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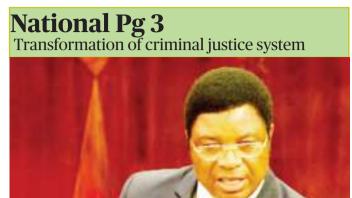
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TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 2019









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Govt ups livestock, fisheries revenues

The committee also observed that livestock and fisheries are among key sectors that contribute immensely to national economic growth, earning the country plenty of foreign exchange

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government was losing an average of 2bn/- per month from smuggling of livestock and related products as well as illegal fishing, the minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina told the National Assembly yesterday.

He told the lawmakers that the government managed to collect 3.1bn/- per month between October and December, 2018 following the famous 'Operation Nzagamba.'

Tabling the 2019/20 ministerial budget estimates, the minister said before the operation



REMEMBRANCE: Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (3rd-L) lights a candle during prayers held at the Igoma cemetery in Mwanza city yesterday to mark the 23rd anniversary of the MV Bukoba tragedy in which more than 800 passengers drowned in Lake Victoria shortly before the vessel docked at Mwanza Port. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Faustine

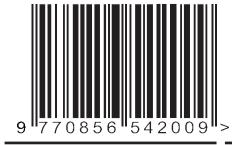


UN lauds Malawi soldier who died saving injured Tanzanian

By Guardian Reporter

A MALAWIAN soldier who died while saving the life of his wounded Tanzanian peacekeeper colleague in the Democratic Republic of Congo last year will be honoured with the highest award in UN peacekeeping on Friday.

The UN Information Centre in Dar es Salam said yesterday that United Nations Secretary General António Guterres is set to award the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage to the late Private Chancy Chitete of Malawi during annual ceremonies of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at UN Headquarters in New



Last November, Tanzanian and Malawian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) came under heavy fire while conducting Operation Usalama in the eastern part of the country against the ADF, an armed group terrorizing civilians and disrupting the vital Ebola response, the statement noted.

"During the operation Private Chitete saw a badly wounded Tanzanian peacekeeper, Corporal Ali Khamis Omary, who was unable to move and was exposed to enemy fire. Leaving his unit, Private Chitete single-handedly brought his wounded comrade to safety, sustaining fatal injuries while providing life-saving first aid. Corporal Omary survived, and Private Chitete's heroism and sacrifice helped the peacekeepers achieve their objective and dislodge the ADF from its stronghold," it elaborated.

The Diagne Medal, established in 2014 "to recognize uniformed and civilian personnel who demonstrate exceptional courage," is named for the late Captain

TURN TO PAGE 2

New TTCL pays dividends, other firms given deadline

By Henry Mwangonde

ONLY 40 out of the 253 parastatals and stateowned companies have remitted dividends to the government this financial year, it was revealed yesterday with President John Magufuli ordering the rest to pay up by July.

President Magufuli also directed Treasury Registrar Dr Athumani Mbutuka to inform the institutions and copy the Chief Secretary about the

The Head of State was speaking yesterday during an event to a 2.1bn/-dividend from the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL).

"TTCL is leading by example; all public entities should follow. There is no way the government owns about 253 companies but only a few should

Dr Magufuli also directed **TTCL Director General Waziri** Kindamba to hand to him names of ministers and senior government officials who are using TTCL lines for him to know

be giving back," he said.

President Magufuli also ordered all ministries and public institutions to support TTCL by connecting to its services, saying that if the corporation makes a profit, all Tanzanians will benefit for it is an entity that is owned by Tanzanians.

Dr Magufuli also directed TTCL Director General Waziri Kindamba to hand to him names of ministers and senior government officials who are using TTCL lines for him to know.

Other institutions should embrace the trend by paying out dividends to the government, the president emphasized, citing the fact that many developed countries went on the same path.

The event was also used to mark the official

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt unveils task force to enforce plastic bags ban

By Guardian Reporter

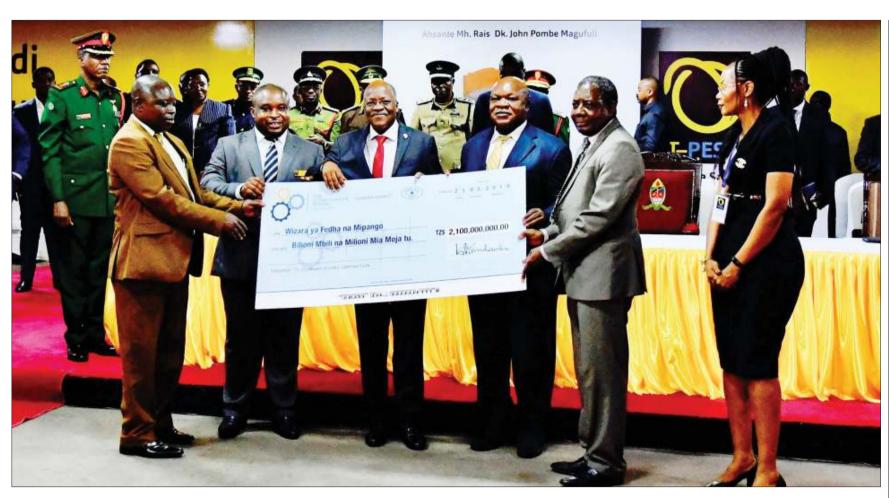
THE government through the Vice-President's Office has formed a multi-agency task force to enforce the ban on plastic carrying bags ahead of the deadline for manufacture, sale and use of the items set for June 1.

The VPO Information Office said yesterday that the enforcement team is comprised of officials from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), the Tanzania Revenue Authority



(TRA), the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), the Police Force and the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency.

"Also the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) is part of the task force to ensure that city, town, municipal and district councils implement the ban. It will be responsible for ensuring compliance and TURN TO PAGE 2



Tanzania Telecommunications Company Ltd (TTCL) director general Waziri Kindamba (2nd-L) hands over to President John Magufuli a dummy cheque for 2.1bn/- in government dividends at a ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe (4th-L) and TTCL board chairman Omar Nundu (5th-L). Photo: State House

New TTCL pays dividends, other firms given deadline

FROM PAGE 1

beginning by the corporation, which has retained its company brand abbreviation, to offer services countrywide. The president communicated via video conference with regional commissioners for Mwanza, Simiyu, Songwe and Tabora.

He directed various government institutions and senior officers to use TTCL services as a way of ensuring that it remained a profit making entity for the benefit of Tanzanians.

In his remarks, TTCL CEO Kindamba said the president's directives on various reforms to be taken by TTCL have helped the company to achieve Communications Service Access Fund

what they have so far.

He said the president has shown great love to the company, highlighting that its profit level has risen from 119bn/- to 167bn/- this year.

"Our aim is to be the hub of government communication and we are determined to do that as in the past few years we have managed to undertake various initiatives that a new rule that transformed TTCL have enabled us to reach this far," he elaborated.

President Magufuli also approved a request by the Works, Transport Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe who asked that funds directed to the Universal

(UCSAF) for construction of towers be given to TTCL.

Currently TTCL pays between 700m/- to 800m/- for using other networks' towers.

This was the second time TTCL was giving out dividend to the government after giving out 1.5bn/- last year. In 2017, the legislature approved

into a fully established state owned corporation. TTCL changed to a corporation,

making the previously poorly performing company compete with large private telecom companies in the market.

The Tanzania Telecommunication

Corporation Act, 2017 repealed the Tanzania Telecommunications Company Incorporation Act, 2002 to make provisions for the establishment of the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation, management of strategic telecommunications infrastructure as well as commercial and economic viability of telecommunications services, among others.

For the past 15 years, TTCL was owned by the government with 35 per cent and Bharti Airtel of India having 65 per cent. But the joint venture came to an end in June 2016 after the government took the shares by 100 per cent after paying 14.7bn/- to Bharti Airtel.

Govt ups livestock, fisheries revenues

that saw a big number of livestock and their products confiscated, the ministry's revenues averaged 1.1bn/- per month between July and September 2018.

"The increased revenue collection indicates that without intensive control, the government was losing on average two billion shillings per month," said the minister, noting that the operation was vastly successful.

The aim of the much derided operation was to increase government revenue, protect industries and local production, making the livestock sub-sector a level playing field for competition in doing business.

Other objectives were were to consumers, accelerate investment in the livestock sector where many industries are currently being established and ensure good prices, a reliable market and adherence to existing laws.

On the performance of the ministry during 2018/19, he said through the fishing sector, the ministry planned to collect 21.5bn/- but by 15th May, 2019 it had collected 30.3bn/-, equivalent to 140.8 percent achievement.

He said the amount was collected from different sources including export licences, import licences, export royalty and import royalty.

On the same note, the minister noted that projected revenue collection through the sector in the 2019/20 is set at 32.3bn/-, its main sources unchanged from fiscal 2018/19.

He asked the legislature to approve 64.9bn/-- for the 2019/20 financial year whereby 31.7bn/- is for the livestock sector and 33.1bn/- is meant for the fisheries sector.

Tabling views of the parliamentary committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, chairperson Mahmoud Mgimwa (Mufindi North CCM) said the

opportunities in the fishing sector to increase its contribution to the national economy.

"This is an indication that the government does not consider the sector as among its priority sectors for increasing revenues," he said, underlining that in the drive for industrial development, a lot of raw materials are found in the sector.

Like other ministries, development budget for this ministry has not been disbursed as per budgetary allocations and even where some money was sent, it was too late.

The trend derails development projects in the ministry, he asserted, urging the government to change its tactics.

The committee also observed that livestock and fisheries are among kev sectors that contribute immensely to national economic growth, earning the country plenty of foreign exchange.

He called on the government to look into how to improve the two sectors as they are pivotal in creating employment among the people.

The Shadow Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Sware Semesi (Special Seats, Chadema), tabling the opposition camp's views, stated that the government ought to tap into big opportunities in the two sectors.

The opposition camp also urged the government to put in place strategies to deal with effects of climate change that impact on the two sectors.



This is an indication that the government does not consider the sector as among its priority sectors for increasing revenues

Govt unveils task force to enforce plastic bags ban

enforcement of specific regulations," it

construction industry, agroproduce, food, beverages, sanitary and waste management are exempted from the prohibition.

The government through the VPO has since the announcement of the ban last month encouraged entrepreneurs to venture into the production of bags made from organic materials or woven recyclable materials or non-woven materials without plastic content as alternatives. "Such alternative bags are those made from paper, textile, organic, woven recyclable, non-woven materials without plastic content or any such materials as the government may determine from time to time," the VPO noted.

Speaking about the prohibition recently, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said this is a unique opportunity for small and large businesses to manufacture large quantities of carrier bags for both local use and export.

The VP has maintained that the ban has brought numerous opportunities for new jobs especially for women and youth in manufacturing alternative bags, including woven baskets that require simple technology, dedication and hard work.

The ban is dictated by the fact that plastic materials are harmful due to their non-biodegradability when However, plastic packaging for thrown on, thus affecting the health of medical services, industrial products, flora and fauna, blocking drainage and harming marine life when it piles up in the high seas.

> In the Environmental Management (Prohibition of Plastic Carrier Bags) Regulations 2019 it is specified that importation of such bags attracts a fine of not less than 5m/- but not exceeding 20m/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

> Storing, supplying and distributing attracts a fine of not less than 5m/- but not exceeding 50m/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both while selling is punishable by a fine of not less than 100,000/- but not exceeding 500,000/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or both.

> Possessing and using attracts a fine of not less than 30,000/- but not exceeding 200,000/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven days, or

"Such alternative bags are those made from paper, textile, organic, materials without plastic content government may determine from

woven recyclable, non-woven or any such materials as the time to time"

Flora Mutahi (L), Head of Kenya's Anti-Counterfeit Agency, speaks on ways to control counterfeit commodities in the market at a press conference organised by Tanzania's Fair Competition Commission in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are FCC chairman Emmanuel Mushi (C) and commissioner Marcelina Chijoriga. Photo:

SUA and France sign agreement to counter climate change impact

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the French government have signed an agreement that would allow experts of the two sides to cooperate in controlling and counter climate change that has affected agriculture sector in Tanzania.

French ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier visited the Morogorobased university and held talks with officials of the university on

interventions that would help mitigate the farmers withstand climate change chances to SUA'S experts to study both the effects of climate change and strengthen agriculture sector in Tanzania.

The ambassador said through the agreement, SUA experts will study in France and upon their return will help local farmers on practical ways to withstand and counter climate change.

would be in a good position of finding

patterns in the country," he said.

SUA's Vice Chancellor, Prof Raphael Chibunda, said there has been great changes in weather patterns that have caused delay of rains or increased the intensity of rains, thus affecting agriculture and livestock development.

"Upon their return, SUA experts the country training and providing extension services, adding that the

agriculture and animal farming in the country

He said the French experts would later come to Tanzania to take up short courses at SUA at the cost of his government.

Representative of the UN's Food and Agriculture (FAO), Fredy Kafelo, He said Sua was the only college in said the cooperation between SUA and France would help improve the agriculture sector and help increase proper and modern ways of making French government offered five food security in the country.

UN lauds Malawi soldier who died saving injured Tanzanian

FROM PAGE 1

Diagne who saved hundreds of lives in 1994, before he was killed while serving as a UN peacekeeper in Rwanda.

The inaugural medal was presented to Captain Diagne's family in his honour in 2016, but despite a number of remarkable nominations over the past four years, awarding the medal to Private Chancy Chitete of Malawi will mark the first time actions of a UN peacekeeper have been found to meet the standard set by Captain Diagne.

"The remarkable actions of Private Chitete helped protect many lives, ceremonies on May 24th.

both civilian and military," said Under Secretary General Jean-Pierre Lacroix. "His sacrifice underscores the dangers our peacekeepers face everyday while executing their vital protection tasks in some of the world's most challenging environments.

Private Chitete remains an inspiration to us all and we are proud to honor his memory and commemorate his brave and selfless action."

It is planned that Private Chitete's family will receive the medal on his behalf during the Peacekeepers' Day

Government reviewing national road network under Tarura - minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the road fund board is reviewing the national road network under the recently established Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) in order to advice the government how best to disburse funds from the national road fund.

This was said here yesterday by the minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo while responding to a question asked by the Mpanda Town MP, Sebastian Kapufi (CCM).

The lawmaker had argued that in the 2018/19 budget, Katavi region was allocated the smallest amount of money for roads construction projects than any other region in the country wondering when it would get more funds.

"Is the government ready to add more funds to the region for roads infrastructure development by considering the geographical conditions and kilometres of

poor road networks?" .he asked.

Minister Jafo explained that the government's decision to review road network in the country under TARURA is to ensure enough budget is allocated for rehabilitation and new constructions.

He said in allocating funds for the purpose in the local government authorities, the government consider among others, different criteria including the network of already registered roads.

"Katavi region was in the 2018/19 allocated 3.62 billion/- basing on the existing roadwork of 1,441.3 kilometres," he said.

He said other factors for consideration include grading of the road, according the road authorities, the network and the number of vehicles and people using the

"Katavi region was in the 2018/19 allocated 3.62 billion/- basing on the existing roadwork of 1,441.3 kilometres"



Emrah Tek (L), a representative based com-pany known as Turrkizilayi presents food items for iftar to Hamida Hassan when the firm and Tanzania's Rehema Foundation teamed up in at the weekend and handed to people living with disabilities. Photo: Guardian Cor-respondent

Shein urges traders to keep prices of essentials stable during Ramadhan

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday urged the traders of the Indian Ocean archipelago to keep prices of essentials stable during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Dr Shein made the call on Monday evening when speaking during a special iftar organised by People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) at the Verde Hotel in stockpiling is tantamount to offense."

At the Iftar, President Shein was represented by Mjini Magharibu Regional Commissioner, Mahamoud.

hike during the month of Ramadhan as the stock of essential commodities is a reasonable price." adequate. Traders will make a profit but

Dr Shein said that "This time the

government has taken a firm stand. We are well aware of the stock of commodities. We can say with confidence that the government is He said: "There is no reason for price business-friendly. The traders must sell commodities free from adulteration at

He also urged people of Zanzibar to

continue using PBZ as their own bank and conventional and Islamic banking services. He also commended the bank for providing competitive services to the public.

On May 5, this year, Dr Shein asked members of the business community not to take advantage of the holy month of Ramadhan to increase prices of essential food commodities. "Traders observed by Muslims worldwide as a buy at affordable prices.

and businesspersons should not 'abuse' the fasting month to increase the prices of goods without any justification.

Make it a month of charity and highly observe business ethics," Dr Shein said in his message to wish Muslims in the country good luck in their fasting.

Ramadan or Ramadhan is the ninth including tax exemption on some month of the Islamic calendar and is commodities so that people fasting can

month of fasting.

It is likely to begin on Tuesday according to the Chief Sheikh, Aboubakar Zuberi. Shein said that the government has been taking all necessary measures to improve business environment for trade,

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to hire a Consuntant for final evaluation of livelihoods opportunities and services and looking a service provider to enter into a framework agreement for one year for air ticketing services.

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the Consultants and services providers to submit their proposal and price.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 21st May, 2019 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: 0627423991 or through email j.kabore@drctanzania.org

> The closing date for the submission of the bids is 4th June, 2019 at 4: 00 Pm.

The ITB will be opened in a public session on 5th June,2019 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the **DRC Tender Opening Committee.**

You can return your bid form through rfq.itb@drctanzania.org

OR DIRECT TO THE DRCOFFICE otherwise is void

Saudi Arabia to offer 60 kidney stone removal machines - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FOLLOWING the increasing cases of diabetes in the country, the government will soon receive 60 kidney stones removal machines from Saudi Arabia, it has been revealed.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender and the Elderly, Ummy Mwalimu said the machines will be distributed to some of the regional hospitals in the coun-The minister was responding to a

question by the Kilolo MP, Venance Mwamoto (CCM) who argued that diabetes patients are increasing seriously in the country but shortage of the machines is one of the challenges.

" What is the government doing to ensure many patients get treatment from other hospitals and

like KCMC, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam?" he asked.

He pointed out that some patients are forced to travel long distances in search for treatment for kidney stones removal. In response, the minister acknowledged that there is growing cases of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, blood pressure and cancer in the country.

"I agree that there is need to increase provision of kidney stones removal services in the health facilities in the country but I would like to tell the House that soon we shall receive 60 machines from Saudi Arabia for the same service" said Mwalimu, adding that they will be distributed to regional and referral hospitals in the country.

However, she noted that the main

help reduce congestions at the few challenge facing the department is ment is in talks with Saudi Arabia to health facilities with the machines lack of trained personnel to use the machines, adding that the govern-



I agree that there is need to increase provision of kidney stones removal services in the health facilities in the country but I would like to tell the House that soon we shall receive 60 machines from Saudi Arabia for the same service

help in training those who will provide the service in the country.

"We have requested Saudi Arabia that if possible to send our health workers to their hospitals and they also they send their experts to hospitals like KCMC, Muhimbili, JKCI and Bugando so that they can impact the knowledge" she noted.

In distribution of the machines, she said the government will consider areas that are not easily accessible for health services, saying it would be unfair to expect a patient to travel from Katavi to Mbeya, seeking the service.

She challenged members of the public to avoid such non-communicable diseases by regularly doing physical exercise as well as reduced consumption of alcohol and smok-

Canada, Australia unveil projects to bolster food security and empower women farmers in Africa

AUSTRALIA and Canada in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation unveiled new projects on May 20 under

two agricultural program. The projects are Future Fund (CultiAF) and intended to develop food and nutrition security across Africa and empower women smallholder farmers.

The projects under the Cultivate Africa's

the Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF) seek to build the capacity of stakeholders to generate practical solutions.

Lisa Stadelbauer, Canada's High Commissioner to Kenya said during the CultiAF inception workshop in Nairobi that the LVIF will support the development, production, and commercialization of innovative vaccines against priority livestock diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, .

Stadelbauer said that the portfolio of LVIF projects will focus primarily on empowering women in the livestock vaccine value chain. She further said that the main objective of CultiAF is to improve food and nutrition security in eastern and southern Africa by funding applied research to develop and scale up sustainable, climate resilient and gender responsive innovations for

smallholder producers. Alison Chartres, Australia's High Commissioner to Kenya, said that with the global population is expected to rise to nine billion by 2050, agricultural partnerships and developments like CultiAF are essential for food security to feed this growing population.

Chartres said that Africa and Australia share similar environmental constraints, such as poor soils and climatic variability. According to her, Australia has also met challenges to food security, including poor livestock nutrition, weak adoption of new technologies and low levels of farmer value-chain participation.

"As a result, Australian expertise and research are highly relevant to Africa, which makes Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research uniquely placed to broker partnerships between Australian and international research institutes and their African counterparts," Chartres opined.

Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

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Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayoijua mwenyewe KILIMANJADO



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

EU project to improve wildlife protection within Serengeti-Maasai Mara ecosystem

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE European Union has funded a project of Initiative for Conservation of Serengeti-Mara Trans-boundary Ecosystem (SEMA) for the amount of 856,000 Euros (2.193bn/-).

The EU funded project which started in 2018 is expected, upon completion in 2020, to improve wildlife protection alongside better livelihoods of the communities in the Serengeti- Maasai Mara ecosystem.

SEMA Project coordinator, Amani Shipella revealed this yesterday during a two day regional wildlife conference aimed to promote best practices and share experiences among wildlife project implementers from Kenya and Tanzania, as well as fostering regional dialogue and cooperation regarding laws and policies governing wildlife conservation across the region.

Shipella said total of 11 grants have been provided to non-state actors to implement the activities in close collaboration with local communities, with three projects targeting the cross-

border areas of Kenya and Tanzania.

