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Where is sugar 'hiding'? Isn't it sabotage?



Killing of Somali health staffers shocks UNICEF, AU, no arrests

MOGADISHU

SHOCK has enveloped the international community following the abduction and killing of seven health workers and a civilian at a local health center in southern Somalia.

This was the tone in separate statements by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) yesterday, condemning the incident.

Henrietta Fore, the UNICEF executive director, said these heinous attacks interfere with fundamental protection of the right to health and the perpetrators must be held accountable.

"These health workers were heroes, putting their safety on the line every day to provide lifesaving care to children and families. We will hold their dedication and sacrifice in our hearts as we continue our work to reach vulnerable children across

“ I am shocked by the senseless killings of civilians. Deliberate attacks against health professionals and facilities are a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law and constitute a war crime in non-international armed conflicts

the country," Fore said in the statement issued late on Saturday.

The eight people were abducted on Wednesday last week from an NGO-run health clinic, about 30 kilometers away from Mogadishu, before their brutal killing.

Francois Madeira, the AMISOM head of mission, said health workers continue to provide much-needed quality healthcare as Somalia continues to face the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I am shocked by the senseless killings of civilians. Deliberate attacks against health professionals and facilities are a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law and constitute a war crime in non-international armed conflicts," he said.

Health workers are putting their lives on the line to save others in very difficult circumstances, he asserted.

No arrest has so far been made and no group has claimed responsibility for the murders.

Natural gas home users to skip connection fees



A Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation expert (R) briefs Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani (C, foreground) at Mnazi Mmoja in Lindi Region at the weekend on how natural gas meters installed in houses work. This was during the inauguration of the installation of natural gas infrastructure in houses in Lindi Region over the weekend. Left is Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

EARLY customers to be served with natural gas for domestic use will not pay connection fees, a decision meant to ensure that everyone benefits from the country's discovery and exploitation of the resource.

This is envisaged in a project implemented by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), the idea being to enable customers to buy gas units by respective consumption levels, via a pre-payment mechanism.

Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani made this announcement at Mnazi Mmoja village in Lindi Region at the weekend, gracing the launch of a project for the construction of natural gas distribution networks.

He urged residents of areas earmarked for the project to grab the opportunity to reduce costs for cooking energy while protecting the environment.

The wider aim is to use natural gas power in industrial operations, fertiliser production, cooking and the running of vehicles.

"We will install pre-paid meters to each connected customer to enable them to buy cooking energy as per consumption," he said, noting that natural gas is 40 per cent cheaper than charcoal, as well as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

A six-person family uses gas worth 30,000/- per month in cooking a variety of foodstuffs including beans by natural gas, while the charcoal and firewood it replaces are more taxing, he stated.

"We are lucky to have natural gas that is

Govt spells terms for tourists' entry, health

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has put in place a new entry system and dedicated health facilities to cater for foreign travellers arriving in the country as tourists, with visitors' safety as top priority.

The country gets the new tourism season going from early June, which in the past this period would have seen millions of leisure visitors' arriving. The global Covid-19 pandemic has frozen much of this, in the world travel industry.

As the Ethiopian Airlines plane jets into Kilimanjaro Airport this afternoon, authorities are keeping their fingers crossed regarding the number of those on board.

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla and the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollle have started inspecting the new tourists handling facilities, keenly eyeing Covid-19 precautions.

Arusha has already set up three health facilities to cater for emergency cases from tourists -

Nordic-Tanzania solidarity 'solid even in rough times'

By Guardian Reporter

NORDIC countries have pledged continued support to Tanzania, with a focus on multilateral issues including health, education, poverty eradication, gender equality and enhancing the role of the private sector.

In a joint statement on Nordic Week celebrations, the four Nordic ambassadors to Tanzania said that eradication of poverty is enhanced when countries ensure that the private sector creates jobs and generally helps the economy to grow.

The envoys are Mette Norgaard Dissing-Spandet of Denmark, Elisabeth Jacobsen of Norway, Anders Sjöberg of Sweden and Riitta Swan of Finland.

They said investors are important but they need to respect environmental and social standards as well as be readily willing to pay taxes.

Nordic companies have invested significantly in Tanzania and have created many jobs while also contributing substantially through the payment of due taxes, they pointed out.

The envoys expressed commitment to standing shoulder to shoulder with Tanzania in good times

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

- FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.
- FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.
- FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.
- FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath. Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)



Natural gas home users to skip connection fees

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usable for industrial and domestic purposes. First customers will only pay to buy gas units and not connection fees," he reiterated.

The government resolved to remove connection fees to bring more people to join the service as well as controlling environment degradation due to tree felling for firewood and charcoal burning, he said.

Natural gas distribution and connection is expected to be sustainable, with plans to connect 2,000 customers in the 2020/2021 financial year, with nearly 300 current customers drawn from Lindi Region, he elaborated.

"We want to relieve women from walking long distances in search of firewood in the bush. We want them to use safer forms of energy," the minister declared.

Apart from Lindi, TPDC is also constructing natural gas distribution networks in Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida and Dar es Salaam regions.

So far as number of hotels, residential premises, industries and vehicles use natural gas in the city of Dar es Salaam.

TPDC Chief Executive Dr James Mataragio allayed fears from natural gas users, insisting that construction of the distribution networks has taken into account the required safety measures.

The natural gas used for cooking is nonflammable and cannot catch fire easily even if there are leakages, he asserted.

"The distribution system for natural gas operates at much lower pressures through pipes. This is meant to ensure the safety of users," he stated.

He said natural gas is cheaper as a family can use gas priced at 1,000/- for a week compared to 4,500/- when using charcoal.

Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi said that residents were eagerly waiting for the project which will see most of them abandoning

firewood and charcoal as cooking energy sources.

He commended the government for allocating funds for implementation of the natural gas distribution project, urging Lindi residents to continue cooperating with the corporation's officials to enable the successful implementation of the project.

"Most of you spend a lot of money to buy charcoal. Women and girls spend hours in searching for firewood in the bush. Let us now move to the safer energy source," he appealed.

Energy ministry data indicates that out of the 57.54 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in the country, 1.3 trillion cubic feet is expected to be directed to domestic consumption, distributed to houses, hotels, restaurants, industries and vehicles.

The 1.3 trillion cubic feet natural gas can be used for around 30 years.

In its 2020/2021 budget expectations the ministry said it will embark on an exercise to sensitize people to use natural gas via the Domestic Natural Gas Promotion Plan (DNGPP).

In Dar es Salaam, about 200 cars have been installed with natural gas fuelling systems, along with scores of factories producing fertilisers.



Most of you spend a lot of money to buy charcoal. Women and girls spend hours in searching for firewood in the bush. Let us now move to the safer energy source



SOS (Save Our Souls) Children's Villages Tanzania Mufindi District project coordinator Vitor Mwaipungu (R) presents sets of Covid-19 personal protection equipment to Mufindi district commissioner Jamhuri William yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Govt spells terms for tourists' entry, health

FROM PAGE 1

one in the city centre, another at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the third in the Seronera National Park.

There are also four newly built ambulances specially procured to ensure timely rescues in the northern tourism circuit, should the need arise.

Upon arriving at the Kilimanjaro International Airport the travellers will be shown into a new wing designed as a waiting lounge. Tour guides and drivers will be stationed

there as they receive their respective visitors, without mingling with other passengers.

The new building is a brainchild of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators. It was constructed by combined efforts of TATO, which floated 45m/-; Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) with 30m/- and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), funding in 15m/- adding to a total of 90m/-.

TATO executive Sirili Akko said the facility comprises a vehicle parking lot

for tour vans, cleaning and sanitation equipment as well as a well-placed sitting arrangement.

Martin Nyamagoha, acting executive director of the Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company (KADCO), said that all arrival forms would be provided aboard the incoming planes. Travellers are expected to fill them before disembarking to limit congestion at the foyers, he said.

Minister Dr Kigwangalla declared that Tanzania would ensure that all foreign tourists coming to the country

are well taken care of and fully protected.

"And it is not only the tourists, but even other people working in the industry will undergo stringent health and safety checks," he said.

Deputy Minister Mollel maintained that procedures for health precautions have been completed by over 90 per cent in all major terminals, in the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, KIA and the Karume International Airport in Zanzibar.



Government valuer Evelyne Mugasha issues a notice at Komorea village in Nyamongo, Tarime District, at the weekend banning activities in an area reserved for Barrick's North Mara Mine. She is flanked by Tarime district commissioner Mtemi Msafiri (R) and district administrative secretary John Marwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya, Uganda scramble to resolve Malaba border crisis

By Luke Anami

Despite an agreement arrived at on Wednesday by government officials from Kenya and Uganda on the process of Covid-19 testing for truckers at the common border, an association for Kenyan truck drivers on Thursday advised its members to suspend services until both governments address stigma and harassment.

The Secretary-general of the Kenyan truckers union, Nicholas Mbugua, said on Thursday: "There is no safety agreement between Kenya and Uganda and yet drivers are being coerced by police officers to cross over to Uganda.

We demand to be guaranteed the safety of our drivers in Uganda."

Speaking at the union's offices in Mlolongo, Mr Mbugua said the drivers were tired of "unbearable humiliation drivers were subjected to in Uganda".

The truckers had blocked the Kenyan side of the border for three days from Monday, stretching almost 50 kilometres. On Tuesday, meetings between senior government officials from both countries failed to reach an agreement.

Mercy Ileri, the chief operations officer at the Kenya Transport Authority, said: "I can confirm people are moving. Trucks are also moving,"

she told The EastAfrican on Wednesday. "Previously the drivers had demanded that they be addressed by both President Kaguta Museveni and Uhuru Kenyatta, but we managed to allay their fears," she said.

"There was a meeting yesterday [Tuesday] where we discussed with the truck drivers their grievances. One of the big issues was the Covid-19 testing. There is a full agreement to accept each other's testing," said Solomon Kitungu, the principal secretary in Kenya's ministry of Transport. "Security issues are being discussed by each partner state as we speak, and we expect a solution as we move along."

Kitungu and his East African Community counterpart Kevit Desai led a delegation of Kenyan officials to the meeting with the Uganda delegation on Tuesday.

The Ugandan side was led by James Malinzi from the Uganda Revenue Authority in charge of Eastern Region, head of health services at Malaba border point Dennis Turyagenda and Maj Kenneth Habomugisha.

"We also met with Kenya's ambassador to Uganda, Kiema Kilonzo, among other officials, and we have now sorted out the issue," said Mr Kitungu on Wednesday.

AGENCIES

Nordic-Tanzania solidarity 'solid even in rough times'

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and bad even during the Covid-19 pandemic which has had a devastating impact across the globe.

"It has been essential for the Nordic countries to maintain our commitment to development in Africa and elsewhere during these challenging times, while scaling up our support to health and education and alleviating the impact on the poorest and most vulnerable," the statement noted.

In Tanzania, these countries engage in alleviating the impact on the poorest and most vulnerable through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) and the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN).

They said that like Tanzania, Nordic countries believe that social conflict and disagreements can be solved through dialogue and compromise, peacefully and on the basis of mutual respect.

They said Mwalimu Nyerere's emphasis on equal rights, including the right to take part in government, and in freedom of speech which was enshrined in the Arusha Declaration saved Tanzania and inspired Nordic countries in the past.

The values are equally important now even as the country approaches the general elections late October, they said.

"Governments operate more effectively when they have the trust of their people, not the least during times of crisis. We believe transparency and openness are essential to achieve that trust. All governments stand to benefit from the perspectives that an informed and outspoken public and media can provide," they emphasized.

One of the great legacies of Mwalimu Nyerere was bringing together a large, culturally rich and diverse nation and creating the foundation for lasting peace, the Nordic envoys underlined.

Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden enjoy around 55 years of cooperation and close friendship with Tanzania, a legacy in which Nordic countries take immense pride.

For the Nordic countries, the values of solidarity, equal rights and mutual respect lie at the heart of their engagement with Africa.

The envoys highlighted the need to preserve oceans and forests, along with mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change since its impacts are likely to cause devastating effects in so many countries.

"We owe it to future generations to make sure that the planet is on a sustainable footing. Nordic countries are committed to their share of the responsibility in implementing these goals, at home and abroad. If we are to achieve these goals, the whole world needs to pull together," the statement declared.

Empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality is crucial for accelerating sustainable development. It has contributed to economic growth in the Nordic countries in the past 50 years, it added.



We owe it to future generations to make sure that the planet is on a sustainable footing. Nordic countries are committed to their share of the responsibility in implementing these goals, at home and abroad. If we are to achieve these goals, the whole world needs to pull together



NMB Bank Plc's acting Mtwara branch manager, Rosemary Moshi, presents to Mtwara regional administrative secretary Alphayo Kidata (L) 3m/- worth of face masks, liquid soap and a hand-washing set complete with a water tank to help in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bank dishes out over 100m/- to Sengerema cooperative societies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has dished out 100.7m/- in loans to the Zilagula Cooperative Union in Buchosa, Sengerema District in Mwanza Region to support fishers purchase modern fishing equipment and thus improve their activities.

Handing over a cheque to the union over the weekend, Abdallah Ulega, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries said that the government is determined to see fishers improving their lives and income by establishing small-scale factories to process their produce.

"We want more factories for processing and add value to fish and livestock products to be constructed in the country, this is why we are capacitating fishers to have enough capital to engage in sustainable fishing and thus reap big from their activities," he said.

The deputy minister wanted leaders of the union to supervise and ensure that the funds are properly utilised to meet the intended goals.

He further urged local government authorities to encourage fishermen to join fisheries cooperative unions in their areas so as to benefit from various things done by the government and stakeholders.

"Leaders have to educate the members on the importance of properly spending the funds while maintaining trust by making sure that they repay the loans once acquired," he added.

For his part, TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine commended the ministry for setting up good strategies to improve livestock and fisheries sectors.

"With the strategies, small scale fishers and livestock keepers will be able to access loans and strengthen

their capital through their cooperative unions. So it is better for those who are yet to join the unions to do so as to enjoy the financial supports directed to the groups," he said.

Steven Michael, coordinator of the Private Sector's Desk at the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries said that the department has been doing a lot to connect fishermen and livestock keepers to financial institutions for them to access loans to improve their businesses.

Presenting report on the livestock and fisheries sub-sector, Sengerema District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Alan Augustine said the district is estimated to have 20,080 fishers with 5,020 fishing boats.

"We have been conducting regular visits to the fishermen educating them on the importance of improving their activities for sustainable development, majority of them have responded well and they are in forefront to protect water resources for the benefit of the current and future generations," he said.

Sengerema District Executive Director (DED) Crispin Luanda said that the district's authority had also provided 15m/- from its internal revenues to the Cooperative Unions of Zilagula, Kasalazi and Siswa to improve their working environment.

In his remarks, Zilagula Cooperative Union chairman Joram Yuda commended the government and TADB for supporting them with the funds vowing to supervise to ensure that the funds are well utilised to bring out intended outcomes.

Recently, the government said that Tanzania's fish imports have gone down by 99 percent in the past four years due to increased efforts done by authorities and stakeholders to curb illegal fishing.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Special police swoop unearths thefts of motorcycles, livestock

A SPECIAL police operation in Lake Zone regions against various criminal activities including motorcycle and livestock theft and killings has been concluded with the result that many people now live with enhanced security in their areas.

In the operation, 354 cases on various offences were instituted during one month period, as originally directed at a meeting in January 22 this year in Simiyu Region.

Speaking about the operation, the Head of Police Special Operations in the country, Senior Assistant

Commissioner of police (SACP) Mihayo Msikhela said the operation was conducted on the directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro to all regional police commanders in the Lake Zone regions.

"The main aim of the directives was to control the wave of thefts of boat engines, motorcycles on Lake Victoria and vandalism to railway infrastructure, and during the

operation the police officers involved took all precautions against Covid-19 infections," said Mihayo.

Mihayo said the operation began on May 4 and ended May 29 and involved eight regions of lake Zone including Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Tabora, Mara, Kagera and Tarime and Rorya Special Zone Region.

He said: "The operation found out that many motorcycles were still under

registration of the companies they were bought from even if ownership thereon was later transferred to other people; many unauthorized people were making number plates and many people appeared ignorant in regard to many of such issues."

He also said the operation's success was also to a large extent contributed by cooperation from the people and other defense and security organs.

HAKIARDHI

LAND RIGHTS RESEARCH & RESOURCES INSTITUTE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Land Rights Research and Resources Institute (LARRRI/HAKIARDHI) is a non-governmental, not for profit sharing and non partisan organization which was registered and incorporated under the Non-Governmental Organization Act of 2002 as amended in 2019 the Laws of Tanzania. The Institute was established in 1994, in recognition of the need to facilitate realization of a socially just and equitable national land tenure system that promotes and advances the rights to land of majority rural based small producers such as peasants, pastoralists, hunter-gatherers and related groups. This has been the focus of its vision, mission, objectives and programmatic interventions since the Institute was established to date.

The main objective of the Institute is to advance, promote and research into the land rights of small peasants, pastoralists and related groups with a view to provide information and knowledge, so as to facilitate equitable and socially just access to, ownership and control over land for production of food and realization of other basic needs.

The Institute is currently working on several programmes and project across the country. To enable smooth operationalization and coordination of these programmes HAKIARDHI seeks to recruit staff who will work with others to achieve the Institute objectives. Thus, the Institute invites suitable and competent candidates to apply for the position below:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (1 Position) Duties and Responsibilities;

- (i) Develop Monitoring and Evaluation system for the Institute;
- (ii) Identify programme based and holistic institutional indicators for tracking results of the various interventions;
- (iii) Develop periodic programme monitoring and evaluation procedures, frameworks and systems;
- (iv) Consolidate and maintain institutional database management system;
- (v) Provide guidance and technical backstopping to programme staff on result tracking, report writing and reporting;
- (vi) Provide inputs, information and statistics for quarterly, annual and other reports to programme management team;
- (vii) Conduct capacity assessment on existing monitoring and evaluation system and develop indicators and monitoring strategy for the programme;
- (viii) Suggest strategies to the programme Management team for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of activities by identifying bottlenecks in completing programme activities and developing plans to minimize or eliminate such bottlenecks.
- (ix) Develop M&E plans for all projects and proposals and ensure the same is followed up during implementation;
- (x) Ensure all grants have updated work-plan and Performance Management Plan (PMPs) in line with all approved proposals, regularly reviewing and updating as needed;
- (xi) Provide alert to the respective programme officers on corrective actions required to avoid delays in implementation, including flagging operational issues and risks requiring timely actions;

- (xii) Review monthly progress reports from partners and ensure they have evidence to back-up and provide feedback to the respective staff;
- (xiii) Ensure that cross cutting issues such as participation, gender, age and disability are effectively addressed/mainstreamed in all project implementations as part of ensuring accountability.

Qualifications of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

- (i) The minimum entry qualification for the post of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer is at least a bachelor degree in social science such as public administration, sociology, Human Resources Management, Geography and environment studies, community development and any other related disciplines from a reputable university or institute;
- (ii) A knowledge and skills in Monitoring and Evaluation attained from a credible college/ institution;
- (iii) At least 3 years working experiences in development projects or donor funded NGOs projects;
- (iv) Excellent skills in report writing, presentation and publications;
- (v) Excellent computer skills and advanced knowledge of various database packages, qualitative, and quantitative skills;
- (vi) A knowledge on land matters in Tanzania context and beyond is an added value;
- (vii) Knowledge and experience in implementing land, natural resources and environmental programmes and projects;
- (viii) Experience in conducting monitoring and evaluation including the entire evaluation cycle, from design and formulation to implementation, analysis and presentation of results and recommendations;
- (ix) Fluent in English and Kiswahili languages.

If you think that you meet the described requirements please;

- (i) Write to us and send an application letter explaining in detail how you qualify;
- (ii) Your detailed Curriculum Vitae plus copies of relevant academic transcript and certificates; (i) A short statement on your experience related to Monitoring and Evaluation Officer;
- (ii) Your contact details (telephone, emails etc.).

Please forward your application by the close of business on 8th June 2020. Send your application through recruitment@hakiardhi.or.tz.

All shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview. If you will not be contacted by 10th June, 2020, consider your application unsuccessful.

All applications should be addressed to:

**The Executive Director,
Land Rights Research and Resources Institute
(LARRRI/HAKIARDHI),
Kijitonyama, Sinza Mori,
P.O. Box 75885, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,
recruitment@hakiardhi.or.tz www.hakiardhi.or.tz**

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID actalliance

Advertisement of Business Opportunities

INFORMATION ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Date: 1st June 2020
Reference no: 01/NCA/2020
Subject: Provision of Consultancy Services
Contracting Authority: Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania
Deadline for submission of letter of interest: 7th June 2020

Background

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a Norwegian non-governmental and development organization working to promote Social Justice, Human Rights and Economic Justice for poor communities. NCA has its foundations based in the congregation of Churches in Norway, whose efforts are dedicated towards eradicating poverty, its causes and social deprivation. In Tanzania, NCA works in collaboration with local faith-based partners (FBOs)

Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania, in cooperation with its partner invites qualified individual consultants or firms in provision of the following services to respond to this advertisement.

Consultants who have responded to this advertisement and provide the required information will be shortlisted and the qualified ones will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the relevant lot(s).

1. Consultancy on Job needs analysis review

The consulting firm or individual should possess the below listed qualifications:

- At least five years of in-depth experience in conducting job needs analysis.
- Experience in talent management/development and training activities.
- Experience in working with international organisations (preferably INGO).
- Excellent analytical, research, writing and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- A high standard of professionalism.
- Proficiency in English both oral and written.

2. Consultancy on Clinical Services Review

Specific qualifications of team leader will include but not limited to:

- Master's in health related with experience in conducting clinical services monitoring and review with not less than five (5) years
- Good understanding of Tanzanian Health systems
- Experience in managing Review team
- Demonstrate evidence of carrying similar work in East Africa before, especially in Tanzania, particularly health sector
- Good in qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Experience in undertaking of clinical services/ hospital services monitoring and review
- Good report writing skills

The interested Consultants shall provide the following information to the Contracting Authority:

- Indicate which Consultancy service you are interested in.
- Provide the following information:
 - the individual or company's name and contact details;
 - contact person;
 - CV of individuals or brief description of the company's background and main line of work; and
 - experience with this kind of service (as specified above).

This is purely information on business opportunities and does not constitute a commitment to purchase or any other form of contractual commitment with the Contracting Authority.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are sorry that we are not accept hard copy of profiles, therefore all documents should be scanned in one original document in PDF format and send to procurement.tanzania@nca.no

When the shortlisting process is completed by the Procurement Committee, successful candidates will be contacted.



Biosustain Tanzania Ltd factory manager Salum Khalfan (2nd-R) takes Angellah Kairuki (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), around the Singida-based facility at the weekend. Right is executive director Sajjad Haider. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

World Environment Day: NEMC chief calls for more environmental protection

By Guardian Reporter

A FEW days to the World Environment Day celebrations, the national Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has called upon Tanzanians to continue with environmental protection by planting trees, protecting water sources and engage in sustainable economic activities.

Speaking to reporters at the weekend, NEMC director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka said Tanzanians should use the celebrations to reflect on the importance of the environment for the benefit of the present and future generations.

"On June 5 every year we celebrated the World Environment Day, a very important day for Tanzanians and the world in general to reflect and take steps in the protection of the environment including planting of trees and other tasks," Dr Gwamaka said.

He also called on development stakeholders to participate in environmental protection to rescue other living organism within the environment.

