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Feza Secondary School students carry their colleague Mvano Cabangoh shoulder high to congratulate him after scooping number six position nationally in Form Four National Examinations in results released by NECTA in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Girls outshine boys - in 2019 Form Four top scores - again

Msonde named boys who made it to the top ten as Denis Kinyange from Nyegezi Seminary in Mwanza region and Erick Mutasingwa from Sengerema Seminary also based in Mwanza region

By Guardian Reporter

GIRLS have outshone boys in the national Form Four examination results for 2019 released yesterday for the second year in a row.

Announcing the results in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) Executive Secretary, Dr Charles Msonde said girls grabbed eight out of the top ten slots, leaving only two for boys.

Joan Ritte from the Mbeya-based St. Francis Girls secondary school is this year's top student,

endearingly referred to as Tanzania One, Dr Msonde quipped, noting that St. Francis has also scooped seven out of the coveted top ten slots.

The other school that featured in the eight positions held by girls is Dodoma-based Huruma Girls.

Dr Msonde named boys who made it to the top ten as Denis Kinyange from Nyegezi Seminary and Erick Mutasingwa from Sengerema Seminary, both in Mwanza Region.

Other girls are Agatha Mlewa, Sarah Kaduma,

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Lamu County in curfew after new terror attacks

LAMU

GOVERNMENT authorities in Kenya have imposed a curfew on the coastal county of Lamu following recent terror attacks from Somalia based al-Shabaab militia.

Lamu County police commander Perminius Kioi said yesterday the curfew will enable security agencies to monitor and conduct a crackdown on any suspicious criminal activities on the island, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

"The curfew is meant to allow security agencies in the area to easily access, monitor and investigate suspicious activities during the set time," Kioi told reporters.

The curfew begins at 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily, the law enforcer stated, urging the local community to adhere to the curfew in order to boost government efforts to restore calm in the county.

The police commander said the public service vehicles, private vehicles and motorcycles, will undergo thorough security checkpoints in the highways and other ports of entry.

The curfew was announced in the wake of an al-Shabaab attack on a joint Kenya-United States military base where one U.S. military officer and two contractors died.

Four people died on Jan. 2 when al-Shabaab militants attacked a bus plying the Mombasa-Lamu highway, he added.

BoT: Rogue lender 'uses leaders' names to swindle'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has warned of the existence of unlicensed financial institutions, including one which uses names of top national leaders to swindle clients.

A statement released yesterday the financial sector regulator cautioned borrowers not to transact business with unlicensed institutions lest they lose their hard-earned money to con artists.

The statement cited one such company as named VICOPA Foundation which the regulator said has been using the names of top national leaders namely President John Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to win the trust of unsuspecting clients.

The said companies have been operating mainly online, enticing unsuspecting people with sweet deals of loans but at a fee.



Companies have been operating mainly online, enticing unsuspecting people with sweet deals of loans but at a fee

VICOPA Foundation has been promoting itself as offering loans of up to two million shillings and ten million shillings but requires applicants to pay a fee of between 200,000/- and 500,000/-, the statement indicated.

Additionally, to entice clients, this institution has been telling the public that it is owned by the government, which is false, it affirmed.

The BoT said preliminary investigations had established that the company which uses names of top national leaders to win the trust of applicants and the wider public does not even have a registered office.

The proprietor of the firm has already been arrested and was being interrogated for legal action, it elaborated.

"As the regulator of the financial sector, including VICOPA (Village Community Banks), the BoT would like to caution

TURN TO PAGE 2

New port berth unveiled as 'Ocean tourism' ship docks

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S goal to reach two million tourist visitations per year has started to be approached following the arrival of 600 tourists from various foreign countries touring the city of Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo in Coast Region.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Acting Marketing Manager Joseph Sendwa said the coming



of the tourists aboard a specialized ship boosts some service outlets, spur revenue collection that drives economic growth.

"The coming of the ship that brought in tourists to our city means they will hire vehicles hence more income to vehicle owners, apart from income to the Immigration Department," he said.

TTB will continue supporting government efforts in developing the tourism sector, by ensuring a friendly environment in many areas including Dar es Salaam port berths nos. 1, 2, 4, 5 and also 7, which receives a big number of tourists.

"This ship has docked at a new berth. We

TURN TO PAGE 2

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Girls outshine boys with Form Four results, again

FROM PAGE 1

Shammah Kiunsi (all from St. Francis Girls, Mbeya) and Lucy Magashi (Huruma Girls, Dodoma).

Dr Msonde said 340,914 candidates passed out of 422,722 who sat the exams, equal to 80.65 pass rate.

"Girls who passed are 175,296 equal to 79.46 per cent while boys who passed are 165,618 equal to 81.94 per cent," he elaborated.

In 2018, about 163,920 girls passed the exams compared to 159,045 boys who passed.

The 2019 top performers are -for the top 10 girls, listed as Joan Ritte (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya), Rosalia Mwidege (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya), Domina Wamara (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya), Agatha Mlelwa (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya), Sarah Kaduma (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya).

Shammah Kiunsi (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya). Others are Lucy Magashi (Huruma Girls, Dodoma), Imani Sanga (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya), Joyce Magwaza (St. Francis Girls, Mbeya) and Marther Ngowi St. Francis Girls, Mbeya).

The top 10 boys are Denis Kinyange (Nyegezi Seminary, Mwanza), Erick Mutasingwa (Sengerema Seminary, Mwanza), Mvano Cabangoh (Feza Boys, Dar es Salaam), Yohana Mwashambwa (Malangali, Iringa), Bruno Bassilley (Don Bosco Seminary, Iringa), Nelson Mbigili (St. Dominic Savio, Iringa). Others are Ebenezer Mujungu (Faraja Seminary, Kilimanjaro), Timothy Mjuni (Centennial Christian Seminary, Coast), Richardson Kwareh (Centennial Christian Seminary, Coast) and Henry Kimbori (Centennial Christian Seminary, Coast).

Dr Msonde also named top 10 schools and their candidates as Kemebos (70) Kagera, St. Francis Girls (91) Mbeya, Feza Boys (74) Dar es Salaam, Canossa (103) Dar es Salaam, Anwarite Girls (54) Kilimanjaro, Precious Blood (91) Arusha, Marian Boys (108) Coast, St. Augustine Tagaste (110) Dar es Salaam, Maua Seminary (52) Kilimanjaro and Musage Boys (118) Mwanza.

He also named top performing schools for three consecutive years as Ibuti Jazar Islamic (Coast), St. Achilleus Kiwanuka Kijwire (Kagera), Mlalo

(Tanga), Peramiho Girls (Ruvuma), Huruma Girls (Dodoma), St. Augustine Tagaste (Dar es Salaam), Nyaishozi (Kagera), Waja Boys (Geita), Boniconsili Mabamba Girls (Kigoma) and St. Getrude Mlandizi Girls (Coast).

Top performing districts with their number of schools are Bagamoyo (19), Bukoba (30), Meru (56), Mafinga (16), Kibaha (36), Njombe (26), Kibondo (23), Kahama (29), Moshi (93) and Bariadi (16).

Districts whose performance dropped in the past three years are Mafia (Coast), Kibiti (Coast), Geita (Geita), Kakonko (Kigoma), Kondoa (Dodoma), Mpanda (Katavi), Kishapu (Shinyanga), Kiteto (Manyara), Bumbuli (Tanga) and Malinyi (Morogoro).

Dr Msonde said the council canceled results for 333 candidates for various violations of rules including cheating.

However, in Form Two national examination results, a total of 609,357 candidates were registered, 320, 539 girls and 288,818 boys.

About 514, 251 candidates who sat for examination last year out of 571, 137 passed their examination, the examinations chief noted.

Stephen Mwanzalima from Marian Girls was the best student followed by Raymond Tewele and Jovin Magulu of Marian Boys.

Marian Boys take a lead after producing seven top ten students, while Canossa of Dar es Salaam and Precious Blood of Arusha were other top performers.

NECTA mentioned the best ten district councils as Bagamoyo in Coast region, Bukoba in Kagera region, Meru in Arusha region, Njombe in Njombe region, Monduli in Arusha region, Kibaha in Coast region, Moshi in Kilimanjaro region and Arusha in Arusha region.

Poorly performing districts are Kilindi in Tanga region, Mkuranga in Coast region, Nzega in Tabora region, Kasulu, Buhingwe and Kigoma in Kigoma region, Bukombe in Geita region, Ulanga in Morogoro region, along with Musoma and Serengeti in Mara region.

The pass rate for Standard Four examinations improved by 26 per cent, with a total of 1,531,120 pupils passing their examinations, he added.



National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) executive secretary Dr Charles Msonde talks to journalists when releasing Standard Four, Form II and Form Four exams results in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is NECTA deputy executive secretary Athuman Salum. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

New port berth unveiled as 'Ocean tourism' ship docks

FROM PAGE 1

are proud of that and our expectations are for more tourist ships as this increases the country's revenues," he stated.

A tourist, Whori Warabisako from Japan said his coming to Tanzania is an opportunity for him to learn about the culture of Tanzania and observe the country's peaceful environment.

The tourists who hail from Japan, the United States, China, Taiwan and Britain arrived yesterday at 6.00 am aboard MV Azamara, a big modern ship that makes its voyages around the world advertising 'ocean tourism.'

The ship was expected to depart yesterday at 10.00pm for Zanzibar to take tourists who plan to visit historical areas including the Zanzibar Stone To wn.

BoT: Rogue lender 'uses leaders' names to swindle'

FROM PAGE 1

members of the public not to get involved with institutions like this - to avoid loss of their money," the statement intoned.

It also warned individuals or institutions that receive deposits or issues loans without proper and valid licences to stop immediately or risk arrest and arraigning in court.

The statement reiterated that section

6 (l) of the Banking and Financial Sector Act of 2006 forbids individuals and companies from engaging in the business of receiving deposits and lending money without due licences.

"Individuals, companies and groups that engaged in receiving deposits and issuance of loans before November 1, 2019 are required to apply for business licence with the BoT before October 31, 2020 without fail," it added.



Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein unveils a plaque to inaugurate Kibondemzungu Fuoni bridge in Magharibi "B" district in Unguja yesterday. Others are Second Vice President ambassador Seif Ali Iddi (L) Minister for Works, Communication and Transport Dr. Sira Ubwa (R). The event was part of 56th anniversary celebrations to mark the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: State House

We will not tolerate irresponsible land officials, says Mabula

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development Angelina Mabula has warned land officers in Masasi town council, Mtwara region for their recklessness in addressing people's challenges and claims.

According to her, the officers working in the land department in the council are the major source of land conflicts in the area.

The deputy minister made the remarks here when he visited the office wanting the head of the department Hezron Asukile to write an explanation letter on why he should not be suspended from the position for failing to supervise the department.

During her visit, the minister found loopholes in the preparation and presentation of customer's documents.

"This department is doing nothing because it has failed even to keep good record of land issues making the government lack accurate data and documents of the sector in the district...I haven't been satisfied by the work which this department is doing," she said.

Mabula further said that most of the loopholes are caused by recklessness of the officers in the department for failing

to fulfill well their duties.

She said that the whole system of keeping land documents and files is worse thus causing unnecessary land conflicts in the district.

The deputy minister said; "We will not tolerate officials who are not serious in job; we want everyone to work hard and fulfill his or her responsibilities on time for the country's development... So the ministry will at any time not hesitate to take disciplinary measures against officials failing to deliver."

The head of land department at the council vowed to implement all the directives issued by the deputy minister.

"I am going to write the explanation letter immediately but also ensure that we improve the system of record keeping," Asukile said.

I am going to write the explanation letter immediately but also ensure that we improve the system of record keeping

LILONGWE

The Malawi government will this month administer the second mass cervical cancer vaccine (Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine) to girls aged 9 and 10, as a means of protecting them from cervical cancer.

The Malawi government made

Malawi to administer 2nd human papilloma virus vaccine

the announcement Wednesday in a statement signed by Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Population Services Dan Namalika.

The vaccine will be administered

from Jan.20 to Jan.24 in line with recommendations by the World Health Organization. "The vaccine is given to 9-year-old girls in two doses: the first dose is given to girls at the age of 9 and

second one is given 12 months after the first dose," reads the statement.

The ministry has called upon all parents, guardians and teachers to ensure that all young girls who are

supported by the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, was successful.

According to the ministry, the first round of vaccine in 2019, which was

supported by the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, was successful.

Currently Malawi has one of the highest rate of cervical cancer in the world.



Speaker Job Ndogai Ndugai (C) chairs the Commonwealth Speakers seminar in Ottawa Canada yesterday. With him is Ghana's Speaker Michael Oquaye (L) and Canada Parliamentary officer Scott Lemoine. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

KIA earns 30bn/- in revenues

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) has increased its revenues to 30bn/- from 18bn/- recorded in the past five years.

The increase is linked with increased number of arrivals and passenger planes using the airport situated in the northern part of the country.

The number of passengers using the airport is also said to double from 500,000 to 1.2 million per year with majority of them coming from Asia, Europe, Israel, South and North America.

Acting Managing Director of the Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company (KADCO) Eng Christopher Mukoma said the increase in both, revenues and passengers was due to major rehabilitation and upgrading of KIA. He said the terminal can now receive up to fourteen bigger planes at once.

"The rehabilitation and upgrading of the government owned terminal involves expansion of runways. The terminal can handle up to 14 Boeing 737 planes at once while before 2016 it had a capacity to handle only nine bigger planes", Eng Mukoma explained.

KADCO boss noted that expansion of the facility went together with improvement of lights system, apron, tax ways, water and sanitation system. He said KADCO supports President John Magufuli's efforts in improving the country's air transport which will in turn boost government's revenue

collection from aviation industry.

He named some of the airline companies using KIA as Kenya Airways, Turkish Airline, Qatar Airways, Ethiopian airlines, and Fly Dubai. The planes have also increased their landing frequency, he noted.

Eng Mukoma said users of the airport have guaranteed security and safety since KADCO has procured three new firefighting vehicles each with the capacity of 10,000 liters of water. He said KIA has won a number of awards due to its outstanding performance.

KIA was built in 1971, to mark the tenth anniversary of Tanzania's national independence. Ever since, it has required much effort to upgrade the airport into a world-class point of entry to the region and this is something of a symbol of Tanzania's prime outlook on tourism.

To make the airport more efficient and modern, the airport is operated by KADCO, a development company owned by the government of Tanzania.

With a vision to develop the airport into a regional and international hub, KADCO has spent in the past 15 years a significant amount of its revenues to increase the airport's operation performance which included resurfacing the runway, installation of automatic terminal information system, positioning automatic weather stations, improving cargo handling facilities and upgrading the fire rescue services and security systems to International Civil Aviation Organisation standards.

By Guardian Reporter

JPM to start 5-day official visit to Zanzibar

PRESIDENT John Magufuli is expected to start a 5-day official tour in Zanzibar where he will lay a foundation stone for the Zanzibar National Security building.

Statement released to the press by the State House yesterday also said the President has arrived in Dar es Salaam

from his home village of Chato in Geita Region.

The President, who will be accompanied by First Lady Mama Janeth Magufuli, will travel to Zanzibar tomorrow.

On Saturday (January 11)

President Magufuli will lay a foundation for Mwanakwerekwe secondary school in Zanzibar Urban West Region after which he will inaugurate a five -star hotel - Verde Azam Luxury Resort and Spa at Mtoni.

President Magufuli will also participate in the celebrations marking 56th years of Zanzibar Revolution the climax of which will be held on Sunday, January 12 at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar Urban West Region.



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Singida farmers appeal for urgent government intervention to control destructive love birds

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

DESTRUCTIVE birds have invaded maize and sunflower farms at Mlandala, Mbuguyu and Kaugeri villages in Singida region destroying 69,264 acres of the crops in the past farming season. Farmers claim they couldn't take measures to control the love birds since the country laws recognize them as among government trophies. Following the invasion, most farmers are now avoiding to cultivate the two crops due to loss incurred in the 2018/2019 farming season.

Speaking during a meeting between cotton farmers and Ikungi District officials, Mwaru Ward Councillor, Iddi Makangale said farmers have failed to control the destructive birds over fears of the laws that protect love birds.

"Farmers have abandoned the two crops fearing their farms would again be invaded by the birds. Mostly affected farms include those in Mlandala village", said the councillor as he pleads to the government to allow the villagers to destroy the birds.

Makangale noted that farmers at the area are popularly known for cultivation of maize but they have now shifted to other crops such as rice, cotton and millet.

"We used to get enough money by cultivating maize and sunflower, the government should take measures to control the destructive birds for farmers to cultivate their traditional crops", he noted.

He however insisted the villagers not to destroy the birds since attacking them is a crime.

On cotton, the councillor appealed to cotton buying companies to construct storage facilities to reduce post-harvest loss as well as to ensure quality.

"We need at least two storage

facilities for our farmers, we have encouraged them to cultivate the cash crop but most of the cotton is damaged before reaching factories due to poor storage methods," said Makangale.

Paul Deogratius from one of the cotton buying companies—Biosustain Ltd said the company will assist farmers with seeds. He said the company has capacity to sort some 20 million kilos of cotton per year, but farmers in Ikungi district have been producing just six million kilos annually.

He said the various efforts taken to sensitize farmers to cultivate cotton have resulted into increased production from 2 million kilos to 6 million kilos. He said Iramba district produced more cotton in the last season followed by Ikungi district.

In his response, Ikungi District Commissioner, Edward Mpogoro promised to consult officials in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism on how to control the love birds. He also promised to check with agriculture experts in the Agriculture Ministry to see how the destructive birds can be barred from invading farms.



We used to get enough money by cultivating maize and sunflower, the government should take measures to control the destructive birds for farmers to cultivate their traditional crops



Judge (rtd) Damian Lubuva (R) in discussion with Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango and deputy minister Dr. Ashatu Kijaji in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

AfDB approves \$20m investment to support sub-Saharan Africa's renewable energy sector

By Guardian Reporter

TO alleviate financial constraints in the renewable energy sector, the board of directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved a \$20 million investment funds into the sector across Sub-Saharan Africa.

In a statement issued yesterday, the regional bank said the fund is in the Metier Sustainable Capital International Fund II used in channeling funds to renewable energy and resource-efficient

infrastructure projects across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Wale Shonibare, the Bank's Acting Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate Change & Green Growth said, "Metier has extensive experience in developing and financing renewable energy projects with strong technical partners and co-developers in Southern Africa. We are pleased to join other investors in supporting their expansion into new African markets to help unlock the vast renewable potential of the continent."

According to the statement, the funding will contribute to the production of an additional 178.5 megawatts of renewable power for commercial and residential use.

"It will also create opportunities for industrial wastewater treatment and waste-to-energy generation."

The fund will meet AfDB's strict environment and safeguard standards to ensure potential risks are adequately mitigated.

Renewable energy to make up almost half of sub-Saharan Africa's power

generation growth

According to a report by the International Energy Agency, investments in Sub-Saharan Africa's renewable energy will make up almost half of the region's power generation growth by 2040.

With \$450 billion investment, more cooperation in the region on energy projects, as well as better resource and energy-based revenue management, Sub-Saharan Africa's economy could be boosted by an additional 30%.



NURSE - (1 POST)

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Teacher burned to death in front of her daughters

NAIROBI

A teacher hacked to death and her body set ablaze was attacked in front of her two daughters, witnesses said.

Daisy Mbaluka Mbathe, a teacher at Ndooni Primary School in Kitui, was attacked on Monday by an irate mob allegedly over the school's poor results in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams.

The mob barricaded a village footpath near the teacher's home in Malalani in Kitui East, grabbed her

from a moving motorcycle, which was ferrying the victim and her two daughters to school.

The girls were on their way to report to secondary school for first term.

The girls watched as their mother was hacked to death and her body burned to ashes.

Police in Mutitu, Kitui East, are investigating the circumstances under which a teacher was burnt to death following protests at a school.

Wambua Mwangangi and Mr Chris Kyalo Muli were

arraigned on Thursday over the killing of Ms Daisy Mbaluka Mbathe, who taught at Ndooni Primary School.

It was said that a mob that included students' parents attacked Mbathe but Kitui East Police Commander Consaga Malasi denied this.

Mbathe was killed on Monday, a day on which parents gathered at the school to protest poor performance in the 2019 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination.

The parents demanded

the transfer of all the teachers at the institution.

Meanwhile, the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) on Thursday withdrew all teachers from Ndooni Primary School in Kitui where a teacher was hacked and burned to death after a protest by parents over poor examination results.

TSC Chief Executive Officer Nancy Macharia condemned the incident and condoled with the victim's family, friends and teachers of the school.

"The Commission has with immediate effect

withdrawn the six TSC teachers who have been working at the school," she said in a statement signed by the director of administration.

Macharia further said the commission will not post any teacher to the school until the security of teachers is certain.

"The commission wishes to inform the public that it takes the safety of teachers seriously, further the commission will not hesitate to take necessary measures including petitioning for the closure of institutions where the security of teachers is at risk," said Macharia

AGENCIES



The commission wishes to inform the public that it takes the safety of teachers seriously, further the commission will not hesitate to take necessary measures including petitioning for the closure of institutions where the security of teachers is at risk



MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM 15th February 2020

DESCRIPTION	CHARGE/FEE	
LOAN PRODUCTS LANDING RATES	MINIMUM monthly RATE	MAXIMUM Monthly RATE
Rahisi loans TZS (500,000 to 10,000,000)	5.50%	5.50%
Retails/Agro Loans-TZS (10,000,001-50,000,000)	4.20%	5.00%
SME Loans-TZS (50,000,001-1,500,000,000)	2.20%	2.50%
Loans/OD secured by Term deposit 10,000,000-200,000,000	1.70%	1.70%
Other Fees		
Loan Application fees	20 000.00	
loan Processing fees	3.40%	
Insurance fees	0.60	

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An artisanal miner of Pamoja Mining Gold Rush, Lucas Sospeter shakes the pan back and forth to remove the rest of the fine sand to find gold in Shinyanga region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent ShabanNjia

Mtwara airport expansion project set for completion before this April

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Elias Kwandikwa has directed supervisors and the contractor implementing the expansion project of Mtwara airport to complete the job before April, this year so as to enable the airport to commence operation.

Implemented by the Beijing Construction Engineering, the work involves extension of run-way from 2,258 meter to 2,800, taxiways and aprons so as to enable the airport accommodate bigger planes.

Speaking when he visited the construction site, Kwandikwa said the government is mullied to ensure that it improves all key infrastructures in the country to serve the increase of travelers, guests and traders for the county's economic and social growth.

"We are doing everything within our capacity to open up the Southern regions, the government has allocated enough funds for this purpose...So I want the job to be completed by end of March this year, so as to start receiving big flights," he said.

He added that the whole work of rehabilitation and expansion of the airport will cost 50.3bn/- upon completion.

The deputy minister further said that the job also involves construction of a security fence, plane runway lights, set electrical system, fire rescue equipment and construct water storage facilities.

For his part, Mtwara District Commissioner Evod Mmanda noted that the completion of the project will connect the Southern regions with other regions of Tanzania, making it easier for both economic and social

activities to flourish. "The airport will help boost the economy of Mtwara as it will facilitate easy transportation of crops and other products to neighbouring countries including the Comoros."

Regional manager of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Eng Doto Chacha said that the implementation of the project has reached 30 percent.

"We will supervise to ensure that the project is completed before April this year with all the required qualities to enable it to commence operations and thus boost economy of the region," he added.

“We are doing everything within our capacity to open up the Southern regions, the government has allocated enough funds for this purpose...So I want the job to be completed by end of March this year, so as to start receiving big flights”

Mbeya maize farmers seeking help to fight destructive pests

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A SECTION of maize farmers in Mbeya Region have asked for assistance from agricultural officers to fight pests that have started attacking their maize farms which fail to grow properly.

Speaking with this paper at different times this week they said the 'Kanitangaze' pests attack maize in their infancy and are resistant to any type of pesticide.

One of the farmers, Joseph Mwashitete, resident of Utengule in Mbeya Rural District said the pests need pesticide spray every week; else they eat the entire stalk.

He said there isn't any pesticide that is proven by experts to kill these pests hence farmers are forced to buy any kind of cyanide from shops with which to spray their maize farms and in many cases without positive results.

"Originally these pests used to attack tomatoes and many tomato growers incurred great losses and stopped

“Originally these pests used to attack tomatoes and many tomato growers incurred great losses and stopped growing the crop, and now they have invaded maize, every time you spray you have to go back to see whether the pests have been killed.” Mwashitete said.

growing the crop, and now they have invaded maize, every time you spray you have to go back to see whether the pests have been killed," Mwashitete said.

He said the pests attack the crops during current ongoing rains on claims that rains reduce the efficacy of the pesticide.

Another farmer, Jerome Mbozyo from Iloa in Mshewe ward also in Mbeya Rural District said agricultural experts do not visit their areas to see for themselves various challenges they are facing.

He said consequently, they have started inventing for themselves ways on how to deal with their predicament, but in most cases they fail due to lack of appropriate expertise on how to fight agricultural pests.

He said the 'Kanitangaze' pests have cropped up just in recent years and

before that they were only faced with normal challenges.

One retired agricultural officer living in Nsalala ward in Mbalizi town who did not like his name mentioned said at present agricultural officers are only conversed with theory instead of practice hence they will not help farmers.

He said some of the officials even fail to cultivate their own farms and in case he does he does not use appropriate expertise making farmers fail to learn from them.

He added that as of now farmers see it better to go and learn from study farms from large crop producing companies instead of the agricultural officers.

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Request for Application for Competitors for the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project

On behalf of the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project, the Project Manager (PM) Land O'Lakes Venture 37 invites your organization to participate in a prize competition through which the Project aims to test Pay-for-Results mechanism approaches to scaling up innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to increase dairy productivity through the use of improved input. **The competition will take place in the coastal region of Tanzania, and specifically the regions of Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, and Morogoro (excluding Kilombero and Ulunga districts).**

Land O'Lakes Venture 37 is calling for applications from potential Competitors who are established entities from the private, parastatal, and non-profit sectors to participate in the project

The RFA outlines the competition background, objectives, and rules, and includes an application form. In submitting an application, your organization consents to the RFA terms, including the application procedures and instructions.

Please note the deadlines for receipt of the application, with all required signatures and certifications, is due no later than **1700 Hrs. ET on February 28, 2020**. Application documents must be submitted in one email to AgResultsTanzania@gmail.com or hand delivered to Veterinary Complex;131 Nelson Mandela Road, Dar es Salaam. Please indicate "Competitor RFA-AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Project" **in the subject line of the email or on the cover page.**

The Project management team will review applications according to the criteria described herein. The applicants whose applications meet the selection criteria will be invited to participate in the competition.

We encourage you to submit an application and join us for a chance to win prizes and contribute to the development of a dairy sector in Tanzania. Should you have any questions or comments please direct them to NMrema@landolakes.org. We appreciate your timely response to this RFA and look forward to cooperating with you on this important project.

Get a copy of the RFA on below link:
<https://agresults.org/news-and-blog/10-blog/152-rfa-tanzania-dairy-competitors>

Eleven patients received kidney transplants at BMH

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ELEVEN patients have received kidney transplants since the service was started at Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH), saving millions of shillings.

BMH Director Dr Alphonse Chandika said kidney transplant costs between 22m/- to 25m/- per patient, but the total cost for the treatment in foreign countries is over 100m/-.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday after four more patients received kidney transplants Dr Chandika said dispensing the service at the hospital has saved a lot of money for the 11 patients, the money that would have been spent to treat the patients outside the country, including India.

He said the cost of kidney transplant to one patient outside the country is equivalent to treating five patients at BMH and that for the initial seven patients treated more than 700m/- was saved.

"We have succeeded to reduce costs to the government for sending kidney patients outside the country and none among the initial seven patients treated at the hospital lost his/her life and all of them are going about their businesses," he said.

He said the kidney transplants was conducted in collaboration with University of Dodoma (UDOM) including experts from Tokushukai Medical Corporation of Japan who, after four transplants, will no longer come as local experts are now well acquainted with the task.

"The transplant done to four kidney patients began on January 6 this year and were very successful, we thank Japan, as their goal was to part knowledge to our local experts, and since they are assured of gaining the knowledge, they will no longer come, the transplants will be carried out by Tanzanians," he said.

He said BMH has four experts trained in kidney transplant, twice they went to Japan and participated in kidney transplant as the surgery is common in that country.

The chairman of the medical team from Japan Prof Kobayashi Shuzo hailed Tanzania for strengthening kidney transplant service as he believed the hospital will now be able to treat patients from outside the country as well. "It's high time you conduct kidney transplant on your own as your experts are now qualified, but we will still cooperate by a few of us coming for a patient whose issue will be seen to be a little complicated," Prof Shuzo said.

One of the treated kidney transplant patient, Leah Nkonoki, said since she was transplanted with a kidney in 2018 she has never suffered any ailment and continues to conduct own business. She added that she received a kidney from her sister who is also doing well.

"Initially I was very ill but now I'm doing well and all those of us who received transplants came here yesterday and we were told that we were doing well, and we were given strict conditions not to eat grapes and oranges to avoid enhancing immunity to the body that would destroy the kidney," she said.



It's high time you conduct kidney transplant on your own as your experts are now qualified, but we will still cooperate by a few of us coming for a patient whose issue will be seen to be a little complicated



Tanzania National Roads Agency deputy regional manager in Mbeya Mageza Mwita (2nd R) briefs Chunya district commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi on the rehabilitation of Lupa bridge after it was closed for two weeks due to flooding yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa.

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

FOUR people including two officials from Chalinze town council in Coast region have been arraigned before the Bagamoyo District Court for allegedly soliciting a bribe amounting to 127m/-.

They are Shabani Milao, planning officer and Zaina Kijazi, land officer at Chalinze town council. Others are Idd Mbato, the chairman of Magome village and Masoud Kidile, a resident of Pera ward.

The suspects were dragged to court by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) for violating the Ant-Corruption Act of 2007.

Reading the charges before Magistrate Rahel Kangakha, PCCB prosecutor John Sang'wa said that

Four appear in court over bribery

the suspects committed the offences between September 25 and 26, in 2019 at Magome suburb.

According to him, two suspects Idd Mbato, and Masoud Kidile are being charged with offering a bribe amounting to 127m/- to the two district officials in order to manipulate and enable the officials increase the value of land during the evaluation exercise conducted at Magome area in Pera ward.

He said that the suspects were charged against article 15 (1) of the PCCB Act no II of 2007.

"Mbato offered 85m/- and Masoud

gave 45m/- the amount received by the two officials from the council,"

The convicts were then not required to enter any plea because the court has no jurisdiction over the case.

One suspect, Masoud met bail conditions and the other was sent back to remand prison after failing to meet bail conditions.

The 2019 report by Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer Africa cited Tanzania to be among the nations that are excelling in the fight against the vice.

According to the report, 71 per cent of the Tanzanian population thinks

their government is doing a good job of tackling corruption, with the remaining 23 per cent still in doubt.

Since President Magufuli assumed the top seat in 2015, the nation has been in a concerted war against corruption, misconduct of officials who abuse their offices and institutions that oppress citizens while infringing their rights.

According to the report, among 35 nations in Africa, Tanzania has taken a lead on how her citizens perceive the government's positive progress in tackling matters of corruption; other countries being Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Climate change and conflict could fuel hunger in 2020

By Issa Da Silva

MILLIONS of people across Sub-Saharan Africa could face grave hunger in the first half of 2020 because of armed conflict, political instability and climate change-linked disasters, a report says.

The report published by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) this month says that the countries affected will require life-saving food assistance and investment to prevent humanitarian catastrophes.

According to estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about 70.8 million people are displaced worldwide by war, violence and persecution, with low- and middle-income countries bearing the brunt of the problem.

"In some countries, we are seeing conflict and instability combine with climate extremes force people from their homes, farms and places of work," said Alexandre Le Cuziat, World Food Programme

Climate change seems to be creating refugees on its own, with the World Bank estimating in a 2018 report that over 140 million are expected to migrate within countries by 2050, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America.

"In some countries, we are seeing conflict and instability combine with climate extremes force people from their homes, farms and places of work," says Alexandre Le Cuziat, a co-author of the WFP report.

"In others, climate shocks are occurring alongside economic collapse and leaving millions on the brink of destitution and hunger."

The WFP report is an internal analysis that is compiled every two months and used to identify countries of high prioritisation for emergency assistance. The agency identified critical and complex emergencies at risk of descending further into crisis without a rapid response and greater investment.

Le Cuziat, a senior conflict analyst with the WFP, says that the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Central Sahel region comprising Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are more vulnerable to hunger.

"Zimbabwe is experiencing its worst drought in decades, with temperatures hitting over 40 degrees Celsius. This has severely affected food production and highlights the severe impacts of climate change affecting the broader sub-region, which has seen the worst drought in 35 years," Le Cuziat explains.

"South Sudan remains embroiled in a bitter conflict which has pushed millions into hunger and malnutrition. Meanwhile the Central Sahel faces a toxic cocktail of rapidly escalating armed conflict, population displacement, hunger and widespread poverty, compounded by the effects of climate change."

"The Democratic Republic of Congo is seeing large scale displacement and food insecurity amid persistent insecurity and conflict, which are compounded by lack of humanitarian access and repeated climate shocks."

Action is needed now to save lives, and that without sustained funding, crucial humanitarian assistance that could mitigate the impact of disasters and prevent humanitarian catastrophes is under threat, explains Le Cuziat, adding that the WFP would require more than US\$10 billion to fully fund all of its operations in more than 80 countries around the world in 2020.



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DAR ES SALAAM

TAARIFA KWA UMMA

KUONGEZWA KWA MUDA WA KUHUISHA TAARIFA ZA MAKAMPUNI NA MAJINA YA BIASHARA

Dar es Salam, 31 Desemba 2019

Wakala ya Usajili wa Biashara na Leseni (BRELA) inapenda kuarifu Umma kuwa imeongeza muda wa miezi mitatu kwa ajili ya zoezi la uhuishaji wa taarifa za Makampuni na Majina ya Biashara yaliyosajili- wa nje ya mfumo wa Usajili kwa Njia ya Mtandao (Online Registration System - ORS) hadi tarehe 31 Machi 2020. BRELA inawataka wadau wote waliosajili Makampuni au Majina ya Biashara nje ya mfumo wa Usajili kwa njia ya Mtandao (ORS) kukamilisha zoezi hilo ndani ya muda ulioainishwa.

Aidha ili Mwombaji aweze kukamilisha uhuishaji wa taarifa anahitaji kuwa na Namba ya utambulisho wa Taifa (NIN) kwa ajili ya kufungua akaunti kwenye mfumo wa usajili (kwa raia wa Tanzania) kwa raia wa kigeni anatakiwa kuwa na namba ya Pasi ya kusafiria (Passport No.); namba ya utambulisho wa mlipa kodi TIN) kwa kila Mkurugenzi wa Kampuni; Kupakia fomu zote zinazohitajika mathalani fomu ya taarifa kutoka kwenye mtandao (Consolidated Form); taarifa ya mwaka (Annual Returns) na taarifa za mabadiliko yaliyotokea katika kampuni ambayo hayakuwasilishwa hapo awali; kupitia na kuhakiki- sha usahihi wa taarifa kwa mujibu wa Sheria na Taratibu. Baada ya kuhuisa taarifa, BRELA itahakiki usahihi wa taarifa husika na kutoa Ankara ya malipo kwa muombaji ambayo ataitumia kufanya malipo kwa njia ya simu ya mkononi au benki.

Katika hatua nyingine BRELA inasistiza kuwa anayefungua akaunti kwenye mfumo wa Usajili kwa njia ya Mtandao (ORS) awe ni mwenye hisa katika Kampuni au Mmiliki wa Jina la Biashara husika pia kutunza Jina la utumiaji (username) kwenye mfumo pamoja na nywila (password). Uwasilishwaji wa taarifa sahihi zinazoendana na taarifa zilizopo katika Masijala ya Usajili, kuwasilisha taarifa zilizokami- lika na inashauriwa zoezi hili kufanywa na mwombaji husika au Wakala mwenye weledi na uelewa wa Sheria na Taratibu za usajili, kuambata narakaha sahihi na kuzingatia maelekezo ya marekebisho kwenye maombi yanayotumwa baada ya BRELA kufanya uhakiki wa taarifa.

Imetolewa na:

Robertha Makinda
Afisa Habari na Mawasiliano BRELA

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Kili Twende Adventures tour guide Robert Woisso (C) together with tourists Kilimanjaro at Stella Point while climbing Mt Kilimanjaro recently. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka



Chikomeshe group representative of Rusoli village in Musoma rural, Mara region Majura Maingu talks at the handing over ceremony of items donated by his group to Rusoli secondary and primary schools A and B recently. The items which were donated included lap tops and a printer. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Gillian Duncan

African wildcat advertised illegally on Dubizzle in UAE

AN African wildcat has been advertised for adoption in the UAE in the latest example of exotic species being traded illegally online.

The serval, which is found across much of Africa as well as parts of the Middle East, was described as "sweet natured" and looking for a "forever family".

The advertisement was posted on the classified site Dubizzle on December 31 but removed when The National got in touch with the company.

Under a UAE law introduced in 2016, it is illegal to own, buy or sell wild or exotic animals in the country.

"Ready to leave now," the advertisement said.

It described the serval as a pure breed and an image was provided.

Native to the African savannah, serval cats are classed as wild animals and cannot be owned, bought or sold in the UAE without proper documentation.

The cats can be identified by their black, cheetah-like spots, as well as their large ears.

The UAE is a signatory of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species, banning the trade of certain animals.

Serval cats are listed in appendix two of the agreement as they are at potential risk of extinction if their trade is not controlled.

Phil Grange, an administrator of the Facebook page for cat welfare group the Bin Kitty Collective - which spotted and reported the advertisement - said it was the first time he had seen a serval advertised online in the country.

"Purebred servals are restricted under the Cites regulations, so are illegal in the UAE," he said.

When The National attempted

to contact the seller, it found the telephone number provided was not in use.

An email address was also given by the vendor but no reply to questions about the animal was received by the paper.

According to a post on the website for the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, serval cats make unsuitable pets.

"They are difficult to contain in a home or enclosure setting and pose a risk to people, children and other pets," it said.

"Serval cats are strong, fast and have an incredible capacity for jumping. In the wild, servals will leap high into the air to catch flying birds and can slap fish hard enough to stun them."

It is not the first time wild animals

have been advertised on Dubizzle. In 2016, The National published an article about the sale of cheetah cubs on the website.

Last September, a white lion cub and two tiger cubs were among five animals seized by officials in Sharjah after being illegally offered for sale on another site.

On Monday, a spokeswoman for Dubizzle said the serval advertisement was removed as soon as the company was notified.

"Dubizzle does not condone the illegal trade or adoption of wild animals, not just because this is in line with UAE law that bans the private possession of wild animals, but also because we truly believe animals thrive best in their natural environment," the company said.

"As such, we have removed the ad as soon as it was brought to our attention. Dubizzle encourages users to report any illegal sale, trade or adoption of wild animals that are posted on the platform.

Coffee growers urged to practice organic farming for better yields

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

The 32-Kilimanjaro New Co-operative Initiatives Joint venture Limited (G-32 KNCI-JVE LTD) has appealed coffee growers to practice organic coffee farming for sustainable high quality production for good health of consumers.

Speaking with the reporters here yesterday, the general manager of G-32 KNCI-JVE LTD, Gabriel Ollomi explained that, some members of his organisation will enjoy the fruits of organic farming-an agricultural system that uses-ecologically based pest control and biological fertilisers derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.

"In the year 2018/19 G-32 KNCI-JVE LTD engaged with our farmers in the organic coffee market where farmers benefited from high coffee prices by emphasising farmers to switch to organic farming that has led them to live happily earned money to take care of their children and send them to school," he explained.

According to Ollomi, organic coffees world market is going up day to day, appealing to Kilimanjaro coffee producers to switch to organic farming.

"Apart from high demand of organic coffees in the world market, its production is also very low as farmers are not buying industrial fertilizers for production, thus they are using only ecologically based pest control and biological fertilisers derived largely from animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.

"In the 2018/19 coffee season we bought a total of 40.2 tonnes of

parchment coffee at a price of 7,125/- per kilogramme from small farmers of Mwika Kinyamvuo and Mamba North Agricultural Marketing Co-operatives (AMCOS)..." the G-32 KNCI-JVE LTD general manager explained.

Ollomi who is also a coffee producer at Lyamungo village, in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region further explained that, producing coffee through organic farming is cheaper than using industrial fertilisers and other agriculture inputs like coffee pest controls which are sold at high prices; and the world market for organic coffee is rising day to day and fetches high prices.

Commenting on the organic coffee farming, one of the small coffee producers who moved from inorganic farming to organic farming Hansi Mangowi explained that, "The positive impact of using such industrial chemicals in growing coffee was gives better quantity of harvests but poor quality on the market price. On the negative side, conventional agriculture destroyed soil fertility that forced me to cultivate other food crops like banana, beans, maize within the same farm after every three years just looking for fertile land..."

He added that, he has an experience of more than 13 years in the organic coffee farming and he was enjoying the fruits of getting good markets and high prices of his commodity.

"On the negative side, conventional agriculture destroyed soil fertility that forced me to cultivate other food crops like banana, beans, maize within the same farm after every three years just looking for fertile land..."



Request for Quotation RFQ No. 3321

For supply and delivery of 40 feet containers

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. For more than 40 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites sealed bids from eligible registered suppliers for supply and delivery of nine (9) 40 feet containers in specified locations listed below.

- Three (3) 40 feet containers to be delivered in Shinyanga at Shinyanga Regional Hospital compound.
- Three (3) 40 feet containers to be delivered in Dar es Salaam at Mwananyamala Hospital compound.
- Three (3) 40 feet containers to be delivered in Njombe at Kibena Hospital in Njombe Town Council.

All bidders should include in their bids

- A copy of business registration,
- A copy of business license,
- At least three references for similar supply in recent years and evidence of such supply.

The proposed cost should cover all associated costs that include but not limited to delivery, offloading, etc. of containers to the specified locations above.

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the following address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org.

All bids in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed plain envelopes must be delivered to the address given below before **Friday, 24th January 2020 at 10:00 A.M.** The sealed envelopes should be marked as **"RFQ No. 3321 for supply and delivery of 40 feet containers"**

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to offeror's. The Jhpiego is under no obligation to accept the lowest proposal.

Late bids, electronic proposals, proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Offers must be delivered on or before the due date to:

The Country Director
Jhpiego Tanzania
Plot No. 72, Block 45B, Victoria Area, New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388

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MADRASA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME- ZANZIBAR (MECP-Z)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION – CURRENT AND POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Madrasa Early Childhood Programme – Zanzibar (MECP-Z), formally Zanzibar Madrasa Resource Centre, is an Early Childhood Development (ECD) organization supported by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). MECP-Z has been implementing ECD programs in Zanzibar for over 24 years. MECP-Z received full registration as a pre-primary Teacher Training Institute and others.

MECP-Z intends to draw up a new preferred supplier/service provider's list to ensure that we get the best possible supply rates, quality discounts, payment terms and efficiency. It is also our intention to deal with compliant companies who adhere to internationally accepted corporate governance guidelines. If you wish to consider, please apply on your company letter head.

Scope of Work

MECP-Z invites application from qualified and competent firms for the purpose of pre-qualifying suppliers for goods, services and works for the year 2020 - 2021

S/N	SERVICE CATERGORY
1	Stationeries and office supplies
2	Teaching materials and teachers' resources
3	Restaurant – Catering services (Unguja)
4	Restaurant – Catering services (Pemba)
5	Printing (books, periodicals, posters, etc.)
6	Hotel Accommodations in Zanzibar, Dar –es- salaam, Mtwara, Lindi and Pemba.
7	Travel agency – Air Tickets
8	Freight/currier services
9	Tours/car hire/taxis
10	Office equipment and furniture
11	Vehicle Fuel
13	Vehicle maintenance and repair
14	Electric equipment repair (Unguja)
15	Electric equipment repair (Pemba)
16	Car Parts and tire supplies
17	Meeting and Conference Halls in Zanzibar and Pemba
18	Drinking water and office refreshments
19	Illustration and cartoon designs
20	Premises maintenance (water, electricity, painting etc)
21	Vehicle insurance
22	Security Service (Pemba)
23	Internet service Unguja and Pemba
24	Children books

Bidder Specification;

VAT registration, TIN No., Brief company profile, copy of Certificate of Incorporation, specified category of service/product dealt in, list of previous customers and referees, banker's details and functional bank numbers, and declaration of conflict of interest.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their bids including contacts details before the close of business (04:30 pm) on Monday, 20th January 2020 to the Procurement Committee, Madrasa Early childhood Programme – Zanzibar, Kiponda Street. P.O. Box 3716, Zanzibar, Tanzania or E mail: info.mecpz@akfea.org

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Consolidated public sector accounting system is a growth input

TREASURY officials were all smiles at the beginning of the week as the minister Dr Phillip Mpango launched a new electronic fiscal administration format, the Government Accounting Consolidation System (GACS). Dr Mpango said it would strengthen transparency and accountability in the public sector as well as cut down time and costs for preparing financial reports. Is it just time or something substantial could actually change in financial administration, too?

What was equally interesting from a professional point of view was that this effort was generated and implemented locally, such that the minister says Tanzania has become the first country in Africa to have the standard financial system prepared by local experts. One effect that the minister broaches was that the consolidation of government accounting will boost revenue collection. There was no reference to closing expenditure gaps in implementing projects countrywide, where numerous projects remain undone as the fiscal year ends.

Some pundits would assert that the consolidation is a plus for the work of the Treasury in supervising government accounting and reporting at all levels, as well other spheres of public sector concern. That also implies placing revenue and expenditure (payment of salaries, clients, debts, etc) on a better footing, by reducing bureaucracy owing to limited access to information at upper levels, or among other spheres of government. Consolidation beefs up accountability.

To take a deeper note of the problem the Treasury is addressing, remarks that the minister made when opening a three-day meeting of accountants from ministries and various public

organizations were revealing. He expressed worries not just about financial management at individual entity and whole-of-government before the consolidation move, but something more mundane.

His worries centred on ethics among public sector accountants, and how this affects the capacity of the government and public organizations to meet financial management responsibilities. Even with the consolidated system there was still need to ask for accountants' effort to ensure that the system is protected and maintained for the country's benefit. Not for individual benefit.

The minister said that the fifth phase government's zeal is to see people's lives are being improved, and this is why it is working tirelessly to ensure that resources and public funds are protected. Without question there are others pushing in the opposite direction, and while they will remember that the minister directed the permanent secretary to supervise accountants' ethics and make sure that those found violating rules and principles are punished accordingly, some will just shrug off this appeal, in defiance.

Dr Mpango was facing a lot of challenges with ethics and integrity among accountants in the country, many reportedly getting involved in corrupt practices. He demanded that this be stopped, urging accounting experts to live up to their professional oaths and observe ethical rules when conducting their duties. That significantly requires that they unearth mismanagement of public finances, while some wish to actually do the contrary, and knowing the law, etc.

Exercise may increase life expectancy and the overall quality of life

EXERCISE is any bodily activity that enhances or maintains physical fitness and overall health and wellness. It is performed for various reasons, to aid growth and improve strength, preventing aging, developing muscles and the cardiovascular system, honing athletic skills, weight loss or maintenance, improving health and also for enjoyment. Many individuals choose to exercise outdoors where they can congregate in groups, socialise, and enhance well-being.

In terms of health benefits, the amount of recommended exercise depends upon the goal, the type of exercise, and the age of the person. Even doing a small amount of exercise is healthier than doing none.

Physical exercise is important for maintaining physical fitness and can contribute to maintaining a healthy weight, regulating the digestive system, building and maintaining healthy bone density, muscle strength, and joint mobility, promoting physiological well-being, reducing surgical risks, and strengthening the immune system. Some studies indicate that exercise may increase life expectancy and the overall quality of life.

Most young people around the world are not getting enough physical activity, putting their health at risk, and girls are generally less active than boys, according to a major new study.

More than 80 per cent of school-going adolescents globally do not meet current recommendations of at least one hour of physical activity per day - including 85 per cent of girls and 78 per cent of boys - according to the study, published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* journal and produced by researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The levels of insufficient physical activity in adolescents are compromising their current and future health and contributing to growing obesity rates globally, the

authors said.

The difference in the proportion of boys and girls meeting the recommendations was greater than 10 percentage points in almost one in three countries in 2016, with the biggest gaps seen in the United States and Ireland. Most countries in the study saw this gender gap widen between 2001-2016.

The first-ever study of global physical activity, conducted by researchers from the WHO, Imperial College London and the University of Western Australia, collected data from 1.6 million 11-to-17-year-old students in 146 countries. The assessment included active play, sports, domestic chores, walking, biking and gym class.

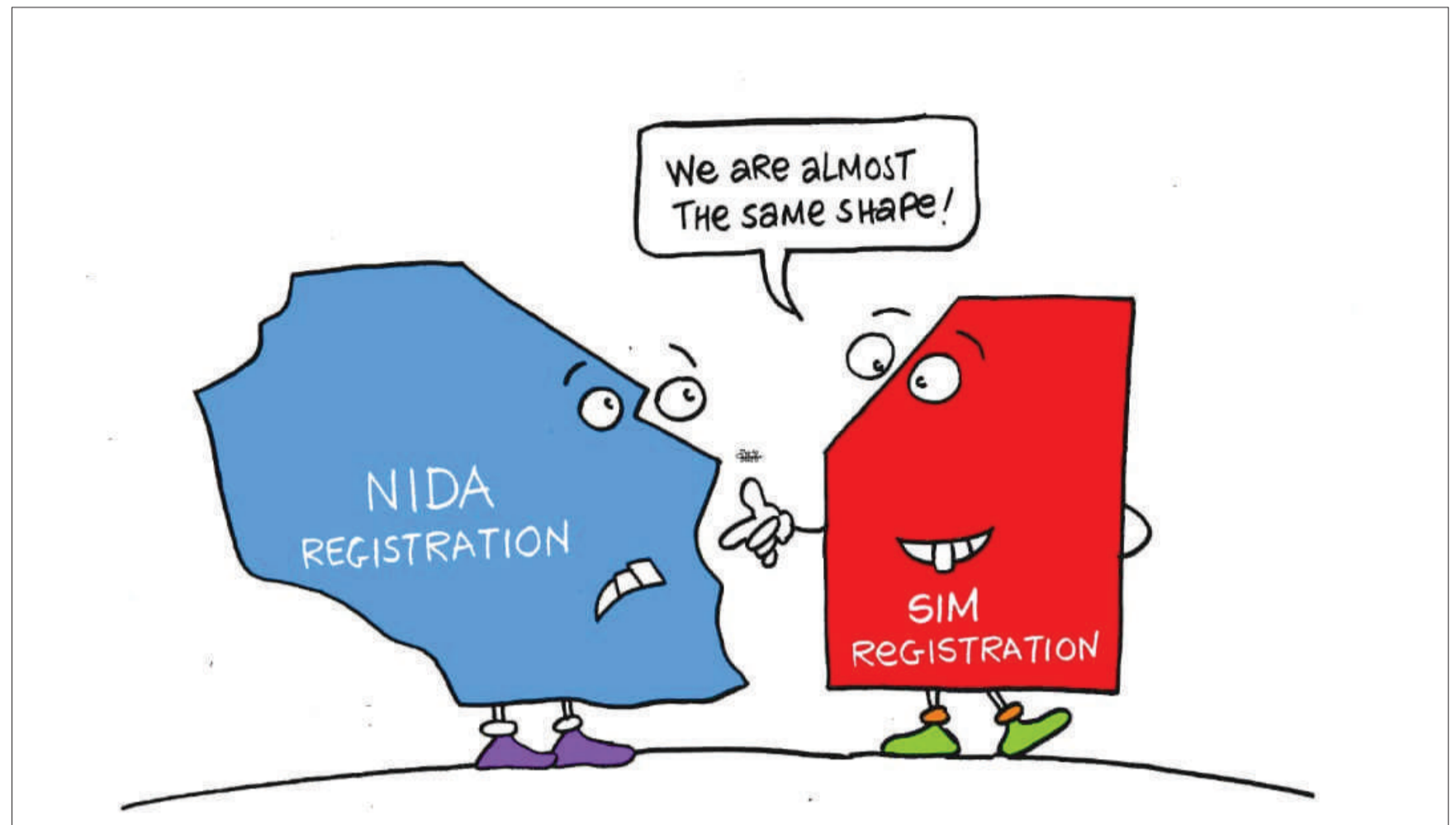
Girls were less active than boys in all but four countries - Tonga, Samoa, Afghanistan and Zambia. In almost three quarters of the countries, this gender gap widened between 2001-2016.

The authors noted that the study included only self-reported information from school-going adolescents. It may have under-reported female-dominated activities such as dance, gymnastics and yoga.

"Girls in a lot of the world are still confined to stereotypical roles, and so much of their activity might occur through domestic chores," said Mark Tremblay, director of Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research at the CHEO Research Institute in Ottawa.

"They may be doing housework while carrying their little sister on their back, which would certainly be moderate to vigorous physical activity. But they might not consider this physical activity. For them, it's just part of their daily routine."

Tremblay recently completed a study in Mozambique, where he found that almost all children living in rural areas far exceeded the WHO's guidelines. "And yet they're ranked 136 out of 146 countries," he said. "It's just blatantly wrong."



The Global Economy's luck may run out

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

COMPARED to this time last year, the prospects for markets and the global economy heading into 2020 are surprisingly bright. But look further ahead and you will encounter deep uncertainty, suggesting that policymakers around the world would do well to implement inclusive-growth policies sooner rather than later.

This being December, my natural inclination is to review the past year's economic and financial developments to help policymakers and investors anticipate what might be coming in 2020. This year is ending on a relatively positive note, especially when compared to the same time last year. There is hope of a global growth pickup, trade tensions have lessened, and central banks have reaffirmed that they will maintain ultra-low interest rates and continue to provide ample liquidity. Financial volatility is subdued, and there are reasonable expectations of solid investor returns across many asset classes.

As tempting as it is to dwell on current financial and macroeconomic conditions, doing so risks obfuscating a key element in the outlook for the future. There is a curious contrast between the relative clarity of expectations for the near term and the murkiness and uncertainty that comes when one extends the horizon further - say, to the next five years.

Many countries are facing structural uncertainties that could have far-reaching, systemic implications for markets and the global economy. For example, over the next five years, the European Union will seek to establish a new working relationship with the United Kingdom, while also dealing with the harmful social and political effects of slow, insufficiently inclusive growth.

The EU will have to navigate the perils of a prolonged period of negative interest rates, while also shoring up its economic and financial core. As long as the eurozone's architecture is incomplete, consistent risks of instability will remain.

Moreover, in the years ahead, the United States, having notably outperformed many other economies, will decide whether to continue disengaging from the rest of the world - a process that is at odds with its historic position at the center of the global economy.

Or consider China's development process. With the global economy acting more as a drag on growth than a boon to it, China may confront the risk that it has overplayed its hand. Heavy reliance on short-term stimulus



measures is increasingly inconsistent with pursuing the longer-term reforms that it needs, and its geopolitical ambitions and regional economic and financial commitments (including the Belt and Road Initiative) are becoming costlier.

Most important, in the next five years, China and the US, the world's two largest national economies, will have to navigate an increasingly narrow path as they try to secure their own interests while avoiding an outright confrontation.

Such fluidity clouds the economic, financial, institutional, political, and/or social outlook for other countries. Today's macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties will amplify those fueled by technological disruptions, climate change, and demographics. And they will raise questions about the functioning and resilience of the global economy and markets.

This degree of uncertainty is particularly notable in the multi-decade context of globalization. In recent years, the stability that comes with broad-based adherence to the rules-based international order has been considerably weakened, as has the power of central banks to repress financial volatility and buy time for the real economy.

Left unmanaged, these medium-term structural trends would set the stage for greater political and social fragmentation, and raise the specter of secular de-globalization. If there is one thing that neither the global

economy nor markets are wired for, it is a prolonged and deepening rupture in cross-border economic and financial relations. Were such a new paradigm to materialize, today's trade, investment, and currency tensions would intensify and spill over to the realm of national security and geopolitics.

Bad outcomes are not inevitable (at least not yet). They could still be averted through the sustained implementation of policies to promote stronger, more inclusive growth; restore genuine financial stability; and usher in a fairer, more credible (while still free) system of international trade, investment, and policy coordination.

But much will depend on the functioning of politics in the near term. Going into 2020, politicians have a favorable runway from which to launch the policies needed to extend the positive short-term outlook into the medium and long term. Worries about global recession have receded, financial conditions are ultra-accommodating, and US-China trade tensions have de-escalated. But these auspicious circumstances will not last forever.

Unfortunately, a policy push that could improve and clarify the medium-term outlook is unlikely. The US is entering a tense and divisive election year. Germany, Italy, and Spain are in the midst of difficult political transitions. The EU is dealing with Brexit and other regional divisions. And China's government is trying to consolidate power in the face of slowing growth and continuing protests in Hong Kong. The main worry - one that too few

market participants have spotted - is that over the next five years, global economic and market conditions may need to deteriorate nearer to crisis levels before national, regional, and multilateral political systems muster an adequate response.

Fortunately, we are now in a period when action could be taken to prevent the worst-case scenario from becoming a binding reality. Let us hope that I'm wrong about today's political paralysis. As long as there is still time, there is a chance that policymakers will follow the advice offered by then-IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde in October 2017: "Fix the roof while the sun is shining."

Mohamed A. El-Erian, Chief Economic Adviser at Allianz, the corporate parent of PIMCO where he served as CEO and co-Chief Investment Officer, was Chairman of US President Barack Obama's Global Development Council. He is President-Elect of Queens' College (Cambridge University), senior adviser at Gramercy, and Part-time Practice Professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He previously served as CEO of the Harvard Management Company and Deputy Director at the International Monetary Fund. He was named one of Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers four years running. He is the author, most recently, of *The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse*.

10 times these habits will fail you career wise

As the new year unfolds and our resolutions being as fresh as the morning air, it's just but the right time period of reflection...reflecting back at our lives around every little detail.

Looking back at life and at what gives it meaning, purpose and career and as long as you are building and nurturing something, which is your career in this case, this is probably the most relevant information you need right now.

Some of the mistakes we have made are those that if we were told beforehand, we would steer off from. In fact, we would have moved on faster if we didn't make them but it's all good. Let's discuss moving on.

Let's talk about not making any more costly mistakes. How about a shift for good and a better career lifestyle?

Mark you, most people live in fear of making career mistakes and ruining their chances to a great career. This is completely understandable. However, you should know that mistakes are normal and part of learning and most mistakes rarely leave a permanent mark anyway.

The career mistakes that should worry you are the seemingly subtle and hard-



to-notice ones that burrow into your character and ultimately affect your employability.

Carelessness

The greatest disservice you could ever do to yourself is thinking and feeling that you have achieved all you need to achieve and are now just basking in the glory of your achievements forever. It doesn't matter where you are in your career journey, never settle and feel like you don't need more growth. Strive to learn something

new each day and grow.

Losing focus, feeding distractions

What was your initial career dream? Where did you envision yourself today five years ago? Where are you today? Be careful not to get lost in the everyday bustle and lose sight of your initial career dreams and aspirations. If you always wanted to work in a certain department industry and are not yet there, use what you have now and where you are now to get you there.

Work every day towards your career dreams.

Putting your skills in a waiting bench

In the ever-changing world of technology and changing trends, time and tide will not wait for you. If you don't gain new skills constantly, you are going to become obsolete or average real quick. There is a lot of competition in the average corner because people there all look alike with the same qualifications and skills, fighting for the same op-

portunities. The skills you gain here and there elevate you and make you stand out. Take classes, network and stay abreast with what is hot in your industry.

Constant change of jobs

Grass is not always greener on the other side, often times, it's the same grass. The habit of always checking out other companies and industries thinking that they are more exciting or they pay better will hurt your



career. There is absolutely nothing wrong with changing jobs, but you cannot be on a constant job search mode all year. When will you actually settle and learn your job enough to grow in the role? Be strategic when looking for another job and ensure you go to a better company. Do your homework and find out all the pros and cons then make a decision.

Self doubt

Confidence is key and self-confidence is crucial for any undertaking in your life. This is not just about your career journey, but all the spheres of your life. You need to believe in yourself to excel and perform as expected. People won't believe in you if you don't. Whatever esteem issues you might have, start working on them to increase your confidence level.

Burning Bridges

It's easy to let emotions take over whenever you have an issue with someone. Remember to act professional and keep your calm. You never know the future and what could happen later. The professional world is

so small and people meet in different avenues. The secret is to be professional in all circumstances even those that tempt you to act irrationally.

Wasting Time

Time is a precious resource. Unfortunately, time is also the most misused resource. When it comes to your career, how you spend your time makes the difference between a stagnant career and growing one. It is easy to get caught up in being a busy body, spending your energy on things that don't bring you much value. Be strategic in how you spend your time and energy. Learn to work smart and always ask yourself how something is helping your career grow.

Not trusting your intuition

Your intuition is your sixth sense. Learn to listen to it and to follow it. Most of the time, you already know the decision to make and the way to go. Your mind is the one that needs convincing. Learn to trust your instincts. Ignoring your gut mean cutting yourself from your own oasis of creativity and inno-

vation.

Pessimism

Most organizational cultures encourage positive thinking. This doesn't mean that you don't speak up when you see things going wrong. It means don't be the one who always sees why certain strategies or projects will fail. Come up with solutions or alternatives that will work.

The mentality that your job will last forever

Any job can come to an end anytime. It might not have to do with your performance. There are a whole lot of other reasons why companies shut down. Therefore, do not sit there, get comfortable and relax. Always have a contingency. Work on improving your skills to remain relevant in your industry.

Keep your career tuned up and moving forward, and live your work life free of regret.

Don't ever think that only you exist in your world. People watch, observe and learn. So look the part. Dress the part, talk the part and behave the part.

Refugee diaries: 10 years in immigration detention in Australia

Sydney, Australia

With more than 7,000 men, women and children in migrant detention centres across Australia, the country has earned notoriety for its tough border protection policies, which have been condemned for breaching international human rights.

Behind the barricades are refugees and migrants, who have fled from across the world in the hope of building a new home in Australia.

For many, however, Australia's detention centres have become their unlikely home, with their dreams of freedom shattered by what they say is a never-ending wait to be released.

Here are two of their stories from detention.

Stateless Said

January 28, 2010 at 6:45pm Melbourne International Airport

Said Imasi arrives at Melbourne International Airport from Norway. He is escorted by police out of the terminal and taken to a hotel room for interrogation.

The 21-year-old is suspected of having a stolen Norwegian passport. Three days later, officers confirm the document is fake, and Said is taken immediately to a detention centre.

Dubbed a stateless man, Said's case is rare. He does not know where he was born and has had more than eight different names. At the age of six, a non-government organisation found Said abandoned in Western Sahara.

The charity sent him to an orphanage on the Spanish island of Las Palmas.

From there he was shifted from orphanage to orphanage across Europe until, at the age of 10, Said escaped an abusive foster family in Belgium.

After fleeing, he spent



Demonstrators rally in Melbourne in support of a Tamil family, who were sent to the remote Australian territory of Christmas Island. There are more than 7,000 men, women and children in migrant detention centres across the country. File photo

weeks on the streets, train-hopping from country to country.

"The first time I've ever experienced love was in Holland." Still a child, a drug gang adopted Said as one of their own.

"They fed me and clothed me. They even bought me shoes. I'd never had sneakers before that."

Said unknowingly became an international drug mule and was sent on cross-border missions to make deliveries.

"I never asked what it was. I would just listen and do what they told me."

In 2004, Said was caught and arrested in Norway. While in a jail for juveniles, he was sent to a care family by child protection services.

For the first time in his life, he attended school, developed a passion for sport, joined a running team and turned his back on crime.

"I was happy with my life until the gang started to contact me again, threatening me to

come back or they would hurt me I had to run away."

Bound for New Zealand, Said borrowed a passport from a friend and left Norway on the 27th of January in 2010.

February 13, 2019 at 4pm, High Court of Australia

The now 30-year-old Said Imasi stands before all seven judges of the High Court of Australia. His lawyers are attempting to overturn legislation, which allows the indefinite detention of those who have no trace of their past.

Surrounded by the friends he has made among the community groups visiting the detention centre, Said buries his face in his hands as the chief justice rejects the case.

Whether he will ever be released is unclear. His future is in limbo and he remains in the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in Sydney.

Ghader, a father deprived 2009, Iran Ghader leads a protest in the

streets against the oppression of his minority group. He is an Ahvazi from Iran; an Arab people who mostly live in the country's resource-rich southwest, on the border with Iraq.

His speech against the government lands him on a hit list.

"If I stayed I would've been killed straight away, that's what happened to so many like me. If I ever go back I will be killed straight away and so will my family, because they lied to protect me when I left. They have even made a death certificate for me already."

2010, Christmas Island

A total of 88 men, women and children reach the shores of Christmas Island, having travelled from Indonesia squashed onto a rusted and rickety boat. Ghader is among them.

"I was excited, I thought Australia was a free country," Ghader told Al Jazeera.

But Ghader languished in detention for two years while his

refugee status was being processed before he was granted a bridging visa.

Although the visa did not allow him to work, study, earn an income or access public health services it did allow him the freedom to meet a partner, marry and start a family.

In Australia's second city of Melbourne, he met his wife.

"We had a good life, we were very happy."

2015, Melbourne

Ghader was eight-months shy of becoming a father when he was called by an immigration official and told his visa was being cancelled, because he did not meet the requirements of refugee status.

He was sent back to detention.

2015, Melbourne Immigration Detention Centre

Ghader holds his newborn baby Aisha tightly in his arms.

"I asked them to take me to hospital so I could be there for

her birth, but they didn't. They said they refused for security reasons."

A few days later, guards barge into Ghader's cell, demanding he pack his belongings. Cuffed and shoved into the back of a van, he kept quiet, peering through the windows, trying to make out what was going on.

He learns he is being flown back to Christmas Island.

"I begged them not to take me because my daughter was in Melbourne, and there's no way for me to see her on Christmas Island."

2017, Christmas Island

After several failed court cases, Ghader receives a letter with an ultimatum from the then-Immigration Minister Peter Dutton. He is given two options: go back to Iran or remain in indefinite detention in Australia.

"This is what started to create problems between me and my wife. She lost hope, she didn't know if she would ever

see me again."

Ghader's wife filed for divorce later that year.

"I asked them many times to send me to Melbourne so I could be close to my daughter, but they sent me to Villawood instead."

Ghader has been detained in the Sydney facility for almost two years and is currently being held in the maximum-security Blaxland wing, in the company of hardened prisoners. Ghader is the only inmate in the compound with no criminal record.

"They treat me like I am a criminal. They judge me because I have a beard and I pray. When I first arrived, I didn't eat for almost a month because every day they would serve me pork. I told them every day, I don't eat pork because of my religion, but they still did it."

Al Jazeera contacted the minister of Home Affairs to ask about Ghader's allegations and why such stringent laws were in place. A statement from the ministry said each case is assessed on its own merits, while refusing to comment on the specific cases Al Jazeera investigated.

The last time Ghader saw his daughter was almost five years ago when Aisha was just a couple of months old. He has never heard her speak or watched her walk, and will not be there to hold Aisha's hand on her first day of school next year.

Year 2020 will mark 10 years in detention for Said and Ghader. After several failed attempts to seek refuge in Australia, now all they want is freedom, wherever it may find them.

"I wish they would send me to another country, any country, but they said no. They only want to send me to Iran but if I go, I know I will be hanged. My message to human rights activists is if you really exist, act immediately," Ghader said.

AGENCIES

US-Iran tensions: What war powers does Trump have?

Washington, DC

Tensions between the United States and Iran escalated dramatically last week after US President Donald Trump ordered the killing of top Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq.

Iran promised to retaliate, and delivered on Wednesday, with missile attacks on two Iraqi bases housing US troops.

Following the attacks, Trump tweeted "all is good". He is set to make a televised statement on Iran at 11am EST (16:00GMT) on Wednesday.

Trump had previously threatened to "fully strike back" if Iran attacked any US citizen or site belonging to the US.

"The United States will quickly & fully strike back, & perhaps in a disproportionate manner," Trump tweeted over the weekend. He also said the US had identified 52 Iranian targets the US could strike, including Iranian cultural sites, which could constitute a war crime if carried out.

Angered that they were not consulted before the killing of Soleimani, House Democrats have planned a vote on a War Powers Resolution "to limit the president's military actions regarding Iran" later this week.

The Trump administration has defended killing Soleimani, claiming the Iranian commander was planning an "imminent" attack on US forces in Iraq.

As the House prepares a vote, here is a look at the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and how it fits into the context of current tensions between Iran and the US:

What is the US War Powers Resolution of 1973?

Under the US Constitution,



Trump comments at a press conference following the US military killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, Iraq. File photo

the authority to direct military action is divided between Congress and the president.

Congress has the power to declare war while the president, as commander-in-chief, has the power to use the military to defend the US.

From the beginning, presidents and Congress have disputed whether presidents have the constitutional authority to send forces into hostilities abroad without congressional authorisation, according to a history of the law prepared by the Congressional Research Service.

Such disputes gave way to the War Powers Resolution -

also known as the War Powers Act - which was enacted in 1973 about the veto of then-President Richard Nixon. Congress wanted to constrain Nixon's ability to further commit US forces to the unpopular Vietnam War.

The law sets out procedures for Congress and the president to follow when sending US forces into hostilities.

It requires the president to consult "in every possible instance" with Congress before sending troops into actual or imminent hostilities and then submit a report to Congress any time US forces are deployed to conflicts or imminent conflict.

The president must also report to Congress within 48 hours of US forces being introduced to hostilities.

Once forces are committed, the resolution requires withdrawal within 60 days (90 days in some circumstances) unless Congress authorises the use of force, or extends the time limit.

Why are war powers an issue now?

The air raid Trump ordered on Soleimani - a significant escalation - late last month in Iraq was undertaken without consultation or notice to Congress. It put US forces into imminent conflict, even a potential war with Iran that

Congress has not authorised, Democrats argue.

The Trump administration has ratcheted up tensions with Iran since taking office in 2017. One of Trump's first decisions was to unilaterally withdraw from the 2015 United Nations-backed Iran nuclear deal, the JCPOA.

What will Congress do now?

The US House of Representatives is expected to vote this week on a War Powers Resolution seeking to limit Trump's ability to act against Iran, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced on Sunday.

"Last week, the Trump administration conducted a

provocative and disproportionate military air strike targeting high-level Iranian military officials," Pelosi, a Democrat, said in a statement.

"This action endangered our service members, diplomats and others by risking a serious escalation of tensions with Iran," she said.

In the US Senate, where the resolution is expected to face an uphill battle, Democratic Senator Tim Kaine said he will demand a vote from the Republican majority.

"We should not go to war

with Iran based on a presidential decision with no consultation of Congress," Kaine told MSNBC television last week.

"We can't let the president make this decision on his own," Kaine said. Even if a resolution passes in the House and Senate, it would likely face a Trump veto.

The Trump administration will give a classified briefing to congressional leaders on Tuesday. The full House and Senate will receive separate classified briefings on Wednesday.

When has Congress authorised war?

After the September 11, 2001 al-Qaeda attacks in the US, Congress authorised the use of military force in Afghanistan and globally against al-Qaeda.

In 2002, Congress gave President George W Bush authority to invade Iraq on the pretext - later proved false - that then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was building weapons of mass destruction.

Beginning in June 2014, former President Barack Obama notified Congress repeatedly of strikes and deployments against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS) in Syria.

Obama and Trump claimed authority from the 2001 and 2002 authorisations by Congress for the military campaign against ISIL.

In recent years, there has been a continuing debate in Congress on whether the 2001 and 2002 authorisations should be replaced with a new, more narrowly tailored congressional authority for US military action.

The US currently has 60,000 troops in the Middle East and North Africa, according to the Pentagon.

Agencies

ORBITUARY

Prof. Kezilahabi: A paragon of Kiswahili who is no more

By Michael Eneza

LITERARY guru turned political leader, Professor Euphrase Kezilahabi (pictured), is no more, exiting the world three months before reaching the age of 77, which he would have celebrated on April 13, and thus for connoisseurs, the same birthday as the founder president, Mwalimu Nyerere. Unlike most others in the literary club, the late Kezilahabi was as much a writer as an academic, thus exerted much wider influence in that field, as he was also a leader in interpreting African literature as a whole, apart from having made substantial contributions in the same direction. His entrance into politics was somewhat uneventful, but he will be counted among opposition MPs who saw the rationale and huge importance of the work being conducted by President Dr John Magufuli, and in a visit mid last year in his constituency, he said it loud.

A brief online writeup says that the late Prof. Kezilahabi was born on 13th April 1944, and speaks of him as a Tanzanian novelist, poet, and scholar. Born in Ukerewe, he was at the time of writing the online brief biography based at the University of



Botswana, where he was an associate professor at the Department of African Languages. It notably underlined that he wrote his literary works in Swahili, and has delivered talks on subjects such as 'Aesthetic Ambivalence in Modern Swahili' and 'The Concept of the Hero in African Fiction.' That makes him a pair with another noted literary academic, but not a writer in Kiswahili, Professor Fikeni Senkoro, who did plenty of work on 'The Prostitute in African Literature.'

Among the more well known works of the late literary figure are 'Dunia Uwanja wa Fujo' that is cited as a 1985 work, and to the surprise of a few veterans, 'Rosa Mistika' is said to have appeared in 1988, whereas in actual fact that must have been a reprint. It means that the book was readmitted into circulation as the second phase government liberalized media activity or information generally, and by implication the literary and educational fields as a whole. The novel came out in the late 1960s or at most early 1970s, as some of us remember when we were in secondary school, still unfamiliar with what books are in bookshops, to have seen notices in school, 'Rosa Mistika ni marufuku shuleni.' It was just banned.

That implies the late novelist and poet had an audacity from an early age to tackle literary themes that run counter

to whitewashing especially of African culture, or projecting trends as seen in society but which ought to be occulted, for the same of the mroal upbringing of the young. It is an unsettled issue both in literature and in psychology if the young grow up properly by wide education and cultivating the capacity to choose, or by narrow education and physical constraint as to choosing the wrong thing. But strictly speaking there is no answer as no one can deny the corrupting effects of liberty on the youth, but society or most modernizing societies long since discarded authoritarian environments as key to right education.

This inclination on the late Prof. Kezilahabi's part is noticed in a thematic anthology of his poems not long ago, around 2015, titled, Stray Truths: Selected Poems of Euphrase Kezilahabi with translations done by Annmarie Drury. Some other novels or literary works are cited to have been published during the 1980s/90s, namely Mzingile - 1991, Nagona - 1990 and Karibu Ndani - 1988, apart from the literary academic work, The Concept of the Hero in African Fiction - 1983, along with the republished Rosa Mistika - 1988. It was in the period that he taught or visited foreign universities that budding literary enterprises like the Poetry Translation Centre picked a number of his poems for exten-

sive introduction to an English speaking audience, as unavoidably it would be impossible to expect the author to do the work.

There are some auxiliary themes that arise from his work and in many cases the work of other as well, for instance in a work apparently produced in Tanzania, titled The Swahili Novel: Challenging the Idea of 'minor Literature,' <https://books.google.co.tz/books>. It is unclear if this debate has been taken up or might even have started in foreign universities, as there seems to be some stakeholders working with academics at the University of Dar es Salaam on the importance of Swahili literature standing on its own, not as a 'minor' subject to what has appeared in English. Xavier Garnier in 2013 Literary Criticism journal is reported to affirm that Africans will have reached a far higher standard of education than is possible at (present) or advance, if the one medium of expression of the special genius of their race. (implying Kiswahili) would have enabled literature and thinking 'from the interior' like in the works of Mhina, Kezilahabi and Ruhumbika when they started publishing. It means the English medium of instruction has been a burden to authentic expression on the basis of what the French critic is affirming.

The later professor, as his teaching touched general themes of learning and not just literary criticism and even the place of the Swahili novel, is said by some of his former students as having taken them into a world of amazement by insights into life, for instance via the curriculum subject of psychoanalysis. Had this former student (of other dons, not Prof. Kezilahabi) been part of his class at some moment, it would have been interesting to see if what he was teaching in psychoanalysis would tie up with the prohibited Rosa Mistika, even if by then it would have been freed for reading. The former student now an executive in the media says the late don 'had a very good understanding of language and how it governs the reflexes and feelings of a person. In the psychoanalysis course he used to give an example why the girl child in the family so much likes her father such that she starts being envious of her mother, and vice versa.' It would be interesting to know where the mistake lies here, not in the formulation but attribution, if indeed it was the professor who did not tell students that this the notion of Oedipus Complex in the Swiss psychiatrist and founder of psychoanalysis, the good Prof. Dr. Sigmund Freud at the start of the 20th century, surely.

'World's worst' measles outbreak kills 6,000 people in the DRC

KINSHASA

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for more funding to stop what it has described as "the world's worst measles epidemic" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

More than 6,000 people have died of measles in the central African nation since the start of 2019, with 310,000 suspected measles cases reported.

According to the BBC, every one of the country's 26 provinces reported measles cases last year.

In a statement, the WHO said more than 18 million children under the age of five were vaccinated against the disease last year, but routine vaccination coverage remains low in some areas.

According to the WHO, the epidemic has been made worse by factors such as low vaccination levels in vulnerable communities, as well as

malnutrition, weak public health systems in the country and outbreaks of other diseases, such as Ebola.

But the WHO said a lack of funding was "a huge impediment" to curbing the outbreak.

"We are doing our utmost to bring this epidemic under control," WHO regional director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said in the statement.

"Yet to be truly successful we must ensure that no child faces the unnecessary risk of death from a disease that is easily preventable by a vaccine," Dr Moeti said.

"We urge our donor partners to urgently step up their assistance."

The WHO said \$US27.6 million (\$40.2 million) had already been spent fighting the outbreak, but another \$US40 million was needed to extend vaccinations to children between six and 14 years of age.

Twenty-five per cent of the reported measles cases in the country are in chil-



The WHO says more is needed to be done to curb a deadly outbreak of measles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

dren over the age of five.

"We recognise the Government's

engagement in the efforts to end the

outbreak and we are grateful for the

generosity of our donors," officer in

charge of WHO office in the DRC Ame-

dee Prosper Djigumde said in the statement.

"But we still need to do more."

"Thousands of Congolese families need our help to lift the burden of this prolonged epidemic from their backs. We cannot achieve this without adequate finances."

Measles cases resurgent worldwide

Last year, WHO experts warned of an "alarming upsurge" of cases in pockets of unvaccinated people in all regions of the world.

WHO data shows the number of cases quadrupled from the same period in 2018 in the first three months of last year.

In December, the South Pacific island nation of Samoa lifted a six-week emergency after bringing a deadly measles outbreak under control.

More than 5,600 people were infected with 81 people dying from measles up to December.

Late last year, Western

Australia experienced its worst outbreak of measles in two decades, with 28 reported cases from late September to late October.

This week, the Port Moresby General Hospital confirmed a five-month-old child had been diagnosed with measles. Two other cases of measles have already been detected in the country.

Measles can be prevented with two doses of a vaccine that has been proven to be safe and effective and has been in use since the 1960s.

The measles virus causes coughing, rashes and fever and can lead to potentially fatal complications including pneumonia and an inflammation of the brain known as encephalitis.

Recent studies have revealed that measles is more dangerous than doctors previously realised because it destroys immunity that the victim has acquired to other diseases.

UN switches from cash to food aids to relieve Zimbabwe's hunger crisis

HARARE

THE UN has decided to substitute cash transfers with food donations in its new bid to combat the hunger crisis that has put the lives of 8 million people in Zimbabwe at risk.

Speaking at an interview during his latest visit to Zimbabwe, Gerry Bourke, spokesperson for the UN's World Food Program in southern Africa, said the move was necessitated by the limited local currency available.

"Zimbabweans who we support are telling us please give us food, please don't give us cash because cash becomes devalued so quickly," Bourke said in the Jan 2 interview.

Zimbabwe is currently facing its worst hunger crisis in 10 years, with more than half of the country's 16 million people now considered food-insecure and most households being unable to obtain enough food to meet basic needs due to climate change and hyperinflation.

In December last year the UN issued a warning stating Zimbabwe, once seen as Africa's breadbasket, is in the grip of starvation.

"In rural areas, a staggering 5.5 million people are facing food insecurity as poor rains and erratic weather patterns are impacting harvests and livelihoods. In urban areas, an estimated 2.2 million people are food-insecure and lack access to minimum public services including health

and safe water," the statement by UN experts reads.

As Zimbabwe is a landlocked country, food has to be shipped into ports in South Africa and Mozambique then trucked into Zimbabwe. This was one of the reasons the UN preferred cash transfers as opposed to food donations. However, Zimbabwe's economic performance has negatively affected the livelihoods of both rural and urban households due to severe cash shortages and an increase in price of cereals, prompting the UN to switch to food donations.

According to the UN statement, eight of Zimbabwe's 59 districts have acute malnutrition rates of over five percent, a situation unprecedented in the southern African country.

"Because of this, children are increasingly dropping out of school and being forced into early marriage while others are facing domestic violence, prostitution and sexual exploitation," the statement says.

Even though drought has long been cyclical in southern African countries, climate change has made extreme weather patterns more frequent, with long-term consequences and damage. This combined with economic sanctions and restrictions imposed on the government of Zimbabwe by Western countries have exacerbated the situation by indirectly raising living costs for the civilian population, particularly with food access

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2020: Ramaphosa has everything to win

By Oscar Van Heerden

As the debates rage on as to whether the ANC's 8 January speech will give us as a country a real sense of purpose and direction, I am wearing of the dark clouds gathering with regard to the showdown with the public sector unions and the inevitable arrests of high-profile political types this year.

After what we observed as a very clever strategy by the government with regards to the SAA showdown with the unions, we can safely assume that organised labour will be more ready and prepared for such a showdown at some of the other state-owned enterprises (SoEs), especially Eskom. Placing Eskom under business rescue might in the end not be a bad strategy, but unions will have much more leverage this time around unlike their counterparts at the national carrier. After all, we could do without the national airline but from what we have seen, as citizens we cannot do without electricity, as my good friend Richard Calland so aptly reminds us in his article in the last week of 2019.

Another approach he suggests could be that back-room negotiations resolve such differences and the government and labour find a common solution and approach going forward. I submit to you, that with the economy stagnating, jobs not being created and the cost of living exponentially increasing daily, such a proposition becomes less possible. The unions will not back down and will demand more for their members regardless of the fiscal cliff faced by the entire country, regardless of the unmanageable debt levels and regardless of the overall suffering of the poor.

We were informed late last year by the investigative unit of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) that sufficient evidence has now been

gathered as far as the Estina Dairy Farm saga is concerned and they are now finally ready to act on it and take a second bite at the cherry in our courts. Coupled with this are rumours that the Hawks will be making a request to the Secretary-General of the ANC, Ace Magashule, to avail himself for the submission of a "warning statement" in this regard. As you know, this is merely an opportunity afforded to a suspect to give his or her side of the story. It remains optional and is in a way a warning to a suspect that they have the right to remain silent.

Others face similar prospects as the noose tightens around the necks of perpetrators of State Capture. These are particularly the ones that wanted Cyril Ramaphosa to not win at the all-important Nasrec elective conference of the ANC in December 2017. Calland again puts it so aptly when he states that, "we must remember that exactly two years ago South Africa stood on the edge of a different precipice. In December 2017, Zuma was still in power and the ANC had to choose between two candidates to succeed him as ANC president - reform-minded Ramaphosa and Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, who headed a 'coalition of scoundrels and nationalists' it was the 'ultimate fork in the roads', he said. The arrests of the Eastern Cape group involved in the toilet saga and now the latest arrest of Eskom management types will continue unabated, I'm sure, sending a very clear message that if you were corrupt these last few years and took advantage of the confusion sowed by the Zuptas, best get ready for your impending arrest, my friend. Captains of the industry should take note, the buck is not only going to stop with leaders in the public sector; the Hawks will come for you too. For far too long have you equally been getting away with colluding practices at the expense of the citizenry. Fraud

and corruption even in the private sector will have to face the music. This is how we restore the moral fibre of our country, something the fightback people don't want by hook or by crook. And so, there's talk of retaliation against the president of the country at the National General Council (NGC) of the ANC to be held in June 2020. To beat CR into a political pulp and begin to plant a seed that says he is not fit for the highest office in the land. That he has not adhered to the Nasrec Conference resolutions and that therefore he supposedly serves the interests of white monopoly capital. Off with his head, will become the



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. FILE PHOTO

popular chant. There will be about 3,000 delegates and it will become ground zero for the factions in the ANC. Who will prevail, I hear you ask? For as long as CR and his deputy DD Mabuza sing from the same hymn sheet, the fightback scoundrels will not stand a chance at this NGC. Inasmuch as the Western Cape has succumbed to the allure of the SG and hence is now in his camp, Sihle Zikalala from KwaZulu-Natal has made it abundantly clear that KZN as a province supports the leadership that was elected at the Nasrec Conference and hence will not tolerate any talk or action of divisions and factionalism.

So, as you can see, the ANC is preoccupied with power battles internally, and yet we should ready ourselves for the upcoming local government elections. We should be debating government debt and how best we can resolve this impasse. The crisis in the energy sector and why we are not moving faster on the implementation of independent energy providers and alternative energy methods. This is what we should be concerned about - but alas. We should concern ourselves with the fact that the South African polity is essentially a stable one, with the Constitution accepted across the board as the

broad framework for the regulation of sociopolitical relations. Its articulation of different generations of rights lends it a progressive character for the pursuit of speedier transformation. Instead, we quibble over the mandate of the Reserve Bank. Seriously? I'm sure you will all agree, a worrying trend in the recent period has been the tendency for leaders of various sectors of society, especially in the political arena, to seek judicial resolution for matters that can be managed through other channels. On the one hand, such "lawfare" can suck the judiciary into the maelstrom of day-to-day societal management and thus unnecessarily splatter it with mud. On the other, repeated attempts of this kind, into which huge resources are thrown, do suggest that some privileged sectors of society seek to undermine the popular electoral mandate. Furthermore, a popular protest has been part of South Africa's body politic for many years in the post-1994 period. The levels of poverty and inequality will certainly inflame passions, even as progress is made to deal with these challenges. This is the flammable social tinder that the democratic state has to manage, through practical action and by continuously infusing the hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

Civil society in South Africa has historically been among the most vocal and active. From community to sector-based organisations, these have added to the legitimacy of the system as they provide a platform for pursuing specific aspirations. May it long still continue. Even with regard to concrete instances of

corruption at any level of government, the sense that there is clear intent and serious action to deal with these matters does give confidence to society about the ethical foundations of our state. Related to the above is the very question of the capacity of state institutions to meet their mandates. When the general impression referred to above can be directly linked to poor capacity within state agencies which is also a consequence of high turnover in the management echelons; poor decision-making that suggests patronage and cover-ups; and appointments that defy any rational logic, the state as a whole starts progressively to lose the confidence of the people.

It is precisely this state of affairs that emboldens forces opposed to transformation to seek to challenge the very legality and legitimacy of the system and to disrupt its stability. They find courage also from the fact that self-declared "revolutionary" elements are adventurously seeking to set the social tinder alight and to assail the legality and legitimacy of the system. These are the critical issues that must preoccupy us all, including the ANC, and yet captains of industry are constantly trying to find ways to get their money out of the country, hence confidence levels are so low and political foes in all our political parties are playing football with each other wanting to see who will ultimately be in charge of a failed state if we are to continue on this current trajectory.

So, strike if you must but think of the long-term consequences please, run, hide and cajole all you like to stay out of prison, but in the end, wrongdoers must be held accountable for their criminal actions, and finally, the time has arrived, Mr President, for bold decision-making. It won't be popular, but it might just be what the country needs. As I make explicit in my upcoming book dealing with the outcome of the Nasrec ANC conference, Two minutes to midnight - can 179 votes guarantee our survival, I concur with Calland: "If South Africa, in time, finds that it is well on the road to recovery, the upturn in fortunes will be traced back to the decision to elect Ramaphosa."

DM

'Devastating surge' of attacks in Sahel and West Africa

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations envoy for West Africa and the Sahel says the region has experienced "a devastating surge in terrorist attacks against civilian and military targets" in recent months.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that the "unprecedented terrorist

violence" had shaken public confidence in the region.

He said attacks have increased five-fold in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger since 2016 with more than 4,000 deaths reported in 2019 compared with an estimated 770 deaths three years before.

In Burkina Faso, deaths rose even more dramatically from about 80 in 2016 to more than 1,800 in 2019, he said.

"Most significantly, the geographic focus of terrorist attacks has shifted eastwards from Mali to Burkina Faso and is increasingly threatening West African coastal states," Chambas said.

The UN envoy said attacks are often "deliberate efforts by violent extremists to capture weapons and trafficking routes" and engage in illicit activities including illegal mining that

sustain their operations.

Among the latest attacks was a rocket attack on Thursday on a base in northern Mali's restive Kidal region that wounded 20 people, including 18 UN peacekeepers, according to the UN spokesman in Mali.

Residents and a military source told the Reuters news agency that about 20 soldiers were killed and nearly 1,000 people made homeless on Tuesday



Attacks increased five-fold in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger since 2016 with more than 4,000 deaths reported in 2019. File photo

evening in an attack on a town in Borno state in northeastern Nigeria.

Another one was Monday's roadside bombing in Mali's central region of Alatona, near the border with Mauritania, that left at least five soldiers dead. More than 140 Malian soldiers have been killed in armed attacks since September.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb attack in Burkina Faso also killed 14 people, including seven children and four women.

On Christmas Eve, 35 civilians, mostly female, were killed following an attack on a military outpost in Burkina Faso's northern Soum Province.

Chambas said governments,

local "actors," regional organisations and the international community are mobilising to respond to the violence across West Africa and the Sahel.

Chambas urged leaders in the region to follow through on pledges to tackle "terrorism", saying now "is the time for action."

In a report to the Security Council in late July, UN experts said "the most striking international developments" during the first six months of 2019 included "the growing ambition and reach of terrorist groups in the Sahel and West Africa" where fighters from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) and al-

Qaeda armed groups were collaborating to undermine fragile countries.

Chambas said the attacks were also often intertwined with organised crime and violence among competing groups.

With close to 70 percent of West Africa's population dependent on agriculture and livestock, he said, clashes between farmers and herders "remain some of the most violent local conflicts in the region."

In the months ahead, he said, six West African countries will choose leaders in democratic elections.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =034=

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

3 letter word: AUD, STY, ROB, EBB, ATE, CPA
 4 letter word: LOIN, CHIC, DOER, AGED
 5 letter word: NDUGU, ENDED, TAUNT, SHANG, CADRE
 6 letter word: ISHTAR, MASONS, BANANA, ERLANG ERASED
 7 letter word: PRIVATE, DRIBBLE,
 8 letter word: POSITIVE,
 9 letter word: SCHEDULES, TRADITION

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
 1. Meeting room (7)
 5. Get to place (6)
 8. Plastic surgery on nose (4,3)
 9. Daughter of sibling (5)
 10. Request (3)
 11. Small drops (3)
 12. Not difficult (4)
 15. Plant yielding fibers (5)
 16. Yellow or green citrus fruit (5)
 17. atrophy of horse's shoulder muscle (6)

Down:
 1. Dare somebody (9)
 2. Former President of Kenya (3)
 3. Before (3)
 4. Hook-shaped devices (6)
 6. Wash (5)
 7. Conferred (6)
 10. Soaked (5)
 13. Identical (4)
 14. Academic field (5)
 15. Ice crystal flakes (4)
 16. Allow (3)

Last Issue's Solutions



'Ibuka Kidedea' through NBC's 'Malengo Account' Campaign Manager, Mtenya Cheya (L), talking to one of the winners of brand new Yamaha motorcycle during a monthly draw held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others in the photo are NBC managers and Gaming Board of Tanzania inspectors. Photo courtesy of NBC.

Public advised to choose 'Malengo Account' to acquire and insure property, pay house rent

By Property Watch Reporter

THE public has been urged to make use of National Bank of Commerce's 'Malengo Account' to acquire property and insure it but also pay house rent as 2020 begins to take shape.

Addressing a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the third draw of an 'Ibuka Kidedea' campaign, NBC Brand and Communication Manager, David Raymond said 'Malengo Account is a solution to various financial challenges facing the people in fulfilling their goals.

Raymond reiterated that the bank's customers should continue using its various services and products to solve their daily financial challenges because NBC has everything for everyone in the market.

"This is the beginning of the year and many Tanzanians are facing a number of responsibilities including paying school fees, house rents, motor vehicles and home insurance. It is important that they should remain close to NBC through 'Malengo Account,'" he said.

He urged members of the public who are yet to open the account to do so and join the majority so that they can fulfill their financial obligations but also get various gifts available throughout the campaign which started in October last year.

Among other awards, luck winners of the campaign have already won 'Bodaboda' motorcycles, paid up trips to Serengeti National Park and the Indian Ocean island of Seychelles.

In yesterday's draw five lucky winners took home brand new Yamaha motorcycles and they were Luka Baraka from Dodoma, Juma Halfani from Ruvuma, Rebeka Ndoshi from Mwanza, Rosemary Kibodya from Dar es Salaam and Restituta Mbuya from Morogoro. In the next draw due in March, three lucky winners will drive away Toyo branded rickshaws each.

Construction of 2000 affordable houses in Naivasha, Kenya to begin

NAIROBI

The construction of 2 000 affordable houses in Naivasha, that targets workers earning between US\$150 and US\$1500 per month, is set to begin next month.

Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui said that they are currently in the process of evaluating bids for the project and that they expect contractors to kick off construction works from February.

Built under a joint partnership between the Nakuru County government, the World Bank and the United Kingdom, the houses will be situated on a 55-acre piece of land in Naivasha on the Nairobi-Nakuru highway near GK Prisons.

The project comes at a time when demand for housing in Naivasha is expected to rise, following the establishment of the planned Naivasha Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which will be home to the proposed Naivasha Industrial Park and the Inland Container Depot.

Several local and foreign investors have also expressed interest in setting up structures and businesses at the SEZ.

"With Naivasha hosting a multibillion-shilling flourishing horticultural sector, a booming hospitality industry, and fast-rising to a commercial hub in East Africa, obviously, the demand for housing is expected to shoot up," said Governor Kinyanjui.

He mentioned that that is why they are speeding up the plans to ensure that the need for housing. Last year, Nakuru was selected by the World Bank as the pioneer county for the realization of the ambitious half a million houses project by 2022. The international lender said that Nakuru needed the critical infrastructure the most.

Besides the expected growth of the population in the county, Nakuru already has insufficient housing infrastructure despite efforts to address the shortage.

ZANZIBAR MULLS BUILDING FLYOVERS TO EASE CONGESTION

By Property Watch Reporter

ZANZIBAR is working on the possibilities of building flyovers in major junctions to ease congestion in the Indian Ocean Archipelago.

Isles' President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein unveiled the plan when speaking during the official inauguration of Kibonde Mzungu Bridge named "Dr Shein Bridge" in West B District, West Urban Region. The function is part of celebrations to mark the 56th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

Dr Shein said a number of successes have been recorded in 56 years; insisting construction of the fly-overs will depend on availability of funds. He said the Infrastructure, Transport and Communication is now working on the project.

He directed the ministry to ensure the contractor

constructing the 'Dr Shein Bridge' completes in February and that he has to also construct part of the road stretch road going to Fuoni police station.

He directed the Department of Road Maintenance (UUB) to make the road coming from the bridge is also connected to the roads heading to Koani since they have all the resources.

He said the government has disbursed 14bn/- for the construction project calling upon officials in the ministry of ensure close supervision of the project.

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communication, Dr Sira Ubwa Mamboya said construction of the bridge will provide relief to the residents because area is usually surrounded by water during rain seasons.

He added, completion of the bridge will make the



road passable through the year.

He commended the government and the Department of Road Maintenance for taking measures to improve roads and bridges in the Isles.

He said most of the roads in Pemba and Unguja are now constructed at tarmac

level.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Communication, Mustafa Aboud Jumbe said improvement of the roads and bridges is part of implementation of the ruling CCM's election

manifesto-2015/2020 as it is stated at Section 138, Chapter 88 of the document.

The PS added the government is also constructing different roads including the one from Mkunazini-Kariakoo-Magomeni-Fuoni-Tunguu, measuring 16.76 kilometers. He said the road is

constructed in phases.

Dr Shein Bridge is constructed by Engineering Construction Company (MECCO) that signed an agreement with the government in August 2018, said Jumbe. The project will be completed in February 2020.

27bn/- earmarked to renovate Tabora Airport



A vicinity of Tabora Airport. File photo.

By Property Watch Reporter, Tabora

A TOTAL of 27bn/- is to be spent in the renovation of Tabora Airport.

This was revealed yesterday by the Manager of Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) for Tabora Region Damian Ndabalizze at a meet-

ing of Tabora Roads Board.

He said the money will be spent for construction of passengers lounge, perimeter fence and car parking area and that the work will start during the current Financial Year after the money is handed out.

Ndabalizze said the completion of renova-

tion work will enable the airport's passengers' area to handle more than 500,000 passengers per year, and added that the work will be undertaken by Beijing Construction and Engineering Group with Khatib and Alami from Lebanon as consultants.

Meanwhile the Tabora TANROADS Manag-

er said a total of 41,735 vehicles were weighed last year.

He said in the exercise the 753 vehicles were found to carry excess weight and paid a total fine of over 73.7m/-. He said TANROADS has erected a permanent weigh bridge at Ilo-anguru area at a cost of 125m/-.

HILTON LAGOS AIRPORT HOTEL IN NIGERIA TO OPEN IN 2023

LAGOS

THE Hilton Lagos Airport Hotel in Nigeria will open in 2023. This is according to the project developers Hilton who said the project is part of plans to increase key count in the booming Nigerian capital.

The project which is currently under construction is located within close proximity to Ikeja, the capital of Lagos State, as well as the passenger terminals at Murtala Muhammed International Airport, which service travelers flying to hundreds of destinations around the world.

The 5-star hotel takes the form of an oval and accommodation and will feature: 350 guest-rooms, out of which 72 are suites, an Executive floor and multiple food and beverage outlets, including: a restaurant serving international cuisine; a specialty restaurant; a fashionable rooftop cocktail bar; and a hip night club.

An elevated pool deck, with lavish gardens and a striking horizon pool overhanging the side of the property, will provide breath-taking views of the surroundings and a unique leisure experience for an airport property.

The hotel will also feature a spa and fitness centre. Set over several levels, the property takes advantage of the differences in height and uses external decks, atria and sunken lobbies to create a variety of spaces that



Hilton Lagos Airport Hotel. File photo

are designed to wow visitors.

Some of the beneficiaries for the project will include Business travellers and event planners who will get to enjoy a wide choice of profes-

sional facilities across the 2,600sqm event space, including a 1,350sqm ballroom and 500sqm junior ballroom.

"Strong growth is forecasted in

both domestic and international travelers using Murtala Muhammed International Airport, so this exemplary new hotel will be well placed to meet traveller's needs, offering an

unparalleled level of design, comfort and service," said Patrick Fitzgibbon, senior vice president, development, EMEA, Hilton Worldwide.

Mozambique signs gas importation agreement for Beluluane power plant

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE has signed an agreement deal with France to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) that will be needed for a major gas-fired power station planned for Beluluane, on the outskirts of the Mozambican capital.

The agreement was signed between French oil and gas company Total, and the South African Gigajoules group. The agreement was signed by the Chairperson of Gigajoule, Johan de Vos, and the representative of Total in Africa, Philip Olivier.

Chief Executive Office of the Matola Gas Company (MGC), Bruno Morgado, said the major benefit from the agreement will be greater availability of gas, because the fields at Pande and Temane (in Inhambane province) will begin to decline in a more or less rapid manner.

"A further benefit from importing LNG will be the take-off of the Beluluane thermal power station. This is a large scale project that will generate up to 2,000 megawatts of power. There wasn't enough gas for this," said Morgado.

The project envisages a floating unit, anchored permanently in the port of Matola that will store and regasify the LNG. A start will be made on installing this unit in June 2020. It should be completed in 16 months. A pipeline will run from Matola port to the planned new power station in Beluluane, using the MGC's existing infrastructure.

The power plant upon completion, is expected to supply power to Botswana and Eswatini, as well as to Mozambique and South Africa. Mozambique would become hub, selling gas on to island countries such as Madagascar and Mauritius.



Contractors at the site where the Creative Arts Senior School is being built. File photo.

Ghana cuts sod for construction of Creative Arts Senior High School

ACCRA

The government of Ghana has cut sod to mark the commencement of construction of its first Creative Arts Senior High School in Kwadaso, Ashanti Region.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo performed the cutting ceremony on the facility which is aimed at helping the youth gain access to specialized education in creative arts and develop their creative skills in performing arts, media arts, visual arts, and literary arts.

The facility will feature an administration block, auditorium, staff flat, residential zone, principal's residence, vice principal's residence, dining hall with kitchen, boys and girls dormitory, library and creative block.

The President said that the project is part of his 2016 campaign promise of improving and promoting the

creative arts industry. He is optimistic that the institution will serve as beacon the young and talented people seeking to pursue a career in the creative arts industry.

A member of the Creative Arts Council, Juliet Yaa Asantewaa Asante, on behalf of the Council commended the development and said that the project comes at a time when the country is campaigning about Ghana Beyond Aid and purchasing made-in-Ghana goods as the school is expected to nurture Ghanaian creativity.

"Our country needs to conduct an expansive survey into areas of the industry that created jobs and branded the country. We also call for passage of the Local Content Policy as local television stations could not continue to show 60% of foreign contents that had been taking jobs from local businesses," said Juliet.

Uganda National Museum set for reconstruction

KAPALA

UGANDA National Museum, the oldest museum in East Africa established by the British protectorate government back in 1908, is set for reconstruction after the US-based Getty Foundation under its "Keeping It Modern Initiative" granted the latter US \$135,000 to cater for the restoration.

The museum is located in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and it displays and exhibits ethnological, natural-historical and traditional life

collections of Uganda's cultural heritage.

Over the years, real estate development pressures and lack of national heritage protection laws exposed the museum and other historic buildings to physical threats. For instance, the museum has cracked and has been affected by moisture infiltration due to the seepage of groundwater.

The museum building was designed by Ernst May, a famous German-born pioneer of urban planning. He developed the design as a

part of a larger expansion plan for the fast-growing city of the East African country.

As the first modern building in Uganda and one of the earliest cast-in-place concrete structures in Kampala, the museum influenced the design of other government and institutional buildings throughout the nation.

As May encompassed elements of international modern style for the museum such as flat roofing sections, horizontal rows of windows, a cantilevered entry canopy, and polished concrete floors, he also demonstrated sensitivity to the local environment by adding perforated partitions for cooling airflow and angled walls that produce diffuse interior lighting.

Based in Los Angeles, California, the United States of America, the Getty Foundation, which is a part of the J. Paul Getty Trust, awards grants to institutions and individuals that advance the visual arts worldwide through history, conservation, and museums.

In the past, it funded the Getty Leadership Institute for "current and future museum leaders", which is now at Claremont Graduate University.



Uganda National Museum. File photo.

Kenya to construct US \$17m water treatment plant in Kericho County

NAIROBI

Kenya has announced plans to construct a US \$17m water treatment plant in Kericho County with the aim of curbing perennial water shortage in the county.

The County Governor Paul Chepkwony made the announcement and said that the bank has issued out conditions to the Kericho Water and Sanitation Company (Kewasco) to provide 10 acres for the construction of the water treatment and distribution plant.

"When the water engineers drew up the design, the site at Duka Moja, which was under Unilever tea plantation, proved to be the most ideal location for the plant. This is because the point allows water to flow by gravity and is the cheapest option," said Governor Chepkwony.

The water plant dubbed 'Kimugu Water Treatment Plant' is being funded by Germany KfW Development Bank. It is set for completion in April 2021. According to Governor Paul Chepkwony, the project will benefit more than 200,000 households in Ainamoi and Belgut constituencies once complete.

"We have the intake works which requires reinforced concrete structure across the existing River Kimugu where we are going to abstract the water. The water will be conveyed through gravity via steel pipes for 7.7km to the water treatment plant," said the Governor.

The lack of clean and safe drinking water in Kenya is a very serious problem, as there are more than 1.6 million children under the age of five who die every year in the world. This equates to the death of a child every 19 seconds.

CONSTRUCTION

BEIJING

China's Vice Premier Liu He, head of the country's negotiation team in Sino-U.S. trade talks, will sign a "Phase 1" deal in Washington next week, the commerce ministry said on yesterday.

Liu will visit Washington on Jan. 13-15, said Gao Feng, spokesman at the commerce ministry.

Negotiating teams from both sides remain in close communication on the particular arrangements of the signing, Gao told reporters at a regular briefing.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Dec. 31 that the Phase 1 deal with China would be signed on Jan. 15 at the White House. Trump also said he would sign the deal with "high-level representatives of China", and that he would later travel to Beijing to begin talks on the next phase.

The Phase 1 deal reached last month is expected to cut tariffs and boost Chinese purchases of U.S. farm, energy and manufactured goods while addressing some disputes over intellectual property.

But no version of the text has been made public, and Chinese officials have yet to publicly commit to key points such as increasing imports of U.S. goods and services by \$200 billion over two years.

The United States launched a trade war against Beijing a year and half ago over allegations of unfair trade practices, such as theft of U.S. intellectual property and subsidies that unfairly benefit Chinese state-owned companies.

CHINA'S VICE PREMIER LIU TO SIGN US TRADE DEAL IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK



Containers are seen at the Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, China. File photo.

Divergent paths: Oil, natural gas going different directions

LOS ANGELES

THE diverging fundamentals of U.S. oil and natural gas can be seen dramatically in the markets, where the oil-to-gas price ratio has surged to its highest in six years.

The oil-to-gas ratio, or the level at which oil trades compared with natural gas, recently reached 30-to-1, and could increase further as analysts expect average gas prices will fall for a second consecutive year in 2020 to their lowest level in over 20 years.

That is because most U.S. drillers are not looking for gas.

Companies like EOG Resources Inc (EOG.N), Pioneer Natural Resources Co (PXD.N), Diamondback Energy Inc (FANG.O) and Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) are mostly seeking more valuable oil and natural gas liquids, which bring with it a lot of associated gas, making producers less sensitive to gas price declines.

"By-product natural gas, which doesn't adhere to the laws of supply and demand, accounts for nearly half of U.S. gas production," S&P Global Ratings said in a report lowering its gas price assumptions for 2020-2022.

U.S. oil futures CLC1 this week hit their highest level since April, while gas NGC1 was near its lowest since August, boosting the oil-to-gas ratio to 30-to-1, highest since September 2013.

Over the last five years, that ratio has averaged 19-to-1, but oil prices have risen in the last year while gas has edged lower. Mild weather and a glut of new supply has held back gas, even as U.S. exports of super-cooled liquefied natural gas have soared.

On an energy equivalent basis, oil should trade about six times over gas.

Spot gas prices at the U.S. Henry Hub NG-W-HH-SNL benchmark in Louisiana fell 19 per cent to average \$2.56 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) in 2019. Analysts project that average will fall to around \$2.31 in 2020, which would be its lowest since 1999.

Speculators have boosted short positions in futures and options on the New York Mercantile Exchange 3023651MSHT to the highest since November 2015, according to data from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The increase in shorts comes as record production allowed utilities to boost the amount of gas in storage to near normal levels ahead of the coming heating season.

Gas production rose about 10% in 2019 to a record 92.05 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



Drilling rigs operate at sunset in Midland, Texas, U.S. File photo.

Samsung sets up anti-corruption panel as chief faces trials

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's Samsung Group, whose leader faces trials over a bribery scandal involving former president Park Geun-hye, has appointed external experts to a new oversight panel to stamp out criminal conduct, the chief of the committee said yesterday.

The move came after a judge overseeing Samsung leader Jay Y. Lee's bribery case in October criticized the top conglomerate for its lack of an effective compliance system, saying one was needed to prevent wrongdoing by executives and its leader.

"The timing Samsung chose to make these changes is not stunningly adequate ... and if this committee fails, I will end up with huge disgrace," said Kim Ji-hyung, a former supreme court judge named to head the compliance and oversight committee, told a news conference.

He said he initially turned down Samsung's offer, because of worries it would end up failing to make improvements and only be used by Samsung to secure favorable court rulings.

He said Lee, Samsung's de facto leader, pledged to guarantee the panel's autonomy at a meeting, adding that it would monitor potential misconduct at group companies, including flagship Samsung Electronics.

Although Samsung Group already has a compliance program in place, the new panel, which will begin work in February, will be run by seven people, mostly outside experts from legal circles and civic groups.

Governance experts aired scepticism, calling the move a gesture to get lenient treatment in court and citing a repeat of criminal offences at Samsung and other family-run conglomerates, despite pledges to improve governance and transparency.

"An effective compliance program could be operated within the environment, encouraging employees to internally report violation without fearing reprisal. But this is not the case at Korean companies," said Lee Chang-min, a specialist in corporate governance at Seoul-based Hanyang University.

The 51-year-old Lee faces charges that he bribed a friend of former president Park to win government favor over succession planning at the conglomerate.

In August, the Supreme Court overturned an appeals court ruling that had given Lee a suspended jail term, raising the possibility of a tougher sentence and potential return to jail.



Passengers walk in front of a FlixBus intercity bus at the Carparkplatz Sihlquai bus station in Zurich, Switzerland.

Transport app FlixBus achieves 37pc passenger growth in 2019, eyes India

BERLIN

TRANSPORT app FlixBus reported on Thursday a 37% increase in passenger numbers last year, as Germany's best-funded tech startup claimed the mantle of the world's biggest provider of intercity bus services.

FlixBus, which runs an Uber-like app while partnering with private bus and train companies, carried 62 million passengers in 2019, when its growth rate slowed slightly from the 40% seen in 2018.

The company, launched in 2013, attracted the largest funding round to

date by a German startup last July, raising around 500 million euros (\$556 million) from investors led by TCV and Permira, valuing it at more than 2 billion euros.

"In just seven years, we have managed to become the largest bus provider in the world, with more than 400,000 daily connections," said CEO Andre Schwaemmlein, who founded the firm with partners Jochen Engert and Daniel Krauss.

Best known for its green FlixBus intercity coaches, the company last year expanded into Ukraine, also acquiring Turkey's leading bus provider Kamil

Koc and European long-distance coach service Eurolines. It is now present in 30 countries.

FlixBus launched coach services in the United States in 2018, challenging the veteran Greyhound brand, and now serves 100 destinations from coast to coast.

FlixBus's backers include Holtzbrinck Ventures, the European Investment Bank, General Atlantic, Silver Lake and German carmaker Daimler.

Daimler has also teamed up in a mobility venture with BMW, called FREE NOW, that offers a range of services

ranging from taxis and ride hailing to car sharing. The FREE NOW platform achieved turnover of 2 billion euros last year.

Although FlixBus does not report financials, Engert told Reuters last year that it was profitable in its mature markets, making it possible to break even overall as it expanded into new territories.

It has identified India as a potential target market and started recruiting there, a company spokesman said, but no decisions have yet been taken to launch in the country of 1.3 billion people.

WORLD

Trump pulls back from more military action in Iran crisis, promises new sanctions

DUBAI/WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has stepped back from new military action against Iran after its missile strikes on Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops caused no casualties but he told Iran he would tighten already crippling U.S. sanctions.

Trump and Iranian officials looked to defuse a crisis that on Wednesday had threatened to spiral into open conflict after the killing of a prominent Iranian general in Iraq on Jan. 3 in a U.S. drone strike was followed by Iran's retaliatory attack.

The tit-for-tat military action, after months of rising tension since the United States withdrew in 2018 from Iran's nuclear pact with world powers, had stoked global concerns that the Middle East was heading towards another war.

But both sides drew back from the brink, while Arab and other international leaders called for restraint. In Iraq, Muslim Shi'ite groups, opposed to the U.S. presence in Iraq, also sought to cool passions.

"The fact that we have this great military and equipment, however, does not mean we have to use it. We do not want to use it," Trump told the nation after saying Iranian ballistic missiles fired in the early hours of Wednesday caused no casualties and limited damage.

He said Iran "appears to be standing down, which is a good thing for all parties concerned" but he said the United

States would impose additional sanctions on Iran, adding to measures that have slashed its oil exports and crippled its economy.

Trump, who faces re-election this year and who accused predecessors of dragging the United States into unnecessary regional wars, did not say what new sanctions would involve.

His comments came hours after Iran's foreign minister said Iranian missile strikes "concluded" its response to the killing of Qassem Soleimani, a powerful general who masterminded Iran's drive to build up proxy armies abroad.

The minister, Javad Zarif, said on Twitter that Iran did not "seek escalation or war, but will defend ourselves against any aggression".

Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had called Iran's missile attack a "slap on the face" for the United States and said Iran remained determined to drive U.S. forces out of the region, a policy that analysts say it has pursued via its proxy forces.

But Washington said it had indications Tehran was telling its allies to refrain from new action against U.S. troops.

CALLS FOR PATIENCE

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told CBS News the United States was receiving "encouraging intelligence that Iran is sending messages" to its allied militias not to attack U.S. targets.

electric vehicles, prompted industry concern over competitiveness and criticism from environmentalists who wanted to go even further.

The to-do list facing Germany's so-called "Climate Chancellor" in 2020 includes correcting stalled onshore-wind market incentives, alleviating rising power prices for consumers and getting Germany's green power transmission highway back on track. In order to extend last year's marked drop in carbon dioxide emissions, parliament will have its work cut out from Jan 13 when it reconvenes in Berlin.



Onshore Wind

Germany's plan to supply 65% of its power through onshore wind by 2030 stumbled last year after new turbine construction got mired in local politics. Proposed financial sweeteners for

municipalities looking at new projects are still threatened by zoning rules that limit deployment.

Merkel's coalition is under pressure to find a solution or suffer a third consecutive year of stalled growth and accompanying job losses.

Solar power could be the beneficiary from deadlocked onshore wind lawmakers ramp up rooftop photovoltaic targets, pinning hopes on a technology that rarely triggers local backlash.

Coal Exit

Germany's biggest lignite burners RWE AG and LEAG remain

enmeshed in a bitter fight with the government over the time line and compensation for closing plants. Shutdowns are slated to begin in 2020, according to draft legislation.

Parliamentary passage of the legislation will put Germany on track to close 12.5 gigawatts of coal capacity by 2023 -- equivalent to almost all of Denmark's installed power.

Operators of coal and power plants could gain leverage in government negotiations if Merkel's coalition fails to plug the generation gap caused by onshore wind's faltering expansion.



U.S. President Donald Trump delivers a statement about Iran flanked by U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Army Chief of Staff General James McConville and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army General Mark Milley in the Grand Foyer at the White House in Washington, U.S., on Wednesday. REUTERS

Moqtada al-Sadr, an influential Shi'ite cleric opposed to U.S. and Iranian interference in Iraq, said the Iraq crisis was over and called on "Iraqi factions to be deliberate, patient, and not to start military actions".

Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militia the United States blamed for an attack in Iraq in December that killed a U.S. contractor, said "amidst these conditions, passions must be avoided to achieve the desired results" of expelling U.S. forces.

That contrasted with fiery comments early on Wednesday from Qais al-Khazali, leader of another Iran-backed militia, who said Iraqi forces should respond to the killing of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who died with Soleimani in the Jan. 3 U.S. strike.

Arab states, which lie across the Gulf from Iran and feared their region was being dragged into another conflict, also called for cooler heads to prevail in Iraq and beyond.

"The brotherly Arab nation of Iraq today is in need of solidarity among its people to avoid war and becoming the site of a battle in which it would lose most," Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan wrote on Twitter.

In Trump's address on Wednesday, he repeated

his promise not to allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon - an ambition it denies ever having - and called for world powers to quit the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran that he abandoned.

Trump said world powers should negotiate a new nuclear deal with Iran to replace the one set in place under Barack Obama.

Iran has rejected new talks and said negotiations could not be held without an end to sanctions, which have sent Iran's currency plunging and slashed vital oil revenues.

There has been no immediate reaction from Iranian officials to Trump's address. The semi-official Fars news agency described the U.S. president's remarks as a "big retreat from threats".

Analysts have said Iran, despite its strident words, has wanted to avoid a conventional war with superior U.S. forces.

U.S. and European government sources said they believed Iran had deliberately sought to avoid U.S. military casualties in its missile strikes to prevent an escalation.

An Iranian army spokesman denied "foreign media reports" suggesting there was some kind of coordination between Iran and the United States before the attack to evacuate bases.

Agencies

US justifies killing Iranian commander as self-defence at UN

UNITED NATIONS



THE United States told the United Nations on Wednesday that the killing of Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani last week was self-defence and vowed to take additional action "as necessary" in the Middle East to protect US personnel and interests.

Iran retaliated on Wednesday for Soleimani's death by firing missiles at military facilities housing US troops in Iraq.

US President Donald Trump said no Americans were hurt, soothing fears that Soleimani's death and the Iranian response could spark a wider conflict in the Middle East.

In a letter to the UN Security Council, US Ambassador Kelly Craft (pictured) said the United States also stands "ready to engage without preconditions in serious negotiations with Iran, with the goal of preventing further endangerment of international peace and security or escalation by the Iranian regime."

The killing of Soleimani in Baghdad on Friday was justified under Article 51 of the UN Charter, wrote Craft in the letter seen by Reuters, adding "the United States is prepared to take additional actions in the region as necessary to continue to protect US personnel and interests."

Under Article 51, countries are required to "immediately report" to the 15-member Security Council any measures taken in exercising the right of self-defence.

The United States used Article 51 to justify taking action in Syria against Islamic State militants in 2014.

Craft said Soleimani's death and US airstrikes in Iraq and Syria on Dec. 29 against an Iran-backed militia group were "in response to an escalating series of armed attacks in recent months by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran-supported militias on US forces and interests in the Middle East."

She said the aim was to deter Iran from conducting or supporting attacks and degrade its ability to conduct attacks. Iran also justified its action under Article 51 of the UN Charter in a letter to the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

The US letter to the UN Security Council arrived after Iran's letter, diplomats said.

Iran's UN Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi wrote that Tehran "does not seek escalation or war" after exercising its right to self-defence by taking a "measured and proportionate military response targeting an American air base in Iraq."

"The operation was precise and targeted military objectives thus leaving no collateral damage to civilians and civilian assets in the area," Ravanchi wrote.

"Seriously warning about any further military adventurism against it, Iran declares that it is determined to continue to, vigorously and in accordance with applicable international law, defend its people, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity against any aggression," he said. Iran had full respect for the sovereignty of Iraq, he added.

Agencies

UN envoy underscores terrorist attack surge in West Africa, Sahel

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN envoy for West Africa and the Sahel on Wednesday underscored "a devastating surge" in terrorist attacks against civilians and military targets since July in the region.

Mohamed Ibn Chambas, head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel, told the UN Security Council that the West Africa and Sahel region has been shaken by unprecedented terrorist violence in recent months. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, he said, casualties from terrorist attacks have increased fivefold since 2016, with over 4,000 deaths reported in 2019 alone as compared to an estimated 770 deaths in 2016.

He pointed out that the geographic focus of terrorist attacks has shifted eastward from Mali to Burkina Faso and is increasingly threatening West African coastal states, and that the number of people killed in Burkina Faso has increased from about 80 in 2016 to over 1,800 in 2019.

Chambas noted the terrorist attacks are often deliberate efforts by violent extremists to capture weapons and trafficking routes and engage in other illicit activities, including illegal mining in certain areas that sustain their networks.

The UN envoy noted that terrorism, organized crime and intercommunal violence are often intertwined, stressing "this is especially true in peripheral areas where the state's presence is weak" as in those places extremists provide safety and protection to populations in exchange for loyalty.

Xinhua

Climate tops Germany's agenda with Merkel legacy at stake

By Bloomberg

GERMANY'S long and growing list of outstanding climate goals are among the top priorities on the government's agenda this year and threaten to tarnish Chancellor Angela Merkel's legacy if left unfulfilled.

In a New Year speech, Merkel said she knows there are still shortcomings in her coalition's policies that aim to radically reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by Europe's biggest economy.

The much-criticized climate package, which pledged to exit coal while speeding adoption of

Japan minister launches counterattack after Ghosn

TOKYO

JAPAN'S justice minister launched a rare and forceful public takedown of auto executive-turned-fugitive Carlos Ghosn after he blasted the country's legal system as allowing him "zero chance" of a fair trial as he sought to justify his escape to Beirut.

After his dramatic flight to Lebanon last month, Ghosn spoke in public for the first time on Wednesday, saying he had been treated "brutally" by Tokyo prosecutors. He said they questioned him for up to eight hours a day without a lawyer present and

tried to extract a confession out of him.

In an effort to undo Ghosn's attempt to sway public opinion in his favor, Justice Minister Masako Mori followed shortly with a statement, translated into English and French, and held a news conference after midnight and again around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday morning to defend Japan's justice system.

"I decided to do this because defendant Ghosn was looking to justify his unlawful exit from Japan by propagating a false recognition of our justice system," she said at the second news confer-



ence.

"I felt that we needed to respond immediately to broadcast a correct understanding to people around the world."

Ghosn, the former chief of Nissan Motor Co Ltd (7201.T) and Renault SA (RENA.PA), fled Japan last

month as he was awaiting trial on charges of under-reporting earnings, breach of trust, and misappropriation of company funds, all of which he denies.

Mori said Ghosn's escape from his trial in itself "could constitute a crime" that would not be tolerated in any country.

"My impression in listening to him was that there were few statements that were backed by any real evidence," she said. "If he wants to prove his innocence, he should face fair trial proceedings here," she added, stressing that the allegations against him concerned financial crimes in Japan.

Agencies

Kenyan pastoralists grapple with 'green drought' amid climate change

NAIROBI

THE sun was scorching hot on Monday as the about 30 cows and a shepherd strolled into an open field in Kitegela, a suburb south of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

The field, from afar, appeared lush green following the recent heavy rains across the east African nation.

The greenness had attracted the animals and the herder from the Maasai community, the natives of Kitegela which is in the larger Kajiado County, a semi-arid region bordering the capital.

But the animals and the herder soon walked out of the field in frustration as there was no grass in the field but a green obnoxious weed that has colo-

nized the space and most of the other open lands in the vast dry region, killing pasture grass for the animals.

Over the years, the herders had no problem finding grass in the fields that still remain unoccupied amid rapid real estate development in the suburb.

But the recent heavy rains that hit Kenya due to climate change causing deaths and destruction have turned out to be a curse for the herders as they emboldened the weed that is turning out a curse.

The weed is causing a "green drought" in the pastoralist region, with the herders struggling to get grass for their cattle despite every space appearing lush green.

"We never used to struggle to get grass after it rains but this time around it seems the rains were of no benefit," said Bernard Sosoika, a herder.

Sosoika said he had to walk for long hours with his animals in search of little grass available yet the rain stopped barely three weeks ago.

"This weed is killing all the grass. The heavy rains seem to have broadcasted its seeds and made it pervasive," he said.

In the past, what would sprout out in the dryland mostly were shrubs and grass would grow beneath them.

Joseph ole Serea, a cattle-keeper in Isinya in the county said the weed has sprouted in most parts of the region.

"If you leave it on the farm it colonizes

the entire field. It grows faster, produces white flowers and seeds which are dispersed by the winds and rains," he said, blaming the rains for the "green drought".

However, this is not the only invasive weed affecting the pastoralist region suffocating pasture. In 2018, herders grappled with a plant known as Ipomoea purpurea, which is poisonous to livestock.

The weed invaded over a million hectares of land in the vast country, according to the Kajiado County government.

The intensity of the weed declined with the weather changes, seemingly giving way to the current invasive spe-

cies.

Parts of neighboring drylands like Machakos have also been invaded by the weed, with farmers noting that the invasive plant also kills food crops if not controlled.

Beatrice Macharia, an agronomist with Growth Point, an agro-consultancy, acknowledged that the effects of climate change are making some invasive plants more pervasive thanks to changing in temperatures and the rain pattern.

"Kajiado is among Kenyan drylands where temperatures have increased in the last few years. The warmer temperatures certainly affect some natural plant species and embolden others in-

cluding such weeds," she said.

According to her, the plant has not only affected the pastoralists in the county but also crop farmers who now have to increase the frequency of their weeding to save their food crops.

"This weed has deeper roots unlike most horticultural crops which means that if it is left on the farm, it saps all the nutrients and moisture in the soil leaving the beneficial plant with nothing," she said.

Kenya's livestock sector contributes to about 42 percent of the agricultural gross domestic product, with production mainly done in arid and semi-arid lands.

Xinhua



Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, leave Canada House in London, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

British royals Harry and Meghan step back from senior roles in surprise move

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan will step back from senior roles in Britain's royal family and spend more time in North America, they said on Wednesday, an announcement that appears to have taken his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, by surprise.

After a turbulent year which saw a widening rift with the media and a falling-out with elder brother Prince William, Harry said the couple hoped to become financially independent and set up a new charity, while continuing some royal duties.

"After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution," said Harry, sixth in line to the throne, and former actress Meghan in a statement.

"We now plan to balance our time between the United Kingdom and North America, continuing to honor our duty to the Queen, the Commonwealth and our patronages."

The couple said they would share full details of "this exciting next step" as soon as they had discussed the move with the queen, Harry's father Prince Charles and William.

But the timing of the announcement appeared to have wrongfooted family members, including the queen, a senior royal source told Reuters.

"Other members of the family were not consulted on the content," the source said. Buckingham Palace said discussions with Harry and Meghan were at an early stage.

"We understand their desire to take a different approach but these are complicated issues that will take time to work through," it said.

RELATIONSHIP WITH MEDIA SOURS

Harry, 35, and Meghan, 38, a divorcee whose mother is African-American and father is white, married in May 2018 in a lavish ceremony in Windsor Castle, and at the time it was heralded as a sign of a more modern monarchy.

Last year, Meghan gave birth to their first child, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-

Windsor.

But their relationship with the media turned sour as they struggled to deal with the intense scrutiny it brought.

There have been negative stories criticizing their use of private jets while promoting environmental causes and the 2.4 million pound (\$3.08 million) taxpayer-funded renovation of their new home.

The couple, whose titles are the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, began legal action against some tabloid newspapers in October over phone-hacking and invasion of privacy.

Harry described the treatment of his wife as "bullying", and likened it to that of his mother, Princess Diana, before her death in a Paris car accident in 1997, when her limousine crashed as it sped away from chasing paparazzi.

"I never thought that this would be easy, but I thought it would be fair, and that is the part that is really hard to reconcile," a tearful Meghan said in a TV interview as she described the difficulty of being a new mother and dealing with incessant scrutiny.

Harry also admitted to disagreements with William, who is second in line to the throne.

Reactions to the news in Australia, a constitutional monarchy whose head of state is the British monarch, was generally supportive.

"I think it's good what they've done," said Sydney marketing researcher Janani Venkat. "Kudos to them to actually saying 'We're going to do our own thing and be independent.'"

THE FUTURE

Harry and Meghan did not spell out what they were planning or where in North America they might live.

Last year, it was reported that Harry would be executive producer of a documentary on mental health with U.S. television mogul Oprah Winfrey for Apple's video streaming service.

They said splitting time between Britain and North America "would enable us to raise our son with an appreciation for the royal tradition into which he was born, while also providing our family with the space to focus on the next chapter."

Erdogan, Putin call for restraint, diplomacy amid Iran-US escalation

ISTANBUL

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called for restraint and diplomacy to avoid "a new cycle of instability" in the Middle East amid growing Iran-U.S. tensions.

In a joint statement issued following their meeting, the two leaders urged both Iran and the U.S. to act with restraint and prioritize diplomacy.

"The use of force does not con-

tribute to finding solutions to complex problems in the Middle East, but ... would lead to a new cycle of instability," the statement said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Iran fired over a dozen of missiles at two Iraqi bases hosting U.S. troops in retaliation for the U.S. killing of Qasem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, near the Baghdad airport on Friday.

On the Libyan crisis, the two leaders called on all parties in Libya to establish an immediate ceasefire and stop all hostilities.

The ceasefire should be sustainable and "supported by the necessary measures to be taken for stabilizing the situation on the ground and normalizing daily life in Tripoli and other cities," the statement said.

Libya has been torn by a raging civil war, between the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) based in the capital Tripoli and the Libyan National Army and its allies based in the east. On Sunday, Erdogan said Turkey was "gradually" sending troops to Libya under a deal inked with the GNA.

Xinhua



UN chief encouraged by Trump's statement on Iran

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is encouraged by U.S. President Donald Trump's latest statement on Iran, the UN chief's spokesman said Wednesday.

"We welcome any statement that shows that there is a step away from escalation and from direct confrontation," said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, when asked whether the secretary-general was encouraged by Trump's statement.

In a televised White House address after Iran launched ballistic missiles at Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops in retaliation for the U.S. killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, Trump said he would impose additional sanctions against Tehran, but also indicated de-escalation.

Trump said in the remarks that "Iran appears to be standing down," calling it "a good thing" for all parties concerned. "Finally, to the people and leaders of Iran: We want you to have a future and a great future ... and harmony with the nations of the world."

The United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it," said Trump. "Tens of thousands of ISIS (Islamic State) fighters have been killed or captured during my administration. ISIS is a natural enemy of Iran."

The destruction of ISIS is good for Iran, and we should work together on this and other shared priorities," he added.

Dujarric said: "We welcome any indication that leaders are walking back from major confrontation, and are doing whatever they can to avoid any further escalation."

In a statement earlier Wednesday, Dujarric said the UN secretary-general will continue to mediate.

"For his part, the secretary-general will continue his active engagement with relevant actors."

It is our common duty to make every effort to avoid a war in the Gulf that the world cannot afford. We must not forget the terrible human suffering caused by war.

As always, ordinary people pay the highest price," he said in the statement.

The U.S. Pentagon on Tuesday confirmed that Iran had launched more than a dozen ballistic missiles against at least two military bases housing U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq.

Trump said Wednesday that there were no casualties on the U.S. side. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps claimed responsibility for the missile attacks, saying that they were meant to retaliate the U.S. killing of Soleimani in Iraq.

Xinhua

China fights terrorism with deradicalisation efforts -Wang Yi

CAIRO

CHINA has made important contributions to the global fight against terrorism with its deradicalization efforts in Xinjiang, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Cairo, Wang stressed that the issue of Xinjiang is solely China's internal affairs.

He said that what happens in Xinjiang is an issue of fighting separatism and terrorism, rather than an issue of human rights or religion.

For quite a period, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, as one of the five ethnic autonomous regions in China, had suffered from the woes of terrorism and extremism. Violent extremists had perpetrated a number of terror attacks, killing and wounding thousands of innocent civilians, Wang said.

To protect the safety of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang including the Muslims, the Chinese government has firmly cracked down on all forms of terror activities, on one hand, and set up vocational education and training centers, on another hand, the top Chinese diplomat explained.

These centers aimed at saving those who were infected by extremist thoughts through education and professional training to uproot extremism and terrorism at the source, he said.

In its anti-terror campaign in Xinjiang, China has drawn on the experience of many countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, as well as many Western countries such as the United States and France, he said.

The Chinese measures "are totally legal, as they are widely recognized as preventive counter-terrorism steps," Wang said.



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry attend a joint press conference in Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday. XINHUA

He added that China's counter-terrorism efforts in Xinjiang have paid off. "For three years in a row, Xinjiang has been free from violent terrorist incidents," he noted.

Wang said that all the trainees in the training centers have now graduated, and, with the help of the government, they have found stable jobs and are living a peaceful and secure life.

"It has been proved that the efforts made by the government in Xinjiang have not only provided security for local residents, but also protected the rights of religious freedom, thus making important contributions to the global anti-terror cause and providing useful experience for the global deradicalization efforts," Wang said.

The freedom of religious belief, including Islam, is fully ensured in Xinjiang, where there are over 24,000 mosques, or one for every 530 Muslims, which is a higher ratio than many Islamic countries.

Wang slammed the evil intentions of some forces in the West, which attempt to destabilize Xinjiang and undermine the ties between China and the Islamic world through smearing China, with an aim to block China's development.

Xinhua

China walks fine line to contain inflation while maintaining growth

BEIJING

IN the Year of the Pig, policymakers in China are faced with a dilemma: how to contain soaring pork prices while shoring up the economy?

In the past year, rising pork prices have driven up consumer inflation, hinting at tightened monetary policies. In the meantime, external uncertainties have dampened growth prospects, calling for more easing measures.

The latest data showed that the country was able to achieve the dual mandate of keeping both inflation and growth stable.

The consumer price index (CPI), a

main gauge of inflation, rose 2.9 percent year on year in 2019, within the government target of 3 percent, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed yesterday.

In December, the CPI climbed 4.5 percent year on year, unchanged from that in November and weaker than market consensus of 4.7 percent.

The stabilization of CPI growth was mainly due to falling price inflation for pork and eggs, which offset higher vegetable and non-food price inflation, said Lu Ting, chief China economist with Nomura, in a research note.

Pork prices surged 97 percent year on year in December, slowing from the

110.2-percent growth seen in November. Prices for other kinds of protein including beef, mutton and poultry saw slower growth last month, data from the bureau showed.

The retreat in pork prices came as government measures at national and local levels to restore hog production started to take effect.

Instead of opting for monetary tightening to contain rising pork prices, policymakers have resorted to more targeted measures, incentivizing hog production via subsidies and releasing pork reserves to the market to increase supply.

A State Council executive meeting

Wednesday called for more efforts to ensure supply during the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year when demand for the staple meat usually peaks.

While food prices retreated, a pick-up in non-food prices and a rebound in producer prices showed resilience in the economy as pro-growth measures stabilized market expectations, analysts said.

Non-food prices gained 1.3 percent last month, faster than the 1-percent growth in November, while the producer price index (PPI), measuring costs for goods at the factory gate, dropped 0.5 percent year on year in December, narrowing from the 1.4-percent decline

in November.

A rebound in PPI usually indicates improved market demand and a recovery in confidence of industrial enterprises. In line with the firming PPI, previous NBS data showed that profits of China's major industrial firms rose 5.4 percent year on year in November, reversing from the 9.9-percent decline in October.

China has been fine-tuning policies and stepping up precise stimulus to shore up growth, injecting funds into the market through monetary tools such as medium-term lending facility (MLF) and targeted MLF (TMLF).

Xinhua

Iran says Boeing jet tried to turn back before crashing

KIEV/WASHINGTON/OTTAWA/MONTREAL/TORONTO/DUBAI

THE Boeing Co 737-800 jet that crashed Wednesday, killing all 176 people on board, tried to turn back soon after takeoff but the pilots didn't flag anything unusual, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said in an initial report.

The Ukrainian International Airlines jet, flying to Kiev and carrying mostly Iranians and Iranian-Canadians, crashed shortly after taking off on Wednesday from Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport.

The report cited witnesses on the ground and in a passing aircraft flying at high altitude as saying the jet was on fire while still aloft.

The three-year-old Boeing jet,

which had its last scheduled maintenance on Jan 6, encountered a technical problem shortly after take-off and started to head towards a nearby airport before it crashed, according to the report.

The technical problem was not specified in the report, which also said that there was no radio communication from the pilot and that the aircraft disappeared from radar at 8,000 feet.

It is so far not clear if any technical issue could be related to a mechanical fault or defective part.

The disaster puts a renewed spotlight on Boeing, which faces a safety crisis over a different type of 737, though the plane that crashed in Iran does not have the feature

thought to have caused crashes of the grounded 737 MAX.

The Iranian report referred to the crash as an "accident".

Investigations into airliner crashes are complex, requiring regulators, experts and companies across several international jurisdictions to work together. Issuing an initial report within 24 hours is rare and it can take months to fully determine the cause.

A Canadian security source told Reuters there was evidence one of the jet's engines had overheated.

The crash happened hours after Iran launched missile attacks on US-led forces in Iraq, leading some to speculate that the plane may have been hit.

The Ukrainian embassy in Teh-

ran ruled out terrorism, and then amended its statement to offer no comment on possible causes. Ukraine International said it didn't "even consider" the possibility of crew error.

An emergency locator transmitter was activated, meaning the plane's satellite transmitter antenna was detached from the plane during the crash, according to the report.

The initial assessment of Western intelligence agencies was that the plane had suffered a technical malfunction and had not been brought down by a missile, five security sources - three Americans, one European and the Canadian - who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

In Kiev, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the government was considering several possible causes of the plane crash.

In a television statement, Zelenskyy asked people to refrain from speculation, conspiracy theories and hasty evaluations regarding the crash. He also declared Jan 9 a day of national mourning.

He said that he would speak by telephone with the Iranian president to step up cooperation into the reason for the crash.

The Ukrainian airliner took off from the Tehran airport at 6:12 am local time and was given permission to climb to 26,000 feet, according to the report. It crashed six minutes later near the town of Sabashahr.

Bodies and body parts recovered from the site of the crash have been taken to the coroner's office for identification, according to the report.

According to the report, onboard were 146 Iranians, 10 Afghans, 11 Ukrainians, five Canadians and four Swedes, but some may have held citizenship of other countries.

Ukrainian authorities have said those on board included 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, and 11 Ukrainians.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at a news conference on Wednesday afternoon that 138 of the passengers were connecting to a flight to Canada.

Trudeau said Canada expects to

play a big role in Iran's probe of the crash. He said Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne would call his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif later on Wednesday to underline the need for a proper probe of the crash.

The Tehran-Toronto via Kiev route was a popular one for Canadians of Iranian descent visiting Iran, in the absence of direct flights, and carried many students and academics heading home from the holidays.

It was Kiev-based Ukraine International Airlines' first fatal crash, and the carrier said it was doing everything possible to find the cause.

Agencies



Milwaukee Bucks' Eric Bledsoe (6) passes the ball between the legs of Golden State Warriors' Glenn Robinson III to teammate Pat Connaughton, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in San Francisco. At right is Warriors' Damion Lee. (AP Photo)

Antetokounmpo, NBA-best Bucks earn tough win over Warriors

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

The Milwaukee Bucks own the best record in the NBA and coach Mike Budenholzer still wants far more than what he has seen the past two games.

More made shots. More pace. More energy. Better ball movement, too.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 12 rebounds while leading four Milwaukee starters in double figures, and the NBA-best Bucks held off the Golden State Warriors 107-98 on Wednesday night.

"Sometimes you've got to find a way to win kind of the ugly games, and I'm proud of the group for doing that," Budenholzer said. "... We made just enough plays."

Khris Middleton added 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists as Milwaukee - with the NBA's best record at 33-6 - bounced back with a hard-fought victory against the young Warriors after having its five-game winning streak snapped in a 126-104 loss at San Antonio on Monday.

Alec Burks scored 19 points and Glenn Robinson III and Damion Lee added 15 points apiece for the cold-shooting Warriors, who lost their sixth straight game and third in a row at home. Willie Cauley-Stein contributed 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Draymond Green was back for Golden State after sitting out Monday with a sprained right ankle and had five points on 1-for-7 shooting, eight rebounds and eight assists.

"Our pace was not great in the first half and it picked up in the second half," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I thought we were a little tentative in the first half. They're a great team, obviously the best team in the league and the best defense in the league."

The Bucks overcame a cold shooting performance of 40.2% to win their third straight game on Golden State's home floor, playing for the first time at new Chase Center on Wednesday.

Antetokounmpo notched his league-leading 32nd double-double after continuing to deal with a sore back. He shot 1 for 7 on 3-pointers and converted 9 of 13 free throws.

KERR FINED

Kerr was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for verbally abusing a game official and failing to leave the court in a timely manner following an ejection.

Kerr was ejected late in the second quarter of the Warriors' 111-98 road loss to the Sacramento Kings on Monday night after getting hit with consecutive technical fouls by referee Jason Goldenberg.

Kerr appeared initially upset about a continuation call that went the Kings' way, then erupted after Golden State did not receive a similar call. He angrily walked onto the court after the second technical and yelled at Goldenberg before leaving.

"I took my punishment and try to move on," Kerr said.

TWO-WAY LEADERS

Warriors two-way players Ky Bowman and Lee have been counted on so heavily they are down to their final days of permitted NBA service time, with Bowman scheduled to return to Santa Cruz of the G League and Lee expected to be signed on soon to stay with Golden State. He had one remaining available day after Wednesday.

Bowman will go back once D'Angelo Russell is healthy to return. That had been expected to be Monday at Sacramento but he sat out that one and then missed a fifth straight game Wednesday with a bruised right shoulder.

Golden State has the most points by its two-way players of any team with 580.

"We are just like the drunken sailor with fifty bucks left in his pocket," Kerr said. "We are going to spend it until it runs out and figure it out from there."

Meanwhile, in Atlanta, James Harden's big first quarter gave Houston a lead that seemed safe.

His misses helped give Atlanta a chance.

Harden scored 41 points, including 22 in the first quarter, to lead the Houston Rockets over Trae Young and the Hawks 122-115 on Wednesday night.

Harden had 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his second straight triple-double. He made only 9 of 34 shots, including 4 of 20 3-pointers.

Young kept pace. The Hawks' second-year point guard had 42 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. He and Harden are the first players to post 40-point triple-doubles in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Harden faded in the second half, when he made only 2 of 18 shots.

"I think, obviously, we had a couple guys run out of gas," said Houston coach Mike D'Antoni. "... Our legs got tired obviously. We just had to hang on."

D'Antoni said Harden "just didn't shoot the ball well. So be it."

Harden had 44 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the season in a 118-108 win over Philadelphia on Friday night.

The Hawks pulled within three late in the fourth quarter, the last time at 118-115 on two free throws by Alex Len. Harden sank four free throws in the final 10.4 seconds.

"They made shots," Harden said. "We missed shots. They're a feisty team."

Clint Capela had 22 points and 22 rebounds, and Ben McLemore had 18 points in Houston's third straight win.

Harden more than made up for the absence of Russell Westbrook, his usual backcourt partner. D'Antoni had a confident answer when asked before the game about the impact of Westbrook being rested.

"Just more James," D'Antoni said.

It was a safe prediction.

Harden, who scored 60 points in his last game against Atlanta in November, set out on another high-scoring pace. The NBA's leader at 38.4 points per game, Harden abused the Hawks with his mix of 3-pointers and drives. Atlanta's frequent best answer was to foul him, and he made 19 of 23 free throws.

Houston led 45-29 after the first quarter and pushed the lead to 20 in the second period.

The Hawks rallied in the third, cutting the Houston lead to 87-83.

Following Houston's timeout, Harden sank a 3-pointer to start a 12-2 run to close the period, pushing the lead back to double figures. McLemore had two 3s in the run.

Atlanta again pulled close in the final period. Len's three-point play pulled the Hawks to 108-105.

How Belgian coaches have fared in the Tanzania Premier League as Eymael takes reins at Yanga

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

In a shock announcement made out of the blue, Young Africans SC (Yanga) have appointed a new head coach, 59-year-old Belgian Luc Eymael.

Yanga made the announcement on social media yesterday and later confirmed it through their spokesman Antonio Nugaz.

It was not revealed whether current interim head coach Boniface Mkwasa who had a previous spell in charge of the side in the early 2000s will continue being a part of the technical bench.

Eymael's appointment sees the Belgian join a list of decent coaches from his country to have journeyed to the Vodacom Premier League.

He becomes the second Belgian to coach Young Africans following in the footsteps of Tom Saintfiet who had a brief spell in 2012.

Here's a look at the Vodacom Premier League's Belgian roll call.

Tom Saintfiet (Yanga) 2012

When Tom Saintfiet was named the next Yanga head coach following Ugandan Sam Timbe's departure, the buzz was high around the man who became the first Belgian manager a Tanzanian club in 2012.

But the well travelled coach was ultimately too fast in introducing changes at the clubs and quickly picked an



Former Simba SC head coach, Patrick Aussems.

unwinnable battle with the then club chairman, Yusuph Manji.

He started well enough by winning the 2012 CECAFA Kagame Cup title, but performances waned with two friendly losses in Rwanda before a 3-0 drubbing by Mtibwa Sugar proved the final straw.

A direct confrontation with the chairman Manji following the Mtibwa Sugar loss saw him being unceremoniously sacked just 80 days after his appointment.

Patrick Aussems (Simba) 2018-2019

Leading Simba to the quarterfinals of the 2019 CAF Champions League remains the pinnacle of the club's achievements this millennium but he followed that up with a preliminary round exit in the tournament the subsequent season.

The former Al Hilal coach was a success domestically for Simba, leading them to retain their Premier League title and Community Shield though. The outfit, nicknamed 'Msimbazi

Reds', broke the Premier League record for most points won, 93. The only downside was his side being ousted in the preliminary round of the Federation Cup.

In 2019/20 season, he retained the Community Shield by beating Azam FC but an early exit in the CAF Champions League marked the beginning of his end.

He was initially suspended and then finally officially sacked some a week later. Following a shock defeat against Mwadui FC and a draw with Prisons.

Sven Vandembroeck (Simba) 2019

Sven Vandembroeck is something of a left-field pick as the man who replaces Aussems. He was not mentioned among the candidates likely to be hired at Msimbazi Street squad.

His six month spell with Zambia senior national team was not extended in March following a poor 2019 AFCON qualifying campaign in which he won one, lost two and drew one in four matches.

Vandembroeck first mandate will be to retain the league title won by his predecessor and also recapture the Federation Cup Simba won in 2017.

With only four competitive matches so far, it is too early to judge Vandembroeck but, in his first assignment against rivals Yanga, a 2-0 lead, which would have seen Simba extend their winning ways in the matches, was ultimately surrendered and saw Vandembroeck tactical acumen questioned.



National Microfinance Bank (NMB)'s Zanzibar Branch Manager, Abdallah Duchi, presents sports kits to Zanzibar Representative Council's Member, Salim Ali Jazira, for the Council's teams which will take part in sports events aiming at commemorating 56th Anniversary of the Isles' Revolution. The kits include basketballs, footballs and jerseys worth 6.5m/-. The handover ceremony took place at Zanzibar Representative Council's hall, Chukwani, yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Bollywood A-lister backs protesting students, faces boycott calls

MUMBAI

A TOP Indian actress who joined students protesting against the government drew calls on social media on Wednesday for a boycott of her upcoming film, as well as praise for being a rare Bollywood A-lister to stand up against a crackdown on dissent.

Deepika Padukone stood silently behind students chanting anti-government slogans at New

Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University on Tuesday evening, surprising many in a country where top film stars typically avoid politics.

Her act of solidarity came after masked men wielding sticks and rods stormed the JNU campus on Sunday, injuring some 30 people.

Students at JNU, regarded as a left-wing bastion, have protested for months against an announced fee hike as well as a new citizenship law, which critics say

discriminates against Muslims and erodes India's secular constitution.

Students and some faculty blamed Sunday's assault on a student union with ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. The student union has denied these allegations, blaming left-wing groups for the violence.

Pictures circulating online showing a solemn-faced Padukone standing behind an injured student leader, whose head was covered in a bandage, set off social media storm, raising calls for a boycott of her film "Chhapaak" (Splash), which is set to be released on Friday.

"#BoycottChhapaak" was Twitter's top trending topic in India on Wednesday, with more than 350,000 tweets on the subject. The film is based on the true story of a woman who survived an acid attack and re-built her life.

"What a brazen & cheap tactic to promote a film!" wrote one Twitter user about Padukone.

"She chooses JNU where leftists who want to break India domi-

nate!" tweeted another. Some outspoken Bollywood figures lauded Padukone though, and vowed to support "Chhapaak."

"Let's all those who stand against the violence go to @bookmyshow and show them," tweeted director Anurag Kashyap.

Padukone, who starred in the 2017 action film "xXx: Return of Xander Cage" with Vin Diesel, does not appear to have made any statement on Tuesday. She was not available for comment on Wednesday, her spokeswoman said.

The protests sweeping India in the last weeks have posed a dilemma for Bollywood, which has some big-name Muslim actors but is sensitive to the sentiments of the country's Hindu majority.

"The reason why a whole lot of stars back away from making statements is because they are afraid of the consequences it will have on their films," said brand consultant and columnist Santosh Desai. "To do this so close to a film is certainly risky."

REUTERS



Deepika Padukone

AP

Plane grounding forces Liverpool's Mane to skip prize parade

DAKAR

LIVERPOOL star Sadio Mane's triumphant homecoming to Senegal after winning Africa's top football prize was scuppered Wednesday when problems with overflight permission in Tunisia grounded his jet.

Senegal's capital Dakar had readied celebrations for the 27-year-old, who was crowned Africa's 2019 Player of the Year in Egypt on Tuesday.

The first Senegalese player to win the prize since 2002, Mane was meant to land to crowds of supporters in Dakar, followed by a parade and a ceremony with the president.

But the festivities were called off on Wednesday after a delay in receiving overflight permission from Tunisian authorities, said Bakary Cisse, an official in Mane's entourage.

"The Reds and the forward had made provisions for him to fly to his homeland directly from the ceremony in Egypt in recognition of the support many in his country had given him on his journey towards receiving the prestigious prize," Liverpool said in a statement.

"However, travel disruption beyond both his and the club's control meant he was unable to make the visit and will now do so at the earliest possible opportunity."

est possible opportunity."

The Premier League leaders have yet to be beaten this season, with 19 victories and one draw. Liverpool travel to Jose Mourinho's Tottenham on Saturday.

An official close to Senegalese political circles told AFP the visit had not been cancelled, but rather delayed by several days.

Praise for Mane flooded in across Senegal on Tuesday, while images of celebrations in his native village of Bambali, in the south of the country, circulated on social media.

Senegalese President Macky Sall tweeted that Mane's win was a "marvellous feat" that deserved being heralded as an example for young people.

The player has had a successful year both with Liverpool -- with whom he won the Champions League and the Club World Cup -- and with the Senegal squad.

The West African nation lost to Algeria in the Africa Cup of Nations final.

Mane also finished the 2018-19 Premier League season as joint top scorer with 22 goals.

However, in a disappointment to fans, he came in fourth place in the Ballon d'Or last year, an award won for a record sixth time by Lionel Messi.

AFP

'Not time to make waves': Mbappe on new PSG contract

PARIS

FRENCH World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe brushed aside questions about his future at Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday when he said "it's not the time to make waves" over contract talks.

The 21-year-old striker, long linked with a move to Real Madrid, insisted his mind was only on helping PSG defend their Ligue 1 title and chase an elusive Champions League triumph.

"For now, I am ready to play football," Mbappe said after scoring in his team's 6-1 rout of St Etienne in the French League Cup quarter-finals.

"It is January, it's the start of the final sprint where there are titles to play for. Therefore it's not the moment to make waves."

Mbappe has a deal at PSG which runs until 2022.

Recruited in the summer of 2017 for 180 million euros (\$202 million) from Monaco, Mbappe is now believed to be worth 265 million euros, according to the Swiss-based International Centre for

Sports Studies.

"The club is calm and serene, everyone is pulling in the same direction, so talking about things that are off the pitch is not very realistic and not very beneficial for the team," added Mbappe who now has 19 goals for the season.

"I am a footballer, not an accountant. I play, I do my job. I try to help my team."

"If I am the most expensive player in the world, everything is fine."

In December, Real Madrid coach, and fellow Frenchman, Zinedine Zidane remarked that Mbappe had always said it was his dream to play for the Spanish side.

Liverpool, too, have been linked with Mbappe.

Manager Jurgen Klopp had been keen to sign the player in 2017, meeting him and his entourage before the switch to PSG from Monaco was completed.

If PSG were to reluctantly allow Mbappe to leave, they are believed to want more than the record fee of \$260 million they paid Barcelona for Neymar in 2017.

AFP

Super Cup in Saudi part of football's desire to make money - Barca coach

JEDDAH

BARCELONA coach Ernesto Valverde has concerns with the new format of the Spanish Super Cup and said that playing the competition in Saudi Arabia is a consequence of the football industry's desire to find more revenue streams.

The Super Cup traditionally kicked-started the season in Spain with a two-legged contest between the Copa del Rey winners and La Liga champions although the 2018 edition was played as a one-off game in Tangier, Morocco.

Last year the Spanish football federation (RFEF) agreed to double the number of teams and take the competition outside Spain permanently as well as moving it from August to January.

The federation has signed a three-year deal to play the competition in Saudi Arabia, which Spanish media say is worth 40 million euros (\$44 million) annually.

"I know there have been rumblings but football these days is an industry," Valverde told a news conference ahead of Barca's semi-final match against Atletico Madrid in Jeddah on Thursday.

"The reason why we are here

and why we were in Morocco is because the authorities are looking for more sources of income."

The move has been criticised by supporters' groups for excluding the teams' traditional fanbase and from campaign groups such as Amnesty International due to the conservative Muslim kingdom's record on human rights.

Valverde also questioned the merits of opening the competition up to Atletico and Real Madrid, who ended last season empty handed.

Barca and Valencia qualify for the Super Cup as league and cup winners respectively, while Atletico earned one of the new berths due to coming second in La Liga.

The last spot was intended for the cup runners-up but as Barca had already qualified, Real took the vacant place due to their superior cup record over Real Betis, last year's other losing semi-finalists.

"For me it's strange to play the Super Cup with two guest teams. It's clear that these games are exciting for the crowd but from a sporting point of view there is only one league champion and there is only one cup winner," added the coach.

REUTERS

Mourinho's Spurs pose tricky test for Liverpool

LONDON

SPURS manager Jose Mourinho would love to be the one who ends Liverpool's year-long unbeaten run in the Premier League, and Saturday's game could be closer than the standings suggest.

The late match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will be the first between Jurgen Klopp's men and a Mourinho side since Manchester United dismissed the Portuguese after a 3-1 defeat at Anfield in December 2018.

"Don't sack Mourinho," the crowd chorused mockingly during that 2018 humiliation, so revenge in North London would be sweet.

Spurs have been shockingly leaky, and some are expecting a classic demonstration of Mourinho's bus-parking expertise in defence and a few tactical tricks.

"The way Spurs used to play under Mauricio Pochettino, you would have expected them to come out and have a go at us but I can't see that happening under Jose Mourinho," former Liverpool striker John Aldridge wrote in a column for the city's Echo newspaper.

"I am sure they will try to soak up pressure and hit us on the break with Lucas Moura, Son (Heung-Min) and Dele Alli.

"They will allow us to have possession and try to break them down, no doubt that is how Mourinho will play because I think he is very intimidated by Liverpool."

The match could still be an awkward trip for the visiting Reds who beat Tottenham in last year's Champions League final and have a near-perfect record of 58 points out of 60 this season to sit 13 points clear at the top.



Jurgen Klopp -

Jose Mourinho

Mourinho, who replaced the sacked Pochettino at Spurs in November, has only twice been on the winning side against Klopp in their 10 previous games as opponents.

To do it again, Tottenham will have to rise to the challenge without injured captain Harry Kane.

CLEAN SHEETS

Former Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp suggested it could still be a lot closer than the 28-point gap between Liverpool and sixth-placed Spurs, who have kept only two clean sheets this season.

"I can't see any other result but Liverpool winning the title, but Tottenham away will be a tough game,

make no mistake about that," he told Sky Sports.

"They'll want to break that Liverpool unbeaten run and it will be a tight game for sure -- you wouldn't write Tottenham off, they've got outstanding players in the team."

Second-placed Leicester City host Southampton on Saturday.

The Foxes thrashed the Saints 9-0, the biggest ever top flight away win in English soccer, in the reverse fixture in October but Southampton have tightened up considerably since that humiliation, conceding only 13 goals in 11 games.

Four more goals for Leicester would set another record, however, as the most one club has put past another in the league.

other in the league.

Leicester have top-scoring striker Jamie Vardy back in action, with the England international turning 33 on Saturday, after he missed three matches with a calf problem but centre-back Wes Morgan is out with a groin injury.

Third-placed champions Manchester City, looking for a fifth win in a row in all competitions, travel to relegation-threatened Aston Villa on Sunday.

Chelsea, fourth, are at home to Burnley while Manchester United, fifth and without injured defender Harry Maguire, host bottom side Norwich City.

REUTERS

If Zlatan Ibrahimovic is the answer for Milan, what exactly is the question?

BY JAMES HORNCastle, ESPN ITALY WRITER

A YEAR ago, Zlatan Ibrahimovic was deciding whether or not to stay in MLS. He had plenty of offers, including one from Milan, and ultimately decided to remain in Los Angeles for another season. But that didn't stop him taking a look around and judging the decisions of his contemporaries. When asked about Cristiano Ronaldo and the choice he made to leave Real Madrid for Juventus rather than, let's say, a team in China or Qatar, Ibrahimovic produced a zinger of a sound bite.

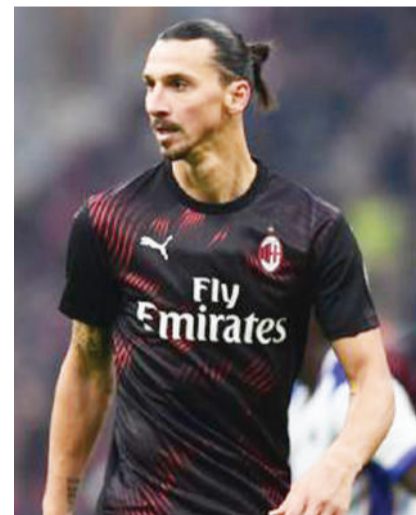
"Ronaldo talks about challenges, but he decided to go to a club who have been winning the Serie A title with their eyes closed," quipped the inimitable Swede. "Why did he not choose a club from a second division a few years ago? Try to become a champion with such a second division club and lead them to the highest level. Moving to Juventus is not a challenge at all."

When this thinking is applied to Ibrahimovic's latest move, what challenge do Milan present?

The Rossoneri are no second-division team, of course, but they haven't won the league since selling Ibrahimovic (against his will) to Paris Saint-Germain in 2012. They haven't played Champions League football in six years. Looked at one way, Ibrahimovic's sale marked the beginning of a decline Milan have tried and failed to halt. As he stood holding up the No. 21 shirt in Milan on Friday, a meme was being prepared highlighting how it is also the difference in points between them in the Serie A doldrums and Juventus and Inter at the top.

Milan remain in the bottom half of the table following Monday's 0-0 draw with Sampdoria, in which Ibrahimovic as a second-half substitute (stream the replay on ESPN+ in the U.S.). They sacked Marco Giampaolo at the beginning of October, and things have not dramatically improved since Stefano Pioli replaced him.

Milan went into the winter break on the back of a 5-0 hiding from Atalanta, the club's worst defeat in more than two decades. And yet, Milan initially pushed back on the idea of



Zlatan Ibrahimovic

re-signing Ibrahimovic. For a start, he didn't fit the club's recruitment policy. Every player acquired in the past two transfer windows has been 25 or younger, and the decision to appoint Giampaolo as manager in the summer was made due to how he developed and added value to players at his previous team, Sampdoria.

For a club without a privately owned stadium and lacking access to Champions League revenue, bringing in money from player sales while simultaneously making the team more and more competitive had to become a bigger part of the business. But it quickly became apparent that this Milan team -- the youngest in Serie A -- is too green and lacks both a charismatic leader and goals. This creeping realisation changed the discourse

around signing Ibrahimovic: With every toothless 0-0 game and every one-goal win that felt nervier than it needed to be because of the lack of a clinical, confident striker up front, it became harder and harder for Milan to justify turning down their former talisman when the opportunity presented itself.

As Ibrahimovic revealed at his news conference, "The calls increased after the Atalanta game."

Milan's attack ranks 16th in Serie A. They are averaging less than a goal a game, and the team's expected goals (xG) is not much better. Mid-table at just 25, it is inferior to even a promoted side like Lecce. It isn't like Milan are just struggling to score, either; creating chances is an issue too, meaning Ibrahimovic will have to play as the No.9 and the No.10 in red and black.

"If I don't score, I make assists or do other things to help the team," he explained.

The question now is: Can Ibrahimovic still match up with expectations? This deal could have been done earlier, and the fact it wasn't reflected Milan's reluctance to pay a 38-year-old close to what he might have demanded while in his prime a decade ago. As the club's technical director, Paolo Maldini, outlined prior to the 0-0 draw against Sassuolo, "The longer it goes on, the harder it becomes [to go through with the deal]. [Ibrahimovic] played his last

game on Oct. 28."

As someone who played into his 40s, Maldini is better placed than anyone to appreciate the need for physical preparation in order to meet standards and be effective -- particularly when in Ibrahimovic's case, he only is 2½ years removed from a knee injury that threatened to end his career. Ibrahimovic himself admits he hasn't kicked a ball for two months and needs to get to know new teammates, a new coach and re-acclimatise with a league that is more competitive than MLS.

"Clearly, I can't play like I did when I was 28," Ibrahimovic said, "but I know what I can do. You mustn't overdo it when you play. Instead of running, you can shoot from 40m."

And Ibrahimovic, let's face it, can score from there with the best of him.

Milan need him to make an impact as big as it is instant. The two strikers available to Pioli -- Piatek and Rafael Leao -- have scored one goal apiece from open play. The team's top scorer with four goals is left-back Theo Hernandez. Already off the mark in a friendly against Rhodense but making a mixed return to Serie A in Monday's uninspired 0-0 draw versus Sampdoria -- albeit with a hero's welcome -- the hope is the goals come back quickly for Ibrahimovic in games of consequence.

Milan need a bit of magic to turn their season around. They need some Ibracadabra.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mourinho's Spurs pose tricky test for Liverpool

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Malan rises to prominence after hard graft in the backwaters

CAPE TOWN

PRESSURE, to (mis)quote Keith Miller, is not what Pieter Malan experienced at the crease on the fifth day of the Newlands Test. Faced with the task of batting out the day to save the Test against one of the most vaunted attacks in world cricket, debutant Malan showed nerves of steel.

"That's not pressure, that's privilege," he said after the match. "Pressure is playing out there in the semi-pro game, nobody watching, fighting for your career. Being out there, with the Barmy Army, Jimmy Anderson running in, it felt like a video game at some stage. It was unbelievable. I felt very privileged to be in a position to fight for the team and try and bat long and just be there for as long as I can."

Malan has played his fair share of semi-professional cricket (the provincial tier below franchise cricket in South Africa's domestic scene). Ninety-five matches to be exact, most recently in November. While his younger brother Janneman was blitzing through the Mzansi Super League, Pieter was grafting hard in the backwaters of East London and Kimberley for Western Province. That's pressure.

Trying to stay motivated when the cameras and the big bucks are elsewhere. Trying to catch (at that stage, non-existent) selectors' eyes through performances. Trying to justify your career choice when you could be part of a fourth of the country's domestic cricketers unemployed because of a possible restructure. That's pressure. It could've become too much for Malan to handle, but it didn't.

He didn't blame the structure nor the competition, but recognized that the fault was with his own commitment. "I don't think I did myself any favours when I was younger. I took a lot of stuff for granted and didn't put in the hard work that, in hindsight, I needed to put in," Malan said. "It was also a matter of opportunities being limited and me not taking them."

In 2013, Malan moved to the Cape and was fourth on the provincial run charts the 2014-15 season. In 2015-16, he was third on the charts, and hit the high notes in 2016-17, finishing on top of the list with 1069 runs at an average of 118.77.

This allowed him to graduate to the Cape Cobras franchise, and even nail a spot. He literally barged the selectors' door by finishing third on the run charts in 2017-18 and 2018-19, but the national call-up remained elusive.

At the time, Aiden Markram had just taken over the opener's mantle from Stephen Cook. Malan, like Cook, was nearing the 30s and had begun to accept that an international call-up may have bypassed him. "I thought it was never going to happen."

Malan continued to churn out runs for Cobras and credits former international Ashwell Prince for keeping him in good space. "He has been massive in my career," Malan said. "He played 60-odd Tests, averaged over 40 and scored hundreds so when he tells you something, you listen. We work on small technical stuff that we just keep refining.

"It's a bit of a cat-and-mouse game, where you improve something, then the bowler spots another weakness, and you end up going back and forth. He is very good with that. And then also from the mental side, he pushes all the time and I enjoy that."

TONIGHT @ 21:00

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13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Radio-Phone/Bongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAGS
17:00 SSELECT
17:35 Kuroko
18:00 eNews
18:30 Skanga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJDALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

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05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga announce Belgian Eymael as new head coach



Luc Eymael.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) have announced Belgian tactician, Luc Eymael, as their new head coach. The club released the news on their official Twitter and Instagram accounts yesterday.

He becomes the second Belgian to handle Yanga, following in the footsteps of Tom Saintfiet who had a brief reign in 2012. Eymael has won trophies in South Africa, DR Congo, Rwanda and Kenya.

"Luc Eymael is the official Yanga head coach. He is expected to land in the afternoon and will travel straight to Zanzibar to join

the team which is taking part in the Mapinduzi Cup," Antonio Nugaz, the club spokesman confirmed.

He was expected to attend Mapinduzi Cup semi-final match against Mtibwa Sugar at Amaan Stadium yesterday as a spectator prior to meeting the players and taking up his new role.

Eymael, whose first league match in charge will be the home meeting with Kagera Sugar on January 15, will inherit an improved squad from interim head coach Boniface Mkwasa.

The former Yanga midfielder who took over from the sacked Mwinyi Zahera has overseen impressive performances against

Ndanda FC, JKT Tanzania, Alliance and Prisons - as well as the more morale boosting draw with arch rivals Simba.

However, it has not been confirmed if Mkwasa will remain part of the technical bench.

The much-travelled Belgian coach joins the record time Vodacom Premier League Champions having previously coached Free State Stars, Bloemfontein Celtic, Polokwane City and Black Leopards in the South Africa Premier League.

He made his reputation in South African football by transforming Polokwane from minnows to a force to be reckoned with before winning the Nedbank Cup final with Free State Stars in 2017.

He left Free State Stars to join Egyptian Premier League side Tala'ea El Gaish SC who he ditched at the end of last season.

Eymael joined Black Leopards back in September as he returned to South Africa following his one year spell in Egypt. Despite signing a two year deal he resigned after three months and was replaced by Calvin Johnson.

He has also had coaching stints in Sudan where he handled Al Merreikh, Kenya with AFC Leopards, Algeria and several other Asian countries.

Anderson ruled out of SA tour after suffering rib injury

LONDON

JAMES Anderson has been ruled out of the remainder of the tour of South Africa due to a left rib injury.

Anderson, the leading wicket-taker among fast bowlers in Test history, sustained the injury on the final day of the Cape Town Test. With England pressing for victory, he continued to bowl despite the pain and despite the knowledge that, by doing so, he risked exacerbating the problem.

He underwent a scan in Cape Town on Wednesday which confirmed the issue was bone-related rather than a soft-tissue injury. Such setbacks typically take between six to eight weeks to heal.

Anderson will return to England in the next few days for rest and rehab, with Craig Overton, the Somerset seamer, staying on with the squad as cover.

The new injury is a cruel setback for Anderson. The Cape Town Test was just his second since returning from a calf injury that limited him to only four overs in the entire Ashes campaign. The prospect of several more weeks of rehab may well prove disheartening, although he signaled his desire to battle back in an upbeat tweet shortly after the news was confirmed.

"Frustrating to be missing the rest of this series with a broken rib but hopefully will be healed in a few weeks!" Anderson wrote. "Will be supporting the boys from

home."

Anderson bowled immaculately in Cape Town, even though he was limited to eight overs on the final day after reporting tightness and discomfort at the end of the morning session. He became the oldest England seamer to claim a five-wicket haul in Test cricket since Freddie Brown in 1951 in the first innings while his overall match figures were seven for 63 from 37 overs.

Such figures may convince him that, once recovered, he can still play a role at Test level. He had previously suggested he may like to sit out England's tour of Sri Lanka in March - he argued the pitches will render him largely redundant in any

case - with a view to returning to the side for the home season. England's first Test of the home summer, against West Indies, starts on June 4.

The news sustains England's tricky start to the tour. After contending with a virulent sickness bug that affected 11 players ahead of the first Test, England lost their first-choice opening batsman, Rory Burns, to an ankle ligament injury while he was playing football in warm-up the day before the second Test. At the time Ben Stokes suggested, tongue only partly in cheek, that the tour was "cursed."

Anderson requires 16 more wickets to become the fourth man to claim 600 Test victims. **AGENCIES**



James Anderson

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