC as well as a buffer stockpile for humanitarian emergencies.

Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director said: "This is an all-hands on deck partnership between governments, manufacturers and multilateral partners to continue the high-stakes fight against the Covid-19 pandemic."

Fore said UNICEF is leveraging its unique strengths in vaccine supply to make sure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to the initial doses when they are available.

Gavi CEO, Dr Seth Berkley, said that UNICEF has been critical partner in the Alliance's success over the last two decades - helping to reach more than half of the world's population with life-saving vaccines.

Dr Berkley said: "This expertise and experience will be important in ensuring that COVAX - as a global effort to procure and deliver safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines, on an accelerated timeframe, and at an un-

precedented scale - can protect the most at-risk, wherever they may be in the world. Together we can work to end the acute stage of this pandemic, including its devastating impact on individuals, communities, and economies."

UNICEF will also serve as procurement coordinator to support procurement by 80 higher-income economies, which have expressed their intent to participate in the COVAX Facility and would finance the vaccines from their own public finance budgets.

It will undertake these efforts in close collaboration with WHO, Gavi, CEPI, PAHO, World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners. The COVAX Facility is open to all countries to ensure that no country is left without access to a future Covid-19 vaccine.

UNICEF is the largest single vaccine buyer in the world, procuring more than 2 billion doses of vaccines annually for routine immunization and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries.

It is the main procurement partner of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which over the last 20 years has reached more than 760 million children with life-saving vaccines, preventing more than 13 million deaths. UNICEF will use its market shaping and procurement expertise to coordinate the procurement and supply of Covid-19 vaccines for the COVAX Facility.

In response to an expression of interest that UNICEF issued in June on behalf of the COVAX Facility, 28 manufacturers with production facilities in 10 countries shared their annual production plans for Covid-19 vac-



cines through 2023.

According to the timelines the manufacturers indicated, the span from development to production could be one of the fastest scientific and manufacturing leaps in history.

A UNICEF market assessment, developed by compiling information submitted by vaccine manufacturers along with publicly available data, revealed that manufacturers are willing to collectively produce unprecedented quantities of vaccines over the coming 1-2 years.

However, manufacturers signaled that investments to support such large-scale production of doses would be highly dependent on, among other

things, whether clinical trials are successful, advance purchase agreements are put in place, funding is confirmed, and regulatory and registration pathways are streamlined.

The assessment also illustrates, among other things, manufacturers' responsiveness to the COVAX Facility's design and objectives—a key pillar of the ACT-Accelerator initiative, which is a new, groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate the development and equitable distribution of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics to address the Covid-19 pandemic across countries of all income levels.

Currently under development by WHO, the CO-

VAX allocation framework will guide how and where UNICEF, PAHO and other procurers working on behalf of participating countries supply Covid-19 vaccines that are secured by the Facility.

Initial dose allocations are expected to be scaled to enable countries to vaccinate health and social workers, followed by subsequent tranches of vaccine doses that would enable participating countries to vaccinate populations at higher risk of critical Covid-19 disease.

South Africa healthcare workers protest, threaten strike

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African healthcare workers have protested against poor working conditions and urged the government to end corruption in the procurement of coronavirus personal protective equipment.

The protesters gathered in Pretoria and Cape Town on Thursday, charging that the lives of healthcare workers are en-

dangered as some health facilities have inadequate supplies of protective equipment like surgical masks.

The union leading the demonstrations - the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union - has threatened that its 200,000 public workers will go on strike on September 10 if their issues are not addressed.

"When our workers ask for information about infections, they

are charged by their managers, yet the minister releases statistics every day," alleged union leader Zola Saphetha.

They have also demanded danger pay for workers who are on the front line in the battle against Covid-19.

A widespread strike by healthcare workers would cause serious problems for South Africa's hospitals, which have been stretched to the limit by the cor-

onavirus. Although the number of new confirmed cases of Covid-19 has decreased, South Africa is still reporting more than 2,000 new cases per day and the country has been warned of a possible second wave of infections.

South Africa has recorded 630,595 positive cases of Covid-19, the highest in Africa, and the sixth-highest in the world.

The pandemic has so far killed

more than 14,300 people in the country, according to official figures. More than 27,300 health workers have tested positive and 230 have died from the disease, according to official figures from last month.

The demonstrators in Pretoria marched in front of the offices of President Cyril Ramaphosa at the Union Buildings.

They held up placards, some reading "Thank You Frontline

Workers" and "Remove Corrupt Officials".

South Africa has been rocked by allegations of corruption related to the procurement of personal protective equipment.

President Ramaphosa's spokeswoman, Khusela Diko, stepped down after being linked to irregular purchases. Her husband's company allegedly charged more than five times the regulated amount for surgi-

cal masks and sanitisers.

Gauteng provincial health minister, Bandile Masuku, was also forced to step down due to allegations he was linked to the irregular procurement of health supplies.

The country's Special Investigating Unit said it is currently probing more than 20 cases of corruption related to the contracts to provide health supplies to the government.

African small scale farmers expected to receive agricultural advice through their mobile telephones

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SMALL-scale farmers in Africa are expected to receive agricultural advice through their mobile phones.

This will be in implementation of one of the 11 proposals to receive the initial funding under IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), and is a result of a new partnership between IFAD and Precision Agriculture for Development, a global non-profit organisation co-founded by Nobel Prize winning economist Michael Kremer.

Farmers will receive low-cost, customised advice using mobile technology, to improve on-farm practices, input utilisation, pest and disease management, environmental sustainability and access to markets.

IFAD's RPSF was launched recently by IFAD's UN Goodwill Ambassadors, Idris Elba and Sabrina Dhowre Elba, to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 on the livelihoods of rural people and improve their food security.

Funding worth US\$1.2mn has been received from the RPSF for these first 11 initiatives. In addition, governments and implementing partners will contribute US\$5.2mn through co-financing to benefit close to 6.7mn small-scale farmers in developing countries, adversely impacted by the economic slowdown.

Among the proposals financed, are two regionally focused initiatives in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa that will provide emergency livelihood support through local farmers' organisations, and eight country-level initiatives in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine and Rwanda.

The majority of these initiatives, which are embedded in national Covid-19 response strategies, will be implemented through IFAD project teams and other strategic partners to



ensure fast delivery.

The livelihood support initiatives include, providing seeds and fertiliser in time for planting season, assisting with

storage and market transport, supporting local banks to provide credit, and establishing digital platforms for information, training, banking and marketing services.

The initiatives will draw on existing targeting data to identify and provide assistance to the most at-risk groups.

A second round of funding, which in-

cludes 22 initiatives and amounts to US\$13.8mn, is expected by the end of August. More funding from contributing partners will follow later in the year.

More than 450 Burundian refugees return home from Rwanda

KIGALI

MORE than 450 Burundian refugees who had been living at the Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda returned to their home country on Thursday, according to the UN Refugee Agency.

"The initial group of 493 men, women and children opted to

voluntarily return to Burundi after living in exile for five years," the UNHCR in Rwanda tweeted.

Rwandan media outlet The New Times reported that the refugees were all transported by buses from the camp and handed over to Burundian authorities at Namba One-Stop Border Post.

An official with Rwanda's Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) reiterated the nation's commitment to repatriating refugees who were willing to return voluntarily.

"These are some of Burundian refugees who requested to be repatriated and we acted accordingly. In accordance with

national and international laws, Rwanda will continue to facilitate any refugee willing to go back to his/her country of origin and protect those who wish to stay," MINEMA's Permanent Secretary Olivier Kayumba told journalists. Kayumba added that officials from both countries will meet again to determine if

Burundi is prepared to receive another group of refugees and coordinate the process with the UNHCR. The repatriation comes in the wake of a letter written by refugees in the camp in July requesting President Evariste Ndayishimiye to liaise with the Rwandan government and the UNHCR to come up with a

framework that will see them return to their homeland.

President Ndayishimiye, who succeeded the late Pierre Nkurunziza, struck a conciliatory tone in June by inviting Burundians living in exile to return and build a new nation.

Rwanda hosts more than 70,000 refugees from Burundi

according to figures from the UNHCR in March.

Thousands of people fled Burundi in 2015 when violence erupted after Nkurunziza controversially declared that he will vie for a third term in office. Unrest in the country in subsequent years saw many others flee to neighboring countries.

Leaderless WTO faces moment of truth

GENEVA

IN its first week without a captain, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is not only faced with an unprecedented leadership vacuum or the biggest crisis in its 25-year history, but an urgent need to stay relevant while embracing the technological and geopolitical realities nowadays, trade experts warned.

The Geneva-based global trade watchdog has de facto become leaderless on Aug. 31 with the departure of Director-General Roberto Azevedo, who surprisingly announced in May that he would step down one year before the official end of his term.

Azevedo, who will join soft drinks and food company PepsiCo as chief corporate affairs officer, is leaving his successor with a massive set of challenges, ranging from intensifying trade tensions between major members, rising protectionism, to the worst economic recession, triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, since the Great Depression.

QUESTIONS OVER FUNCTION

The WTO, which was founded in 1995 to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

While critics have warned of the imminent "death of the WTO," Bernard Hoekman, professor at the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies in the European University Institute, said such claims were exaggerated.

"The real question is whether a critical mass of WTO members will be willing to engage in reform discussions that will make the organization relevant for the global governance of 21st century trade, which centers increasingly on trade in services and policies that affect the growth of the ongoing structural transformation of the economy towards digitization, disintermediation and automation," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"There are ongoing plurilateral discussions on some of the key policy areas, for example on e-commerce and



domestic regulation of services, which is a positive dynamic," he said. "International organizations rarely die but they can become irrelevant. Only when enough governments see the value in doing business at the WTO will it revive," Simon Evenett, professor of international trade at St Gallen University in Switzerland, told Xinhua.

REFORMS, REFORMS, REFORMS

How to reform the organization and its rule-based multilateral trading system is now hanging like the sword of Damocles over the eight candidates, who threw their hats in the ring for the top job of the WTO.

The WTO is due to begin three rounds

World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Roberto Azevedo attends a press conference at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, July 23, 2020. Photo: Xinhua

of consultations this month – dubbed "confessionals" – in which all of its 164 members confidentially voice their preferences, gradually eliminating the names on the list. This process is expected to last at least until November, provided that there are no delays.

The candidates running for the top post of new director-general meanwhile have promised sweeping reforms of the WTO's three major functions of dispute settlement, multilateral trade negotiations and trade policy.

Candidate Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh from Egypt told Xinhua in a recent interview that restoring the deadlocked negotiation function would be his number one priority.

Kenya's Amina Mohamed stressed that she would update the WTO's rulebook "so that it's fit for purpose and in sync with the global developments, global aspirations and respond properly to global challenges."

"The world has moved on. The question is whether trade diplomats can leave their comfort zone and embrace the realities of

21st century technological and geopolitical rivalry," Evenett said.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PARALYSIS

The other pressing issue that needs fixing is the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism, which is currently paralyzed. The Appellate Body, considered as the supreme court for global trade disputes, is supposed to have seven judges and needs a minimum of three to function. The U.S. administration has been blocking new appointments for more than two years, with claims that the court had gone beyond its remit.

"Without an effective system to address trade conflicts, there is no incentive to negotiate new agreements. The current crisis is an opportunity to reform the approach taken in the WTO to resolving disputes," Hoekman said.

WTO members including China and the European Union set up a temporary arbitration system earlier this year that allows them to overcome the current paralysis and solve trade disputes among themselves.

Jesus Seade Kuri, Mexico's candidate for the director-general, told Xinhua that restarting the dispute settlement system would be on top of his reform agenda and suggested creating a new supervi-

sion mechanism for the Appellate Body.

MORE UNCERTAINTIES

Irrespective of who takes the helm, the ultimate winner will have to brace himself or herself for new post-COVID-19 realities, a plunge in global trade and re-establish the WTO as an advocate for international trade.

According to the body's annual trade forecast published in April, global trade in goods is expected to drop by between 13 percent to 32 percent in 2020, before rebounding by 21-24 percent in 2021.

In theory, Azevedo's successor should be selected by Nov. 7, four days after the U.S. presidential election, under an agreed elimination process that is based on consensus.

But as the selection process for the new director-general still continues, insiders have cautioned that the leadership void could last for months.

With U.S. President Donald Trump having previously threatened to pull the United States out of the WTO, although no firm plans have been announced, another great unknown remains to be how much influence the U.S. will be exerting on that process in the run-up to the appointment of the WTO chief.