He said at the national level the celebrations will be held in Lindi Region whereas the Vice president, Samia Suluhu Hassan will address the nation through television and radio, and that they will abide by the directives from the Health ministry on gatherings as a preventive measure against Covid-19 infections.

NEMC Environmental Officer Fredrick Mulinda said climate change is the main cause of environmental degradation and the society should take bold steps to confront the situation.

He said as heat increases, there have been losses to many living organism and plants which are essential for food and making drugs.

At international level, this year's World Environment Day will be celebrated in Colombia and the main topic will centre on biodiversity.



On June 5 every year we celebrated the World Environment Day, a very important day for Tanzanians and the world in general to reflect and take steps in the protection of the environment including planting of trees and other tasks

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbogwe

HECTARES of natural forests have been cleared by artisanal gold miners in Mbogwe District, Geita Region, posing a serious environmental threat, authorities said.

Ezekiel Mbilinyi, Mbogwe District Forest Officer, said the increasing number of small-scale gold miners poses a serious threat to Mbogwe Bukombe Forest Reserve, which is close to Moyowosi and Kigosi Game reserves.

According to Mbilinyi, artisanal gold miners have been cutting down trees for building their mine pits, hence a challenge towards sustainable forest management.

Artisanal gold miners threaten Mbogwe forest reserve's future

"We've been fighting against the vice, but the fight seems to get out of hands as the speed of deforestation is alarming," Mbilinyi said over the weekend when speaking to a group of journalists who visited the district.

He said small miners at Nyakafuri mine site have been cutting trees

rampantly in violation of the laws on Forest Reserves and have been taking timber that they use in propping up their mineshafts, the practice that has destroyed many swathes of Mkwani Forest.

Mbilinyi said stern steps have started to be taken against miners engaged

in such wanton destruction of the forest reserve managed by the agency to ensure tree cutting is not done in legally reserved forest areas.

He however called on residents of villages surrounding the forests to ensure they conduct their alternative activities including beekeeping for

income generation as the areas they live in is friendly to beekeeping.

Mateo Shija, an artisanal at Nyakafuru mine site in the District asked the government through the ministry of minerals to provide them with education and modern tools for mining via modern

technology that will reduce wanton tree cutting.

Guchonza Makoye, another miner and a mineral trader said if the government will loan them with mining equipment such as tractors and other equipment it will assist in reducing deaths from mines collapse.

Arusha abattoirs receive hi-tech skinning knives

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has provided working tools for livestock products including those skinning animals slaughtered at all abattoirs in Arusha Region aimed to add value to the hides and skins.

Presenting the tools here at the weekend to the Acting Regional Administrative Secretary on behalf of abattoirs' workers, the Marketing and Production Director Felix Nandonde said for a long time, hides and skins have been spoiled for using low quality skinning tools including blunt knives.

He said the ministry provided one-day training to the skinning workers in the region so as to add value to hides and skins including issuing a licence to each skinning worker as well as the appropriate tools thereof.

He mentioned the tools as modern knives made from latest technology

and are given to those in the region and other areas in the country.

"For a long time the livestock skinning sector was seen as having been abandoned, but now through this government it is now being recognized in order to add value in the livestock products chain," he said.

Speaking soon after receiving the tools, Arusha region's Ag RAS David Lyamongi hailed the ministry for providing the tools and training to animals skinning workers.

He added that the tools will enable the region to produce quality hides and skins that will fetch higher prices in both domestic and foreign markets.

He said the region has many livestock keepers hence the tools have come at opportune time as they will assist in doing away with blunt tools that have been used which spoiled the quality of the hides and skins.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians connect a major pipe in the city's Buza suburb, with a view to making the precious liquid reach more people by later this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PCCB in Mbeya confirms arrest of special seats councillor over bribery

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mbeya Region has confirmed the arrest of Special seats Councillor from Kyela District Tumaini Mwakatika for bribery in contravention of the PCCB Act (No.

11 of 2007).

Confirming the arrest yesterday, the PCCB Head for Mbeya Region Julieth Matechi said the Councillor was arrested by PCCB officers in Kyela District on May 30 this year when she was handing out cash to members of CCM's Women Organisation (UWT)

who had gathered at a requiem mass for the Organisation's former Rungwe district chairperson Esther Mwakipesile.

She said after arrest, the officers who had catch wind of the councillor's activities took her away for interrogation conducted at Kyela PCCB

offices.

"After interrogation that pointed to bribery transactions, and in order not to interfere the investigations that were still going on, she was placed under custody at Kyela Police Station and when investigations are complete, they will issue statement through media,"

Matechi said.

She reminded people in Kyela District and Mbeya Region in general not to agree to be corrupted by those seeking various elective posts as they have discovered that some of them have started lobbying by bribing their

ways through parties' caucuses in order to be voted in.

She said PCCB, working together with the citizens continue to wage war against bribery by receiving reports and tips and ready to provide testimony when needed to do so.



Masons work on the foundation of a building at Musoma Rural constituency's Masinono village dispensary, which is undergoing expansion - with the government having recently injected 400m/- into the project. The Guardian captured the scene at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt resolution to engage remandees won't be reversed'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is in the process of making sure that remandees in the country's various remand prisons start doing work like other inmates.

George Simbachawene, the Minister for Home Affairs, revealed this at the weekend when speaking at different times to prison officials from Segerea, Ukonga and Keko Prisons in Dar es Salaam during his one-day visit in which he stressed that the prisons must be self sufficient.

He said the process that has begun, when completed will bring up strong recommendations on how to utilise the remandees and other inmates to do productive work to ensure the prisons becomes self-dependent.

He said: "any human being has to work to eat and the Holy Books have stressed on that, hence remandees are also supposed to work as they also eat prison food."

"There is a big debate but we are continuing with the process and our aim is not merely wanting them to work as a way of dehumanizing them, no, we want to use them for productive work, hence they will work like others, and this has to be understood," Simbachawene said.

He said there has to be a wider perspective in the issue of production and dependency by the Prison Department that includes finding solutions to other challenges faced by it, including building hoses, paying for electricity and other needs.

He said the concept for the prisons department to produce and become self sufficient is a directive of the President John Magufuli.

He also asked the prisons located in Dar es Salaam to start fruit and vegetable growing and other creative work in the region, and for those

prisons in other regions they should continue with cultivation of rice, maize and livestock keeping and other types of productive work.

He said through such production money will be obtained through sale of crops thereof instead of depending on funds from the government for other expenditure.

The minister also directed the Prisons Department to take stock of all its assets countrywide including farms, whether they have title deeds or not, as well as the number of livestock, their location - because, he said, all these are state assets.

The Dar es Salaam Regional prisons Officer, Solomon Urio thanked the minister for his visit of prisons in the region and urged other leaders to do the same in order to know their activities.

Simbachawene ended his one-day visit to the prisons during which he received reports of their performance from their chief wardens and promised to work on various challenges raised.

...any human being has to work to eat and the Holy Books have stressed on that, hence remandees are also supposed to work as they also eat prison food

Council donates Covid-19 PPE to PwDs

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) has donated Personal Protective Equipment to the Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organisations to support the community member's stay safe amid spread of Covid-19.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, WSSCC coordinator Wilhelmina Malima

said the donated equipment have considered the needs of the People with Disabilities (PwDs).

She said that the protective tools worth over 4m/- include bottles of sanitisers, face masks, liquid soaps, posters and well designed buckets for hand washing.

"We understand the situation which persons with disabilities are going through especially during this time when the country is struggling to contain the spread of

Covid-19. I am pleased to say as a council we have come together to show our support for them, we have provided special cleanliness tools by considering their disabilities," she said.

Ummy Ndelinanga, chairperson of the federation commended the council for extending their support to them as majority of PwDs are facing a number of challenges during the Covid-19 crisis.

"We are happy to receive this

support, majority of PwDs are living in risky environment as they are unable to access protective gear during this pandemic, most of the tools in streets are not friendly to them. So we really appreciate WSSCC for seeing the challenge and being able to help," she said.

She also urged other stakeholders to extend their support to the persons with disabilities across the country so as to enable them stay safe when executing their daily duties.

Mzumbe students satisfied with preparations to battle Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

STUDENTS reporting at Mzumbe University for their second semester have said they are satisfied with preparations made by the University against Covid-19 infections.

Speaking at different times to reporters at the campus, the students said the preparations they have found have removed all fear they had.

"Major precautions have been taken, when you arrive at the main gate you must have your body temperature taken, apart from hand washing facilities placed everywhere, warning signs at strategic places while we are urged to wear masks at all times when we are in gatherings," said Aney Daniel, a first year student taking Science Degree on Human Development.

Speaking to reporters earlier, the university's

acting director for communications Rose Joseph said the university has abided by all government's guidelines through both ministries of Health and Education, as well as the Tanzania Universities

Commission (TUC) to ensure all precautions are taken including having in place many hand washing facilities, sanitisers, including a team of health experts that will serve at the campus's health centre.

Some of the students have already arrived at the campus ready for studies while registration continues whereas more than 11,000 are expected to report at all its campuses in Morogoro, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam.

Nine Years in Heaven



Time is a healer, so people say
It is now nine years since God took you away
You went into a sleep that was long and deep
The vacant place you left in our hearts, will never be filled
Our darling mother, wife, sister, grandmother, we will always remember you
Your infectious smile truly infected us with joy
That warm embrace reminds us of your bulletproof love
And most importantly, the astonishing legacy you left behind
In our heart you will forever remain, Dr. Helen Igobeko Lugina

Helen, the bole of our family tree you are dearly missed by:
Husband – Maxmillian Lugina
Son – Dr. Emmanuel Lugina
Daughter – Mary Lugina Zangira
Son in law – Richard Zangira
Daughter – Roselinda Lugina Reuben
Son in law – Kelvin Reuben
Granddaughter – Gabriella Zangira
Grandson – Nathan Zangira
Granddaughter – Joanna Helena Reuben
Granddaughter – Juliana Anabora Reuben

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Dar es Salaam announces that it is unable to locate the identification number stamps of the Embassy's Official Stamps with numbers 18051 and 1855.

The Embassy urges anyone who has information about the identification number stamps to contact the Embassy on 2111716.

CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DELETE CONTRACTORS WITH OUTSTANDING FEES

As you are all aware, contractors are required to pay Annual Subscription fees within each financial year. A Contractor that fails to pay annual subscription fees cease to be a contractor and is not permitted to proceed with any construction works. Therefore, all Contractors are reminded to pay their outstanding fees by 30th June 2020.

Take Notice that after **30th June, 2020** all contractors that will have outstanding fees shall be deleted from the Register of Contractors and cease to be Contractors.

The names of contractors with outstanding fees can be accessed on the CRB website (www.crb.go.tz) and at Head office, Pamba Road, Tetex House and CRB Zonal Offices in Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam-Mwenge

Be guided accordingly.

REGISTRAR

Tamwa calls for joint effort to curb child abuse in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Media Women's Association, Zanzibar (Tamwa Zanzibar) has expressed concerns over the presence of rapes allegedly perpetrated by young men between ages of 16 to 27 during this period of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

"We urge communities including parents, guardians, religious leaders and law enforcement agencies to help change behaviour of such young men, as it is sad to see a 16-year-old charged with rape," said Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA Zanzibar Director in a statement.

According to her, activists network have reported that they had received 10 incidents in different villages (shehias) of Zanzibar and Pemba since the Covid-19 pandemic was first reported in Zanzibar on March 17, this year where the events were carried out by the foregoing group.

"Two incidents have occurred in Pemba and two in Unguja island of Zanzibar including sodomize, rape and abduction of girls," the statement reads in part.

Chairman of the activist network of the Northern District, Hafidh Muhammed Juma said that a 16-year-old (name withheld) allegedly raped eight-year-old girl at Mahonda, an incident that occurred on April 7, while the child was playing with other children.

He said the suspect, who lived close to the victim called the girl to send him water to the toilet but the child refused, that was when the suspect allegedly forced her to the toilet, blocked her mouth and throat and raped her. He said the network in collaboration with the mother of the child managed to report the case to the law enforcement agencies.

Similarly, chairman of Activists Network in southern district of Unguja, Masoud Ame, reported that a 17-year-old girl was raped and abducted at Muiyuni A, Unguja South district by another suspect.

According to Massoud, the activist network had taken the girl to Makunduchi hospital for a medical examination, and reported the claim to Makunduchi Police Station.

In Pemba Island, chairman of activist Network in Wete District, Bakiri Khamis Haji also said that they had exposed four rape and abduction incidences.

"Both cases have been reported at the Wete Police Station but after the outbreak of Covid-19

investigation is going slowly, we continue to advise the parents of the survivors not to be discouraged of the delay," said Haji.

Other incidents occurred in Wambaa area of Mkoani District, and another one happened in Mtambile area, Mkoani District, Southern Region in Pemba.

When contacted, Regional Police Commander of the Southern region, Pemba, Makarani Ahmed said during this period of the outbreak of Covid-19 all cases were received including abusive cases but there is a process of taking the suspects to court, when police complete the investigation and collect all evidences the case will be brought to court.

"In the southern region of Pemba, we received abusive claims which are still under investigation, we would like to reassure the society that all the claims will be sent to courts of law when evidence is completed despite the ongoing fight against the corona virus," said Makarani.

"TAMWA-Zanzibar urges the government to put in place concrete measures to change the behaviour of young men in order to allow women and children to live in peace and achieve their social and political goals," Dr Mzuri said.

She also urged relevant authorities to urgently address these cases and impose penalties so that these actions can be abolished as guided by the National Plan of Action 2017-2022.

"We would also like to urge the parents to be close to their children especially during this time when the community is more focused on thinking about ways to deal with corona disease," she said.

She further commended all law enforcement agencies in Pemba for sentencing two people involved in child abuse, including a resident of Kisiwapanza, Pemba, who was jailed for 10 years for allegedly impregnating a Standard Five school girl and a resident of Chokocho who has been jailed for 13 years for abusing a child.

Dr Mzuri urged communities to continue protecting themselves from coronavirus by following the advice of health professionals including: avoiding unnecessary gatherings, social distancing, washing their hands whenever necessary and bearing in mind that Corona is inevitable but also fatal.

"Two incidents have occurred in Pemba and two in Unguja island of Zanzibar including sodomize, rape and abduction of girls"



Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (L, foreground) pictured at the weekend going around a power supply project supposed to serve Ngorongoro District but whose implementation is said to be experiencing an unnecessary delay. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY owners have been challenged to ensure health safety measures to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.

Acting chief executive of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Khadija Mwenda made the statement during her meeting with officials from the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

The meeting which was held at OSHA offices aimed to discuss on how to improve occupation safety especially at industries countrywide. The CTI delegation was led by executive director, Leodegar Tenga.

"There are still a number of challenges in regard to health and safety of workers at our industries, we have come up with a special strategy dubbed 'Vision Zero' which if properly implemented will largely reduce workplace

Industry owners challenged to improve health safety measures

injuries and illness," said the OSHA boss.

Winding up the discussion, Tenga said they also deliberated on how to implement the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2003.

He said CTI is aware that industry owners are responsible for employees' safety and health and that OSHA has been legally tasked to ensure safety at workplaces.

"Our meeting aimed to discuss how industry owners will fulfill safety requirements as per OSHA directives," he noted adding they have informed OSHA officials on recommendations and opinions from confederation of members.

Tenga said they agreed to continue

educating employers on the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2003.

Veronica Mbazingwa from Chemicotex said the meeting was part of a learning session where industry owners have learnt on how OSHA implements its activities as well as employer's responsibilities in protecting workers.

OSHA was established by the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 2003 with the main objective to provide for protection of persons other than persons at work against hazards to health and safety arising out of or in connection with activities of persons at work.

DEPOSIT INSURANCE BOARD



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF FBME BANK LIMITED (UNDER LIQUIDATION) REMINDER NOTICE ON REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURED DEPOSITS

Following the closure of FBME Bank Limited in May 2017, the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) of P.O. Box 2939, Dar es Salaam, commenced reimbursement of insured deposits to the depositors of the closed bank in line with provisions of the law. The DIB wishes to issue this reminder notice that;

1. The reimbursement of unclaimed insured deposits to the depositors of the defunct FBME Bank Limited is still going on through the office premises of former FBME Bank Limited located at Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. Until end of April, 2020, number of depositors equivalent to 51.77% of all eligible depositors have been reimbursed.
2. By this reminder notice, the DIB reminds all eligible depositors who are yet to collect their insured deposits to collect their deposit at the Kinondoni office premises of the former FBME Bank Limited.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Director
Deposit Insurance Board
2 Mirambo Street
P. O. Box 2939
11884 Dar es Salaam
Tel: + 255 22 223 5390
Fax: + 255 22 223 4200
E-mail: DIB-INFO@bot.go.tz

Issued by:
The Director, Deposit Insurance Board
Dated: 28th May, 2020

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



TENDER NO. TFRA/T/F/DAP/2020-21/01 FOR IMPORTATION OF DAP FERTILIZER THROUGH THE BULK PROCUREMENT SYSTEM INVITATION FOR TENDER

1. The Government through Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA), as the Coordinator for bulk procurement of fertilizers in Tanzania, invites all Pre-qualified Importers to bid for importation of 1 Fertilizer under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS).
2. The tender will be conducted through a Competitive Bidding as per procedures specified in The Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations, 2017 (GN No. 49 of 2017)
3. The successful bidder shall be eligible for supply of DAP fertilizer for the period of July to September, 2020 under the terms and conditions stipulated in the shipping and supply contract, Fertilizer Act No. 09 of 2009, The Fertilizer Regulations of 2017 and The Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulation, 2017 for a specified cargo.
4. A complete set of bidding documents in English shall be collected by Pre-qualified importers after applying to TFRA (by mentioning the name, address of the company, email address and telephone number), receiving control number and making online payment to TFRA account of non-refundable fee of USD 100

(One hundred United States Dollars) payable to Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority

Bring the bank transfer documents/details or the deposit slip to TFRA office on working days (Mondays to Fridays) between 0800 hrs and 1530 hrs.

5. Every bid must be accompanied by a bid security of 2.5% of the total amount of tender in a form of Bank Guarantee from any bank or financial institution, payable to Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority.
6. The final date of submission of Bids will be 1100 hours Dar es Salaam local time on June 11th 2020 and the bids will be opened for evaluation and award letter issued in public in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

NB: Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, shall not be accepted.

7. The bid should consist of an original set of Price, quantity & Delivery schedule, Bid Security and registered Power of Attorney properly filled and enclosed in a sealed envelope marked TENDER NO. TFRA/T/F/DAP/2020-21/01 FOR IMPORTATION OF DAP FERTILIZER THROUGH THE BULK PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, which must be physically delivered during official hours (i.e. Monday to Friday 0800 – 1530 hrs local time) at the address below:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TFRA) PLOT NO. 15471, 1
KILIMO STREET, KILIMO I COMPLEX TEL.: +255 739 002 012
E-MAIL: info@tfra.go.tz
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

'Model girls' high school in Kisarawe to start enrolling students come next month'

By Getrude Mbago

AUTHORITIES in Kisarawe District, Coast Region are building a state-of-the-art model high school in a new drive to scale up education for girls in the district, which was established more than 100 years ago.

So far, the construction of the school has reached 70 percent, giving opportunity for hundreds of girls in the area to have more access to quality education.

The 1.5bn/- school is the first of its kind in the region as it contains all required and unique equipment, buildings, teachers and the surroundings, said Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government).

He was speaking over the weekend when he visited the construction site of the school. Jafo who is an MP for Kisarawe said that the idea of building the school was hatched and developed by Jokate Mwegelo, the current District Commissioner.

The minister commended efforts made by the district authorities for making the dream come true.

He said that they are working to ensure that the school opens next month by enrolling form five students and then form one students in January next year.

Located in Mhaga village in Kibuta ward, the school will be able to accommodate 460 students at once,

both Ordinary and Advanced levels.

Jafo directed the District Executive Director (DED) and Education officer to commence procedures of registering the school, which will be named as 'Jokate Mwegelo Girls School'.

"All what we're seeing today are the results of the efforts and enthusiasm of our District Commissioner, who has contributed a lot to ensure that this school is built here. She carried the vision from scratch and brought it to the stakeholders," he stressed.

For her part, DC Mwegelo said that the completion of the school is also going to address early pregnancies and marriages, factors which have been thwarting young girls to achieve their education dreams.

She said that the school has been built through contributions from various stakeholders through the campaign dubbed 'Eliminate Zeros in Kisarawe'.

She added that "The school will also fuel education and development spirit among the society as many of them used to walk miles away from home to school something that was leaving other children desperate at home as they couldn't afford travelling everyday to schools."

She called on young girls in villages to value their life and focus more on studies and those who will get chance to study at the school to ensure that they make the best of their opportunity by studying really hard

and by successfully reaching their lives' big dreams.

"This should be the first step for the girls to reach their big dream and they should draw on the examples of phenomenal women in Tanzania who have managed to break the glass ceiling by achieving high level posts in government and in corporate life," she added.

She said that the school design were created by the Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH) so as to create ideal, inclusive and sustainable learning spaces for the girls.

Some of the parents expressed their gratitude to the government saying that the construction of the facility in the village will automatically address a number of challenges which faces school children in the community including poor attendance and hunger due to long walking distances.

Subira Hamad, one of the parents said: "We hail the government for bringing this important service (education) near to us, our children will no longer have to wake up early in the morning and walk miles to reach school."

Hafidh Juma Abdallah, a resident of Mhaga village said: "This school will also contribute to the improvement of education status among children from remote villages that many of them have been failing to fulfill their educational dreams due to lack of schools and harmonisation."



Employment Opportunities

Abt Associates, a global leader in research and implementing technical programs in the fields of economic growth, international health, social and environmental policy, and climate change, seeks highly qualified candidates for the anticipated USAID-funded Tanzania Horticulture Activity.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- A university degree in agriculture, business administration, economics, communications, health and behavioral or social sciences or a related field is required.
- A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in one or more of the relevant technical areas listed below. USAID experience is highly preferred.

Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP): will provide strategic leadership, management, and technical direction in advancing horticulture market systems strengthening and will support the project team, and counterparts in the implementation of activities. The DCOP will provide managerial and technical support to the COP, assisting in areas including work planning, performance management, and strategic communications.

Director, Project Operations and Finance is responsible for the efficient and effective management of all aspects of project operations. He or she will provide operational and logistical leadership for functions including human resources, finance, procurement, and subcontracts.

Director, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning is responsible for designing and managing monitoring, evaluation, learning and knowledge management systems. He or she will undertake iterative learning and adaptation, including the use of real-time information and analysis to continuously assess progress and adjust interventions or approaches as necessary, including engagement with value chain actors and with development partners to learn about what is working across the system.

Lead, Horticulture Market Systems will provide strategic leadership, management, and technical direction and support to the project team and counterparts in the implementation of activities. This will include facilitating activities that allow for more efficient transactions from aggregation, enhanced cooperation and trust between buyers and suppliers, and increased incentives for buyers and suppliers to invest in quality, productivity and service provision (e.g., willingness to provide services such as credit and/or extension).

Agricultural Technology Solutions Specialist will provide subject matter expertise and leadership to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between private sector input companies, agro-dealers, local government extension officers, and horticulture producers to identify, integrate and advance uptake of technologies. These may include improved seed varieties, climate-smart agriculture practices, sustainable soil and water management approaches, greenhouses, drip irrigation and multiple-use water systems—including through social behavior change interventions. He/she will facilitate activities to incentivize smallholders to improve productivity and quality upgrading, combining technical solutions with market opportunities.