SEMA project aims at contributing to conservation of Mara-Serengeti transboundary ecosystems through empowering local communities to adopt sustainable livelihoods.

Shipella said the project will advocate for the political commitment among key decision makers and institutions towards joint actions that will improve the ecosystems and livelihoods among the local communities.

He said the project is part of a larger EU funded programme worth 30 million Euros (76.868bn/-) that supports Trans-frontier Wildlife Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa countries.

"The participation of all stakeholders from both countries is important to ensure effective conservation and livelihood improvements that in turn will allow us to achieve sustainable management of the ecosystem," he added.

He said that it is expected to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable developments within the region also the project it aims to

development, restore and promote

sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and many of its associated targets.

Shipella said that the project is specifically contributing to take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Head of Information and Education from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute(TAWIRI),Dr Janemary Ntalwila said that the Serengeti-Maasai Mara ecosystem is an important conservation area which has international status, and Kenya and Tanzania are proud of this ecosystem.

"However, despite its ecological and economic significance, the ecosystem faces a number of conservation and policy challenges that need to be addressed,"Ntalwila said.

She said that one of the objectives is to improve regional trans-boundary cooperation between Kenya and Tanzania through a coordinated approach in the enforcement of anti-poaching laws involving the communities, ex-

Dr Charles Kaswiza, an assistant dental officer with Tumbi Hospital in Coast Region, stands as a facilitator at Kibaha at the weekend during a health talk session at a seminar for women entrepreneurs issued with soft loans by South Korean NGO Global Together in collaboration with Kibaha Education Centre Saccos Ltd. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Hunger hits Zimbabwean cities as drought drives food shortages

By James Thompson

AT least 37 per cent of the urban populace require food aid in Zimbabwe and, unlike in the past, aid will also be distributed in towns and cities.

According to Famine Early Warning Systems Network in May, levels of acute food shortages are up because of poor rainfalls experienced last year in November, which meant a delay in planting and subsequently harvesting normally done in April. This has resulted in poor households engaging in "negative coping strategies" that include reduced meals and meal sizes per day.

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee in its report forwarded to the presidency revealed that in rural communities, at least 2.4 million people needed food aid between January and March. But this week, the welfare ministry hinted that the figure had gone up and more needed to be done to avert hunger.

"Food will be distributed to the vulnerable in society without looking at their social status. Government policy is to also issue food aid in urban areas," said Lovemore Matuke, the deputy minister of public service, labour and social

The government has since started compiling a data base for families that need food aid in both urban and rural communities. The Zimbabwe situation has been upgraded to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with about 10% food insecure already placed in IPC Phase 4 (emergency). Those in Phase 4 are also bearing the brunt of harsh economic conditions.

"The most affected households are those with minimal or depleted cereal stocks, making them more dependent on markets for food purchase," said Relief Web, a humanitarian information portal.

However, there are longstanding fears that food aid could be distributed along partisan lines. Recently, victims of Cyclone Idai were faced with this crude reality when food aid was distributed using Zanu PF membership records in affected areas. In some cases captured on video, food distributors wore Zanu PF party regalia.

But local government minister July Moyo said, "Zanu-PF youths offered to carry the food in the party-branded vehicles, leading some to assume that the food had been grabbed by Zanu-PF for distribution."

The country's staple diet comprises cereals, particularly maize and wheat. As such, the situation has taken a political stance according to government which alleges that bread producers are deliberately pricing the commodity beyond the reach of many to incite an uprising.

Addressing Zimbabweans living in the United Kingdom earlier this month in London, information minister Monica Mutsvangwa said producers were not keen on finding common ground.

"The private sector think bread makes people revolt against the government," she said. She claimed that some companies wanted to buy all the wheat in government silos

to buy all the wheat at the GMB silos probably thinking government was still as clumsy as before," she added.

The minister is on record as saying that if the situation gets out of hand, government will put in place price control measures, but economists warn that controls will result in empty shelves and a bigger problem as people go hungry.

pansion of capabilities to enforce laws on wildlife conservation, conflict mitigation, dialogue and joint platforms for harmonizing policies and deployment of resources.

SEMA Project partners are the Swed- and FINTEA Growers is a union of co-

(NGO),Vi Agroforestry that has been operating in East Africa since 1983,BU-FADESO is engaging with farmers in Bunda, Serengeti and Tarime districts

ish Non Government Organisation operatives from Kericho and Bomet in Kenya.

> The two days conference brought together 70 local communities, government representatives, NGOs and other stakeholders from Kenya and Tanzania.

MAENDELEO BANK Together in Progress

NOTICE OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1. Notice is hereby given that the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Maendeleo Bank PLC will be held on Saturday 22nd June 2019 at MSASANI HALL. Dar es Salaam from 09:00 am.
- 2. The Agenda will be as follows:
 - 5.1. Opening of the Meeting
 - 5.2. Adoption of the Agenda for the 5th Annual General Meeting.
 - Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting.
 - Matters Arising from the 4th Annual General Meeting
 - Managing Director's Report for the Year ended 31st December 2018
 - External Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2018
 - To Receive and Approve Directors' Renumeration for 2019
 - To Receive and Approve Appointment of External Auditors for the Year Ending 31st December 2019
 - To receive and Approve dividend proposal
 - 5.10. Amendment of MEMARTS
 - 5.11. Appointment of Board of Directors
 - 5.12. Any other business
 - 5.13. Date of Next annual General Meeting
 - 5.14. Closure of the meeting
- A member wishing to attend the meeting will do so at his/her own costs and must come with a copy of his/her Depository receipt (share certificate) together with identity card with photo for identification. Copies of the Annual General Meeting booklet and proxy forms will be available at the Head office situated at Maendeleo Bank, Luther House, Sokoine Drive -City Centre effective from 10th June, 2019. Also the AGM pack wil be available on the bank website (www.maendeleobank.co.tz).
- A member entitled to attend the meeting and who is unable to attend, is required to appoint a Proxy to attend on his/her behalf by filling in proxy forms and submit the form duly signed and affixed with revenue stamps of TZS 500 and must reach the Managing Director at Maendeleo Bank PLC, not less than 48 Hours before the date of the meeting. In case of corporate body, the Proxy must be under its common seal and must come with the depository receipt.
- 5. Shareholders' proposals should be submitted to the Bank's Head Office not later than 48Hours before the start of the
- 6. Prior to the AGM there will be a seminar on loan opportunities available for business and industrial expansion.

The Contact for communication is; The Managing Director, Maendeleo Bank PLC, Luther House, Sokoine Drive, P.O Box 216 Dar es Salaam. Tel:022-2110518 Email:shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz

IBRAHIM MWANGALABA MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD 22nd May 2019

International School of Tanganyika Challenge | Support | Inspire

Invitation for Bids

Bids are invited from interested registered, competent, reliable and licensed suppliers/dealers to provide the under listed goods and services for the year ending 31st July 2020.

S/N	Category No.	Description
1.	Category 01	Maintenance Materials
2.	Category 02	Consumables and Cleaning Materials
3.	Category 03	Office Stationery
4	Category 04	Staff Welfare Supplies (Sugar, Tea, Coffee & Milk Powder)
5.	Category 05	Timber
6.	Category 06	Supply and Servicing of Fire Extinguishers
7.	Category 07	Fumigation
8.	Category 08	Supply and Distribution of Clean Water
9.	Category 09	Cesspit Emptying
IO.	Category 10	Appliances (Fridges, Cookers & Air-conditions)
11.	Category TI	Motor Vehicle Spare Parts

Conditions:

- Bid document(s) will be emailed to the bidders on payment of TZS 50,000/= payable per bid category. Payments should be made to the Billing Department located in the Administration Building (Gate #5), off United Nations Road, Upanga, between 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday. Bidders will need to provide the School with their email ID at the time of making payment. Once payment has been received, bid documents will be emailed by the following working day.
- · Bids should be emailed to bids@istafrica.com latest by 2 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2019. No bids will be accepted after this time. In addition, bidders should attach scanned copies of certificates of registration, business license, TIN/VAT certificates and User Identification Number certificate (for VAT registered suppliers). On submission of the information, the bidders would receive a confirmation that their bids have been successfully received by IST.
- The School is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right to reject all or any of the bids received.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Telephone: +255 26 2324455 Fax: +255 26 2323233 Email: ps@mow.go.tz Website: www.mwtc.go.tz In replay please quote:



Moshi Avenue, S.L.P 2888. 40470 DODOMA, May 21, 2019.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- 1. The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from KAGERA to MTIBWA by vehicle with registration number(s) T 794DFQ /T 243 DCT of S.S.F. **CO.LTD** The journey is scheduled to start on 23/05/2019
- 2. Special load dimensions:

Length 18.50m Width 3.24m Height 5.20m

3. Route From KAGERA to MTIBWA via MWENDAKULIMA Travelling time will be only day time (06:30 am-06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

NATIONAL.NEWS

Sunflower farmers urged to form groups aimed at enhancing productivity

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SUNFLOWER farmers have been urged to form groups in their communities to help find solutions to the challenges they face and increase productivity.

Martin Mgallah, sunflower project manager of Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) made the call when speaking here at a three-day symposium involving sunflower stakeholders across the edible oil crop value chain.

Mgallah said that the formation of groups would enhance productivity as it can be easy for farmers to get access to information regarding best farming practices, access to loan, affordable and quality input among other practices.

"This is the only way to relieve sunflower farmers from poverty trap as through those groups they can be able to get loans from financial institutions," he said, adding that groupings make farmers have a voice on everything they do include more control over market prices.

According to him, groupings make small scale farmers achieve full economic benefits and make sunflower farming a profitable venture.

He described AMDT as an organization meant to empower sunflower growers in the country, vowing: "We'll continue to work closely with different stakeholders to ensure that farmers operate in groupings so that they can be able to access loans, hence scale-up productivity."

AMDT has been implementing different projects in 15 regions, whereby until now more than 150,000 sunflower farmers have been reached.

The idea is to empower smallholder farmer so that he/she benefit out of the crop by using better agronomic practic-

Anita Mwakyoma is one of the sunflower growers and edible oil proces-

sors, who cited limited access to loans as one of the key challenges thwarting the development of the farming sub-sector.

"More people are interested to venture into sunflower farming, but the challenge is start-up capital for us to get into productive farming," she said, adding that many farmers are unable to get access to improved seeds, which are very expensive.

"The situation has been making smallscale farmers go for ordinary seeds which are cheap, with low production. This is what makes farmers remain in a vicious cycle of poverty," she said.

Sophia Mwanandenga, a Songwebased sunflower grower urged seed breeding companies to ensure that seeds are sold at a reasonable prices, something that will increase crop production.

Responding to the availability of loans to smallholder farmers, Tanzania Postal Bank (Mbeya) representative, Leonard Katamba said: "For years, smallholder farmers are not eligible to loans due to their failure to meet loans conditions set by the financial institutions.

"After realising that TPB has come up with a special programme that encourages farmers to form groups, which will assure them to get loans from banks and other financial institutions." "And this has started bearing fruits in different areas such as Mpwapwa (Dodoma), Iringa and Njombe regions," he added.

Seed breeder from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Samweli Mwenda said the institute has been working hard to ensure that a farmer gets better seeds and increase the production of sunflower in the country.

"As government, we're determined to ensure that farmers increase production per acre, the move that would contribute heavily to the country's industrialisation



A vendor hunts for customers for his grapes along Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road on Monday. He gave the going price as 5,000/- per packet. Photo:

Church elders to support road safety drive

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TRAFFIC police officers in Arusha Region have hatched a new method of reinforcing proper road usage by involving church leaders to relay road safety awareness from their pulpits.

The clerics training sessions were conducted by the Regional Police Department in association with the Moshi-based, Wide Institute of Driving (WID) and held at the Lutheran Town Cathedral was attended by Christendom elders from all denominations, including Anglicans, Catholics, Lutheran, Mennonites, Pentecostal, Moravian and others.

Faustin Matina from the WID was the chief trainer, who said: "It not like we are training the clergy new things, this was just a reminder so that they

may include road safety awareness components in their weekly sermons.'

According to the trainer, church leaders are in better position to impact road safety awareness as they attend to thousands of parishioners on weekly basis, which mean the message will reach more people than when sent through other means or

Participants included, church pastors, priests, bishops, vicars, nuns, parish workers and other religious servants working in various worship houses, vicarages and mission centers.

These were represented through their union of Christian Denominations in Arusha Region, dubbed 'Umoja wa Madhehebu ya Kikristo.'

The Chairman of the Christendom Denomi-

nations Union of Arusha, Bishop Stanley Hotay pointed out that, learning is one thing but Arusha is plagued with very few if any, road signs to guide motorists and pedestrians alike.

"The roads do not have signs and drawings have disappeared; unless the placards are restored in place, people will not be able to tell where they are or what they are supposed to do on certain areas of the highways," said Dr Hotay who is the head of Anglican Diocese of Kilimanjaro.

The Arusha Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Joseph Bukombe said they have taken the suggestions serious, and soon the department will consult the Tanzania Roads Network Agency (TANRODS) to see the possibilities of restoring the road signs in Arusha.



Mbeya Centre of Excellence | PO Box 2663 Mbeya Tanzania | Tel: +255-25-2500217

Mwanza Centre of Excellence | PO Box 5208 Mwanza, Tanzania | Tel: +255-28-2501236

VACANCY: Adolescent Field Coordinator

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation - Tanzania is a non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to supporting the provision of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment to HIV – exposed and infected children and adolescents in the Lake and Southern Highlands Zones of Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania is affiliated with Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Network which is headquartered at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania is funded by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), working to support the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to improve provision of services for children and adolescent infected and living with HIV in the Lake and Southern Highland Zones.

Under a new partnership, Baylor College of Medicine intends to implement a new program "Comprehensive community-based ART strategies to support adolescent living with HIV and their families in Niombe region". The program will be jointly implemented by Njombe Regional Office, UNICEF Tanzania and Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Tanzania. This project intends to expand the scope of ART services approaches from facility-based care for HIV services and expands the scope to community in supporting the government efforts in reaching its goals for the HSHSP IV to support the MOH in strengthening community-based services for adolescents living with HIV.

Baylor – Tanzania is looking for a highly motivated, well-qualified individual to join its growing program team in the following vacant

Post: Adolescent Field Coordinator

Location: Njombe Region

Reports to: Njombe Regional Medical Officer and Baylor-Tanzania Zonal Program Manager SHZ

Position Summary:

To oversee project implementation, manage resources, information and plan meetings and project activities.

For details follow the following link: http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Addressed to: **Executive Director, Baylor College of Medicine Children's** Foundation - Tanzania P.O. Box 2663 Mbeya, Tanzania hr@baylortanzania.or.tz

Deadline for application is 4th June 2019

Romania • Botswana • Lesotho • Malawi • Swaziland • Uganda• Tanzania Papua New Guinea • Angola • Colombia • Argentina www.BIPAI.org



Brewer commits to helping barley farmers in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

collaborating with farmers to improve barley productivity in the country. Last year the company

tonnes from local barley barley that is suitable to the Breweries billion shillings.

Limited (TBL) has Barley manager at The initiative also and improve renewed its commitment TBL, Joel Msechu, said in extended to introduce productivity, livelihoods exclusive interview held in AB Arusha yesterday that, the programme 'Smart Barley' company introduced new to the farmers, which is varieties of seed to help aimed at transforming

farmers and paid them 12 soil and climatic conditions of Tanzania.

bought an amount of 13,000 farmers grow commercial agriculture by leveraging

environmental performance. Msechu, encouraged farmers to adopt the latest farming technology and practices for better productivity and promised that the company will

continue to empower

insights to help growers

farmers in the country. "With an aim to empower farmers, offer them with enough input and information to increase productivity while actively reducing environmental impact. We are strongly committed to productivity while actively reducing

environmental impact. Local sourcing is a core part of TBL's strategy and by adding depth to Tanzania's agricultural sector, the group continues to play its part in furthering the rural economy's development and the livelihoods of those who depend on agriculture as their main source of income" he said.

Commenting programme, head of Barley Farmers Association in Arusha region zone, Bariki Kivuyo, on behalf of other farmers said the programme has given them an opportunity to earn a decent livelihood. He encouraged other farmers to join and get the right guidance.

"The support and inputs given to us farmers have helped increase our yield. The programme offers us the right guidance and training to increase both productivity and profitability. We encourage our farmer friends to join and earn the best benefits,"



Rotary International District 9211 governor Sharmila Bhatt (R) decorates Dr David Minja, president of the newly chartered Rotary Club of Ng'ambo (RCN), at a ceremony held in Moshi at the weekend. The district covers Tanzania and Uganda, while RCN was until recently part of Rotary Club of Moshi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Six farmers from East African climate-smart villages participate in Africa climate week

By John Recha

A DELEGATION of six champion farmers from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) of the CGIAR Research Programme on climate change, agriculture and food security (CCAFS) participated in the 2019 edition of the Africa climate week

Held recently in Accra, Ghana, the focal theme of the ACW centered around: "Climate action in Africa: A race we can win."

The ACW event was convened following the agreement of the Katowice Climate Package at COP24, in a new era of ambition - where all people, nations and organizations must come together to urgently increase action to meet the 1.5C temperature goal. ACW was therefore the launching pad of this new era, leveraging the power of cooperation and multilateralism, through finance, market mechanisms and technology.

The farmers from East Africa had the opportunity to share how they are forging the way ahead by advancing climate-smart agriculture (CSA) solutions that mitigate against, and adapt to, the impacts of a changing climate. They were also eager to learn more examples that were being showcased at the event.

"One of the biggest benefits of attending the ACW was the in-person access I had to experts. I learned about options for dealing with climate risks through conversation," said Evelyne Kugonza, a farmer and leader of the Hoima Community Seed Bank in Western Uganda. Likewise, getting to meet fellow farmers was an important opportunity as they exchanged ideas in farmer sessions. These focused on the role of small-scale farmer-driven initiatives in building positive, food secure and climate resilient futures across Africa.

"I tapped into fellow farmers to acquire more agricultural knowledge. While I have a few farming friends I can call in Nyando CSVs in western Kenya, resilience at scale across Africa.

expanding my network gave me access to more ideas for my farm," said farmer Hellen Were.

Farmer Caroline Odera from Nyando CSV in Western Kenya was a panelist in the dialogue "Scaling up private sector investment that builds on resilience in agriculture, alongside eminent scientists and entrepreneurs". The three key messages and actions from the dialogue were the following:

Change research for development (R4D) and partnership to meet clienttargeted needs. Participants called for a renewed R4D system, grounded in co-generation and inclusivity, and harnessing the important role of technology in building resilience for African agricultural systems.

Targeted solutions for different agro-ecologies and farmer types, including social safety nets. Contextspecificity is extreme in agriculture. To address this, technologies and market development must be highly tailored to specific agro-ecological zones and farmer types.

Need for strong farmer organizations. African agriculture is smallholder driven with limited clout, voice and financial muscle, particularly for women and youth. There is a need for strong farmer organizations that link to private sector and value chain actors and influence policy at all levels to reduce farmer transaction costs and improve market information.

This session served as a platform to identify opportunities to increase ambition and African voices for climate action on agriculture and food systems, particularly for the upcoming Climate Action Summit and COP25. The event showcased resiliencebuilding actions being taken by African grassroots communities and smallholder farmers and explored pathways to boost support and farm and ecosystem levels. Initiatives, policies, technologies and financial innovations were also explored as means to build agricultural climate



Members of Bugunda village's No Sweat No Sweet, one of 15 groups of entrepreneurs at Majita in Musoma District, at work in their onion farm on Monday. They

Govt implementing specific interventions to cut incidence of road crashes - Sumatra

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

A new programme is underway that will see drivers of lorries and passenger buses are certified as part of government's move to reduce unnecessary road accidents as well as making them operate beyond Tanzania.

Director for road transport regulation of the Surface and marine Transport Regulatory Authority Kahatano (SUMATRA), Johansen revealed this recently here when

wrapping up ten-day eastern zone joint official said, lorries and bus drivers vehicle inspection.

He said that the new arrangement is in line with the proposed Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), which is expected to reduce the burden of the regulator and eventually increase efficiency.

Kahatano said that despite the fact that road accidents are going down, but more efforts need to reduce driving offences in the country's roads and "training and certifying these drivers is one of those measures to address the

Under the new programme, the body.

will undergo training on driving and thereafter they will be certified. "At that point it is where Lorries and bus drivers will be identified. So, it will depend on performance of an individual."

Kahatano said that the new initiative will also make drivers to have job contracts, contrary to the current fails to comply with the provisions situation where many drivers work without having job contracts.

Parliament vesterday passed the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Bill, 2018, Bill, 2018, with a view to increasing efficiency in regulatory

LATRA will be responsible for issuing, renewing and cancellation of permits or licences as well as registering crew and certifying drivers of the regulated sector. Lawmakers punched holes into the Bills, saying the proposed fines were too high.

Any person who contravenes or related to Latra, would commit an offence and would be liable to a fine not exceeding 3m/- or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both. Furthermore, where an offence is committed by a body corporate, it shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 5m/-.



A vendor hunts for customers for caps at Ilala Mchikichini in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

KopaGas among 4 organisations in Africa shortlisted for the global Ashden Award

By Guardian Reporter

organisations outstanding contributions in two distinct categories - 'liveable cities' and 'sustainable energy for inclusive development' - have reached the coveted shortlist for this year's 2019 Ashden Awards.

Among the finalists are 4 organisations working in countries in Africa, including Sistema Bio in Kenya, KopaGas based in Tanzania, We Care Solar who are working all over Africa, and Baobab+ in Senegal, Mali, Madagascar and Cote d'Ivoire.

The highly prestigious awards, now in their 19th year, are a globally recognised mark of excellence in the sustainable energy sector.