Xinhua



Photo shows an exterior view of the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Photo: Xinhua

Security systems only as successful as people sitting right behind them

JOHANNESBURG

SOMETIME in May, the personal records of more than 24 million South Africans and nearly 794,000 companies handed over to someone impersonating a client.

The personal records, identity numbers and addresses of millions of people and thousands of businesses were given to this person because they had fooled the system. It's a hard lesson on how important it is to embed security not just into the technology and the devices of a company but also into its people.

According to KnowBe4 Africa's Anna

Collard, security is not just the responsibility of IT but of every single person in an organisation.

"It is critical that organisations create a culture of security in order to combat this increasingly hostile security environment," she says, adding, "A successful security culture is driven by leadership, the human resources (HR) department, internal marketing & communication and ongoing security training. Truly agile and capable security is a people project, not a technology one."

Successful security balances on three pillars: technology, policy and people. The technology is the firewalls, the anti-

virus, the ongoing alerts and the endlessly evolving bouquets of solutions that are designed to give the business an edge in the war against cybercrime.

Policy is what outlines the processes that people across all levels of the organisation have to follow in order to ensure that the technology can do its job, that checks and balances are in place as well as to guide people on what they can and cannot do in the digital realm.

People are meanwhile the key to ensuring that both technology and policy actually work.

"This is why HR has to be involved with security. It is fundamental to changing



behaviour within the organisation and helping to build a culture that recognises the importance and value of security," says Collard.

She adds: "It is, of course, also the disciplinary arm that enforces policy and that ensures there are consequences when people continue to break the rules or fall for phishing scams or perpetually do the wrong things."

Whether the organisation incentivises or punishes – security has to have consequences. Employees must see that the executive is as tightly bound by the regulations as everyone else. And they need to understand exactly what these regulations are, why they are important and the implications that failure can have on their jobs and the future of the organisation.

With data protection regulations such as South Africa's Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) in full effect, the cost of an avoidable mistake can result in

hefty fines or even imprisonment for the directors of the company.

Such mistake can be as simple as someone clicking on a phishing email, falling for a social engineering call or unleashing a ransomware virus because they didn't recognise the risk. This is where good communication becomes as essential as good technology.

"The way we communicate, the content we use, and the way that it's distributed can make such a difference in how an organisation creates a strong security culture," notes Collard. She elaborates: "It's a blend of HR people practice, security good practice and marketing best practice. These three elements need to be pulled together to create a cohesive security ecosystem that ensures people truly understand that their actions can have serious consequences."

This level of engagement can be achieved in multiple ways. It is crucial to empower a person who interacts with

the different stakeholders across the business and who has the right support from the executive and HR.

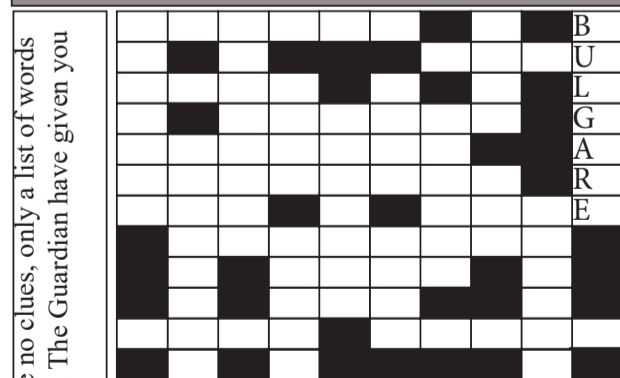
This role will then be committed to ensuring that security culture is carried throughout the company by implementing the right training platforms, incentivisation and punishment systems, and driving participation.

"Success will depend entirely on the level of stakeholder buy-in, the depth of the training and a commitment to ensuring that the training is ongoing and measurable," says Collard.

She adds: "Security training has to be iterated and repeated constantly to ensure that people are always kept aware of its importance and any changes in attack vector or threat. Only by keeping security top of mind, all the time, can an organisation truly embed a culture that's capable of staying secure and alert."

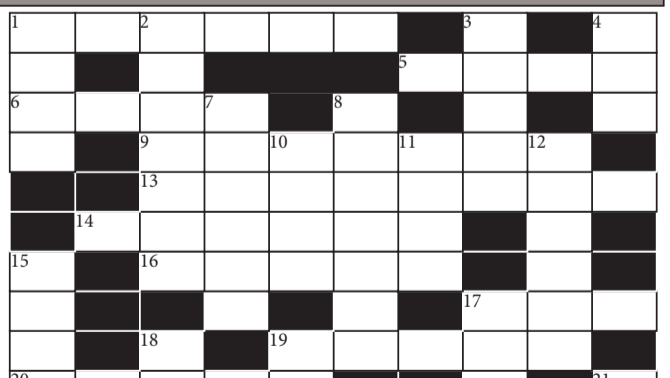
Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 131 00--



WORD-FIT

3 letters RAT, EAT, BYE
4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
5 letters AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
6 letters BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
7 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
8 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
9 letters CALAMITY,



CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across
1 to reprimand
5 sex that fertilizes the ovum
6 unkind, cruel
9 Overpopulated country in Africa
13 Animal of Australia
14 to stay
16 coloured tropical freshwater fish
17 barrier constructed to hold back water
19 stopped, ceased
20 small flat cake
22 highest point
23 largest horned African antelope

Down:
1 Italy's Capital
2 bed cover
3 infidel
4 human beings
7 Niger's capital
8 chain around a prisoner's ankle as a restraint
10 insect which sucks
11 an Indian actor
12 barbary sheep
15 friendly and sociable with fellow members not outsiders
17 dues
18 a walking stick
19 used as an expression of pain
21 large tailless primate

SOLUTIONS

WORLD-FIT: RIVER, OH, DOMESTICATE, EAS, ENTER, SUPPLIES, MOUSE, DEER, SPAIN, TRIBE, ANGLE, KIDGAS, INTACTING, MODERN, LIMAM, SOWER, BREAK, LIME, REVES, DENUN, KARATE, EDA, ASIN, EEDY, LEAVE, IS, R, S

BUSINESS

INNOVATIVE

Meet obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Karabo Tlale, who developed unisex skincare products



An EKGs smartwatch.

DIGITIZATION

Smartwatch EKGs quickly delivering crucial heart data

ROME

The ability to identify an ongoing heart attack quickly and easily with a smartphone could be of great help in certain situations.

Could a smartwatch app save a heart attack patient's life? Quite possibly, according to Italian researchers. They found that electrocardiograph (EKG) readings from a smartwatch were nearly as accurate as standard EKGs among patients with suspected heart attacks.

"A [standard] electrocardiograph is not always readily available," said study author Dr. Carlo Indolfi. "[So] the ability to identify an ongoing heart attack quickly and easily thanks to the use of a simple smartphone could be of great help in certain situations in reducing the negative consequences of a heart attack." Indolfi is director of cardiovascular research at Magna Graecia University in Catanzaro, Italy.

An EKG is a graphic representation of the heart's electrical activity. Indolfi noted that these readouts are critical for establishing whether a patient with chest pain has had a heart attack. It can also quickly identify specific causes.

To see whether smartwatch electrocardiograms actually work, researchers assessed EKG reliability among 81 patients who sought care for a likely heart attack at one clinic between April 2019 and January 2020. Two-thirds were men (average age: 61). All received a standard "12-lead" EKG, which uses 12 electrodes at different spots on the chest and limbs to produce a reading.

Patients also had an EKG using the Apple Watch Series 4. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the smartwatch's built-in EKG tool as a reliable way to detect the serious heartbeat irregularity known as atrial fibrillation.

Instead of 12 electrode leads, the smartwatch is equipped with sensors designed to form a single electrode lead. As a workaround, researchers successively placed the watch in nine spots on each patient's body to generate multiple readings. The readings were then uploaded to an Apple iPhone.

Watch doesn't generate diagnosis

For comparison purposes, 19 men and women who were not suspected of having experienced a heart attack also had standard and smartwatch EKGs. Watch-generated EKGs were 94% accurate when it came to correctly identifying and distinguishing between various types of heart attacks, according to Indolfi. The watch also correctly noted that no heart attack had taken place in more than nine out of 10 healthy patients.

The watch does not generate a diagnosis; the EKG readings need to be interpreted by a doctor. But the findings suggest that "with the Apple Watch it is possible to perform a nine-lead EKG with an almost similar reliability as the standard EKG," Indolfi said.

That's important, he added, because the faster post-heart attack treatments are administered, the better the outcome. That's especially true, Indolfi said, among patients who experience a very severe form of heart attack known as a STEMI (ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction).

Such patients can do well after insertion of a stent or a balloon (coronary angioplasty) to widen a blocked artery, Indolfi noted. But that procedure only "reduces mortality if it is performed promptly", meaning administering an EKG within 10 minutes and then, treatment within two hours.

Faster diagnosis and treatment
Dr. Gregg Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-University of California, Los Angeles Cardiomyopathy Center, welcomed the findings with cautious optimism. "This new feasibility study shows that a smartwatch could be used to obtain multiple leads of an EKG," he said, underscoring the "high level [of] agreement" between smartwatch and standard readings.

Fonarow said more follow-up work will be needed to confirm the findings. But he agreed that smartwatch EKGs could ultimately prove very helpful in speeding up diagnosis and treatment in situations where time is of the essence, including heart attacks in setting where standard EKGs are not available.

JOHANNESBURG

The 10-step Korean skincare routine captivated many beauty enthusiasts but not a lot of people will go through as many steps for body care, which is actually just as important.

Many of us have heard of dry brushing and hopefully have a regular exfoliating schedule, but a good body care routine goes beyond just a good scrub in the shower. If you have dry skin, the average body cream from the local store could still leave your skin dry and ashy. People who have mature skin may need to introduce extra nourishment to maintain how their skin holds up.

Dr. Karabo Tlale has the answers to skincare and tested her products herself as she developed them, after she started noticing changes in her own skin. "My skin started showing signs of losing elasticity and, especially during winter, I struggle a lot with dryness. So, it was about trying to get something I felt would be designed for myself to try and care for my skin in a better way," she says. She soon realised that while helping herself, other people could benefit too.

The key ingredients in her products are cocoa butter, shea butter, avocado, capsaicin (bell peppers) and collagen – "we're looking [at] using ingredients that are going to be good for moisturising the skin and also with anti-ageing properties". Other ingredients include sesame seed oil and rice bran oil, which help with hyper-pigmentation and toning.

Capsaicin, she says, helps with blood circulation and heat production. "Especially for the winter season. You want



Obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Karabo Tlale.

heat-generating properties, you want blood circulation warming the body, warming the skin throughout." Her body care line features a body butter, a body scrub, which will be followed by a firming gel to manage cellulite, a tissue oil and conditioning cream.

You may be wondering where gynaecology meets dermatology. As a trained and practising gynaecologist,

her interest in the dermis peaked in her 40s when she started noticing changes in her skin.

Although she didn't specialise in dermatology while pursuing her studies (the fact that she wouldn't be doing operations or going to theatre put her off the specialisation) her medical background bore some significance in her business because of her prior knowledge

of human physiology. On the business front, she empowered herself by doing some short courses.

While managing the business, she is still practising as a gynaecologist. "I've been in practice for the past 12 years and I'm still continuing," she says. "Once you've been trained as a doctor you get to be very active. You go on holiday. If it's two weeks long, by the second week you are

jittery and you want to work. I sometimes say, even when you're on holiday, you feel like going to the nearest hospital to go and ask if you can assist in any way [laughs]." However, she adds: "At my age, one would have to tone down. By age 55 I shouldn't be as active as I presently am."

Her products are based on natural ingredients. "There's a lot of scare about cancers, chemicals ... from what we are eating, what we are using on our bodies to try and make sure that we are not using any form of carcinogenic [substances], which are materials that would predispose you to getting cancers ... We want to generate something everybody is going to be comfortable with and not get any problems or any scares about what they are using it, whether it's healthy for them or not," she says.

In addition to having a plant-based formula, Dr. Karabo says she and her team ensure that no animals are compromised during the development of the products. And she is clear with her mission: "I'm looking at empowering and helping other people, not only ladies, because the products are unisex. So I'm [looking] at longevity, I'm looking at everyone being able to say they still have their confidence in themselves as they age."

CONTROVERSY

Do women become less desirable as they grow older, more accomplished

PARIS

When the Guardian reported that French author Yann Moix unapologetically declared in an interview with the French edition of Marie Claire magazine that "women over 50 are too old to love" and "invisible" to him, it was not only perplexing, but somewhat laughable too.

Of course, it's common for older men to date younger women, but as has been reiterated multiple times - some preferences are just a scapegoat for unwarranted discrimination. "I prefer younger women's bodies, that's all. End of. The body of a 25-year-old woman is extraordinary. The body of a woman of 50 is not extraordinary at all," the novelist told the magazine, illustrating the point mentioned above.