Agricultural Policy Specialist will work to advance a series of horticulture policy and regulatory activities in collaboration with donors and stakeholders. He/she will advance activities which engage local governments, private sector, farmer organizations, and TAHA to improve the enabling environment and address policy bottlenecks to market systems development, including tax levies, grades and standards, and the high cost of transporting produce.

Youth Engagement and Leadership Development Specialist will provide subject matter expertise as necessary to identify, integrate and implement innovative youth engagement strategies to promote opportunities for inclusive youth participation on issues that impact their communities and livelihoods.

Interested candidates may send a CV and cover letter to tanzaniajobs@abtassoc.com. Please include the title of the technical area and "USAID/Tanzania Horticulture" in the subject line of the email. One email per position application. Deadline for applications is 15 June 2020. All positions are contingent upon program award and funding. Tanzanian nationals are encouraged to apply. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

Abt Associates is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer committed to fostering a diverse workforce. Abt Associates provides market-competitive salaries and comprehensive employee benefits.



Tina Mwashwa (R), director of an NGO known as FADev with a mission to support small-scale miners, pictured at Chato in Geita Region yesterday presenting posters on precautions against the spread of Covid-19 infections to representatives of Kilimo Kwanza small miners' group. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt promises to boost TADB capital

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyoni

THE government has pledged to boost capital of Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) due to its assistance to farmers and for prioritising indigenous investors.

The pledge was given at the weekend by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angellah Kairuki in Manyoni District, Singida Region during her visit at Qstek sunflower processing factory.

The minister hailed TADB on how it has been assisting farmers and small investors as compared to other financial institutions.

She hailed the bank for providing the firm with 2.2bn/- investment funds for the production of 2,500 tonnes of quality edible oil from 6,000 tonnes of sunflower seeds per year.

She urged TADB to continue supporting the factory until it is fully operational and added: "I know you have enabled 829 farmers and I understand you have plans to assist 200,000 others. You have done a very good job, but you should also show an

example in assisting our youth so that together we realise President John Magufuli's dream of making Tanzania attain middle income economy status by 2025."

She said the government has given tax relief to investors in the country to attract investments and called upon the country's local council directors to allocate areas for investment and they should never place obstacles to their intentions.

TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said up to now the construction of the project has 3bn/- while the bank, as a development stakeholder provided 1.5bn/- for the construction of factory buildings and 718m/- for kick-starting actual production.

Justine said Tanzania's existing edible oil factories produce 201,000 tonnes per year, which she said was not enough saying the only way to revolutionise the edible oil sector is to enable small farmers embark in modern farming.

He added: "If we can mobilise small farmers, we can assist many of them

here in Manyoni and in other areas of the country; hence I promise you we shall continue working together with Singida Region authorities in lifting up sunflower growers."

He said this was the second loan to provide in Singida Region as they have already provided more than 500m/- loans to small sunflower farmers, the second is the 2.2bn/- extended to Qstek factory."

The factory's Director Emmanuel Nagunwa thanked the government for enabling them to establish the factory that will widen the scope of sunflower business sector as well as increase government revenue through various taxes.

He said the factory expects to hire 70 permanent employees including 100 casual workers.

"I also thank TADB as it has been of great assistance to us in realising our dreams, especially the loan extended to us and we believe our factory will spur development in other sectors in Manyoni District," he added.

The factory is slated to start edible oil production in August this year.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

MONDAY 1 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Where is sugar 'hiding'? Isn't it sabotage, really?

AFTER the government issued strong assurances that the sugar scarcity plaguing the country for well over two months now was ending, two weeks and counting have gone by without people being assured of obtaining the all-important in shops even in Dar es Salaam.

Top authorities talked of about 4,000 tonnes being already in port and another 21,000 tonnes being awaited, and thus the market would be entirely covered, even saturated, with the item. But it appears that the bottlenecks trade authorities were citing are still intact.

The first limitation mentioned by Agriculture minister Japheth Hasunga was that large ocean-going vessels expected to offload the sugar at the Dar es Salaam Port had become fewer, chiefly owing to Covid-related travel restrictions and lockdowns in many places.

It was reported that the vessels' crews started offloading the sugar into small vessels in the high seas, the latter themselves doing the bidding of big traders hiring such boats, as there was much less competition to land large volumes on the port.

As importers would know that no one else would have received such a consignment, they almost automatically becomes price givers - as wholesalers become price takers and retailers literally follow suit, scarcity aiding.

Casual observation indicates that the price of sugar has diminished somewhat since it was announced that there was plenty of it either in port or was expected to arrive at the port "any time now".

For instance, in Dar es Salaam the price "fell" from 4,000/- per kilo if one could find it in some street corner shop with fewer customers, to around 3,200/- as optimal price for retailers. Of course, the "official" price was 2,600/-.

The whole idea of returning to normal in sugar supply and pricing is still a pipedream to city dwellers,

and it's crystal clear that supervising authorities can't do any better.

For one thing, the shipping environment is not yet on the right gear, as it is unlikely that major suppliers like Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia would already have finished with Covid-19-induced lockdowns and allowed their shippers and exporters to resume the job.

So the underlying conditions minister Hasunga and his Industry and Trade counterpart, Bashungwa, aired at a joint press conference are still basically on the ground, as little progress has been achieved in rolling back lockdowns at the global level.

It can also be said that when there is not much chance of another shipment coming in with similar tonnage as the 21,000 tonnes that was being awaited in port a fortnight ago, even such amount, when it is distributed among say 100 wholesalers at different points in the country, wouldn't make much of a difference.

What pushes retailers to relay sugar to customers is that the latter would get it in the next shop or supermarket at agreeable prices. If there is no assurance or guarantee of this, price dictation follows.

The competition mechanism for sugar or any other products is in limbo as the Covid-19 lockdown takes its course, and its impact on supply chains around the world is quite evident.

Reinforcing controls through security checks to obtain regular supplies of sugar is a daunting task as the more traders are caught or fined, the less they will touch the sugar that comes in small consignments to some big traders.

This at times tends to worsen chances of finding the product in any shop, which is more unpopular than hiked prices, and hence the seeming tolerance of the situation by some authorities. They check around, sniff out stocked sugar, not much else.

Even then, the public has every reason in the world to wonder aloud: **WHERE IS THE SUGAR HIDING?**

World attitude on tobacco has been stable, but not adequately effective

MAY 31 is marked annually as World No Tobacco Day with global efforts to stop young people from joining the smoking club, while the aiding of adults to quit the habit is reinvigorated.

There have understandably been few activities of that sort this year, largely owing to ongoing restrictions on social gatherings - which applies to most settings save for the most necessary.

In that case the World No Tobacco Day would have been marked by messaging among activists. An official information site says the World No Tobacco Day is a day for people in NGOs and governments to organise various activities to make people aware of the health problems tobacco use can cause.

Such activities are mainly directed at public marches often with banners, advertising campaigns and educational programmes, and people going to public places to encourage people to stop smoking.

It has also encouraged the passage of regulations like the introduction of bans on smoking in particular places or types of advertising. It also provides a convenient atmosphere for meetings of anti-tobacco campaigners.

What has perhaps been the more encouraging impact is the worldwide enactment of laws restricting smoking in particular areas. This kind of instruction has a mental impact on those on the margins of the smoking club as it may enhance their ability to count the pros and cons more soberly, not just see it as some sort of lifestyle

or fashion.

That is an immediate impact whose actual effectiveness can be gauged via extensive interviews and gathering of data, which NGOs do most of the time - and, with tobacco a source of non-communicable diseases, it is a top issue.

Campaigns against tobacco use started when experimental medicine was gaining ground, especially after World War II, and the generalisation of public medical care made it a thorny issue adding to the medical burden significantly.

In another aspect, it is less legitimate as a habit socially speaking compared to alcohol use, in which case the campaign against it has been more effective while alcohol is merely tracked by sparse and half-hearted security checks.

And, again unlike alcohol, it has been possible especially in the United States to file mass litigation cases for instance where a person contracts lung cancer out of smoking. This led to big warnings on each packet of cigarettes.

As Tanzania lacks a vibrant social sector and major tobacco companies, while for decades the Treasury was sensitive to tobacco-based taxes (apart from beer), little local input has been registered in that direction.

Tobacco is a contributing cause to the felling of trees and the cutting up of bushes for 'curing' the crop, but the point one hears in that direction is that there is plenty of child labour which ought to be ended. We still have a way to go, evidently.

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World's forests essential resources for global pharmaceutical industry

By Dr. Felician Kilahama

THE first part focussed on trees and plants as materials of high medicinal values and how they became centre of attention as far as treatment of various ailments and sicknesses are concerned.

In this final part of the discussion about forests, trees and various plants as major sources of raw-materials for the pharmaceutical industry; the discussion dwells about the extent and applicability of plant materials in curing various diseases and the role of scientific research in shaping identification and suitability of plant curative materials in the medical care and uses. It is well-known from historical trends and various documentations that human-beings have used plants, plant constituents, herbal provisions and finished plant/herbal products, among others as food, medical therapy and disease prevention.

Additionally, in some particular local conditions people have used plant/herbal materials for cosmetics and as natural dyes.

Again, during the past until now some tribes like the "Wahadzabe" in central Tanzania rely heavily on plant/herbal materials for their well-being. For instance, about 90% of their food and medicinal requirements is entirely obtained from forest resources.

Mostly depend on gathering natural foods from forests including hunting and collecting honey.

They also use some poisonous materials obtained from plants and fix on arrows and spearheads used for hunting and warfare. It is through traditional/indigenous technical knowledge combined with scientific information about chemical composition and structures of plant/herbal mechanisms of action that enabled scientists to extract active chemical elements that became beneficial to the medical industry.

Despite booming modern medical services in developed and developing countries; it is acknowledged that the role of traditional systems in health care is still highly recognized. Some research work in 2013 revealed that about 80% of the world population residing in developing countries depend on plant products for primary health services. This does not mean that people in industrialized countries do not use natural herbs in their environment.

Existing literature indicate that at least 20% of those living in developed countries are also using about 25% of medicines derived directly from plant products. Such medicines and drugs



include those against cardiovascular ailments; malignancies; diabetes; chronic obstructive airways diseases as well as parasitic and microbial infections.

Through research and experiences generated over the past centuries, it was reasonably understood that indigenous systems of medicinal practices in the Latin America and the Asian Region (including China); have been widely studied and recognized by reflecting on their contributions to the development of new drugs and medicines. In contrast, not sufficient research and documentation have been done in the African continent; where traditional healing and diseases curing therapies using traditional customary systems have been in practice for centuries. Developed countries have capacities in terms of trained and skilled human-power, equipment including predictable and sustainable financial resources to conduct timely and relevant research and documentation compared to most of the least developed countries (LDCs).

Generally, available and accessible information indicate that still there is a lot to be done (through research and other scientific studies) that could benefit the modern world in terms of alternative sources of medicines in the context of what is available from the natural environment. Experiences show that until now a relatively small fraction of the Planet Earth's "green/natural pharmacy" has been studied and evaluated thus, a lot more work is needed to advance nature's power

and its contributions to the medical industry.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2002 reported that in many countries, the leading health care system is based on modern medicines. Alternatively, the forest and herbal plant-based treatments are among frequently used health-care in many countries. The information by WHO further indicated that approximately 75% of the French population; 70% of that of Canada; 48% of that of Australia; 42% of that of the USA and 38% of that of Belgium use traditional medicines, at least, once in their life time. Furthermore, about 80% of the African population use traditional medicines for prevention and curing of various diseases; whereas considerable extent in the Asian and American populations incorporate traditional medicine practices in their daily health-care.

Experiences in various countries indicate that traditional medicines is encouraged by aversion of modern medicines with side effects due to chemicals hence the need for alternatives available in natural green pharmacies in forests/woodlands. This is more prompted by the brief that traditional medicines have fewer side-effects compared to industrial processed medicines; but also hinging on general traditions, customary and personal beliefs. Again, traditional health therapies are acknowledged as excellent for general health maintenance and for minor ailments such as colds, headaches; sleeplessness (insomnia), rashes, allergies plus

depression. Additionally, traditional medicine practices are helpful in the sense that many people, in developing countries, cannot afford the relatively high costs of modern medicines; thus indebted to depend on relatively cheaper traditional therapies.

So far, the world is engulfed by corona-virus leading to Covid-19 yet with no cure or prevention. Since there is "mother nature's green pharmacy"; efforts be made to research and undertake serious scientific studies about various trees species and herbal plants that can help the entire world from threats resulting from Covid-19.

For instance, research in rainforests in Latin America indicated that water collected from the forest-soils contains cancer-fighting elements. Again there is tremendous knowledge about use of certain plants in enhancing our bodies' health conditions. For instance, tree/plant/herbal leaves like those of some Eucalyptus species; "Mchaichai" (Cymbopogon citratus) and "Kashagara" have been applied in steam/vapour therapies in various local context.

The steam therapy is highly recognized and practised in Tanzania as one way to fight Covid-19. These plants possess essential oils that can assist in maintaining well functioning respiratory systems of our bodies. However, more research is highly needed for solutions how best such therapies be practiced without leading to unforeseen side-effects.

Dr Felician Kilahama is the retired director of Forestry and Beekeeping

Covid-19: Spread of epidemic, science, political discourse, and global hotspots

By Andy Slavitt

TODAY I'm sharing short updates on four Covid-19 topics: spread of the disease, science, political discourse, and global hotspots.

As expected, for the US, the disease is moving South and Midwest as the Northeast improves. "Super-spreader" data are meanwhile favourable to containment, but disease spread in South America is accelerating.

Regions with early May openings are seeing increased hospitalisations. Why? Because that's what outbreaks do. They find the open areas. Good early states - like West Virginia and Montana - are seeing growth now. Alabama, Wisconsin, and Texas are also seeing growth.

The most concerning development is pointed out here by Scott Gottlieb. Hospitalisations, after a decline, are moving back up. With 20,000 new cases, this means 800 new hospitalizations per day. If this continues, it will put hospitals in some areas under pressure.

Since 20 states (in the US) don't report, and it's hard to get a complete picture of ICU beds, if hospitals in a state get 70 per cent full and cases are growing, it's a concern.

The cause and effect of states loosening up their standards may be seen in Wisconsin. The Supreme Court overruled the Governor and people were forced to vote in person in early April.

The best look at who are dying from Covid-19 is to look at NY: 52 per cent of the deaths were people under 75 and 28 per cent were under 64

Science: Our understanding of this disease, which we knew nothing about, is advancing! Why are we able to reduce R0 (the rate of infection) so quickly? Big events and super spreaders may hold the key.

It looks like a small number of people in large concentrated events are bigger drivers. Cancelling flights, closing bars, halting sporting events and religious services likely was responsible for a large number of the 20,000 lives saved this



Photo: Alexi Rosenfeld/Getty Images

month.

A report from Israel shows a small number of infected people doing most of the spreading. These are the "super spreaders". This would mean that between 80 and 95 per cent of infected people are not very contagious or don't behave in a manner which increases spread.

If true, this would make Covid-19 much easier to control. It doesn't reduce the risk when someone's infected, but it

does mean that we can learn to live with - and control - Covid-19. Avoiding large gatherings is key.

The dumbest thing of the week is President Donald Trump turning Covid-19 into a culture war by declaring houses of worship an essential service. Please, have faith. But put some of it in

good science.

When bars and restaurants closed in March, transmissions dropped significantly. Old hotspots will become new again. Even while we haven't made nursing homes, jails and meatpacking factories safe, we risk adding to the list.

Vaccines: I have been quite purposely not falling into the optimism that many are, but I have moved from a five to a six on the optimism scale. To be clear, vaccines are a 2021 event. Mid-2021 if things are going well. But so far things are going well.

The reason it's hard to get past a six on the scale is that, despite the rapid work from Moderna, Oxford, Pfizer and Sanofi, in the end how many people the vaccine works for and who can take it will be unknown for some time.

The state of discourse is dishonest. An example: Suicide has been an epidemic for the last two decades, growing to record numbers each year - 47,000 died from suicide and 70,000 from overdoses in the US in 2017. And support to fund mental health during this time has been just a joke.

But now, Trump says more have died from overdoses and suicide than Covid-19. Recall that 100,000 people (but likely many more than that) have died in the last two months. It's a cynical lie, resting on the backs of people with mental illness. And the lie is filled

with fake sources' fake data.

Please, listen to Jason Kander as we talk about the real issues that are sadly ignored - ignored for the purposes that this crisis too can be ignored.

The state of the world, particularly in South America, is frightening. Brazil is now going through its peak season and only days ago almost precisely equaled the US case count on the way to surpassing it: Brazil: 20,803, the US: 20,806.

The death toll projection in Brazil is now 125,000 by this August 4. Chile, Peru and Mexico are in real trouble as well. Having seen hospitals in all three countries, I am profoundly worried.

This is supposed to be off season for the US. And it's too active. On the other hand, spread is going to occur and cases will occur.

We have the ability to reduce it by what we are learning about how it spreads and by making it less lethal. We make decisions now in the name of the economy that can be made wisely if we follow the #OpenSafely guidance.

A reason for optimism is science, altered a bit by human behaviour - and always the hard part.

A Medium dispatch by Andy Slavitt, former Medicare, Medicaid & ACA head for former President Barack Obama.

Surfaces, AC systems, toilet flushes, distance may all be involved in spreading Covid-19

By Robert Roy Britt

THE primary means of transmission for SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, has been somewhat up in the air ever since it emerged. It's clear the virus can spread by direct contact with an infected person.

But do we really pick it up on doorknobs, packages and other surfaces? Can we catch it when somebody briefly invades the forbidden six-foot radius? Is the coronavirus literally wafting through the air after an infected person merely talks?

The answer, several infectious disease experts say, is probably "all of the above". And you can likely add toilet flushing to the list.

Such a variety of transmission methods would explain why so many people are catching the virus. And it would mean that the latest advice from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a bit out of sync with a lot of experts.

The CDC recently updated its webpage on the subject, making this fresh statement: "The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person," in these ways: "Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about six feet); through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks - these droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs."

The CDC also updated the ways it says the virus does not spread easily, including this: "It may be possible that a person can get Covid-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus."

Infectious disease experts worry that the language of the new guidelines might discourage people from taking basic precautions like hand-washing. Others take issue with the suggestion that airborne transmission doesn't occur beyond six feet.

"A persistent problem in this pandemic has been lack of clear messaging from governmental leadership, and this is another unfortunate example of that trend," Angela Rasmussen, PhD, a virologist at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, told the Washington Post.

She added: "It could even have a detrimental effect on hand hygiene and encourage complacency about physical distancing or other measures."

Rasmussen says that she contin-



ues to wash her hands after handling packages, and she continues to disinfect shared surfaces.

Is the coronavirus in the air?

Whether SARS-CoV-2 remains airborne and viable in respiratory droplets beyond a few feet has been much debated for months now. But multiple studies and several experts say that the virus can definitely remain in the air for several minutes and infect people well beyond six feet from the source, possibly even circulating infectiously through air-conditioning systems.

A January study in China, published by the CDC, concluded that the coronavirus was spread by one person in a restaurant to ten others who were in the plume of an AC unit, while other diners out of the

plume were not infected.

When a person infected with the virus talks, sings, coughs or sneezes, droplets containing the virus are emitted. The CDC and all leading experts agree on this, and this is why face masks are so vital - not so much to protect the wearer, but to protect others.

The droplets come in a range of sizes, from tiny to tinier. The smallest, called aerosols, have been likened to hair spray that lingers and can be smelled if you walk through a plume even minutes later.

One new study found that the same basic thing happens with the coronavirus, minus the smell. Simply talking produces 2,600 tiny droplets per second, and when a person is infected, around 1,000 of those droplets can contain the virus

- and the droplets can remain in the air for up to 14 minutes.

"These observations confirm that there is a substantial probability that normal speaking causes airborne virus transmission in confined environments," the researchers concluded on May 13 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

A more recent study, published May 19 in the journal Physics of Fluids, found that a slight breeze can carry saliva droplets up to 18 feet. However, the results are based on computer modelling and do not address whether the droplets would be infectious. And in general, experts agree that a breeze is a good thing, dispersing the virus, and that the risk of infection is much lower outside than indoors.

"The droplet cloud will affect both adults and children of different heights," says study team member Dimitris Drikakis with the Defence and Security Research Institute at the University of Nicosia in Greece, adding: "Shorter adults and children could be at higher risk if they are located within the path of the travelling saliva droplets."

Saliva droplets can travel large distances, depending on environmental conditions such as wind speed, temperature, pressure and humidity.

These findings add to other evidence for airborne spread of the coronavirus, including a March 17 study in the New England Journal of Medicine that indicated that the coronavirus can remain viable in aerosols that can drift about for many minutes or even hours.

"This is adequate time for exposure, inhalation and infection to occur both near and far from a source," says Lisa Brosseau, ScD, an expert on respiratory protection and infectious diseases and a retired professor from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Meanwhile, a recent case study showed how easily the coronavirus can spread when people are in close quarters. One person carrying the virus into a choir practice infected 53 others, leading to two deaths.

Such "superspreaders", who may not even know that they are sick but are in fact infectious, remain a big concern for infectious disease experts, some of whom think the CDC is being too cautious in emphasizing only a six-foot rule with no mention of the broader risk of aerosol spreading.

The six-foot rule is based on studies done in the 1930s, when the technology didn't exist to detect aerosols. Joseph Allen, DSc, assistant professor of exposure assessment science at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, has long contended that SARS-CoV-2 is airborne, rooting for upgraded air filters in offices and other public buildings to help prevent the disease's spread. He also suggests opening windows to improve ventilation.

"There are many of us in my field that are convinced that the science says airborne transmission is happening," Allen said earlier this month, adding, more recently: "It's frustrating that neither the CDC nor the WHO (World Health Organization) has issued guidance on the potential for airborne transmission."

Other research has found that how much of the virus a person takes in - that is, the viral dose - can affect whether they get sick, and how sick.

Kimberly Prather, an atmospheric chemist at the Scripps Institution of

Oceanography, agrees. In a perspective published May 27 by the journal Science, Prather and colleagues point out that the six-foot rule is based on studies done in the 1930s, when the technology to detect aerosols didn't exist.

A "large proportion" of the spread of the coronavirus "appears to be occurring through airborne transmission of aerosols produced by asymptomatic individuals during breathing and speaking," they write.

Does faecal matter matter?

The CDC guidance ignores possible faecal transmission of the coronavirus. While it's not proved that this is occurring, Harvard's Joseph Allen, author of the book Healthy Buildings, advises organisations and individuals to take precautions to prevent the spread of virus particles that can become airborne with the flushing of a toilet and float around for up to 30 minutes.

His viewpoint got support from a new study. Researchers in China examined faeces in Covid-19 patients and found viable SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, "indicating that infectious virus in faeces is a common manifestation of COVID-19", the researchers conclude in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

"Our findings indicate the need for appropriate precautions to avoid potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from faeces," they state.

In a separate analysis, researchers have reviewed other studies on possible faecal transmission of the coronavirus. "Most of the studies that have been done so far are picking up viral RNA in the faeces rather than infectious virus. However, a few studies have shown that infectious virus may be present in stool samples," says E. Susan Amirian, PhD, an epidemiologist at Rice University and lead author of the paper to be published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Amirian says that more research is needed to determine whether the coronavirus is spreading in poop, but since other diseases, like the "stomach flu" bug called norovirus, definitely do - and there's no reason not to be cautious.

That means that we should all keep washing our hands, of course. And, as Allen suggests: Close toilet lids before flushing, keep the bathroom fan running, and don't rush in to use a bathroom just after someone else.

Robert Roy Britt, science & health journalist, author and former editor-in-chief of LiveScience & Space dot com, wrote this article for Elemental - a new Medium publication about health and wellness.