The judges this year assessed entries in two themed categories. The first, liveable cities, sought sustainable mobility solutions that reduce congestion and pollution, innovations in the design and construction of energy efficient buildings and groundbreaking energy ideas focused on retrofit, design and construction.

The second theme recognises the vital role that sustainable energy plays People (Medellin, Landscaping for

the Ashden Award for Clean Cooking, in association with the Clean Cooking Alliance, the Award for Sustainable Energy and Healthcare, and Award for Cooling for People, in association with K-CEP and Sustainable Energy for All.

"When organisations get involved in the Ashden Awards, they are seeking entry to a very special network in which every participant is notable for the transformative impact they are making in the field of sustainable energy," Sarah Butler-Sloss, Ashden's Founder Director commented.

"2019 is no exception, and as always, we are delighted and excited by the organisations on our shortlist. With so much attention being paid to climate change currently, the spotlight is on innovation and technology that can make a difference right now and every one of our finalists has been proven to deliver this," she said.

The shortlisted organisations for the 2019 International Ashden Awards are Clean Air (SMV Green, and Bogota); Powering Business (Resham Sutra, Promethean Power, Promethean Power, and KopaGas); Cooling for

in inclusive development, including Urban Spaces and High-Rises (LUSH));, Energy and Healthcare (Karuna Trust, and We Care Solar,); Sustainable Buildings (Habitat for Humanity, EQuota,): Financial Innovation (Baobab+, Beyond the Grid Fund for Zambia), UK Sustainable Buildings (NEF and Energiesprong, Retrofit Works); Clean Air in UK Towns and

> (Waltham Forest, and Zedify); UK Energy Innovation (Highview Power, Guru Systems).



When organisations get involved in the Ashden Awards, they are seeking entry to a very special network in which every participant is notable for the transformative impact they are making in the field of sustainable energy

UN, AU in 'common battle' for development and climate change financing

NEW YORK

Secretary-General António Guterres has called for a "quantum leap" in funding for development and climate change for Africa, speaking to journalists on Monday, following the plenary meeting of the latest United Nations-African Union (AU) Conference, which took place in New

Organization's work to promote peace and security, human rights, development and climate action, can only progress in Africa if the UN works hand in hand with the AU.

The UN chief emphasised the for Africa. Mr. Guterres said that "alignment" between the UN's and development there is a "fundamental African Union's respective plans to precondition" for a more peaceful ramp up inclusive and environmentally world, and for well-managed migration,

Guterres declared that the the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable is "in the interests of the whole Development, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The common battle they face, he continued, is to secure the necessary financing for development, particularly responsible economic development: and, therefore, that improved funding

international community."

With regard to climate change, the Secretary-General warned that more ambition is needed, because "we are not winning the battle," and Africa is disproportionately affected: "the African continent practically does not contribute to climate change, but the African continent is one of the areas of the world where the impact of development issues in Africa.

climate change is more dramatic and devastating."

A joint communiqué released on Monday by the UN and African Union welcomed the "strong cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations", and committed to continue to work closely together in addressing peace and security issues, and achieving sustainable

The communiqué described the UN Climate Action Summit, which will take place in September, as "critical to mobilize the needed partnerships, resources" necessary to achieve international climate action goals, and noted the agreement of the leaders of both organizations to further strengthen their cooperation on adaptation for climate change ahead of the Summit and beyond.

Economic sanctions is a demonstration of Satanism against God's plan for mankind

By George Muntu

'N today's world, politicians, especially those of the major nations, seem to have no diplomatic ability to resolve international disputes. Most of them believe in the use of economic barriers as an alternative way to solve the global political

These cultures that is being used as a weapon to punish other countries particularly those that oppose the demands of major nations has been transformed into a world-wide system in dealing with international conflicts and commercial competition. As a result, this system has become a way of executing massacres of innocent people especially young children.

The name " economic barriers " contradicts God's purpose for mankind and is an enemy for human development. Economic sanctions are deliberate killings and it is a war that is fought without using a gun but its effects are more serious than using weap-

This satanic battle weakens the human body, repels the development of the people and hampers economic growth for targeted countries. These sanctions laws are satanic; they represent the world of darkness.

Also, the composers and supporters of these laws are not God's people but of the devil. This group of people, who are living in a darkness world, have neither love nor mercy against their fellow human being.

Their hearts are full of hatred, envy, selfishness and greed, all people who use economic barriers as weapons to hurt innocent people are killers.

The word in the Bible says; a man without love for his fellow

Thus, to prevent a fellow human from doing business with others is lacking of the spiritual love of

Also, the act of preventing countries from doing business with other countries and isolating them from the international community is similar to the execution of murder. For this biblical example, all those who created these satanic laws and those who support them are all murderers.

An economic sanction harms innocent people especially young children, the elderly and woman because they prevent them from accessing their basic human needs.

It is good we understand that, these repressive laws are used as weapons to hinder innocent people from getting their daily basic needs.

The objectives of the economic sanctions are to persecute people for hunger so to force them to remove their leaders from power. Indeed, this is the devil's plans against God's purposes for mankind.

Through economic constraints, millions of people have died of malnutrition, lack of medication and better medical care. It is clear that when a person or country reaches the point of imposing economic sanctions to another country, it is similar to committing deliberate murder.

It is sad to see that countries that judge other countries for producing nuclear weapons were the first to make and or use these weapons. Indeed, this is highly hypocrisies and a double

Some of the nations, particularly those with strong military power and strong economy, are misusing their wealth to punish man is a murderer John 3:15. their wealth well to promote the economic sanctions.



world economy and bring peace to the entire world. But instead, this wealth has become a source of chaos, killings and suffering for mankind.

Today, economic sanctions have become a culture and a way to end global political conflicts. Leaders, especially those of the nations who implement these sanctions laws, are no longer able to use diplomacy to end international conflicts because their ideas are governed by the use of war, commercial wars and economic sanctions.

They believe that economic sanctions are the only way to end global conflicts. Although such lawmakers call themselves wise and human rights defenders, but their hearts are full of hatred and thick darkness.

A good and loving person cannot use his wealth to punish his fellow human being by imposing economic sanctions. It makes no sense to say that you are human rights defender while you persecute and kill those smaller nations instead of using people you defend with hunger caused by

When people reaches the point of preventing other people from accessing their basic needs and services such as food, clothing, medical care, shelter and safe drinking water, all such kind people are no different from the wild animal.

God created all human beings for the same purpose and for his purpose, He wants us to love and help each other. This divine love should be seen by our good deeds we do to others. One of God's laws given to mankind is love and we are commanded to love and help one an-

But because of being possessed by greedy and selfish hearts, they, the so called themselves wise people have decided not to obey these spiritual laws of God, instead they see them as useless and outdated. So they have established their owner new and harsh laws that oppress the people created in the image of

These satanic laws have been deliberately

These deaths were due to lack of medication, nutritious, food and good medical care. In addition to Iraq, there are many countries that have been severely affected by such brutal sanctions, e.g. Cuba, North Korea, Russia, China Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan etc.

Despite these economic restrictions continue to hurt and torture ordinary people, people still continue to support and vote for them. Instead of using God's wisdom and the intellectual capacity they have to solve political conflicts through dialogue, however, God's wisdom seems to be unimportant and inappropriate for their self

While millions of children of the countries placed under economic sanctions suffer from hunger, the children of implementers of these sanctions are increasingly growing healthily and living a happy life given all the basic needs.

Economic constraints are not to be proud of; they hamper commercial competition and destroy the economic base of the targeted country.

Russia and China opposes the use of economic sanctions as a weapon to destroy and weaken the economy of other nations. They strongly believe that, the only way to resolve local, region and international conflicts is through negotiation and not otherwise.

Continuing to rely on economic sanctions as a means to end political conflicts is a sign of mankind's failure to utilize the power and intellectual abilities given by God.

RON PAUL, who is a citizen of the United States and former Congress member, strongly opposes the use of economic sanctions because they harm the poor innocent people.

He also believes that the only and best way to end global conflicts without using economic sanctions is through dialog. All international disputes can be resolved if all parties have a genuine desire to resolve their differences. economic sanctions imposed by the United
This is the only way to end conflict and Nations Security Council, the United States bring peace to the world.

Time to join up work on climate change, ocean conservation and biodiversity loss

BY TOMMY REMENGESAU JR. AND ROBERT WATSON

ACIFIC Ocean ecosystems and fisheries - and the people who depend on them are particularly vulnerable to growing threats

Tommy Remengesau Jr. is the president of Palau and Robert Watson was chairman of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Ser-

On Wednesday, Pacific leaders are joining United Nations Secretary General António Guterres in Fiji to discuss climate change and what the international community must do to address it.

It is no accident that the Secretary General chose the Pacific for such a high-profile visit. Perhaps no other region is more closely identified with the dangers of climate change, particularly sea level rise, which could inundate some of its lowest-lying island nations by mid-century without urgent action to cut the carbon dioxide emissions responsible for the crisis.

But as worrying as the prospect of catastrophic sea level rise and other climate impacts are, we hope the meeting will also be an occasion to turn public attention to a related, but no less significant threat to the Pacific's and the world's future: biodiversity loss and ocean degradation.

In early May, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) released a sobering report that found one million plant and animal species are on the verge of extinction. Tropical Pacific Ocean ecosystems and fisheries are particularly vulnerable.

Scientific models show that once global warming eclipses 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels only about 1 percent of corals are likely to survive.

The loss of reefs, which harbor nearly 25 percent of all marine fish species, to warming and ocean acidification - a process where excessive carbon dioxide emissions react with seawater and makes it more acidic - could cause a collapse in commercial and indigenous fisheries, impacting billions of people around the world who rely on seafood as their primary source of protein.

Unfortunately, the news onshore is no less distressing. The biodiversity report found that terrestrial ecosystems on every continent, including Pacific islands, are equally

Industrial agriculture, pesticides, habitat loss, and invasive species threaten to unravel the bonds that hold life together on land just as pollution and overexploitation

is the only long-term solution to

ensure the survival of reefs and countless other natural systems. But while the far-reaching action needed from the international community to reduce emissions is advancing too slowly, local conservation efforts to address overfishing, habitat loss, coastal runoff, and so on have taken on even greater importance.

In 2015, Palau enacted the National Marine Sanctuary Act, creating a protected area that covers 80 percent of the country's exclusive economic zone (an area about the size of Spain). And last year, Palau became the first country to ban sunscreens that contain chemicals proven to damage coral reefs.

Other coastal nations are following suit. Belize, for instance, recently announced that it will expand its no-take zones - areas where most fishing is prohibited to allow fish stocks to increase - from 4.5% to 11.6%. Research has shown that such Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) can help build resilience in species struggling to adapt to other environmental pressures.

But individual nations cannot address the climate change or biodiversity loss alone - nor should the burden of responsibility for doing so fall on the shoulders of the ones least responsible for the activities creating these dual crises to begin

Next year, Palau will host the 7th Lowering carbon emissions annual "Our Oceans Conference" where best practices in marine



invented by a few people for the purpose of

controlling the whole world and making all

the people in the world become under their

In this present world, a thief burns a fel-

low thief, a terrorist kills' a fellow terrorist; a

sanctions to other nuclear weapons maker.

Indeed, this is perversion and high hypoc-

risy. It is hypocrisy to see a nation that owns

nuclear weapons screaming and forcing

other countries to impose economic sanc-

This is characterized by the pride of

wealth and self-righteousness before God.

Economic sanctions have a major impact

These cruel and satanic laws have re-

sulted in the deaths of millions of innocent

young children. Statistics show that in Iraq

alone, over 1,000,000 children died due to

on losses, but also slow down economic de-

velopment in the respective countries.

tions on another nation.

nuclear weapons maker imposes economic

ownership.

conservation policy, such as MPAs, notake zones, sustainable tourism, among other measures that can help give marine life a fighting chance while the

world limps toward a climate change solution will be highlighted.

Unfortunately, at such a perilous moment in history, we can no longer afford

to treat ocean conservation, biodiversity loss and climate change as separate problems: if we don't address them together, we risk failing entirely.

Nigeria and South Africa: Africa's sleeping giants?

By Oluwaseun Tella

N a vear packed with many African elections, Nigeria went to the polls in February and South Africa voted last week.

This begs the question of the significance of the elections on both countries' relations and influence in Africa. Abuja and Pretoria enjoy a remarkable status in Africa.

This stems from their coercive or hard power (economic and military capacity) and attractive or soft power (culture, values, and policies) that have positioned them as regional powers and find expression in their influential roles in their respective subregions, the continent, and the world at

In terms of hard power, with GDPs of \$397 billion and \$349 billion in 2018, Nigeria and South Africa respectively are the dominant economic powers in Africa and are also well ranked in military spending and capability.

Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and South Africa's in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have rendered them major peacemakers on the continent. Regarding soft power projection, Abuja and Pretoria's power of attraction radiates across the continent and beyond.

Nigeria arguably enjoys the most soft power in terms of the culture transmitted by its entertainment industry. This is exemplified by the reach of Nigerian movie (Nollywood) and music industries across Africa and further afield.

South Africa's soft power is derived from its liberal 1996 constitution that is regarded as one of the most progressive in the world; its post-apartheid political settlement that prevented racial Armageddon; charismatic leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki; its reputable universities that attract African, American, Asian, and European students; and its multinational corporations that operate

Nonetheless, internal, regional, and external constraints undermine the capacity of these states to play an effective leadership role.

The domestic challenges include high levels of poverty, unemployment, and slow economic growth. Regional impediments include envy and nonacceptance of Nigeria and South Africa's leadership by other African states; and the external constraints underscore the influence of great powers including the United States (US), China, and France that circumscribe both African powers' influence on the con-

With 87 million people living in extreme poverty, Nigeria has emerged as the country with the largest number of extreme poor and an unemployment rate of 23%. Its domestic challenges have distracted the country from playing its role in regional politics, as citizens have shown little enthusiasm for African integration.

For example, the Nigeria Labour Congress and powerful business interests opposed Nigeria becoming a signatory to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and President Muhammadu Buhari did not attend the African Union (AU) summit in Rwanda in 2018, where member states signed this agreement. Despite the potential benefits of AfCFTA, Abuja remains reluctant to sign the accord.

The major domestic challenges that have prevented South Africa from effectively pursuing its foreign policy goals are poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

The country's unemployment rate stands at 27% and more than 17 million South Africans (over 30% of the total population) rely on social grants. Successive post-apartheid governments have grappled with how to lift the

black majority out of poverty. Accordingly, resources that could be useful to promoting South African foreign policy are diverted to addressing domestic challenges. This is evident in the increasing decline in South Africa's commitment to its regional obligations.

In recent years, South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and its National Defence Force's (SANDF) budgets have increasingly declined, and Pretoria withdrew most of its peacemakers from Darfur by 2016.

An important characteristic of an effective regional power is legitimacy

in its own subregion. Both Nigeria and South Africa have struggled to gain acceptance from their regional counterparts. Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts have been contested by Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal. Some African states have also openly rejected Nigeria's leadership in international forums.

In 1977 and 1993, most African states voted against the country becoming a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, while in 2009, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo did not support Abuja's candidacy, creating the impression that it could not rely on these countries to support its quest for a permanent seat on an expanded Security Council.

While apartheid has ended, the authoritarian regime's destabilisation of its neighbours still lingers in the minds of Southern African leaders. Angola, Zimbabwe, and even Namibia have challenged South Africa's regional leadership objectives.

This was evident in their opposition to military intervention in the DRC in 1998, South Africa's failed bid for sanctions to be imposed on the Nigerian military regime of General Sani Abacha in 1995, and its recent unsuccessful attempt to host the African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Through initiatives such as the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the US Africa Command (AFRICOM), Washington has sought to promote its economic and security interests on the continent. This suggests that Nigeria and South Africa's influence in the economy and security of other African countries is weakened by America's substantial influence.

China has emerged as Africa's largest trading partner with commerce worth \$204 billion in 2018. Beijing's incursions into Africa undermine Nigeria and South Africa's influence in two significant ways.

First, robust economic relations between China and African countries dictate that Abuja and Pretoria play a diminished role in African economies.

Second, China's "no-strings attached" policy could undermine the efficacy of Nigeria and South Africa's foreign policy of democracy and human rights promotion in Africa.

France is another major actor that has challenged the influence of the African powerhouses on the continent.

This was evident in the 2010 crisis following Laurent Gbagbo's rejection of the verdict of the country's electoral commission that declared Alassane Ouattara Côte d'Ivoire's president.

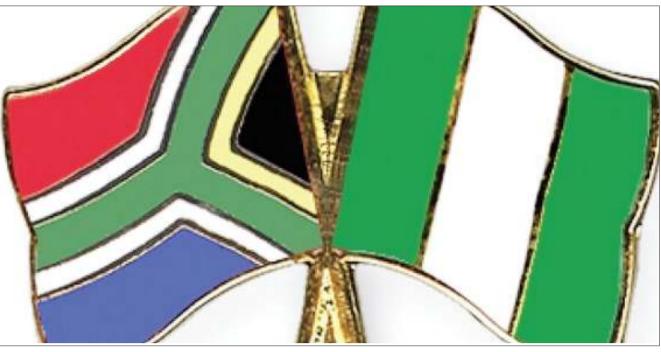
While Nigeria and South Africa dragged their feet, France dislodged Gbagbo from power. Paris was also the dominant player in the Congo and Chad crises.

Given these realities, Nigeria and South Africa have struggled to act as effective regional powers in their subregion.

To play a meaningful role, the new administrations of Muhammadu Buhari and Cyril Ramaphosa in both countries need to work closely together to tackle these obstacles by paying serious attention to their respective domestic circumstances. This will curtail the perpetual Great Power incursions into Africa, and subsequently raise Nigeria and South Africa's profiles in African affairs.

South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa. It is bounded to the south by 2,798 kilometres (1,739 mi) of coastline of Southern Africa stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans; to the north by the neighbouring countries of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe; and to the east and northeast by Mozambique and Eswatini (Swaziland); and it surrounds the enclaved country of Lesotho. South Africa is the largest country in Southern Africa and the 25thlargest country in the world by land area and, with over 57 million people, is the world's 24th-most populous nation. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. About 80 per cent of South Africans are of Bantu ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different African languages, nine of which have official status. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of Whites, Asian (Indian), and multiracial

(Coloured) ancestry. South Africa is a multiethnic society



encompassing a wide variety of cultures, languages, and religions. Its pluralistic makeup is reflected in the constitution's recognition of 11 official languages, which is the fourth highest number in the world. Two of these languages are of European origin: Afrikaans developed from Dutch and serves as the first language of most coloured and white South Africans: English reflects the legacy of British colonialism, and is commonly used in public and commercial life, though it is fourth-ranked as a spoken first language. The country is one of the few in Africa never to have had a coup d'état, and regular elections have been held for almost a century. However, the vast majority of black South Africans were not enfranchised until 1994. During the 20th century, the black majority sought to recover its rights from the dominant white minority, with this struggle playing a large role in the country's recent history and politics. The National Party imposed apartheid in 1948, institutionalising previous racial segregation. After a long and sometimes violent struggle by the African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid activists both inside and outside the country, the repeal of discriminatory laws began in the mid-1980s.

Since 1994, all ethnic and linguistic groups have held political representation in the country's liberal democracy, which comprises a parliamentary republic and nine provinces. South Africa is often referred to as the "rainbow nation" to describe the country's multicultural diversity, especially in the wake of apartheid. The World Bank classifies South Africa as an upper-middle-income economy, and a newly industrialised country. Its economy is the second-largest in Africa, and the 34th-largest in the world. In terms of purchasing power parity, South Africa has the seventh-highest per capita income in Africa. However, poverty and inequality remain widespread, with about a quarter of the population unemployed and living on less than US\$1.25 a day. Nevertheless, South Africa has been identified as a middle power in international affairs, and maintains significant regional influence.

The name "South Africa" is derived from the country's geographic location at the southern tip of Africa. Upon formation, the country was named the Union of South Africa in English, reflecting its origin from the unification of four formerly separate British colonies. Since 1961, the long form name in English has been the "Republic of South Africa". In Dutch, the country was named Republiek van Zuid-Afrika, replaced in 1983 by the Afrikaans Republiek van Suid-Afrika. Since 1994, the Republic has had an official name in each of its 11 official languages.

Mzansi, derived from the Xhosa noun umzantsi meaning "south", is a colloquial name for South Africa,[20][21] while some Pan-Africanist political parties prefer the term "Azania".[22]

History

South Africa contains some of the oldest archaeological and human-fossil sites in the world.

Archaeologists have recovered

Prehistoric archaeology

extensive fossil remains from a series of caves in Gauteng Province. The area, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been branded "the Cradle of Humankind". The sites include Sterkfontein, one of the richest sites for hominin fossils in the world. Other sites include Swartkrans, Gondolin Cave Kromdraai, Coopers Cave and Malapa. Raymond Dart identified the first hominin fossil discovered in Africa, the Taung Child (found near Taung) in 1924. Further hominin remains have come from the sites of Makapansgat in Limpopo Province, Cornelia and Florisbad in the Free State Province, Border Cave in KwaZulu-Natal Province, Klasies River Mouth in Eastern Cape Province and Pinnacle Point, Elandsfontein and Die Kelders Cave in Western Cape Province.

These finds suggest that various hominid species existed in South Africa from about three million years ago, starting with Australopithecus africanus. There followed species including Australopithecus sediba, Homo ergaster, Homo erectus. Homo rhodesiensis, Homo helmei, Homo naledi and modern humans (Homo sapiens). Modern humans have inhabited Southern Africa for at least 170,000 years.