We may make light of ageism, but sometimes when it's expressed in a body-shaming manner such as that of Yann's, it makes one wonder what the genuine reason behind men's general aversion to dating women their age or older is. It might be slightly deeper than just plain age preference.

Is it blatant misogyny? Is it insecurity? Or is it the fact that men only peak at age 50? A dating study



French author, Yann Moix.

reported in BusinessTech might have the answers for us single, ambitious, over-25s. According to BusinessTech, around one in three South Africans are using some kind of dating app or service. That means that 31% of the population are swiping right or liking someone's profile online.

Which seems to be the way dating is going nowadays. We hardly meet people in bars or randomly in supermarkets anymore.

But a new study confirms what we already know about dating (especially when you're a cisgender, heterosexual female) and also adds a new level of urgency. The study, published in the journal Science Advances, shows that for online daters, women peak at age 18, while men peak at age 50.

The study looked at the "desirability" of male and female users based on how many messages nearly 200,000 users (all seeking opposite-

sex partners) got over one month on a popular online dating service. They also looked at whether or not the people sending the message were "desirable" based on the same criteria. And based on this researchers found that men don't peak until they're 50, but women peak at age 18. But this isn't the first time we've heard results like this from a study.

In 2010, research from OkCupid found that men from the ages of 22 to 30 were almost completely focused on meeting women who were younger than them. A line from an OkCupid blog post reads: "The median 30-year-old man spends as much time messaging teenage girls as he does women his own age."

The researchers for this study were actually surprised by the results (maybe they haven't been swiping as long as some of us and seen the results for themselves). "The age gradient for women definitely surprised us - both in terms of the fact that it steadily declined from the time women were 18 to the time they were 65, and also how steep it was," said

Elizabeth Bruch, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Michigan and an author of the study, The New York Times reports.

So why exactly are older men so intent on meeting, dating, and/or hooking up with younger women? One psychologist, Michelle Drouin, told The New York Times it has to do with evolution. Apparently, males seek out younger women for fertility reasons they don't even realise. Dr. Drouin also said that men could just be more interested in how younger women look.

But as if that isn't enough, if you're educated, you might be at a disadvantage too. The study found that men weren't as interested in women with undergraduate degrees. Dr. Drouin believes that may be because men think women who are educated with higher degrees have "more work commitment and less relationship and family commitment."

But there is a silver lining - the research might not be entirely accurate. It is possible that older men might be messaging younger women just to see what would happen. You know, taking their chances. And Dr. Drouin says she believes that what people look for in online dating reflects aspiration more than what they actually want. This is based on the fact that most users in the study messaged people who were more desirable than themselves, representing dating preferences more than reality.

So if you're an educated woman in her mid 20s to 30s then it looks like you're less interesting to men your own age or older even if you are looking for a man with a bit of experience. But that doesn't mean it's a lost cause.

How a happy relationship can help your health

BOSTON

Eighties rocker Huey Lewis was right: The power of love is a curious thing, and it might just save your life. Or at least make it longer and healthier. Studies have shown supportive relationships in general and marriage in particular can be healthy for you.

Boost energy levels

A 2017 study in the Journal of the American Heart Association found unmarried people with heart disease were 52% more likely to have a heart attack or die from a cardio-

vascular problem after nearly four years compared with married heart patients. Overall, the death rate for married people is lower than for those who were never married, divorced or widowed, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

"Imaging studies show that viewing pictures of one's romantic partner activates brain regions related to mood and pain regulation. Thinking about a partner also may boost energy by positively affecting blood glucose levels. That all aligns with striking findings showing the power of supportive relationships

of all kinds.

Dr. Robert Waldinger is director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, which has been tracking two groups of men since 1938. His TED talk on "What makes a good life?" has been viewed tens of millions of times. Among other things, the study has found stable relationships at midlife are a better predictor of being healthy and happy 30 years later than cholesterol levels.

The clearest message from the study, he tells the audience, is this: "Good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period." Where does this power come from? "That

is the \$64,000 question," he said in an interview.

Lower stress hormones

One theory is that good relationships calm people down from the fight-or-flight response that kicks in when they're scared or angry, said Waldinger, a psychiatrist and professor at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Stress hormones released at such moments can be harmful. But, he said, "If you have a really lousy day and something bad happens, and you go home and there's somebody you can talk to about it, you can almost literally feel your body

decompress as you talk about what was wrong. Especially if you have somebody who's a good listener and maybe says a few encouraging things."

Studies have shown physical intimacy, such as holding hands or hugging, can lower levels of stress hormones. But relationships play a bigger role beyond regulating stress, said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University in Utah. A supportive partner might encourage you in healthy ways - to exercise or eat better or see a doctor when you need one.

KEEP-HEALTH

Kenyans fall in love with cycling again

NAIROBI

A group of men and women in neon helmets, stretchy pants, and jerseys, and cycling glasses lean on bicycles to take photographs on a road. Together with their bikes, they are creating beautiful memories.

It is a Saturday and they have been cycling for kilometres not to compete against anyone but to beat their set goals; be it to ride for 300 kilometres or mental wellness. Welcome to a new community of cyclists that is kindling its love for bikes.

Since the coronavirus curtailed Kenyans' fun plans, bicycles have become one of their top priorities. Demand for bicycles has gone up, so is the number of people cycling in nature trails and roads.

Ben Asin and his group of over 300 cyclists are among the many Kenyans who have found happiness on bikes. Ben started cycling two years ago. "I'd steal my brother George's bicycle and ride for kilometres to visit my girlfriend," he says. "George decided to give it to me and he bought himself another one."

As Ben cycled for kilometres to nurture his romantic love, he discovered a new love along the way. "I realised that when I'm on a bike, I feel relaxed and happy," he says. Just as John F. Kennedy said, "Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride" Ben decided to recruit a coterie of cyclists.

He founded Spin Kings Kenya which trains beginners, and curates for semi-elite and elite riders. "Our rides are goal-oriented rather than competition-oriented," says the 26-year-old. "We focus on achieving fitness goals and promoting healthy lifestyles and having fun while at it. Last year, was very hard for me



Catherine Wambui.

as I struggled with depression. If it wasn't for cycling, I'd have fallen into alcoholism," he says.

Four months into starting the company, Covid-19 spurred a sharp increase in recreational cycling as people sought ways to beat cabin fever during lockdowns and get exercise outdoors. Every weekend, Ben now organises bike rides for 110 beginners, and 100 cyclists in the semi-elite and elite groups. "Some have confessed to being mentally healthy during this period just because of cycling," he says.

"Others have become healthier, dropping unhealthy habits like binge-drinking and overeating to kill boredom," says Ben, who has lost six kilogrammes since he started cycling. So far he has organised 36 rides. The oldest cyclist in his group is a 52-year-old while the youngest is six years old.

The two most popular routes

are to Nairobi-Machakos, Nairobi-Namanga, and back which involves cycling for about 130 kilometres. The cyclists make three to five resting stops and to ensure safety, motorbike marshals help control traffic.

Cycling queens

In Nairobi, the common perception is that cycling is dominated by a particular demographic—well-off male professionals who can afford specialist bikes. But Spin Kings has attracted 'queens' too. Women riders are referred to as spin queens; the men spin kings and the children spin kids.

Catherine Wambui, 26, is one of the spin queens. She has been cycling for three years. Her longest ride has been 300 kilometres, a loop from Nairobi to Embu and back. "I first bought a bike to use it as a mode of transport between

home and university. Little did I know that cycling was a door to grand opportunities," she says.

Next month, she would have been on a flight to The Netherlands for a duathlon competition had it not been for the pandemic. "Last year, I participated in the Watamu Triathlon/Duathlon and qualified for the duathlon. I was so excited because the Netherlands is known for its amazing cycling routes," she says. What started as a fun activity also opened an opportunity for her to sell customised bike stands and accessories.

The bike has also helped Catherine beat depression. "When I'm on a bike, I'm in a happy world. This is what keeps my mental health in check," she says, adding that it has also built her endurance. As a woman cyclist, however, she has had to overcome stereotypes. "People assume that a woman's body isn't built for cycling. I'm proof that it is," says Catherine whose weight oscillates between 50kg to 52kg.

Cycling has come with many benefits, she says. She used to have back and breathing problems that caused her to not be able to even do the simple things like bending. Not anymore. As soon as she took up cycling, it was yesterdays sorrow. She has also regained her appetite, and she has flattened her tummy and now has toned abs, arms, thighs, and legs.

What it costs

For cycling to be of utmost enjoyment, it requires an investment. "You need a perfect fit bike to avoid back injuries as well as proper cycling gear, shoes, and a helmet," Catherine says.

Her bike, called Planet X, cost Sh100,000. Ben's Giant Road bike cost Sh200,000. He calls it Zanna. "In addition to the bike, the cycling full kit, the helmet and shoes cost Sh5,000 each and the gloves cost Sh3,000,"

Ben adds.

Cycling is also gaining popularity because it is easy to weave its fitness benefits into day-to-day life. This is what Raphael Kamotho, 26, decided to do while under quarantine. With movement restrictions and extra time on his hands, the engineering graduate pulled apart his bike and piece by piece, put it back together.

"It was very satisfying to repair it with my two hands. A true labour of love," he says. Today, he stands lean and lithe, next to his daily companion, and together, they have made beautiful memories.

"I've had this bike for a long time," he says. "However, with Covid-19, I've come to appreciate more. Cycling is thrilling. It takes you places faster, saves you money, and makes you strong mentally and physically," says Raphael, who weighs 57kg.

Cycling holidays

After spending much of their time in gyms and offices, searching for a purpose and ways to clear their minds of clutter, some seem to have found it in cycling trips in tea plantations. A passion for adventure and active travel motivated Patrick Njoroge and his two friends to form Active Motion Kenya. On a bike, they have been showcasing Kenya's beauty to international and local clients, for the past five years.

"We organise road cycling and biking adventure tours. From riding on roads, to high climbs, across wheat farms in Nanyuki to tea plantations in Limuru," says Patrick. Before Covid-19, they organised weekly cycling trips but they had to scale back due to a decline in international tourism.

"But there's been an increase in domestic interest in cycling," he says, adding that many people want to cycle to destinations such as Tigoni Tea Farms, Nanyuki, and Mt Suswa, in small groups so as maintain social distance.

EGGHEADS

Youngsters in Johannesburg come up with unique-brad instant coffee

JOHANNESBURG

Childhood best friends, Karabo Troy Makakaba and Katlego Mathibela have launched a new range of freeze-dried instant coffee made from green coffee beans shipped from Ethiopia and Brazil.

The duo launched Karabego - a combination of their names - in June, and hope to see their product in popular grocery stores soon. Makakaba, 27, says he has been interested in the coffee industry since his days at university. "I love coffee so much. This thing of buying other people's coffee didn't appeal to me so I figured, let me just create my own," he said.

Makakaba shared the idea with his partner, Mathibela, about a year ago, and she provided the push needed to create an actual product. "We noticed that filter-ground [coffee] is high maintenance and requires machines. Our market is the black community and not everyone has a coffee machine," Makakaba said.

Mathibela approached various companies in the coffee market and finally found one in Centurion that helped them source the green coffee beans from Ethiopia and Brazil they needed to start their business. The process of making instant coffee out of ground coffee beans requires either dehydrating or freeze-drying. Turning freeze-dried coffee into instant is a bit more complicated than the alternative.

First the coffee concentrate has to be chilled to about -7 Celsius, making a slush. That slush is separated, and slowly cooled further to ensure large granules. The resulting "coffee popsicle" is ground down for drying, before being placed in a vacuum chamber where the remaining ice is vaporised, leaving behind tiny coffee particles ready for consumption.

Raising the capital to set up the machinery to do any of that seemed all but impossible. "We started breaking it down into something doable for us and then started looking into ways of raising capital instead of stressing ourselves over big figures, and then lockdown happened," said Mathibela. In order to raise funds, the pair made stuffed bags, masks, and art.

Makakaba and Mathibela rely heavily on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for their marketing. The duo said the response they have received since launching their coffee via social media far exceeded their expectations. They made their first deliveries in June, and word started to spread.

Instead of seeing them through until December, their first order of beans ran out so fast they are already on their third. That is despite the fact that they still don't have a website, and sell over the phone, then personally make deliveries from their base in Johannesburg to buyers as far afield as Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal.

LOVE-BIRDS

Nelspruit power couple on what it takes to run a successful business together

MPUMALANGA

The success of their strategy and marriage is evident in the seamless way in which Zodwa and Sibusiso Tshabalala started their business venture and saw it thrive.