The 'High 5s': Strategic vision and results transforming Africa

ABIDJAN

FOR the past ten years, Africa has recorded some of the world's strongest rates of economic growth. At the same time, many African economies continue to function at well below their full potential.

Structural transformation is needed to create more jobs, reduce poverty and accomplish sustainable development objectives.

The African Development Bank's High 5 priority areas are intended to support African countries' achievement of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are: Feed Africa; Light up Africa; Industrialise Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the people of Africa.

Atta Abdul, Fatima-Zahra, Shuaibu, and Daniel are the faces of a continent that is being transformed. By betting on Africa's youth, the bank is banking on the future to make the continent a land of progress, prosperity and hope.

Feed Africa

Since 2015, 74 million Africans have benefited from improved agricultural technologies through AfDB's efforts to support increased food security on the continent.

In western Mauritania, for example, the Brakna-Ouest irrigation infrastructure improvement project enabled 1,500 farming and livestock-

producing families to return to cultivating their fields. It is supported by the bank in the amount of US\$12 million.

"We come from a farming and livestock-producing family and we grew up in that environment. Our harvest was very poor. We wanted to move somewhere else," explains Atta Abdul Seck, a project beneficiary in Louboudou in western Mauritania.

"As a farmer's son, what I liked most when I returned was being able to continue farming. Farming is in my blood," he says proudly.

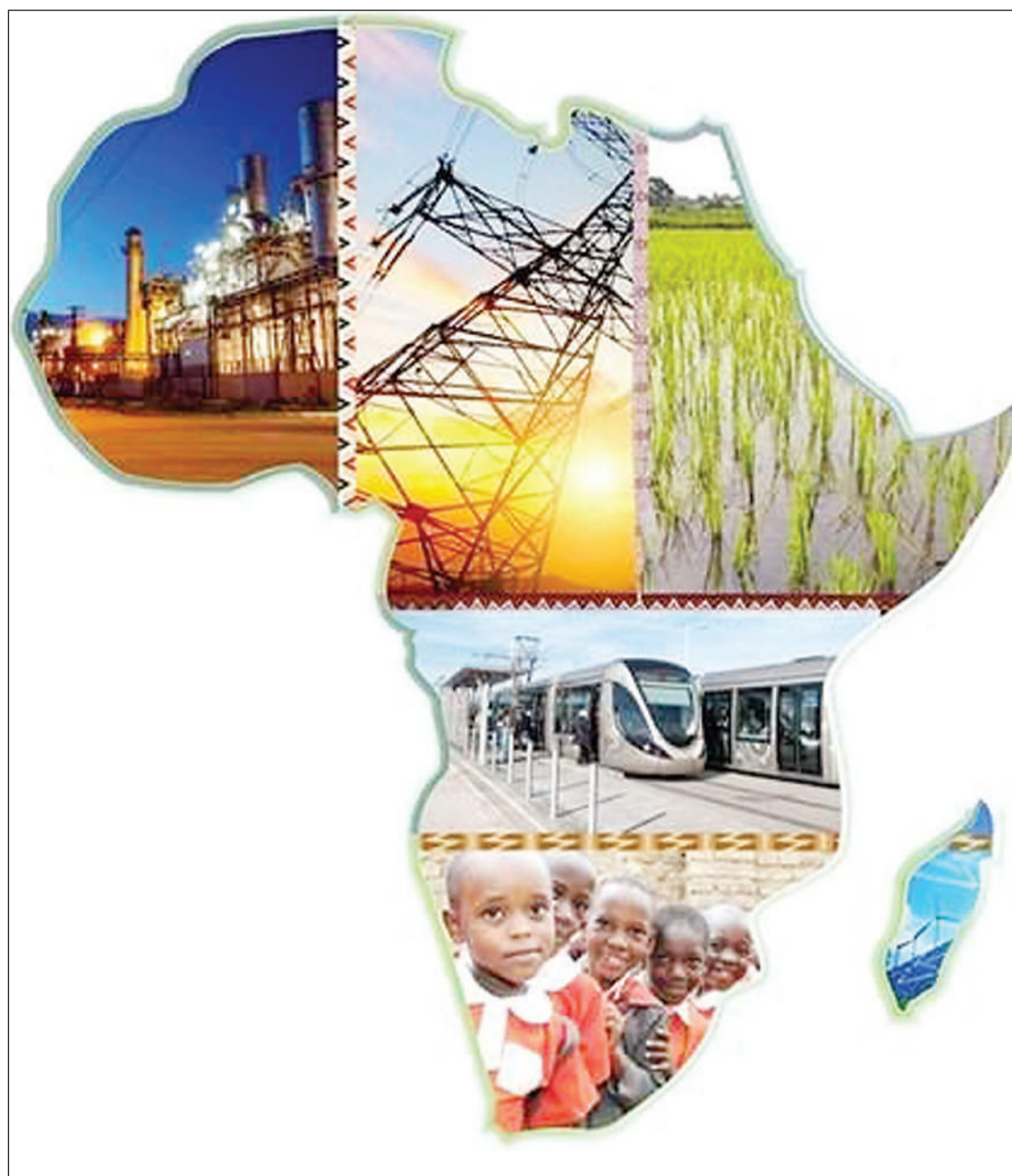
Light up Africa

Without electricity, agriculture cannot effectively meet the growing challenge of food security in Africa. The bank has made investment in energy a priority. Since 2016, it has mobilised US\$12 billion for its "Light Up Africa" strategic priority. Through this investment, 13.4 million people have gained access to electricity.

Morocco has made significant progress in widening access to electricity. In just the past 20 years, the electricity system has expanded to cover almost the entire country.

The national rural electrification programme, supported by the bank with 155 million Euros, has connected nearly 12.8 million Moroccans to the national power grid.

In Dar El Ain, a village 20 kilometres from Marrakesh, the arrival of electricity has opened new doors for the



women of the "Al Amal" cooperative. They use electricity to process their wheat into couscous or create other bar-

ley or wheat-based products. "The cooperative processes local crops into added-value products. Now, with electricity,

the women are much more efficient, and their products are of better quality. It creates hope," says Fatima-Zahra, a 30-year-

old member.

Industrialise Africa

As part of the bank's "Industrialise Africa" priority, nine million people have gained access to private financing. In Nigeria, for instance, the population depends on agriculture and fluctuating harvests have significant repercussions on yields, income and food security.

One solution is fertiliser, particularly if locally produced. AfDB provided US\$100 million to support the construction of a modern fertiliser plant in Port Harcourt.

Shuaibu Yusuf, a farmer in his 30s who lives near Port Harcourt, has experienced the impact of this project in his daily life. He says: "When I used this fertiliser, I saw the difference. My harvest increased by more than 40 per cent. I can feed myself, pay for my children's education, and even their medical expenses," he says.

"I'm going to encourage my children, my neighbours and members of my community to increase their farming activities so we can all progress together," he adds.

Integrate Africa

To derive more benefit from industrialisation, Africa must become better integrated in terms of trade and markets. Through integration, African countries can gain access to larger markets and thereby increase incomes for millions of residents through new opportunities.

Since 2015, at least 69 million people have benefited from AfDB's support for new transport infrastructure that has advanced integration. Gaps in the primary transport corridors have been filled, links between countries have been strengthened, and intra-African trade has been revitalised.

A good example of this is the Nairobi-Addis Ababa corridor, which received US\$670 million in AfDB financing and which has enhanced the potential for trade and job growth in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Daniel Yatta, a 40-year-old Kenyan lorry driver, has been transporting goods between Nairobi and Addis Ababa for 15 years and has seen the impact of new road on his business.

"Back in the day, it would take more than two weeks to drive between Addis and Nairobi," Yatta says.

He says the new road has made his life much easier: "With the new road, the trip takes only a few days. With 30 tonnes of freight, it only takes about 24 hours to drive to Addis!"

Improve quality of life for Africans

An important part of improving living conditions is providing better access to essential services such as health, water and sanitation. Since 2015, AfDB-supported projects have given 43 million people access to water and sanitation.

Agencies

China bolsters world economy by stabilising supply chains, expanding B&R cooperation

ATHENS

DESPITE the economic shock brought by the COVID-19 lockdowns, Greece's largest harbor Piraeus Port still recorded annual growth in the first four months of the year, the tenth year since China's COSCO Shipping officially took control of its management.

The port's constant growth is mainly thanks to the major support from its parent company and the trade buoyed by the resumption of work and production in China, "which clearly benefits PPA (Piraeus Port Authority)," spokesman Nektarios Demenopoulos told Xinhua recently.

China's role as a global producer and supply chain heavyweight has been reflected in many examples like the Piraeus Port, representing win-win cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Stable industrial and supply chains, high-quality joint pursuit of BRI projects and a more advanced opening up of China's economy were highlighted by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the country's annual national legislative session, factors which experts worldwide have called "necessary" for the recovery of the world economy.

SUPPLY CHAINS STABILITY

China has emerged as the central player in global supply chains over the past two decades. As the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the world economy, voices have risen calling for diversifying supply chains away from China, while experts and entrepreneurs admit China's irreplaceable role with its big advantages in manufacturing and logistics.

A recent survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in China and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) showed that almost 70 per cent of U.S. companies say they have no plan to relocate production outside of China due to COVID-19.

"We are very confident in the

Chinese market. We will make another successful year with partners in China," Jean-Paul Agon, chairman and CEO of L'Oreal Group, has told Xinhua recently.

"China will continue to be the world's factory because nothing else comes even close," said Peter Sand, chief shipping analyst at industry trade body BIMCO, in a story by Wall Street Journal on May 1, citing China's "massive logistics ecosystem" as an indispensable advantage.

Tang Jin, senior research analyst at Japan's Mizuho Bank, also said in an article on The Nihon Keizai Shimbun that Japanese companies have become a significant part of the Chinese supply chain with their dependence on the huge Chinese market.

The gradual resumption of work in China has witnessed more diverse goods transported by freight under the operation of China Railway Express, from China's manufacturing hubs to cities in Europe and Central Asia, including daily necessities, electrical products, industrial machinery, metals, medical supplies and food.

From March 21 to the end of April, anti-pandemic supplies totaling 660,000 items and weighing 3,142 tonnes were sent by the freight trains to European countries such as Italy, Germany, Spain and the Czech Republic, according to China State Railway Group.

The German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) found in a recent survey that many mechanical engineering companies in the country reported a slight easing of tension on the supply side, in particular from China.

Oliver Wack, an expert at the association's department of foreign trade, told Xinhua that the easing is not only related to the restart of production in China, but also to the improvement of the logistics chains from and to China.

HIGH-CALIBRE BRI

Recently, a new large-scale hy-



Aerial photo taken on Sept. 6, 2019 shows a cargo ship of COSCO SHIPPING Lines transporting Italian products to participate in the 2019 China International Import Expo (CIIE) berths at the Port of Piraeus in Greece. (Xinhua)

dropower project was signed in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Belt and Road framework, which will effectively improve the region's power supply and drive local economic development.

In Egypt, the COVID-19 pandemic has had limited impact on BRI projects, including the construction of the Central Business District in the country's New Administrative Capital region east of Cairo, said Egypt's Housing Ministry spokesman Amro Khatib.

Turning the new capital into a regional hub for business and management, the project not only continues on schedule but also guarantees the safety of both Egyptian and Chinese workers by implementing anti-pandemic measures.

In spite of the COVID-19 crisis, Chinese investment in Belt and Road countries and

regions increased by 11.7 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2020, along with a 3.2-percent growth in trade.

Premier Li said in his government work report released during China's "two sessions" that the BRI would uphold market principles and international rules, give enterprises a leading role, lead to mutually beneficial outcomes, and boost outbound investment from China.

Yu Jie, senior research fellow on China at UK Chatham House told Xinhua the BRI would consist of "high-quality" infrastructure projects that meet international standards and increase confidence in global investment and economic development in a post-epidemic world.

Pierre Picquart, French expert on China at the University of Paris VIII, said that the "two sessions" sent positive

signals for an economic recovery. The innovative stimulus package in China as well as the BRI will promote financial flows and economic growth around the world.

"With its economic recovery, China will restore confidence to business leaders, investors and consumers in the world," he added.

FURTHER OPENING-UP

China will further enhance cooperation with the rest of the world and introduce more measures to expand its opening up policy, Premier Li said Thursday.

With a population of over 1.4 billion people and a middle class of over 400 million, Chinese consumption is the growth engine of both China and the world, as Jim O'Neill, chair of the London-based think tank Chatham House, has said.

As the pandemic forced national lockdowns and dampened trade, worries about a more inward and less open world have emerged. Still, experts see positive signs in China's stance against protectionism and efforts to deepen opening-up.

China can offset headwinds to global trade to some degree by pursuing its policy of reform and opening up more aggressively, said

Martin Wolf, chief economics commentator for the Financial Times. "That will help China and the rest of the world."

Vasilis Trigkas, research fellow at the Belt and Road Strategy Institute of China's Tsinghua University told Xinhua that China's shift towards higher consumption domestically will obviously "have a positive impact to the global economy as nations would increase their exports to the vast Chinese market."

Several Japanese companies in the eastern city of Xiamen understand their future is tied to growing Chinese consumption.

Zhao Fujun, general manager of Yamaha motors' global research and development center in Xiamen, said that his company pins high hopes on the Chinese market since China has taken efficient measures to stem the spread of COVID-19. The company's investment in China will increase by 30 percent this year.

Christine Bierre, editor-in-chief of France's Nouvelle Solidarite magazine and an expert at Schiller France Institute, told Xinhua: "This is China's main contribution to ... the world: by developing itself, and its huge market, it drives the world economy forward."

Xinhua

African innovators join the fight against Covid-19

BRAZZAVILLE

ON an overcast morning on the outskirts of the Kenyan city of Kisumu, which perches on the edge of Lake Victoria, a queue of commuters receives a spritz of hand sanitizer before boarding a minibus taxi, known locally as a matatu, to head into town.

As soon as they've taken their seats, they pull out their phones and punch their contact details into a passenger manifest and make a cashless payment for their trip, all via a free app called mSafari. This new innovation, launched in late March, provides crucial contact tracing data to the Kenyan Ministry of Health as the country moves to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"The virus doesn't move, people move," said Ronald Osumba, a Kenyan entrepreneur whose company iGovAfrica created mSafari. "The majority of people in our cities use public

transport every day, so this is central to containing the spread of the virus. People have been astonished at how simple our idea is, but also how impactful it can be."

All over the African Region, local innovators have moved decisively to address critical gaps in the response to the pandemic, often in contexts where traditional health services are stretched and where a multi-sectoral approach is therefore especially important.

"Africa presents particular challenges that have always forced us to innovate," said Osumba. "I believe that our ability as Africans to think outside the box can really pay off in the fight against Covid-19."

Since the first case of the virus was detected in sub-Saharan Africa exactly three months ago, World Health Organization (WHO) has sought to foster close collaboration with an extensive network of regional innovators

and support their pioneering solutions to help contain the virus in lower-resource settings.

The Organization hosted its inaugural 'Hackathon' in early April, which tasked groups of participants with developing scalable concepts aligned with one of the eight pillars of WHO's current Covid-19 response strategy: coordination; surveillance; risk communication and community engagement; points of entry; laboratory; infection prevention and control; case management and continuity of essential health services; and operational and logistics support. The three highest ranking groups were awarded seed funding to begin implementing their innovations.

Last week, WHO also facilitated the first of what will be an ongoing series of virtual sessions for innovators across the region to showcase home-grown solutions that have already been implemented in

their respective countries and have significant potential to be scaled up further across the region. Osumba of mSafari was among the eight innovators to present at the first showcase.

"Innovation should be an integral part of our way of doing things as an organization. I believe that creating these kinds of platforms shows the relevance of WHO in helping to provide practical, contextual solutions," said Dr Moredreck Chibi, the WHO regional innovation advisor.

Dr Ola Brown, the founder of Nigerian company Flying Doctors, also presented at the first virtual innovation session. Based in Lagos, Dr Brown noticed that there were a number of issues with regards to testing in a densely-populated country that has seen worryingly high numbers of infections among its frontline health workers.

In a bid to reduce further draining the already limited

health sector funding on expensive and often scarce personal protective equipment (PPE), whilst also reducing the risk of infection to health care workers, Flying Doctors has rolled out 12 low-cost mobile testing booths in five Nigerian states to date.

"We already have so few health care workers in the country, so protecting them from infection is incredibly important," said Dr Brown. "There's no direct contact between the health worker in the booth and those being administered with the test outside. Between tests, a hygienist just disinfects the heavy duty gloves and then you can move onto the next test, so you don't need to keep providing new PPE and the health worker stays safe," she added.

At a mobile testing booth in Ogun State in southwest Nigeria, Deji Sofoluke, a young medical laboratory scientist, said that he can now do more

tests in a couple of hours at the mobile booth than he was previously able to do in a whole day of home visits. "It's faster, it's easier, it's safer, and it uses less resources. This should be scaled up across the whole region," Sofoluke added.

In neighbouring Ghana, Laud Basing, a local entrepreneur with a background in microbiology and biomedical engineering, has led a team of medical scientists in collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology to develop a low-cost and easy to produce Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) for Covid-19.

According to Dr Basing, this new antibody test, which provides results in 10 - 15 minutes, will be crucial in keeping track of the virus as countries in the region, including Ghana, begin to ease their lockdowns and gradually reopen society. "While other tests will show negative results for those who

have already had the virus and recovered, our test reveals those who have previously been infected and developed antibodies, which will help with surveillance as we will be able to see the full extent of exposure in different areas."

Like Osumba and Dr Brown, Dr Basing also presented his RDT at the first WHO innovation virtual showcase last week. He has simultaneously been working on a mobile community level screening platform that was initially developed through the WHO Hackathon and was among the three projects to receive seed funding from the Organization.

"There are so many brilliant ideas coming out of Africa and an organization like WHO can really help our innovators to shine and encourage them to keep going," said Basing.

"Innovation is what is going to turn the African health space around."

A strategic vision and results that are transforming Africa

By Godfrey Ivudria, Abidjan

FOR the past ten years, Africa has recorded some of the world's strongest rates of economic growth. At the same time, many African economies continue to function at well below their full potential. Structural transformation is needed to create more jobs, reduce poverty and accomplish sustainable development objectives.

The African Development Bank's (AfDB) High 5 priority areas are intended to support African countries' achievement of the SDGs. They are: Feed Africa; Light up Africa; Industrialise Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the people of Africa.

Atta Abdul, Fatima-Zahra, Shuaibu, and Daniel are the faces of a continent that is being transformed. By betting on Africa's youth, the Bank is banking on the future to make the continent a land of progress, prosperity and hope.

Since 2015, 74 million Africans have benefited from improved agricultural technologies through the Bank's efforts to support increased food security on the continent.

In western Mauritania, for example, the Brakna-Ouest irrigation infra-

structure improvement project, supported by the Bank in the amount of \$12 million, enabled 1 500 farming and livestock-producing families to return to cultivating their fields.

"We come from a farming and livestock-producing family and we grew up in that environment. Our harvest was very poor. We wanted to move somewhere else," explains Atta Abdul Seck, a project beneficiary in Lou-boudou in western Mauritania. "As a farmer's son, what I liked most when I returned was being able to continue farming. Farming is in my blood," he says proudly.

Without electricity, agriculture cannot effectively meet the growing challenge of food security in Africa. The Bank has made investment in energy a priority. Since 2016, it has mobilised \$12 billion for its "Light Up Africa" strategic priority. Through this investment, 13.4 million people have gained access to electricity.

Morocco has made significant progress in widening access to electricity. In just the past twenty years, the electricity system has expanded to cover almost the entire country. The national rural electrification program, supported by the Bank with 155 mil-



lion euros, has connected nearly 12.8 million Moroccans to the national power grid.

In Dar El Ain, a village twenty kilometres from Marrakech, the arrival of electricity has opened new doors for the women of the "Al Amal" cooperative. They use electricity to process their wheat into couscous or create other barley or wheat-based products. "The cooperative processes local crops into added-value products. Now, with electricity, the women are much more efficient, and their products are of better quality. It creates hope," says Fatima-Zahra, a thirty-year-old member.

As part of the Bank's "Industrialise Africa" priority, 9 million people have gained access to private financing. In Nigeria, for instance, where more than 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture, fluctuating harvests

have significant repercussions on yields, income and food security.

One solution is fertilizer, particularly if locally produced. The Bank provided \$100 million to support construction of a modern fertilizer plant in Port Harcourt.

Shuaibu Yusuf, a farmer in his thirties who lives near Port Harcourt, has experienced the impact of this project in his daily life. "When I used this fertilizer, I saw the difference. My harvest increased by more than 40 percent. I can feed myself, pay for my children's education, and even their medical expenses," he says. "I'm going to encourage my children, my neighbours and members of my community to increase their farming activities so we can all progress together," Shuaibu continues.

To derive more benefit from industrialisation, Africa

must become better integrated in terms of trade and markets. Through integration, African countries can gain access to larger markets and thereby increase incomes for millions of residents through new opportunities.

Since 2015, 69 million people have benefited from the Bank's support for new transport infrastructure that has advanced integration. Gaps in the primary transport corridors have been filled, links between countries have been strengthened, and intra-African trade has been revitalised.

A good example of this is the Nairobi-Addis-Ababa corridor, which received \$670 million in Bank financing and which has enhanced the potential for trade and job growth in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Daniel Yatta, a forty-year-old Kenyan lorry driver, has been transporting goods between Nairobi and Addis-Ababa for 15 years, and has seen the new road's impact on his business. "Back in the day, it would take more than two weeks to drive between Addis and Nairobi," he says. The new road has made his life much easier. "With the new road, the trip takes only a few days. With 30 tonnes of freight, it only takes about 24 hours to drive to Addis!" he continues.

An important part of improving living conditions is providing better access to essential services such as health, water and sanitation. Since 2015, Bank-supported projects have given 43 million people access to water and sanitation.

Rungwe vows to support 'Feed The Future' project in advancing youth leadership skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AUTHORITIES in Rungwe District have pledged to offer all the need support to 'Feed the Future Advancing Youth project' to make it yield the desired results in the district.

The pledge was made at different times last week when Feed The Future Advancing Youth project grantees were being introduced to Rungwe district officials by Bohari Mgunda and Upendo Sanga, Feed The Future Advancing Youth project staff.

Speaking at the introduction meeting, Rungwe District Community Development Officer (DCDO) Omari Mungi challenged grantees to be innovative when implementing Feed The Future Advancing Youth project activities as well as ensuring compliance with government laws and directives.

"As District Council, we'll continue working with this project because of its importance to the public," he said, adding: "If the intended interventions are to be successful grantees need to be innovative and deliver the activities at high quality."

Mungi said: "If young people succeed in leadership from a personal level, their likelihood of succeeding in other undertaking will be huge."

Activities under Feed The Future Advancing Youth project are driven by the following theory of change: "If Tanzanian youth have increased entrepreneurship and workforce readi-

ness skills, opportunities to build businesses and demonstrate leadership, and improved skills and understanding to make informed, healthy life choices, only then will they be actively engaged in driving growth in rural communities.

According to Upendo who is also the Mbeya regional leadership head, to achieve Feed The Future Advancing Youth project objectives, the project is guided by three components: Livelihoods component that aims at increasing entrepreneurship and workforce readiness skills, Leadership component, that aims at strengthening leadership among youth and positive community youth engagement, and Life Skills component that aims at enhancing life skills for healthy living and future planning among youth.