Bantu expansion

Settlements of Bantu-speaking peoples, who were iron-using agriculturists and herdsmen, were already present south of the Limpopo River (now the northern border with Botswana and Zimbabwe) by the 4th or 5th century CE (see Bantu expansion). They displaced, conquered and absorbed the original Khoisan speakers, the Khoikhoi and San peoples. The Bantu slowly moved south. The earliest ironworks in modern-day KwaZulu-Natal Province are believed to date from around 1050. The southernmost group was the Xhosa people, whose language incorporates certain linguistic traits from the earlier Khoisan people. The Xhosa reached the Great Fish River, in today's Eastern Cape Province. As they migrated, these larger Iron Age populations displaced or assimilated earlier peoples. In Mpumalanga Province, several stone circles have been found along with the stone arrangement that has been named

Adam's Calendar. Portuguese contacts

At the time of European contact, the dominant ethnic group were Bantu-speaking peoples who had migrated from other parts of Africa about one thousand years before. The two major historic groups were the Xhosa and Zulu peoples.

In 1487, the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias led the first European voyage to land in southern Africa. On 4 December, he landed at Walfisch Bay (now known as Walvis Bay in present-day Namib-

This was south of the furthest point reached in 1485 by his predecessor, the Portuguese navigator Diogo Cão (Cape Cross, north of the bay). Dias continued down the western coast of southern Africa. After 8 January 1488, prevented by storms from proceeding along the coast, he sailed out of sight of land and passed the southernmost point of Africa

without seeing it. He reached as far up the eastern coast of Africa as, what he called, Rio do Infante, probably the present-day Groot River, in May 1488, but on his return he saw the Cape, which he first named Cabo das Tormentas (Cape of Storms). His King, John II, renamed the point Cabo da Boa Esperança, or Cape of Good Hope, as it led to the riches of the East Indies. Dias' feat of navigation was later immortalised in Luís de Camões' Portuguese epic poem, The Lusiads (1572).

Dutch colonisation

By the early 17th century, Portugal's maritime power was starting to decline, and English and Dutch merchants competed to oust Lisbon from its lucrative monopoly on the spice trade. Representatives of the British East India Company did call sporadically at the Cape in search of provisions as early as 1601, but later came to favour Ascension Island and St. Helena as alternative ports of refuge. Dutch interest was aroused after 1647, when two employees of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) were shipwrecked there for several months. The sailors were able to survive by obtaining fresh water and meat from the natives. They also sowed vegetables in the over the indigenous peoples. The fertile soil. Upon their return to struggle to control these impor-Holland, they reported favourably tant economic resources was a on the Cape's potential as a "warehouse and garden" for provisions to stock passing ships for long

In 1652, a century and a half after the discovery of the Cape sea route, Jan van Riebeeck established a victualling station at the Cape of Good Hope, at what would become Cape Town, on behalf of the Dutch East India Company. In time, the Cape became home to a large population of "vrijlieden", also known as "vrijburgers" (lit. free citizens), former Company employees who stayed in Dutch territories overseas after serving their contracts. Dutch traders also imported thousands of slaves to the fledgling colony from Indonesia, Madagascar, and parts of eastern Africa.[36] Some of the earliest mixed race communities in the country were formed through unions between vrijburgers, their slaves, and various indigenous peoples. This led to the development of a new ethnic group, the Cape Coloureds, most of whom adopted the Dutch language and Christian faith.

The eastward expansion of Dutch colonists ushered in a series of wars with the southwesterly migrating Xhosa tribe, known as the Xhosa Wars, as both sides competed for the pastureland necessary to graze their cattle near the Great Fish River. Vrijburgers who became independent farmers on the frontier were known as Boers, with some adopting semi-nomadic lifestyles being denoted as trekboers. The Boers formed loose militias, which they termed commandos, and forged alliances with Khoisan groups to repel Xhosa raids. Both sides launched bloody but inconclusive offensives, and sporadic violence, often accompanied by livestock theft, remained common for several decades.

British colonisation

Invasion of the Cape Colony, Cape Colony, British Bechuanaland, and Colony of Natal

Great Britain occupied Cape Town between 1795 and 1803 to prevent it from falling under the control of the French First Republic, which had invaded the Low Countries. Despite briefly returning to Dutch rule under the Batavian Republic in 1803, the Cape was occupied again by the British in 1806. Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, it was formally ceded to Great Britain and became an integral part of the British Empire. British emigration to South Africa began around 1818, subsequently culminating in the arrival of the 1820 Settlers. The new colonists were induced to settle for a variety of reasons, namely to increase the size of the European workforce and to bolster frontier regions against Xhosa incursions

In the first two decades of the 19th century, the Zulu people grew in power and expanded their territory under their leader, Shaka. Shaka's warfare indirectly led to the Mfecane ("crushing"), in which 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 people were killed and the inland plateau was devastated and depopulated in the early 1820s. An offshoot of the Zulu, the Matabele people created a larger empire that included large parts of the highveld under their king Mzilikazi.

During the early 1800s, many Dutch settlers departed from the Cape Colony, where they had been subjected to British control. They migrated to the future Natal, Orange Free State, and Transvaal regions. The Boers founded the Boer Republics: the South African Republic (now Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West provinces), the Natalia Republic (KwaZulu-Natal), and the Orange Free State (Free State).

The discovery of diamonds in 1867 and gold in 1884 in the interior started the Mineral Revolution and increased economic growth and immigration. This intensified British efforts to gain control factor in relations between Europeans and the indigenous population and also between the Boers and the British.

The Anglo-Zulu War was fought in 1879 between the British Empire and the Zulu Kingdom. Following Lord Carnarvon's successful introduction of federation in Canada, it was thought that similar political effort, coupled with military campaigns, might succeed with the African kingdoms, tribal areas and Boer republics in South Africa. In 1874, Sir Henry Bartle Frere was sent to South Africa as High Commissioner for the British Empire to bring such plans into being.

Among the obstacles were the presence of the independent states of the Boers and the Kingdom of Zululand and its army. The Zulu nation defeated the British at the Battle of Isandlwana. Eventually, though, the war was lost, resulting in the termination of the Zulu nation's independence.

The Boer Republics successfully resisted British encroachments during the First Boer War (1880-1881) using guerrilla warfare tactics, which were well suited to local conditions. The British returned with greater numbers, more experience, and new strategy in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) but suffered heavy casualties through attrition; nonetheless, they were ultimately successful.

Independence

Within the country, anti-British policies among white South Africans focused on independence. During the Dutch and British colonial years, racial segregation was mostly informal, though some legislation was enacted to control the settlement and movement of native people, including the Native Location Act of 1879 and the system of pass laws.

Global Agriculture Drone Market to register USD 2,978.69 million by 2021

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE "Global Agriculture Drone Market is Set for a Rapid Growth and is Expected to Reach USD 2,978.69 Million by 2021" report serves with all-inclusive, highly-effective, and thoroughly analyzed information in a well-organized manner, based on actual facts, about the Agriculture Drone Mar-

The whole information from the scratch to the financial and management level of the established industries associated with the Agriculture Drone Market at the global level is initially acquired by the dedicated team.

The gathered data involves the information about the industry's establishment, type and the

form of products it manufactures, the highly-competitive Agriculannual sales and revenue generation, the demand of the manufactured product in the market, marketing trends followed by the industry, and a lot more important information.

The industries majorly comprise the global leading industries that are putting their extreme efforts to maintain the hold over

ture Drone Market, about which the thorough information is provided in the report.

The industry analysts begin their task by compiling this huge pile of information, graphically expressing, anticipating the future market growth, offering the ways to improve the business, and many other important viewpoints explained by them in the Global Agriculture Drone Market report.

The Global Agriculture Drone Market report elucidates the comprehensive analysis of the market-derived on the basis of regional division North America (United States), Europe (Germany, France, UK), Asia-Pacific (China, Japan, India), Latin America (Brazil) and Middle East & Africa

The report comprises precise analytical information related to market forecast for several upcoming years. The report also includes the particulars about the valuation of macro and micro elements significant for the growth of already established Agriculture Drone Market contenders and emerging new companies.

The Global Agriculture Drone Market report also delivers the accurately estimated pattern of CAGR to be followed by the market in the future. The numerous highlighted features and enactment of the Agriculture Drone Market are examined based on the qualitative and quantitative technique to deliver the whole scenario of the current and future

Women bring light to remote villages on islands of Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR

AS a single mother, Salama Husein Haja was low in the pecking order in her village in Tanzania and struggling to eke out a living for her family as a farmer.

But now she hopes to gain status and a stable income after being trained as a community solar engineer for a project bringing light to scores of rural villages where no homes are connected to electricity on the islands of Zanzibar.

Grandmothers and single mothers many of whom have never learned to read or write - are among those being trained under the program which they say could transform lives in their poor fishing and farming communities.

"We struggle a lot to get lighting," said Haja, 36, a vegetable farmer and mother of three children from a village on Unguja, the largest and most populated island in the Zanzibar archipelago.

"When you don't have electricity, you can't do many things like teaching children. It forces you to use a lamp. The smoke is harmful, the eyes and the chest are affect-

"When the electricity is there, it's better." Life is challenging for women in Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous region of Tanzania made up of numerous islands where half the population lives below the poverty line.

Women are almost twice as likely as men to have no education, and are less likely to own a land or have access to a bank account, according to a Tanzania-wide government survey in 2016.

Many poorer and rural families also lack access to electricity, compounding the challenges they face.

The island region's entire energy grid depends on an underground cable connect-

ing it to the mainland which was damaged in 2009, plunging it into darkness for three months.

Furthermore, only about half of houses in Zanzibar are connected to mains power, with many of the remainder forced to rely on polluting fuel lamps for light.

"We only use a lamp inside," said Aisha Ali Khatib, a mother of nine, training as a solar engineer alongside Haja at the Barefoot College in Kinyasini village on Unguja.

"The lamp uses paraffin ... Buying one spoon of paraffin is 200 shillings (\$0.09) but I can go for two days without making 200 shillings."

Solar power offers solutions to connect rural villages with little prospect of getting mains power and increase resilience and sustainability.

Millions of people across sub-Saharan Africa are getting access to electricity through off-grid renewables, the International Energy Agency said last year, which forecasted strong demand to boost growth in the sector up to 2022.

The solar training scheme offered by Barefoot College, a social enterprise that began in India and is now working in East Africa, also focuses specifically on training

The project was designed to address the fact that women are much less able to leave their villages due to poverty and family links while also empowering women in Tanzania's male-dominated society by offering them decently paid work.

Communities in participating villages are asked to nominate two women aged between 35 and 55 to leave their families and travel to the college to train as engineers.

Many of those chosen lack formal education, but they are recognized as people who can command authority and who are



A vendor goes searching for a market for his home-made leather sandals in Dar es Salaam's Tandika suburb yesterday. Photo: John Badi

deeply embedded in the life of their villages.

"When you educate a woman, you educate a whole community," said Fatima Juma Haji, a solar engineer trainer at Barefoot college in Zanzi-

"When you educate a man, he will not stay in the village, he will go away but when you educate a woman, she goes back to her village and helps

Women on the project spend five months living and training at the college, after which they return to their villages and set up solar lighting systems for their family and neighbors.

Households pay a few dollars a month for power - a cheaper option than buying paraffin or electricity from the grid.

Some of the money is used to pay the engineers a salary in return for maintaining the village's equipment and funds raised can also be ploughed back into community projects.

Women on the scheme said they had benefitted by gaining a stable income stream, and a new sense of independence and respect within their villages.

"We have been given a better life because after we leave here, we will be engineers and will go back to teach others," said Haia.

Africa: Death by diet - the race to transform the World's bad food habits

HALF a century ago farmers grew rice, sesame and pulses on the land around Myint Soe's village in Myanmar. Now only paddy fields re-

Technology has made farming easier but government policy and climate change have slashed the foods produced by villagers which they fear is killing them when combined with the explosion in fast-food.

come from because we buy what's quick and cheap and easy," said Myint Soe, 59.

He said many people are suffering from cancer, hardening of the arteries and other ailments, likely caused by eating low-quality oil, sugary drinks, salty snacks and instant noo-

Fellow farmer Kyaw Lin, 47, said younger, thinner people were now having strokes.

What is happening in Thar Yar Su is just a microcosm of one of the world's biggest prob-"Now we don't know where the oils we eat lems - deadly diets, which have now overtaken

smoking as the world's biggest killer.

Data shows one in five deaths worldwide in 2017 was linked to unhealthy diets in both poor and rich countries as burgers and soda replaced traditional diets and a warming planet impacted the variety of crops grown.

The Global Burden of Disease study by the U.S.-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation said unhealthy eating is killing 11 million people a year, up from 8 million in 1990 - while smoking kills about 8 million people a

Meanwhile billions of people lack the nutrients their bodies need.

United Nations' figures show the global population is both hungrier and heavier than it was five years ago, and food and policy experts fear the escalating food crisis could fuel conflicts and migration without action to reverse this trend.

"We cannot only focus on tackling hunger anymore," Jose Graziano da Silva, head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said of the agency's plans for the next two

years. "We are witnessing the globalisation of obesity."

Jessica Fanzo, a professor at Johns Hopkins University and co-chair of the annual Global Nutrition Report - described as the world's most comprehensive report on nutrition - said diets were "the number one cause of disease, disability and death".

"We've already reached the tipping point," she added, emphasising that "massive changes" were needed.

How communities and their forests can thrive together

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A 10-year project in the East Usambara mountains of Tanzania improved the prospects for people and threatened forests. Forests are a vital safety net for people living in poverty, providing food and fuel, medicines and materials, as well as maintaining freshwater supplies.

At the same time, though, poverty can be a threat to forests, as people clear land to grow food and cash crops and harvest more resources than the ecosystem can sustain. On top of this, forests continue to be cleared for commercial agriculture, infrastructure and extractive industries in the name of economic development.

In the East Usambara mountains of Tanzania, though, a different story has been unfolding. Here, forest loss has been reduced considerably, and more than a million tree seedlings have been planted. Forest fires have been virtually eliminated. Food security has improved. And many villagers have more than tri-

pled their income. This transformation
IUCN Red List as critically endangered, is the result of a 10-year forest landscape restoration (FLR) project, led by WWF and local partner NGO Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), that has empowered local people to manage their forest resources and improve their livelihoods. And with Tanzania joining other African countries in pledging to restore up to 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land over the coming decade, there are valuable lessons to learn.

A biodiversity hotspot

The forests of coastal East Africa are one of the world's most endangered biodiversity hotspots. Only about 10 per cent of the region's natural habitat remains, but it still harbours an array of unique and endangered wildlife - including over 1,500 plant species, 16 mammals, 22 birds, 50 reptiles and 33 amphibians that are found nowhere else on Earth. Some 333 species are listed on the endangered or vulnerable.

Within this region, Tanzania's East Usambara mountains hold some of the most important remaining areas of forest. About 30 per cent of the landscape is forested - some 31,000 hectares in total. The two largest forest blocks are protected as government forest reserves, but the rest is made up of hundreds of smaller scattered fragments. The landscape is home to around 135,000 people spread across 35 villages, and the population is growing, increasing the pressure on the remaining forests.

To protect this globally important biodiversity and maintain the services that forests provide to people, in 2004 WWF and partners launched a long-term project to maintain, restore and reconnect forest ecosystems in East Usambara. From the outset, the project also aimed to improve the livelihoods of local people in a region where poverty levels are



Busega District Council chairman Vumi Magoti (L) receives bags of cement from TPB Bank chief executive Sabasaba Moshingi in support of the construction of three classrooms at Dr Chegeni Secondary School in Nyashimo ward, Simiyu Region, on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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Guardian

FEATURES

Nigerian army as credible partner in deepening democracy

By David Onmeje

IGERIANS with discerning minds clearly know the commitment of President Muhammadu Buhari to the peace and security of Nigeria. It is no longer a matter of conjecture that the President's resolute focus on safeguarding the lives and property of Nigerians has demonstrably moved into the stage of proactive measures and actions whenever there are signs of threats to national security.

When INEC unexpectedly shifted the date of the first round of the 2019 presidential and National Assembly elections initially scheduled to hold on February 16, many Nigerians never fully understood the reasons. Outside official niceties of insecurity threats, INEC itself, through inference, hinted of a possible violent compromise of the electoral process by incensed political actors and power monks.

The reasons deduced from the decision of the electoral umpire frighteningly yielded to the concealed, but unpleasant reality of stockpiling of arms and the contracting of armed militias to violently disrupt the electoral process to alter ballot results and deliver unearned victories to pay masters. Nigeria has experienced the gory sides of election and post-election violence or put differently, election protests, which culminate in widespread violence and killings.

Without prior warning, such protests have had a culture of becoming uncontrollable and bloody. Even where the initial idea was to peacefully stage a protest to register anger or frustrations with the outcome of the polls, the remonstrations are usually infiltrated by hoodlums, miscreants and criminals, who are usually assisted by armed political thugs and armed militias empowered by political gladiators.

So, it is easy to see bloodbath, arson, looting and vandalising of private and public properties by the so-called peaceful protesters. It leaves the nation in pains and agonies and draws the country centuries backward. In such emergency security situations, regular security is often overwhelmed or overpowered by the carefully planned and executed agenda of instigating national unrest and mayhem by desperate politicians in the guise of protesting election results.

President Buhari pictured and factored all the potential threats posed by the 2019 general elections. And the main opposition party and a coalition of opposition parties in Nigeria, threatened violence publicly or through body language.

The President hated this possibility and also knew a good leader averts mass uprisings than allow it happen before looking for remedies or chasing the shadows. When it is allowed to occur, it robs off negatively on government in multiple ways and restoration of sanity is costlier. Buhari was left with one option; that was to beef up security around the country, especially in areas notorious as flashpoints of violence during the elections.

President Buhari quickly invited the Army to complement the efforts of regular security in protecting the sanctity of the ballot. And his message to ballot box snatchers, electoral thieves and allied gangs intent on truncating Nigeria's electoral process was loud, stern and clear. Expectedly, the antagonisms,



oppositions, and criticisms of the Presidency, accusing him of "militarization," of the electoral process came in torrents and very bile.

But he was not deterred. Rather it bolstered that the success of the 2019 general elections which rested on his dexterous management of security to allow Nigerians vote unmolested or intimidated and indeed, the votes should count in enthroning the leaders of their choice. He knew, Nigerians would blame him singularly for any misfortune or national security breach arising from the electoral process.

The patriotic and loyal Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and ombudsman of the counter-insurgency operations in Nigeria, Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusuf Buratai swung into action. He promised Nigerians that the soldiers under his command would be apolitical and neutral in their side lines engagement with the 2019 electoral process.

It sounded too simplistic to be true, when Nigerians blended it with preceding experiences. Ultimately, Gen Buratai was vehement that he will not compromise any design potent enough to disrupt voters from exercising their franchise on election days or any conspiracy by armed gangs that would threaten national security before, during and after the elections.

Pleasantly, Nigerians have gone through both the presidential and National Assembly elections as well as the governorship and States Assembly elections with very negligible incidents of violence. The country has recorded zero incident of post-election violence, yet the 2019 general elections have the highest number of inconclusive ballots in recent history, which have been rescheduled for March 23, 2019.

There is a profound sentiment which Nigerians cannot conceal about the Army's involvements in the 2019 election duty. Nigerians have unanimously acknowledged Gen. Buratai, as an Army Chief who pulled back the nation from the brink of dreadful national election restiveness to peace and calm. Many Nigerians who sensed the danger of Mr. President ordering the deployment of soldiers have opined that the COAS has delivered on President Buhari's charge for a successful election devoid of any violence.

Ordinarily, it is incontestable that the Nigerian Army is too engrossed in other security threats to Nigerians such as Boko Haram terrorism, militancy, cattle rustling and armed banditry and other multifarious insurrections to be burdened with elementary duties such as providing security for elections. But some Nigerians are of a queer breed, evident in their obstinate indulgence into armed criminality.

The large reservoir of idle youths who bestrode every nook and cranny of the country, indiscernibly delight in criminality rather than eke out a decent living, perceive elections as their fertile period to make quick money from politicians. They gladly accept playing ignoble roles of thuggery and electoral thieves. These are the only auspicious times they assert their relevance or gratitude to politicians and pay masters who expend huge cash for their upkeep.

Experience has indicated that odd habits are hardly discarded by Nigerians because they survive on the illicit money they get from it. So, the deliberate heat and tension in the polity which is usually prevalent in the last weeks of electioneering campaigns; the verbal assaults on opponents; the political assassinations; the acerbic campaign songs and violent disruptions of campaigns of rivals gradually and solidly prepare the grounds for electoral violence on polling day.

There is no need to pretend, that Nigeria has attained the level of decent sanity in the electoral process. And there is no indication that the country's electoral process would be devoid of violence in the nearest future. This is discernible from the utterances of key players, especially the losers and their camp of supporters in the aftermath of the elections and when results are declared by the electoral umpire.

Therefore, there is the imperative to enlarge and deepen the participation of the Nigerian Army in the electoral process on security matters. This should be maintained until such a time, it is tested and proved that the country has regained its lost senses and prepared for ballots estranged from rancour, bitterness and violence. Nevertheless, the continuous participation of soldiers would attract some cost.

It beckons on the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) to begin to explore ways to synergize the institution of the Nigerian Army in the training of soldiers on election duty. It can be done through seminars' and refresher courses with a bias in specialized areas relevant to the Army's engagement in electoral matters. This will sufficiently equip soldiers with the perfect necessary skills and knowledge to handle such special national assignments excellently, while proudly upholding their professionalism and neutrality in the democratic process.

It is attestable that on the pedestal Nigerian soldiers have been raised by the leadership of Gen. Buratai, the country stands to benefit more if it consolidates on these gains by assisting them with adequate knowledge to sustain their stainless roles in anchoring credible and violence -free elections in the country. Nigeria needs to sustain this partnership with soldiers on security during elections.