Mpumalanga is known for its scenic holiday destinations that feature picturesque views of waterfalls,

rivers, wildlife, and lush greenery. The province is also home to eBundu Lodge, which is the perfect marriage of safari and modern holiday living.

Speaking of marriage, the couple who owns the lodge at the heart of the province, Nelspruit, is married, and they've found the perfect balance of being both life

and business partners. Born and bred in Johannesburg, Zodwa started her career in sports and fitness administration before pivoting into business administration. Sibusiso has a background in business banking.

The couple has always known they would take on entrepreneurship together but didn't always know that

they would end up in the hospitality industry. "Initially, we were looking into property development," Zodwa says. Starting the business proved to be more challenging than expected and there have been plenty of challenges but their strong partnership created a strong foundation to counter the trials.

Speaking about taking a leap of faith in business Zodwa says, "Often, we want things to be so perfect before we start. Yes, you have to do a lot of planning, you must do your research, you must have your pro-forma statements and balance sheets, but nothing is perfect. Never wait for the time to be so perfect before leaping into what you want to do."

We're not the only example; there's the Fergusons, the Khumalos, we see the Obama family. There are other examples, why do we choose to see the stuff that is broken? Between 2017 and 2018, the couple was involved in an unprecedented legal battle with the previous owners at the onset of their entrepreneurial journey together.

Zodwa also speaks about some unique challenges that she's had to go through. "The fact that I am young, a female and my structure (being petite) means that people just look at you as this cute little [person]. And sometimes my husband has to leave the room because people want to relate to him, they cannot see us as equal directors," says Zodwa.

"I think I'm very blessed because he is very conscious of this, and we are intentionally trying to ensure that it is not always the case that people just continually fall

into that stereotype of 'let's deal with the male.' There are specific spaces where he will just not be there, or he will just keep quiet and allow the interaction to happen with me," she adds.

Despite these challenges, Zodwa doesn't get intimidated in a room that's full of males. "It's not the first thing I see," she says, adding that it's not uncommon for couples to start business ventures together. She adds that people should not fear failure to a point where they don't ever start anything, adding that having people to look up to and reference for what you are trying to achieve is essential.

"Not everybody is going to have it perfect, and we should never put that pressure on our-

selves. I also feel like it's a known fact that as long you have someone to support you in your journey, life is so much better," says Zodwa.

If you want to be an entrepreneur, you really need a tad bit of extreme optimism. You've got to believe that this thing is going to work. And you need to be authentic as people appreciate authenticity.

Mentors are also crucial to Zodwa, and she says it's helpful to have different types of mentors. Above all else, Zodwa says, having an understanding and supportive partner who matches you by also bringing their full potential seems to be the key ingredient in a business venture with your significant other.



Zodwa Tshabalala and her husband Sibusiso.



Childhood best friends Karabo Troy Makakaba and Katlego Mathibela.

WORLD

Suspect in Portland shooting killed by police during arrest

PORTLAND, ORE.

POLICE shot and killed an anti-fascist activist on Thursday as they moved in to arrest him for the alleged fatal shooting of a right-wing activist in Portland, Oregon, last weekend, officials said.

Michael Reinhoehl, 48, was wanted on a charge of murder when members of a fugitive task force shot him dead in Olympia, Washington after he left an apartment building and got in a car, according to police.

"The suspect produced a firearm, threatening the lives of law enforcement officers," a U.S. Marshals Service spokesman said in a statement.

Thurston County Sheriff's Office is

responsible for investigating the incident.

"The information that we have at this time is that the suspect was armed," said Lt. Ray Brady of the Sheriff's Office.

"There were shots that were fired into the vehicle and the subject fled from the vehicle, at which time there were additional shots that were fired," he said, adding that the exact circumstances had yet to be confirmed.

Portland Police earlier on Thursday issued a warrant for Reinhoehl's arrest and asked the U.S. Marshals to locate him.

"They lit his ass up," bystander Jashon Spencer said in an online video. "It sounded like fireworks it was



that many shots."

Reinhoehl (pictured), who had provided security for Black Lives Matter protests in Portland, was allegedly involved in the shooting of Aaron Danielson on Saturday night, the U.S. Marshal's Service said.

Danielson, 39, was among a caravan of supporters of President Donald Trump who rode in pickup trucks into downtown Portland and clashed with protesters demonstrating against racial injustice and police brutality.

Portland has seen escalating clashes between right- and left-wing groups in recent weeks following nearly 100 days of protests since George Floyd, a Black man, died in Minneapolis on May 25 after a white police officer knelt on his neck.

Several people involved in overnight protests in Portland were arrested after they threw projectiles at officials, the police said in a statement on Friday.

Police said they did not use any crowd control munitions or tear gas to control the crowd.

'NO CHOICE'

Reinhoehl died only hours after Vice News broadcast a video in which he appeared to admit he shot Danielson and said he acted in self-defense.

"I had no choice. I mean, I, I had a choice. I could have sat there and watched them kill a friend of mine of color. But I wasn't going to do that," he said in the video, adding he feared he would be stabbed.

Reinhoehl was previously cited for carrying a loaded gun at a July 5 Portland protest, resisting arrest and interfering with police, according to The Oregonian newspaper. The allegations were subsequently dropped, the newspaper reported.

In social media posts Reinhoehl described himself as a professional snowboarder, a U.S. Army veteran and "100% ANTIFA."

Antifa is a largely unstructured, far-left movement whose followers broadly aim to confront those they view as authoritarian or racist.

Reinhoehl said he was prepared to fight to change the "course of humanity."

"It will be a war and like all wars there will be casualties," he said in a June 16 Instagram post.

In July, the Trump administration deployed federal forces to Portland to crack down on the protests.

Trump signed a memo on Wednesday that threatened to cut federal funding to "lawless" cities, including Portland.

On Thursday he had demanded that police arrest Reinhoehl.

"Why aren't the Portland Police ARRESTING the cold blooded killer of Aaron 'Jay' Danielson. Do your job, and do it fast. Everybody knows who this thug is. No wonder Portland is going to hell!" he tweeted.

Agencies

Quarantine 'confusion' in the UK with different rules for England, Wales and Scotland

LONDON

TRAVELLERS to the United Kingdom faced what the transport minister said was confusion yesterday as Wales and Scotland slapped a quarantine on arrivals from Portugal but England and Northern Ireland held back from

restrictions. Wales will quarantine travellers from Portugal, Gibraltar, French Polynesia and the Greek islands of Mykonos, Zakynthos, Lesbos, Paros, Antiparos and Crete as of Friday.

Scotland will do the same for travellers from Portugal and French Polynesia from 0300 GMT

on Saturday. England and Northern Ireland will not.

"I do realise it creates confusion for people not to have a single rule (across the UK) but we do have this devolved approach throughout the United Kingdom and I can only be responsible for the English part of that," Transport Secretary

Grant Shapps told Sky News. Asked about testing at airports, Shapps said there was no silver bullet as a day zero test was unlikely to work.

"A day zero test as you come home is unlikely to find the vast majority of people who travelled with coronavirus," Shapps said, adding that the government's

health experts thought such a test would pick up just 7% of people who were positive.

"So you probably have to have some kind of quarantine period, perhaps seven or eight days, maybe a test then - those are the things we are working through," Shapps said.

Agencies

UK sees just 30-40% chance of Brexit trade deal - Times

LONDON

SENIOR officials in British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office see only a 30%-40% chance that there will be a Brexit trade agreement with the European Union due to an impasse over state aid rules, The Times reported.

The United Kingdom left the EU on Jan 31, turning its back after 47 years on the post-World War Two project that sought to build the

ruined nations of Europe into a global power.

The British exit followed more than three years of wrangling over an exit deal since the 2016 referendum that sent shockwaves through global financial markets. Since Brexit, talks on a new trade deal have so far made little headway.

Britain's desire to use state aid to build up its technology sector means that Johnson's top ministers are unwilling to budge in ne-



gotiations on state aid, The Times said.

"Inside No 10, they now think there is only a 30 to 40 per cent chance that there will be an agreement," James Forsyth, political editor of The Spectator, wrote in a column. "The sticking point isn't fish - I'm told that there is a 'deal to be done' there - but state aid."

Talks on the trade deal are due to resume in London next week. The EU says Britain cannot retain all the economic and trading benefits it had as an EU member,

while London says Brussels is not showing enough flexibility.

Failure to reach a trade deal would hammer financial markets as nearly a trillion dollars in trade, from car parts and medicines to lamb and fish, would be thrown into turmoil.

The UK wants the percentage of fish quotas reserved for UK vessels in British waters to increase from some 25% now to more than 50%, The Times said.

Agencies

What you need to know about the coronavirus right now

LONDON

HERE'S what you need to know about the coronavirus right now:

No widespread vaccinations until mid-2021

The World Health Organization does not expect widespread vaccinations against COVID-19 until the middle of next year, a spokeswoman said, stressing the importance of rigorous checks on their effectiveness and safety.

None of the candidate vaccines in advanced clinical trials so far has demonstrated a "clear signal" of efficacy at the level of at least 50% sought by the WHO.

Russia granted regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine in August after less than two months of human testing, prompting some Western

experts to question its safety and efficacy.

U.S. public health officials and Pfizer said on Thursday a vaccine could be ready for distribution as soon as late October. That would be just ahead of the U.S. election on Nov. 3 in which the pandemic is likely to be a major factor among voters.

Australian protests at virus restrictions grow

Australia's prime minister pressed states to reopen their borders by December and ease restrictions, as businesses and locked-down households vented their frustration over deepening revenue and job losses.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the country would look to bring more Australians home, raising the cap from 4,000 a week, and suggest-



ed an eventual travel bubble with New Zealand would boost tourism and help revive the economy, which has fallen into recession for the first time since 1991.

"In the absence of a vaccine, we

may have to live this way for years," Morrison told reporters.

The strict lockdown has led to calls for protests this weekend, which police have aggressively tried to shut down. Video footage of po-

lice seeking to detain a woman and a man for inciting people to protest have gone viral on social media.

Airlines urge London-New York trial

Major airlines want the U.S. and British governments to launch a passenger testing trial for the coronavirus for flights between London and New York to pave the way for a resumption of more international travel.

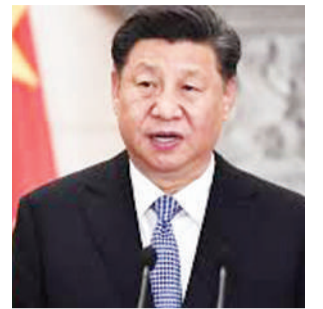
In a letter to government transportation officials seen by Reuters, the chief executives of Airlines for America, Airlines UK, Heathrow Airport and Virgin Atlantic Airways said both governments should "establish passenger testing solutions in air travel."

Agencies

Xi: Party, people will never be divided

BEIJING

THE Chinese people will not allow attempts by any individual or force to alienate them from the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping said in Beijing on Thursday.



Speaking at a symposium commemorating the 75th anniversary of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War, Xi (pictured) said that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation must count on the leadership of the CPC, put people first and steadfastly follow the path of peaceful development.

Any attempt to distort the history of the CPC or vilify its nature and objectives, to distort or change the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, or to deny or vilify the Chinese people's great achievements in building socialism will also be resolutely opposed by the Chinese people, said Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Xi stressed that the Chinese people will not allow any individual or force to impose their will on China through bullying, to change the path that China should follow, or to hinder the Chinese people's efforts to create a better life.

Attempts to obstruct the Chinese people's peaceful life and their right to development or to sabotage their exchanges and cooperation with people in other countries are also opposed, he said.

Noting that the country has witnessed earthshaking changes since the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, Xi said that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is ushering in a bright future as China is nearly completing its goals in poverty alleviation and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The president pointed out that commemorating the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War also means reflecting on the lessons of history in order to safeguard peace in the future.

Peaceful and friendly long-term China-Japan relations conform to the fundamental interests of people in both countries and meet the need for maintaining peace and stability in both Asia and the world, said Xi, stressing that Japan putting its history of militarist aggression in perspective and showing remorse for it is the important political foundation for the establishment and development of bilateral ties.

Xi hailed the great spirit of resisting aggression bred during the war as an invaluable source of inspiration, saying that it will always motivate the Chinese people to overcome all difficulties and obstacles and strive to achieve national rejuvenation. The Chinese people demonstrated to the world their patriotism, national character, heroism and a strong will to win during the war, he said, adding that it was also a great victory in which the CPC had played a vital role.

On Thursday morning, Chinese leaders led by Xi attended a commemoration in Beijing for the 75th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

It was also attended by representatives from all walks of life, including war veterans, relatives of military officers and martyrs who fought in the war, as well as relatives of foreigners who contributed to victory in the war.

The event was held at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression near Lugou Bridge, also known as Marco Polo Bridge, in southwestern Beijing.

Xinhua

Russia ready to share experience of developing COVID-19 vaccine with BRICS, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is ready to share the experience of fighting coronavirus, including developing a vaccine, with its BRICS partners, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday.



"Let me remind you that the first Russian COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, was registered recently. Russian scientists developed drugs against the coronavirus infection. We are ready to share this experience with other countries, including our BRICS friends," the minister said in his opening remarks at a meeting of the BRICS foreign ministers held via a video conference.

On August 11, the Sputnik V vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology received a registration certificate from the Russian Ministry of Health, becoming the world's first registered coronavirus vaccine. More information on the Sputnik V vaccine and other details are available at sputnikvaccine.com.

Agencies

THE Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had expanded its funds under the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility to \$13 billion, and already provided \$5.9 billion worth of funds to 12 countries by the end of July.

It has recently provided Pakistan with a loan of \$250 million to help the country combat the pandemic, approved a loan of €45 million to help the Georgian government cushion the impact of the virus, and loaned \$100 million to the commercial banks in Vietnam to facilitate the economic recovery of the companies in the country.

This is the first time that the AIIB has participated in the global governance of a major public health emergency. It is quite clear

AIIB infuses new impetus to global governance

that the institution has played a positive role in fundraising, providing relief and restoring social and economic order.

Besides achieving great results in response to the epidemic, the AIIB has played a unique part in promoting economic growth and global development since it was officially launched in January 2016. It has also brought new ideas, mechanisms and practices for global governance to the table and been widely recognized and praised by the world.

The AIIB serves as a good example of practicing multilateralism and adhering to cooperation for mutual benefits.

In recent years, currents of anti-globalization such as unilateralism and protectionism have impacted the international order and weakened the effectiveness of global governance.

To address issues emerging in the course of economic globalization, countries should pursue more inclusive global governance, more effective multilateral institutions, and more robust regional cooperation.

Shouldering the responsibility of a major country, China has facilitated the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and initiated the establishment of the AIIB, which

proves to be an important part of multilateral mechanisms, providing a new service platform for promoting cooperation among different regions and connecting developed and developing countries.

While stimulating global economic growth through multilateral mechanisms, the AIIB aims to help make global governance more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all.

The AIIB has created a new mechanism for global governance. The new-type cooperative partnership established under the AIIB has not only enriched the global governance system,

but complemented and developed in harmony with multilateral mechanisms such as the World Bank and the United Nations (UN), becoming an important link in global governance.

Amid the global fight against the epidemic, the AIIB has actively provided members with financing services in public health and economy and focused on expanding the infrastructure investment for Asian countries in such fields as public health, medical care, and information and communication technology, effectively helping members strengthen their ability of resisting crises and resume economic construction.

Such contributions of the AIIB have mirrored its power of action, effectiveness as well as the practical benefits that it has brought to the members.

Through innovative practices, the AIIB aims to help with global poverty reduction and promote sustainable development.

Targeted at serving developing countries, the AIIB makes it its responsibility to eradicate poverty and has strived to inject vitality into the economic development of these countries.

The investment projects provided by the AIIB for countries and regions along the Belt and Road have broken the develop-

ment bottleneck caused by lack of funds in these countries.

By facilitating infrastructure construction and realizing interconnectivity, the AIIB hopes to build and strengthen the capacity of people along the Belt and Road on poverty alleviation and development and endeavors to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

Robert Zoellick, former president of the World Bank, noted that the AIIB has set a good example in the world in terms of governance, transparency, international standards and cooperation.

In today's world, no country can deal with the challenges facing global governance all by itself.

People's Daily

International community slams US sanctions against ICC senior officials

BEIJING

THE international community has expressed consistent condemnation against the sanctions imposed by the United States on the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor and a member of her office, calling on the U.S. government to lift the punitive measures.

The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and a senior staff member in her office for continuing to investigate war crimes allegations against Americans.

This triggered widespread backlash and criticism across the world. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday noted "with concern" about the sanctions.

On behalf of the UN chief Antonio Guterres, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said "we continue to closely

follow developments on this matter," adding that UN will "be analyzing any possible implications that this development may have with respect to the implementation of the agreement."

Josep Borrel, the European Union high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, said the sanctions are "unprecedented measures that attempt to obstruct the Court's investigations and judicial proceedings."

"The United States should reconsider its position and reverse the measures it has taken. Impunity must never be an option," said Borrel.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also condemned the U.S. movement, saying "the measures announced on Sept. 2 amount to a serious attack on the court and signatory states of the Treaty of Rome and, beyond this, a challenge to multilateralism and the independence of the judiciary." "France calls on the United



ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda

States to reverse the announced measures," he added.

The Palestine Liberation Organization

(PLO) called on the international community to reject the U.S. sanctions. "President Donald Trump's administration is trying to keep the international system under its control by using the logic of power and arrogance and crush the principle of accountability and anything legal or humanitarian," Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said in an emailed press statement.

The ICC itself strongly rejected the decision. "These coercive acts, directed at an international judicial institution and its civil servants, are unprecedented and constitute serious attacks against the Court, the Rome Statute system of international criminal justice, and the rule of law more generally," said the ICC.

O-Gon Kwon, president of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC, said that he strongly rejects "such

unprecedented and unacceptable measures against a treaty-based international organization."

The ICC in March authorized an investigation into possible war crimes in Afghanistan, including those that may have been committed by the U.S. military and the CIA, which could lead to the indictment of U.S. military and intelligence personnel.

U.S. President Donald Trump in June authorized economic sanctions against ICC officials engaged in an investigation into U.S. personnel, which drew opposition from the international community and some of U.S. allies.

The ICC was established when the Rome Statute took effect in 2002. It prosecutes crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. **Xinhua**



Japan's Suga now tops popularity poll for PM

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga is now the most preferred candidate among the public to become the next prime minister, surging in popularity after he entered his party's leadership race, an Asahi Shimbun survey showed yesterday.

The survey highlights the growing momentum for Suga, the government's chief spokesman, who emerged as the front-runner to replace Prime Minister Shinzo Abe this week after securing the backing of several of his party's key factions.

Suga (pictured) has 38 percent of the public's support, ahead of 25 percent for former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba who had previously led several media opinion polls. Fumio Kishida, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's policy chief, came in last with 5 percent.

In a June Asahi survey, Ishiba led a pack of seven potential contenders with 31 percent while Suga had just 3 percent.

A longtime aide to Abe, who is resigning due to poor health, Suga said on Wednesday he had decided to run for the party leader to avoid a political vacuum during the coronavirus pandemic. The leadership election is set for Sept 14 with LDP lawmakers and regional party representatives casting votes. The winner is virtually assured of becoming prime minister because of the LDP's parliamentary majority.

Suga is arguably the government's most recognizable face after Abe, having served as chief spokesman for more than seven years and conducting twice daily press briefings. **Agencies**

More explosive chemicals found outside Beirut port after huge blast

BEIRUT

LEBANON'S army said on Thursday it had found 4.35 tonnes of ammonium nitrate near the entrance of a site where the Beirut port blast occurred last month, while rescue workers dug through the rubble of a collapsed building with their hands on Friday after signs of life were detected near the explosion site.

Army engineers were "dealing with it," according to an army statement carried by the state news agency NNA. The blast was caused by the same kind of highly explosive chemical.

A group of workers pulled up chunks of concrete and other broken masonry as they dug down in the residential district of Gemmayze after rescue workers said on Thursday they had detected signs of a pulse and breathing, a Reuters witness said.

A crane was brought to the search area to help by carefully lifting up steel girders and other heavy pieces of debris.

The team of rescue workers included volunteers who came from Chile, as well as Lebanese volunteers and members of the civil defence.

Residents gathered nearby, holding out hope that someone could be found, while some voiced frustration that not enough had been done earlier to find survivors.

The catastrophic explosion on Aug 4 that ripped through the city killed about 190 people. The authorities said it was caused by about 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that had been stacked in unsafe conditions in a port warehouse for years.

The blast smashed entire neighbourhoods, gutting buildings and injuring 6,000 people. Lebanon's government quit amid



French firefighters scale the side of a damaged building to clear debris in the Lebanese capital's Gemmayze area on August 29, 2020, in the aftermath of a massive explosion which devastated swathes of Beirut. AFP

public anger in a nation already brought to its knees by an economic crisis. The public remains anxious that more hazardous materials are being stored badly, putting them at risk.

Earlier on Thursday, President Michel Aoun ordered repairs to be made to old refuelling infrastructure at Beirut airport and called for an investigation into a report that thousands of litres of fuel had leaked from the system.

Beirut airport head Fadi el-Hassan told a news conference that a leak of 84,000 litres of fuel had occurred in March 2019 and repairs were completed in two months. He said international investigators had described the repairs as "satisfactory".

News of the leak added to concerns about public safety. "No explosion is awaiting us," Hassan told the news conference. **Agencies**

US CDC vaccine distribution plan draws great attention

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has asked states to be ready to distribute a potential coronavirus vaccine by Nov. 1, according to a letter of CDC Director Robert Redfield reported by U.S. media on Wednesday.

In the letter to state governors and health departments on Aug. 27, Redfield said the McKesson Corporation and its subsidiaries would soon be applying for permits to build distribution sites. He asked governors to consider waiving requirements that would delay construction or opening the sites.

"The normal time required to obtain these permits presents a significant barrier to the success of this urgent public health program," Redfield was quoted by media as writing in the letter. "CDC urgently requests your assistance in expediting applications for these distribution facilities and, if necessary, asks that you consider waiving requirements that would prevent these facilities from becoming fully operational by November 1, 2020," Redfield wrote.

Months into the pandemic, the United States has recorded more than 6.12 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 186,100 deaths by Thursday afternoon, according to a tally of Johns Hopkins University. The new plan



CDC Director Robert Redfield

indicates that the race for a COVID-19 vaccine may be picking up speed.

Several COVID-19 vaccines have already begun phase 3 clinical trials in the United States, including vaccine candidate AZD1222, co-invented by the University of Oxford and its spin-out company Vaccitech, vaccine candidate mRNA-1273, developed by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and American biotechnology company Moderna, and vaccine candidate BNT162b2, developed by American biopharmaceutical company Pfizer and German company BioNTech.

"At this time, we don't know which vaccines will be approved, however, limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available by early November 2020 and COVID-19 vaccine supply will increase substantially in 2021," a CDC spokesperson was quoted by NPR as saying.

Public health officials have offered different predictions as far as when the first vaccine may be ready for distribution, with most hoping for early next year.

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci said in July that he is "cautiously optimistic" a vaccine could be ready by the end of the year and distributed beginning in 2021.

In light of some health ex-

perts' warnings that a vaccine likely would not be developed and approved before the year's end, some critics have accused the federal government of rushing the vaccine for political gains, as the Nov. 1 target date is two days before the presidential election.

According to data from the NBC News/SurveyMonkey Weekly Tracking Poll released in August, less than half of American adults said they would get a government-approved coronavirus vaccine if one becomes widely available, while 22 percent would decline and 32 percent saying they were not sure. **Xinhua**

Jamaica ruling party wins landslide amid 'greatest crisis' ever

By Bloomberg

JAMAICAN voters returned 48-year-old Prime Minister Andrew Holness to power in a landslide to oversee the nation's recovery from its worst-ever economic crisis.

With 98.9 percent of ballot boxes counted, Holness's Jamaican Labour Party was ahead in 49 of the 63 parliamentary constituencies, compared to 14 seats for the opposition People's National Party led by former Finance Minister Peter Phillips.

Holness (pictured) told supporters that Phillips had called to congratulate him on his victory.

"We will usher in an era of stability in which we will grow and usher in an era when Jamaica can fulfill its true destiny," Holness said after his victory.

Jamaica has undergone one of the most dramatic turnarounds in emerging markets in recent years, slashing government debt, opening the doors to Chinese in-



vestment and getting unemployment down to record levels. Holness has pledged to get the island of nearly 3 million people back on track from the devastation caused by the pandemic, which left its tourist resorts empty for months on end.

Speaking alongside Holness, Finance Minister Nigel Clarke said that the country is going through "the greatest crisis that Jamaica has faced". Gross domestic product will plunge 7 percent to 10 percent this year, according to the

central bank, which would be the biggest drop since at least 1980.