Present at the introduction meeting were, Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ) a youth led and youth focused non-governmental organization headquartered in Mbeya which will implement leadership component, Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO), component three and Empowerment of Marginalized Community (EMAC), component one.

Following official introduction YES TZ on Friday last week kicked off the implementation by meeting ward executive officers (WEOs) and some ward community development officers (WCDOs) from the 10 wards in



Feed The Future Advancing Youth project, Mbeya regional leadership component technical head Upendo Sanga (L) stresses a point at a meeting to introduce Feed The Future Advancing Youth project grantees to Rungwe district council over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

which YES TZ will deliver the project. The wards are Bujela, Ikuti, Kinyara, Lupepo, Nkunga, Masoko, Malindo, Masebe, Suma and Swaya

"We are delighted that YES TZ will be delivering Feed The Future Advancing Youth project, focusing on leadership skills in our wards," said Jonas Rukiko WEO from Malindo ward, echoing Rungwe DCDO's

pledge for support.

Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth project, is a five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project that aims at building the capacities of young people age 15-35, and ultimately connects them to opportunities. The project is implemented in three regions—Mbeya, Iringa and Zanzibar.

The mainland regions are a part of the Feed the Future initiative in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), which includes Kilolo and Iringa Rural in Iringa, and Rungwe and Kyela in Mbeya. Zanzibar covers both the Unguja and Pemba islands.

The Advancing Youth activity encourages rural youth to engage in

Tanzania's agriculture sector and supports increased economic opportunities for young people aged 15-35 while promoting leadership and healthy lifestyles. Through its grants program, Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth transforms challenges into opportunities for rural youth to drive and advance Tanzania's economic growth.

Dlamini Zuma's tobacco ban and the political divisions it is causing

By Ferial Haffajee

ASKED on 28 May by CNN's David McKenzie for comment on how the global broadcaster had witnessed how easy it is to buy cigarettes on the streets despite a ban on tobacco, Cooperative Governance Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said: "the law must take its course".

Asked a detailed set of questions on how the ban had quickly grown a prohibition economy by Daily Maverick early in May, the minister's spokesperson came back with the same answer: "Ask the cops, the police must do their work."

An historical foe of smoking, Dlamini Zuma refuses to countenance evidence of how the ban has not stopped smokers but has instead created a contraband industry.

By last week, the police had arrested 230,000 South Africans for violating various lockdown regulations, far higher than the numbers of Filipinos arrested during an 11-week lockdown by the regime of Rodrigo Duterte.

This has included arrests for transporting cigarettes, but the sale of now contraband cigarettes and related products has grown a significant prohibition economy as prices go through the roof as supplies diminish.

A UCT study released last week revealed that of just over 12,000 smokers surveyed, 90% said they were still getting their smokes despite the lockdown. (It's worth noting that 16% of those surveyed said they had quit in lockdown).

Now, the tobacco sales ban has caused political divisions: in an interview with the SABC on May 28, hours after Dlamini Zuma took this hard line, President Cyril Ramaphosa told inter-

viewer Mzwandile Mbeje that smokers would soon get their draw, a very different message to his minister who has pushed for retention of the tobacco ban using data from the World Health Organisation which shows that smokers with Covid-19 get very ill because they have compromised lungs.

In addition, both the SACP and the ANC Women's League have come to Dlamini Zuma's defence as she has faced public wrath as the face of the lockdown regulations, in particular the alcohol and tobacco bans.

"There can be no other conclusion than that the attacks on Dr Dlamini Zuma are underpinned by dubious intentions. The agenda comprises a drive to project the Cabinet as divided and pit the President against the minister or vice versa," said SACP spokesperson Alex Mashilo in a statement adding that "it is clear that the attacks on Dr Dlamini Zuma comprise patriarchal and sexist attitudes, and also seek to project the President as a weak leader".

The ANC Women's League, a bulwark supporter of Dlamini Zuma, has also put its weight behind a continued ban on tobacco, politicising the issue and turning it into one of the biggest lockdown fights.

In this article, the Free State premier Sisi Ntombela and the ANC Women's League secretary-general Meokgo Matuba come out swinging against tobacco just as the cigarette behemoth BATSA limbers up for a fight too.

After holding off on far-advanced legal action to try to persuade Cabinet as set out by Melinda Ferguson here, British American Tobacco South Africa (BATSA) is now headed to court.

"BATSA has made every effort to constructively engage with the government since the ban came into force, in-



South Africa's Cooperative Governance minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

cluding making detailed submissions to various ministers, as well as directly to the Presidency.

"To date, no formal response has been received from the government, and BATSA has also not been included in any of the government's consultation processes so far," said the company which paid R13-billion in taxes in 2019, of which R10-billion was excise tax.

Early in May, SARS commissioner Edward Kieswetter said the fiscus had already lost R1.5-billion in excise taxes. In ad-

dition to the BATSA legal action, Dlamini Zuma is in court against tobacco independents, organised as FITA.

A prohibition economy, now flourishing in both booze and cigarettes, rides in the slipstream of other prohibition economies like drugs and is usually peddled by the same networks. It gives them amplified power and drives up costs which show no sign of being a deterrent to smoking.

The anti-tobacco organisation, Smoke-free World, has estimated that seven million South Africans smoke.

With Dlamini Zuma, Police Minister Bheki Cele is also doubling down. On 28 May, he reiterated the threat that anybody found smoking would have to produce a till slip, threatening a ballooning of arrests related to lockdown even as the restrictions are meant to be abating at Level 3.

DM

Just how to nurture children with Covid-19 raging...

By Lucy Rweyemamu

THE world is working tirelessly to flatten the curve and get the coronavirus under control - and education, just like the economy and healthcare infrastructure, has been hit hard.

According to UNESCO, 87.6 per cent of the world's enrolled learners have been affected. Tanzania, much like many other countries, closed its schools as a strategy to arrest the spread of the virus. This raised questions and concerns on how this will affect the nurturing of children in the days months and years ahead.

Home schooling is a massive shock to parents' productivity and to children's social life and learning. Most private schools in the country moved to online teaching - an effort encouraged by the government albeit on an untested and unprecedented scale.

The use of television and radio as institut-

ed by the government was a clear message to parents that children were not told to stay home to play - they had to continue their education at home, this in the hope of not missing out on too much.

Still, most parents kept wondering when schools would reopen instead of making efforts to become prime drivers of learning. In a way, though, it was understandable.

For effective nurturing of children, learning does not have to grind to a halt - and certainly parents had to apply innovative approaches. They needed to rethink things, reject any easy resort to past models and instead have a willingness to erase all preconceived ideas, to look at reality from a new point of view - blank slate.

Parents' personality traits have tremendous impact on the nurturing of children, including the emotional relationship which is the foundation stone for both intellectual and social growth.

Examples include how much parents read together with their children and how well children learn to read appear to be related. Parents who portray overwhelming fear and stress in these dire times extend the same to their children, this resulting in fear-filled children.

Parents who let their children watch cartoons throughout the day instead of spending quality time with them are naturally nurturing children who will be imitating the behaviour and actions of the cartoons.

Parents who are mean to their children instill the same in their children and eventually in their children's children. We need to ask ourselves if this is the new normal we want for our children.

Some parents believe that children in the early years of education go to school only to play - and, accordingly, let the children endlessly watch cartoons instead of encouraging continuous learning at home.



A literacy project by the Aga Khan University known as Reading Club Initiative has revealed that children at an early age have a high capacity to learn, especially through reading and storytelling.

Involving parents, who were the storytellers in this project, made children pay attention - and this made learning a lot more engaging. The project taught us that children enjoy learning most when instructed by their parents, and this underscores the uniqueness of the role parents can play in influencing their children's education.

My word to parents is that children are born ready, able and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people and the world around them.

In the circumstances, parents need to discuss

things with children by way of explaining issues and plans as well as sharing information and updates on issues like the Covid-19 pandemic.

By their very nature, children want and need to be heard and understood because they too have their share of worries including as relates to the coronavirus disease and their future. They too would like to spend quality time with their parents and imitate their behaviours - that is, whenever parents smile, they too smile, and vice versa.

Lucy Rweyemamu is a senior manager with the Institute for Educational Development at the Aga Khan University. However, the opinions expressed in this piece are hers and do not in any way represent those of the institute or the university.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 94 00--

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: SPY, ARK, ROB
 4 LETTERS: POOL, TOES, SKIN, GAIN, SUSS, AIDE
 NOTE (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: ADOBE, SHARP, HELLO, NOISE, SWALE (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: BEACON, SPREAD, ASSETS, EMBARK
 BEACON (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
 8 LETTERS: SCRABBLE
 10 LETTERS: SUGAR CANES

CROSSWORD

1 Selling of black African's
 5 to develop
 7 intelligent, bright
 8 to put together with something else
 10 useless
 11 luck, fate
 13 Largest continent in the World
 15 cure
 17 Church of England
 19 the percentage charged on the exchange of one currency to another
 20 ten less than thirty

Down:
 1 Breath
 2 Confess
 3 Capital of Italy
 4 a large edible fish of warm seas
 6 admonish, advise
 7 a public paved road as in a town or city
 9 division into phases
 12 Capital of Greece
 14 glowing
 16 respond to something in a particular way
 17 Amateur Athletic Association
 18 an unpleasant person

SOLUTIONS

W	O	R	D	-	F	I	T									
E	N	G	I	N	E	R	O	O	M							
A	N	G	I	N	E	R	O	O	M							
S	A	V	E	D	A	I	L	L	Y							
E	E	A	S	E	L	I	T	N	A	M	E	S	G			
B	S	A	O	N	E	T	G	V	S	I	N					
P	A	S	T	O	R	E	S	E	R	E	N	E	N			
R	A	R	E	D	I	T	S	U	S	E	R	E	T	H	I	C
D	A	R	E	E	D	I	T	S	I	N	D	E	R	A	C	T
C	O	L	O	M	B	I	A	L	U	N	D	E	R	A	C	T
R	A	N	K	V	G	A	G	E	D	E	A					
Y	B	E	T	T	E	R	N	E	O	S	S	E	T	E	M	

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

By Maggiezi: 0755429240 telxmagz@gmail.com

HIRING

TGC engages PwC in helping with funding for Buckreef project

By Guardian Reporter

In a bid to secure financing to invest at Buckreef Gold Project in Geita region, Tanzanian Gold Corporation has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Finance Inc to assist in securing financing for construction of the gold mining project.

In a statement last week, TGC said with its impressive 10 years record when PwCCF provided financial advice on over 4,000 transactions globally and in 2019, the global audit and investment advisor is well positioned to help with the Buckreef project.

Under the deal, PwCCF advisory mandate will include but not limited to debt and equity raising, debt refinancing, public-private partnership arrangements, mining finance (royalties, streams gold loans, etc.) and complex procurement, across all industry sectors.

Commenting on the deal, TGC's Executive Chairman, James Sinclair said,

"We have engaged a very talented international finance team with a world recognized ability to help us bring our two gold mining projects at Buckreef into production." Sinclair added that, "The PwCCF team has worked for several months conducting extensive due diligence and we look forward to working with them during this exciting period."

In remarks after agreeing the deal, PwCCF's Managing Director of Corporate Finance, Stephen Mullooney said, "We are pleased to be working with Tanzanian Gold to arrange project mining financing of two gold mining operations."

Mullooney said the Buckreef project is uniquely positioned with a significant high-grade resource of +2.0 million ounces of gold, with a shovel ready oxide project and a sulphide project fast tracking through a bankable feasibility study.

The TGC said in the statement that an ongoing drill program along the

continuously mineralized 1.2km long Buckreef shear zone has, to date, more than doubled the size of measured and indicated resources to 2.3 million ounces of gold.

"NI 43-101 compliant exploration mining targets contain the potential to add up to another two million ounces

of gold to the Buckreef resources. The Buckreef Gold Project is a joint venture between TGC and State Mining Corporation.

Tanzanian Gold is rapidly advancing on three value-creating tracks, simultaneously: Gold production from an oxide processing plant to begin by

the middle of last month (May), to operate as a stand-alone plant and mine, separately from the full life of the larger mining and gold sulphide processing operation; The company moves to final feasibility for the gold sulphide operation at Buckreef and now proposes a design more than three times

larger than modelled in the pre-feasibility study of 2018, and which could produce 150,000 to 175,000 ounces of gold annually; and has begun ultra-deep drilling and completed a level 1 stope design to consider an underground gold mining component at Buckreef.



TGC's Executive Chairman, James Sinclair.

EXPANSION

EA deals grow by a fifth in first four months

NAIROBI

THE number of corporate deals in East Africa went up by a fifth in the first four months of the year compared to a similar period last year, with Kenya accounting for two thirds of the disclosed agreements.

Analysis by advisory firm I&M Burbidge Capital shows the number stood at 31 for the four months, compared to 26 last year. Private equity deals were the most common at 17, followed by mergers and acquisitions at 10, two partnerships or strategic alliances and one each for joint venture and capital re-

structuring.

Kenya accounted for 21 of the 31 deals, followed by Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania with four, three and two deals respectively. "Deal activity in April brought the total number of deals for the year thus far to 31 with a total disclosed deal value of about \$360 million (Sh38.5 billion), most of these being private equity investments," said I&M Burbidge in the report.

"The transactions were spread out across eight sectors with the financial services sector recording six transactions," it said. The firm added that most of the announced deals

NUMBER OF DEALS PER COUNTRY – YTD 2020



● Kenya ● Tanzania ● Rwanda ● Ethiopia

were well underway before the eruption of the Covid crisis as transactions in the region, particularly equity ones, tend to, on average, take about a year or slightly more to complete.

I&M Burbidge expects firms that are providing critical services during the virus crisis to attract more investor interest, offering hope that the deal pipeline will not dry up in coming months as a result of the travel restrictions and capital drought.

"An increasing interest, particularly by development finance institutions, in com-

panies that are now crucial during this time (of Covid-19) such as delivery and logistics companies has been noted and is expected to increase as more investors are drawn in by the humanitarian and economic value of such investments," said I&M Burbidge.

The value of disclosed deals last year stood at \$847.4 million (Sh90.7 billion) in the first four months, largely on the back of a \$51.7 billion deal in January 2019 by Indonesian oil giant Medco Energi to buy London-listed Ophir Energy.

EXCITEMENT

Liquor outlets across Mzansi ready for the thirsty throngs

JOHANNESBURG

IS tomorrow going to be something like a Black Friday rush? Or is it going to be Phuza Thursday on a Monday? These are two of the scenarios that present themselves when considering the scenes that will play out across the country when liquor store doors are flung open.

The announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa that the two-month alcohol drought would end tomorrow was met with ululations, whistles and whoops of joy. After such a protracted period of no alcohol sales, what will happen can only be left to the imagination. One thing is certain: huge crowds of customers.

With less than 24 hours before liquor outlets open their doors, establishments across the country have been stocking up and are expecting some ferocious buying. The KwaZulu-Natal independent bottle store owners who City Press spoke to -

some of them admitting to coming close to bust as a result of the Covid-19 coronavirus lockdown - spent Friday and yesterday getting ready for their customers, and said they would be doing the same today.

On Friday, the KwaZulu-Natal Liquor Authority published a notice to all liquor licence holders outlining conditions for the resumption of trade, which mirror national regulations. Liquor will only be sold from Monday to Thursday, no consumption is allowed at outlets and social distancing has to be enforced. Failure to adhere to the conditions will cost traders their licences.

Outlets started taking deliveries on Friday. "It is a good thing that deliveries started after we disinfected, sanitised and put social distancing markers in place. Most of us have got our stock packed and will on Sunday [today] switch on our fridges to ready the beverages for Monday [tomorrow]," said Winston Hector, presi-

dent of the Consortium of Liquor Traders' Association.

"We are expecting a huge rush and we are well prepared to meet the demand. We know which beverages and brands will fly off the shelves and out of the fridges, and we have those ones well stocked. It is going to be a hectic day, but we are ready for it."

Hector, who runs his liquor businesses in the Eastern Cape, said liquor traders were happy that, although they were only going to be open between Monday and Thursday, deliveries of their stock would happen beyond those days.

Spokesperson for alcoholic beverage company Diageo SA Sibani Mngadi said the return of alcohol sales was a first for them. "This is something we have never experienced. We have planned for Black Fridays and festive seasons, and we will try to be on top of our game with this one as well," he said.



Winston Hector, president of the Consortium of Liquor Traders' Association.

GENEROSITY

Africa Data Centre Association offers free hosting

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Data Centre Association (ADCA) is offering free hosting for applications and digital tools that are being used in the fight against COVID-19.

The Association stated: "Africa Data Centre Association is pleased to announce that the

following ADCA members will provide free hosting up to 10 Us servers and 2 KW, for any applications aiming to fight the Coronavirus in Africa for the rest of 2020."

Participating members include: GPX Global systems in Egypt, PAIX in Ghana, Africa Data Centres owned by Liquid

Telecom in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, as well as N+ONE Datacentre in Morocco, Galaxy Backbone in Nigeria and Dataxion in Tunisia.

The organisation has underlined the importance of business continuity and said digitalisation is critical, with

datacentres playing an increasingly important role. Makhtar Diop, World Bank's Vice President for Infrastructure said in a separate statement: "Countries that do not have the infrastructure for widespread broadband are bracing for the worst. Think about Sub-Saharan Africa, where sixty percent of the pop-

ulation remains out of reach of 4G networks, or countries like Indonesia, where 2G is still the norm."

"As the crisis wears on, and pandemics of this kind become more common, some countries will be left behind. For a start, being able to deploy digital health care solutions for detect-

ing COVID-19 can save lives, and this will also be important to protect countries against future pandemics," Diop added.

Already there is a big shift in promoting digital economy by improving internet access, in countries like Kenya, where there is an ongoing deployment of the Loon Balloons by Google.

There has been a 70% surge in internet demand in the East African country.

ADCA said sectors such as commerce, education, payments and mobile education must be 'always on' to ensure a country is able to sustain itself and operate during the pandemic.

ADVICE

NMB manager urges Manyara Region's micro-businesses to repay loans promptly

By Guardian Reporter

SMALL business owners who benefit from Simanjiro District Council loans should strive to repay them on schedule to remain creditworthy but also ensure that the revolving funds benefit more businesses.

NMB Bank Plc's Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi said on Friday that most groups of the

small business owners have been trained by experts from the bank on how to manage their businesses professionally and repay loans.

Mlozi said the bank also opened accounts for the groups through which payments for their businesses goes through including the loans. "Apart from training business owners of finance and business manage-

ment, NMB is also a very good investor in social services such as education and health," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Simanjiro District Executive Director, Yefred Myenzi said so far over 244.6m/- has been disbursed to the small business owners in loans this year, being part of revenue collected by the council.

"Some 1,412 beneficiaries from this district have benefited from these loans and they include 1,074 women, 372 youths and 40 people with disability," Myenzi said noting that the district has no outstanding debt having all contractors and banks it owed cash. The Simanjiro DED further noted that the loans being given to marginalised groups attract no interest

rate as government regulations require.

In his remarks at the event, Simanjiro District Commissioner, Engineer Zacharia Chaula said adding that the loans are also aimed at building capacity of the majority to actively take part in economic development of the country.

Chaula's comments were backed by Deputy Chairman of Simanjiro District Council, Sendu Lazer who paid tribute to the district's leadership

to empower the marginalised group economically," Chaula said adding that the loans are also aimed at building capacity of the majority to actively take part in economic development of the country.

Chaula's comments were backed by Deputy Chairman of Simanjiro District Council, Sendu Lazer who paid tribute to the district's leadership

plus councillors who allocate cash targeting the marginalised groups.

"I also thank NMB for working in collaboration with us to ensure that the beneficiaries get financial literacy training which helps to run their businesses professionally," Lazer said noting the bank's intervention has meant that loans are repaid on schedule.

CRISIS

In Senegal, the struggles of a small airline during Covid-19

DAKAR

TRANSAIR, an ambitious company founded 10 years ago, has no passengers because of the pandemic - but it still has to fly its planes.

Once a week, one of its planes makes a sortie out of Dakar's Blaise Diagne International Airport, even though not one of its passenger seats is filled. The reason: The company has to ensure its planes meet standards of airworthiness and pilots carry out at least three takeoffs and three landings every three months - requirements for retaining their commercial flying licences.

Pilot Laurent Klinka said he had mixed feelings as he prepared a 50-seat twin-jet Embraer ERJ 145 for a 30-minute trip up Senegal's coast, reaching the northern town of Saint-Louis before turning round and heading for home.

"It's a pleasure to get back in an aircraft, even if it's just for an hour," the French national said. "But everyone is afraid of what could happen with this crisis." All international flights to and from Senegal

have been suspended since 20 March - the exceptions being for a handful of medical evacuations and repatriation flights, as well as for maintenance flights. Late on Thursday, the government announced that the suspension of all flights in and out of the country would be extended until 30 June.

For Transair, the one-hour validation flights for its four Embraers and two Boeings costs more than \$1 100 in fuel alone. The pandemic has dealt a crippling blow to firms that have staked much on shuttling European vacationers to Senegal's beaches and forests.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimates the crisis will inflict a hit of \$314 billion on airlines' turnover this year, equivalent to a fall of 55% over 2019. The sector is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels before 2023, IATA says.

Such talk is grim news for Senegal's three airlines, the biggest of which is the national flag carrier Air Senegal, founded in 2016, which specialises in scheduled flights between West Africa and Eu-

rope. The smallest is Arc-en-ciel Aviation, which caters to charter flights.

In the middle is Transair, which pitches to both markets - scheduled and charter - with a special eye on tourism. In normal times, its fleet carries out around 60 flights a week. Forty of them are on domestic routes, while the remainder are around the West African region, to destinations such as Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.

The company says that last year it flew 90 000 people as it carved out new routes, including to Liberia, and recorded a slight deficit on its turnover. It declined to give figures.

'No idea'

"Before (the pandemic), we were expanding, we were even thinking about starting inter-continental flights in a few years," Transair's boss and founder, Alioune Fall, told AFP. "Now everything's come to a halt. When you have been doing three or four flights a day and then it all suddenly stops, you have no idea what lies ahead."



NMB Bank Plc's Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi, speaks at a past event.

RELAXATION

Game parks and farms to reopen gates from today

JOHANNESBURG

GAME parks and private game farms may open their gates to visitors again from Monday, when Alert Level 3 kicks in, tourism minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced on Saturday night.

Kubayi-Ngubane was describing upcoming regulations for her sector under Level 3, which had not yet been published 29 hours before they are due to come into effect. "Public and private game farms have been opened for self-drive excursions," she said, stressing that no group tours will be allowed, and visitors will have to use their own vehicles.

Visitors may not cross provincial boundaries to reach game parks for such drives. Under Level 3, provincial borders are technically closed to those who cannot show a need to travel on essential business.

Game parks also have to kick out visitors every day; accommodation establishments may still only serve those who can show they are travelling on business, Kubayi-Ngubane said. She said her department would conduct inspections, and hotels, lodges, and guest houses must be in a position to prove that those they allowed to stay overnight were not travelling for leisure.

Those establishments do not, however, require any other



South Africa's Tourism minister, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane.

paperwork or permissions to open for business. Hiking is also legal again - with some conditions. Hiking is also expressly allowed again from Monday, 1 June, Kubayi-Ngubane said, under the same rules that apply to exercise in general, "meaning you are not allowed to do the hiking in groups."

The general curfew that is in place under Alert Level 4 drops away, but exercise is allowed only between 06:00 and 18:00 every day. That means you can travel to and from a hiking destination at any time of day, but can only start walking at 6AM, and you must be back in your car or other form of transport by 6PM. You may not cross a provincial boundary to go hiking.