International Day for Biological Diversity being marked amidst daunting challenges

By Special Correspondent

HE UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has announced that it is partnering with Slow Food for this year's celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity today (May 22). The event focuses on biodiversity as the foundation of humankind's health and food systems.

The theme of this year's Day - "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" - is primarily meant to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of humankind's health and food systems with biodiversity. It celebrates the most tangible aspects of biological and cultural diversity - Nature and Cultures - through food and health systems across the globe.

"Biodiversity is not a luxury but a fundamental pre-requisite for our well-being," said CBD executive secretary Dr Cristiana Pa ca Palmer, adding: "It is the foundation of our food systems and our health. We cannot afford to overlook our dependence on Nature or take her abundance for granted."

She was joined by Slow Food president Carlo Petrini, who has reflected that the biodiversity of microorganisms, of plant and animal species, of ecosystems, of traditional knowledge, "is our insurance for the future, because it allows adaption to climate change and ensures the wellbeing of local communities".

Petrini said the global food production and distribution system, based on an industrial model applied to nature, has not resolved the problems of hunger and malnutrition but has instead produced devastating consequences, transforming agriculture into something that exploits and destroys natural environments.

He added: "On this day, Slow Food asks governments to adopt decisive measures in favour of a sustainable food and agriculture model that respects human health and the health of the environment, asks farmers and food producers to commit to promoting and applying it and asks citizens to support it in their everyday food choices."

As the human population reaches 7.7 billion people this year, more than half living in urban areas, the average person in developed countries roaming supermarket aisles may be under the impression that our modern globalised food production system generates unprecedented food consumer choices.

And that diversity is growing around the world, as people take advantage of economic growth and urbanisation to move away from basic staples like rice and beans, adding meat and dairy and processed foods. Liberalised trade rules and globalisation have spread global food brands, a highly visual indication of the luxury of choice.

But even as commercial offerings become more diverse, what people actually buy and eat is becoming more homogenised. Simplification, rather than diversification, is the animating theme of the global food production system, and this is problematic for both the conservation of biodiversity and the promotion of human health.

For example, over the preceding 100 years, more than 90 per cent of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields and half of the breeds of many domestic animals have been lost.

All the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being fished at or above their sustainable limits, and many fish populations have reached or are near extinction. Loss of forest cover, coastal wetlands, other 'wild' uncultivated areas, the destruction of the aquatic and terrestrial environments and degradation of soil, and the spread of invasive species exacerbate the genetic erosion of agrobiodiversity. Genetic erosion results from the replacement of local varieties by "improved" or exotic varieties and species.

The human and community impact of this global homogenisation and loss of agrobiodiversity is striking. Locally varied food production systems, including related indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, and the diverse cultures and skills of women and men family farmers, are under threat.

Human health also suffers. The loss of diverse diets is directly linked to malnutrition and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity and has a direct impact on the availability of healthy foods and traditional medicines.

In a world where half of humanity lacks access to essential modern health services, and 100 million people are still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses, traditional and alternative medicines are increasingly the first port of call. For most of the population in many coun-

tries, in times of illness, traditional medicine is an important source of healthcare.

CBD, Slow Food and other partners including the World Health Organisation, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF and UNESCO are working together to identify transformative actions in global food production that can ensure a bright future for both humanity and nature.

Also in the ring, if you will, are the likes of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as global movements such as the EAT Foundation and the Food and Land Use Coalition.

Promoting agrobiodiversity: Using locally sourced, diverse and seasonal foods is a concrete action that governments, farmers, and consumers can take to increase community and ecosystem resilience to climate change, improve dietary health, and increase food security.

All people concerned with accelerating loss of the Earth's biological diversity and concerned at the damage humankind is perpetrating on Nature need to take a moment to celebrate the CBD.

As we share our food with loved ones tonight, we all need to take a moment to reflect on our relationship with Nature and the foods and medicines she provides.

Slow Food is a global network of local communities founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions and counteract the rise of fast food culture. Since its founding, it has grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 160 countries, working to ensure that everyone has access to good, clean and fair food.

Slow Food is the umbrella organisation responsible for guiding the entire movement, which reaches millions of people every year. Slow Food's goal is to fix the broken food system by moving toward diversified agroecological food systems.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, entering into force in December 1993.

It is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

With 196 Parties, CBD has near universal participation among countries. It seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including those from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The reliance of the global food production system on a limited number of genetically uniform high-yielding varieties of plants and animals is problematic for both the conservation of biodiversity and for human health.

With the loss of diverse sources of food, food security is threatened as human-kind is less resilient and able to cope with change, including climate change.

Human health also suffers. The loss of diverse diets is directly linked to malnutrition and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity and has a direct impact on the availability of healthy foods and traditional medicines.

Half the world lacks access to essential health services, with millions of people still pushed into extreme poverty for failing to afford health expenses.

Since the 1900s, some 75 per cent of plant genetic diversity has been lost as farmers worldwide have left their multiple local varieties and landraces for genetically uniform high-yielding varieties. Today, 75 per cent of humankind's food is generated from only 12 plants and five animal species. Some 30 per cent of livestock breeds are at risk of extinction; six breeds are lost each month.

Of the 4 per cent of the 250,000 to 300,000 known edible plant species, only 150 to 200 are used by humans. Only three - rice, maize and wheat - contribute nearly 60 per cent of calories and proteins obtained by humans from plants.

Animals provide some 30 per cent of human requirements for food and agriculture and 12 per cent of the world's population live almost entirely on products from ruminants.

Crop diversity loss is meanwhile threatening global food security, as the world's human population depends on a diminishing number of varieties of crop species.

Indeed, these stark facts constitute formidable challenges countries and nations will have to fight hard and long both severally and jointly to beat.



Wednesday 21 May 2019

Guardian

BUSINESS

CHEATING

'Mount Meru's oil transporters intercepted in Zambia loaded in Mozambique'

By Guardian Reporter

MOUNT Meru oil tankers which have been detained by authorities in Zambia on misclassification of content and alleged smuggled loaded the product at Mozambican port of Beira and not Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Deputy Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Patrick Akonaay said in Dar es Salaam last week that investigations by the tax authority established that the petroleum tankers which were loaded with edible oil came from Beira.

"Mount Meru trucks which are being held by Zambian authorities did not originate from Dar es Salaam Port.

The petroleum tankers were loaded at Beira Port in Mozambique," Akonaay said while commenting on allegations that the trucks' port of origin was Dar es Salaam.

He referred The Guardian to Zambia Revenue Authority's Commissioner of Customs Sydney Chibbabuka also said that the impounded tankers originated from Beira. "You can get all the details relating to the subject from TRA's Akonaay," Chibbabbuka said.

Over a fortnight ago, Zambia Daily Nation newspaper reported that Mount Meru tankers were detained by ZRA officials for loading cooking oil in tankers labelled as petroleum carriers. Instead of carrying fuel, they were transporting cooking oil which



Some of the Mount Meru oil tankers detained in Zambia. Photo: Zambia Daily Nation.

they disguised as crude palm oil. There is now fear that contamination of edible oil being carried in the fuel tankers could pose serious health risks to consumers, Daily Nation said in its story.

When contacted for a comment, one of the officials at Mount Meru who refused to be named, admitted that the company was using fuel tankers to transport cooking oil but said there was absolutely nothing wrong with it, that the product was absolutely safe.

Daily Nation reporters who gained entry into the ZRA warehouse in Makeni yesterday found the 36 fuel tankers belonging to Mount Meru which were impounded last week for allegedly smuggling cooking oil.

Now the Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is demanding an explanation and possible sanctions on the company if it is found wanting, saying such practices were detrimental to the health of

Commenting on the matter, CCPC director Chilufya Sampa said the action by Mount Meru was unfortunate. "I would not think that a tanker meant for fuel can also be used for edible products like cooking oil and if it is true, this is a very unfortunate development.

"They should be sanctioned. We hope that the sanctions imposed on them will stop them from engaging in such practices," Sampa said, the paper quoted the CCPC chief as saying.

ACQUISITION

National Cement to buy troubled ARM for Sh5bn

NAIROBI

DEVKI Group, a family-owned conglomerate with interests in cement, steel products, roofing sheets and aviation, has reached a deal to buy out troubled ARM Cement Plc for \$50 million (Sh5.05 billion). The deal is subject to regulatory approvals.

The deal will see National Cement Ltd, Devki's subsidiary, acquire ARM and its subsidiary's assets in Kenya, the firm's administrators Muniu Thoithi and George Weru of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) announced in a statement Tuesday.

The administrators were on October 23 2018 tasked by creditors to identify a suitable strategic or financial investor to either recapitalise the debt-laden ARM through an injection of equity and/or sell all or some of its assets. The administrators also had the option of comprehensively restructuring its debt obligations.

"ARM Cement PLC (under Administration) announces that National Cement Company Limited has signed an agreement for the acquisition of all cement and non-cement assets and business of ARM Cement PLC in Kenya as a going concern for a purchase price consideration of \$50 million," the firm said in a statement.



A truck loaded with ARM Cement in Nairobi

"The transaction with National Cement only relates to the company's and its subsidiaries' assets and operations in Kenya." The loss-making ARM slipped into administration on August 17, 2018 after failing to meet its debt obligations running into billions of shillings.

Suspended from trading

It was subsequently suspended from trading on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) with its share having last traded for Sh5.50 per unit, a steep climb down from highs of Sh90 in 2014.

Some 25 foreign and domestic companies had expressed their interest in taking over ARM, 23 of which had signed non-disclosure agree-

ments, PwC administrators said in February. "The joint administrators, with assistance from the transaction advisors, commenced the

transaction process and received offers from potential buyers representing a wide spectrum of investors from varied geographies," ARM

"In evaluating the offers, the joint administrators were guided by their statutory objective of achieving the best possible outcome for the company's creditors as a whole. It is on this basis that the proposed transaction is being implemented."

The proposed acquisition of assets by National Cement is a second in a month after the firm -- which only started operations in 2008 -in March got the nod from the Competition Authority of Kenya to acquire West Pokot-based Cemtech Limited.

Rhino Cement

National Cement trades as Simba while ARM flagship product is Rhino Cement. ARM became the second major company to benefit from the law after cash-strapped retailer Nakumatt Holdings in January 2018.

The Insolvency Act of 2015 gives companies going through financial turmoil an opportunity to put their act together, including settlement of debts. This allows them to continue to operate instead of the earlier practice of abruptly killing them as was the case with the previous

INVESTMENT

Cisco to train a million potential digital workers in Africa by 2025

JOHANNESBURG

GLOBAL networking and technology services firm Cisco said it will train an additional one million students in Africa by 2025 through its Network Academy (NetAcad) Program. The company made the announcement at its Cisco Connect conference being held in South Africa this week.

A statement from the company reads: "During the next three years, Cisco will focus on training students. This will be followed by reskilling initiatives for active workforce and job seekers, based on content from Cisco NetAcad. Through NetAcad, Cisco intends to support the creation of Digital Learning Hubs in public libraries, accessible by the local population."

The company also said it plans to actively engage with employers to identify job opportunities that align to the skills of NetAcad students and

In April 2019, Cisco launched a talent bridge platform aimed at SMBs. "Talent Bridge helps match supply, the skilled talent pool coming from NetAcad, with demand, that is entry-level jobs available the first Cisco EDGE Incubation in Cisco's partner ecosystem," the company stated.

SMB 'glocal' focus During keynotes at the conference, Cisco stated its intention to launch a Repair Partner program through which it will work with select distributors to repair Cisco hardware, specifically to make

technology available to SMBs. It plans to use the investment in repair centres to contribute towards job creation, skills development, fight counterfeiting and pro-

mote its authorised channel.

"Our goal is to create value through 'glocal' manufacturing and channel models. By glocal, we mean utilising global manufacturing practices with local execution."

In November 2018, Cisco opened Centre in Pretoria, South Africa. In April 2019 the company unveiled a new hub in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal, soon after having launched its first East African hub in Kenya, hosted at the University of Nairobi.

"Since then, it has continued to expand the reach of EDGE, opening incubation centres in Dube Trade Port, KZN and the University of Nairobi in Kenya. In the coming months, Cisco plans to establish similar centres in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria. There are plans for additional centres also in South Clayton Naidoo, General Manager Africa, including the Eastern Cape for Cisco Sub-Saharan Africa, said, and Gauteng," the company added.



Clayton Naidoo, General Manager for Cisco Sub-Saharan Africa.

Wednesday 22 May 2019

BUSINESS NEWS

Guardian

DISRUPTION

Manufacturers in East Africa losing out to counterfeits as regulators go into business

By Francis Kajubi

MANUFACTURERs in East African Community members have lost at least 40 percent of the market to counterfeit goods which are mostly imported from the rest of the

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during their joint meeting, Kenya Anti -Counterfeit Agency (ACA) and the country's Fair Competition Commission Chairpersons, Flora Mutahi and Professor Humphrey Moshi said they have launched a crackdown against the copycats which deny governments revenue, endanger consumers and threaten growth of industries in the region.

The ACA delegation's head called upon strengthening cross-border collaboration between the two countries and other EAC members because counterfeits don't respect borders. ACA's Mutahi said collaboration among nations is the only weapon that can realize a successful fight against counterfeits in the EAC region.

"Counterfeiting is a global problem, counterfeits produced globally in 2013 were worth U\$1.3billion and the figure is projected to hit U\$2.8billion by 2025. So, this is a menace we can't watch grow," Mutahi said.



Kenya Anti -Counterfeit Agency head Flora Mutahi

"We actually have a joint tect consumers most of whom strategy to stop counterfeits coming in with special inspection conducted from where they are loaded.

We are protecting our industries that will lead to protection of jobs, innovation and attraction of foreign direct investment by creating a fair play ground in the market" Mutahi added.

In his welcoming remarks of the Kenyan delegation, Prof Moshi said that fair competition should prevail in the EA region by ensuring that counterfeits are denied entry or being manufactured locally. He said it is very crucial to check against copycats to pro- nia Industries.

have no knowledge in counterfeits present in the market.

"We have met to speed up sharing of information by identifying and coming up with new mechanisms to fight against this problem. Our mission is to fully stop counterfeits entering the two countries through formal and informal border points," Prof Moshi noted.

During its five days working visit in the country, the delegation will also visit Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation and Confederation of Tanza-



Tigo Tanzania customer service officer Pendo Stephen (L) undertaking biometric sim-card registration to one of the customers who work with Ministry of Home Affairs in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

RESTRICTION

Kenya Revenue Authority out to tighten grip on digital businesses

KENYA is preparing a policy that could tax Over the Top (OTT) non-resident organisations, including the likes of Netflix and Hulu, subscriptionbased services that charge users on a monthly

Speaking at an online tax forum organised by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Githinji Gathirwa, manager at the policy unit in KRA, said that the challenge with taxing non-resident organisations is their visibility at the point of payment.

"KRA will come up with guidelines to address taxation of non-resident organisations that make money from Kenyans online, like Netflix," said Gathirwa. The comments have been made in the wake of a recent push by government to strengthen control over e-commerce operators - particularly those who fail to file tax returns or pay the

On 3 May 2019 the KRA issued a warning to digital operators and "all individuals who sell products through e-commerce platforms" to declare Act 2016 to regulate content from the likes of Hulu their revenue and pay tax.

"Kenya Revenue Authority has noted that some not been implemented.

taxpayers engage in online business and they do not file returns or pay taxes on the transactions. KRA would like to advise that unless income or supply is expressly exempt in the law, appropriate taxes should be paid," the tax authority stated.

It added that: "KRA would therefore like to remind the taxpayers that the self-assessment regime requires them to file and pay taxes which may include: VAT, Excise Duty, Withholding tax, PAYE, Corporate taxes and any other tax obligation required under the business.'

Timothy Munene, a representative of the Online Professional Workers Association of Kenya said: "The digital space is the future, as online entrepreneurs we can only grow if we are recognised as formal entities and the business environment is friendly for us." He urged the authority to introduce "friendly taxes for online traders" to help ensure compliance.

It is not the first time that Kenya's government has targeted OTT operators. In 2016, authorities introduced the Film, Stage Plays and Publication and Netflix. However, the legislation has to date

EXPANSION

Angola Cables shifts focus to East Africa

LUANDA-BASED telecommunications operator Angola Cables is considering extending its network to the East African market as its next frontier, after opening up the South Atlantic Cable System (SACS).

Speaking on the sidelines of the East Africa Com 2019 conference, Rui Faria, Head of Projects and Sales at Angola Cable, said the East-

South American route rather than the Europe route that most East Coast cables are currently using.

The company will seek to sign agreements with cable businesses on the East coast to provide the alternative route, rather than build its own infrastructure.

Faria singled out Kenya as a potential base for their operations, but did not offer any fur-

ern Coast of Africa can benefit from the its ther detail as to what other services could be in the pipeline for the local market.

> "Going through Europe is cumbersome for many cables as they have to change interfaces and systems. For SACS it connects south (Africa) to south (S. America) then goes north (N. America) and it is straightforward," he said.

Faria believes the Southern Africa and South America market can learn from each other and develop the systems at the same pace, ensuring a long lasting integration.

"Southern Africa and South America have many similarities including cultural and development," he added.

The SACS cable connects the cities of Luanda, Angola and Forteleza, Brazil then terminates in Miami, Florida, through the MONET cable system. Angola Cables began its SACS operation in September 2018 and has shares in the West African Cable System (WACS).

The company claims to feature the lowest latency in connection compared to other cables around the continent.

For example, the connection from Miami to Luanda was 237ms, but with the SACS it is 125ms, while Miami to Cape Town is now 163ms (from 338ms). Cables that run on the East Coast include SEACOM, East African Marine Cable System (TEAMS), Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System EASSY and Lion 2.

INVESTMENT

SA may find partners for \$1 billion South Sudan oil block

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's Strategic Fuel Fund is welcome to bring in partners to help it execute a \$1bn (R14.5bn at current exchange rates) agreement to drill for oil and build a refinery and pipeline in South Sudan, the central African nation's oil minister said.

Under the agreement, signed between the two governments on May 6, the Strategic Fuel Fund holds 90% of the project in B2 block Corporation, South Sudan's national oil

rest, Ezekiel Gatkuoth tax. said in an interview at Bloomberg's office in Johannesburg after earlier meeting his South African counterpart.

The project, which Gatkuoth expects to reach production in about six years, includes the construction of a 60,000 barrel per day oil refinery in Pagak, he said.

farm in" a partner, the South Sudanese minister said, adding that his government has with the Nile Petroleum the right to approve

company, owning the subject to capital gains dan is trying to diversify

The partnership should benefit South oil through Sudan - the Sudan by boosting production in a nation where output is half of what it was before a civil war, while secur- now considering paying ing energy supplies for South Africa, which imports crude for its refineries as it has little oil production of its own.

Gatkuoth acknowl-"They have room to edged that the project is likely to cost more than \$1bn. The SSF didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

In addition to bringany partners and that ing new partners into a transaction would be its oil fields, South Suexport routes for its oil. Currently it exports

country from which it seceded acrimoniously in 2011 - at a cost of \$24 a barrel, but it's Uganda a fee to transport crude south to a port in Tanzania when new pipelines are built, Gatkuoth said. Exports through Ethiopia could also be an option.

The B2 block was once part of an area held by Total SA until 1985 that was the size of the US state of Pennsvlvania.



South Sudan petroleum minister Ezekiel Gatkuoth

Guardian

FLEXIBILITY

'Nine in ten Mena professionals happy with company support during Ramadhan'

DUBAI

MORE than 90 per cent of professionals in the Mena region believe their employers provide adequate support during Ramadhan, a poll by Bayt.com, the Middle East's largest job site, found.

According to the company's Ramadan in the Middle East & North Africa survey, 78 per cent of respondents said their employers offer flexible working arrangements or shorter hours during the holy month. Nearly 8,000 respondents from across the Middle East, including the UAE, were surveyed online from April 3 to May 19.

In the UAE, the government reduced the working day by two hours for private sector employees and amended working hours for public sector employees to 9am to 2pm, instead of 7:30am to 2:30pm.

According to the study, companies could improve their support in a few ways: 61 per cent of those polled said their employer could avoid scheduling meetings in the morning, while setting special Ramadan working hours was important to 22 per cent. Arranging special prayer times and facilities and organising Iftar gatherings would improve Ramadan for 7 per cent and 5 per cent of those polled respectively.

In terms of productivity, nearly 90 per cent of professionals stated that they were satisfied with their perfor-

mance levels during Ramadan last year. Around 95 per cent said they feel optimistic about their careers during the month.

There are some exceptions to Ramadan hours in the Emirates. The reduction in working hours does not apply to "persons holding responsible managerial or supervisory positions" and in the DIFC, Ramadan hours apply only to employees "who are observing the fast," according to Neil Crossley, employment practice group head at DLA Piper law firm in Dubai.

"In the DIFC they take a different view. It's really that the shortened hours are there to support those people who are fasting, rather than provide a month of shortened hours for those who aren't," said Mr Crossley.

He added that in practice, even though shorter hours do not apply to senior staff it is "very unlikely" that an employer will impose longer working hours on those members of staff



Breaking the fast at a mosque in Dubai

who are fasting.

Other GCC countries also have Ramadan hours stipulated by the government. Five of the GCC countries limit Ramadan working hours to 36 per week, while in Oman it is 30 hours per week. In Saudi Arabia, the reduced hours do not apply to non-Muslim employees.

In Kuwait, public sector employees work from 9am to 1:30pm. Oman and Qatar's public sector working hours are 9am to 2pm. Saudi Arabia starts later at 10am until 3pm. Bahrain has the longest Ramadan working hours with public sector employees at work from 8am until 2pm.

Elsewhere in the region, there are both formal and informal rules around working hours in Ramadan. For example, the Egyptian Exchange announced its trading hours as 9:30am to 2pm, instead of 9:30am to 3:30pm. Meanwhile, many Egyptian private sector companies informally set working hours as 9am to 3pm.

DEFIANCE

Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei says the company is 'fully prepared' for a conflict with United States

BEIJING

CEO Ren HUAWEI Zhengfei told Chinese media on Tuesday that the company is "fully prepared" for a clash with the US, which he considers inevitable as the company works towards becoming a global tech leader.

"We sacrificed [the interests of] individuals and families for the sake of an ideal, to stand at the top of the world," Ren said in an interview with Chinese state media, according to a translation by South China Morning Post. "For this ideal, there will be conflict with the United States sooner or later."

The US has ramped up action against Huawei - the world's largest telecommunications equipment prothe Chinese government. Huawei has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Friction between the Trump administration and Huawei heightened last week, after the US Department of Commerce added Huawei to a trade blacklist, which prevents the company from buying parts and components from American companies without US government approval. The move could have a dramatic effect on Huawei's operations, as the company relies heavily on US parts.

Google responded to the ban by reportedly suspending its business with Huawei and dropping its licensing on Android, which prevents users from receiving critical updates. Other US tech suppliers - like Intel and Qualcomm, which provide crucial software and parts to Huawei phones and tablets - have also reportedly cut ties with the Chinese company.

On Monday, the US Commerce Department announced it would loosen restrictions on Huawei for 90 days, which would allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to temporarily maintain existing networks and provide software updates on its current smartphones. But Ren on Tuesday said the reprieve had "little meaning" for Huawei, as the company is already "fully prepared" for restrictions, Chinese-state owned CGTN said.

Huawei Technologies' chip arm HiSilicon wrote in a memo on Friday that the company has been preparing for years in the event that the US were to impose restrictions on its ability to buy American-made chips and technology. "All our backup products are now ducer - over concerns that being put to use our longits technology may be used term efforts will ensure as a backdoor for spying by continuous product supply," he said in the memo. The company has also reportedly been preparing ts own mobile operating system as a "Plan B" if Google were to ever completely sever ties.

> Ren said that in the past, half of Huawei's chips were US-made while the other half was developed by the company. "We can make chips with the same quality as the US ones, but it does not mean we will not buy US chips," Ren said. "We can't be isolated from the world."

> He also expressed gratitude to American companies for their contribution to Huawei's development, and said many of his consultants came from US companies like IBM. Still, when asked how long tensions would persist, he pointed the finger at the Trump administration. "Blame should be directed at US politicians, not companies," he said.



Huawei Founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei speaks at a past event

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

SATURDAY 18 May

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

SUNDAY 19 May

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

- 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 - 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
 - 9:30 Isidingo
 - Habari za saa
 - 10:00 Watoto wetu
 - 10:30 laizo: Elininyo
 - 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kimya Milele
 - 11:55 Habari za saa
 - 12:00 Al Jazeera
 - 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt

 - 12:55 Habari za saa
 - 13:00 Miue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa
 - 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
 - 14:55 Habari za saa
 - 15:00 Meza Huru
 - 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base
 - 18:00 Jiji Letu
 - 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi rpt
 - 18:30 Kesho Leo
 - 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo
 - 20:00 Habari
 - 21:05 Dakika 45
 - 22:00 Moja Bet
 - 22:10 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari
 - 23:30 The Base

 - 00:30 Al Jazeera
 - 02:00 CNN International
 - TUESDAY 21 May
 - 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari
 - 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 - Habari za saa 8:55 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
 - 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa
 - 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsham za pwani
 - 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsham za pwani
 - 11:25 laizo: Mteao 11:55 Habari za saa
 - 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt

16:30 Watoto wetu

- 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru

- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 The great queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Chetu ni
- 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International
- WEDNESDAY 22 May
- 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
- Habari za saa 9:55
- 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean: The Great queen
- Seonduk 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Korean:The Great queen-
- Seonduk 11:15 Jagina
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Des-
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA

19:30 Isidingo

23:00 Habari

23:30 The Base

- 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International
- THURSDAY 23 May 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha
- 9:55 Habari za saa

10:00 Watoto wetu

- 10:30 Igizo: Riziki
- 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Riziki 11:15 Uongozi
- 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 liue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 13:30 Tanzania vetu 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
 - 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base
 - 00:30 CNN International
 - FRIDAY 24 May 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI
 - 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 - 8:55 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:00
- 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo

12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco

- 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera
 - 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
 - 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Destiny
 - 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu

(Destino)

- 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari

- 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International
- SATURDAY 25 May
- 5:30 Uwania wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Mapishi 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Des-
- tino) 14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo

17:00 Shamsham za Pwani

- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:00 Moja bet 22:15 Isidingo rpt
- 01:00 CNN International SUNDAY 26 May 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Aljazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Lonely Heart 2
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great
- queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizenawe
 - 21:00 Bongo Movie: Maisha 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Des-

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

WORLD

Trump: US will respond with 'great force' if Iran attacks interests

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump warned on Monday Iran would be met with "great force" if it attacked U.S. interests in the Middle East, and government sources said Washington strongly suspects Shi'ite militias with ties to Tehran were behind a rocket attack in Baghdad's Green Zone.

"I think Iran would be making a very big mistake if they did anything," Trump told reporters as he left the White House on Monday evening for an event in Pennsylvania. "If they do something, it will be met with great force but we have no indication that they will."

His comments came as two U.S. government sources said the United States strongly suspects Shi'ite militias with ties to, and possibly encouragement from, Iran fired a rocket on Sunday into Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone.

The sources, who are familiar with U.S. national security assessments and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the United States was still trying to establish which militia fired the Katyusha rocket on Sunday and the extent, if any, of Iranian involvement.

The rocket fell in the Green Zone which houses government buildings

the incumbent Peter Mutharika in

the May 21 polls, has had his name

missing in the voters' register at

Chilima (pictured), who went

to the center in the Malawi capi-

tal, Lilongwe, yesterday morning,

was told by the elections staff to

stand aside his name could not be

ISSUES like negotiations on key

instruments and more ratification

numbers have to be achieved for

effective implementation of the

African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, Rwan-

dan experts told Xinhua recently,

as the African Union (AU) Commis-

sion set a time frame to activate

According to the AU, the remain-

ing work for the AfCFTA is for the

AU and African ministers of trade

to finalize work on supporting in-

struments to facilitate the launch

of the operational phase of the

AfCFTA during an extra-ordinary

the AfCFTA agreement on May 30.

located in the register.

KIGALI

the center where he registered.

LILONGWE

and embassies and caused no casualties, the latest in a series of regional attacks the United States believes may have been inspired by Iran. Iran has rejected allegations of its possible involvement in attacks last week and Iran's Iraqi allies rushed to condemn Sunday's rocket blast.

The attacks include what Saudi Arabia described as armed drone attacks on two oil pumping stations within the kingdom on May 14 and the sabotage of four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, off the coast of the United Arab Emirates on May 12.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group claimed responsibility for attacking the pumping stations. Saudi Arabia accused Tehran of ordering the attack. Tensions between Washington and its Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab allies on one side and Tehran and its Shi'ite Muslim proxies on the other have been flaring

European and U.S. government sources believe Shi'ite militias based in Yemen or Iraq carried out the attacks in Saudi Arabia and near the UAE, likely with Iran's encouragement.

The two U.S. sources said they are still trying to establish whether the rocket attack, if inspired or directed by Iran, was designed to send a specific signal to the United States.

lawi Electoral Commission (MEC)

later yesterday confirmed the de-

Chilima was later allowed to

vote as there was enough evi-

dence that he registered at the

center, the statement said."We

have allowed the Vice President

to vote because the Commission

was certain that he registered at

"The Commission has inves-

tigated the issue and prelimi-

These instruments include rules

of origin, schedules of tariff con-

cessions on trade in goods, online

non-tariff barriers monitoring and

elimination mechanism, digital

payments and settlement platform

and African Trade Observatory

da's Ministry of Trade and Indus-

try Michel Minega Sebera said the

implementation can't be effective

before negotiations on some key

implementing instruments, in-

cluding rules of origin and tariff

Despite the fact that the re-

quired 22 ratifications for the

concessions are completed.

Permanent Secretary of Rwan-

this center," the statement said.

MALAWI Vice President, Saulos velopment, saying Chilima's name

A statement released by the Manary findings indicate that his

summit on July 7.

Portal.

heads of state and government AfCFTA agreement to enter into

Chilima, who is among the presi- was indeed missing despite the

dential candidates challenging fact that he registered there.



President Donald Trump

The incidents all took place after Trump decided to try to cut off Iran's oil exports, roughly a year after he withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers.

Trump's decision to abandon the deal that restricted Iran's potential pathway to developing a nuclear bomb in return for relief from economic sanctions angered Tehran, which accuses Washington of breaking its word. Iran denies ever having a nuclear weapons program.

LOW-GRADE URANIUM ENRICHMENT

In what may be a sign of Iranian displeasure, an Iranian news service reported on a fourfold increase in Iran's rate of production of low-grade uranium enrichment.

Quoting an official at the Natanz enrichment plant, the semi-official Tasnim news service said Iran was accelerating the rate of production at which it refines uranium to 3.67% fissile purity, suitable for civilian nuclear power generation.

Two weeks ago, after Trump sought to block all Iranian oil exports, Iran said it would relax some of its commitments under the accord it struck with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Under the deal, negotiated by the administration of Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, Iran was allowed to stockpile up to 300 kg of low-enriched uranium (LEU) and ship any excess out of the country for storage or sale.

Iran said this month that cap no longer applied in response to the U.S. withdrawal from the deal. It was not clear how far Iran's LEU stock was from the 300-kg limit. Under the deal Iran can enrich uranium at 3.67%, well below the 90% purity required to make bombs and the 20% level to want war with Iran.

name was transferred to Chiteko

School, in Chizumulu Island, in

More work needed to effectively implement African free trade area - experts

of African countries should join

for its effective implementation,

said Sebera, who is also an expert

in international trade and develop-

Nigeria, Africa's largest econo-

my, has so far opted not to ratify

the agreement. Over 50 percent

of the continent's cumulative GDP

are contributed by Egypt, Nigeria

and South Africa, while Africa's

six sovereign island nations col-

lectively contribute just 1 percent,

African countries are at differ-

ent levels of development and may

also have different understand-

ing of the AfCFTA objectives, Se-

according to reports.

Likoma district."

ment industry.

statement said.

for the balloting.

tation process.

The Commission has identified Mutharika facing tough compe-

force have been reached, the rest and sensitization of stakeholders

bera said.He also said awareness different countries lately will affect

Voting in Malawi started at

06:00 a.m. local time yesterday

and, according to law, it is ex-

pected to close at 06:00 p.m. Vot-

ers swarmed to polling centers as

early as 04:00 a.m. to queue up

There are seven presidential

candidates in this election, with

should be a continuous activity

before and during the implemen-

The private sector and business

community have to play a key role

in the implementation process,

whose proper understanding and

contribution are very important

to the implementation, the official

sary to ensure the implementa-

tion, said Enock Twinoburyo, Sen-

ior Economist at the Sustainable

Development Goals Center for

Africa based in Kigali, capital city

of Rwanda, noting that political

challenges or political pressures in

Strong governments are neces-

which Iran enriched before the deal.

Former U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, speaking to BBC World News television, played down the uranium announcement, saying "I don't know that it's necessary to go into the panic mode yet."

Clapper stressed, as have some other analysts and diplomats, the danger of an accidental escalation, particularly when opposing forces are close to one another. Both U.S. and Iranian vessels patrol in the Strait of Hormuz.

"The thing I would be concerned about is some inadvertent incident that could go incendiary," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had warned Iraqi leaders during a surprise visit two weeks ago to Baghdad that if they failed to rein in Iran-backed militias, which are expanding their power in Iraq and form part of its security apparatus, the United States would respond with

A U.S. State Department official noted on Sunday that there had been no claim of responsibility for the rocket attack, and that no U.S.-inhabited facility was affected, but said "we will hold Iran responsible" if such attacks were carried out by proxy militia forces.

On Sunday, Trump threatened Iran in a tweet, raising concerns about a potential U.S.-Iran con-

"If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!" he tweeted.

Critics accused Trump of sending mixed signals. Last week three U.S. officials told Reuters that Trump had told his top advisers he does not Agencies

1,331 candidates.

the temporary staff who trans- tition from his Vice President

ferred Chilima's name to the a Chilima, of the UTM Party, and

center hundreds of kilometers main opposition Malawi Congress away and that the staff is under Party's leader, Lazarus Chakwera.

probe to establish his motive, the For the parliamentary election,

Malawi election: Chilima's name missing in voters' register

193 seats are contested among

A total of 6.8 million voters

were registered across the coun-

try, many of them first-time voters

who have just clocked 18 before

or on the day of voting. According

to MEC chairperson Jane Ansah,

the results of the polls will be an-

Poor infrastructure, non-tariff

barriers to protect local industries

and funding constraints for transi-

tion of the AfCFTA could also affect

the implementation of the AfCFTA,

The AfCFTA is regarded as the

world's largest free trade zone by

the number of countries, covering

more than 1.2 billion people, with a

combined gross domestic product

Once operational, the African

free trade accord is also projected

to boost the level of intra-Africa

trade by more than 52 percent by

the year 2020, according to the

United Nations Economic Com-

mission for Africa. *Xinhua*

(GDP) of 2.5 trillion U.S. dollars.

nounced within eight days.

the implementation.

said Twinoburyo.

Huawei launches AI-Native Database

BEIJING

FOLLOWING the announcement of its AI strategy and fullstack, all-scenario AI solutions in 2018, Huawei launched the AI-Native database GaussDB and the highest-performance distributed storage FusionStorage 8.0 yesterday in Beijing.

The aim of this launch is to redefine data infrastructure through a Data + Intelligence strategy.

"Humanity is entering the age of an intelligent world," said David Wang, Huawei Executive Director of the Board and President of ICT Strategy & Marketing. "Data is the new factor of production, and intelligence the new productivity. Heterogeneous, intelligent, and converged databases will become the key data infrastructure of the financial, government, and telecoms industries."

Committed to building a fully connected, intelligent world, Huawei is a major contributor to ICT infrastructure and smart devices. The leading ICT product and solutions provider continues to invest and innovate in AI computing power, algorithms, and labeled datawith many breakthroughs.

Wang added, "AI-Native databaseGaussDB will help enhance HUAWEI CLOUD's capabilities and fully unleash the power of diversified computing, which includes x86, ARM, GPU, and NPU computing. We aim to continuously push our AI strategy forward and foster a complete computing ecosystem. Together with our partners, we will move further towards the intelligent world."

At the launch event, Mr. Wang also reiterated Huawei's commitment to advancing intelligent industries by innovating together with customers and partners and building a data industry ecosystem on the principles of openness, collaboration, and shared success.

First, GaussDBpioneers the embedding of AI capabilities into the full lifecycle of distributed databases, making theirself-O&M, self-tuning, self-diagnosis, and self-healing possible. In online analytical processing (OLAP), online transaction processing (OLTP), and hybrid transaction/analytical processing(HTAP) scenarios, GaussDBusesthe optimality theory to create the industry's first reinforcement learning self-tuning algorithm, improving tuning performance by over 60%

Secondly, thanks to its innovative heterogeneous computing framework, GaussDB harnesses the power of diversified computing, including x86, ARM, GPU, and NPU computing. In the TPC-DS benchmark test, GaussDB ranked No.1 in terms of performance, 50% higher than the industry average. GaussDB supports multiple deployment scenarios, including local deployment and deployment on private or

On HUAWEI CLOUD, GaussDBprovides a full spectrum of high-performance data warehouse services for customers in financial, Internet, logistics, education, and automotive industries.



Venezuelan ambassador to Moscow denies rumors

about Russian military base

MOSCOW

VENEZUELAN Ambassador to Russia Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa has denied rumours that Russia may set up a military base in the country.

"We hear the media talking about it. I don't know where they get such information," the ambassador said at a briefing yesterday. "No one ever - at least no officials from either our cabinet or the Russian government - mentioned plans to set up a [Russian] military base in Venezuela," he pointed out.

"You should ask the Americans how many military bases they have around the world. There



Colombia," Faria Tortosa (pictured) added.

He also said that Caracas and Moscow had "good relations in many areas. including defense cooperation." "Cooperation will continue," the Venezuelan ambassador emphasized. **Agencies**

EU chief Brexit negotiator says preparing for a no-deal Brexit

NICOSIA

THE European Union (EU) is preparing for the worst Brexit scenario, a no deal exit of the United Kingdom from the bloc, EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said here on Monday.

"We have offered all options to the United Kingdom, from the Single Market to the Customs Union or a Free Trade Agreement. We are now waiting for clarity from the United Kingdom. In the meantime, we keep preparing for a no deal. This is not and will not be the EU's choice. It is for the UK to take its responsibilities," Barnier (pictured) said after talks with Foreign Minister Nicos Christodoulides.

Barnier's talks in Nicosia came as the deeply divided British parliament is preparing to vote on a reported new bill to deal with Brexit.

"Today, the fundamental choices in front of the United Kingdom remain the same: deal, no deal, no Brexit," Barnier

"Whatever happens and whatever the political situation in the UK, the is-



sues and solutions remain the same," he

added. Barnier said that if the United Kingdom still wants to leave, ratifying the withdrawal agreement is the only way

its negotiations position.

"This transition period would also give time to both sides to figure out what specific arrangements are necessary in relation to the Northern Irish border on top of the overall EU/UK relationship,"

he said. Barnier also met with Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades discussing possible arrangements for the areas of Cyprus which constitute British military

Britain has under its control two ar-

to secure a transition period to sort out eas totaling 254 square kilometers or 3 percent of Cypriot territory, which are technically British soil, creating a condition very similar with that in Ireland in

> case of a no deal Brexit. Christodoulides said that what Cyprus wants is to safeguard that the existing arrangements on the bases which have no visible frontiers will not change and that the life of those residing or working in the British areas will not de-

> Barnier said that the common objective is to preserve the status quo and

avoid disrupting the life of the people living in the bases, adding that all necessary measure will be taken to achieve this objective.

Barnier also met with the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, telling the Cypriot parliamentarians that EU will stand in solidarity with Cyprus to deal with all possible effects of a no-deal Brexit. Committee President Giorgos Lillikas told reporters that what he got out of the meeting is that EU has prepared for all possible Brexit scenarios.

Agencies

Guardian

Milestone deal on civil aviation to enhance China-EU cooperation

BRUSSELS

CHINA and the European Union (EU) on Monday signed two agreements on civil aviation cooperation in Brussels.

The milestone deal meets a longtime aspiration of both sides to expand practical cooperation in this sector. European Commission (EC) President Jean-Claude Juncker said the agreements, "a first big step," "will create jobs, boost growth and bring our continents and peoples closer together."

The move, which came amid uncertainties worldwide furthered by U.S. unilateralism and trade protectionism, reaffirms the EU commitment to safeguarding openness, free trade and multilateralism while enriching the content of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership.

"In an increasingly unsettled world, Europe's partnership with China is more important than ever before," Juncker noted.

LANDMARK DEAL

The deal is the first of its kind ever reached in the 20 years of cooperation in the civil aviation sector between China and Europe.

The bilateral agreement on civil aviation safety provides a legal framework for expanding cooperation in multiple aspects such as environmental compatibility, and the design and manufacturing of aeronautical products. It will help promote policy coordination and technological and people-to-people exchanges.

As a result of many rounds of consultations since August 2013, it is also

expected to facilitate the trade of aircraft and related products. Among the measures is removing unnecessary procedural duplications in the evaluation and certification of aeronautical products to reduce cost.

"We believe the newly-signed accord will help establish more efficient, streamlined and standardized aircraft certification procedures and we look forward to the promulgation and implementation of the detailed regulations," said George Xu, CEO of Airbus

Moreover, the agreement serves as part of the joint efforts by China and the EU towards a higher level of civil aviation safety, especially after the crashes and the recent exposure of safety hazards of the U.S. Boeing 737

"Today's agreements will boost the EU's trade in aircraft and related products, and ensure the highest levels of air safety," commented Violeta Bulc, the EU commissioner for transport.

Under the agreement on certain aspects of air services signed Monday, all EU airlines are allowed to fly to China from any EU member state with a bilateral air services agreement with

"Cooperation, openness and adherence to the promise made by highlevel leadership of both sides are delivered by the agreements," said Ambassador Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese mission to the EU.

The two agreements were signed in line with the consensus reached at the 21st China-EU leaders' meeting in April. They are believed to be able to tap into the potential of growth in the aviation sector of both sides.



Feng Zhenglin (L), head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and Violeta Bulc (R), the EU commissioner for transport, sign agreements on civil aviation cooperation in Brussels, Belgium, on Monday. (Xinhua)

The European aviation industry supports 5.1 million jobs and contributes 2.4 percent of the European gross domestic product, while China envisions a growing market of civil aviation as well as an emerging industry of aeronautical products, according to the five-year EU-China Aviation Partnership Project, which was initiated in 2015 by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

"The (Monday) agreements conform to the development needs of aeronautical industries in China and the EU ... and provide a legal basis for airlines operation of both sides," CAAC chief Feng Zhenglin told Xinhua.

The deal "will benefit all the industrial players in both China and Europe," said Xu of Airbus China.

ENRICHING CHINA-EU PARTNER-

China and the EU established a bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership in 2003.

"Today's agreements show the potential of our partnership and we should continue on this path of cooperation," said Juncker.

The newly signed agreements. which came against the backdrop of the escalated U.S.-China trade tensions, highlights the EU efforts against protectionism, unilateralism and iso-

The move also represents the latest progress China makes in its further opening-up and reform, in addition to its promotion of win-win cooperation, free trade and multilateralism globally.

"In an increasingly unsettled world, Europe's partnership with China is more important than ever before. The EU firmly believes that nations working together makes the world a stronger, safer and more prosperous place for all," said Juncker.

Chinese ambassador Zhang said, "The first China-EU agreements on civil aviation turn mutual high-level exchanges results into practice.'

"I believe China and the EU will continue to work together to encounter international uncertainties with stable cooperation," he added.

Before signing the deal on civil aviation cooperation, the two sides decided in April to conclude a comprehensive bilateral investment agreement in UN calls for urgent action to avert drought crisis in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations on Monday in a statement called for urgent and sustained resources to avert a major humanitarian crisis caused by severe drought.

George Conway, acting deputy special representative for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), said "the drought situation in Somalia has deteriorated rapidly and intensified much earlier than seen over the last decade. Somalia is at a critical juncture, and with sufficient resources, we can reactivate the structures that successfully avoided famine in 2017."

The UN statement said the 2019 Gu rains (April-June) have dismally failed, resulting in a second consecutive belowaverage rainy season while Somalia is still recovering from the impact of the prolonged 2016-17 drought.

Out of 5.4 million expected to be acutely food insecure by July, 2.2 million will be in severe acute food insecurity conditions, a 40 percent increase from January, the statement said.

It said except the 2018 Gu (April-June), every rainy season since late 2015 has been below average, leading to increased vulnerability and decreased coping ability.

"As we continue to work under the leadership of Somali authorities to rebuild resilience and address the underlying causes of such recurrent crises, it is now critical that everyone, including donors, the private sector, Somalis in-country and in the diaspora, rallies behind these collective response and prevention efforts," Conway, who is also United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator for Somalia said.

Battle breaks out for WikiLeaks founder Assange's computers

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

WITH Julian Assange locked away in a London jail, a new battle has broken out over what may contain some of the WikiLeaks founder's biggest secrets: his computers.

On Monday, judicial authorities from Ecuador carried out an inventory of all the belongings and digital devices left behind at the London embassy following his expulsion last month from the diplomatic compound that had been his home the past seven years.

It came as Sweden announced it was seeking Assange's arrest on suspicion of rape, setting up a possible future tug-of-war with the United States over any extradition of Assange from Britain.

It's not known what devices authorities removed from the embassy or what information they contained. But authorities said they were acting on a request by the US prosecutors, leading Assange's defenders to claim that Ecuador has undermined the most basic principles of asylum while denying the secret-spiller's right to prepare his defense.

"It's disgraceful," WikiLeaks' editor in chief, Kristinn Hrafnsson, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Ecuador granted him asylum because of the threat of extradition to the US and now the same country, under new leadership, is actively collaborating with a criminal

investigation against him." Assange, 47, was arrested on April 11 after being handed over to British authorities by Ecuador. He is serving a 50-week sentence in a London prison for skipping bail while the US seeks his extradition for conspiring to hack into military computers and spill secrets about US operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

Hrafnsson, who has visited the Australian activist in jail, said Assange saw his eviction coming for weeks as relations with President Lenin Moreno's government deteriorated, so he took great care to scrub computers and hard drives of any compromising material, including future planned leaks or internal communications with WikiLeaks collaborators.

Still, Hrafnsson said he fully expects Moreno or the Americans to claim revelations that don't exist. He called Monday's proceedings a "horse show" because no legal authority can guarantee Assange's devices haven't been tampered with, or the chain of custody unbroken, in the six weeks since his arrest.

"If anything surfaces, I can assure you it would've been planted," he said. "Julian isn't a novice when it comes to security and securing his information. We expected this to happen and protections have been in place for a very long time."

A group of Assange's supporters gathered outside Ecuador's Embassy in London to protest the judicial proceeding. Demonstrators put banners on the railings with images of Assange, his mouth covered by an American flag, and chanted "Thieves! Thieves! Thieves! Shame on

Ecuadorian authorities said they will hand over any belongings not given to US or Ecuadorian investigators to Assange's lawyers, who weren't invited to Monday's inventory-taking. Hrafnsson said he didn't have a full inventory of Assange's devices

Moreno decided to evict Assange from the embassy after accusing him of working with political opponents to hack into his phone and release damaging personal documents and photos, including several that

showed him eating lobster in bed and the numbers of bank accounts allegedly used to hide proceeds from corruption.

Moreno's actions immediately were celebrated by the Trump administration, which was key in helping Ecuador secure a US\$4.2 billion credit line from the International Monetary Fund and has provided the tiny South American country with new trade and military deals in recent weeks

"The Americans are the ones pulling the strings, and Moreno their puppet dancing to the tune of money," said Hrafnsson.

Separately on Monday, Swedish authorities issued a request for a detention order against Assange.

On May 13, Swedish prosecutors reopened a preliminary investigation against Assange, who visited Sweden in 2010, because two Swedish women said they were the victims of sex crimes committed by Assange.

While a case of alleged sexual misconduct against Assange in Sweden was dropped in 2017 when the statute of limitations expired, a rape allegation remains. Swedish authorities have had to shelve it because Assange was living at the embassy at the time and there was no prospect of bringing him to Sweden.

The statute of limitations in the rape case expires in August next year. Assange has denied wrongdoing, asserting that the allegations were politically motivated and that the sex was consensual.

According to the request for a detention order obtained by The Associated Press, Assange is wanted for "intentionally having carried out an intercourse" with an unnamed woman "by unduly exploiting that she was in a helpless state because of sleep."

Accused New Zealand mosque shooter charged with terrorism

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALANd police yesterday filed a terrorism charge against the man accused of killing 51 people at two Christchurch mosques.

Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, was already facing murder and attempted murder charges from the March 15 shootings. The new charge comes with

a maximum penalty of life imprisonment upon conviction and will be a test case for New Zealand's terrorism law, which came onto the books in 2002 following the terrorist attacks in the US on Sept. 11, 2001.

The New Zealand law defines terrorism as including acts that are carried out to advance an ideological, political, or religious cause with the intention of inducing terror in a civilian population.

Just before the attacks, Tarrant emailed New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and others a manifesto outlining his white supremacist beliefs and his detailed plans for the shootings.

From the outset, Ardern has



This image taken from CCTV Turkish broadcaster TRT World and released March 16, 2019, shows Brenton Tarrant, the suspect in the New Zealand mosque attacks, as he arrives in March 2016 at Istanbul's Ataturk International airport in Turkey. (AP)

described the attacks as terror-

Police Commissioner Mike Bush said in a statement they wouldn't be commenting on the new charges as the case was before the courts.

A judge last month ordered that Tarrant undergo mental health assessments to determine if he's fit to stand trial.

His next court hearing has

been scheduled for June 14, and the mental health findings could determine whether he is required to enter a plea at that

Police also said Tuesday they had charged Tarrant with an additional count of murder, bringing the total number of murder charges against him to 51. That came after a Turkish man who was wounded in the attack died earlier this month in Christchurch Hospital.

Police also increased the number of attempted murder charges against Tarrant from 39 to 40.

Aside from those who died, at least 47 other people were treated at hospitals for gunshot wounds. Some had minor injuries and were discharged within hours.

Police told family members and attack survivors of the new charges at a private meeting attended by more than 200 people.

During the attacks, 42 people were killed at the Al Noor mosque, seven were killed at the Linwood mosque and two died later in hospitals.

Agencies

Kremlin assures possible US sanctions will not affect Nord Stream 2

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin is confident that the Nord Stream 2 construction will be completed despite possible US sanctions, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"The project has already been implemented to a large extent, and there is a certain confidence that the project will sumers of gas," he said.

Asked to comment on Washington's intention to impose sanctions against the Nord Stream 2 pipeline construction project announced by US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry on Tuesday in Kiev, Peskov emphasized that the issue is about an international project.

"That is an international project, in which a whole group be finalized and launched for of international large giant and it has nothing to do with

the benefit of European con- companies are participating, the project has already been implemented to a large extent, the financing of the project has been provided to a large extent, and it is moving forward rather fast," he noted.

> Putin's spokesman also stressed that "the project meets the interests of providing Europe's energy security, it is in the interests of European producers, first of all of Germany,

UN chief economist says US-China trade disputes 'very damaging to everybody'

UNITED NATIONS

The U.S.-China trade row augurs ill for global trade and economy and benefits nobody, said UN chief economist Elliott Harris.

"The impact is not limited to the two parties themselves, but it affects the entire global trade, and it will inevitably affect overall global economic performance," Harris told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The economist, also UN assistant secretary-general for economic development, described the trade tensions between the world's two largest economies as "a disadvantage to all countries to participate in global trade," noting that many have already found they are being affected.

"Everybody realizes that these trade disputes are potentially very damaging

to everybody and there's no one who would benefit from them," he said. "Neither side would benefit from continuing the trade disputes. "This is a very dangerous

situation for us because it deepens some of the risks that the global economy is already facing," he said, adding that the UN sustainable development goals will thus be much more difficult to achieve.

Recently, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank all lowered their global growth forecast for

The downward revision, said Harris, was because of the slow pace of progress in U.S.-China trade negotiations.

With the United Nations scheduled to release its newest World Economic Situation and Prospects report on Tuesday, Harris said the influence of high trade tensions will be reflected in the analysis as well.

"It is to be expected that the global outlook will suffer a little bit from that," he said.

The UN chief economist noted that trade, through the global value chains, has been "a way in which different

countries at different levels of development can participate with each other in the process of growth and development."

Thus, anything that undermines the multilateral trading system, an open and non-discriminatory system, will have a negative impact on the ability of all countries to pursue healthy trade relations,

he added. In the latest flare-up of U.S.-

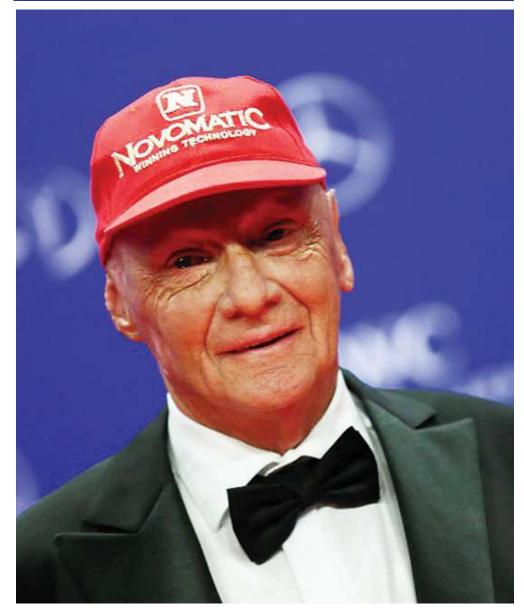
China trade tensions, Washington increased additional tariffs on 200 billion U.S. dollars' worth of Chinese imports from 10 percent to 25 percent earlier this month, and has threatened to raise tariffs on more Chinese imports.

In response, China has announced that it will raise additional tariffs on a range of U.S. imports from June 1, and "will fight to the end."

18 Wednesday 22 May 2019

Guardian

SPORT



Former Formula One driver Niki Lauda poses with his Lifetime award during the Laureus World Sports Awards 2016 in Berlin, Germany, April 18, 2016. REUTERS

Austrian motor racing great Niki Lauda, who survived fiery crash, dies

VIENNA

AUSTRIAN motor racing great Niki Lauda, whose comeback from a near-fatal crash made him a global symbol of resilience and determination, has died at the age of 70.

Lauda was so badly injured in that accident at the 1976 German Grand Prix that a priest gave him the last rites as he lay in a coma.

His Ferrari had slammed into a barrier and then burst into flames as it spun back onto the track, where an oncoming car hit it again. By the time he was pulled from the wreckage, his face, scalp and right ear were severely burnt and his lungs scorched.

Just six weeks later, his burns bandaged and raw, he was racing again, vying to retain his Formula One world title. It remains one of the sport's most memorable acts of courage and defiance.

"It was the most terrifying weekend," he told Reuters in 2013, in a late admission about how scared he was to race so soon after cheating death. He finished fourth that day.

But he would rarely indulge in such sentiment, even long after a racing career in which he won three world championship titles, as many as Brazil's Ayrton Senna or Briton Jackie Stewart.

"It's finished. I live today and think of tomorrow. Take the experience," he said in the same interview.

Lauda, who would later become a racing team executive and airline entrepreneur, applied that no-nonsense style to most things. When he had accumulated so many trophies that were mostly "ugly and for me useless", he gave them to his local garageman in exchange for a lifetime of free car washes.

DOGGED 'RAT'

Apart from reconstructive work on his eyes and eyelids he opted against cosmetic surgery on the burns that disfigured him. Instead he covered much of them with a baseball cap that became his trademark, charging sponsors to put their logo on it.

"Sure, people change their tits and ass and whatever. In my case there could be something done but I wouldn't. Because this is a fact of life and that's it," he said.

Lauda also saw the lighter side. Even before his crash his buck teeth earned him the nickname "The Rat", and he would later recall that his friend and rival James Hunt told him he looked better after the accident than before – a scene depicted in the Hollywood film "Rush" about their rivalry that season.

"Now if people try to annoy me with comments about my face, I just say: 'I had an accident. But you were born this way,'" he told German newspaper Die Welt

told German newspaper Die Welt. He overcame internal injuries, too. After two kidney transplants in 1997 and 2009, he underwent a lung transplant in 2018, 42 years almost to the day after the crash at the Nuerburgring in which he inhaled hot toxic

Doggedness was a hallmark of his life. Born to a wealthy Vienna family, he defied its wishes to pursue a racing career. Lauda's grandfather, who was on the supervisory board of an Austrian bank, even blocked his own firm's sponsorship deal with his grandson. The family rebel took out loans to fund his early years.

A NEW LOW

In 1979, after two years with the less competitive Brabham-Alfa Romeo team in which he failed to win a world title, he decided he was fed up with driving and retired from the sport.

He struck out on his own again that year, founding his first airline, Lauda Air, which he would sell to Austrian Airlines three decades later, having made a habit of surprising passengers by flying their plane himself.

That career brought its own major setback in 1991 when a Lauda Air plane crashed in Thailand, killing 223 people. Eventually the Boeing plane rather than his airline was found to be at fault.

"People always think that the worst time of my life must have been after the German Grand Prix crash ... But it wasn't," he told the Observer newspaper in 2006. "When you run an airline and more than 200 people want to go from A to B and they don't arrive – that's a different responsibility."

His love of aviation endured. Last year he bought back another airline he founded, Niki, after its new parent Air Berlin went bankrupt. He rebranded it Laudamotion and soon sold a stake to Ryanair, quickly recouping much of his investment.

As with aviation, he was unable to turn his back on racing for long. Just two years after he first retired from the sport, the McLaren team lured him back, and he won his third world championship in 1984. Only five drivers have won more titles.

His tally was very nearly higher. The year of his crash he lost the world title to Hunt by a single point after deciding the rain-soaked last race of the season was too dangerous. He retired after a single lap.

"The rain did not stop for two hours and this idiot Japanese race director came and said the race is on now... this for me was the most stupid decision ever. I did one lap so that Ferrari gets the money and off I went," he said

Still, he said he had no regrets.
"For me it was logical. I think I would do the same thing again today."

REUTERS

A break, then NBA Finals: Warriors eager for some time off



The Golden State Warriors players pose with the Western Conference Championship trophy after Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals against the Portland Trail Blazers Monday, May 20, 2019, in Portland, Ore. The Warriors won 119-117 in overtime. (AP Photo)

AND now, they wait.

The Golden State Warriors have gotten used to going to the NBA Finals, and their win in Portland on Monday night clinched their fifth consecutive trip. They've also gotten used to waiting for those finals to begin, with long layoffs after the Western Conference finals having become their norm.

By the time Game 1 of the NBA Finals arrives in either Milwaukee or Toronto on May 30, it'll be a 10-day gap – nine full off days – between games for the Warriors. That matches the length of the break that the Warriors handled in 2017, and this marks the third time in this five-year run of finals trips that they've had at least a week off.

"Happy to get a little rest before we have to play again," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

It is much-needed rest, too.

The Warriors clinched the series in Portland without Kevin Durant, DeMarcus Cousins and Andre Iguodala – all sidelined by injuries. There's no way of knowing yet if Durant and Cousins will be back in time for the finals, either. Plenty of other Warriors are dealing with bumps and bruises as well.

Accruing rust is always a major concern during these days without games, but the Warriors surely feel the obvious advantage – rest – outweighs any drawbacks right now – especially after they were stretched to seven games by Houston last year in the West finals and only had two days off before the NBA Finals.

"We definitely want to get our guys healthy," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "We need to get Andre back healthy, DeMarcus and Kevin. We need those guys going into the finals. That's our hope, that we can get all three of those guys back moving forward."

Down by 17 with less than two minutes to play in the third quarter, the easiest thing for the Warriors would have been to let off the gas and try to clinch the series at Oracle Arena on Wednesday night.

That wouldn't be their style.

They turned a 95-78 deficit into a 119-117 overtime win – outscoring the Blazers 41-22 in

the final 19 minutes of the game.

"We could have said Game 5 was our game,"

Warriors star Stephen Curry said. "But we saw

how long that break was going to be and we wanted to take advantage of it."

It's a long break, for certain. But it's not a

record-setting one.

The longest gap between the conference finals and NBA Finals came in 1982, when the Los Angeles Lakers sat around for 12 days before beginning their series against Philadelphia.

"The players are bored and just want to play," then-Lakers coach Pat Riley said on the eve of that series. "It's been so long since we played, I just hope we remember how."

win Game 7 at home, get on a plane and get to Boston to start the NBA Finals the very next day.

Both times, they got blown out in Game 1.

They did remember: The Lakers won Game 1, and ultimately prevailed in six games.

The Warriors' layoff this season marks the 26th time that a team will have at least a week before the end of the conference finals and the start of the NBA Finals – and if Milwaukee wins the next two games of the East title matchup, the Bucks would get added to the

list as well. The earliest that the Bucks could oust Toronto and win the East is Thursday; the finals start the following Thursday.

Teams with at least a one-week gap before Game 1 of the NBA Finals are 14-11 in the series.

"The NBA Finals have an experience with it — it's such an emotional roller-coaster," Warriors guard Klay Thompson said. "It's nice to get away from the game a little bit before it starts, because emotions run high and it takes a lot out of you."

The long break between games may not be ideal for Golden State, but it beats the alternative – no days off at all.

In 1960 and 1961, the St. Louis Hawks earned their trip to the NBA Finals with home wins in Game 7 of what was then called the Western Division finals. The Hawks would play the Boston Celtics in both of those title series – and got zero days rest before the finals. They'd win Game 7 at home, get on a plane and get to Boston to start the NBA Finals the very next

Both times, they got blown out in Game 1.
Both times, they would lose the series as

"Tiredness was St. Louis' 'out' in this one," Celtics coach Red Auerbach said after the Game 1 win in 1961.

For the Warriors, at least that won't be an issue this year.

AP

Semenya to contest 3,000-metres at Prefontaine Classic

LONDON

CASTER Semenya will compete in the 3,000 metres at the Diamond League's Prefontaine Classic in Stanford, California on June 30, a distance she can race without reducing her testosterone levels.

Semenya, who has won two Olympic golds over 800 metres, has been adamant that she will not take medication to lower her testosterone levels to comply with new International Associations of Athletics (IAAF) rules.

The race will be her first since the new rules went into effect

new rules went into effect.

Under the new regulations, female athletes with high natural levels of testosterone wishing to compete in events from 400m to a mile must medically limit that level to under 5 nmol/L, double the normal female range of below 2 nmol/L.

Barring an appeal, Semenya can no longer compete in her specialist event after she lost her appeal against the new rules, with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) stating that the regulations were necessary to ensure fair competition.

Semenya will form part of a formidable field at the Prefontaine Classic that includes world 5,000-metres champion Hellen Obiri, 2016 world indoor 1,500-metres champion Sifan Hassan, and 2018 world indoor 1,500 and 3,000-metres champion Genzebe Dibaba.

"It was a request from Caster Semenya's agent asking if she could run a 3,000," meet director Tom Jordan told Reuters. "Of course we said



yes." The event is sponsored by Nike, who have Semenya in their stable of athletes.

Semenya became South African national champion in the 5,000 metres in April, but is some way off the leading runners in the world over that distance.

The flat 3,000 metres is not contested at the Olympic Games, but a steeplechase over the distance is on the list of events.

Semenya has a personal best of 9:36.29 in the flat 3,000 metres,

the slowest of the runners in the Prefontaine Classic, with Dibaba (8:16.60) the quickest.

The South African's last race over 800 metres was in the Diamond League in Doha on May 3, when she cruised to victory in 1:54.98, nearly three seconds ahead of Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba.

"I'm a crazy athlete, I switch events like hell but, yeah, 800 metres is my calling, I believe in it, and that's what I want to do," she said after winning in Doha "I will switch races when I want to – no man can tell me what to do. I'm here for a purpose, if I want to switch events I switch them, but if someone wants me to switch them, that's their own problem, not mine.

"I'm a power athlete, I can run from 100 metres to 5 km, so I can run any race I want."

The Prefontaine Classic is being staged in Stanford, California this year while a new stadium is built in Eugene, Oregon for the 2021 world championships. **REUTERS**

SPORTS NEWS

Guardian

Mbappe wants to be PSG's No. 9, not exit - source

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe is not for sale and will not be sold this summer, the club confirmed with a statement on Monday, but a source has told ESPN FC it was never his intention to push for an exit.

The France international dropped a major bombshell on Sunday night by calling his future with PSG into question after receiving the trophies for best player and young player of the season at the Ligue 1 awards gala.

Mbappe, 20, stated that he wants greater responsibility and suggested that he could get it at another club away from Paris.

Mbappe's comments triggered an avalanche of rumours and allegations over a possible summer departure from Parc des Princes, with many suggesting Real Madrid as the likely destination.

The Spanish giants are huge admirers of the French prodigy and he has always dreamed of one day playing at the Santiago Bernabeu.

However, even if some at PSG were surprised by the timing and the nature of Mbappe's comments, nothing has changed for the French champions, with a source telling ESPN FC -- and the club later confirming -- that Mbappe is not for sale and that there is zero chance he will be sold this summer.

"The strong links that have united PSG and Kylian Mbappe for the past two years, as well as their shared history, will continue next season," the PSG statement read. "With a shared ambition to leave their mark on European football, the 50th year of PSG is eagerly anticipated for everyone to write a great page of history together for the club.

"Each major actor will play their part with the emphasis always on the collective.'

According to the source, Mbappe, Mbappe's father -- who handles his interests -- and, especially, Real Madrid knew he would not be sold this

Reports have suggested that PSG,

should they have opted to sell, could command as much as €300 million for the World Cup winner -- a fee that would end the club's Financial Fair Play worries. Despite that possibility, however, the Parisian club has resolved to keep Mbappe at any cost and instead to find an alterna-

tive way to comply with UEFA rules. The source added that Mbappe's intentions on Sunday were never to push for a move, at least not this summer, but instead to put PSG under pressure. The former Monaco man wants to be more involved and given greater consideration by everyone -- inside and outside of the club. Mbappe wants his voice to count at the club and he wants to be consulted regarding player recruitment -- both in regard to PSG's strategy and their planning.

The source said Mbappe believes that he is the best player in his team, the best player in Ligue 1 and he wants to be regarded in that way. He also wants to play as the central striker from now on, not out wide.

With one game still to play, Mbappe has scored 32 goals and assisted six more from 28 appearances in Ligue 1 this season, and the source added he has a desire to do even more next season.

For that, Mbappe needs to be the team's No. 9, which would put Edinson Cavani's future at the club in

Requesting greater responsibility also means being more important and having the team play for him -- including his friend Neymar, who also said recently that more people should listen to him at the club.

The source said Mbappe feels that he can carry PSG to the next level, despite his failure to do so in the Champions League round-of-16 second leg against Manchester United. In that game, with Neymar and Cavani out, Mbappe responded with a poor performance against an average United team, showing then that perhaps he was not ready to take over as the team's protagonist.

'Kompany wants Man City coach, players'

LONDON

VINCENT Kompany is hoping to take Manchester City's head of academy coaching and a number of young players on loan with him to Anderlecht, sources have told

Kompany, 33, announced on Sunday that he will leave City this summer, after 11 years with the club, to become player-manager of Anderlecht.

After he announced his departure, Kompany said he wanted to recreate Pep Guardiola's style at the club where he started his career and said: "It's the football I want to teach."

City are keen to retain strong links with Kompany and highly rated youth coach Simon Davies could further help the development of young players in the Jupiler League.

Davies was in charge of City's Under-23 side after Patrick Vieira left for New York City FC in Major League Soccer in 2015 before becoming head of academy coach-

The former Manchester United midfielder helped develop the talents of midfielder Phil Foden along with Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho and Real Madrid forward Brahim Diaz.

Kompany said farewell to fans at the club's victory parade in front of 100.000 fans in Manchester on Monday and was presented with the club's goal of the season award for his strike against Leicester in his last game at the Etihad Sta-

And Guardiola said he expects his captain to return to City in the future.

"I think we're going to miss him [Kompany] a lot," the City boss told fans. "I'm going to miss him, but he is going to see us in the future because he is coming back sooner or later.

"It's the best way to say goodbye after an incredible season together. He was a real captain, he helped

Kompany will be back in September for a testimonial match in aid of the homeless at the Etihad Stadium where former players Yaya Toure, Pablo Zabaleta and Joe Hart are expected to play.

Although plans for a statue to Kompany are still to be confirmed, City have plans to make a "lasting tribute" to their most successful ever captain.

(AGENCIES)

Judge in Man City's UEFA case could have conflict of interest

LONDON

ONE of the judges on the fiveman panel tasked with determining whether Manchester City should be banned from the Champions League over a potential breach of financial fair play rules might have to recuse himself from deliberations.

According to an entry on the website of the law firm of Charles Flint, QC, the barrister is a director of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). The DFSA regulates financial services in the Dubai International Financial Centre, a special economic zone set up by the government of the

United Arab Emirates. The owner of Manchester City, via the Abu Dhabi United Group, is Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of the Emirati royal family and deputy prime minister of the UAE. This could present a perceived conflict of interest.

According to the procedural rules of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body (CFCB), any member would be expected to "disclose any circumstance which might give rise to a conflict of interest" as members of the CFCB "may not take part in consideration of a case if there is any justifi-

able doubt as to his impartiality." (AGENCIES)

Manchester City are the greatest team of the Premier League era

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

YOU win five of six domestic trophies. You gain 198 of a possible 228 points. You triumph both when you have a 15-point lead in December and when you have a Liverpool team breathing down your neck until the very last

Yeah, you get to legitimately ask: are Man City the greatest team in the Premier League era? The answer is yes. As for their lack of Champions League success, it's not an asterisk against their domestic record. It's simply another target in the cross hairs, armed with the realisation that in a knockout competition, anything can happen, including going out on the away goals rule.

Two of the four English sides that became European champions in the Premier League era, Liverpool in 2005 and Chelsea in 2012, finished fifth and sixth respectively that season. Manchester United, winners of the "Big Treble" in 1999 did win the league, except they did it with 79 points. The 2008 version also won the league and finished with 87; this City team reached that total with four matches to spare.

But there are results and then, aesthetics. And this City team marries the two like few others in recent history. You know the points total; how about the fact that over the past two years, City have lost the xG (expected goals) battle on just five occasions, and in two of them, it was by less than 0.05 xG?

Sure, this team has been built at vast expense, but what strikes you most is the type of spending, the progress made after joining and the fact that, to some degree, everyone is replaceable. How many of the current team were bought as ready-made superstars?

You can make a case for Sergio Aguero, although that was back in 2011. Kevin de Bruyne? Sure. And that's probably it. In fact, the degree to which they blossomed at the club is, frankly, remarkable.

David Silva came from Valencia as a 24-yearold, a guy seen as a "nice" player but a provincial one. Raheem Sterling arrived as a promising voungster, with conventional wisdom depicting him as a guy who was all flash and no substance. Fernandinho was playing in the Ukraine until he was 28 (and didn't win his first cap until he was 27).

Aymeric Laporte was a hugely hyped youngster who was passed over by bigger clubs until he was 23 and still has yet to win his first cap



Man City cruised to three trophies this season, and while their accomplishments of the past two years didn't include a Champions League, that doesn't tarnish them. (Agencies)

for France. Kyle Walker was 27, and while he was briefly the most expensive defender in history, he came from Tottenham where he only became a regular at 21. Ederson had one top-flight season under his belt at Benfica (and one national team cap).

Bernardo Silva? Another "nice player," not someone hailed as the second coming. Ilkay Gundogan? A superb talent who once had scouts salivating, but who didn't look the same after his injury. Leroy Sane? Super tools, but he was 20 when he arrived and had one season as a regular at Schalke.

And what of Oleksandr Zinchenko? He lands at City as a teenage attacking midfielder from a Ukrainian team nobody has heard of (Ufa, since you ask) and two years later he's the starting left-back during the stretch run to the

It's not just that most of these guys have improved since joining City. Rather, it's that apart from Aguero, De Bruyne and, possibly, Riyad Mahrez, none of them have much of a backstory before arriving at the Eithad. This is the first global success the vast majority of them have known. They don't feel like a Panini sticker team or a gaggle of hired guns; they feel

like guys who have been on a journey and are giddy with excitement to be where they are.

And no, since you can't talk about Guardiola without mentioning his previous stops on the road, this is a very different situation. Bayern had won the Champions League prior to his arrival, he found himself coaching World Cup winners after a year.

Barcelona had won the Champions League a few years earlier, and, there too, he was in charge of World Cup winners (as well as a guy named Lionel Messi).

Most of his Man City squad had won nothing prior to joining the club, and even the current team features just four guys --Aguero, David Silva, Vincent Kompany and Fernandinho -- who were around for the Premier League title in 2013-14.

There's a team ethos there that's hugely evident. Everybody is on message all the time, whether they get on the pitch or not. And sure, it's easy to be good little soldiers when things are going well, but the fact is there have been bumps on the road too.

Like in his first campaign, when they spent much of the season in fourth place. Or, indeed, when they got bounced out of

the Champions League. That was the time for dressing room whispers, recrimination and even questioning his personnel choices. Instead we got nothing. That's down to a manager with the charisma and personality to keep players on board, as well as a group players who put the collective first.

That brings us to the issue of who is "indispensable." Conventional wisdom was that Fernandinho could not be replaced. Well, he gets injured, Gundogan comes into a deeper role and City don't look back. De Bruyne was the club's most valuable player a year ago: we know how things went this

John Stones was supposed to be the bedrock of the defence and when his performances dipped, in came somebody else, whether Nicolas Otamendi or Vincent Kompany. And let's not even get started on the rotating cast of left-backs ...

On the pitch and the training ground, City are beauty and functionality rolled into one, as well as the greatest team of the Premier League era. That they've been built differently from other top teams makes it all the more remarkable.

Real Madrid need to offload Bale, but they're low on options

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

HOW do you solve a problem like Gareth Bale? It's a question that nobody seems to have an answer for right now, and that includes the man himself, his Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane and club president Florentino Perez.

After six years with the Spanish giants following his €100 million transfer from Tottenham in 2013, the Wales international has made himself the most successful British player over on the continent having won every major honour with Real, including four Champions Leagues.

He took on the challenge of mixing it with Real's modern era galacticos, including Cristiano Ronaldo, and proved himself more than worthy of being in their company.

But it did not need Zidane's postmatch critique following Madrid's 2-0 defeat at home to Real Betis on Sunday, when the Real boss questioned Bale's "day-to-day" attitude, to expose the reality of the player's situation at the club -- although Bale's agents told ESPN FC his client is "relaxed" about the comments.

Zidane is not a fan of Bale's qualities and would happily offload him to make space in his squad, freeing up money on the wage bill to sign players more to his liking such as Eden Hazard, Kylian Mbappe and Paul Pogba.

But here is the problem: Bale will be 30 in July and has three years left to run on his contract at the Bernabeu which, sources have told ESPN FC, is worth a basic £15.5m a year. That might sound like great news for Bale, because all the financial cards are in his favour, but it also makes it almost impossible for Real to find a club to take him off their hands.

Bale has started only 79 of a possible 151 La Liga matches for Real Madrid over the last four seasons -- meaning he has either only made the bench or been unavailable for nearly half their league match-

His fitness issues in recent years, when he has been troubled by a number of muscular injuries, would not stop most clubs from making a move for him because, when fit, his match-winning capabilities make him worth the gamble.

But there are gambles on a player's fitness, and then there are gambles on a player's fitness when he is earning £300,000 a week and likely to be the highest earner wherever he ends up.

Manchester United have discovered that painful reality the hard way with Alexis Sanchez, who has scored just five goals in 45 unspectacular appear-



ances for the club since arriving from Arsenal in January 2018 on a £400,000 a week contract at Old Trafford.

Any club even considering a move for Bale this summer would have to weigh up the risk and reward of gambling on his fitness and the financial cost of luring him from the Bernabeu and it is difficult to make a case for it stacking up. And that is why the problem is one that only Real can solve. Sources have told ESPN FC that Bale is in no rush to leave Madrid.

He has fought to win Zidane over in the past and succeeded to a certain extent and, although his Real future currently looks bleaker than ever, he will once again back himself to turn the tide in his

If Real and Zidane want to move him on, they will have to compensate Bale for

terested in taking him, which is hardly palatable to an outfit looking to spend their money on expensive signings rather than pay up players they do not want.

Players rarely get the full value of their remaining contract when clubs move them on but, while Real might not end up paying him £45m to get him out of the Bernabeu, the bill will still be huge. A loan is a possibility, with Real subsidising Bale's wages for a season or two, as they have done with James Rodriguez at Bayern Munich, but only a handful of clubs would appeal to Bale and the majority of them don't need a 30-year-old winger with a chequered fitness record.

Manchester City and Liverpool are already well-stocked with younger and less expensive options, while Barcelona are highly unlikely to be an option as a now focused on younger, cheaper signings than Bale, whose Tottenham past would not fit well with him or the supporters at the Emirates, while Chelsea are also looking at a different profile of player than expensive stars.

Manchester United have pursued Bale in virtually every summer that he has been in Madrid, but sources told ESPN

the remaining three years on his contract FC in March that he is not a target and and make him affordable to any club in- the player himself is understood to be unimpressed by the prospect of a move to United.

> An emotional return to Tottenham might appeal to Bale and Spurs, but again, the financial costs of the deal and what it would do to the harmony of the dressing room is likely to rule it out. Bale also does not fit the profile of a Tottenham signing.

> So that realistically only leaves Bayern or Paris Saint-Germain in terms of clubs that may appeal to Bale and also be capable of paying for the privilege of having him. But PSG don't lack for attacking players right now, and Bayern's rebuilding process is likely to involve signing younger options than Bale.

Inter Milan, with big ambition and money to spend, are an interesting outsider who could appeal to Bale, but his age, fitness record and salary threaten to potential buyer for Real. Arsenal are make it hugely difficult for him to find a

> So he has a problem, and so do Real Madrid. A great player with a fantastic record, but one who comes at a heavy price, unless Real are prepared to take a huge financial hit to cut their losses.

It may take the whole of the summer transfer window before the problems resolves itself.



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Inside Man City's stunning season: How Pep Guardiola & Co. won the treble

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Tanzania to field four players in Africa Junior Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania junior tennis team, which is expected to travel to Kenya next week for this year's Africa Junior Circuit, has been trimmed to four players.

Coach Goodluck Mollel that been named as head coach of the team, mentioned the players, who will travel on Saturday to Kenya for the event, as Rashid Ramadhan and Nicholas Mella both from Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC), Naitoti Singo from Rafiki Foundation and Sabiya Juma from Dar es Salaam.

The Africa Junior Circuit is an annual event and it is used for ranking African junior players.

Mollel said the squad has been trimmed because the remaining four are not qualified for the event.

He disclosed if the quartet was to compete at the Kenya tournament, they had to play qualifying games.



Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) junior tennis player, Tumaini Martin, battles it out in a past ITF East Africa tournament in Dar es Salaam.

Mollel said the problem is that if the four players fail to qualify in Kenya, they would be required to pay accommodation costs and tournament fee to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) through Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) that have organized the tour-

"The chance to send all players was there and I am told the players from Rafiki Foundation got a sponsor. But the challenge is that four players from the foundation are not qualified for the Africa Junior circuit," he noted.

"In Kenya they, would have been

ing event, which is expensive, and if they fail to qualify they will be asked to pay the accommodation and tournament fee to ITF through

Rafiki Foundation tennis squad's coach, Charles Laizer, concurred with Mollel on the new tourna-

He said management of Rafiki Foundation agreed that the money presented by sponsors Dekker Bruins Chrysanthemum for the remaining players would be channeled to such other tennis activities as renovation of the training facility.

"It's true not all the five players from Rafiki Foundation will travel to Kenya, we made the changes at the eleventh hour after noting that Ndosi, Aurelia, Emmanuel Minja and Rachel are not qualified for the required to compete in qualify- Africa Junior circuit," he disclosed.



Sevilla FC players in a group photo on their way to Dar es Salaam to feature in an international friendly match against Tanzania's soccer giants Simba, which is slated for tomorrow. The players are (L-R) Vaclík, Juan Soriano, Sergi Gómez, Kjaer, Gnagnon, Jesús Navas, Aleix Vidal, Escudero, Arana, Amadou, Roque Mesa, Banega, Franco Vázquez, Nolito, Promes, Bryan, Ben Yedder and Munir.

India feel confident before 'most challenging' World Cup, says Kohli

MUMBAI

INDIA are very confident about their form, captain Virat Kohli said on Tuesday before his Indian Premier League, squad depart for the 10-nation World Cup in England and Wales starting next week.

"Personally, I think this is probably the most challenging World Cup of all the three that I've been part of, because of the format," the 30-yearold Kohli told reporters in Mumbai ahead of the team's departure.

The World Cup will use a revised format to decide the semi-finalists, with the teams all playing each other in the round-

robin stage. "We go into the World

Cup feeling very balanced and confident. All our players have been in great form in the IPL," Kohli said referring to the which ended this month.

The India squad will travel to England on Wednesday in their quest for a third World Cup title. They begin their campaign against South Africa in Southampton on June 5.

The 46-day event starts on May 30 and will conclude with the final at Lord's in London on July

"Any team can beat any team ... The gap is much closer now between teams," India coach Ravi Shastri said.

REUTERS

Simba defend silverware

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2018/19 Mainland Premier League defending champions, Simba, have clinched the league's title, walloping Singida United 2-0 at the Namfua Stadium in Singida yester-

The Dar es Salaam giants have won the top honour with two matches to play, posting a seven-point gap with their closest challeng-

An effort by forward Boniface Maganga from close range went off target on the fifth minute in what was Singida United's first wasted opportunity in the yesterday duel. Meddie Kagere put Simba ahead on the

10th minute, rattling in from close range following failure Singida United defender Salum Kipaga to clear the ball. Singida United got a free kick 20 meters

out several minutes later that ended with keeper Deogratius Munishi saving an effort by winger Geoffrey Mwashiuya. The hosts then wasted a good chance as forward Habibu Kiyombo outmuscled the

visitors' left fullback, Mohamed Hussein, a

few meters from the latter's area. Kiyombo however disappointingly dillydallied with the ball within the box and was dispossessed.

Striker Frank Mkumbo could only blast over from close range after dribbling past two Simba defenders, as Singida United wasted an opportunity for netting an equal-

There were no clear chances during the latter stages of the period as both teams' players found it difficult to comfortably play

the ball on a bumpy pitch. Simba were still 1-0 up at the end of the

A right foot shot by Mkumbo from within box went narrowly off target on the 46th minute in Singida United's good chance after the restart.

The muscular forward had sped past Hussein and ran to an incisive pass by fellow



Singida United left fullback, Salum Chuku (L), controls the ball in front of Simba forward Meddie Kagere in a recent match in the Mainland Premier League, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

striker and easily slid the ball past onrushing Munishi.

A defensive mistake by Singida United keeper, Said Kipao, gifted Simba the second goal on the 61st minute, as an effort by the former to clear a wayward back pass by libero, Kennedy Juma, proved

Kipao sustained a muscle injury, failing to quickly make his way back to the goal and allowing Simba striker John Bocco to effortlessly head in a cross from the right.

The visitors went close on two occasions in the next few minutes as the hosts' defense looked a bit disorganized.

Kipao looked to have suffered a serious injury, given he was rested for Ally Mustafa on the 76th minute.

Singida United's technical bench threw in forwards Mathew Michael and Assad Juma in what was the side's attempt to regroup, the opponents though stood firm to frustrate the former.

Angola withdraw from 2019 COSAFA Cup

THE Council of Southern Africa Football Associations, COSAFA, regrets to announce the withdrawal of Angola from the 2019 COSAFA

The Palancas Negras cited the need to complete their league season and preparations for the Africa Cup of Nations as the reasons for opting out of the competition.

The short notice has placed COSAFA Cup organizers in a tight spot and despite canvasing far and wide across the continent for a replacement, the timeframe simply did not allow for a new participant with the tournament to get under way in Durban this weekend.

tain three teams - eSwatini, Mauritius and Comoros Islands - giving one of those sides an excellent opportunity to reach the quarterfinals and set up a date with defending champions Zimbabwe on June 1.

The change has also forced a revision of the fixture list, with the COSAFA Cup now to kickoff with a vlash between eSwatini and Mauritius at the King Zwelithini on Saturday (kick-off 16h30).

eSwatini will then tackle Comoros on May 27 (17h00), before Group A is completed with a match between Comoros and Mauritius two days later (17h30). Both those matches are also

It means that this year's Group A will con- winners Angola have missed two previous CO-SAFA Cup tournaments - the very first one in 1997 and also four years in 2015.

Meanwhile, South Africa have named a vouthful squad for the 2019 COSAFA Cup, but have included a number of top overseas-based stars for the tournament in Durban that runs from May 25-June 8.

The majority of the squad are from the country's U-23 squad as they prepare for their Africa Under-23 Championship qualifier against Zimbabwe in September, but the likes of France-based Keagan Dolly and Liam Jordan in Denmark have also been included.

The U-23 team boss David Notoane will at the King Zwelithini Stadium. Three-times coach the players but the squad has been se-

lected in conjunction with senior national team boss, Stuart Baxter.

Dolly is working his way back to full fitness after a season on the sidelines and is trying to get back his match sharpness ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations finals in Egypt.

There are also two Portugal-based stars in Kgaogelo Sekgota (Vitoria Setubal) and Luther Singh (Chaves), who will both also be looking to make their mark.

"Keagan Dolly has asked me if he can get more game-time," Baxter said. "We are allowing him to get that game-time, to bring up his sharpness. We are making a meaningful event of COSAFA and we are investing international game-time into the right players." **REUTERS**

Flexibles by David Chikoko