But voters on the island of nearly 3 million people didn't blame Holness for the crash, and his forceful response to the pandemic as well as his backing for large public works projects bolstered his popularity.

Holness has vowed to make the central bank independent and keep tight curbs on spending during his second four-year term.

Voters were required to wear masks, and had their temperatures checked and hands sanitized before being allowed into voting stations. Those isolated due to Covid-19 were allowed to vote in the final hour before polls shut.

Jamaica's stock market is down 36 percent in dollar terms so far in 2020, the worst performer among more than 90 primary indices tracked by Bloomberg. Over the preceding decade it provided the best returns on the planet. **Agencies**

Russian Navy ships sent to assist tanker in distress in Indian Ocean

MOSCOW

A GROUP of the Pacific Fleet's combat ships has been urgently sent to render assistance to the tanker New Diamond in distress in the Indian Ocean, Russia's National Defense Control Center reported on Thursday.

"A group of the Pacific Fleet's combat ships comprising the

large anti-submarine warfare ships Admiral Tributs and Admiral Vinogradov and the large sea tanker Boris Butoma making a planned transit to the Andaman Sea for participating in the Indra Navy Russian-Indian joint naval exercise has been sent to the area in the Indian Ocean where the tanker New Diamond (the port of registry

Panama) is in distress," the statement says.

The tanker New Diamond was sailing from Kuwait to India. It is currently staying 180 miles off the coast of Sri Lanka.

"The team, except for two crewmembers, has left the tanker and is staying on rescue craft at sea," the Center specified. **Agencies**

Chinese Peking Opera troupes resort to online performance, attract large numbers of young audiences

A SERIES of Peking Opera performances are currently presented online by China's National Peking Opera Company (NPOC) and 18 Peking Opera troupes across the country.

The Peking Opera shows are staged free on various video platforms from Aug. 8 to Sept. 6 at 7:30 pm every day, including Kuaishou, Ximalaya and Qingting FM, as well as the website of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, attracting a large number of young people.

The debuting performance of the month-long online Peking Opera season was watched by a total of over 180,000 people and received more than a million likes. As of the end

of Aug. 24, these performances had been watched by nearly 46.5 million people and received over 21.3 million likes.

"The rapid development of 5G and new media has made online performance one of the most important ways for the young generation to experience entertainment and culture. It is a perfect time to promote the Peking Opera through this popular form," said Zhang Yafeng, deputy head of the NPOC. Demands are different in different eras, and the innovative method to promote the traditional Chinese quintessence is able to bring new charm and vitality to the ancient art form, he added.

The performances received positive comments on the internet. Some said it was their first time to get the beauty of the Chinese quintessence, while some said it was a rare opportunity to enjoy the masterpieces of Peking Opera artists.

The culture and art sector witnessed rapid development online during China's COVID-19 prevention and control, with a rising number of "cloud" performances and dramas. Many troupes have been actively exploring the online development space, launching rich online activities.

Modern Peking opera "Life Show" was watched by over a million peo-

ple online. Learning the message, Liu Ziwei, head of Wuhan Peking Opera Theatre and national class-A artist, was very happy. As one that acted a leading role in the opera, she told the People's Daily that to better inherit the traditional Peking Opera, the industry shall address the lack of young audience and the lack of innovation in scripts, so it's important to livestream the operas at the time being. "The online Peking Opera season this time expresses the attitude of the Peking Opera circle, and will greatly drive the innovation and development of the traditional Chinese opera.

Online performance is new to most of Peking Opera troupes. To move the

performance online is never simply recording the operas with cameras. It requests the troupes to change the way of production and performing so as to adapt to the new trend of watching.

Zhang told the People's Daily that they are working to not only stage the performances in the theaters, but also filming opera dramas to expand the spreading channels of traditional operas, so as to satisfy the different demands of audiences.

During the one-month online Peking Opera season, multiple artists have interacted with audiences through livestreaming, answering questions raised by them.

Zhang noted that livestreaming is a more direct way of interaction. The bullet screen and real-time comments have completely changed the one-way interaction in theaters, making it possible for audiences to cheer for artists while communicating with others who are also watching.

Besides, Mei Lanfang theater under the NPOC is now inviting Peking Opera fans to jointly complete arias with famous artists on short video platform Kuaishou.

"We will keep exploring tech-based manners to inherit the Peking Opera and make this traditional art form popular among young people," Zhang said. **People's Daily**



Morogoro's fashion designer, Saida Msuya (L), looks at one of her customers that has worn a T-shirt designed by the former at her shop at Nane Nane trade fair grounds in the region recently. Saida, popularly known as 'Mama Halima Fashion', laid her hands on the 2020 Iconic Lady award for her achievement in fashion industry. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Kitenge attires win customers in Morogoro

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA, MOROGORO

AS the world has turned into a village, thanks to massive progress that has been made in innovation, some of cultural elements of some societies have as well either improved or totally changed thanks to exchange of ideas in dressing styles, eating and language.

Kitenge fabric is widely referred to as an African fabric, given it is much used in Central, West and East African countries.

The fabric is suitable for designing such attires like shirts and trunks for men.

A section of Morogoro residents, in a recent interview with The Guardian, disclosed they are highly in favour of kitenge attires.

Over 50 men had recently flocked to the Nane Nane trade fair grounds in the region, where fashion designers' shops are located, to order kitenge clothes.

The region's popular fashion designer, Saida Msuya, is one of the industry's stakeholders that have greatly benefited from designing kitenge attires.

Saida, who owns a shop known as 'Mama Halima African Fashion's Boutique, has recently come up with a new men's fashion, producing clothes made up of a mixture of jeans and kitenge fabrics.

One of Saida's customers disclosed that wearing attires made up of a mixture of jeans and kitenge fabrics makes a man look smart.

The attires he said can be worn by a person when he goes to either office or other events.

"Jeans fabric materials, either black or

blue, attract people's eyes when the materials are designed with kitenge materials, the attire can be worn anywhere, contrary to T-shirt and jeans outfit," he said.

He said T-shirt and jeans outfit look more casual than a dress designed by mixing jeans and kitenge fabrics.

Saida, winner of this year's Iconic Lady award, disclosed attires' style changes due to time and technology.

She said respecting customers' needs turns out to be her first principle, noting the approach has helped her boost market for her clothes in and outside the country.

"It's true, men prefer a shirt designed by jeans and kitenge materials, I realized it once I found out they do not delay payment after designing clothes for them," she noted.

She said thanks to her contact with people, she has seen her designing skills being put to use in such countries like Germany and China.

Saida stated she annually receives tailors and fashion designing trainees from abroad with a view to sharing her designing skills and African dressing styles.

"I appreciate men for prioritizing African dressing styles, this tendency has been appreciated by my guests from abroad," she disclosed.

"Nowadays men prefer same dressing appearance either with their children or spouses and they mostly prefer attires made out of mixture of jeans and kitenge fabrics," she disclosed.

She said attires' price for men, women and children are negotiable due to materials and designs, but a simple shirt for children costs 30,000/-.

Oxford study: Tokyo Olympics are most costly Summer Games

TOKYO

THE Tokyo Olympics are already the most expensive Summer Games on record with costs set to go higher, a wide-ranging study from Britain's University of Oxford indicates.

The Tokyo cost overrun already exceeds 200%, lead author Bent Flyvbjerg explained in an interview with The Associated Press. This is even before several billion more dollars are added on from the one-year delay from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flyvbjerg is an economist at Oxford's Said Business School. His entire study is available here, and it's set to be published on Sept. 15 in the journal "Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space." It's titled "Regression to the Tail: Why the Olympics Blow Up."

Tokyo, postponed until July 23, 2021, is only a small part of the focus. The study – the third in a series following editions 2012 and 2016 – looks at Olympic costs since 1960 and finds they keep increasing despite claims by the International Olympic Committee that costs are being cut.

Flyvbjerg cites many reasons for the rising costs and cost overruns, and offers solutions for the IOC. The vast majority of costs are picked up by governments with the IOC contributing only a small portion.

"The Olympics offer the highest level of risk a city can take on," Flyvbjerg told AP. "The trend cannot continue. No city will want to do this because it's just too expensive, putting themselves into a debt that most cities cannot afford."

In his paper, Flyvbjerg cites Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, whose city is to hold the 2028 Olympics following Paris in 2024.

"Most cities, unless you have a government that's willing to go into debt or pay the subsidy of what this costs, most cities will never say 'yes' to the Olympics again unless they find the right model," he quotes Garcetti as saying.

By the right model, Garcetti means lower costs.

Tracking Olympic costs is difficult, a dense maze of overlap and debate. Politicians and organizers always argue over what are – and what are not – Olympic expenses.

Things to look out for on the VPL opening weekend

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

THE 2020/21 Mainland Premier League kicks off tomorrow, with defending champions Simba SC taking on promoted Ihefu FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

Young Africans SC (Yanga) will host Tanzania Prisons at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in a late kick off scheduled for 7:00pm.

In other matches on Sunday, Namungo FC will host Coastal Union of Tanga at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa, Lindi, Mtibwa Sugar and Ruvi Shooting will battle for three points at CCM Gairo Stadium in Morogoro Region.

Another promoted team in the Premier League, Dodoma Jiji FC, will host Mwadui FC at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma while Biashara United will host promoted Gwambina FC at Karume Stadium in Musoma.

Amongst all the excitement of the first weekend back, there will be plenty of interesting sub-plots to keep an eye out on. Here, we take a look at a couple things to look out for this weekend

New look Yanga to get off to a strong start?

There is something different about Yanga's new look team, and they will be hoping to get off to a strong start against Prisons.

The Green and Yellow will need to be wary of Prisons in what is potentially a tricky opener at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

With a refreshed squad high of optimism, though, Yanga are likely to get off to a winning start but they will need to be at their best to avoid any scare from coach Salum Mayanga's men.



Caravans Club's batsman, Jitin Singh, in action against Surat Stars squad in the last year's GP Gymkhana Tanzania Prisons' defender, Nurdin Chona (L), blocks Azam FC forward, Obrey Chirwa, when the clubs met in a friendly clash played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam recently. The game ended in 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

A baptism of fire for Ihefu FC?

In Mbeya, coach Maka Mwalwisi's men will be relishing the chance to take down the champions on the opening weekend.

However the defending champions will look to put in a statement performance as they look to continue their domestic dominance.

Coach Sven Vandebroek has bolstered his attack by adding Chris Mugalu and Charles Ilany to an already-strong forward pairing of John Bocco and Meddie Kagere.

Ihefu have one of the most

youthful sides in the league that could struggle against the league title favourites.

Morrison to build on an impressive pre-season form?

The controversies of Bernard Morrison have been long talked about, and he is in line to make his League debut for Simba on Sunday, having made a dramatic switch from the side's age old rivals, Yanga.

How the Ghanaian international fares is set to be one of the most intriguing stories of the season.

He has been bright in his appearances in pre-season, scoring in the 'Simba Day' international

friendly match against Burundi's Vital'O FC and in the Community Shield game Namungo FC.

Namungo FC to get the better of Coastal Union?

In Sunday's early kick off, Namungo FC will take on Coastal Union. Namungo FC, the CAF Confederation representatives, will be hoping to get off to a winning start as they look to build on to their fourth place finish in the Premier League last season.

The club top scorer, Reliants Lusajo, is no longer on Namungo FC's books, but coach Thierry Hitimana has, on the one hand, made some good additions to a squad still stacked with quality.

He has brought in Ghanaian striker, Stephen Sey, from Singida United, Shiza Kichuya from Simba, Frank Maginge from Mwadui FC, as well as completing a move for keeper, Jonathan Nahimana.

Coastal Union, on the other hand, look much weaker going into the season as they have lost their first choice pair of centre backs, with Bakari Mwanjeto going to Yanga whereas Ibrahim Ame joined Simba.

Coach Juma Mgunda's side have been further weakened by the exit of top scorer Ayoub Lyanga to Azam FC and first choice goalkeeper, Sound Don-dola, to KMC FC.

With the two teams likely to compete for a place in the top four once again, both sides will be looking to start the new campaign in winning fashion.

It will be a tightly-contested affair, but with home advantage and a much stronger squad, a win for Hitimana's side is on the card.

Union SC cricketers out to push for top spot in 2020 Kazim Nasser tourney

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

UNION SC cricketers have yet another chance to push for a successful outing in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A's Group A, given they are expected to confront Gymkhana B team in a clash, slated for tomorrow in Dar es Salaam.

The duel, to be played at Leaders Club venue, will as well present Union SC with an opportunity to build on an impressive outing they enjoyed in their previous clash, which had seen them notch 13-run win over Aga Khan SC B in July.

Union SC will tomorrow be out to make full use of reliable players, led by the experienced all-rounders, Athuman Kakonzi, Ali Sumar and Seif Khalifa, to get the better of Gymkhana B squad.

Kakonzi and Sumar were particularly in great form with the bat against Aga Khan SC B, ending their spells with good scores.

Kakonzi showcased his maturity to end three runs short of a half century, and he will tomorrow have another chance to prove his worth.

Khalifa struggled with the bat in Union SC's encounter with Aga Khan SC B, ending with two runs, tomorrow's match against Gymkhana B squad will therefore be an opportunity for the left handed batsman to make up for his dismal showing in the previous duel.

Union SC has yet another weapon in Dan-



Union SC's player, Danish Unia, fields in his club's clash with Jaat Blasters side in the last year's GP Gymkhana Shield cricket tournament which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

ish Unia, who regularly opens the outfit's innings, the no nonsense batsman is expected to unleash his aggressive batting and play pivotal role in his squad's pursuit of a good total.

Should Union SC notch victory over Gymkhana B team, the former will knock Annadil Burhani off the second spot in the KNML Division A's Group A, depending on

net run rate. Union SC cricketers now hold the third spot in the Group A with one win and one loss, recording two points and a win percentage of 50.00.

They have scored a total of 312 runs and leaked 324 runs to post net run rate of 0.2048.

Group A leaders, Aga Khan SC B, are seemingly not affected by the loss to Union SC, as they

are still leading the rest of the pack in the four-team group.

The group leaders have posted victory in two matches and conceded loss in one clash to collect four points.

They have amassed a total of 578 runs and leaked 456 runs to record a net run rate of 1.3082.

Second-placed Annadil Burhani have

notched victory in two outings and succumbed to defeat in one game to settle for four points.

They have posted net run rate of 0.2964, as they have scored 525 runs and leaked 479 runs.

Tomorrow's game is, however, not expected to be a one-sided affair, considering Gymkhana B side cricketers will equally be in pursuit of victory to prove they are no pushovers.

Gymkhana B squad is languishing at the bottom of the KNML Division A's Group A, having failed to register victory in two matches the side has taken part in.

They have scored a total of 240 runs and leaked 396 runs, a performance which has left them with an inferior net run rate of -2.6000.

The Gymkhana B team's cricketers are, in this case, a side which badly needs victory tomorrow so they can ascertain their intention to turn into serious contenders for silverware.

Youthful all rounders, Abdulrahman Akida and Mohammed Yunus, and Amit Raghuvanshi and Ashish Shah are the players Gymkhana B squad will look up to for solid showing which will in turn catapult the side to victory.

The KNML Division A's Group B is led by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) that has amassed four points and a net run rate of 1.0391, having won two encounters and suffered loss in one match.

Dar Cricket Club (DCC) is placed second in the group, whereas Aces B outfit and GP Pak Stars B occupy the third and last positions respectively.

Staying with Barcelona not completely ruled out by Messi

BARCELONA

STAYING with Barcelona may be an option for Lionel Messi after all. A day after the Spanish club reaffirmed its position not to facilitate a transfer, Messi's father-agent did not dismiss the possibility of his son reconsidering his decision to leave.

Jorge Messi left the prospect open after being briefly questioned by the Cuatro television channel on Thursday on whether he was considering the possibility of his son staying for now and leaving for free next year.

The affirmation came a day after there was no agreement in the first meeting between Jorge Messi and Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu. Jorge Messi had said upon arriving in Barcelona on Wednesday that he saw it "difficult" for his son to keep playing for Barcelona.

Jorge Messi later also reportedly spent about an hour and a half at his son's house to talk about the future, but no decision had been announced by the end of the day.

Spanish media showed a video of what it said was Lionel Messi playing padel - a traditional racket game in Spain - with Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez, his longtime friend who is expected to leave Barcelona after incoming coach Ronald Koeman said the Uruguayan striker was not in his plans.

Lionel Messi last week told Barcelona he was invoking a contract clause that allowed him to leave for free at the end of the season, but the club claimed that the clause had expired in June. Barcelona said it wanted Messi to stay until the end of his contract in June 2021. The contract has a buyout clause of 700 million euros (\$837 million).

Barcelona said it has offered the Argentine a two-year extension that would keep him with the club through the 2022-23 season. It also wanted to meet personally with the player to try to convince him to stay and finish his career with the club where he started playing nearly 20 years ago.

AFP

China and the Premier League - what went wrong?

LONDON

THE English Premier League abruptly announced the termination of the big-money contract with its broadcaster in China in a two-paragraph statement on Thursday.

Streaming service PPTV had a reported \$700 million deal for the rights to show all 380 Premier League matches per season from 2019 to 2022, but that mammoth agreement is now dead.

Here's what we know, and some key questions:

- Why does it matter? -

China, with its 1.4 billion population and the world's second-biggest economy, is a prime growth market for the Premier League. Along with the NBA, the Premier League is the most-watched foreign sports competition in China.

The vast sum paid by PPTV helped swell the coffers of the elite English clubs. The early end of the agreement deals a withering blow to top-flight English football, with the 20 teams already scrambling to adjust to heavy losses caused by the coronavirus.

It remains to be seen whether the Premier League will be able to negotiate a new rights deal in China on terms of a similar scale due to the challenging economic and political conditions.

Some experts say PPTV overpaid for the rights.

- How did we get here? -

According to British media, the fall-out dates back to March, when PPTV reportedly failed to make a £160 million (\$210 million) payment for coverage of the 2019/20 season.

The Premier League gave little away in its brief statement on

Neither part made concessions in Wednesday's meeting in Barcelona, with Jorge Messi confirming that his son wanted to leave and Barcelona reaffirming that it will not accept his transfer request. They have not scheduled another round of negotiations, but Barcelona said it still hoped Messi would change his mind about leaving.

Messi has yet to speak publicly since the 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals, one of the worst in the player's career and in the club's history. The defeat capped a disappointing season for Barcelona, the first without a title since 2007-08.

The 33-year-old Messi had been outspoken against club officials during the season and he hasn't shown up at the club since the squad returned to training on Monday. He also skipped the required coronavirus tests the team underwent on Sunday.

The player's representatives claim the clause allowing him to leave the club for free should still be valid because the season was pushed back by the coronavirus pandemic.

Barcelona is scheduled to begin its season against Villarreal in the Spanish league at the end of the month.

Barcelona forward Antoine Griezmann said the squad didn't know much about Lionel Messi's plans.

"We are trying to find out what is happening, but it's an issue between the player and the club," he said while with the French national team. "We just hope that he stays."

Real Madrid player Luka Modric said Lionel Messi's departure would be "a big loss" for the Spanish league but Spanish soccer would eventually be fine.

"You have to move on," he said. "When Cristiano (Ronaldo) left it was the same thing, and life went on without him for Real Madrid. It would be the same for Spanish the league and for Barcelona without Messi."

Thursday, while PPTV, in its response, made reference to the coronavirus pandemic said: "After many rounds of talks, there remain disagreements on the value of rights between PP and the Premier League."

According to the BBC, citing sources, PPTV offered to extend the deal -- but under revised terms, taking into account the empty stands and the heavily disrupted fixture list caused by the coronavirus.

- What is PPTV and who owns it? -

Owned by the Suning Holding Group, PPTV is a prominent streaming website that also shows several other major European football leagues and the UEFA Champions League.

Suning also owns Italian giants Inter Milan and the Chinese Super League team Jiangsu Suning.

Founded in 1990, the company has more than 280,000 employees worldwide, according to its company profile, and is involved in everything from retail to financial services and real estate.

In April, retail service provider Suning.com reported revenues in 2019 of 270 billion yuan (\$40 billion).

- Is politics involved? -

The great unknown. Relations between the British and Chinese governments have become strained in recent months.

Ties soured after London ordered the phased removal of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from its 5G network.

Britain also offered citizenship to millions of Hong Kong nationals in response to a sweeping new security law that Beijing has imposed on the former British colony.

Fear factor long gone as England embrace Iceland reunion

LONDON

ICELAND will forever bear a scar for English football after an embarrassing exit at Euro 2016 to a country with a population of less than one percent than the pool on offer to the Three Lions.

Four years on, the nations meet on Saturday in the Nations League for the first time since that fateful night in Nice with the visitors in Reykjavik much changed in personnel and mentality.

Only six of the squad from Euro 2016 remain.

Among them captain Harry Kane, 27, and Raheem Sterling, 25, are now the senior figures in a squad filled with youth, flair and far less fear than the side that were wracked by self-doubt after falling 2-1 behind just 18 minutes into that famous defeat to Iceland.

Phil Foden, 20, and Mason Greenwood, 18, have been handed their first senior call-ups after impressing for Manchester City and Manchester United respectively since football returned from the coronavirus shutdown in June.

They could be two of the beneficiaries of the delay to the European championships for a year with England one of the favourites for a tournament they will largely play on home soil next summer.

"They are realistic challengers," said England boss Gareth Southgate on Foden and Greenwood's prospects for Euro 2020.

For most other nations and even many years in England's recent past, they would be certainties.

But both have to fight their way into one of the most star-studded front lines in international football already boasting Kane, Sterling, Greenwood's Manchester United teammate Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho of Borussia Dortmund, who has also been linked with a move to Old Trafford this summer for more than £100 million.

"If you are within football then you have known about these two young players for a long time," Southgate



England were embarrassed by a 2-1 defeat to Iceland at Euro 2016. (Agencies)

added.

"You only have to speak with their clubs. We have known from our junior teams with England, the impact that they have had. Then the question is at what point do you give them the step up to play."

"We're a year away from a European Championship, let's see if they can start to break into that team and into that squad. It gives us great competition for places."

Neither player seems to lack confidence when it comes to making an impact on international football.

Greenwood has been hailed by former England greats Alan Shearer and Wayne Rooney for his ability to finish clinically off either foot that saw him score 19 goals in his breakthrough season for United.

Shearer has claimed his record of 260 Premier League goals could be under threat and Greenwood did not shy away from that target when he faced the media this week.

"Any young football player would want to break records - and if you didn't, there's something wrong,"

he said.

"It's always nice to have visions and goals you set in your football career and that goes for virtually any England forward, really."

"Just go out there and do your best and break records and just be remembered forever."

Foden also has lofty ambitions as he admitted he hopes to be the man to fill David Silva's shoes at City next season.

Named player of the tournament when England won the under-17 World Cup three years ago, Foden also differs from previous generations that have failed to live up to expectations by already experiencing success at international level.

He and England's new generation still have to prove themselves at senior level, but they are providing far more cause for optimism than the crop that will forever be remembered for crumbling to Iceland.

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo is a doubt as Portugal start the defence of their Nations League title against Croatia on Satur-

day in Porto and Sweden on Tuesday in Solna.

Ronaldo is with the Portugal squad but has a toe infection and did not train on Wednesday or Thursday. He was instead doing "gym work", the Portuguese football federation (FPF) said.

Ronaldo has 99 goals in 164 international matches but the FPF, which has closed its training camp to the press citing health protocols, gave no indication whether he will be fit for either game.

Ronaldo has not played since early August when Juventus were knocked out of the Champions League by Lyon.

At 35, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored 37 goals in all competitions last season, a record for a Juve player, and insists he remains ambitious, laying out his season 'goals' on Instagram last week.

"Victories. Commitment. Dedication. Professionalism. With all my strength and with the precious help from my teammates and all of the Juventus staff, we work once again to conquer Italy, Europe and the

World!" he wrote.

Portugal are returning to the city where as hosts they won the inaugural Nations League in June 2019, beating the Netherlands 1-0. Because Euro 2020 has been postponed a year, they also remain European champions.

In addition to Sweden, the four-team group also includes world champions France.

While Ronaldo is with the national squad and could play, both Portugal and Croatia will be without other star players.

The FPF said that another member of the squad that won Euro 2016, Lille midfielder Renato Sanches, has been released from the squad for unspecified medical reasons.

Croatia, meanwhile, have excused Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic from international duties against Portugal and for a World Cup final rematch with France on Tuesday.

Modric, who is 34, played a crucial role as Real Madrid rallied when La Liga resumed after the lockdown and was only rested when the title had been secured.

Rakitic, 32, was also a regular starter as Barcelona collapsed in the league in June and July, though he had been relegated to the bench for the Champions League quarter-final and the traumatic 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich. He has since been sold back to Sevilla for 1.5 million euros (\$1.8 million).

With La Liga resuming on September 13, both wanted to extend their off-season breaks.

AFP

France's next star? Camavinga set for Les Bleus debut at 17

PARIS

JUDO's loss is French soccer's gain. Eduardo Camavinga is now the country's biggest talent since Kylian Mbappé's sensational emergence at Monaco in 2016.

Mbappé helped France win the 2018 World Cup, recently played in the Champions League final with Paris Saint-Germain and is world renowned at the age of 21.

Many think 17-year-old Camavinga could have a similar future.

"Kylian's placed the bar very high," Camavinga said. "But it's a source of inspiration for all young players."

The first step for the Rennes midfielder is to make his France debut, which could come against Sweden in the Nations League on Saturday.

"Yes, it would be a dream. A childhood dream, even though I'm still a kid," a smiling Camavinga said at France's Clairefontaine training camp. "Representing your country is huge. My parents had their hearts set on it, and so did I."

He was called up because Manchester United star Paul Pogba withdrew after testing positive to the coronavirus. Camavinga's idol growing up just happened to be Pogba, and he is using the United midfielder's room at Clairefontaine.

His path could have taken a completely different direction, however.

"In the beginning I didn't want to play football, I wanted to take up judo," Camavinga said. "Because my brother did judo and I wanted to do the same as him."

But he soon took up soccer at school, and his rapid rise has been such that coach Didier Deschamps even thinks Camavinga might feature at next year's European Championship.

"When the coach believes in you it's reassuring," Camavinga said. "I'm not feeling stressed or under pressure."

Like Mbappé did as a teen, Camavinga burst onto the scene.

An astonishing performance against PSG last year - aged just 16



FILE - In this Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020 file photo, Rennes' Eduardo Camavinga looks on during the League One soccer match between Rennes and Montpellier, at the Roazhon Park stadium in Rennes, France. Judo's loss is French soccer's gain. Having dreamed of kimonos as a kid, the 17-year-old Eduardo Camavinga is now the nation's biggest talent since Kylian Mbappé's sensational emergence with Monaco in 2016. (AP Photo)

- saw him set up a goal with a superbly weighted long pass and make several electric bursts through the middle. A PSG side packed with internationals was powerless to stop him.

Camavinga pledges not to get carried away.

"No, because I know where I've come from and if I mess up my parents will let me know about it," he said. "They're with me ev-

ery day, since I still live at home."

He was born in Angola, moved to France when he was 2 years old and obtained nationality last year. He was spotted by Rennes at the age of 9 and given his debut at 16 by coach Julien Stéphan - the son of France's assistant coach Guy Stéphan.

Rennes has the second-best scouting network in France and fifth-best in Europe, according to a study in 2019. The study, based on minutes played in Europe's five major leagues by academy-raised players, listed the best as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Lyon, Man United and Rennes.

Barcelona's Ousmane Dembélé came through the Brittany club before joining Borussia Dortmund. Barcelona then bought him for €105 million (\$126 million) plus a reported €40 million (\$48 million) in bonuses, making him the world's sixth-most expensive player along with Pogba.

Camavinga could soon

be worth more. The teenager combines a strong physique with devastating acceleration on the ball that allows him to carve through midfield. He has the ability to drag the ball back and pirouette in one swift motion, reminiscent of Zinedine Zidane's virtuoso technique against Brazil at the 2006 World Cup. And he can dribble with either foot, although he shoots better with his left.

He is versatile as well as he can play a holding role, but dovetails well at wide midfield or as a play maker.

"Even though you always have to be cautious talking about a 17-year-old player, I don't see any weak points," Guy Stéphan said.

Veteran striker Olivier Giroud, who has 39 goals in 97 games for France, is nearly twice Camavinga's age but has been impressed with the teenager.

"Eduardo's astounded us with his maturity," Giroud said. "It's the start of a long adventure."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Fear factor long gone as England embrace Iceland reunion

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hills
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 #JADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hills

TONIGHT ON UJENZI
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO

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

Coastal Union rope in Soka

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

TANGA's Coastal Union have opted to reinforce their squad ahead of the Mainland Premier League's kick off, roping in Tanzanian forward, Yusuph Soka, who was playing professional soccer in Sweden.

Soka had in the past played alongside Tanzania's national team's skipper, Mbwana Samatta, at African Lyon, currently featuring in First Division League (FDL).

Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda, stated that Soka is one of the newly recruited performers for his club for the top flight.

Soka is a well-drilled striker who had featured for Sweden's fourth tier club AFC Eskilstuna.

"Some of my favourite young players have left Coastal Union but I have done my best to fill the gaps, I have brought in Peter Mwangosi from Lipuli FC and Martin Kazila from Geita Gold FC," he noted.

"I have moreover brought back forward Raizin Hafidh that was playing for Gwambina FC, I have also got Adil Sultan and experienced player Soka," Mgunda disclosed.

Soka had taken part in the domestic top flight in the 2009/10 season, in which he turned out for African Lyon with Samatta, the duo played as striking partners.

The season had Samatta netting six goals, whereas Soka drilled in five.

Samatta later headed to Simba SC the following season.

Soka later jetted off to Sweden to play professional soccer and he has now made his way back to play for Coastal Union.

Fadhil Hamisi is also a newly recruited player at Coastal Union, Hafidh had earlier played for Coastal Union and the previous season saw him feature for Gwambina FC on loan.

Coastal Union have for that matter opted to bring the prolific forward to his parent outfit.

Coastal Union have lost such players like Bakari Mwanjeto that has headed to Yanga, Ibrahim Ame that had been recruited by Simba and keeper Masoud Abdallah Dondola that has been roped in by KMC FC.



Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda.

Simba SC out to overcome Ihefu FC in 2020/21 Premier League opener



Simba SC midfielder, Ibrahim Ajibu (L), congratulates forward, Meddie Kagere, after the goal getter had netted against Arusha FC in a friendly clash, which took place in Arusha recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE much anticipated 2020/19 Mainland Premier League season kicks off tomorrow with 12 outfits in action at various venues.

The mouthwatering games will involve defending champions, Simba SC, who will be away to league newcomers, Ihefu FC, at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, while last season runners-up, Yanga, host Tanzania Prisons at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Fresh from their 2-0 win against Namungo FC in a Charity Shield game played a week ago at Abeid Karume Memorial Stadium in Arusha, Simba will be aiming to start their campaign on a high note.

Simba, who have been active on the just ended player transfer market by recruiting new players, are the favourites to snatch maximum points in the Mbeya tie.

On paper, Simba look awe-inspiring in every department, but the club's head coach Belgian Sven Vandernbroeck has a difficult job of keeping his stars such as John Bocco, Meddie Kagere, Larry Bwalya and Bernard Morrison happy, in shape and consistent.

Simba's Manager, Patrick Rweyemamu, on Friday said all is well in his side's camp, but conceded that it will be a tricky game as both sides are looking for a good start in the league.

"Playing against newcomers, Ihefu FC, away from home will not be easy to us, I predict it will be a match of tension and pressure, I'm sure my players will start the game with the aim of winning so as to start the league campaign on a high note while our host will also want to show

the world that they are ready for the premier league assignments," he noted.

"But all in all we are well prepared to win maximum points," he said.

Ihefu FC head coach Maka Malwisi was adamant that his side will record good results against Simba SC, as his charges have been preparing well ahead of the game.

He said Ihefu FC has players who are ready and willing to fight for the club and he insisted that morale in his camp is high ahead of the Sunday encounter.

"We respect Simba as defending champions and they also have a good squad, but we are also equally well prepared for them, I have players who are very ready for the game as our aim is to collect all the required

points," he noted.

"I'm asking all our supporters to cheer our team on Sunday at Sokoine Stadium," he said.

At Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, Yanga will have an uphill task playing Tanzania Prisons.

Yanga, who have a new coach, Zlatko Krmpotic, and have also bolstered their squad by signing many new players in the likes of Tuisila Kisinda, Mukoko Tonombe, Bakari Mwanjeto, Michael Sarpong, Abdallah Shaibu and others, have said they are ready for the league.

Yanga Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, said preparations for the game is going on very well and he is confident that his charges will carry the day.

"This season, we have players who are very good and ready to fight for the club, we are looking forward to a bright start in the league as our aim is to win the top flight's trophy this season," he said.

Prisons' head coach, Salum Mayanga, said his charges are not carried away by Yanga's big signings, saying they are well prepared for the game.

"Yanga are good, they have signed good players, but we are well prepared to face them, I have told my charges not to be afraid of names as football is played on the pitch," he disclosed.

"I'm confident that we will do well in our first league game."

Other Premier League games, slated for tomorrow, include the one pitting Namungo FC against Coastal Union, whereas Biashara United will welcome newly promoted Gwambina FC.

The other newly promoted club, Dodoma Jiji FC, will play

host to Mwadui FC, whereas Mtibwa Sugar will lock horns with Ruvo Shooting.

On Monday, there will be three games, with the biggest game of the day pitting Azam FC against Polisi Tanzania, to be played at the former's venue, Azam Complex, in Dar es Salaam.

Last season, the two sides met twice, with Azam FC getting the better of Polisi Tanzania in both clashes.

Azam FC's Information Officer, Thabit Zacharia, said they are geared for the league, insisting the aim is to win silverware this season.

"We have been playing second fiddle to our opponents for the past few years, but now we are well prepared and ready to win a silverware this season," he disclosed.

"We have bolstered our squad with players who we believe will help us achieve our aim," he said.

Some of new players in Azam FC camp include David Kissu, Awesu Ally, Ally Niyonzima and Prince Dube.

Other games, to be played the same day, will see KMC FC host Mbeya City FC, whereas Kagera Sugar will lock horns with JKT Tanzania at the former's venue Kaitaba Stadium.

Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB)'s Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Almasi Kasongo, and Tanzania Football Referees Association (FRAT) Chairman, Soud Abdi, said all is set for the league's start.

"Our referees are ready for the league kickoff, ahead of the league kickoff the referees have attended a seminar, fitness course, I'm sure of a league which will be free from controversies," he said.

Special Olympics' National Championships set for next year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) Committee has said plans are underway to host National Championships in Mwanza next year.

Charles Rays, SOT Director, disclosed in an interview in Dar es Salaam recently that he and the committee's Chairman, Juma Mwanjemwa, had a meeting with Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Emmanuel Taluba, in which they, among others, agreed to host the championships in June next year.

He said they expect more than 400 Special Olympics athletes and 70 coaches to attend the championships which will also be used to select athletes who will represent the country at the second Pan African Games slated to take place in Rwanda in 2022.

The Rwanda Pan African Games will be used as qual-

ifiers for the 2023 World Summer Games, set to take place in Germany.

"We had a very fruitful meeting with Mwanza's RAS and others who are involved in sports and social welfare in the region, we talked on a number of issues involving Special Olympics' development in the country," Rays noted.

"We are happy that Mwanza, through RAS Emmanuel Taluba, agreed to host the National Championships from June 7-12 next year," he said.

He said for SOT to successfully host the next year's championships, they need financial and material support from the government, cooperate world organizations and individuals.

"We request all sports stakeholders to help our association so that we can successfully host the championships in Mwanza next year," he disclosed.

"The SOT will really be grateful for financial and



Children with special needs take part in volleyball at Msimbazi Center in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TANZANIA

material support as the backing will be used to develop and promote the sport in the country," he said.

The SOT last hosted the National Championships in December 2017 in Zanzibar, where the hosts emerged as the overall champions.

The showpiece had 15 athletes winning a place in the national team, which competed at last year's

Summer World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Tanzania has been doing well in Special Olympics Games, in this year's maiden Pan African Special Olympics Games, played in Egypt, Tanzania collected 11 medals.

The 11 medals that the country earned were won by Khalfan Jihad, who won two gold and one bronze medal, Hidayat Vuai won one gold medal, one silver

and one bronze medal, Nerverson Minja and Elizabeth Kisaka who won one gold medal and silver medal apiece, Salama Kheri one gold medal.

The Egypt event was attended by over 1000 athletes, who competed in athletics, basketball, bocce and football.

Tanzania fielded five players in 200m, 400m and 4x100m relay and won six gold medals, three sil-

ver medals and two bronze medals.

"Our athletes are very good, they have been competing at many international events and winning medals, they can win medals at any international event," Rays disclosed.

"Look at the Egypt event, we collected 11 medals and the same can happen in any event, what is needed is good preparations," he said.

Meanwhile, Rays disclosed that SOT is doing all it can to see to it that all special needs people in the country are involved in sporting activities.

Special Olympics games are held in all regions of the country, with the exception of Manyara, Katavi and Shinyanga regions.

The SOT, according to Rays, is planning to see to it that the games are taking place in all regions as the body is a true advocate of sports for all and believes in power of inclusion.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

CHOOSE ME...