Meanwhile an additional R30 million in coronavirus relief has been made available for tour guides, tourism minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane said. The relief, which will be provided over two to three months, will cover registered tour guides, including freelancers and inde-

pendent guides.

It will therefore fill an important gap previously left by the R200-million tourism relief fund and the Unemployment Insurance Fund, as it will cover some of those who were not previously eligible for assistance.

"The beneficiaries will include tour guides registered with the registrar in terms of the Tourism Act, and tour guides who are not employed by any company. Freelancers or independent contractors without job security are also included," the minister said during a briefing on Saturday evening.

Tour guides will be able to receive subsidised personal protective equipment in order to allow them to operate under health and safety regulations. This is in order to help them cover the costs of returning to operation, she said.

"These are people who did not have job security and income in the previous months," the minister explained. "The tour guides will need to be compli-

ant in terms of the health protocol." Kubayi-Ngubane added that some 600 000 jobs in the country had been estimated to be at risk if the tourism industry was not to some degree operational by September.

The tourism relief fund - a once-off capped grant of R50 000 per entity to subsidise expenses - had gone some way towards addressing concerns, she said. The minister also noted that although some 6 000 applications had been processed by her department, efforts had been hampered by technical glitches. These were being resolved, she said.

"We have been able to work around the clock to get most of these people... to be able to submit their documents," she said. In an effort to clear the backlog, the department was also accepting email submissions of documents. The minister welcomed the partial lifting of travel restrictions at Level 3, saying that the first phase of recovery would be driven by domestic tourism.

PUSHBACK

RURA extends deadline for mandatory use of meter readers by taxi motos

KIGALI

RWANDA Utilities and Regulations Authority (RURA) has extended the deadline of mandatory use of meters by commercial taxi-motos in Kigali City from June 1 to July 1.

The GPS-enabled tools calculate distance and generate the transport fee instantly. The decision follows a recent announcement by the regulatory body, that urged all motor riders in Kigali to use meters and also pay using electronic means only.

The directive of using these facilities is in line with ensuring that as motorcyclists hit the road on Monday, June 1 after nearly two months and a half without operation, they will not trigger the spread of Covid-19.

It could also further edge the country towards its cashless ambitions, owing to the popularity of the mode of transport and frequency of use. Explaining why the deadline was extended, the Head of Transport Division in RURA, Anthony Kulamba said that

some taxi moto drivers had already gone upcountry and not all of them could make it back in time, hindering the enforcement.

He said: "After issuing the deadline, we discovered that some riders who used to work from Kigali city had already gone upcountry. Therefore we can't say that some should use those meters when others are not."

Under the Government's directives to contain Covid-19 pandemic, cross-provincial movements were restricted since March 21, and are expected to resume on June 1. According to Kulamba, the process of installing the GPS-enabled devices also requires enough time.

"Additionally, we discovered that companies installing meters need enough time to finish equipping taxi-motos that have enrolled for this service," he said, adding that: "This however doesn't have to stop the use of cashless payment means where possible."

So far there are three companies;

Yego Moto, Pascal Moto and Mara Phone mandated to equip motor-bikes with meters. As per FERWACOTAMO, a federation of motorcycle cooperatives in Rwanda, only 7,500 motorbikes have meters. The number represents 29 percent of the total 26,000 motor-bikes in Kigali City. Country-wide there are approximately 45,000 taxi-motos.

Jean Baptiste Ukwizigira, a motorcyclist in Kigali city says that he is eagerly waiting for June 1 to resume work and earn a living again. "We are happy that we are finally resuming work and being able to feed our families again after this very long period of time under restrictions," he said. He added that: "I am ready to abide by all set preventive measures to avoid making the matter worse."

The resumption of motorbikes in passenger transport service is expected to greatly boost transport operations across the city, since it is the largely preferred mode of transport due to its convenience, flexibility and affordability in comparison to cabs.



Taxi motos in Kigali.

BREAKTHROUGH

Germany and EU reach deal on \$9.9bn bailout for Lufthansa

BRUSSELS

GERMANY has worked out its differences with the European Commission over a €9 billion (\$9.9bn) bailout of Deutsche Lufthansa, clearing the way for the rescue of Europe's biggest airline to move forward.

After intense talks, the commission and the German government agreed that Lufthansa will reduce its presence at airports in Frankfurt and Munich by four aircraft each. The accord, which the airline's management said it would accept, would give a foothold to new competitors hoping to challenge the dominant German airline on its home turf.

The compromise settles a high-stakes showdown that played out over the past week, pitting the European Union's most powerful member state against the regulator tasked with ensuring fairness in the bailout process.

The economic damage of the coronavirus crisis has unleashed a gusher of state aid, led by Germany's €600bn effort to shore up its economy. With Lufthansa's future in the balance, Germany on Monday offered the airline a package of loans and equity investment to keep it afloat.

But after the EU demanded it give up slots, the airline's supervisory board unexpectedly held off on accepting this lifeline - throwing the rescue plan into turmoil after weeks of talks. Ultimately, the EU pared back some of its demands.

"There will be worries for Lufthansa about other airlines

moving in, but the slot rules would seem to limit the threat," said John Strickland, director of JLS Consulting in London, who has held senior positions at British Airways and KLM.

The EU conditions kick in when airports become congested again, at which point Lufthansa will have to surrender as many as 24 take-off-and-landing slots at Munich and the same at Frankfurt - enough for a competitor to base four planes at both airports, each making three daily round-trips.

There are significant catches, however, that suggest the strongest potential beneficiaries, such as Ryanair - a loud critic of the Lufthansa aid - would not be able to fully take advantage of the slots. For the first 18 months, for example, the capacity is reserved for new competitors in Frankfurt and Munich. With the global airline industry in retreat, the likelihood of a fresh entrant may be limited.

The EU is comfortable with the deal, having overshot in its initial demands in anticipation of a compromise, a source



Commission européenne European Commission EU competition watchdog's Margrethe Vestager

said. It is not certain the remedy will be taken up, but regulators did not have time to test the interest, the source said, asking not to be identified on a confiden-

tial matter.

The commitments will "enable a viable entry or expansion of activities by other airlines at these airports to the benefit of consumers and effective competition," the EU said.

Talks with the EU over other aspects of the deal will continue, a spokeswoman for Germany's economy ministry said.

The agreement would then require approval of Lufthansa's supervisory board, followed by a formal sign off by the EU, which monitors state aid to ensure one country does not give its companies an unfair advantage.

The bloc's regulators will assess the German aid package "as a matter of priority", the EU said Saturday. Discount operators are the most likely to show interest in the new capacity, Mr Strickland said.

If the slots had become available before the coronavirus, Lufthansa "would have been concerned about long-haul rivals - Gulf carriers, say - but that's really gone now with markets so weak." Of the two main European discounters, Dublin-based Ryanair already has slots at Frankfurt's main airport.

UK-based easyJet has a presence in Munich. At

least initially, each would be unable to use the new capacity in the location where it's already planted a flag. Another growing low-cost airline, Wizz Air, recently pulled out of Frankfurt.

In an interview, chief executive Jozsef Varadi called the bailout "market distorting," and said the slots do not come close to balancing out the amount of aid Lufthansa is getting.

He said he will consider the capacity on offer, but cautioned it will depend on details including costs, which are higher for point-to-point operators like Wizz because of transfer discounts granted in Frankfurt.

"We need to look at whether there is any way of taking advantage of this," Mr Varadi said. "We need to know more about the process of applying for the slots and what the conditions are, and also what slot pairs we are talking about, the time of day, the rotations."

The slot pairs will be allocated in a bidding process, Lufthansa said, and only be available to European airlines that have not received substantial state recapitalisation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The supervisory board's rejection of the initial rescue proposal had triggered an open dispute between the German government and the EU commission, revealing the political tensions underpinning the effort to stabilise Europe's largest airline in the midst of a historic collapse in travel.

RELIEF

India to ease world's biggest lockdown as coronavirus cases rise

NEW DELHI

INDIA will begin a staged easing of its lockdown measures from early June, despite a rise in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed on Saturday. Efforts to contain the disease saw the shutdown of virtually all economic activity in late March, putting hundreds of millions out of work almost overnight. Millions of migrant workers fled home to their villages, many of them walking hundreds of kilometres and some dying on the way.

Modi conceded that much of the country had since "undergone tremendous suffering" in an open letter to the public on Saturday. The end of the lockdown will be staged and will not immediately include some "containment zones" where high infection rates have been detected, according to the home ministry.

But elsewhere, places of religious worship, hotels, restaurants and shopping malls will be allowed to reopen as normal from June 8. Schools and universities will resume classes after discussions with Indian state authorities, with a decision due in July. The ministry said that international air travel, mass transit, cinemas, swimming pools and bars will remain closed for the time being.

Sport is still on hold, with the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament yet to resume after it was postponed last month, and political and religious events with "large congregations." The nationwide even-

ing curfew was also eased and will now begin two hours later at 9pm.

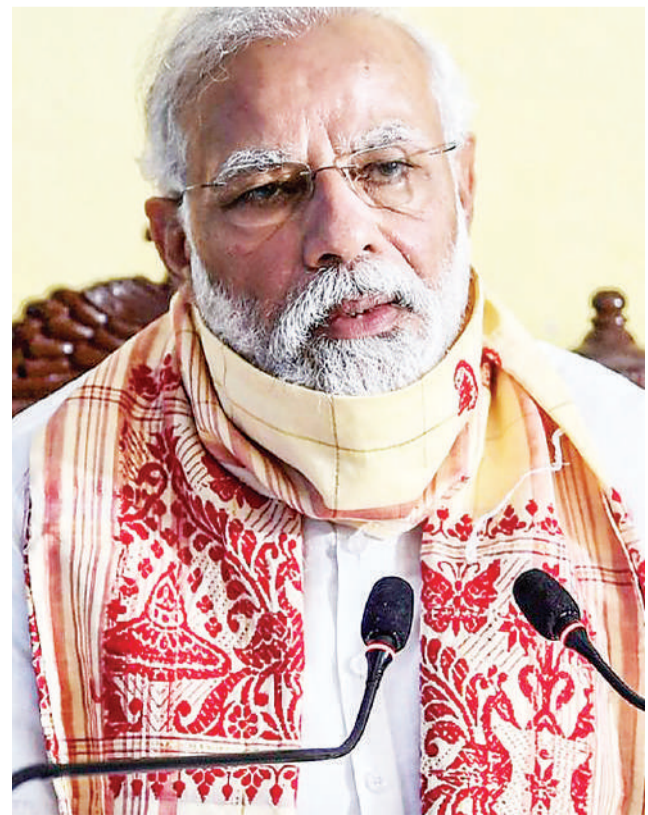
No movement in or out of containment zones will be allowed, with exceptions for medical emergencies and the supply of essential goods and services. In these areas there will be "intensive contact tracing, house-to-house surveillance and other clinical interventions," the ministry said.

The home ministry's announcement came even after the world's second-most populous country announced a fresh record in the number of confirmed Covid-19 infections, taking the total to almost 175,000 cases with nearly 5,000 deaths.

Government data released on Friday gave an indication of the preliminary toll of the lockdown on Asia's third-biggest economy, which grew at its slowest pace last quarter in at least two decades. The period included only the very beginning of the national quarantine, and analysts say a massive slowdown has taken place since.

Mr Modi's government had already taken some steps to ease the economic pain of the lockdown. Factory and farm operations were allowed to resume in areas with no or few cases, although many are finding problems sourcing workers.

Domestic flights also resumed earlier this month and some trains are running on India's vast rail network. Earlier this month Mr Modi announced a \$266 billion package - 10 per cent of the country's GDP - to revive the battered economy.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV PGM SCHEDULE</p> <p>SATURDAY 30 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:15 The Base rpt 11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam ya Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Mapito 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:15 Kesho leo rpt 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTW</p> <p>SUNDAY 31 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great Queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:20 Mjue Zaidi 22:05 Bongo Movie: 23:35 ITV Top 10 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>MONDAY 01 June</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Soap: Isidingo the need 10:00 Watoto wetu 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ewura 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost</p>	<p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW</p> <p>TUESDAY 02 June</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya 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WORLD

Washington slammed at home, abroad for cutting WHO ties

BEIJING

THE US government has been slammed at home and abroad after Friday's announcement that it's "terminating" its relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO).

US health experts and lawmakers have expressed concern over the decision announced by President Donald Trump amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association, described Trump's move as a "senseless" action with "significant, harmful repercussions."

"COVID-19 affects us all and does not respect borders; defeating it requires the entire world working together," Harris was quoted by CNN as saying, urging Trump to reverse the course.

Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law and director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, described the move as "foolish and arrogant" in his Twitter account.

"Trump's action is an enormous

disruption and distraction during an unprecedented health crisis," said Gostin, also the director of the WHO collaborating center on national and global health law. "The President has made us less safe."

Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia said that "the United States cannot eliminate this virus on its own and to withdraw from the World Health Organization - the world's leading public health body - is nothing short of reckless," according to a CNN report.

Even within the Republican party, some Republicans also expressed their disagreement. Senate Health Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander reportedly said he disagreed with Trump's decision, because, without US funding, clinical trials to develop a COVID-19 vaccine might be hampered.

In addition, the European Union (EU) has urged the United States to reconsider its termination of ties with the WHO, warning that Trump's move would erode global efforts to curb the spread of the virus.



This May 29, 2020 photo shows the live broadcast of US President Donald Trump's press conference at the White House in Washington D.C. Trump said on Friday that his country was "terminating" its relationship with the World Health Organization. (XINHUA)

"The WHO needs to continue being able to lead the international response to pandemics, current and future. For this, the participation and support of all is required and very much needed. In the face of this global threat, now is the time for enhanced cooperation and common solutions. Actions that weaken international results must be avoided," Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, and Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said in the statement on Saturday.

"In this context, we urge the US to reconsider its announced decision," reads the statement.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn tweeted that Trump's move was "a disappointing backlash for International Health."

"The EU must take a leading role and engage more financially," Spahn said, noting that this would be one of Germany's priorities when it becomes the bloc's rotating presidency on July 1.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesperson said earlier that Britain "has no plans to stop funding the WHO, which has an important role to play in leading the global health response."

"Coronavirus is a global challenge and it is essential that countries work together to tackle this shared threat," the spokesperson was quoted by The Guardian as saying.

Irish Minister for Health Simon Harris on Friday described Trump's move as an "awful decision." "A global pandemic requires the world working together ... We should unite in our fight against it (COVID-19) & not fight each other," Harris tweeted.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told TASS news agency that Washington "dealt a blow" to the international framework for cooperation in healthcare at the moment when the world needed to join forces.

Xinhua

India posts record jump in virus cases, Modi says battle ahead

NEW DELHI

INDIA reported a record daily jump of 7,964 new COVID-19 infections on Saturday, with a recent surge in cases as lockdown restrictions start to ease raising the possibility that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could extend curbs beyond May 31.

In an open letter marking one year into his second term, Modi appealed to the country's population of 1.3 billion to follow all lockdown rules to stop the spread of the pandemic.

The prime minister said there was a "long battle" ahead against the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

The government could extend the lockdown beyond May 31, a home

ministry official said on Saturday. The home ministry did not immediately respond to a request for further comment.

India has recorded a total of 173,763 COVID-19 cases and 4,971 deaths, making it the ninth most-affected country globally, Reuters data showed.

While fatality rates in India have been lower than in worse-hit countries, experts warned that its peak has not been reached due to mounting cases of new infections.

Officials are also nervous about the pandemic spreading through villages as millions of jobless migrant workers return home from cities.

Rights activists and the opposition



have criticised Modi's handling of the pandemic, accusing him of announcing an abrupt lockdown that left the poor in the lurch and forced thousands to walk or jostle for space on buses and special trains to reach home amid the fear of getting infected.

Over 100 migrant workers have died either in accidents or due to starvation as they desperately tried to

head back to their villages, the home ministry official said.

Meanwhile, at least two people working at India's Foreign Affairs Ministry have tested positive for COVID-19, and the government has asked several officials to self quarantine as a precaution, according to a source and internal e-mails seen by Reuters.

One person who tested positive worked as a consultant in the ministry's Central Europe division in New Delhi, while the other worked as a legal officer in the law division, the e-mails stated.

Last month, about 500 people entered self-isolation in staff quarters of India's presidential palace after a family member of a sanitation work-

er living in employee quarters tested positive.

Indonesia

The Indonesian government will gradually open shopping malls, restaurants and entertainment sites from June in an attempt to jump-start the pandemic-hit economy, even as coronavirus cases continue to climb.

Resumption of activities will be prioritized in so-called green zones, which are areas with a coronavirus reproduction rate below 1, according to the Trade Ministry. There are currently 100 such green zones scattered across eight provinces, including the country's capital Jakarta.

Agencies

China reports no new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases

BEIJING

CHINESE health authorities said yesterday that no new domestically transmitted COVID-19 cases were reported on the Chinese mainland the previous day.

Two imported cases were reported on the mainland, all in Shandong province, the National Health Commission said in its daily report.

No deaths related to the disease or new suspected cases were reported, according to the commission.

On Saturday, two COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery.

As of Saturday, a total of 83,001 confirmed COVID-19 cases had been reported on the mainland, and 4,634 people had died of the disease.

Altogether 78,304 patients had been cured and discharged from hospitals by the end of Saturday, the commission said, adding that there were 63 patients still being treated, including three severe cases.

By Saturday, the mainland had reported a total of 1,740 imported cases. Of the cases, 1,692 had been discharged from hospitals after recovery, and 48 remained hospitalized. No deaths from the imported cases had been reported.

Four people were suspected of being infected with the virus by Saturday, all from overseas, the commission said.

A total of 5,183 close contacts were still under medical observation on Saturday, said the commission.

Also on Saturday, three new



Arriving passengers wait in line at Qingdao Liuting International Airport in Qingdao City, east China's Shandong province. (File photo)

asymptomatic cases were reported on the mainland, including one from overseas. No cases were re-categorized as confirmed cases, and 10 asymptomatic cases were discharged from medical observation.

The commission said 389 asymptomatic cases, including 25 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

By Saturday, 1,082 confirmed cases including four deaths had been reported in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), 45 confirmed cases in the Macao SAR, and 442 in Taiwan including seven deaths.

Total 1,036 patients in Hong Kong, 45 in Macao, and 421 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospitals after recovery.

Xinhua

'I can't breathe' protests heat up as curfews imposed in several US cities

MINNEAPOLIS

CIVIL unrest flared and curfews were imposed in several major US cities on Saturday as demonstrators took to the streets to vent outrage at the death of a black man shown on video gasping for breath as a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck.

From Los Angeles to Miami to Chicago, protests marked by chants of "I can't breathe" - a rallying cry echoing the dying words of George Floyd - began peacefully before turning unruly as demonstrators blocked traffic, set fires and clashed with riot police, some firing tear gas and plastic bullets in an effort to restore order.

The sight of protesters flooding streets fueled a sense of crisis in the United States after weeks of lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has seen millions thrown out of work and has disproportionately affected minority communities. In the nation's capital, hundreds of demonstrators assembled near the Justice Department headquarters shouting, "black lives matter." Many later moved to the White House, where they faced off with shield-carrying police, some mounted on horseback.

President Donald Trump said on Saturday that if protesters who gathered the night before in Lafayette Square, across from the White House, had breached the fence, "they would have been greeted with the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I have ever seen."

The full Minnesota National Guard was activated for the first time since World War Two after four nights of arson, looting and vandalism in parts of Minneapolis, the state's largest city, and its adjacent capital, St. Paul.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said the deployment was necessary because outside agitators were using protests over Floyd's death to sow chaos.

"We are under assault," Walz, a first-term governor elected from Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, told a briefing on Saturday. "Order needs to be restored."

Separately, U.S. Attorney General William Barr also pointed the finger at extremist instigators, though he and Walz - neither offering evidence to support their assertions - suggested opposite ends of the political fringe were to blame.

NATIONAL DISCONTENT REFLECTED

Civil rights activists said video of Floyd's arrest on Monday - captured by an onlooker's cellphone as he repeatedly groaned, "please, I can't breathe" before he died - triggered an outpouring of rage long simmering over persistent racial bias in the U.S. criminal justice system.

But the rapidly spreading protests also coincided with a deep-seated national discontent over the social claustrophobia and economic carnage wrought by the coronavirus pandemic.

In a surreal moment for Miami on Saturday, police sirens and lights flooded downtown neighborhoods as fireworks began crackling and booming over Biscayne Bay to honor health-care workers fighting the pandemic. Hundreds of police in riot gear swarmed the area, threatening to arrest anyone, including media, who ventured onto the streets.

Curfews were imposed in several major cities rocked by civil disturbances in recent days, including Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Denver, Cincinnati, Portland, Oregon, and Louisville, Kentucky. Protests also flared on Saturday in Dallas, Chicago, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Cleveland. In an extraordinary move, the Pentagon said it put military units on a four-hour alert to be ready if requested by the Minnesota governor to help keep the peace.

National Guard units also were mobilized by the governors of Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin and Tennessee.

The streets of Minneapolis were largely quiet during the day on Saturday. Several armored National Guard vehicles were seen rolling through town and authorities later closed major highways leading in and out of Minneapolis-St. Paul. **Agencies**



Protesters gather near a burning pawn shop down the street from Minneapolis 3rd Police Precinct building in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the United States, on Friday. (Xinhua)

To pursue development by confirming to market rules

"THE United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) need our strong support if they are to effectively coordinate global anti-epidemic cooperation. In the meantime, efforts must be made to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination and safeguard the stability of global industrial and supply chains."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward the right solution to maintain stable global economic development in global anti-pandemic response in a phone call with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has tested the global industrial and supply chains. Countries need to strengthen solidarity and

cooperation by upholding the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind to reduce the disease's impact on global industrial and supply chains. This not only helps dispel the dark cloud of the disease, but also marks a major step toward global economic recovery.

The global industrial and supply chains are the results of international division of labor and cooperation formed on the basis of following the laws of the market economy. They are not the private property of anyone.

Following the trend of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, multinational companies

involved in economic globalization are fully practicing principles such as Adam Smith's theory of free market and David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage.

The flow of capital, labor, technology and other production factors around the world, and the transfer of them from high-cost areas to low-cost areas and from high-efficiency areas to low-efficiency areas connect supply with demand in an effective manner.

The global industrial and supply chains have gradually replaced the product division and trading models between countries, greatly improving global production efficiency.

The continuous optimization of the global industrial and supply chains provides a key impetus for global development, benefiting all countries, including the developed, the developing, and the poorest.

To constantly create conditions for optimizing the global industrial and supply chains and better contribute to global development is a responsibility of global countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

However, for the time being, politicians in certain countries have claimed to intervene or even reconstruct the global industrial chain and supply chain because they have brought about "threats"

during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such an argument is contrary to the general trend of economic globalization and does not conform to the inherent logic of the rule-based global industrial and supply chains.

Enterprises are the main players in the market. The government could change economic incentives through tariffs and other tools. But as long as enterprises still seek the optimal profit at the minimum cost, economic globalization is unlikely to undergo a fundamental reversal. The division and cooperation between economies and advantage complementation are still a basic trend.

"Our China-based data suggests

that the majority of our members will not be packing up and leaving China anytime soon," said Alan Beebe, president of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in China.

Beebe's understanding of the global industrial chain and supply chain is clearly different from that of some Western politicians who propose to bring the U.S. supply chain back home at all costs.

According to a latest AmCham survey, the majority of American companies in China have no plans to relocate production or sourcing activities to other parts of the country or abroad due to the coronavirus.

People's Daily

NASA, SpaceX launch first crewed mission from US soil since 2011

WASHINGTON

TWO NASA astronauts took off from U.S. soil on Saturday, riding aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft in a historic test flight to the International Space Station (ISS).

The mission, dubbed Demo-2, is the first crewed launch to orbit from U.S. soil since NASA's shuttle program ended in 2011, and also the first-ever manned space launch by a private company, ushering in a new era of U.S. space exploration.

The Crew Dragon spacecraft lifted off on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at 3:22 p.m. Eastern Time, from historic Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center. Veteran NASA astronaut Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley are co-commanders on the mission.

Launch Complex 39A has served as backdrops for America's most significant manned space flight endeavors, including Apollo 8, Apollo 11 and Space Shuttle Columbia.

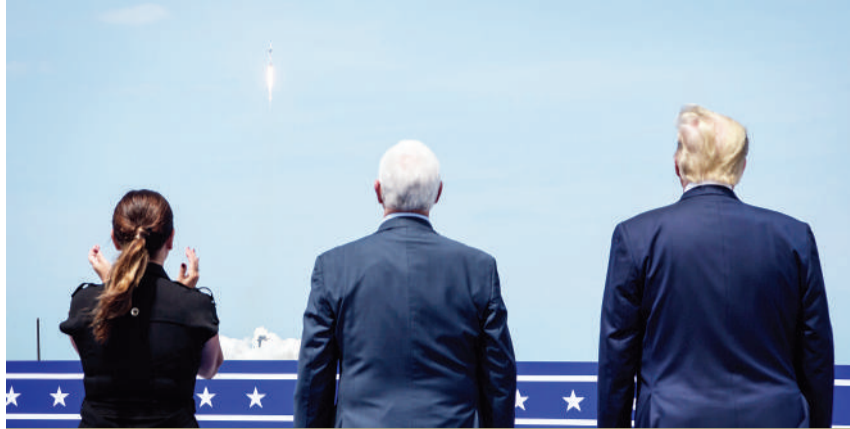
U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence watched the launch at the center. "It's incredible, the technology, the power. I'm so proud of the people at NASA, all the people that

worked together, public and private. When you see a sight like that it's incredible," Trump said after the launch at the space center.

Pence said none of this would have been possible without the personal courage and the unflinching skill of the two American astronauts. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted, "For the first time in 9 years, we have now launched American astronauts on American rockets from American soil. I'm so proud of the NASA and SpaceX team for making this moment possible."

NASA confirmed main engine cut-off and separation of the rocket's first and second stages minutes after the lift-off. Falcon 9's reusable first stage booster has successfully landed on the "Of Course I Still Love You" drone ship off the Florida coast. The Crew Dragon reached Earth orbit about 12 minutes after takeoff, and is making its way to the ISS, according to NASA.

The spacecraft is scheduled to dock to the space station on Sunday at 10:27 a.m. Eastern Time. The spacecraft is designed to do this autonomously, but the two astronauts and the station will be monitoring approach and docking, and can take control of the spacecraft



US President Donald Trump (R), U.S. Vice President Mike Pence (C) watch the launch of SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Crew Dragon spacecraft with two astronauts at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States, May 30, 2020. (Xinhua)

if necessary. After successfully docking, Behnken and Hurley will be welcomed aboard station and will become members of the Expedition 63 crew. They will perform tests on Crew Dragon in addition to conducting research and other tasks with the space station crew.

The mission will conclude with the Crew Dragon undocking from the station, deorbiting, and returning Behnken and Hurley to Earth with a safe splash-down in the Atlantic Ocean, according

to NASA. The mission duration has not been announced yet. NASA said it will be determined once on station based on the readiness of the next commercial crew launch.

Behnken and Hurley were among the first astronauts to begin working and training on SpaceX's next-generation human space vehicle, and were selected for their extensive test pilot and flight experience, including several missions on the space shuttle, according to NASA.

Behnken will be the joint operations commander for the mission, responsible for activities such as rendezvous, docking and undocking, as well as Demo-2 activities while the spacecraft is docked to the ISS. Hurley will be the spacecraft commander for the mission, responsible for activities such as launch, landing and recovery.

It is the first-ever crewed mission for SpaceX since its founding 18 years ago, and the first time ever that a privately developed spacecraft launched humans into Earth's orbit. Since the final flight of NASA's space shuttle program in July 2011, the space agency has relied on Russian Soyuz rockets and spacecraft to get its astronauts to and from the ISS. Since then, NASA, SpaceX and Boeing have been working for years to end that dependence.

In 2014, the two companies signed multibillion-dollar contracts with NASA's Commercial Crew Program to finish development of their astronaut taxis and fly six operational crewed missions to and from the orbiting lab. The Crew Dragon has reached the ISS once before, on the uncrewed Demo-1 mission in March 2019.

Xinhua

Constitutional amendments voting date to depend on COVID situation - Kremlin spokesman

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will announce the date of voting on the constitutional amendments when he deems it right, depending on the coronavirus situation, Putin's press secretary Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

"These are decisions in the president's competence. And you know, the presidents warns against trying to anticipate things and calls for reliance on clear data from scientists, specialists and sectoral agencies.

So, he will announce the new date when he deems it right," he said in an interview with the Moscow, Kremlin. Putin program on the Rpsiya-1 television channel.

In his address to the national parliament in January 2020, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested a number of amendments to the Russian constitution to bring in conformity with the present-day realities and commit to paper the country's achievements.

Following discussion in an ad hoc working group, the State Duma lower parliament house passed the presidential draft in the final reading on March 11.

It was approved by the Federation Council upper parliament house on the same day and after that supported by legislative assemblies of all of the Russian constituent regions. The Federation Council then passed a resolution and submitted it to the president on March 14.

President Putin signed a decree appointing the voting date on April 22. However, in his address to the nation on March 25 the president said the voting should be postponed because of the coronavirus situation. He said the final decision on the voting date would depend on the development of the situation.

The amendment will come in force after their approval in a nationwide voting.

Touching upon Putin's current work, with most of meetings being held in an online format, Peskov said such methods are justified. "It is justified because it is meant to spare the president from the slightest risks of being infected. But it in no way impacts his working schedule," he stressed.

Agencies

Belt and Road Initiative helps boost global economy

CHINA'S trade volume with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) route rose 0.9 percent year-on-year in the first four months of 2020 to 2.76 trillion yuan (about \$388.73 billion), according to the latest statistics released by the country's General Administration of Customs.

In the first quarter, Chinese enterprises made non-financial direct investment of \$4.2 billion in 52 countries along the Belt and Road, up 11.7 percent year-on-year, said China's Ministry of Commerce.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic, China and the Belt and Road countries have been offering mutual assistance and donating anti-epidemic materials to each other.

China has dispatched medical teams to over 10 countries along the Belt and Road, including Iran, Iraq, Serbia, Cambodia, Pakistan and Laos, to assist local efforts in coping with the disease. It also organized teleconferences between Chinese medical

experts and foreign medical workers to exchange experiences of epidemic containment.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads along the BRI routes, corridors, ports and logistics hubs in Belt and Road countries are now being used to provide medical support for partner countries in need, said Forbes on its website, adding it's a move which the Chinese side calls the "Health Silk Road."

China's offering of medical equipment to the Belt and Road countries via railway at the critical moment indicates a basic function of the interconnectivity network - maintaining the relationship between China and other countries.

Ezzat Saad, director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs noted that the COVID-19 pandemic once again proved that mankind shares a same future, as well as the



Chinese medical team sent by east China's Jiangxi provincial government to Uzbekistan returns to Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi province on April 28 after completing its mission.

necessity to build the "Health Silk Road." The China-proposed BRI is charting the course for global countries regarding the joint construction of a "Health Silk Road," he added.

Facing the huge pressure of

the global economic downturn, China is actively engaged in anti-pandemic and economic cooperation and exchanges with Belt and Road countries, injecting strong power into the global efforts battling the disease and

boosting confidence for the world to vitalize economy.

BRI projects haven't stopped construction, even when COVID-19 is spreading in Belt and Road countries. "Currently, 40,000 Pakistani and 7,000 Chinese workers

are performing their duties with dedication. The number of workers indicate the volume of work, which is going on," said Pakistani newspaper Daily Times.

As an important logistics route linking the Belt and Road countries, the China-Europe freight service once again proved its important role during the pandemic. It takes only 12 days for a China-Europe freight train to cover a 4,000-mile trip from Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province, to Izmit, a coastal Turkish city on the shore of the Sea of Marmara, which is nearly half of the time needed by maritime transport.

The resumption of the Belt and Road freight service is a piece of exciting news for Central Asian countries, said Aidar Amrebayev, member of a "Belt and Road" expert club in Kazakhstan. He believes that the "Belt and Road" international cooperation will be further improved after withstanding the test of the pandemic. **People's Daily**

Why decoupling-with-China rhetoric hardly sways entrepreneurs

BEIJING

EARLIER this month, U.S. multinational conglomerate Honeywell launched its emerging market headquarters and innovation center in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

It came only a few weeks after U.S. energy giant ExxonMobil and its Chinese partners held a special virtual groundbreaking ceremony for a chemical complex in China's southern province of Guangdong. These stellar projects by U.S. flagship enterprises, happening while the coronavirus pandemic is still raging across the globe, and the clamoring for decoupling with China has once again captured headlines, have given off a clear signal that global investors remain confident in a promising future of China even at this unprecedentedly challenging and uncertain time.

Perhaps the most important source of that continued confidence comes from China's forceful epidemic response and well-managed post-pandemic economic re-

habilitation.

Since the outbreak, China has taken some very decisive containment steps, and effectively put the disease under control. This significant progress has allowed Beijing to roll out a raft of measures to bring production back on track, and reopen businesses. As a result, recovery is underway, and China is getting back on its feet steadily.

Figures from China's National Bureau of Statistics showed on Wednesday that profits from China's major industrial firms in April edged down 4.3 percent, recovering from the 34.9-percent drop registered in March. China's drive to get back to normal is undoubtedly a shot in the arm to help provide urgently needed medical supplies like masks and protective suits to the world, stabilize global supply chains, and shore up heavily-hit manufacturing industries worldwide and international trade.

China's economic resilience, unique and competitive manufacturing edges, abundant industrial

workers and solid fundamentals for long-term economic growth offer investors and entrepreneurs another reason to keep their faith in the Asian country. China-skeptics in the United States who have vowed to reshore already outsourced manufacturing jobs need a grip on reality: existing global supply chains are a natural, decades-long progression jointly shaped by a variety of factors like operation costs, industrial capabilities, and a sufficient and skilled workforce.

China still remains home to the world's most attractive and populous consumer market. Last year, consumer spending contributed 57.8 percent to China's overall economic growth. With 400 million middle-income earners, greater potential for consumer products and public services awaits to be tapped. Over the decades, encouraged by the massive and fast-growing Chinese consumer markets, foreign companies have been shifting a model of "made in China" to "made for China."

Moreover, the Chinese government's persistent pledge to create a more friendly business environment, for stronger protection of intellectual property rights and to bolster global free trade and multilateralism has made its domestic markets more attractive. The foreign investment law that took effect at the start of the year is a fine example of China's commitments.

According to a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and PwC China in March, over 70 percent of U.S. companies said they had no plans yet to relocate production and supply chain operations or sourcing outside of China.

During a press conference after the annual "two sessions" on Thursday, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang highlighted the importance of openness in stabilizing industrial and supply chains, saying that China will further enhance cooperation with the rest of the world and introduce more measures for further opening-up.

Xinhua

Putin to monitor Victory parade from tribune on Red Square

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and foreign leaders will monitor the Victory parade on June 24 from the tribune on Red Square, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in the interview with Moscow, Kremlin. Putin program on Rossiya-1 TV channel.

"Certainly, the president and the guests will [watch the parade] at the tribune," Peskov said.

"No doubt, there will be foreign heads of state," Peskov noted that it was necessary to take into account "epidemiological modality" and expressed hope that the lockdown would be a thing of the past when the parade takes place.

On April 16, the Russian president announced a decision to postpone the Victory



Day Parade, which is held annually on May 9, because the preparations for it could not be carried out amid the coronavirus spread.

On April 28, Putin said an air military parade would be held on May 9. Putin pledged that the Victory parade would take place later this year.

On May 26, Putin told a meeting with Russian Defense

Minister Sergei Shoigu that the parade would be held on June 24.

Putin explained that he had chosen the date since the legendary, historic parade of victors was held on June 24, 1945. The president ordered the defense minister to prevent any risks for health of the parade participants.

Agencies

Hot pot restaurant in China turns the table amid COVID-19 epidemic

THE past Chinese New Year still haunts Wang Wenjun although he and his hot pot business is now feeling a little bit of the summer heat.

The founder of a renowned hot pot restaurant in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, was caught off-guard by the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, when he was about to embrace a peak period of his business during the Chinese New Year. And the supposed-to-be busy season of the catering industry soon cooled down.

"I closed my restaurant, and

my income came to a halt, but I still had to pay the employees and the rent," Wang told People's Daily. Much of his hair went grey due to the concerns over the huge economic losses every day. The electric charge was a staggering number given the refrigerators that stored extra-volume food materials for the Chinese New Year, he added.

To pull his business out of the doldrums became the top priority. He sold his food materials in stock to neighboring residents, even at bad bargains, and asked employees in the city to work in shift. Those outside the city

were requested to work from home. Besides, the management board took the lead to lower their salaries, in an effort to further reduce the labor cost.

"The rent of the restaurant remains the largest part of the overhead. I'm really grateful to relevant authorities that helped us save 1.2 million yuan of the Chinese New Year, he added. To pull his business out of the doldrums became the top priority. He sold his food materials in stock to neighboring residents, even at bad bargains, and asked employees in the city to work in shift. Those outside the city

were requested to work from home. Besides, the management board took the lead to lower their salaries, in an effort to further reduce the labor cost.

month, survived though it was hit hard by the public health crisis.

To his surprise, the takeout service, which he had attached little importance to, and the livestreaming marketing, something he had never touched upon, later became an unexpected opportunity for him to revive his business.

As early as 2016, Wang's restaurant has offered takeout service, but the orders of the service were quite limited back then, as "customers preferred dining-in," said Wang. However, the service has been surging

since the work resumption.

According to a restaurant manager, takeout orders peaked at over 1,500 in a day, with a turnover exceeding half a million yuan.

"I'm craving for hot pot, but I live outside of the delivery coverage, and I can't make it myself, so what should I do?"

A message left for Wang's restaurant on China's twitter-like Weibo had the man contemplating.

He later decided to teach customers to make hot pot on livestreaming platforms, and the idea coincided with that of a streaming service provider. Soon his

livestream career started.

His first livestream show attracted more than 87,000 viewers though he rushed to open the channel without much preparation. Apart from the teaching, Wang also sold hot pot seasoning products and self-heating food produced by his restaurant.

The active interaction from the viewers greatly boosted his confidence. He later launched a bunch of activities under the cooperation with local media and completed around a dozen of livestreaming shows.

"The effect was out of expectation, and I'm reached by a num-

ber of brands and stores for cooperation," Wang said.

Another piece of good news came as Chengdu fully recovered its service sector, including the catering industry on March 26.

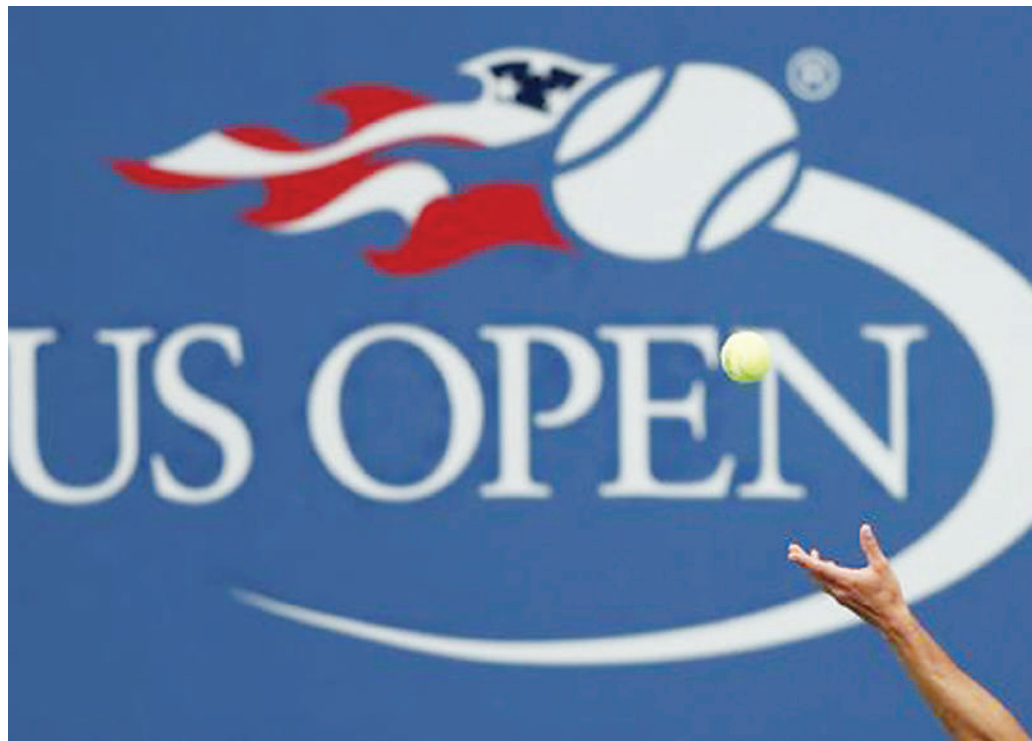
Seeing the customers waiting to dine at the restaurant, Wang is no longer anxious or worried. However, he still cannot relax.

"The epidemic is a rare stress test, which forces us to think about how we should develop in the new retail industry and exploit the intelligent technologies," he noted.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



In this Sept. 2, 2017, file photo, Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, serves to John Millman, of Australia, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. (AP Photo)

US Open plan in works, including group flights, COVID tests

By HOWARD FENDRICH

CHARTER flights to ferry U.S. Open tennis players and limited entourages from Europe, South America and the Middle East to New York. Negative COVID-19 tests before traveling. Centralized housing. Daily temperature checks.

No spectators. Fewer on-court officials. No locker-room access on practice days.

All are among the scenarios being considered for the 2020 U.S. Open – if it is held at all amid the coronavirus pandemic – and described to The Associated Press by a high-ranking official at the Grand Slam tournament.

“All of this is still fluid,” Stacey Allaster, the U.S. Tennis Association’s chief executive for professional tennis, said in a telephone interview Saturday. “We have made no decisions at all.”

With that caveat, Allaster added that if the USTA board does decide to go forward with the Open, she expects it to be held at its usual site and in its usual spot on the calendar. The main draw is scheduled to start Aug. 31.

“We continue to be, I would say, 150% focused on staging a safe environment for conducting a U.S. Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on our dates. It’s all I wake up – our team wakes up – thinking about,” Allaster said. “The idea of an alternative venue, an alternative date ... we’ve got a responsibility to explore it, but it doesn’t have a lot of momentum.”

An announcement should come from “mid-June to end of June,” Allaster said.

All sanctioned competition has been suspended by the ATP, WTA and International Tennis Federation since March and is on hold until late July.

The French Open was postponed from May to September; Wimbledon was canceled for the first time since 1945.

There is no established COVID-19 protocol for tennis, a global sport with several governing bodies.

“Everybody would agree to the fundamental principles, I’m sure: protecting the health of participants, following the local laws and minimizing the risk of the transmission of the virus,” said Stuart Miller, who is overseeing the ITF’s return-to-tennis policy. “But then you have to get down into the specific details.”

One such detail: The USTA wants to add locker rooms – including at indoor courts that housed hundreds of temporary hospital beds at the height of New York’s coronavirus outbreak – and improve air filtration in existing spaces. Also being considered: no locker-room access until just before a match. So if anyone goes to Flushing Meadows just to train, Allaster said, “You come, you practice, and return to the hotel.”

The USTA presented its operational plan to a medical advisory group Friday; now that will be discussed with city, state and federal government officials.

“The fundamental goal here is to mitigate risk,” Allaster said.

Governors around the country, such as New York’s Andrew Cuomo, who are open to allowing professional sports resume say that should be without fans.

“We are spending a lot of time and energy on all the models, including no fans on site,” Allaster said. “The government will help guide us.”

In 2019, about 850,000 people attended the U.S. Open site from the week before the main draw through the finals.

Lew Sherr, the USTA’s chief revenue officer, told the AP it is “less and less likely” spectators would be at the U.S. Open this year.

That, Sherr said, means “forgoing ticketing revenue, forgoing hospitality revenue, forgoing a portion of your sponsorship revenue.” But TV and digital rights fees, plus remaining sponsorship dollars, are “significant enough that it’s still worth it to go forward with a no-fans-on-site U.S. Open,” he said.

Other areas Allaster addressed: SCORING

Having best-of-three-set matches in men’s singles “has hardly been discussed,” she said. “If the players came to us and said, ‘That is something we want to do,’ we would consider it. But we will not make a unilateral decision on that without player input.”

TESTING

Before traveling to New York, players would need proof of a negative COVID-19 test. “Once they come into our, let’s say, ‘U.S. Open world,’” Allaster said, “there will be a combination of daily health questionnaires, daily temperature checks and ... some nasal or saliva or antibody testing.”

CHARTERS

Paris, Vienna, Frankfurt, Buenos Aires and Dubai are among the cities where players could catch a flight to John F. Kennedy International Airport on an airline that is a tournament partner. Afterward, players might be taken to where they play next; tournament sites in later September could include Paris, Madrid or Rome.

ENTOURAGES

“A player coming with an entourage of five, six, seven, eight is not something that’s in the plan,” Allaster said. One possibility: Tournaments could provide physiotherapists and masseuses so players don’t bring their own.

OFFICIATING

Matches could use fewer line judges than usual, with more reliance on line-calling technology. “It’s a hard one,” Allaster said. “Obviously, we want to ensure that we have the highest level of integrity.”

BALL PERSONS

The current plan is to have them – only adults, no kids.

AP

Five key points on European Tour golf ahead of its July return

LONDON

GOLF’s European Tour is set to resume in late July after a four-month coronavirus shutdown with a run of six tournaments in as many weeks across Britain.

However, events will be played without spectators and subject to strict safety and testing protocols over the course of a modified season that will run until December.

AFP Sport looks at what to expect with competition due to restart on July 22:

Strict on-site testing

Players will be tested for the virus as soon as they arrive at tournaments, starting with the British Masters in northeast England. Venues will be fully equipped – with thermal imaging technology and PCR tests – to handle all medical duties on-site.

Golf’s inherent ability to allow for social distancing is also an area officials are hoping to capitalise on while other sports are forced to overcome additional barriers.

The European Tour is spending in excess of £2 million (\$2.47 million) to implement these new-look safety measures, which extend to caddies, staff members and TV personnel, who will also need to undergo medical checks before receiving clearance for the event.

All events are reliant on the lifting of the two-week quarantine by the British government relating to those travelling from outside the country.

On-course microphones

To compensate for the lack of spectators, players will be encouraged to wear microphones while competing to give TV viewers rare insight live from the course.

“COVID-19 allows you permission to try things a little bit differently,” European Tour chief executive Keith



Golf is one of few sports that naturally lends itself to social distancing (AFP Photo)

Pelley told the BBC. “I think you have to be as creative as you possibly can when you are playing behind closed doors.”

“It really comes down to how open you are, how creative you are and how your players want to embrace change. This is the time for us to do some things completely differently.”

Reduced prize money

The six tournaments in the UK swing are each expected to offer a purse of around one million euros (\$1.11 million) – a third of the prize money at last year’s British Masters.

With revenue sharply hit by the pandemic, the money on offer to players will be scaled back after reaching record highs in 2018 and 2019.

“Given what we are facing, it’s no surprise that our prize fund levels

will fall a little bit given the global crisis that is affecting the world,” said Pelley, who denied the European Tour was facing bankruptcy.

Full schedule to follow

Tour organisers have tentatively drawn up a 24-tournament schedule for the remainder of the season, with events in Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal still to be confirmed.

Four Rolex Series events have also been announced, with the Scottish Open and PGA Championship in back-to-back weeks in October, while the Nedbank Golf Challenge in South Africa and the World Tour Championship in Dubai will take place in December.

“We have not released our entire 2020 schedule at this point, with a number of familiar and iconic events not part of this announcement,”

Pelley said on Thursday. “Rest assured they are all still very much part of our plans, but we have a variety of options open to us right now, and we will announce those shortly.”

The events are expected to feature fields of 144 players.

Players eager to return Thursday’s announcement that the tour will resume this summer was greeted with enthusiasm and gratitude from a number of players.

“So looking forward to getting back out playing. More important, can’t wait to see my fellow pros, our caddies and staff again. Amazing job by everyone at @EuropeanTour and especially our chief Keith Pelley...” tweeted Thomas Bjorn, captain of Europe’s Ryder Cup-winning team in 2018.

AFP

UK government hails ‘sporting recovery’ as live events get go-ahead



On the way back – British horse racing will be the first major sport to resume its season after the UK government paved the way for the return of competitive action (AFP Photo)

LONDON

“THE British sporting recovery has begun” the UK government proclaimed as it approved the return of domestic competitive action behind closed doors from June 1.

Major professional competitions have been shut down since March because of the coronavirus.

But with much of the country still in effective lockdown, Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Oliver Dowden, told a news conference on Saturday: “For more than two months after sport stopped and after weeks of round-the-clock discussions with medical experts and professional sports bodies, I’m delighted to announce today that the government has published guidance which allows competitive sport to resume behind closed doors from Monday (June 1) at the

earliest.”

Horse racing is set to be the first major sport back in action at Newcastle on Monday, with the first Classic meeting of the season, featuring the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, on June 6.

“The British sporting recovery has begun,” said Dowden.

Saturday’s guidance forms the third part of British sport’s return from lockdown with stage two, which allowed for close-contact and competitive training for elite athletes, published last Monday.

It will now be up to individual sports to carry out their own risk assessments, with Dowden saying they “know their sport best”.

As well as ensuring no spectators are present, sports bodies must ensure everyone entering a venue is screened for the coronavirus and anyone suspected of having COVID-19 must be placed in isolation.

Movement channels will be established, while social distancing must be maintained “where possible”, with players warned against physical contact celebrations with their teammates.

‘Football’s coming back’

Premier League football is scheduled to restart on June 17.

Dowden, acknowledging football’s “special place in our national life”, had previously for Premier League matches to be shown on free-to-air networks if the season resumed.

“I’m glad to confirm today that a third of matches to finish the season will now be free to view including the Liverpool v Everton derby and live Premier League football will be on the BBC for the first time in its history,” he said.

“I can now make it official: football is coming back.”

Confusion surrounds which fixtures, if any, will be played at

neutral venues after different police officers gave contrasting views as to whether that was necessary for matches such as the Merseyside derby in order to stop fans flouting social distancing rules by congregating outside grounds.

Dowden, however, said that was a matter for police and local authorities.

In a boost for the sporting landscape, it was then announced that there have been no positive findings from the latest round of coronavirus testing carried out in the Premier League.

The fourth round of screening saw a total of 1,130 players and club staff tested, said officials.

Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, the deputy chief medical officer, added a “crucial” point in the choice of any venue would be that it could “cope with the segregation and the organisation and the social distancing right up until the kick-off whistle until the final whistle to make that the safest possible experience for everybody there”.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said they “welcomed” Dowden’s statement, adding: “If all goes well, we will be thrilled to resume the 2019/20 season in just over two weeks’ time.” But racing should be back before then, with horses having been exercised during lockdown.

Delia Bushell, the chief executive of the Jockey Club, which owns several leading British courses, including Newmarket, said: “Getting back is vital for so many livelihoods in our £4 billion British racing industry, which plays an important role in the rural economy and in many communities around the UK.”

Monday will also see snooker stage its first tournament since the pandemic, a Championship League event in Milton Keynes.

The England and Wales Cricket Board said Thursday there would be no domestic matches until August 1 at the earliest.

But the ECB still hope to stage a full international programme this season, starting with a delayed Test series against the West Indies provisionally rescheduled for July.

Concerns have been raised that women’s professional sport could lag behind in the return from lockdown but Dowden said: “Visibility matters, and our daughters deserve to see female athletes on the main stage.”

AFP

Five-sub rule could count against Barca - Setien

MADRID

BARCELONA could suffer from the new rule that allows teams to make five substitutions in a match instead of three, their coach Quique Setien has said.

FIFA has made the temporary change to ease the physical strain on players, who are returning to a congested period of games after a lengthy break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The law could favour the bigger clubs like Barcelona, who have deeper squads and better players ready to come off the bench.

But Setien believes Barca, who are two points clear at the top of La Liga, will also find opponents are now fresher towards the end of games.

"I think it will actually harm us," Setien said on Friday night in a video conference with the Las Palmas Football Federation.

"We know we settle a lot of matches in the final minutes. If you give the opponent the option of bringing on fresh players in that time, they won't have that weakness of tiredness."

"But it can also give you some options in certain moments. It's a bit of an unknown so we'll see how it goes."

La Liga is due to restart on June 11 after a three-month break, with the plan for the season to finish on July 19.

Teams are set to begin full training again on Monday, which would give them only 10 days working all together before competitive games resume, with many being played in the searing heat of Spanish summer.

"We thought we would have more time to work as a group but it's not to be," Setien said.

"We would have liked more time. I hope there are not many injuries and that it does less damage than people think."

Barcelona lost to Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu in their penultimate match before La Liga suspended fixtures on March 11.

But Madrid's defeat by Real Betis the following weekend allowed Barca, who beat Real Sociedad, to regain top spot with 11 games left to play.

AFP

'Justice for George': Schalke's US footballer in armband protest

BERLIN

SCHALKE's American midfielder Weston McKennie on Saturday wore a 'Justice for George' armband as part of the growing protests over the death of an unarmed black man during a police arrest in Minneapolis in the United States.

"To be able to use my platform to bring attention to a problem that has been going on too long feels good!!!" tweeted 21-year-old McKennie after the 1-0 loss to Werder Bremen.

"We have to stand up for what we believe in and I believe that it is time that we are heard! #justiceforgeorge-floyd #saynotoracism."

George Floyd died in Minneapolis in an arrest by a police officer who pinned him to the ground for several minutes by kneeling on his neck.

AFP

Kane warns Spurs they can't slip up in quest for Champions League

LONDON

HARRY Kane believes Tottenham Hotspur will have to win eight of their remaining nine Premier League games if they are to qualify for next season's Champions League.

The north London club were seven points adrift of the top four when the coronavirus shut down the season in March.

Then it was thought the likes of Kane, Son Heung-min and Steven Bergwijn would miss the rest of the campaign through injury.

But the trio, as well as Moussa Sissoko, are all set to be fit in time for the planned restart of June 17, although young striker Troy Parrott will be sidelined after having his appendix removed.

Eighth-placed Spurs face crunch matches against Manchester United, Sheffield United, Arsenal and Leicester.

Their hopes of Champions League qualification would also be boosted if Manchester City fail in an appeal against a European ban.

But Kane wants Spurs to take matters into their own hands.

"We have got to finish in the top four, there is no doubt about that," he told the club's website.

"We have got a massive game against Man United in the first game and realistically we are going to have to win seven or eight to get into the Champions League."

"That has got to be our aim. Of course we want to win every game but we have got to make sure we finish strong if we want to be playing Champions League football next season."

Kane suffered a hamstring injury against Southampton on New Year's Day but with the season sus-



ended, the England captain has been able to recover without the worry of missing matches.

"From the hamstring point of view it is great to be able to give it a bit more rest," the star forward said. "I have not played a game for six months now, it has been a long, long time."

- 'Shock to the system' -

Spurs only sit four points behind Man United in fifth, which could be good enough for a Champions League spot depending on the result of Man City's appeal.

Kane, a two-time Premier League Golden Boot winner, has scored 17 goals for Tottenham in all competitions this season, including 11 from 20 appearances in the league.

"I am feeling good, I am feeling sharp," he added. "It has been good to do some individual training, a bit of finishing, a lot of individual drills to work on my game and improve."

"I am at a stage where I am looking forward to getting some games and hopefully I'll be back playing before too long."

"It is a good shock to the system. It has been very intense..."

"Hopefully I'll be back in a better place (than) before I was injured and look forward to a busy next year."

AFP

As football restarts around Europe, France questions decision end to season early

PARIS

IT is the land of the world champions, but is it really a football country? That is the question some in France have been asking this week while its European neighbours work to bring the sport back after the coronavirus shutdown.

Debate has raged ever since the French league decided to bring a premature end to the season in late April with 10 rounds of matches unplayed.

In contrast, a fortnight has already passed since the German Bundesliga restarted.

On Thursday Italy's sports minister confirmed that Serie A will return on June 20, while La Liga and the Premier League both look set to be back underway by then.

"Like idiots" was the headline on the front of L'Equipe on Friday, as the sports daily questioned why such a hasty decision was made by the league (LFP) to end the season.

The LFP's announcement at the time was based on French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe's statement that the season "cannot restart" as the pandemic raged in late April.

However, France has been steadily easing its lockdown in recent weeks and Philippe stated on Thursday that team sports could restart after June 21.

"We will be the only major footballing country in Europe to stick to this decision and to have not conditioned it to the evolution of the pandemic and the easing of the lockdown," wrote L'Equipe's Vincent Duluc.

France has officially recorded nearly 29,000 deaths from Covid-19, far more than Germany but fewer than Italy or the UK and fewer than Spain per head of population.

France is not the only European football nation to have ended its season, with the Netherlands notably voiding the campaign altogether.

Paris Saint-Germain were crowned champions for the third year running. Amiens and Toulouse were relegated and those clubs have since launched legal action.

However, the leading voice against the early ending has been Jean-Michel Aulas, president of Lyon. They were seventh when the season stopped in mid-March and so were denied European qualification.

Neither they nor PSG will now have any competitive action before the Champions League -- in which both are still involved -- is expected to re-



Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas (R) with French league president Nathalie Boy de la Tour. Aulas has been the leading critic of the decision to end the season early (AFP Photo)

start in August.

"I am fully convinced that what has happened was not for the good of the clubs or French football as a whole," Aulas told Le Parisien.

- Economic damage -

His chief argument has been economic. Earlier in May the league said it would have to take out a government-guaranteed loan of some 225 million euros (\$250 million) to tide over clubs impacted by the loss in income from broadcasters because so many games were left unplayed.

While France's national team won the World Cup for the second time in 2018, most of its leading players aspire to play abroad and the ongoing debate raises the uncomfortable question about whether

its domestic league actually belongs in the same category as its rivals.

When it comes to talk of Europe's 'Big Five' leagues, Ligue 1 is firmly in fifth place in terms of revenue.

The need to protect a more lucrative new TV deal set to kick in next season -- by not allowing this season to drag on potentially into late August -- has been cited as one argument in favour of the decision to stop.

PSG and Lyon are the only French clubs in the top 30 of Deloitte's latest Football Money League.

There has only been one French winner -- Marseille in 1993 -- in the 65-year history of the European Cup. That is as many as Romania, Scotland and the for-

mer Yugoslavia, and Aston Villa.

While other countries that have been hit harder by the pandemic find ways to restart the football season by promoting arguments about the game's economic and cultural significance, in France there is a feeling that it just doesn't matter enough.

"Other countries have had interministerial meetings with important representatives from professional clubs, and they are restarting," one Ligue 1 executive said.

"In France there have been none of those meetings. From afar, you could conclude that the state is not really interested in football."

AFP

'Road Runner' Davies dazzles as Flick betters Guardiola's Bayern record

BERLIN

'ROAD Runner' Alphonso Davies lived up to his nickname with another lightning sprint Saturday while Hansi Flick bettered Pep Guardiola's record start as head coach of Bayern Munich, who opened a 10-point lead in the Bundesliga.

Having defeated second-placed Borussia Dortmund 1-0 away in midweek, Bayern enjoyed a 5-0 romp over Fortuna Duesseldorf.

The visitors' defender Mathias Joergensen scored an early own-goal before Benjamin Pavard, Robert Lewandowski (2) and Davies hit the target for Bayern.

With five games left, the defending champions, who have won their last eight league games, are comfortably on course for an eighth straight league title.

Davies scored the best goal of the game when the fleet-footed defender pressed Duesseldorf into making a mistake, barged past several defenders and fired home.

"It was very special, I did my job as a defender, I pressed high up the pitch and got the ball, then put it in the back of the net," said Davies.

The 19-year-old, who was born in a Ghanaian refugee camp before his parents emigrated to Canada, was nicknamed Bayern's 'Road Runner' by teammate Thomas Mueller after the win in Dortmund.

Mueller joked that Davies is Bayern's version of the fast-running Looney Tunes character after the left-back sprinted to dispossess Dortmund striker Erling Braut Haaland, himself no slouch.

"When the opponent thinks 'Oh, I have time,' 'meep, meep, meep' the Roadrunner comes and steals the ball," quipped Mueller after Davies clocked 35.3km/h to catch Haaland.

Davies said he likes his new nickname after running even faster against Duesseldorf.

"Yeah, I know the cartoon, I watched it when I was growing up," said the Canadian teenager, who clocked 35.4 km/h in a sprint at the Allianz Arena.

He was just short of the Bundesliga record of 36.49 km/h, which Borussia Dortmund's Achraf Hakimi set earlier this season.

"Yeah, I am quick, but him (Mueller) calling me the 'Road Runner' is a compliment which I take to heart and it was a good nickname," added Davies.

He has made the left-back berth at Bayern his own with a series of outstanding displays this season and recently signed a contract extension until 2025.

"He's a great lad, works hard in training every day, listens well and tries to implement that on the pitch," said Austria defender David Alaba, who schooled Davies in left-back play before moving over to centre-back to accommodate the Canadian.

Several records fell in Saturday's win. Lewandowski now has 43 goals in all competitions this season.

The tally is a season's best for the Poland striker, who has 29 goals in 29 league games, which only Gerd Mueller bettered in 1971/72 on his way to scoring the league record of 40 goals in a season.



Bayern Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies (C) clocked 35.4 km/h in Saturday's 5-0 league win over Fortuna Duesseldorf. (AFP Photo)

Also head coach Hansi Flick claimed his 22nd win in his first 25 games, bettering the start made by Pep Guardiola in 2013.

"Statistics and records don't interest me, what's important is to have a successful season," said Flick, in his first season since replacing Niko Kovac in November.

"At Bayern Munich, you are expected to

win the title.

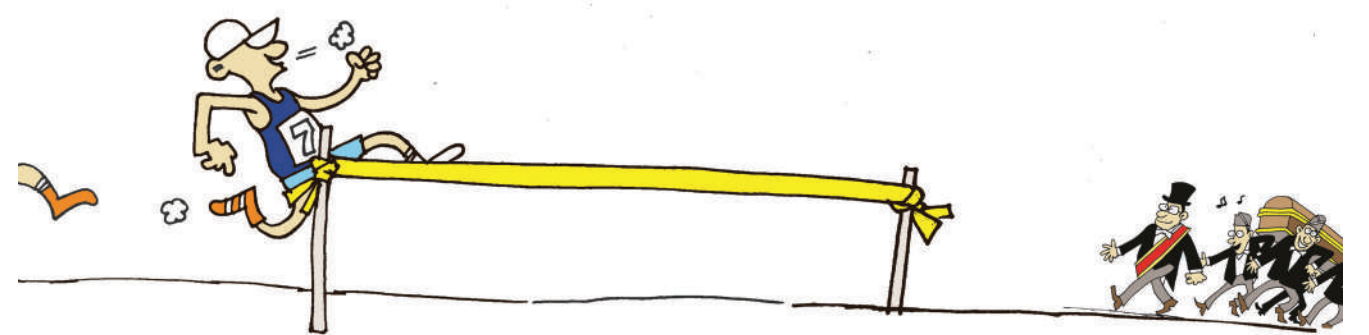
"That's our goal, but there are a few games left. I am very happy, we were very aggressive and didn't give them any chances." Flick also praised his side for knocking down with three straight wins since the league resumed despite playing in near-empty stadiums.

"That's the way it is in this situation, where there are few spectators, the emotions and volume doesn't come from the terraces, which you normally hear as a player," said Flick.

"The team is doing really well and putting things into practise brilliantly."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

As football restarts around Europe,
France questions decision end to
season early

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga players feature in training at Tanganyika Law School's venue in Dar es Salaam yesterday to prepare for the remainder of the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Govt issues directives on hosting of soccer tournaments

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has directed that the home and away format for the domestic soccer leagues, namely Vodacom Premier League, Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL), should be retained when the competitions restart on June 13.

Sporting events were on an indefinite suspension in Tanzania as directed by the government with the aim of containing the Coronavirus pandemic.

President John Magufuli recently issued permission for restart of the sporting activities in the country from today, whilst insisting the competitions' participating sides and fans should be heeding to health precautions.

Hassan Abbas, the government's spokesman, stated in a statement yesterday the government has allowed the domestic tournaments to deploy the home and away format.

He stated the recent directive, which had demanded that the domestic soccer tournaments should be played in two centers, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, has thus been scrapped.

Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports issued the directive after its meeting with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB).

Dar es Salaam was set to host the remainder of the domestic top flight and the ASFC, the rest of the FDL and SDL duels had been scheduled to take place in Mwanza.

According to the government spokesman the health precautions should be duly adhered to in clubs' travel arrangements, camps and training in various parts of the country.

Abbas disclosed soccer fans, who want to access stadiums to watch the games, should be given chance to do so as per the procedures which had been put in place, except on matches which are expected to attract plenty of fans.

In matches which are expected to attract huge crowd, he stated, a regulation which insists on giving chance to fans, who should not exceed half of the stadiums' capacity, should be properly followed.

He also pointed out that soccer followers, clubs' officials, soccer bodies and government officials in areas which will host the leagues will be required to see to it the precautions are followed.

The precautions include avoiding congestion during entrance into the venues and when fans exit the stadiums, there should be considerable distance between fans on the stands and fans should wear face masks and wash their hands outside the venues.

He pointed out that punitive measures should be taken against the fans that will go against the directives.

He said the National Sports Council should coordinate the directives, conduct evaluation on the way the directives are adhered to, as well as issuing directives on the way sports competitions are to be hosted upon resumption.

He stated although there is significant drop in the Coronavirus cases domestically the governments insists the disease still exists and, in this case, every sports person and official should dully follow the directives put in place by health experts.

Morogoro hair stylists call for adherence to Covid-19 precautions

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO hair stylists have appealed to their customers to adhere to precautions put in place by the to fight the Coronavirus disease.

President John Magufuli recently issued permission for restart of sporting activities in Tanzania from today.

He insisted health precautions should be adhered to by both fans and the sports tournaments' participating clubs.

Hassan Shabani, one of hair stylists in the region, told The Guardian last weekend he instructs his customers to wear face masks and wash their hands whenever they seek for his services.

"Customers have to heed to the President's call, Coronavirus pandemic is still around and kills hence services at my office are provided to two customers at a time in an effort to avoid congestion," he stated.

"Customers who are waiting for services outside the office should as well not exceed two."

Dreadlocks hair stylist, Christian Baria, said besides adherence to the health precautions, he calls for people to value hair care particularly those who prefer dreads.

"Dreads need care, a customer for that matter has to avoid washing his or her hair with water water for over two weeks," he said.

Cricket West Indies gives 'in principle' approval for England tour

SAINT JOHN'S

THE CWI has approved West Indies' scheduled tour of England in principle following a meeting via teleconference on Thursday. The Test series, part of the World Test Championship, was originally slated to start on June 4 but was pushed back because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The boards are now looking at an early July start, with the West Indies team arriving in June and isolating prior to the series, which, if it goes ahead, will be played behind closed doors.

The board's formal approval came days after CWI chief executive Johnny Grave told ESPNcricinfo that he was "increasingly confident" that the tour would take place. A CWI statement said the decision was made after detailed discussions between its medical representatives and those of the ECB, including plans around logistics and creating a bio-secure environment during the tour.

With the UK government on Saturday releasing stage three guidance for the resumption of elite sport, which permits the return of competition from June 1, the tour now awaits approvals from the various national governments in the Caribbean region for player and staff movement via chartered planes. Players and staff would be screened regularly through the tour as part of comprehensive ECB "bio-security" planning.

The decision follows weeks of discussions between the two boards, including a phase where CWI wasn't as confident as they have been this past week, given the marked difference in Covid-19 cases between the two regions. But the ECB's safety plans have changed the CWI's mind.

"What has changed is the ECB have got more confident that they've got a robust and safe plan to deal with cricket in a biosecure environment behind closed doors," Grave had said during the interview. "Our medical team are getting more confident and comfortable with those plans. Our players and support staff who we have met with [on conference calls] are beginning to understand what a seven-week tour behind closed doors might look like."

Agencies



Alliance FC's fullback, Sirajy Juma (L), and midfielder, Juma Nyange (R), block Yanga midfielder, Mrisho Ngassa, in a recent Vodacom Premier League clash, which was played in Dar es Salaam.

Alliance FC players yet to gain fitness, says coach

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

ALLIANCE FC head coach, Kessy Mziray, has stated his players are not fully fit after missing out on team training following an indefinite suspension of sporting activities in Tanzania.

The Mwanza-based club, which takes part in the Vodacom Premier League, is as well set to feature in the last eight stage of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Sporting events were on an indefinite suspension in Tanzania as directed by the government with the aim of containing the Coronavirus pandemic.

President John Magufuli re-

cently issued permission for restart of the sporting activities in the country from today, whilst insisting the competitions' participating sides and fans should be heeding to health precautions.

Mziray disclosed he has found out his players are not fully fit once they assembled for team training after domestic clubs had been given green light to take part in training to prepare for the remainder of their respective competitions.

"Domestic players' individual training can not match the training sessions which are overseen by the coach," he stated.

He stated he has therefore

started special training which will first see to it the players regain full fitness in an effort to efficiently put their skills to show in their league assignments.

The coach disclosed he will thereafter focus on improving his squad's technique and tactical sides.

"We have an extremely short time but we will do our best to improve fitness, what with the players' lack of fitness," he stated.

Alliance FC faces challenging task of moving out of the Vodacom Premier League's relegation zone.

They are holding the 18th position in the top flight's log after

posting 29 points in 29 matches, with nine games left.

Alliance FC are moreover one of this season's ASFC quarterfinalists. They are set to confront Namungo FC in a clash which has been scheduled for June 27-28.

Should Alliance FC see off Namungo FC in the competition's last eight, the former will lock horns with winners of the other quarterfinal clash between Ndanda FC and the event's last eight surprise package, Tanga's Sahara All Stars, in the last four.

Winners of the ASFC, on top of receiving cash prize, get the opportunity to battle it out in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



In matches which are expected to attract huge crowd, he stated, a regulation which insists on giving chance to fans, who should not exceed half of the stadiums' capacity, should be properly followed

EATV FRIDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00
Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrika RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM