



National Pg 2

Tanzania, France enhance partnership



National Pg 3

TTB strengthens ties with China



National Pg 4

Achieving good governance practices



DAR BRIDGE UNDER FLOODWATERS



Residents of Dar es Salaam's Sinza suburb unable to move on after River Ng'ombe Bridge found itself under floodwaters, courtesy of hours of pounding rain in the city yesterday. More photos on Page 6. Photo: Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochi

Floods wreak havoc in Dar

Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa said that until yesterday evening no deaths or injuries were reported

By Getrude Mbago

RELENTLESS rainfall yesterday left a trail of destruction across the city of Dar es Salaam, leaving motorists stranded as the raging floods rendered most of the major roads impassable. The rains, which started early in the morning saw a number of infrastructure such as roads, bridges and houses being badly damaged. The situation also made commuting a hassle due to abnormal traffic jams. A survey conducted by this newspaper in various parts of the city witnessed infrastructures especially in low-lying areas like Tandale, Jangwani, Boko, Mbagala, Tabata, Mkwajuni, Sinza Uzuri and Msimbazi valley being seriously overwhelmed. Most shops in various areas remained closed for many hours. Bridges like Jangwani, Kamanyola and their connecting roads were all submerged, thus leading to the closure of road services for some hours. "The situation is terrible. There is nothing we can do today as homes, shop frames

are all filled up with water. I also haven't reported to job today as it was difficult to come out and reach the highway, said Adolf Daudi, a resident of Sinza suburb in Dar es Salaam. Residents in Mbagala, Tabata, Tandale and Mburahati said that most roads in their areas were awash with gushing water thus affecting their activities. "Many roadside stalls were washed away leaving traders stranded," said Sarah Zuberi, a petty trader at Mburahati area, a densely populated zone with low lying areas. Hafidh Abdulrahim, a commuter bus driver plying between Tegeta and Kariakoo said the situation sounds alarm to the responsible authorities to figure out how to come up with a permanent solution especially in drainage systems to address the flooding challenge. The Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa said that until yesterday evening no deaths or injuries were reported. The regional police chief promised to

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'Drones monitor hippos better than researchers'

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE their threatened status, the fact that hippos are nocturnal, amphibious and just plain aggressive has made it quite difficult for scientists to actually study them. So to solve this problem scientist had to get creative. They found that using low-cost drones to observe the hippos not only made studying them easier but provided more accurate data as well. Native to sub-Saharan Africa, these semi-aquatic mammals are now threatened by habitat loss as well as hunting and ivory poaching. And while world hippo

populations are believed to be between 115,000 and 130,000 at most, scientists say that collecting accurate population and age data about these animals is incredibly tricky. Victoria Inman, lead author and Ph.D. candidate at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) said in a statement that even though hippos are a charismatic megafauna, they are surprisingly understudied, because of how difficult it is to work with nocturnal, amphibious and aggressive animals. Traditional observation approaches either use high-speed aerial cameras, or more hazardous water and land surveys. While land surveys have proven to be the most beneficial of the three so far, they are also more challenging thanks to the remote location of some hippo pods as well as the potential danger posed to researchers should a hippo respond aggressively. In the study, published this

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Rice output plan rolled out for regional food security

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

STRENGTHENING food security in the country so as to assist with food security in the East African and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regions is a major objective of the government, to become the rice market leader in the region. Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga said this on Monday when launching the second phase of the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS II) at Saint Gaspar Hall in Dodoma. In order to achieve that goal, the government is prioritizing various projects including availability of quality rice seeds withstanding drought, mobilizing the use of better production

technology withstanding the effects of climate change as well as reducing production costs, he said. Other objectives include strengthening production systems and markets especially for small farmers so as to make rice farming sustainable, and improving irrigation infrastructure and capacity building for users so as to maintain the infrastructures, he further stated. To attain these goals, the ministry in collaboration with stakeholders in rice farming will ensure widening rice acreage from 1.1 million hectares in 2018 to 2.2 million hectares by 2030, increase crop yields from 2.2 million

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Police hold three over printing of banknotes

By Henry Mwangonde

POLICE in Dar es Salaam are holding three people over suspicions of setting up and operating a factory that was used to produce fake local and foreign banknotes worth over 500m/- ready to enter into circulation. Speaking at a press conference co-organized by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and attended by governor Prof Florens Luoga, Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa told journalists that the factory was located at Chanika on the outskirts of city. The factory produced fake United States dollars, Tanzanian shillings, Malawian kwacha, Congolese francs and Mozambican banknotes. "We received information from well-wishers.

We worked on the information and the initiative led to the arrest of these three men who were trying to sabotage our economy," he said. Inquiries as to the presence of the factory began some days ago when Hai District Commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya impounded fake banknotes amounting to 11m/-. The RPC said the suspect set up the factory in a house and controlled his family's movements to avoid suspicions as to what was going on inside the compound. "He would escort any member of the family who was going out of the house using his car to keep information about his operations a secret," the police chief explained. He showed reporters some of the machines

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NOTICE OF HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

Derm Group wishes to inform its esteemed clients and business partners that our offices will be closed during the festive season with effect from **Saturday 21st December 2019**.

Business will resume on **Monday 06th January 2020**.

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Kisawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (2nd-L) pictured yesterday symbolically counting the 200 bags of cement donated by GSM Group for use in the construction of girls' dormitories at secondary schools in the district in support of her 'Remove Zero' campaign. She is with Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Mwita Waitara (L) and GSM Group marketing and communications manager Matina Nkuru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rice output plan rolled out for regional food security

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tonnes to 4.4 million tonnes by 2030 and to develop rice irrigation farming, the minister affirmed.

He pleaded with international corporations including aid agencies like the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), or the Swiss agency HELVETAS, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in the Philippines, RIKOLTO - an international NGO based in Belgium, BRITEN (Building Rural Incomes Through Enterprise),

AGRICOM, an agriculture equipment firm based in Dar es Salaam, and other stakeholders to continue cooperating with the government in implementing the project so as to enable the country become a major rice producer in the two economic cooperation zones.

He said together with the implementation of NRDS 1 (National Rice Development Strategy phase 1) that showed clear achievements, it was quite evident there is the need for increasing rice production.

The strategy is meant to increase rice

production, beefing up food security and nutrition, and increase farmers' and national income in general by 2030.

Preparations for implementing the strategy stem from the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) meeting in Japan in October 2018 that evaluated the implementation of CARD I during 2008 to 2018, and also outlined the second phase of the strategy for 2019 to 2030, he further noted.

The minister has also directed the Tanzania Society of Agricultural

Extension and Education (TSAEE) to ensure the provision of extension services.

Speaking at the TSAEE Annual General Meeting in Dodoma, he called on TSAEE to supervise the professionalism of extension officers when doing their duties.

The agency should similarly ensure that its members meet regularly to discuss achievements and challenges in extension services provision and advising the government on how to deal with the challenges, he added.

Floods wreak havoc in Dar

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provide more information on the floods today.

TMA forecasting services manager Samuel Mbuya said that people should take precaution measures as the ongoing rains may lead to floods and water related diseases.

He urged the public to also avoid standing under trees and near rivers for their safety, implying the possibility of attracting lightning.

Other regions which experienced heavy rains are Dodoma, Singida, Tanga, the northern part of Morogoro, Coast and well as Unguja and Pemba islands, he said.

TMA says the rains are a result of enhancement of predisposition to rainfall due to an influx of oceanic winds from the southern part of the African shoreline, part of the western rim of the Indian Ocean.

TMA's monthly forecast said occasional periods of rainfall are likely to continue over the coastal strip for December.

Rains are expected in Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast regions as well as in Unguja and Pemba islands, the forecast projected.

Every time it pours in the city, much of this scene is repeated, though the

rate of homelessness, destruction of property and even death is varied.

Extreme situations are not rare as in March 2015, scores of people died after it rained heavily for days and in April 2014 as many as 10 people died after widespread flooding in the city.

Experts advise authorities to focus on construction of proper storm water systems in the city and other parts of the country, by improving on current unplanned settlements.

Over 70 percent of the city's 4.5m to 5m inhabitants live in informal settlements, part of it stretching long distances of the two sides of the Msimbazi river basin.

The government through the Urban Resilience Programme (TURP) funded also by the World Bank has launched several initiatives to stabilize and reinforce the drainage system, with roads being rebuilt with adequate flood water catchments.

Msimbazi river basin is subjected to a strategic development and management framework to guide future investments in the centrally located but hostile zone.

The plan includes transforming much of the lower flood plain to a city park and building a solid foundation for housing and commercial development, officials assert.

Police hold 3 over printing of banknotes

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he said were used to manufacture the fake notes, notably a printer, a number of photocopiers and lamination machines, among others.

He did not go into details about the suspects, including how long the factory has operated and how much currency has been put into circulation during the period.

Earlier, Governor Luoga said the offence the suspects have committed is equivalent to sabotaging the national economy.

He said that BoT managed to control the fake currencies from entering into

circulation, as if those sums managed to enter into circulation that would be dangerous for the national economy.

"This is a serious offence. It is unfortunate that Tanzanian laws are not very serious on such offences but they have a serious impact on the economy because those who suffer are small scale users," he said.

BoT will be collaborating with the police and other security organs to sensitize the public on the matter, he stated.

The central bank is readying to establish gold reserves following the stabilization of the shilling in recent years, he added.

Tanzania, France 'determined' to boost education partnership

By Felister Peter

MORE Tanzanian youth will join higher learning institutions in France starting next year as the two countries move to strengthen bilateral relations between universities.

"Currently, 30 Tanzanian students got scholarship to study in France, we want to scale-up the number Tanzanian youth benefiting with scholarships to 50 annually. In a balance relation, France also wants to have a good number of its students in Tanzania who will promote Kiswahili language in France", said France ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier.

He was speaking shortly after signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and the University of Bordeaux.

Signing of the MoU was in sideline of the France-Tanzania higher education fair which was attended by 17 Tanzanian universities and 10 French universities.

The event provided a platform for Tanzanian youths to learn about French universities that offer best education, explore employment and scholarship opportunities.

Ambassador Clavier said the France-Tanzania higher education fair has opened a new chapter of bilateral relations between higher learning institutions in the two countries, noting France is aware of the capacities of Tanzanian universities and the crucial role that Tanzania plays in the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In France, he said, there are 1,000 Degree, Masters and Phd courses directly taught in English to ensure a comfortable learning environment for all the students. He said President Emmanuel Macron has set a target to attract 500,000 international students annually from 2017. Currently, there are 7,000 foreign students studying in France while this year alone, the country hosted more than 320,000 foreign students.

"We have the green light to work and match together as you prepare to become a middle income sized nation", added the Ambassador as

he commends the support from the government.

France is the 4th largest host country for international students in the world after US, UK and Australia.

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Vice-Chancellor Prof Andrea Pembe said the long term agreement signed between the two universities is meant enhance cooperation in teaching and researches. He said the good researches are also expected to help policy makers.

Prof Pembe added under the agreement the university will conduct a number of researches including the one on how pesticides can have negative effects on people's health.

"This is for mutual benefits. More similar agreements will be signed in future between the French university and University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)".

Alain Garrigou from the University of Bordeaux in Paris said: "We offer variety courses including public health, we are an experienced university enrolling almost 66,000 students, among them, 3,000 from foreign countries. We receive students from all over Africa".

Prof Garrigou asserted since the university receives students from abroad, there are almost 21 Masters Degree courses offered in English.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology William Ole-Nasha hailed organizers of the event, insisting education was something the nation could not do without. He commended the partnership as Tanzania strive for the middle-income economy towards 2025.

"Partnership the between the two countries have been growing from the education sector to business and tourism", said Ole-Nasha.

Some French universities which took part at the fair are IMT Atlantique and University of Bordeaux while those from Tanzania included, MUHAS, UDSM, Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) and Institute of Finance Management (IFM).



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angellah Kairuki (R) is briefed by a Kioo Ltd official when she toured the Dar es Salaam-based glass container manufacturing firm on Monday. Dar es Salaam

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month in the journal PLOS ONE, scientists explore how using low-cost drones may improve not only the safety of such observations but the quality of data collected as well. The study was conducted at a lagoon in Botswana over a seven-day period in 2017 and used a DJI Phantom 4 drone to capture aerial footage of the hippos.

To determine what height might be best for these observations, the researchers took footage at 120 meters (394 feet), 80 meters (262 feet), and 40 meters (131 feet) above the ground during different points of the day. In total, they completed 84 drone trials.

While traditional aerial surveys are also flown around this same height (usually around 100 meters, or 328

'Drones monitor hippos better than researchers'

feet) they go much faster and not only compromise data as a result but can also disturb hippos. Scientists were happy to see that the drones, on the other hand, barely disturbed the hippos at all.

After comparing footage from the different drone runs the team was able to determine that drones flown at 40 meters were not only the best among the other trials but were also 10 percent more accurate than traditional land surveys. Footage from these 40-meter trials helped scientists more accurately count the number of individuals in a hippo pod as well as better estimate the age of individuals based on observed

length measurements of the animals.

The better quality data collected from these 40-meter drone runs also helped scientists dispel a long-held assumption about hippo observation. Scientists used to believe that observing hippos during the early morning was the best time to collect accurate population data, but these trials found that the early morning might actually be the worst time to observe them.

"At that time hippos are active and often submerging, making them difficult to count, and this finding was counter to current advice," said Inman in a statement.

While the sample size of this

experiment was fairly small, the researchers are enthusiastic about the possibilities of such an approach in the future and hope it can be used to further hippo conservation and research.

"Drone data could be routinely collected in different river systems, providing a guide to the numbers in hippo pods, seasonal changes and the ability to track the long-term status of hippo populations," said Inman. "Our study shows that small, commercially available drones are a simple, affordable and effective method for wildlife conservation organisations to monitor threatened species."



Shafi Rahman (R), Bonite Bottlers Ltd sales manager for the Coast, Lake Victoria and southern highlands zones, presents a motorcycle to Thomson Daniel for emerging one of 15 winners of a Kilimanjaro Water draw at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

PCCB hold magistrate over bribe suspicions

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Singida Region is holding Mtinko Primary Court magistrate in Singida district for receiving 250,000/- bribe allegedly from an informer so as to offer favourable decision in a civil case he was facing at the court.

Singida region PCCB Commander Adili Elinipenda mentioned the suspect as Bernard Modest Kasanda who committed the offence on December 16, this year in contravention of section 15 of the PCCB Act No 11 of 2007.

The PCCB official explained that the suspect after receiving the money, he hid it in a tooth paste packet.

He said after searching, the suspect was found with another amount of money 489,100/- and five knives, one of them tucked into the sock he wore, others in his drawer and bag.

According to Elinipenda two other people who had cases at the court before magistrate Kasanda came forward and said they also gave the suspect money, one allegedly saying he gave him 50,000/- and another 200,000/-.

However, Elinipenda explained that PCCB was still investigating all the issues and the public will be informed thereafter. He also called on wananchi in the region to inform the bureau of any corrupt incidents so as the law to take its course.

By Guardian Reporter

ZUPS transforms lives of older people in Isles

ZANZIBAR'S Universal Social Pension (ZUPS) scheme has improved the lives of older people in Zanzibar, and made a positive impact on their wider households, according to a new report released yesterday.

The Impact Evaluation of the Zanzibar Universal Pension Scheme delivers a positive assessment on how East Africa's first ever universal pension scheme, which entitles all Zanzibar residents aged 70 and over to a monthly social pension, has positively affected the lives of its recipients.

Prepared by the Zanzibar government

and the Economic and the Social Research Foundation (ESRF) the report delivers a positive assessment of the impact the social pension is having on older people and their households in Zanzibar.

"The Zanzibar government should be congratulated for the impact this pioneering pension has had on the lives of its older citizens. This report provides clear evidence of an initiative which has helped deliver meaningful improvement to older people in Zanzibar," said Smart Daniel, Country Director HelpAge

International, Tanzania.

The evaluation found that the secure income provided by the pension had a very positive effect on beneficiaries' households, enabling them to increase their spending on food, health and education. Older people found it easy to register for the pension, and said the payments were timely and carried out efficiently.

"The evaluation reveals that the ZUPS has for the first time, granted a secure monthly income to its recipients which has enabled them to enjoy improved

wellbeing," said Florian Juergens, the global social protection advisor at HelpAge International.

Older people who participated in discussion groups in Pemba and Unguja highlighted that the ZUPS was a critical source of income for them because of its reliability and the fact that it is paid in cash. "The evaluation of the ZUPS confirms that Universal Social Pensions are feasible policy options for governments and effective in ensuring income security for all people in older age, even where there are high-levels of

poverty," said Florian Juergens.

"The report confirms that even modest pensions can lead to important improvements in people lives. Further improvements, such as reducing the eligibility age and increasing the benefit level, have the potential to lead to even more positive changes for older people in Zanzibar," Florian added.

Qualitative evidence featured in the report shows that the ZUPS has had a positive impact on its beneficiaries' wellbeing. Pension recipients spoke about how the pension had given them a sense of dignity and independence, which was confirmed by Shehas (local government officials) and health workers.

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Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd. (Cardno) is seeking a Finance Specialist to support an upcoming World Bank funded Water Sector Support Project in Tanzania.

The Finance Specialist will perform the following:

- Assist in the management and execution of day-to-day financial management and accounting activities;
- Assist in preparation and monitoring of budgets, forecasts, manuals, and reports.
- Assist in monitoring commitments and plans on a day-to-day basis.
- Assist in establishing and updating internal controls, budgeting, commitment, and accounting systems, and maintain and monitor these systems on a daily basis.
- Assist in preparation, implementation and updating financial management processes and manuals, chart of accounts and reporting templates.
- Assist in preparation of monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual financial reports.
- Prepare payment requests and fixed assets register, and prepare funds reconciliation.
- Track and reconcile all cash management and disbursement activities.
- Assist in ensuring that all financial activities are carried out in compliance with local tax laws, international accounting standards, and conditions included in the grant agreements.
- Protect the financial management activity from fraud, waste, and abuse.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Minimum 6 years of experience in financial planning & budgeting, revenue management and budget allocation, tax specialization, public or private procurement, and internal and external audit.
- Experience setting up a financial management operation.
- Knowledge and experience in project based accounting, financial management, and contract management.
- Strong skills in payment operations, funds control, cash and commitment management, internal controls, and international accounting standards (IFRS).
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience working in a team, and with high-level government officials and/or private sector executives.
- Strong attention to detail and technical expertise in financial and accounting concepts.
- National of Tanzania with professional fluency in English and professional proficiency in Kiswahili.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience in the water or infrastructure sectors.
- Post-graduate qualification in finance, accounting, economics, or other relevant field is highly desirable.
- Professional qualification, e.g. CPA, ACCA is highly desirable.
- Work experience on World Bank, USAID, DFID or African Development Bank projects.

To Apply: Send CV with job title 'Tanzania - Finance Specialist' in the subject line to recruit@cardno.com

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- Assist in the planning, scheduling, and prioritization of the procurement functions, including plans for the efficient procurement of goods, works, and services. Analyze market conditions and assist in procurement outreach activities. Assist in the preparation of procurement plans, implementation plans, and performance reports.
- Assist in the preparation of standard bidding documents, procurement and contract management manuals, bid challenge system, and reporting templates.
- Provide contract administration services including arranging for proper inspection, ensuring compliance with terms and conditions of contracts, addressing delays, troubleshooting problems, assisting in contract amendment, disputes and termination, and ensuring completion of works and delivery of goods.
- Assure that all procurement activities are performed in a fully professional, transparent, and ethical manner, and that they are in line with procurement regulations and conditions of the grant and implementation agreement. Establish and maintain the procurement management and contract administration recordkeeping system. Assist with management and resolution of bid challenges. Protect the procurement activity from fraud, waste, and abuse. Ensure that all approvals and procurement records are kept safely and filed appropriately.

Minimum Qualifications:

- 6 years of experience working as a procurement professional.
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of best practices in procurement procedures, project administration and follow-up, and contract management.
- Experience working with international development partner institution procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Prior experience in conducting works procurement.
- Demonstrated procurement management experience in projects in the water/infrastructure sector.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- National of Tanzania with professional fluency in English and professional proficiency in Kiswahili.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience in the water or infrastructure sectors.
- Work experience on World Bank, USAID, DFID or African Development Bank projects.

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By Guardian Reporter

Govt should not shun calls for criticism, says coalition

THE Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development (TCDD) has called upon the government to take both praises and criticisms from the public as both of them mean a lot for the citizenry to be true patriots.

Speaking at the launch of the 'pledge of patriotism to the nation initiative' as part of the celebration of the Human Rights Day over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, TCDD managing director, Hebron Mwakagenda, said that criticizing the does not mean that the critic is not patriot to the nation.

"The government or officials in public authorities consider criticism as a crime hence don't listen or pay attention to the agendas raised by critics even if are of public interest. The word patriotism and its meaning are being misused especially in these recent days. It is being used as a tool of ignoring the truth which seem to be negative to the government and public officials," said Mwakagenda.

According to him, patriotism is being loyal to the nation by speaking out the

truth without bias or favouritism that is intended at making a speaker achieve something in return. He said for people being true patriots to their country there is a need of being well informed of both the rights and wrongs of the government with openness and fairness.

"In this year's human rights day TCDD is celebrating the global honour by awarding certificates to some Tanzanians whom it considers them being true patriots to the county by speaking out the truth whether through praises or criticisms. We are recognising them as a way of encouraging them and sending them a message that we value their contributions towards building a true patriot society," said Mwakagenda.

He named some of the patriots as Maria Sarungi, Fatma Karume, Bob Wangwe, Bishop Benson Bagonza, Bishop Stephen Munga, Bishop

Emmaus Mwamakula, Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa, Anna Henga, Rihard Mabala, Dr Azaveli Lwaitama, Dr Vicencia Shule and Said Madudu. The rest are Maxence Melo, Peter Kibatala and Masoud Kipanya.

Bishop Emmaus Mwamakula from the Moravian Revival Church in Tanzania who graced the event said that to build a nation of true patriot citizens the government should allow press freedom. He said that the local press has been under pressure of either been suspended or banned from operations.

"The press needs to be free from public authorities so as they can play their role to the public without fear. We need true patriots and not hypocrites who are ready to say anything for their personal benefits and interests under the name of patriotism," said Bishop Mwamakula.



Jubilee Insurance Tanzania managing director Dipankar Acharya (C) leads the firm's staff in an environmental cleanliness drive around Dar es Salaam's Makumbusho market yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Zanzibar succeeding in realising good governance practices, says Dr Shein

ZANZIBAR government has strived in ensuring the principles of good governance are adhered to for the economic development and having in place a trustworthy society, saying good governance practices is a cornerstone for a country's sustainable development whether socially, economically, culturally, morally or spiritually and in both national and international astute.

"Mostly, the significance of good governance practices is objective for an individual country in respect of economic efficiency and growth. Good governance is conducive to macroeconomic stability, external viability and sustainable development."

Isles' President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein said this yesterday in his speech at Sheikh Idrisa Abdul Wakil Hall at Kikwajuni, Zanzibar during celebrations to mark World Human Rights Day.

Dr Shein mentioned the principles as the incorporation of the masses, rule of the law, justice and equality to all, transparency in development management and accountability.

He said the government has taken various steps to ensure good governance is strengthened including

the adoption of Good Governance Policy of 2011, whose implementation has helped to attain goals on human rights protocol and the fight against corruption.

He said Tanzania is the first country to establish the Ministry for Good Governance the step that has been hailed inside and outside the African continent.

He said in order to protect the rights of the children the government has built an enabling environment for them in establishing Juvenile Courts in all the five regions of Zanzibar.

Dr Shein said the efforts in administration and protection of human rights in Zanzibar began before the 1964 Revolution when the founding President, Abeid Aman Karume abolished pawn shops.

He said to beef up gender equality; his government has been increasing women in government positions and mentioned that in the 2015-20 House of Representatives the number of women increased to 32 from 26 in the preceding House.

He said out of the 26 women members of the House five lead various

government ministries and others are found in higher positions of various government departments.

In the speech Dr Shein stressed that government leaders should serve the people as they are the ones who chose them and reminded them 'good governance' is not just an ordinary song.

He also mentioned achievement of the corruption watchdog (ZAECA) saying it has reclaimed a total of 238m/- that had been embezzled as by October this year.

Dr Shein also hailed his predecessor Amani Abeid Karume for his trust that led to his appointment to lead the first ever Ministry of Good Governance in Zanzibar.

On his part the Minister of State in the President Office (Good Governance) Haroun Ali Suleman praised Dr Shein for his efforts in beefing up good governance.

In the event, the Office of the President, (Public Service and Good Governance) awarded Dr Shein a Honorary Award in recognition to his efforts in the exemplary management of the first Human rights ministry.

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- To plan and develop special projects like supplements with a purpose of generating additional revenues to the company.

Qualifications:

- Degree in Business Administration/ Sales/ Marketing
- Five years working experience in Sales and Marketing

Skills:

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Ability to positively and meaningfully connect with clients
- Time management skills, particularly as relates to dealing with calls to – and by – clients
- Experience in meeting retention and sales negotiation goals
- Basic computer software skills and ability to work within relevant data spreadsheets
- Ability to work diligently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment
- Attention to detail and ability to reason and think quickly during negotiations

Interested candidates meeting the above-mentioned criteria should send their applications, complete with detailed CVs, addressed to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
THE GUARDIAN LIMITED
P. O. BOX 31042
DAR ES SALAAM

Alternatively, deliver the documents at The Guardian Limited offices in Mikocheni Light Industrial Area – opposite ITV studios or send the application via Email: to vacancy@guardian.co.tz

Deadline: 24th December, 2019

- Please note that only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.



INVITATION TO BIDS TENDER No. LH/MCC/2019/D/001

FOR DISPOSAL OF CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT AND CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK

- MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group having its industrial operations in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya.
- MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED intends to dispose Concrete Batching Plant and Concrete Mixer Truck. The Assets are disposed on where is basis and the Company shall have no further liability after sale.
- MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED now invites sealed Tenders for the purchase of Concrete Batching Plant and Concrete Mixer Truck.
- This Invitation to Tender is open to all, Tenderer may be natural persons, companies or firms public or semi-public agencies of Tanzania or any combination of them with a formal intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a joint venture, consortium, or association.
- The list of Assets to be Disposed are:-

S/n	Description of Assets	Unit	Quantity
1.	Concrete Batching Plant	Each	1
2.	Concrete Mixer Truck	Each	2

- An email from prospective bidder requesting for Tender documents must be sent to mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com with subject TENDER No. LH/MCC/2019/D/001 FOR DISPOSAL OF CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT AND CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may inspect/come for site visit of the Concrete Batching Plant and Concrete Mixer Truck at Mbeya cement Co. Ltd, Plot No.1, Songwe Industrial Area, Mbeya, Tanzania on 20th – 27th December, 2019 from 9:00hrs – 12:00hrs. (Please Contact: geoffrey.boniface@lafargeholcim.com Mobile No. +255 753 023 323 for Site Visit).
- Tenderers may obtain further information and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of Procurement Manager, Mbeya cement Co. Ltd, Plot No.1, Songwe Industrial Area, Mbeya, Tanzania from 9:00hrs – 15:00hrs on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- No tender fee shall be applied to this tender.
- While submitting the tender, Bidders are required to submit, one document clearly marked "ORIGINAL" and the second one clearly marked "COPY" properly filled and enclosed in plain envelopes marked TENDER No. LH/MCC/2019/D/001 FOR DISPOSAL OF CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT AND CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK.
- The sealed bids shall be submitted PHYSICALLY at the RECEPTION of Mbeya cement Co. Ltd, Plot No.1, Songwe Industrial Area, P.O Box 529 Mbeya, Tanzania. In case of Postal submission, the date of receipt at the Mbeya Cement Reception shall be considered as submission date, and the Closing Date for Bid submission is 30th December, 2019 at 14:00Hrs.
- No electronic submission will be accepted.
- Late Submission Tenders, portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Chinese firm helps Isles raise ICT skills for youth

By Guardian Correspondent, Unguja

THE rollout of Zanzibar's national ICT backbone has been a blessing to youths in Zanzibar, a senior government official has said.

The director of communications from the Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport in the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Dr Mzee Suleiman Mndewa, told journalists at the weekend that through cooperation with a Chinese multinational telecommunications equipment and systems company, ZTE Corporation, youths in Zanzibar have been able to receive complex ICT knowledge in and outside the country.

"Those days, the term fibre was a new name. But now, through cooperation between the government of Zanzibar and ZTE, youths are now able to do a lot of hi-tech operations, including, the optical communication network," he said.

He was speaking to journalists who visited various areas of Zanzibar with a view to learning how ICT applications were changing the economic landscape in the Isles.

South youths in Zanzibar have learnt the art of making configurations on equipment that use micro technology like Dense Wave Division Multiplexer, a transmission equipment that transfers waves.

"Such technologies are largely found only to the manufacturer. It is not the type of technology that we can get by schooling at a university," he said, noting that some young people in Zanzibar can now handle all issues pertaining to the laying down (kulaza), splicing as well the entire installation of fibre optics," he said.

A total of 18 young people in Zanzibar have received comprehensive fibre optic installation technology on the job locally and from the ZTE University in China.

"The project's phase one started in 2012. We are now talking of six years. ZTE is the one that has been

implementing the backbone network and access network," he said.

Cognizance of the fact that ICT cannot expand only with the presence of infrastructure, the government seen the need to promote it as a means of bringing about quick economic gains if used on a number of sectors, economically and socially.

The Zanzibar government is educating its people through community centres to bridge the digital divide between local and urban dwellers.

"We have built a centre at community level. The centres are equipped with computers where we teach them about ICT...There are 10 centres (ICT Community Centres) across all districts. They have been built under UCSAF as a means of reducing the gap on ICT literacy between rural and urban," he said.

The first community centre in Zanzibar was established with the help of ZTE. With Zanzibar's predominantly youthful age, the government is hopeful that by training them, it could be going closer to attaining the digital society and thus the digital economy, digital agriculture and digital culture.



Those days, the term fibre was a new name. But now, through cooperation between the government of Zanzibar and ZTE, youths are now able to do a lot of hi-tech operations, including, the optical communication network



Anna Kulaya, Director of the Tanzania chapter of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), has a word for trade union officials at the opening of a national symposium on workplace gender-based violence held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Couple killing: Police scale up hunt for suspects

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

POLICE in Katavi Region are looking for unknown people alleged to have murdered a married couple, Noel Mswanya (39) and his wife Stella Noel (37), residents of Migazini area, Nsemulwa Ward, Mpanda Municipality.

Katavi acting Regional Police Commander Leonard Makona said the incident occurred on December

15 at around 1.00 am in the area when the couple was sleeping in their house.

He said the killers broke the door by using a huge boulder popularly known as 'fatuma' and entered the room the couple were sleeping.

While in the room, they started attacking Mswanya with knives and then cut his throat while the wife was watching.

The wife, Stella started screaming for

help from neighbours but the killers were not at all moved and started attacking her but managed to escape screaming.

The killers whose number could not be established started chasing her and caught her after about 59 metres and returned her to the house and killed her, also by cutting her throat.

Makona said some of the neighbours who witnessed the incident through their windows said the killers had

a flashlight but no one was able to establish their identities.

The neighbours could not go out of their houses to challenge the murderers for fear of their own lives as they believed the killers had firearms.

The Ag RPC said the bodies of the deceased were preserved at Katavi Regional Hospital for examination after which they will be handed to relatives for burial.

MOSHI CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY (MoCU)
INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION (ICCE)
A Centre of Excellence in Co-operative and Business Management of the EAC

Training course on "Building the capacity for Private Co-operative Trainers (PCTs)" from 6th to 17th January, 2020

Overview

The Institute of Continuing Co-operative Education (ICCE) in collaboration with Tanzania Development Commission (TCDC) and USAID through Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise (ENGINE) is pleased to announce a two weeks training on **Private Co-operative Trainers (PCTs) Capacity Building course**.

The course aims to equip participants with basic skills, knowledge and practical experience on:-

- (i) Concept of co-operation and co-operative enterprise;
- (ii) Procedures for forming a co-operative;
- (iii) Co-operative legal aspects, structure and governance;
- (iv) Co-operative business practices, operations and management;
- (v) Co-operative training methodologies and cycle;
- (vi) Co-operative business development process;
- (vii) Co-operative audit, supervision and reporting;
- (viii) Co-operative Entrepreneurship and marketing; and
- (ix) Co-operative financial and accounting management

Private Co-operative Trainers are invited to attend this training to get necessary skills, knowledge and practices for effective and efficient delivery of education and training services to co-operative societies.

Target Audience

The course is mandatory to all private co-operative services providers, co-operative practitioners, co-operative officers and managers of co-operative societies who provide or are interested to provide training to co-operative societies. Attendance and completion of this training will be among the criteria that will be used when issuing permits for cooperative trainers or services providers from year 2020.

Duration: The course will be held for 10 days from 06 – 17 January 2020.

Cost: A fee of TZS 1,000,000/= per participant to cover costs for tuition, field practicals, lunch and refreshments, training materials and handouts, certificates of attendance and other requirements during the training. Make your payments and booking latest one week before training starts.

Mode of payment: Payment of fee can be made via banks (CRDB, NMB or TPB) or mobile phones (Airtel Money, Halo Pesa, M-Pesa, TigoPesa or TPesa through "Government e-Payments Gateway" (GePG). **Control number for making payments will be provided on request.** For those interested to attend the training, please request the control number through the contact provided.

Location: The Training will be held at MoCU Head Office, Moshi, Songea, Iringa and Mbeya.

Contacts:

For enquiries please contact

Marwa N. Kesanta

Mobile: 0765-515567/0784-515567

Email: markesanta@gmail.com/ceic@mocu.ac.tz

or

Dr. Justinian M. Bamanyisa

0754-51 43 16/0735 514 316

jbamanyisa@yahoo.com

dicce@mocu.ac.tz

215556801



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO FINALIZE THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF (CET)

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190610

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. In support of the on-going integration process, and in line with its objectives to support the EAC Secretariat, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking consultancy services to finalize the comprehensive review of the East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff (CET).

The tender document for this assignment can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com quoting the tender title and number. The closing date for submission of proposals is **20 January 2020**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven days or less prior to the submission deadline



215556801

Downpour wreaks havoc in vulnerable Dar es Salaam



A bus conductor removes piece of wood with nails scattered at a section of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road now undergoing expansion, as rain continued to pound the city yesterday.



Residents of the Tandale kwa Mtogole suburb unable to use the bridge over flooded River Ng'ombe. Umbrellas proved of hopelessly little help.



Kigogo residents keep watch over however few of their earthly belongings they had managed to save from the raging floodwaters that swept right into their houses.



Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport buses parked at Magomeni Mapipa after floodwaters invaded the project's Jangwani Valley premises.



Kigogo residents wade through rainwater after abandoning their flood-hit houses or as they went about their various activities.



A Sinza resident looks on desolately as several residences in the usually safe suburb are surrounded by floodwaters.



Even this stretch of Bagamoyo Road which is undergoing expansion was not spared by floodwaters.



This is one of scores of houses at Kigogo Darajani in Kinondoni District invaded by floodwaters.



Tanfix Quality Choice marketing manager Frank Kizito (L) is interviewed in Dar es Salaam at the weekend by East Africa Television (EATV) presenter Samson Charles on the ongoing popular business promotion programme known as 'Kibiashara Zaidi', which is run by twin stations EATV and East Africa Radio. Photo courtesy of EATV

Employees urged to wage war on workplace gender-based violence

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WORKERS in the country have been urged to report to the relevant authorities for legal assistance when they face gender based discrimination and violence at their work places. The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Director of Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF), Anna Kulaya during a two days meeting with leaders of workers trade unions on GBV.

She said work places should be safe area for someone to stay because it is the place where employees use most of their time.

"There is a lot of cruelty and gender based violence at work places and because you as leaders we expect that you know more than us that's why we

decided to have this meeting with you to try to find out solutions for such acts. However, we are not here to blame anyone," said Anna.

She said last year a team of WILDAF staff conducted a survey by talking to different employees and they found out that the situation of GBV at work places is worse.

Either, she said many employees of different companies volunteered information to her team and most of them were open to state the situation of GBV and cruelty that happens at work places especially among the women.

"What we saw there in our study is worse and that's why we have decided to conduct a two days meeting with you to discuss and come up with tangible solutions or recommendations on how we can put the systems that protect

people especially women at work places," said the director.

On her side, Mwijana Lipinga from President Office Tamisemi said government had decided to introduce National Plan of Action of Violence against Women (NPA-AVW) after the increase of gender based violence against women and children.

"Government noticed that there is a big problem of GBV especially against women and children and the aim of the introduced NPA was to end such kind of acts for at least 50 per cent and to end them completely if possible," she said.

She said there was an increase of GBV cases in public places so the government calls upon different stake holders to join efforts to fight the vice.

'No lasting end to GBV in absence of global action'

By Correspondent Stella Mathias, Mwanza

TANZANIA can only eliminate gender based violence (GBV) if people join hands and practically fight against the uncouth behaviour, activists have suggested.

Edna Matasha, Mwanza-based activist made the suggestion when speaking recently with this paper during the just-ended 16 days of Activism Campaign.

Edna who is also the Executive Director of Enhancing Access to Health for Poverty Reduction-Tanzania (EAHP) said: "We've decided to come and stand at the front line, well equipped for the battle to help girls and young women in the country as we believe that if people are healthy they can join community economic activities and at the end of the day they will reduce poverty hence

Development in the country."

When asked on how they would tackle the challenge, the activist said that they have designed new approach and strategies whereby they will involve fully girls and young women at the grass root, talk and give them a chance for a dialogue among themselves then the organization will design a training package from their dialogue solutions. The package will contain knowledge on Reproductive Health, International defensive skills against Sexual Violence, basic knowledge on psychology, HIV/AIDS and entrepreneurship where the organization will assist them to establish small industries in their communities.

Organization's youth program manager, Cecilia Nyangasi also said: "If the community will deal effectively with Patriarchal System and power

imbalance in the community, Gender based Violence will be a history in our Country."

The 16 days of Activism Campaign takes place each year starting from 1991 as the international day for elimination of Violence against Women, November 25TH and ending on December 10TH on the human rights day. This event has been coordinated globally with the centre for Women's global leadership. This year, 16 days of Activism Campaign ignite dialogue to address Sexual harassment in the work place moving from awareness to action. In Tanzania the 16 days of Activism Campaign was held in Mwanza whereby the Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongela was the chief guest. This year 16 days of Activism Campaign theme was "Generation Equality Stand against Rape"

Traffic sign vandalism a serious concern - RC

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) have been tasked to partner with security agencies to save road infrastructure which are being vandalised by unscrupulous people in Iringa region.

Iringa Regional Commissioner (RC) Ally Hapi made the directives yesterday when speaking during the Iringa Roads Board meeting.

He said among the different types of traffic sign damage, vandalism is exclusively caused by humans. Traffic sign vandalism is a serious concern, since it can lead to an increase in unsafe driving behaviours.

The RC tasked the Tanzania police force to effectively engage in protecting public resources such as road infrastructure, which are key for the country's socio-economic development.

He also appealed to

residents in the region to ensure that road infrastructure was not vandalised because roads cost millions of tax payers' money.

He directed leaders in the region to prosecute people caught vandalising bridges and road sign posts.

RC Hapi described traffic sign vandalism as a serious concern, since it can lead to an increase in unsafe driving behaviours. He said vandalism and theft of signs or other devices result in increased maintenance costs and can even expose local agencies to liabilities.

For his part, Iringa District Council chairman, Steven Mhapa has urged parliamentarians in the respective constituencies to send to the Parliament a cry for a budget increase as TARURA budget in many areas is too small.

The TANROADS manager of Iringa region Eng. Daniel Kindole said TAROADS serves 1,212.36 kms including 461.14 kms of highway and 751.22 kms of regional roads. The above-mentioned road network includes 425.49 kms and gravel / earth/ 786 kms.

Serve as agents of change, students urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu has called on Community Development Training Institutes (CDTIs) to provide education which is relevant to the current social and economic needs, saying active involvement of youths in community development projects can help them understand key issues in local governance so that they become agents of change.

Dr Jingu made the call recently when he visited the Monduli Community Development Training Institute. His visit was meant to see different people's projects implemented at the institute.

"We've been encouraging CDTIs to provide education that would take the graduates to the next level as well as addressing challenges facing a particular community," he said, urging students at those institutes

to be agents of change rather than thinking of being employed in public or private sector.

"We want to see graduates being agents of change in the community... they should think on how to address challenges facing their communities," he suggested.

He encourages students in the community development colleges to come up with answers on challenges facing their communities. "People out there are overwhelmed with a number of challenges, so it is your (students) tasks to come up with those solutions for swift development."

However, Dr Jingu expressed his satisfactions on different projects introduced and implemented by the Monduli CDTI, saying they are meant to scale up the country's economic development.

Acting Rector of the Monduli CDTI, Elibariki Ulomi said: "We've been executing different development projects for community that surrounds us including poultry farming, livestock

rearing which have helped people to step out of poverty."

The college, according to Ulomi has contributed to pastoralists' mindset change, whereby some of them are engaging in entrepreneurship, and financial saving through Village Community Banking (VICOPA) and Savings and Credit Co-Operative Society (SACCOS). One of the groups is Tuinuane located in Monduli Juu, where members attested that the CDTI has helped them to engage in different income-generating projects such as modern livestock husbandry, which have good returns.

"Most of our members are living happier life as compared to the time when we're operating in isolation and limited knowledge and skills," said Anna Losiloyi, secretary of the 30-people group.

"Through these CDTI training, we've managed to have 100 chicken and one dairy cattle, while other people are engaging in small businesses," she said.

The Guardian Nipashe
Mwanza Wa Jamii

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SWITZERLAND (HPSS) & BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of the United States of America, Switzerland & British High Commission. We shall sell Household/Office furniture's, Vehicles & Forklift by public auction on Saturday December 21, 2019 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am: Sofa set, Chest drawer, Dressers, Coffee table, Dining table, Book case, Conference table, Office desk, Chairs, Carpets, Bed, Mattress, Fridge double door, Upright Freezer, Washer, Dryer, Gas & electric cooker, A/c split units, TV Set, Video Camera set, Photocopy m/c, TV Sets, Video Camera set, Computer set, Generator 2.8KVA, Heavy duty Photo copy m/c colour and etc

Vehicles ,Forklift & Electric Ladder Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
2	Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top	1HZ Diesel Engine	2004	Not paid
1	Toyota Land Cruiser S/ Wagon V8	1VD Diesel Engine	2008	Not paid
1	Mercedes Benz Station Wagon	ML 270 Diesel Engine	2007	Not paid
1	Hyster Electric Fork Lift 2 Tons	E50XM2-27	2012	Not paid
12	Digital Voltage Stabilizer 80 KVA	3 Phase 415 Volts	-	Not paid
2	JLG Electric Ladder	25EL(Lifting height25fts)	2003	Not paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from December 18th to 20, 2019 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle & Forklift winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 31st 2019 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle or Forklift will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM
CELL NO: 0754 284 926, 0759 284 926 E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com
Insta: [universalauctioncentre](https://www.instagram.com/universalauctioncentre)

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to hire an audit firm to conduct the audit services for a review of the financial record of the books of accounts for 2018 financial year for the Danish refugee council (DRC).

Therefore, the Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests interested audit firms to submit their proposal which include the audit fee and administrative cost.

The bidding documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 18th December, 2019 during the working days and hours. 8:00 Am to 4:30 Pm in the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: 0623529029 or through email steward.mbonalibaye@drc.ngo.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is
24th December, 2019 at 4: 00 Pm.

The ITB will be opened in a public session on
27th December, 2019 at 10:00 AM at DRC Kibondo Office, PO Box 177 Kibondo by the DRC Tender Opening Committee.

You can return your bid form through rfq.tza@drc.ngo

OR DIRECT TO THE DRC OFFICE otherwise is void

The Guardian

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

The citizenry need education on rural electrification drive

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company's (Tanesco) via Communications and Customer Service Officer for Mbeya Region has said this week that 140 villages in Mbeya region have been connected to electricity through Rural Energy Agency III (REA III).

He said the achievement would make things easier for the lives of many households and stimulate their economic activities.

For several years we have been hearing such news via various media outlets and in respect of many rural areas in the country as rural electrification drive undertaken by Rural Energy Agency (REA) intensifies.

The reasons for the intensification are clear - no country in the world was able to make giant economic strides without electric power.

And according to the 2012 National Census about 70 per cent of Tanzania's 57 million plus population resides in rural areas whereas only 7 per cent of the rural population is connected to electricity supply.

As they say better late than never. Tanzania is at an early stage of rural electrification and is taking an approach that includes both on-grid and off-grid solutions.

The Rural Energy Board (REB), the Rural Energy Agency (REA), and the Rural Energy Fund (REF) were established to promote, stimulate and facilitate access to modern energy services in rural areas of Tanzania, with the Government's goal to electrify all villages in Tanzania by 2021 with a rate of 2,000 villages per year.

As of June 2016, 4,395 villages

in Tanzania were connected to electricity, which represents 36 per cent of the 12,268 villages in mainland Tanzania.

In any translation it is a gigantic, ambitious plan, but also shows how the government is committed to industrially develop the country.

With this in mind there is every reason for Tanzanians to support the good programme undertaken by their government by giving its agency, REA an enabling environment in their operations in the rural areas.

For REA, in particular its various contractors have been confronting many challenges in those areas.

For example for the Mbeya project aforementioned the Tanesco Communications and Customer Service Officer said the challenges being faced include the wananchi's reluctance to allow the power infrastructures pass through their areas and the low response in connecting themselves to power.

The first one can easily be solved through education and as many of our rural folk do not understand the importance of electric power to themselves, let alone the nation.

The is also the issue of compensation to them in case their property - including buildings, farms and crops are destroyed to give way to electricity infrastructures.

As for the second nothing much can be done about due to the cost involved as many of the wananchi in the villages are poor.

The government can at least give subsidy to connection costs involved especially in respect equipment.

Comparative models needed for regulating microfinance sector

FOR a while now the minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Philip Mpango has been using specific occasions to raise sentiments of disapproval of what is happening in the microfinance sector, especially loan sharking. He has lately directed the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to closely monitor operations of various types of institutions in the sector, implying the formally registered and informal lenders. BoT shall probably focus on registered lenders where it has a mandate, and lend advice on the others.

The minister said there are lots of dirty deals in lending activities in the microfinance sector, as many of them lend money at exorbitant interest. This leads to a situation where the lenders have to confiscate properties of people who fail to repay the money, as most microfinance institutions have unfriendly loan contracts with customers. That is where the loan seekers are fleeced, but there are people who borrow money and simply fail to comply with the contract, defaulting to pay back, so the lenders suffer too.

The minister was officiating at the launch of a public education programme on the National Microfinance Act 2018 and its regulations, where he said he has received complaints from people whose assets have been confiscated by some microfinance institutions. It would appear that this problem is not pronounced for banks proper but microfinance lenders, a situation that also needs to be explained. Is it because they scarcely lend?

Going through the minister's remarks, and even in relation to complaints that he was working upon, there was no insinuation whatsoever that the law was not being followed in some cases. So the law is being

followed, and the borrowers know the conditions of seeking credit from the facilities, while the lender also knows that the borrowers are risky clients. So bank or microfinance institutions hedge their bets by high interest rates along with furnishing of collateral. Everyone knows the rules of the game so it works.

The minister lamented the lack of a proper regulatory framework for microfinance operations, creating loophole for lenders to do what they want. That is likely to be true in regard to hefty interest rates that the minister said range from three to 20 percent per month, equivalent to 36 to 240 percent per year. It is a loan that must be returned quickly as if the borrower defaults at that time, the piling up of interest dues is prohibitive.

While on the whole the minister was pleading the case of tormented customer, changing the regulations would not always work in their favor. Dr Mpango said one major challenge facing the microfinance sector was improper release of loans causing many debts on customers, despite the fact that the one who seeks out those loans are the customers. If for instance customers know that the government is prohibiting indecent debt collection procedures that make people lose their properties, will there not be a rapid escalation of those who deliberately default to pay their loans?

Changing regulations risks jumping from the frying pan to the fire, where careless borrowers bring the borrowing mechanism to a halt if various channels will be closed. Many of those who seek microfinance lending can't make a case for loans in banks. Shutting this window disrupts their plans because monetary administrators fear they will be sequestered later.

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Yearender: How the global economy hit a juncture in 2019

By Gao Wencheng

HAUNTED by trade tensions, a manufacturing downturn, and geopolitical uncertainty, 2019 is set to witness the weakest global economic expansion in a decade.

At this delicate juncture where the global economy remains fragile even though the financial crisis ended 10 years ago, more certainty - an anchor, if you will - is needed.

That is why the world economy will breathe a sigh of relief as the Chinese economy has remained resilient this year.

"SYNCHRONIZED SLOWDOWN" IN GLOBAL GROWTH

"The global economy is in a synchronized slowdown," said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest World Economic Outlook.

In the October outlook, the IMF further downgraded its expectations for world economic growth to 3 percent for 2019, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis. Growth for advanced economies is projected to slow to 1.7 percent in 2019, while emerging market and developing economies will experience growth of 3.9 percent this year.

"A notable feature of the sluggish growth in 2019 is the sharp and geographically broad-based slowdown in manufacturing and global trade," the Washington-based institution said.

U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) increased at a 2.1-percent annualized rate in the third quarter, marking a sharp deceleration from the 3.1 percent in the first quarter, with growth in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, at a 2.9-percent rate, lower than the 4.6-percent growth pace in the second quarter.

The European Union's statistics office Eurostat estimated that eurozone growth was a meager 0.2 percent in the third quarter against the previous three months, the same as in the second quarter and lower than that of the first quarter.

Moreover, the European Commission has said that euro area GDP is forecast to expand by 1.1 percent in 2019, downgraded by 0.1 percentage points from its previous projections.

Japan's GDP grew an annualized 1.8 percent in July-September, the weakest growth seen this year as sales tax hike and weakening external demand are hanging over its economy.

Among emerging market and developing economies, India grew by 4.5 percent during July-September quarter, the slowest growth pace in six years. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development predicted that the Russian economy will record growth of 1.1 percent in 2019.



Aerial photo taken on Oct. 15, 2019 shows a view of the Lujiazui area in Shanghai, east China. (Xinhua/Fang Zhe)

South Africa's economy shrank by 0.6 percent in the third quarter with its yearly economic growth rate projected at just 0.5 percent. According to the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the region's overall growth this year should be only 0.1 percent.

EASY MONETARY POLICY

Mounting uncertainty, combined with insufficient technological innovation, aging populations, and geopolitical disputes, have posed challenges to global economic expansion.

Among them, rising trade tensions initiated by protectionists and their impact on exports as well as industrial production took a major toll on the world economy.

According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), trade flows hit by new restrictions implemented by WTO members continued at a "historically high" level between mid-October 2018 and mid-May 2019, with the trade coverage of import-restrictive measures implemented during the review period estimated at 339.5 billion U.S. dollars.

The Geneva-based organization also said recently that world merchandise trade volumes are expected to rise by only 1.2 percent in 2019, substantially slower than the 2.6 percent growth forecast in April.

An economic outlook issued this year by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development identified trade tensions as the "principal factor weighing on the world economy."

It underlined that the cycle of trade disputes hurts manufacturing, disrupts global value chains and generates significant uncertainty.

Analysts said that behind the main challenges facing the world economy are the trade protectionist moves by certain countries and disruption to the rules-based multilateral trading system.

To dampen the headwinds from slowing global growth, numerous central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, have announced interest cuts in an attempt to stimulate economies, some of which even adopted unconventional monetary measures such as negative interest rates.

Easy monetary policies across advanced and emerging economies may have helped avert a serious economic downturn in the short run, but challenges such as rising debt, inflated asset bubbles, and increased vulnerability of the financial system have also emerged.

Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department, advised policymakers to follow prudent fiscal policies, saying that the interest rates are negative in many advanced economies, and "further decreases in policy interest rates are limited."

CHINA'S ROLE IN PURSUIT OF CERTAINTY

China and the United States have agreed on the text of a phase one economic and trade agreement based on the principle of equality and mutual respect, according to a statement issued by the Chinese side on Friday.

As the global economy faces downward pressure, the agreement will boost confidence in the global market, stabilize market expectations, and create a favorable environment for normal economic, trade and investment activities, the statement

said. "Policymakers must undo the trade barriers put in place with durable agreements, rein in geopolitical tensions, and reduce domestic policy uncertainty," IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath has said.

"Such actions can help boost confidence and reinvigorate investment, manufacturing, and trade," Gopinath added.

In the October World Economic Outlook, the IMF projected a "modest improvement" in global growth to 3.4 percent in 2020, with 1.7 percent for advanced economies, and 4.6 percent for emerging market and developing economies.

Next year, emerging and developing economies are expected to act as the main engine of the world economy with China's role of a stabilizer and engine.

China's overall GDP growth reached 6.2 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters of this year, the fastest among major economies worldwide, according to official data.

"Facing significant external headwinds from trade protectionism in some major economies, China has maintained stable growth in 2019, with main economic indicators kept within an appropriate range," said Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China. Furthermore, Kiyoyuki Seguchi, research director at the Canon Institute for Global Studies, noticed the Chinese economic policies today are marked by a devotion to high-quality development rather than quantitative expansion.

As IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said, China has been a major growth engine for the world economy, and its economic health bears global significance.

Environmental enthusiasts spearhead efforts to make climate issues form part of policies, plans and budget

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

EVERY year, the Conference of Parties (COP) meets to review progress in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where other instruments that support the implementation of the convention are proposed, evaluated and approved.

The Conference of Parties is the supreme decision making body of the convention and the association of all countries that form part of it. The annual meeting brings together 197 nations and territories called Parties that have signed on to the framework convention; it is attended by environmental experts, ministers, head of states and non-governmental organizations.

It is a treaty signed at the Earth summit in 1992 and come into force in 1994, which establishes the basis obligations of the 196 parties (states) plus the European Union to combat climate change.

The first COP was held in Berlin in 1995, to date 24 COPs have been held, the last one in Katowice, Poland in December 2018.

The conferences are significantly conducted to review the national communications and emission inventory submitted by state parties, but also to maintain international efforts to solve the problems of climate change.

Global climate change has already had observable effects on the environment, glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up earlier.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which includes more than 1,300 scientists from the United States and other countries, forecasts a temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century.

According to the IPCC, the extent of climate change effects on individual regions will vary over time and with the ability of different societal and environmental systems to mitigate or adapt to



Addressing climate change requires, among others, adequate and sustainable climate finance. Therefore, the government and non-state actors should strategically tap on international finance and innovatively mobilise on domestic resources..

change.

According to recent released Emissions Gap report 2019, global emission continued to increase by 1.5 percent per year, during the last decade. Countries must act immediately and increase their climate commitments more than five fold to achieve the 1.5 centigrade goal.

However, Africa contributes the least to global warming emissions yet is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, as witnessed by devastating natural disasters recently.

The unprecedented rate of increase of global temperatures has been attributable to both man made and natural calamity.

Over time, distressing uncontrolled human activities have severely given impetus to climate change and the need for common joint efforts by interested parties to combat the problem for sustainable life is very apparent.

Reflection of COPs to Tanzania

Tanzania, as one of the sub-Saharan African countries, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It has affected ecosystems, national economy and livelihood of the people.

Climate change impacts include; increased temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, melting of glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro, increase of extreme weather events such as drought and floods, outbreak of new diseases, rise of sea level, intrusion of sea water into land and fresh water and submerging of small islands such as Maziwe in Pangani and Fungi la Nyani in Rufiji.

Climate change issues in Tanzania are coordinated under the environment institutional, legal

and policy framework. The Vice Presidents' Office in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, assisted by National Climate Change Steering and Technical Committees, provide the institutional coordination.

As a signatory to the UNFCCC, Tanzania has already submitted two National Communications in 2003 and 2004 respectively, as well as the intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015 which is being updated after the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2018.

The documents provided initial and updated quantitative assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from some major sectors and activities and develop plausible climate change scenarios on the potential impacts of projected climate change on some key sectors.

The initiative is part of the country's commitment to ensure effective implementation of international conventions on climate change, sustainable development goals (SDGs) no 13, as well as strengthening climate change resilience and contribute to the global efforts to mitigate climate change.

The country has also ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement in 1996, 1997, 2002 and 2018 respectively.

Tanzania government in collaboration with development partners, civil society and academia, has implemented a number of initiatives and specific projects to enhance awareness and build human and adaptation capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including ecosystem-

based adaptation for rural resilience from 2017 to date.

Water resources integration development initiative (2016-2020), integrated approaches for climate change adaptation in the East Usambara mountains (2015-2019) implementation of concrete adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability of livelihood and economy of coastal communities from 2012 to date.

Challenges facing Tanzania in dealing with climate change

Despite the mentioned interventions, Tanzania is still facing several challenges include lack of specific climate change policy or law; climate change issues are coordinated under the environment legal and policy framework. This limits coordination for and comprehensively addressing climate change issues.

Law awareness on climate change issues and measures for adaptation, the dialogue for creating awareness is still low among the public especially to the most vulnerable either do not have or having difficulties in accessing climate change information.

Awareness is still low among local government authority (LGAs) leaders and some sector ministries and departments' officials as much of knowledge is at the central government level under Vice President Office Department of Environment (DoE).

CSOs recommendations towards strengthening mitigation for climate change?

According to Tanzania Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); several recommendations were made including;

The government in partnership with stakeholders should innovatively mobilise domestic resources to complement the international climate funds which developed countries are obliged to provide under the UNFCCC.

But also the government should improve institutional legal and policy framework; climate change issues already demonstrated significant impacts to Tanzania's economy and livelihood of her people.

It should therefore be treated with the same weight in addressing it. This may include establishing a separate unit or division of climate change; operationalisation of the National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) and National Climate Change Technical Committee (NCCTC).

What happened at COP25 According to COP25 special reports

The primary subject of discussion at COP25 is a provision in the Paris Agreement known as article 6, which allows for the use of a global market in carbon to help countries cut emissions and to fund measures that reduce emissions in developing countries.

Carbon markets have existed since the first 1997 Kyoto

Protocol. The general idea is for developed countries to meet their targets by buying carbon credits awarded to projects reducing emissions in developing countries. In this way, rich nations could buy themselves time, while poorer nations got money to ease them on the road to a green future. But too many easy credits devalued the system, and the financial crisis of 2008 led to the outright collapse of the carbon market.

Today, resuscitating the article 6 carbon market is back on the agenda. Activists see the markets as an easy way out for developed countries to get away with continuing to burn fossil fuels, while buying off poor countries to clean up. What activists want is not talk of carbon "offsets", but absolute emission cuts now.

This set the scene for a conflict over article 6, which might threaten the delicate consensus achieved at Paris. That consensus must be preserved if countries are to fulfill the aims of Paris by ratcheting up their commitments to bring down emissions next year.

There are many other issues hanging over COP25, but these will not be decided until next year. Emissions are increasing once again; temperatures are higher than ever; and countries are not mandated by law to act. The IPCC has concluded that at current rates we are running out of time, with little over a decade to halt emissions growth and bring down carbon rapidly to keep warming within the 1.5°C threshold.

What Forum CC is doing towards Climate Change in the country?

Forum CC, which is the Tanzania civil society network on climate change, developed a user-friendly "Guidelines on Advocacy for and integration of climate change into Plans and Budget."

The guideline is a tool for guiding the integration of climate issues in policies, plans and budget and guiding CSOs in advocacy activities.

Executive director for the Forum Rebecca Muna made

advice to the government that there is a need to develop a workable modality for enabling industries to be resilient to climate change in order to avoid from increasing carbon emission.

She made the remarks during the one-day stakeholder session on the 25th conference of the Paris to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and meetings of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies convened in Santiago, Chile popular known as COP25.

The session organised by FORUM CC intends to prepare Tanzanian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to contribute and influence negotiations at all relevant levels. The aim is to come up with one COP25 position from Tanzania Civil Society with one voice and one message.

According to her, there is no need of having a lot of industries which are difficult to run, because our country is not having sufficient budget to cater for climate change mitigations.

Forum CC in partnership with Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is implementing part of the project titled Deepening Civil Society Engagement in International Post-Paris Climate Change Dialogue and Response" funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The project aims to enable civil society to catalyze change and ensure bottom-up, pro-poor and people-centered narratives form the basis for implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement, and more importantly the NDCs.

FORUM CC is implementing other project titled Green and Inclusive Energy funded by Hivos. The project enhances government's accountability on climate finance for decentralised renewable energy.

The forum also coordinated and gathered inputs from CSOs that contributed to the preparation of National Climate Change, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) and the current National Adaptation Plan (NAP) preparation process.

saying the city's application was never an intention to create an eviction but was simply "an upholding of the rule of law".

The court adjourned briefly to allow Nacerodien to consult with the city. Upon resuming, he told the court that accommodation was not available for 600 people.

He had no report back on whether ablutions could be provided and regarding food, he suggested that Gift of the Givers be invited back to the church to provide aid.

This is after they withdrew from the church in early November 2019 after butting heads with the refugee leaders.

To Judge Savage's dismay, Nacerodien requested the matter be postponed to a later date, for fear that a ruling may result in the city being held in contempt of court orders. Balous was asked if he wanted to file responding papers to allegations of intimidation and harassment made by the city. He agreed.

The case was postponed to 22 January 2020 and Balous must file responding papers by 27 December. DM

By Sandisiwe Shoba

City of Cape Town vs Refugees: A tussle between human rights and 'rule of law'

Judge Kate Savage was "most dissatisfied" when negotiations to resolve the refugee crisis at the Central Methodist Church in Greenmarket Square came to nought.

The matter was heard at the Western Cape High Court on Friday, 13 December after being postponed from 9 December when Judge Savage ordered that two meetings be held between the City of Cape Town, the Department of Home Affairs, the South African Police Service and representatives from the displaced migrants in order to reach an "amicable solution".

Unfortunately, by Friday morning a deadlock had been reached between the parties. The refugees were hauled to court after the City of Cape Town applied for an urgent interdict against the group, prohibiting them from conducting a sit-in protest, damaging property and contravening the city's by-laws.

According to the notice of motion, the group have been: cooking, making fires,

washing clothes, conducting ablutions as well as urinating and defecating in public spaces surrounding the church.

Judge Savage contended that if the city wanted to stop the group from performing the above acts in public, they had to provide facilities in which they could do such.

Advocate Adiel Nacerodien, for the city, told Judge Savage that the displaced migrants were exercising their right to protest and therefore did not qualify for emergency housing, according to the housing code which cites: homelessness, emergency situations such as a fire or flood and eviction as plausible factors.

The city also alleged that members of the group had "intimidated" and "harassed" city officials as well as traders and businesses in and around Greenmarket Square.

On 9 December, refugee leader Jean-Pierre "JP" Ba-



After the case was postponed to January 22, 2020 refugees and asylum seekers gathered outside court holding protest banners on Friday 13 December. File photo

alous had welcomed the possibility for alternative accommodation. He expressed the same wish during Friday's appearance:

"We don't [object] to being placed somewhere else," said Balous. "I don't like the way children are living in the church. There is no oxygen," he continued, adding that the church had become a fire hazard.

According to advocate Seth Nthai, representing home affairs, the department conduct-

ed a count and found that 268 children are living at the church. They are between the ages of 1 month and 17-years-old.

Nthai was "surprised" by the City of Cape Town's stance to refuse alternative facilities and argued that it had a "Constitutional and legislative responsibility to do so".

"The city has flouted the right to human dignity," he said, adding that the church was an unhealthy and unsafe environment.

He said home affairs was ready and willing to conduct status determination for the displaced migrants, but needed a suitable location to conduct the process.

"It is not practically possible with the facilities we have," he argued, saying the department would deploy staff from Pretoria to help speed up the process should facilities be made available.

Balous told the court that approximately 500 displaced

By Mcebisi Jonas

It's time for a clear, unifying South African national agenda

South Africa is under considerable economic strain, brought on by the failure of key state-owned enterprises (SOEs). SAA, facing financial ruin, has now been placed in business rescue - the last hope of saving the company from creditors. Prasa, also collapsing under the weight of debt and corruption, is now under administration. And Eskom has had to implement load shedding up to stage 6 for the first time ever as its fleet of power stations struggles to produce a sufficient power reserve margin to prevent a collapse of the grid.⁵³

There have been bright moments such as the Springbok victory at the World Cup in Japan and Miss South Africa's victory at Miss Universe, but these waves have washed onto the shores of bad tidings.

The growing list of failing state institutions is causing the spread of a new national mindset characterised by pessimism and dejection. But there is another way of viewing this swathe of bad news.

SAA, Prasa and Eskom - as well as a slew of other SOEs - were subjected to a decade of brazen looting, maladministration and corruption, driving up their debt and replacing competent administrators with cronies there to siphon off wealth.

It is only because of the action that has been taken over the last two years to clean up their boards and subject them to more rigorous discipline, that we have finally seen the true state of their decline.

Some might argue that these reforms and interventions have come too slowly. Yet they are the only



hope for restoring these entities to their rightful position as key elements of the infrastructure we need to power up growth.

We need to be careful that, in our pessimism and criticism of the pace at which things are being done, we don't end up reinforcing the absurd narrative that they are failing because of the actions that have been taken to clean them up.

It is time for us to take the national conversation back from those who seek to disable and disrupt, and profit from chaos in governance.

It is time to cease being held hostage by those who want to profit from our troubled past. Instead, we must build our national identity and play to our strengths. This requires an inclusive narrative, to focus what unites and not that which divides us. To deal with the past, this narrative should be forward-looking, engaging with the possibilities of global growth, not

fearing its effects, and focused on equipping a society with the skills fit for purpose.

The founders of our nation stated that "South Africa belongs to all those who live in it". This is non-negotiable. We can no longer debate what it means to be a South African. We can no longer allow for narratives that talk about "us" and "them".

We must accept that we are all part of the problem and without a sense of common purpose, of identity and belonging, there will be no solution.

In our time, we have seen incredible examples of South Africans pulling together. We have stood together in celebration, and come together in the face of crisis. We have a collective resilience second to none.

We delivered a political transformation when many expected chaos and collapse. We have excelled on the sporting field, punching above our weight. We produce leaders in global

fields with regularity.

We always make a plan.

We have a national skill for solving big problems, for staging big events and we never shy away from saying things as they are.

Diversity can never be permitted to divide us. It is the source of much of our strength. We can do this by embracing our diversity of opinion and strengthening those ensuing institutions which protect and ensure accountability and competitiveness of ideas.

This is also essential to holding government to account, to ensuring that public resources are used for the public good and to shaming the looters and the criminals who want to turn the state into an ATM machine for their criminal enterprises.

Let us not forget that it was the voice of civil society and of some of our independent institutions that stopped state capture in its tracks.

We must also embrace our

diversity of expertise and accept that we all have different roles to play in the building of our nation. No one can do this alone.

Government, business, labour and civil society need each other if we are going to move from talking past each other to implementing our vision, our desire for a better, more inclusive society. This will have to come from within, and through cooperation. We have for too long looked to others to blame for the state of our nation, and looked to others for solutions. We need to look critically at ourselves, to introspect and ask in all our corners: What can we do to bring shared prosperity to all South Africans?

This idea of shared prosperity cannot be a vision alone. The extremities of deprivation and inequality found in South Africa requires us to act and spell out what needs to be done.

Overall, there is a need for a growth agenda, where spending moves from consumption and redistribution to investment. This requires a clear sense of direction, of national purpose.

We need to clearly allocate specific responsibilities in the creation of a new social compact.

Government must clean out its stables. We have to accelerate our turnaround of Eskom, SAA and other parastatals. Government has to focus on improving efficiencies, cutting the red tape and regulations that are strangling small and medium enterprises. It has

to work faster and harder at removing obstacles to investment, and must find the means to improve basic security, without which normal lives and commerce is at constant risk. On Eskom, it must unshackle Independent Power Producers, allowing them to meet the energy shortfall, which can only grow as our older power stations are cycled off the grid.

Most importantly, government must adopt a laser-like focus on growth and jobs. We must test every action, every proposed piece of legislation, every regulation against the simple question: Will this grow the economy and create jobs?

To do this, we have to create the conditions for business to flourish. Our institutions of government need to be structured to target investors and to coordinate government, not making these a preserve of particular ministries, but a national project.

Government must strive for excellence in education. Only this can position the next generation for success in the global economy. We cannot allow higher education, in particular, to be dragged down by the fractiousness around fees. Rather, our institutions of higher learning need to be catalysed by renewed investment and the setting of ever-higher standards.

But, if it is to succeed, the responsibility for change must be a national endeavour. Business must also play its part. It is time to be bold, to take government at its word when it says it

wants a growing, thriving private sector that creates jobs. Many more in business need to start believing that this is a country where you can invest and do well, provided you are helping the country grow and create jobs.

Big business must recognise the role it must play in supporting economic diversification, in promoting innovation in partnership with government, and in enabling new entrant firms to access global markets and value chains.

The trade unions must, too, play their role. They must be more strategic in their orientation, and take more care with the range of factors that foster industrial competitiveness. This will necessitate working more closely with the management of businesses to grow productivity and competitiveness.

It is time for all to start speaking the language of growth and job creation, and for institutions to ensure that we walk the talk.

Civil society must continue to be a loud and active voice in our country's life. When government fails, speak out. When business fails, speak out. When trade unions fail, speak out.

All of us - government, business, labour and civil society - have shared, collective priorities. We must focus on implementing the aspects we agree on, rather than being stuck on the old shibboleths and other things we cannot agree on.

We must become a more open nation. Our visa and immigration policies must reflect this. We must welcome with open arms the skills, diversity and solidarity that our fellow Africans add to our society when they choose to enter our country.

Agencies

By Faras Ghani

'Complete disregard for migrants dying on the Mediterranean'

On board the Ocean Viking in the Mediterranean - More than 11,500 people have died on the Mediterranean while attempting to reach Europe from Africa since 2016.

The European Union has reportedly spent more than 90 million euros (\$100m) in funding and training the Libyan coastguard to stop the crossings.

United Nations' figures show at least 36,000 people were intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and returned to Libya - described as "hell" by the migrants and refugees - since February 2017.

NGO vessels, operating in the Mediterranean to carry out search and rescue, have been accused of trafficking people into Europe.

Al Jazeera speaks to Nicholas Romaniuk, search and rescue coordinator for SOS Mediterranean on board the rescue vessel Ocean Viking, about the pushback against rescue work, presence of the Libyan coastguard, deaths at sea, and how this job affects rescuers mentally and physically.

Al Jazeera: More than 11,500 people have died in the Mediterranean since 2016. How is the work of the rescuers being seen?

Nicholas Romaniuk: It's very hard for me to sit and voice my opinion. I get very angry working out here. We're trying to achieve something simple: save lives. This work is being hindered. Anywhere else in the world, that would be criminal but out here it's accepted. That's extremely frustrating.



At least 36,000 people have been intercepted by the Libyan coastguard and returned to Libya since February 2017. File photo.

It seems there's complete disregard for human life and people dying in the Mediterranean. We've been recovering bodies of men, women and children over the last four years and seen things get worse.

There doesn't seem to be an effort on the EU's part to save lives out here.

Al Jazeera: How have search and rescue and the reaction to what you do changed since you started?

Romaniuk: When I started, we were working side by side with Italian coastguard and navy, European naval forces, Irish navy and probably eight other NGO vessels. Everyone was working together, realising that people were in immediate danger and needed to be saved. That has changed now with the criminalisation of NGOs trying to save lives. The politically motivated attacks on NGO vessels have

complicated things more. UN agencies have recognised that by removing NGO vessels from the Mediterranean, they are making this voyage more dangerous and deadlier.

This is one of the most dangerous migration routes in the world. While we talk about the hostility of the sea, especially during winter, there's a bit more hostility from the European states for sure. While the casualty figures are down, the chances of dying on this route have increased dramatically.

When they leave Libya, they have two options - either get intercepted and returned to Libya or die at sea. It's unacceptable that, on the doorstep of Europe, we're allowing thousands and thousands to drown and do nothing while removing any hope they have of surviving.

Al Jazeera: Europe is investing heavily in the Libyan coastguard. Aren't they rescuing

people?

Romaniuk: Libyan coastguard do save people from drowning, but you can't call it rescue because they take people from danger [sea] back to Libya and its detentions centres. People talk about violence - physical and sexual - forced labour and terrible conditions in those centres. One of them got bombed too. The last thing these people want is to go back to a place they escaped from.

We see that people are making this sea journey multiple times. If they get intercepted and brought back, they will repeat the cycle later. They get onto another boat and try again. We know this journey can be deadly the first time but the fact they would risk it again tells you what it's like in Libya.

That situation in Libya is the push factor. The people we rescue say they are fleeing Libya for their lives. They have

no other option but to get onto those unseaworthy boats and try and escape to Europe with absolutely no guarantee of anything ahead.

Al Jazeera: How effective is the Libyan coastguard in carrying out the rescue with NGOs?

Romaniuk: There's no real relationship [between Ocean Viking and Libyan coastguard]. We have an obligation to inform authorities if we hear of a distress situation or we get involved. But contacting them is next to impossible. We did one rescue where it took seven hours to arrive at the boat's last known location. We then searched for them for 24 hours. The team had very little sleep, and it took a lot of time and energy.

But it was very frustrating that no matter how hard you try, you can't get through to the Libyans. We tried non-stop on phone, email and VHS but

no luck.

Al Jazeera: What about the European rescue coordination centres covering the area?

Romaniuk: There is complete disregard by European authorities for the lives of those in distress. These boats are not made for sea. They are then loaded with men, women and children and sent out at sea without any life-saving appliances. If anything happens, it's almost certain these people will die.

It hasn't seemed to matter to the European authorities. No matter how much I stress to them, and repeatedly, that there are people in danger and I can't get through to the Libyans, the answer has always been to keep trying them again. It's very frustrating. They call themselves rescue coordination centres but they don't seem to be caring about these people whose lives are in danger even though they are in a position to respond or coordinate. And that makes the Mediterranean and this journey even more dangerous.

Al Jazeera: There seems to be a lot of pushback and frustration in addition to the work and conditions. How are these affecting rescuers mentally and physically?

Romaniuk: It's high levels of stress constantly. The fear you have when you see one of those rubber boats knowing what is possible - it can just fall apart in front of your eyes - never goes away. You know if that happens, people will die.

We deal with some very

traumatic experiences at sea. And that leaves a mark. When you go home, you try and decompress and do normal stuff. It doesn't work. You never switch off. You keep dealing with stress.

But you just carry on. It will probably take time to get over. You will need to fix some things in your life. Your body and mind get a beating while you're out here, seeing some stuff that we see. It takes a toll on you, it really does.

You go back home and you don't tell people what you do because you're afraid of how they might react or what they'll say.

But there's nothing that motivates me and fulfils me as much as this. What we go through is nothing compared with what these people are going through. I hope this damage we take and the sacrifices we make, we can be proud of it one day.

Al Jazeera: Despite all this, some still regard rescuers as criminals and human smugglers...

Romaniuk: There's no truth to it. It's a narrative they've [politicians] come up with as it suits them. It's frustrating that members of public would think that as well. Smugglers and traffickers do the complete opposite of what we do - they put people in danger.

That's why rescues are becoming more difficult now. It used to affect me more. There are a lot of people on board who feel very strongly about what they do so they can brush it off. But it's still said this is being said about rescuers.

Agencies

Too many corporate boards fail to protect shareholders

By Margaret Heffernan

Awkward, embarrassing, distracting, time-wasting: just some of the verdicts on the months-even years-of corporate shenanigans at Viacom. It's easy to dismiss the public politics of the boardroom as a family soap opera-which it is. But it is also more than that. What has been strikingly absent from this Medici intrigue has been any serious concern for shareholders. In theory, boards exist to protect and defend shareholder interests. In fact, at Viacom as elsewhere, boards do little to recognize, represent or protect investors.

I've sat on numerous boards in both the United States and the United Kingdom for commercial and not-for-profit organizations. In every instance, I have experienced the same counter-productive behaviors. On commercial boards, many are lured by rich remuneration in return for what appears to be a slight time commitment. The appearance is deceptive, insofar as doing the real job-getting to know the business, the people, the numbers, the industry and the issues-requires a large amount of sustained attention. But I've sat in meetings with senior executives and board members where only the CEO and CFO really knew what was going on. In some cases, the failure to meet financial targets or to control costs has been missed by board members who never got around to reading the hundreds of

pages of preliminary papers. In other instances, industry ignorance or CEO forcefulness has blinded boards to emerging opportunities that might have ensured a company's future. Both of these omissions are routine and give a whole new, ironic, twist to the word 'oversight'.

The several days allocated for board meetings are all needed to plough through hefty agendas but they're all too often filled with golf, parties and excursions.

Overlooking strategic issues and operational failings is inevitable, though, when many directors ostensibly advise so many companies. Until last year, former AOL CEO Jonathan Miller sat on so many boards he couldn't remember them all; only public pressure caused him to relinquish those whose own statutes defined his commitments as excessive. But many board members sit on four, five or more boards, stacking up commitments they cannot possibly hope to honor - if, that is, they are supposed to be reading the papers, visiting the company and doing their homework.

But is that really the job? Boards are too often packed with the great and the good who have joined just to be part of a select club. The several days allocated for the meeting are all needed to plough through hefty agendas but they're all too often filled with golf, parties and excursions. None of this agenda-free. The implicit message is clear: if you want to preserve your coveted access to such privileges, you won't be a troublemaker, you



An empty boardroom

will avoid dissent and awkward questions. Not reading the papers is forgivable as

long as go with the flow. In the UK, just before the failed UK bank HBOS was

taken over, I chaired a panel about board governance. Taking part was Dennis Ste-

venson, then chairman of the bank. We were all pretty amazed that he turned up

for the event-after all, the bank was on the edge of collapse. But he did more than turn up; he crowed about how fabulous his board was, citing as evidence the fact that, even in this crisis, "we are as one." He seemed oblivious to the notion that that was what had gotten the bank into such a mess in the first place.

At the now-defunct Bear Stearns, Henry Bienen, the president of Northwestern University, once dared, while completing an annual questionnaire about the board's effectiveness, to suggest that some meetings seemed perfunctory, short on discussion and debate. He was subsequently subjected to what he called a "woodshed" discussion when he was roundly chastised by the CEO and not invited to stand for re-election.

Such behavior is often seen at its worst in remuneration committees, where board members, eager for renewal, wouldn't dare to challenge multi-million dollar packages for senior executives. One colleague explained to me that he loved chairing remuneration committees (for which he earned supplementary income himself) and boards loved him too because he always give executives what they wanted-thereby ensuring an easy consensus.

This isn't unique to commercial companies. I've experienced complacent compliance in not-for-profit boards too. When gentle questions, designed to illuminate and clarify stra-

tegic issues, couldn't be answered, the conclusion drawn was that clearly I didn't share the ethos of the organization-otherwise why would I ask unanswerable questions? You might imagine that a subscription-based charity would have some fundamental insight into its own business model but, when a simple question about supporter acquisition cost couldn't be answered, it was made clear that my aggressive commercialism rendered me useless. If silent consensus was what was wanted, then they were right: I didn't fit in.

I've always taken my board responsibilities seriously, serving companies I believed in and wished to see strong, healthy and successful. I have always been disappointed that so many of my peers have regarded their role as a club member or a stepping stone to some better social club with even better perks. I am far from innocent but I remain aghast at how little the needs and desires of employees are routinely overlooked and undervalued. I am shocked by the industry ignorance that all too often pervades these meetings and by the blithe confidence with which threats and opportunities are minimized. I know the markets are full of board evaluators and advisors but they don't seem to have helped. And if the presence of female board members really could make a difference - well, I guess that explains why their adoption has proved so slow.

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Organisation: Farm Africa
Location: Ethiopia with frequent travel
Contract: Full time, 3 years, fixed term
Salary & Benefits: Competitive

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21555907

FARM AFRICA

JOB VACANCY

Proposal Writer
Contract: Full time
Salary: Competitive

Effective agriculture has the power to change lives. It underpins prosperity, food security and stability the world over. Farm Africa focuses on transforming agriculture and managing natural resources sustainably. We champion a holistic approach that boosts yields, protects the environment and connects smallholder farmers to thriving markets.

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This roles is crucial to Farm Africa's strategy to become the leading European NGO specialising in agriculture, environment and business in rural Africa.

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If you are interested in the role, further information and details of how to apply can be found on the jobs page of our website: www.farmafrica.org

The deadline for application is Midnight (11:59 pm GMT) on Wednesday 08 January 2020. We will be contacted shortlisted candidates only w/c 13 January 2020.

21555907

By Chris Kahn, Tim Reid

Trump campaign says impeachment backfiring. Not really, polls suggest

President Donald Trump's campaign has embraced Democrat-led efforts to impeach him as a major asset to his 2020 re-election campaign, betting that his supporters and disaffected political independents will be motivated to vote for him next November.

But if the Republican president is hoping for a public backlash like the one against the 1998 impeachment of Democratic President Bill Clinton, it has so far not worked out that way. Reuters/Ipsos polling data over the past few months shows.

In fact, the House of Representatives' impeachment investigation has fueled an equally fervent demand among Democrats to hold the Republican president accountable for his efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden, according to a review of polls conducted every week since Sept. 24 when the Ukraine scandal broke.

Trump is expected later this week to become the third U.S. president to be impeached when the full Democratic-led House votes on articles of impeachment charging him with abusing the power of his office and obstructing Congress' investigation of the matter.

That would set up a trial in the Republican-controlled Senate, which is unlikely to vote to remove him from office. Trump has denied wrongdoing and called the impeachment inquiry a hoax.

Since House Democrats launched the impeachment inquiry, the Trump campaign has sent talking points to Republican Party officials across the United States, trying to turn the crisis into a political advantage, according to aides and an internal campaign document seen by Reuters.

"Any time people try to lessen this legitimate president, in any way, his voters fight back," Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale told reporters on Thursday. The Republicans' model looking forward could be the 1998 Clinton impeachment.

Gallup polling at the time showed that Clinton's popularity grew in a bipartisan fashion during the House proceedings, peaking at 73% at the time of the impeachment vote.

Clinton, who was impeached for lying about a sexual relationship he had with a White House intern, emerged in a stronger political position after he was acquitted in a Senate trial in early 1999.

But Americans are reacting much differently in 2019.

Trump's approval rating has hovered around 40% all year, changing little during the past three months. Furthermore, his support has been flat over the past several months among whites without a college degree - his core political base - and he



Supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump rally against the congressional impeachment inquiry outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, U.S., October 17, 2019. File photo

was less popular in rural America in November than he was in June.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll also shows that Democrats are even more committed to impeaching Trump now than they were earlier this year and worry less about the impact it may have on the 2020 election.

While total support for impeachment has been steady over the past several weeks at around 45%, it has risen by 12 percentage points among Democrats since late September, with 78% saying in the latest poll on Dec. 9 and 10 that Trump should be impeached.

Among Republicans, opposition to impeachment has been relatively unchanged throughout the same period, with about 82% saying in the latest poll that he should not be impeached.

In addition, only 27% of Democrats said in December that their party should drop impeachment if that weakened their chances of beating Trump in the November

election, down 7 points from a similar poll that ran in early October.

Political engagement has been soaring across the United States since Trump took office in January 2017, with record turnout in many of the statewide and congressional races that followed.

So far, the impeachment proceedings do not appear to have cranked it higher. Those who want to impeach Trump are not more interested in voting now than they were when the House inquiry started in September, according to the Reuters/Ipsos poll. The same goes for those who do not want to impeach Trump.

The mixed results have led some Republican officials in crucial battleground states to fret over the benefits of a prolonged impeachment debate, even as the campaign sees it as a major boost in firing up the base.

Nearly 100,000 voters have asked to become volunteers to knock on doors and hold

grassroots events for Trump's re-election effort since the impeachment inquiry, Rick Gorka, a senior member of the Republican National Committee and part of the Trump Victory re-election campaign, told Reuters.

Republican officials in all 50 states are also being sent talking points and data multiple times a week, Gorka said.

One "state party packet" seen by Reuters, dated last Tuesday and entitled "Rigged Partisan Witch Hunt," is filled with impeachment messaging, suggested tweets, polling data and graphics that paint the impeachment effort as a Democratic "sham" to try to overturn Trump's 2016 election victory.

But Terry Dittrich, chairman of the Waukesha County Republican Party in Wisconsin, warned that prolonged proceedings could turn voter attention away from what they view as Trump's greatest political strengths, such as the strong economy.

"Our constituents, here in Wisconsin, they just want this to be over," Dittrich said. Trump's narrow victory in the state in 2016 helped propel him to the presidency.

"We want to close this up, we want to move on, so we can remind Wisconsinites of all the accomplishments of President Trump, the roaring economy, low interest rates, and the lowest unemployment numbers for African-Americans."

KEY PLAYERS IN U.S. SENATE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF TRUMP

The U.S. Senate expects to begin the trial of President Donald Trump in January if, as expected, the House of Representatives votes to impeach him this week.

Here are the main players in what would be only the third such trial in U.S. history.

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS

A conservative who was appointed by Republican President George W. Bush, Roberts might find himself celebrating his 65th birthday on Jan. 27 by presiding over Republican Trump's impeachment trial.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the chief justice of the highest court is the referee in presidential impeachment trials.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has noted that if Roberts presides in a similar fashion to then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist in the trial of President Bill Clinton, he could allow any disagreements over procedures to be worked out by the senators themselves, probably through one or more Senate floor votes.

But Roberts has been known to surprise court-watchers. For example, early this year he joined liberals in a 5-4 abortion case decision and did the same in a 2012 ruling upholding a central feature of Democratic former President Barack

Obama's signature health-care law.

SENATORS MITCH MCCONNELL AND CHUCK SCHUMER

The Senate majority and minority leaders, respectively, will be tasked with trying to reach a bipartisan deal over the rules governing any Trump trial.

McConnell has raised the possibility of a trial that could consist only of arguments by House Democrats for conviction and by White House lawyers for acquittal, with no witnesses testifying. Schumer has called for a full and open trial, while McConnell has said there is no chance that Trump will be convicted by fellow Republicans.

Both Senate leaders will be keenly aware that the trial will be taking place just as the 2020 election campaign begins to speed up. McConnell will be anxious not to allow the trial to turn into a circus while Schumer will be hoping that some moderate Republicans split away and vote to convict Trump just as he campaigns for re-election.

Much like a trial held in the U.S. judicial system, the accused - in this case Trump - would be defended by a team of lawyers arguing for his acquittal.

The White House has not yet announced who would spearhead this effort on the Senate floor.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone is expected to play a leading role, an administration official told Reuters. He has been working with deputies Patrick Philbin and Michael Purpura.

Agencies

Women in climate hot spots face challenges adapting

KATHMANDU

Women in Asia and Africa hardest hit by climate change have a tough time adapting to the climate emergency, even with support from family or the state, finds a new study. The results raise questions for global agreements designed to help people adapt to the climate emergency, it adds.

The findings are based on 25 case studies in three agro-ecological regions on the two continents: 14 in semi-arid locales, 6 in mountains

and glacier-fed river basins (including one in Nepal) and 5 in deltas. The main livelihoods in these natural resource-dependent areas include agriculture, livestock rearing and fishing, supplemented by wage labour, petty trade and income from remittances.

Environmental risks include droughts, floods, rainfall variability, land erosion and landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, heat waves and cyclones, all of which negatively affect livelihoods. The study, A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Women's Agency and Adap-

tive Capacity in Climate Change Hotspots in Asia and Africa was published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

When households take steps to adapt to the impact of climate change, the result is that the strategies 'place increasing responsibilities and burdens on women, especially those who are young, less educated and belonging to lower classes or marginal castes and ethnicities'.

It found that when households take steps to adapt to the impact of climate change, the result is that the

strategies 'place increasing responsibilities and burdens on women, especially those who are young, less educated and belonging to lower classes or marginal castes and ethnicities'. This occurred even in cases where support appeared to be available in the form of families/communities or via the state.

Examples include when men migrate to find work because of climate change-induced impacts at home. While the money they earn can boost family incomes, when men are away women must shoulder a larger bur-



Women farmers clearing farmland in Northern Bangladesh. File photo

den. As a result, most women 'reported reduced leisure time, with negative consequences on their wellbeing, including the health and nutrition of themselves and their households,' says the report.

In other cases, governments stepped in with support but during floods or droughts, for example, men dominated state-provided aid and relief facilities, making women rely on their male relatives to receive support.

'In a sense, women do have voice and agency, yet this is not contributing to strengthening longer-term adaptive capacities,' concludes the report.

But in three examples in the study, one in Nepal, women did adapt to the increased burdens delivered by climate change. In Chharghare of Nuwakot district, support from a well-established cooperative enabled many women - excluding Dailit women - to switch from raising buffalo and cattle to rearing goats, which adapted better to growing rain scarcity.

"By enhancing women's agen-

cy, we need to understand that we are helping them to create an enabling environment where a women's right to make decisions about her own life is recognised, where women are economically empowered and free from all forms of discrimination and violence," said Anjal Prakash, who worked on the case study for the Integrated Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Poverty is the main factor in the declining decision-making power of women in some hot spots, says the report, even when women share responsibilities in the family and work outside of the home. In semi-arid Kenya, for example, women of female-headed households sell alcohol to earn money to pay for children's schooling, but this exposes them to health risks, such as engaging in sexual activities with their clients.

A 35-year-old woman told researchers, "Despite our efforts, there is a high level of malnutrition here. We can't afford meat, we just eat rice and potatoes, but even for this, the quantity is not enough."

The study notes that international agreements, such as the gender action plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) require information about what builds the adaptive capacity of women, and men, so that agreements can support sustainable, equitable and effective adaptation.

It suggests that effective social protection, like the universal public distribution system for cereals in India, or pensions and social grants in Namibia, could contribute to relieving immediate pressures on survival.

"This however cannot always be done on the 'cheap' - investments are needed to enable better and more sustainable management of resources. 'Women's self-help groups are often presented as solutions, yet they are confronted by the lack of resources, skills and capacity to help their members effectively meet the challenges they confront,' the report adds.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

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

WORD FIT

3 Letter word: HOT, ALL, SIN, ASS
 4 Letter word: LEEK, FROM, URNS, BOSS, LIMY, MAMA
 5 Letter word: TRADE, AMBER, GELID, HEARD, SAHEL, STORM
 6 Letter word: MEDDLE, DARING, AGREED, KINDLE, ASYLUM
 8 Letter word: MEASURES, SERENADE
 11 Letter word: DINING ROOMS.

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
 1. Emit light (5)
 5. Chief city of Poland (6)
 7. Folded fabric edge (3)
 8. On the vehicle (7)
 9. Citrus fruit (5)
 12. Leader of mosque prayers (4)
 13. Deep or broad (5) 14. Male adults (3)
 16. Former name of Thailand (4)
 18. Yoga posture (5) 19. Worth (5)
 20. Capital of Switzerland since 1848 (5)
 22. Extreme glamour (4)
 23. Clothing (6) 24. Trouser (4)
 25. Largest continent (4)
 26. Wood of elm tree (7) 27. Timid (3)
 28. Half (4)

Down:
 1. Dry land (5)
 2. Chicken (3)
 3. Somebody with low IQ (8)
 4. Endorsement (9)
 5. Padding (7)
 6. Stalk (4)
 9. Pleasant and friendly (7)
 10. Mother (4)
 11. Prophetic sign (4)
 15. Destroyed by an atomic bomb (8)
 16. "to rest, cease" (7)
 17. Salt containing gold (6)
 21. Origins of words (5)
 22. Clean up (5)
 25. Increase (3)

Comments: 0/89 43/109

BUSINESS

REGULATIONS

Big blow for Vodacom, MTN as CompCom orders data cost cut

JOHANNESBURG

The Competition Commission has thrown a curve ball to SA's leading telcos, MTN and Vodacom, recommending that they reduce their mobile data pricing by half.

The competition watchdog, which has been investigating the cost of data in the country, presented its final report in Pretoria on Monday. The Data Services Market Inquiry report is scathing to both carriers, saying they have to reduce data prices otherwise it will consider prosecution for exorbitant pricing.

The Commission says based on the evidence before it, "we find that price-based competition is inadequate, the challenger networks of Cell C and Telkom Mobile are unable to effectively constrain the two first movers, and that Vodacom has substantial market power, with MTN to a lesser degree."

It says there was a consensus in the submissions to the Commission on this point, "with the obvious exception of Vodacom and MTN themselves who continued to maintain that the market was competitive."

The Competition Commission says notwithstanding the most recent price reductions, Vodacom and MTN must independently reach agreement with it on substantial and immediate reductions on tariff levels, "especially prepaid monthly bundles, within two months of the release of the report. The preliminary evidence suggests that there is scope for price reductions in the region of 30% to 50%."

Furthermore, it says Vodacom and MTN must independently reach agreement with the Commission within two months on a reduction in the headline prices of all sub-500MB 30-day prepaid data bundles to reflect the same cost per MB as the 500MB 30-day bundle "or cost-based differences where such cost differences

have been quantified, as well as the cessation of partitioning strategies that contribute to anti-poor pricing and/or inferior service outcomes."

The Commission says given their collective market position, adjustments to their prices should have a market-wide impact. Additionally, the report says Vodacom and MTN must independently reach agreement with the Commission "to cease ongoing partitioning and price discrimination strategies that may facilitate greater exploitation of market power and anti-poor pricing."

It adds that all mobile operators must reach agreement with the Commission within three months to offer all prepaid subscribers a lifeline package of daily free data to ensure all citizens have data access on a continual basis, regardless of income levels.

"This agreement must then be given formal legislative or regulatory effect within six months. This may include the ICASA [Independent Communications Authority of SA] End-User and Subscriber Charter Regulations, spectrum licensing conditions or planned amendments to the Electronic Communication Act.

"The precise level of lifeline data and any annual adjustments should be determined in consultation with industry, ICASA and relevant experts. The Commission is of the view that it should be sufficient to ensure each citizen's participation in the online economy and society," reads the report.

SA mobile operators have been under-pressure from the society regarding data prices, which led to launch of the inquiry in August 2017. Since 2016, South Africans have been complaining about the high price of data through the social media banner #DataMustFall, and both the Competition Commission and ICASA initiated inquiries into data pricing.

INVESTMENT

Works minister says NIT will have five pilot training planes by mid next year

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's aviation industry will make history mid next year when National Institute of Transport will get five planes meant to facilitate practical training of pilots.

Works, Transport and Communications, deputy minister, Atashasta Ndtiye told the 35th NIT graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam last weekend that the aviation industry is growth at 12 percent annually hence in high demand of quality pilots.

"I am happy to say that our National Institute of Transport is in the final process to start offering pilot course and as government we will continue supporting them to make sure that their goals are fulfilled," Ndtiye promised.

He added that the institute will receive the five pilot training planes that will add market confidence in the NIT to lure more into pursuing pilot courses locally. Ndtiye also said that the move by NIT to start offering such the aviation course will not only increase the number of pilots demanded by the market but will also help the government reduce higher costs of training pilots abroad.

"This move by NIT is something very positive for our country," he added while defining NIT's crucial role in training qualified personnel to manage an evenly complex transport industry as the government of President John Magufuli is investing heavily in different modes of transport which include highways, standard gauge railways, shipbuilding and purchasing new planes for Air Tanzania Company Limited.

On his part, NIT rector, professor Zacharia Mganilwa said that they have already received financial support



Deputy minister Atashasta Ndtiye (R) with NIT rector prof. Zacharia Mganilwa at the institute's 35th graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Photo courtesy of NIT.

valued at about US\$ 21.25 million from World Bank with government guarantee which will be spent on purchasing three planes for practical lessons while balance goes to hostel and aviation workshop construction.

"In the next academic year which covers 2020/21, we are planning to enrol 10 students to commence our pilot

course," professor Mganilwa said while noting that official statistics show that many aviation personnel including pilots and aircraft engineers are retiring.

"That's the reason we are keen to embark on offering such kinds of specialised training," he insisted adding that NIT started the process of commencing aviation studies in 2011.

The NIT has in recent years introduced a number of new courses which has seen students numbers increase significantly in the last six years from 3,248 in 2014/15 to 7,549 in 2019/20. "The institute is not only planning for an increase in student numbers but also high quality graduates as it heads towards becoming a university.

"In this 35th graduation

ceremony, we are witnessing a total of 1,941 graduates being awarded various nobilities. Among them female graduates are 697 which equals to 36 percent, so this is a 69 percent increase in female graduates compared to the number in the 2017/18 group," the NIT rector added noting that more female students prefer transport and freight disciplines.

COLLABORATION

TTB: We're set to learn from success in tourism by China's Hunan Province

By Francis Kajubi

HUNAN'S tourism success story is a subject on learning by Tanzania Tourist Board which is studying what actually

makes the Chinese province a world class attraction centre.

Speaking at the Splendid Hunan, Culture and Tourism promotion in Tanzania meeting last week, TTB's board chairman, Thomas Mihayo said that Tanzania with more than 120 tribes with varied cultural practices has a lot to learn from Hunan which also has cultural diversity which earning the region foreign cash.

"Every Tanzanian is responsible to make sure that they promote and spread our traditions and customs regardless of their position if they only have a chance to do so. Our traditional dances, food, dressing and way of life is enough tourist attraction which can learn from the Chinese," Mihayo said.

Mihayo called upon Chinese tourists to market and consider Tanzania as their destination of choice in Africa because apart from national parks and game reserves, the country is now focusing on cruise and conference tourism.

"We want to increase our annual tourist arrival num-



TTB chairman Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo.

bers to record numbers in the next few years," the retired High Court justice added. Recent official statistics show that the number of tourists entering the country increased from 1.3 million in 2017 to 1.5 million in 2018 with a generation of US\$2.4 billion representing an increase of 7.2 percent from US\$2.3 billion of 2017. He asserted that global tourism growth last year stood at an

average of 6 percent but Tanzania grew at 13 percent.

Hunan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism Deputy Director, Guo Guquan called upon Tanzanians to visit his country's province because it is endowed with beautiful landscapes including mountains which account for about 51 percent of the province.

"Hunan's culture and tourism industry has a strong

foundation with two UNESCO world natural heritage sites in Zhangjiajie and Langshan," said Guquan saying another UNESCO world cultural heritage site is in Laosicheng.

According to him, there are 150 museums in Hunan including memorial halls, 118 national intangible cultural heritage projects and 121 representative inheritors of national projects. There are eight airports one of which being Changsha Huanghua International Airport with 360 domestic and international routes.

Guquan said ancestors of the Chinese nation, Emperor Yan and Emperor Shun were buried in Hunan which is also a home province of a group of leaders and founders of modern China including Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi and Ren Bishi.

On his part, Wang Siping, who is a cultural counselor at Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam, said that Hunan is center of film and television culture, leisure, animation and food culture are key features of the province's hospitality.



#DataMustFall protesters.

CRISIS

Fitch paints gloomy Kenyan public debt picture

NAIROBI

Kenya will need almost a decade to tame runaway debt as the country is expected to borrow Sh9 trillion by 2024. Rating agency Fitch says the general government debt-to-GDP ratio will continue increasing through 2022 to 64.8 per cent before easing gradually to 60.5 per cent by 2028.

"Our projections are less optimistic than that (those) of the government, which sees debt stabilising in 2020 and falling to 54 per cent by 2024. General government debt reached 61.3 per cent of GDP at end-2019," Fitch said in a rating update on December 10.

In November 2019, the Parliament approved a change to the existing debt limit, moving it to a nominal limit of Sh9

trillion from 50 per cent of GDP in net present value terms. The rating firm warned that Kenya spent twice as much as its peers in paying for loans with the government's interest costs at 22.1 per cent.

Fitch Ratings affirmed Kenya's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating at 'B' with a Stable Outlook though. The rating agency said the out-

look was supported by the ability of the Kenyan economy to grow in a stable rate of between 4.6 per cent to 6.3 per cent while maintaining stable single-digit inflation.

The economy although robust is expected to take a hit from political risks in 2022 in line with previous trends, the agency warns. Fitch cited weakness in Kenya's ratings as a shrinking tax even

as the economy keeps growing due to the structure of agriculture-led growth by smallholder farmers outside the tax net.

"General government revenue has fallen to an estimated 17.5 per cent in the fiscal year ending June 2019 from a recent high of 19 per cent of GDP in 2015," Fitch said. Fall in revenue has also been attributed to weak tax com-

pliance and expansion of exemptions.

"The most recent budget and the Finance Bill 2019 include an increase in capital gains tax, new excise taxes, and a widening of the withholding tax. These revenue measures will help to increase revenue, but to less than the 20 per cent of GDP targeted in the 2020 budget," Fitch said.

CONSERVATION

RC applauds JTI Leaf for planting millions of trees in Tabora and Shinyanga

By Guardian Reporter, Tabora

EFFORTS by a tobacco dealing company, JTI Leaf to work with communities in planting over five million trees in Shinyanga and Tabora last week have drawn praises from a top government official.

Tabora regional commissioner, Aggrey Manri said JTI Leaf's initiative has not only supported environmental protection but will also later serve to make the two regions green lush gardens hence contributing to beautiful scenery.

"They have come up with a species that doesn't burn faster during tobacco drying process hence less of it is used," said the RC who was flanked by the Uyui district commissioner, Gift Msuya.

Manri lauded JTI Leaf for sensitising farmers on the need to plant trees annually between December 16 and 17 to ensure that the planted trees do not die from droughts. The RC who led primary societies in Kaliua and Urambo districts accompanied by respective DCs praised farmers for backing JTI Leaf's campaign

to reforest Tabora and Shinyanga regions which have experienced years of rampant deforestation. The exercise involved 43 primary societies and individual farmers.

On his part, the JTI Leaf Services communications and corporate affairs manager, Bright Kiwira said the company will continue complementing government's efforts in conserving the environment by planting more trees annually.

Kiwira said JTI Leaf last season embarked on a mission to install 7,000 new

burns that consume less fuel hence environmental friendly for use by tobacco farmers. "This season we have so far already installed 4,500 in different parts of the two regions but the target is to install 7,000 burns this season," he said.

The JTI Leaf agro-forestry manager, Alfadhil Makengo appealed to the government to adopt December 16 and 17 every year as specific dates for a tree planting campaign in tobacco growing areas, a proposal which Manri seconded.



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri (L) and Uyui district commissioner Gift Msuya (C) listens to JTI Leaf Services agro forestry manager Alfadhil Makengo during the climax of a tree planting campaign held in Uyui last week. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

CHARITY

Bank donates construction materials, desks valued at 40million/- in Tanga

By Guardian Reporter

IN continuation of its tradition to support community investments in education and health, NMB Bank Plc has donated construction materials and desks all valued at 40m/- to several public schools and health facilities in Tanga Region.

Handeni district commissioner, Godwin Gondwe said the support has come at the right time as his district faces acute shortage of a lot of education materials including desks and classrooms. "This donation of desks will encourage high school students from Kisasa Secondary School to improve their performance," Gondwe said.

His observation was backed by Handeni district executive director, William Makufwe said they are still facing many challenges but that the donation is a big relief. He said despite the challenges being faced, the pass rate has increased from 62.2 percent in 2016 to 87.7 percent in 2019 thanks to government efforts to invest in public schools.

In a vote of thanks after receiving the donation for Korogwe district, acting DED Mandia Kihyo said NMB's massive support supplements government's efforts to improve quality of education and health services in the country.

"NMB is a trusted partner of the government of President John Magufuli in improving social services,"



NMB's northern zone manager, Aikansia Muro.

Kihyo said. Kihyo's observation was backed by district education officer, Sophia Msofe who said they have spent a lot of time seeking for support which NMB has finally provided. "We thank NMB for coming to our rescue after approaching many companies for sup-

port of our education system," Msofe said.

Speaking after handing over the donation, NMB northern zone manager, Aikansia Muro said the donation is part of the allocated 1bn/- which the bank earmarked to back education and

health sectors.

"Although the government is investing heavily, we as bank saw it fit to supplement such efforts in support of communities that work with us," Muro said noting that education and health sectors are priorities for NMB's support.

RESISTANCE

Uber has filed an appeal after losing licence in London

LONDON

Uber submitted an appeal on Friday against a decision by London's transport regulator to strip the taxi app of its right to operate in one its most important markets, setting up a potentially lengthy legal process during which it can continue to take rides.

Transport for London (TfL) refused to grant the Silicon Valley-based company a new license in November due to what it called a "pattern of failures" on safety and security, the latest stage of a long-running battle with the authorities.

Uber, which was also denied a license by TfL in 2017 before a judge restored it



Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi.

on a probationary basis, said it had changed its business model over the last two years and would go further. "Safety is our top priority which is why we have robust systems and processes in place," said Uber's Northern and Eastern Europe boss Jamie Heywood.

"We are committed to Londoners and are working closely with TfL to address their concerns and requests, as we have since 2017." TfL director Helen Chapman said it would now be for a magistrate to decide.

COMMERCE

UAE and Egypt agree to strengthen bilateral trade ties

DUBAI

The UAE, the second-biggest Arab economy, and Egypt agreed to strengthen bilateral trade ties between the two Arab countries by identifying the scope for future business opportunities and offer companies export credit facilities.

The UAE's Etihad Credit Insurance (ECI) and the Export Credit Guarantee Company of Egypt (ECGE) have signed an agreement to boost exports and further grow non-oil trade between the two countries, according to a statement released on Monday.

"This agreement will pave the way for the identification and development of more business opportunities," Massimo Falcioni, chief executive of ECI, said. "ECI's partnership with ECGE will not only reinforce the existing partnership between the two countries but will also boost the regional and global competitiveness of local businesses."

Non-oil trade between the UAE and Egypt, the most populous Arab country, last year reached Dh20.1 billion, a year-on-year rise of 14.6 per cent, according to data released by the UAE Ministry of Economy. The UAE

ranks first globally in terms of investments in Egypt with total foreign direct investment (FDI) reaching Dh24.3bn from 990 Emirati companies investing in Egypt at the end of 2018. Meanwhile, Egypt ranks 28th globally in terms of FDI into the UAE with total investments worth Dh3.3bn during the same period.

Egypt is the UAE's sixth-biggest trading partner in the region while the UAE is Egypt's second-leading trading partner. "These are indicators of the strong and deep relationship shared between the UAE and Egypt," Mohamed Azzam, managing

director of the Egyptian export credit agency said. "For ECGE, the MoU [memorandum of understanding] offers optimistic prospects for SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] and businesses looking to enter high-growth markets through a broad suite of trade credit solutions."

ECGE was founded in 1992 with the role of facilitating the development of Egypt's foreign trade. It provides comprehensive services and support to exporters to help manage, protect and finance their receivables.

Under the agreement, ECI and ECGE will create a task

force to explore trade and collaborate on technical and economic issues. These include insurance, reinsurance, Sharia-compliant insurance and finance solutions, trade promotional activities, facilitating access of SMEs, as well as sharing expertise and best practices.

The agreement was signed during the UAE-Egypt investor forum organised by the UAE Ministry of Economy, the UAE Investor's Council and the Egypt-UAE Business Council to provide market information and build networks for businesses in the two countries, according to the statement.

ECO-FRIENDLY

New Garissa solar plant raises Kenya's green energy to 93pc

NAIROBI

Kenya's new 50 megawatt (MW) solar plant in Garissa has increased the share of renewable energy to the grid to 93 percent, setting the stage for cheaper electricity.

The 54.6 megawatt (MW) plant, the largest in East and Central Africa and located 15 kilometres from Garissa Town, was commissioned on Friday by President Uhuru Kenyatta, further cutting reliance on expensive thermal power.

The Government is increasing electricity generation and investing in Kenya's power grid to keep up with growing demand and reduce frequent blackouts. But Kenya's solar energy is still small compared to other sources.

"The 50MW solar plant has increased the share of renewable energy in our energy mix to more than 90 percent," the Ministry of Energy said on Twitter. Most of Kenya's electricity is generated by renewable sources, with geothermal ranked the biggest source of power to the grid with hydroelectricity and wind following.

The new solar plant, backed by

increased geothermal and hydropower generation—which has received a boost from the ongoing rains—has cut the share of expensive thermal power to the grid at seven percent from 19 percent in April.

Kenya ranks 40th worldwide in EY's renewable energy country attractiveness index, which was issued in November. The injection of the Sh13 billion Chinese loan-funded solar power to the national grid comes months after Kenya increased its share of cheaper wind power.

Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), formerly Rural Electrification Authority (REA), owns the plant. The 310MW Turkana Wind Farm, which was switched on in October last year, accounted for 13.9 percent of Kenya's generation mix, up from 9.8 percent in June, say the electricity regulator.

Solar power cost about Sh8 per kilowatt hour matching the wholesale cost of wind, and lower than thermal that goes for above Sh20. The reduced reliance of thermal power will reflect on electricity bills, pulled down by lower fuel cost charge.

LOAN

IMF approves \$368m credit facility for DR Congo

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday said it had agreed to a \$368.4m credit facility for strife-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, to enable its authorities "to meet their urgent balance of payment needs." "The economic environment remains challenging and vulnerable to shocks," the IMF said in a statement.

"Real GDP growth is projected to decelerate to 4.5% in 2019 from 5.8% in 2018... International reserves have fallen to critically

low levels." President Felix Tshisekedi, who took office in January this year, has vowed to enact sweeping reform and root out corruption in the poor but mineral-rich central African country.

DRC was ranked 161 out of 180 on the Transparency International corruption perceptions index released in January 2019. The IMF said the new government was committed to addressing "issues related to poor governance, a difficult business environment, and pervasive poverty."

INVESTMENT

SoftBank's Vision Fund sees opportunity as credit crunch hits India

CALIFORNIA

Japan's SoftBank Vision Fund, the world's largest venture capital fund, is looking to increase its investments in India, as it seeks to leverage opportunities for its second fund that come about from the credit crisis in Asia's third largest economy, its chief executive said.

"We are looking at insurance and lending businesses," Rajeev Misra, the chief executive of SoftBank Investment Advisers, which oversees the firm's Vision Fund, told The National. The company already has PayTM, an ecommerce instant payment company, in the portfolio of its first \$100 billion fund. Policy Bazaar, an online platform that compares insurance policies, is the second company in India that SoftBank has a stake in. PayTM, in which SoftBank has a 20 per cent interest, recently raised \$1bn in funding and will now

also "go into lending", Mr Misra said.

On Monday, Moody's Investors Service reduced its economic growth projections for India to 4.9 per cent from 5.8 per cent for the country's 2018-19 fiscal year. Weak household consumption will curb economic growth and weigh on the credit quality of Indian issuers in a range of sectors, the agency said.

Government measures to stimulate domestic demand in India will be limited in offsetting the slowdown, and although a modest recovery is expected next year, economic growth will be weaker than that of recent years, which will have negative credit implications for Indian issuers, the agency said. The credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions, which have been major providers of retail loans in recent years, has exacerbated the slowdown, according to Moody's.



Rajeev Misra, chief executive of SoftBank Investment Advisers, speaks during the Milken Institute's 22nd annual Global Conference in Beverly Hills.

This is precisely where SoftBank's Vision Fund sees opportunity for its second fund as companies looking to grow turn to it for capital. "For a country to grow it needs the availability of credit," said Mr Misra. "SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] need money, consumers need lending. You will never see us put money into a public bank, that's not us, our investment thesis requires a technology angle, it has to use AI [artificial intelligence], data science, so we are actively looking."

The investment threshold of the second fund could be reduced from \$100 million, so the ticket size may come down and the number of total investments might be twice as much as the first fund, according to people familiar with the matter.

"If you look at the internet revolution, between 1999-2019 it created several companies that have changed the world like Google, Amazon, Facebook,

Alibaba and Tencent," said Mr Misra. "We believe the AI revolution will have a bigger impact on value creation because it will impact every part of the economy. Of the \$85 trillion gross domestic product of the world, it will disrupt all of it while the internet only disrupted around 15 per cent of the GDP."

Mr Misra, a veteran banker who built a career at UBS, Deutsche Bank and Merrill Lynch, is unfazed by the recent woes of WeWork, where the fund had to write down \$9bn on its stake in the company, after the office space start-up abandoned its initial public offering (IPO) plans.

The fund is now two-and-a-half years old. As of September the portfolio was up \$11.4bn and has distributed \$9.9bn to investors in returns. As is the case in building an investment portfolio, there is a general acceptance that some choices will produce better results and others will disappoint.

GREEN ECONOMY

'Cleaner and cheaper': Sunny Spain banking on renewable energy

MADRID

Although the outcome of the United Nations' COP25 climate conference negotiations may not shine for many observers, hospitable Spain welcomed the opportunity to spotlight its fast-tracked shift to renewable sources of energy.

The eco-friendly Socialist caretaker government eagerly pitched its environmental bona fides to tens of thousands who came as diplomats, investors and activists. With world attention on its green goals, the climate champions hoped to generate enhanced commitments to reduce emissions globally - and to finance electricity projects powered by the Spanish sun's bright rays and the strength of the Iberian wind.

"We must make this transition. There is no other way," said Jose Dominguez Abascal, Spain's secretary of state for energy. Speaking at a COP25 event on European climate finance for Spain, he said the country is becoming "much better in efficiency, electrification of transport and ... the technology to make renewable electricity very cheap."

"Today, producing with sun or wind in Spain is half the cost we have on the wholesale [electricity] market in Spain," Dominguez said. "We need two things: money and to convince companies that the status quo must be modified." "We cannot keep investing in the same things we've invested in," said the minister, referring to oil and gas companies placing bets on projects that risk becoming stranded assets.

Although the current government of Spain is highly ambitious, climate goals remain far from being realised. At 74 per cent of all energy use, Prado told Al Jazeera that Spain is "still 20 points above the average in Europe. Even though we're on a good path for renewables, it's still far away." Ratification of Spain's climate change law will likely accelerate the transition and create even more investor appetite for renewables.

'Climate neutrality before 2050'

Spain currently has 28.5GW of renewables - 23.5GW of wind and 5.1GW of solar photovoltaic energy. An additional 62.9GW already has permits but is not operational, two-thirds of which is solar. Beyond that, 84.4GW has been requested by producers.

On the last day of the COP25 conference, climate activists from Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion demanded swifter action. One gigawatt is the amount of power harnessed by three million solar panels or 412 utility-scale wind turbines.

The massive quantity of applications far exceeds the country's expectations under the National Climate and Energy Plan for 2030. "Spain is leading the country into

achieving climate neutrality before 2050, fulfilling its international commitments in line with science and the calls for more ambition and robust climate action made by Spaniards in the streets," says a pamphlet on the European Green Deal issued by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition.

"The government is planning to phase out coal and nuclear in the next 15 years, though that's still too much for us," said Mario Rodriguez Vargas, executive director of Greenpeace Spain. "In 2007, [Greenpeace] were the first organisation in Spain, and Europe as a whole, that came out with a 100-percent renewable scenario by 2050," he added. "And people then said we were crazy."

'Economies of scale'

Energy Secretary Dominguez, who works under Ribera, chaired a discussion on Wednesday with three speakers whose organisations - BNP Paribas, the European Investment Bank and Norway's sovereign wealth fund - collectively advise on and lend \$2 trillion. Spain's Secretary of State for Energy Jose Dominguez Abascal sought insights from three climate experts at major financial institutions.

The goal was to showcase how Spain can streamline financing for the development of its renewable sector. Nancy Saich, the EIB's chief climate change expert, said the focus was "not just about what we finance more of, but also about what we finance less of" billions in renewables.

Lene Westgaard-Halle, a parliamentarian from Norway's ruling Conservative Party, said that the new policy's goal was "to make Europe cleaner and cut emissions, as well as for us to stay rich." "It's a political decision," she said, "but also financial. It's important for us to make money." "This part of the oil fund that we invest in renewables is going to become bigger," Westgaard-Halle added, with a nod towards the Spanish energy secretary. "It's a mix of being an idealist and capitalist."



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ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	8:00	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00	22:30	23:00	23:30	
MONDAY 09 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
TUESDAY 10 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
WEDNESDAY 11 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
THURSDAY 12 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
FRIDAY 13 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
SATURDAY 14 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				
SUNDAY 15 Dec	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	HABARI	Kumekucha Michezo	HABARI	Jungu kuu rpt	Mjue Zaidi	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	Movie: Hazard	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Abu yako rpt	Mapishi	Kesho leo	Alya ya Jamii	Isidingo	HABARI	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	Dakika 45	Insta Bet	Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	HABARI	The Base	Al Jazeera	CNN International				

WORLD

PM uses UK law to demand EU trade deal by end of 2020

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson will use the prospect of a Brexit-cliff-edge at the end of 2020 to push for the European Union to give him a comprehensive free trade deal in less than 11 months.

In his boldest move since winning a majority in Thursday's election, Johnson will use his control of parliament to outlaw any extension of the Brexit transition period beyond 2020.

"Our manifesto made clear that we will not extend the implementation period and the new Withdrawal Agreement Bill will legally prohibit government agreeing to any extension," a senior government official said yesterday.

After the United Kingdom leaves the EU on Jan 31, it enters a transition period in which it remains an EU member in all but name while both sides try to hammer out a deal on their post-Brex-

it relationship.

A comprehensive free trade deal would encompass everything from financial services and rules of origin to tariffs, state aid rules and fishing, though the scope and sequencing of any future deal is still up for discussion.

Sterling dropped as much as 0.7% to US\$1.3236 GBP=D4 in Asia after ITV first reported the move.

By enshrining in law his campaign promise not to extend the transition period beyond the end of 2020, Johnson cuts the amount of time he has to strike a trade deal to 10-11 months from nearly three years.

While Johnson's large majority gives him the flexibility to change the law should he need to, he is sending a message to the EU - whose leaders have cautioned London that more time would be needed for a comprehensive trade deal.

Johnson and US President Donald



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson gestures during a visit to newly elected Conservative party MP for Sedgefield, Paul Howell at Sedgefield Cricket Club in County Durham, north east England, on Friday, following his Conservative party's general election victory. (AP)

Trump said on Monday they looked forward to continued close cooperation and the negotiation of an "ambitious" UK-US free trade agreement.

EU deal?

If the United Kingdom and the EU failed to strike a deal on their future relationship and the transition period were not extended, then trade between the two would be on World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms - more burdensome for businesses.

The EU hopes to start trade talks with Britain by March, leaving just 10 months to strike a deal and get it approved by London and the EU, including member states' parliaments.

The EU insists it will not seal a trade deal with a large, economically powerful neighbour without solid provisions to guarantee fair competition.

The EU's demands will focus on environmental and labour standards, as well as state aid rules to ensure Britain would not be able to offer products on the bloc's single market at unfairly low prices.

Britain's conundrum is that it will be under pressure to loosen rules on agricultural and food standards to strike a bilateral trade deal with the United States.

But this would be crossing a red line for the EU, which would restrict access to its market to protect its own producers.

"It will be very complicated. It's about an array of relations, in trade, in fishing and cooperation in security and foreign policy," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told an EU summit news conference on Friday.

Agencies

Pakistan ex-leader Musharraf sentenced to death for treason

A PAKISTANI special court sentenced former military dictator and president Pervez Musharraf to death in absentia, ending six-year long high treason proceedings against him for suspending the nation's constitution in 2007.

In a two-to-one majority, the three-member special court headed by judge Waqar Ahmad Seth announced the verdict, his spokesman Mohammad Amjad said by phone yesterday.

Musharraf (pictured) has been living in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, and is said to be very ill and unlikely to travel home to face the sentence. Pakistan and the UAE have no extradition treaty and Emirati authorities are unlikely to arrest Musharraf. If he were to return, however, Musharraf would have the

right to challenge his conviction and sentence in court.

The ruling yesterday by a three-judge panel was not unanimous and one of the judges had opposed the death sentence, according to Akhtar Sheikh, one of the lawyers of Musharraf.

After the sentence was announced, Pakistan's Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan told reporters that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government would "review in detail" the verdict before commenting on it.

In an infamous purge in 2007, Musharraf imposed a state of emergency and placed several key judges under house arrest in the capital, Islamabad and elsewhere in Pakistan. He came to power after ousting former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in



a 1999 bloodless coup.

Later, when he was back in office, Sharif first accused Musharraf of treason in 2013 and the general was formally charged in 2014.

It is the first time in Pakistan's

72-year history that a former army chief and ruler of the country has been sentenced to death.

The nation's benchmark KSE-100 index fell as much as 1.5% before paring losses to 0.3% in Karachi.

Agencies

Musharraf was a key ally of the US after the Sept 11 attacks in New York until he was forced to step down in 2008 to avoid impeachment by Parliament. Sharif began treason proceedings against Musharraf soon after he came back to power in 2013.

The court delayed the judgment in November after Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration and the former military chief requested more time for arguments.

An anti-terrorism court has already declared him absconder and ordered the confiscation of his assets in the murder case of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Musharraf never attended legal proceedings due to what his counsels say his poor health.

Agencies

All Xinjiang de-radicalization trainees graduate, find jobs, lead happy life

TRAINEES who used to be influenced by extremism have all graduated from the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang, a senior official with Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region told reporters in Beijing on Monday.

"Xinjiang's training centers now offer regular vocational training to officials, farmers and herdsmen and the public who are willing to gain certain skills," said Shohrat Zakir, chairman of Xinjiang regional government.

Those graduates, with the help of the government, have found stable employment, improved their living standard and started leading a happy life, the chairman said.

Setting up vocational training centers has proven to be a useful exploration for China in the battle against terrorism and extremism, and in next step, Xinjiang will conduct regular and open training to village officials, Party members, farmers and unemployed graduates who would like to improve their education.

The focus of the training will be on laws, vocational skills and Putonghua, according to the Xinjiang regional government chairman.

On the passing of the US "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019," the chairman said the bill has violated international laws and interfered with China's internal affairs. It stands on the opposite side of the Chinese people and international morality.

The US bill aims to provoke relations between different ethnic groups in China and undermine stability and development, but Xinjiang residents are best qualified to speak on Xinjiang affairs, and US' action will not disturb Xinjiang's development, the chairman said.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in November 2012, Xinjiang's regional GDP has seen an annual increase of 8.5 percent, and urban and rural residents' per capita disposable income rose annually by 8.4 percent and 8.2 percent respectively, the chairman told the press conference on Monday. A total of 2,385,300 people in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region have been lifted out of poverty since 2014, and the poverty rate dropped to 6.51 percent in 2019 from 22.48 percent in 2014.

Xinjiang received 150 million tourists from home and abroad in 2018, and transfer payments from the central government to Xinjiang have reached nearly 400 billion yuan (\$56 billion) a year since 2014.

Meanwhile, 19 provinces and municipalities and central state-owned enterprises have provided aid to Xinjiang with an annual investment of more than 15 billion yuan, the chairman said.

Global Times

Senator says Russia should leave Japanese politician's remark on Kuril Islands unanswered

MOSCOW

RUSSIA should not respond to a provocative statement by Chairman of the opposition's Japanese Communist Party Kazuo Shii on talks about the Kuril archipelago, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian upper house's International Affairs Committee, Vladimir Dzhabarov told TASS.

The Japanese Communist Party leader said in an interview published by Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper on Sunday that talks with Moscow Tokyo should outline its stance that the entire Kuril archipelago is Japan's territory. According to the politician, this would help Japan return the Southern Kuril Islands.

"I believe we should not react to this statement at all. As far as I know, the Communist Party of Japan is not the ruling party and it does not unite large social groups either. To tell you the truth, I have not even heard about this party before. Their statement is provocative and is aimed at fueling tensions in the relations between our countries," Dzhabarov said.

Agencies

East African ministers call for integrating women in regional security initiatives

ADDIS ABABA

EAST AFRICAN ministers of gender and women affairs, and peace and security sector officials on Monday called for integrating women and gender-sensitive issues in major regional peace and security initiatives.

Security and gender-sector officials and experts drawn from East African countries, who have gathered on Friday under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) umbrella, mainly assessed the progress among IGAD member countries in the implementation of commitments

made by the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which deals with issues relating to women, peace and security.

They also called for the full realization of UNSC Resolution 1325 as well as Resolution 1820, which reinforces the Council's resolution 1325, highlighting that "sexual violence in conflict constitutes a war crime and demands parties to armed conflict to immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence."

The East African bloc, IGAD, had adopted a regional action plan back



in 2013, which was followed by four of the IGAD member states that have so far endorsed national action plans towards the realization of the two global commitments regarding the protection and integration of women in peace and security endeavors.

The four IGAD member countries that have developed national action plans are Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, and South Sudan.

Uganda's Minister of State for Gender and Culture Affairs, Regis Mutuuzo, during the high-level ministerial meeting called IGAD member countries and other partners "to reflect and pick

lessons, and recommendations from the implementation" of the two UNSC Resolutions so as to consolidate on the successes and address the bottlenecks witnessed across the region.

Legawork Assefa, Senior Programme Coordinator at the Peace and Security Division of IGAD, also stressed during the regional meeting the crucial need to embrace women in all peace and security efforts across the region.

When women are taken on board in negotiating peace and in deciding peace agreements, the peace lasts longer," Assefa told the IGAD ministerial meeting.

Xinhua

In lockstep, Asia, Europe strike strong note on upholding multilateralism

MADRID

DOZENS of Asian and European countries, in a concerted manner, have sent out a new, strong message on upholding multilateralism amid mounting global challenges.

A nine-page Chair's Statement, released at the end of the 14th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) here on Monday, stressed "the need to address pressing common global challenges, on the basis of a strong commitment to multilateralism."

COMMON APPROACH AGAINST UNILATERALISM

"At a time when the international order based on the rule of law and international law is being challenged, ASEM partners reiterated their resolve to uphold and strengthen cooperative, multilateral and plurilateral approaches," read the statement.

"The Chair's Ministers underlined the value of ASEM as a building block for strong and effective multilateralism and the rules-based international order, anchored in international law with the UN at its core," the statement continued.

From the lines, it is not a tall order to find a growing chorus of disapproval at unilateralism that is currently on the rampage, with the latest case concerning the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body.

The body, considered the supreme court of the WTO, is supposed to have seven judges, and at least three members are needed to hear an appeal.

Since the terms of two of the three remaining judges expired on Dec. 10, and the United States has blocked the nomination of new judges, the Appellate Body will be unable to hear new disputes.

ASEM foreign ministers "underlined the urgency to overcome the

impasse in the appointment of members to the Appellate Body, to initiate its selection process promptly, as well as to ensure the proper functioning of the dispute settlement system," read the statement.

The United States' blockade on the body is the latest of a series of unilateral moves in recent years that have jolted multilateral institutions.

Enrique Fanjul, an economist at the Madrid-based CEU San Pablo University, described the "assault on multilateralism" as an unusual phenomenon.

"There is thus a paradox that one of the significant engines for economic growth and well-being in recent decades has been under attack," he said.

ASEM'S WEIGHT

Established in 1996, the ASEM is a forum for dialogue and cooperation between the two continents. It brings together 53 partners, including 30

European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat.

According to data from ASEM info board, ASEM partners account for 55 percent of global trade, more than 60 percent of the world's population, 65 percent of the global economy and 75 percent of global tourism.

Josep Borrell, EU high representative for foreign affairs and security, cited the figures in his opening speech at the meeting, saying, "ASEM matters for the sheer weight it represents."

"We need to use this collective weight and power and put it at the service of promoting rules-based solutions to key challenges we face," he said.

Echoing Borrell, Spanish King Felipe VI said "due to its open, informal and ever-evolving nature, ASEM is an ideal framework to discuss and

advance new ideas or proposals at a crucial moment in history."

Enrique Ayala, an analyst at the Spanish think tank Fundacion Alternativas (Foundation Alternatives), underscored that the world needs rules, dialogues and cooperation among all the global actors.

ASEM meetings "are very important to indicate the path and the priorities in the construction of new consensus and new rules governing the evolution of the planet," Ayala told Xinhua.

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Economic partnership is one of ASEM's "three pillars." Although recent years have witnessed burgeoning trade relations between the two continents, experts said there is still enormous untapped potential.

Take trade relations between China and Germany -- Asia and Europe's respective powerhouse -- as an exam-

ple, China ranks third with a 7-percent share in Germany's export in 2018, according to data from Trading-Economics.com.

The data also showed that China ranks 10th on Spain's export partner list, accounting for 2.3 percent of Spain's exports in 2018.

"The terrain to be covered is still vast," Juan Tugores, a professor of economics at the University of Barcelona, told Xinhua.

Tugores added that it is essential to deepen relations between the two continents amid the twist and turns of trade frictions between China and the United States.

"Europe also holds a place in the battle and could shift the balance on both the 5G technology and climate change agenda," he said.

Echoing Tugores, Ayala said that "this region exists as a union to serve as a balance factor between other world powers."

Xinhua



A sign of the WTO on its headquarters in Geneva.

US disgraceful to undermine WTO

DUE TO US obstruction, the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTOAB) will likely be unable to function on Wednesday, December 11. Normally consisting of seven judges, the WTOAB has been operating with only three judges, the bare minimum, since January 2018, and two of those judges retired on Tuesday.

The WTOAB is the most essential tool used to ensure fair trade, and now Washington has successfully upended it.

The appellate body was created when the WTO was founded in 1995. Its prominent feature lies in its independence as the body is free from political interference. WTO members, regardless of size, are entitled to equal rights of petition and defense.

As the US lost many appeals at the appellate level, their dissatisfaction with the legal body increased. Dissolving this court has been a conspicuous goal since US President Donald Trump took office.

The looming demise of the WTOAB will inevitably cause smaller economies to suffer, as the law of the jungle will return.

Although members can negotiate disputes in accordance with WTO rules, without a presiding authorized appellate body, it will be easier for powerful countries to gain the upper hand during such disputes.

The US continues to advance its hegemony at the global level. Previous US moves were more about compelling specific countries and some US-led groups to make concessions. Now the US is blatantly forcing the WTO, a supposed international organization, to focus on its national interests.

When WTO members reveal an unwillingness to cooperate, the US stops key WTO sections.

If China was a superpower and behaved the same way - undercutting the UN Climate Action, withdrawing from UNESCO, tearing up the Iran nuclear deal, launching large-scale trade wars, retreating from the most significant arms control treaty and undermining the WTOAB, how would Western public opinion slam China?

There are also complaints about Washington's moves among Western public opinion, which are barely

heard however.

Be it London, Paris, Berlin, or Tokyo, Seoul, Ottawa, everyone has remained silent, indulging the US wanton actions of undermining world order and transforming it to serve its "America first" policy.

Nobody can check the US, but the country will eventually be punished by the rules. US national interests have extended worldwide.

An orderly world is more in line with its interests, a highly internationalized country, than a world full of uncertainties. The US actions will increase the expense of realizing its national interests in the long term.

The US political system determines the outside world cannot expect the country to quickly overcome political irrationality. Facing US disruption, the international community needs to consider realistic approaches to uphold multilateralism and reduce losses.

Other major countries have never truly united when the US has acted unreasonably, nor have they joined hands to make the US pay for its unilateral actions.

The main reason is that powers like the EU and Japan are too afraid of the US. They don't even dare to condemn US unilateralism through public opinion.

WTO is a multilateral infrastructure platform affecting many countries' interests. Once the appellate body ceases, can major countries bypass the US to form some alternative arbitration mechanism, allowing the WTO's main framework and functions to continue and allowing most disputes to be resolved in a fair and reasonable manner? When the US bullies weaker countries, major WTO members should at least provide moral support.

The US is the most powerful country in the world and yet it is the number one destroyer of order. This is the misfortune of the 21st century. The international community cannot change US attitudes. Thus, the real challenge for the future of globalization is to strengthen coordination and mitigate US influence.

Global Times

Gambian protesters demand president's resignation

BANJUL

THOUSANDS of people staged a protest in Gambia's capital Banjul on Monday to demand President Adama Barrow resign in line with a three-year term of office he pledged in 2016 elections.

The West African country's constitution stipulates a full presidential term of five years. However, during his 2016 presidential campaign, Barrow promised to serve three years if elected. He reached a deal on this with his partners in the ruling coalition, which was meant to be provisional before calling elections.

In March, Barrow proposed to hold elections in 2021 after a full presidential term, a call rejected months later by two of his ruling coalition parties, local media reported. The protesters on Monday called on Barrow to resign to honor his campaign pledge. The protest's organizer, the movement "Operation Three Years Jotna (Operation Three Years Is Up)," submitted a memorandum urging Barrow's step-down to an official representing Barrow before the crowd peacefully dispersed. The movement was created this year by Musa Kaira, a Gambian businessman living in the United States, said the reports.

Xinhua

THE so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives is totally ridiculous and calling black white, international experts told People's Daily in recent interviews. They believe the U.S. should introspect about its own human rights problems first.

The act maliciously attacks the human rights conditions in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and slanders China's de-radicalization and anti-terrorism efforts, making groundless accusations against the Chinese government's Xinjiang policies and seriously violating the international law and the basic norms of international relations.

Member of the European Parliament Maximilian Krah told People's Daily that Xinjiang-re-

lated issues are no doubt China's internal affairs, and the U.S. has no right to weigh in. What the U.S. House of Representatives did was a total disrespect for the facts, and it is curbing the development of China by such double standard. Krah said, adding that such practice hurts China-U.S. relations and also the image of the U.S. itself.

Such act is obviously a slander against China, said Jean Pegouret, a geopolitics scholar and president of Saphir Eurasia Promotion, France.

He said that China's efforts to offer vocational education and training for the people affected by religious extremism in Xinjiang are obvious to all. This act ne-

glects China's national sovereignty and is indeed offering support for separatists and terrorists.

General Secretary of the Egyptian Communist Party (ECP) Salah Adly noted that the U.S. is in no position to interfere with China's domestic affairs. What the U.S. politicians want is to contain China's development by fiercely slandering and smearing China's policy toward Xinjiang, he said, adding that such malicious political plot will never succeed.

He stressed that Xinjiang-related issues are not about ethnicity, religion, human rights or freedom, let alone politics. Indeed, they are about fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism, as

well as cracking down on religious extremists.

Natee Taweerifuengfung, assistant to the president of Thailand's Panyapiwat Institute of Management pointed out that the U.S. has long applied double standard to human rights issues.

Related laws enacted by Washington after the 9/11 attacks enabled the U.S. to combat terrorism overseas and send its troops to Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The U.S. politicians consider their country's fight against terrorism righteous, but take China's vocational education and training for de-extremism as a violation of human rights, Taweerifuengfung noted.

The U.S. stands up against terrorism, and so should China. It's ridiculous for the U.S. for not allowing China to combat terrorism in the latter's own territory, he remarked.

The rights to live and develop are the most important human rights, and are an indispensable part of human rights. Xinjiang is home to many ethnic groups, and every group should respect the right to live of others.

Taweerifuengfung noted that many of the so-called American scholars who loosen their tongues over Xinjiang's human rights conditions have not even visited China. "We define terrorism with a same standard, and it is

hoped that the U.S. can apply the same standard to itself and other countries," he said.

"The U.S. should introspect about how it is dealing with its own ethnic minorities," Pegouret said, adding that the U.S. practices deserve condemnation from the international society.

The "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" exposed Washington's support for the subversion and separation of China and its intention to undermine the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and such act hardly wins any support, Pegouret noted. The U.S. should take care of its own business before pointing its finger at

others, he added.

Serik Korzhumbayev, editor-in-chief of Kazakh newspaper DK News is a frequent visitor to Xinjiang, and his latest visit was in July this year.

"The Chinese government has always attached high importance on Xinjiang's development, and is sparing no effort to create favorable living conditions for local people," he said.

A large number of journalists from the world, being invited to many places of Xinjiang, have had an in-depth understanding of local communities' daily life, and had a real-life experience of the harmonious atmosphere of all ethnic groups in the region, the editor-in-chief introduced.

People's Daily

Cairo to host meeting between S. Sudan's warring leaders

SHARM EL SHEIKH

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi has revealed that his country is in the process of arranging a meeting between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar to discuss forming a government of forces affiliated with both sides.

Sisi (pictured) made the remarks on Monday during a session he held with representatives of foreign media working in Egypt on the sidelines of the third edition of the four-day World Youth Forum (WYF) which opened on Friday in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh. "We

have always been supportive of all efforts made, and still being made, to find a solution and reach ceasefire," said the Egyptian president, who is also rotating chair of the African Union, noting that the government should commence and overcome what happened in South Sudan during the past two years.

He stressed that Egyptian policy adopts solving problems and extin-



guishing crises in Africa, "even if Egypt does not chair the African Union."

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013 after Kiir sacked his deputy Machar, leading to fighting between soldiers loyal to respective leaders.

The conflict killed tens of thousands and displaced millions both internally and externally.

A peace deal signed in 2015 collapsed after the outbreak of renewed violence in July 2016, forcing Machar to flee the capital.

Under the 2018 peace deal, Machar will take up one of the four vice presidency positions in the transitional government.

Xinhua

Clashes erupt in Indian capital over citizenship law, Modi rejects criticism

NEW DELHI

CLASHES erupted in New Delhi yesterday between thousands of protesters and police, the latest violence in a week of opposition to a new law that makes it easier for non-Muslims from neighboring countries to gain citizenship.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government says the new law will save religious minorities such as Hindus and Christians from persecution in neighboring Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan by offering them a path to Indian citizenship.

But the law does not apply to Muslims, which critics say weakens India's secular foundations.

Police fired tear gas in the New Seelampur part of the capital to push back protesters swarming to barricades and throwing stones. At least two police were injured, a Reuters witness said.

"It started as a peaceful protest against the citizenship bill ... but got out of hand," resident Azib Aman said. Cars were damaged and roads strewn with rocks while small fires on the road sent smoke into the air. Small groups of youth, some with their faces covered, threw stones and bottles.

There have been growing questions about the stance of the government, led by Modi's Hindu-nationalist party, toward India's 172 million Muslims, or 14 percent of the population.

The citizenship law follows the revocation of the special status of the Muslim-majority Kashmir region, and a court ruling clearing the way for the construction of a Hindu temple on the



Demonstrators throw pieces of bricks towards riot police during a protest against a new citizenship law in Seelampur, area of Delhi, India yesterday. REUTERS

site of a mosque razed by Hindu zealots. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said India's actions in Kashmir and on the citizenship law could drive Muslims from India and create a refugee crisis.

"We are worried there not only could be a refugee crisis, we are worried it could lead to a conflict between two nuclear-armed countries," Khan told a Global Forum on Refugees in Geneva.

Anger with the Indian government was stoked this week by allegations of police brutality at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia university on Sunday, when officers entered the campus and fired tear gas to break up a protest.

At least 100 people were wounded in the crackdown which has drawn criticism from rights groups.

Modi told a rally for a state election yesterday that his political rivals were

trying to mislead students and others to stir up protests.

"This is guerrilla politics, they should stop doing this."

The most violent protests occurred initially in the northeastern state of Assam, where mobs torched buildings and train stations, angry the law would help thousands of immigrants from Bangladesh become citizens.

Later, the unrest spread to New Delhi and other major cities, driven by concern that Modi was advancing a Hindu-first agenda and that India's Muslims were at risk.

The metro train station near the Delhi protest was closed to prevent more people from arriving. Riot police were deployed and were trying to push the crowd off the main road into side streets and alleys.

Agencies

Kremlin expects Kiev to change its policy towards Russian media

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov hopes that Kiev will change its policy with regard to Russian media after remarks by Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky who invited Russian journalists to come to his country.

"We took note of President [Zelensky's] words at a news conference. We would be glad, if the current practice with regard to Russian journalists was revised after these remarks," Peskov (pictured) said commenting on Kiev's recent decisions to bar journalists from Russia's Zvezda and NTV television from entering Ukraine.

The Kremlin spokesman emphasized that this practice was out of sync with international standards and OSCE norms.

"Russian journalists have been stripped of the opportunity to work in Ukraine on a permanent and even on a temporary basis. We do hope that some



changes will gradually take place, and those Russian TV channels, which will want to receive first-hand information on what is going on in Ukraine, will get an opportunity to do so."

Peskov noted that all interested Ukrainian media outlets had been able to work under Russia's law on mass media, which gives equal rights to both Russian and foreign media. "It is very important to remember that," he stressed, adding that Ukrainian journalists "have not stopped their work here [in Russia] and are free to fulfill their duties."

On December 16, Kiev barred journalists working for Russia's Zvezda TV channel who visited Ukraine last week from entering the country for three years. On Monday, Alexei Chebotarev, a correspondent of Russia's NTV channel, was likewise banned from entering Ukraine. NTV journalists Alexandra Tonkikh and Sergei Savin were earlier denied entry to the country. According to NTV, Tonkikh was denied entry because she visited Crimea in 2016. Both Savin and Chebotarev "failed to confirm" the purpose of their visits to Kiev.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky urged Russian journalists to come to Ukraine and see the situation in the country with their own eyes at the Normandy Four (Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France) summit held on December 9. Russian reporters have been denied entry to the country over the past few years.

Agencies

US bill on Xinjiang refuted by international experts

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People's Daily

Siakam scores 33 as Raptors beat Cavs 133-113



Toronto Raptors guard Norman Powell (24) slam dunks the ball past Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) as guard Collin Sexton (2) and Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) look on during second half NBA basketball action in Toronto on Monday, Dec. 16, 2019. (AP)

TORONTO

RAPTORS coach Nick Nurse expected guard Norman Powell would lose his starting spot once Fred VanVleet was healthy. Powell's recent offensive outburst is forcing Nurse to reconsider.

Pascal Siakam scored 33 points, Kyle Lowry had 20 points and 11 assists, and Toronto beat the struggling Cleveland Cavaliers 133-113 Monday night.

Powell scored 26 points, Serge Ibaka had 14 and OG Anunoby 12 as Toronto set a season-high in points and won for the eleventh time in 14 home games. The Raptors have won back-to-back at home after losing three straight here.

Powell has scored 20 or more points in three straight games for the first time in his career. He scored 20 or more four times in 60 games last season.

Lowry said it's the best string of games he's ever seen from Powell.

"Great stretch right now," Lowry said. "He's shooting the ball confidently, pushing it in transition. I think he's understanding how to play in transition a lot better now."

Nurse echoed Lowry's praise. "What I like is the speed at which he sees the open floor and goes for it," Nurse said.

VanVleet has missed four straight games because of a sore right knee but is getting closer to a return. Whether he comes back as a starter or a bench player remains to be seen.

For his part, Powell doesn't mind whether or not he starts.

"I'll do whatever helps the team," he said. "Coming off the bench or starting, it doesn't matter to me as long as we're winning."

Lowry's double-double was his 110th with Toronto, tying Antonio Davis for third-most in franchise history. They trail Jonas Valanciunas (137) and Chris Bosh (239).

The double-double was Lowry's second in seven games since returning from a left thumb injury that sidelined him for 11 games. "I'm getting a little bit better," Lowry said.

"Still need a little bit of time, but I'm getting a little bit better."

Collin Sexton scored 25 points, Darius Garland had 20 and Tristan Thompson 18 as the Cavaliers lost for the 16th time in 18 games.

Cleveland has dropped two straight after winning 117-109 at San Antonio on Thursday night to snap a season-long eight-game skid.

"They're just a really good team and certainly a better team than us tonight," Cavs coach John Beilein said of the Raptors.

The Raptors scored eight points off six Cavaliers turnovers in the first quarter. Love led the Cavs with seven points in the first, and Cleveland closed the quarter with a 10-0 run but still trailed 37-29.

The Cavaliers made only two turnovers in the second but couldn't close the gap on Toronto. Powell scored six points in the quarter and the Raptors led 66-54 at halftime.

Powell drew gasps for his one-handed slam dunk from Siakam's high lob pass in the third. Powell scored 16 points in the quarter, and Siakam added 13 to give the Raptors a 104-84 lead.

"It was good to show that I've still got the bounce," Powell said.

Meanwhile, in Houston, after Houston completed the biggest comeback in franchise history, Russell Westbrook was asked about the key to the win.

The star guard didn't speak for several seconds. He simply patted his chest several times, crediting the Rockets' heart for the victory.

Westbrook scored 31 points, James Harden had 28 and Houston set a franchise record by overcoming a 25-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 109-107 on Monday night.

"Sometimes you've got to want it more than the other team," Westbrook said. "It's that simple. No plays or no possessions or no shots can change that."

The comeback eclipses the 23-point deficit Houston faced in a 110-107 victory against Portland on Jan. 22, 1977.

AP

Poor funding a sober concern in sports

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

FOR those who are in the know, domestic netball has definitely seen better days on the home front.

Indeed, despite the fact that we as a country had been due to feature at the African Netball Championship that took place earlier this year, our national women's netball team the 'Taifa Queens' were ultimately a no-show at the prestigious event because of a lack of funds, which has proven to be a frustratingly familiar stumbling block to local netball stakeholders' exertions to take the sport forward.

Unquestionably, even though there have been other damaging factors at play, it sadly remains an inescapable fact that the lack of a steady flow of funds has chiefly been the major impediment to domestic netball's strivings to soar to loftier heights.

Almost like a ceaselessly recurring nightmare, the challenge of poor funding has returned over and over again during the past decade to hinder the local netball governing body, Chaneta, labours to further develop this enchanting sport, which in a do-or-die encounter is more reminiscent of a high stakes duel than a competitive sports.

Discouragingly, the seemingly constant cash crunch woes experienced by Chaneta have also been typical of the kinds of challenges faced by other low profile sports such as hockey, swimming and handball among others.

This then segues perfectly into the million dollar question which



Dar es Salaam volleyball players take part in the men's category match of a recent regional league, which took place in the city.

has hovered over our ever-dynamic domestic sports arena for many a year now, which is: since the lack of funding is a patently obvious malaise that has affected our sports scene for an extremely lengthy period of time, what on earth can be done about it?

Indeed, what is so flabbergasting to note about this whole matter is that in spite of the fact that shoddy funding is such a widely acknowledged drawback to sports on our shores, there have been precious few meetings, workshops, and the like held to mull over the matter in an effort to seek out

long-lasting solutions for such a vexatious conundrum.

For our part, we as the media have also got to be held partly culpable for this sorry state of affairs because we have failed to provide fitting fora in which the infuriating challenge of inadequate funding can be discussed, analyzed and healthily debated.

So, as we proceed forth into the eagerly awaited festive season, here's hoping that all quarters concerned can return in the New Year armed with a surfeit of ideas which will finally solve our chronic cash flow crises in the domestic sports arena once and for all.

Switching gears, it was recently reported that Tanzania's U-16 football team triumphantly emerged as the victors at the Africa Cup of Nations U-16 football championship. Doubtlessly, encomiums should be lavished on our talented youngsters for their ultimately successful campaign at the continental event.

And, one hopes that this very set of gifted starlets can be kept together in the years to come as some of them could even end up being mainstays of the senior Taifa Stars in the future.

Weinstein: Sex assault charges have made me 'forgotten man'

NEW YORK

HARVEY Weinstein defended himself as a pioneer in advancing the careers of women in the film industry in the wake of scores of sexual misconduct allegations that launched the #MeToo movement.

"I feel like the forgotten man," Weinstein said in an interview published Sunday in the New York Post. "I made more movies directed by women and about women than any filmmaker, and I'm talking about 30 years ago. I'm not talking about now when it's vogue. I did it first! I pioneered it!"

"It all got eviscerated because of what happened," Weinstein said in the interview. "My work has been forgotten."

Weinstein spoke out days after a tentative \$25 million settlement was reached between him and more than two dozen actresses and former employee who have accused the movie mogul of a range of sexual misconduct, including claims of rape. The deal wouldn't require Weinstein to pay anything out of his own pocket, nor would he have to admit wrongdoing.

He has denied allegations of nonconsensual sex. He faces a Jan. 6 trial on rape and sexual assault charges in state court, where he has pleaded not guilty.

"Harvey Weinstein is trying to gaslight society again," more than 20 accusers said



Harvey Weinstein

in a statement issued Sunday. The accusers include Rosanna Arquette, Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sex crimes unless they give their consent, which those accusers have done.

"He says in a new interview he doesn't want to be forgotten. Well, he won't be. He will be remembered as a sexual predator and an unrepentant abuser who took everything and deserves nothing," the statement said.

"He will be remembered by the collective will of countless women who stood up and said enough. We refuse to let this predator rewrite his legacy of abuse," it said.

Lawyer Gloria Allred, who represents a number of accusers, said the ongoing criminal case against Weinstein should be the priority right now.

"The issues and charges in the criminal case should be the sole focus at this time," Allred said in a statement to ABC News.

"Whatever he has done professionally for women may or may not be relevant at the time of sentencing if he is convicted," Allred said. "For now, any attempt by him to recast his tattered reputation or to appear to ask for sympathy will only serve to trigger many of those who allege that they are victims of Mr. Weinstein."

AP

Bucks' 18-game winning streak ends with 120-116 loss to Mavs

MILWAUKEE

THE Bucks have little time to reflect on the end of their 18-game winning streak.

Milwaukee's impressive run was halted Monday night when Seth Curry and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 26 points to help the Dallas Mavericks hang on for a 120-116 victory even without star guard Luka Dončić.

Milwaukee, which dropped to 24-4 with its first loss since a 103-100 setback Nov. 8 at Utah, next hosts LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers (24-3) on Thursday in a matchup of conference leaders.

"It's going to be a test for us," said Giannis Antetokounmpo, who led the Bucks with 48 points and 14 rebounds. "The Lakers are one of the best teams in the league. We've got to play good basketball. We've got to move the ball. Obviously as a team, we don't want to lose two in a row."

The winning streak was the Bucks' longest since a franchise-record 20 consecutive victories by the 1970-71 championship team that featured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, then known as Lew Alcindor, and Oscar Robertson.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives past Dallas Mavericks' Maxi Kleber and Dwight Powell during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, in Milwaukee. The Mavericks won 120-116. (AP Photo)

Dallas led comfortably for most of the fourth quarter until the final half-minute. Tim Hardaway Jr. hit the second of two free throws to make it 119-114 with 7.6 seconds left. Antetokounmpo scored on a layup and was fouled, but missed the free throw. Sterling Brown grabbed

the offensive rebound, but his putback was blocked by Porzingis.

"I'm proud of the way the guys fought to the very last second tonight," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "To find a way to be close in the fourth quarter and have an offensive rebound and give

ourselves a chance, I think it's just a sign of the competitive nature of this group."

Don't sit out with a sprained right ankle, while the Bucks were missing injured point guard Eric Bledsoe.

Milwaukee trailed 86-76 entering the fourth quarter and pulled to 99-92 before Porzingis hit back-to-back 3-pointers from long range. The Bucks got no closer until the final 23 seconds.

Dallas was 16 of 41 from 3-point range, including four 3s each by Curry and Porzingis. The Bucks went 11 of 41 from beyond the arc.

"I hit those two deep 3s but even then, Giannis was right there in front of me," Porzingis said. "They know we are a pretty good shooting team. But we have so many weapons and anybody on any given night can score 20-plus points. That's the dangerous thing about us. Tonight, Seth played great. It's kind of hard to play against a team that has so many options."

Kyle Korver added a season-high 17 points for Milwaukee, including five 3-pointers.

Milwaukee trailed 69-67 when

Antetokounmpo went to the bench with 6:32 left in the third quarter, having scored all 11 of the Bucks' points in the period. Dallas led 75-69 when Antetokounmpo returned after a two-minute breather, and the Mavericks pushed the margin to 80-69.

Dallas was 7 of 13 beyond the arc in the first quarter en route to a 36-22 lead entering the second period.

"I've been in this league a long time and an 18-game winning streak is a spectacular demonstration of how good a team is," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "But you're not going to win every game to finish the season. We just felt that if we came out and really concentrated on ourselves, with a pretty simple game plan, we give ourselves a chance."

Meanwhile, in Oklahoma City, Chris Paul had a simple message for the Oklahoma City Thunder amid a 19-point halftime deficit.

"We always got a chance," he said. He made sure of that Monday night.

Paul hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and the Thunder overcame a 26-point second-

quarter deficit to beat the Chicago Bulls 109-106.

Paul took over in the fourth, going 5 for 5 from deep and scoring 19 of his 30 points. His fourth 3-pointer of the quarter put Oklahoma City ahead 101-100, its first lead since the opening seconds. Paul also had nine rebounds and 10 assists.

The Bulls tied it at 106 before Steven Adams put the Thunder ahead with a free throw and Paul added two more in the final five seconds.

"I told the guys at halftime that it's a long game, it's never over," Paul said.

Chicago led 55-29 midway through the second quarter by turning 12 Thunder turnovers into 26 points. Zach LaVine scored 17 points, Wendell Carter Jr. had 12 and Ryan Arcidiacono added 10 while the Bulls shot 58% in the half. LaVine finished with 39 points.

"They were so aggressive and a lot of our turnovers were turning into buckets for them," Paul said. "Once we settled down and let the game come to us, I think we got better."

AP

Clubs unlikely to bite the Chinese hand that feeds

LONDON

ARSENAL's decision to distance the club from midfielder Mesut Ozil's criticism of China's policy towards its Muslim Uighur minority won't surprise anyone familiar with the scramble by Europe's soccer powers for a slice of the expanding Chinese market.

China is now the English Premier League's most lucrative overseas market, with the country paying 564 million pounds for a three-year TV rights deal, while Italy, Spain and Germany have also pocketed big deals.

Wolverhampton Wanderers are fully Chinese-owned, while the owners of English champions Manchester City sold around 13 percent of the club to a Chinese investment company.

Most clubs have some level of Chinese sponsorship, while the Premier League Asia Trophy pre-season tournament was held in Shanghai and Nanjing this year.

The annual Red Card report by Shanghai-based consultancy Mailman, which tracks social media and digital engagement, listed Arsenal as the seventh most followed European club on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform in 2018.

Former Germany international Ozil was rated as the fifth most influential player in the world. A Muslim, born in Germany from parents of Turkish origin, Ozil's best man at his wedding earlier this year was Turkish president Recep Tayyip

REUTERS

Serie A defends monkeys painting for anti-racism campaign

ROME

SERIE A said "true art is provocation" after being criticized as insensitive toward racism for installing a painting at the Italian league's headquarters featuring three monkeys to represent three different races.

While black players are regularly subjected to monkey chants in games, artist Simone Fugazzotto said his painting was meant "to show that we are all the same race."

The league used the painting at a presentation of its anti-racism campaign in Milan, and Fare, soccer's leading discrimination monitoring group, called it "a sick joke."

"True art is provocation," the league said in a statement to The Associated Press late Monday. "The idea behind Fugazzotto's artwork is that whoever shouts racist chants regresses to his primitive status of being a monkey."

"Serie A decided that every year it will have a different artist interpret the damage caused by racism," the league added. "Simone Fugazzotto, a witness to the whistles at (Napoli defender Kalidou) Koulibaly at the San Siro, made a provocative work

Erdogan.

The Red Card report also said Arsenal are among the front-runners when it comes to digital commercialization and brand awareness in China.

The 31-year-old Ozil, Arsenal's highest-paid player, posted messages on Twitter and Instagram where he called minority Uighur Muslims "warriors who resist persecution".

The London club said afterwards on Weibo that "the content he expressed is entirely Ozil's personal opinion," and stated that the club had a principle of not being involved in politics.

That did not stop China's state broadcaster from pulling Arsenal's game against Manchester City from its schedules on Sunday, amid a social media backlash in the country against the club.

The United Nations and human rights groups estimate that between one and two million mostly ethnic Uighur Muslims have been detained in harsh conditions in Xinjiang as part of what Beijing calls an anti-terrorism campaign.

China has repeatedly denied any mistreatment of Uighurs.

The Premier League declined to comment. Other major European leagues and several top clubs contacted on Monday by Reuters asking if they had concerns over political interference or a clampdown on free speech for players in China also declined to comment.

in which the monkeys are actually the racist fans."

Racism has been a problem all season with offensive chants aimed at Romelu Lukaku, Franck Kessie, Dalbert Henrique, Miralem Pjanic, Ronaldo Vieira, Koulibaly and Mario Balotelli. All of the players targeted - except for Pjanic, who is Bosnian - are black, and many of the incidents have gone unpunished.

"Once again Italian football leaves the world speechless," Fare tweeted. "In a country in which the authorities fail to deal with racism week after week Serie A have launched a campaign that looks like a sick joke."

The painting was made for last season's Italian Cup final.

"I immediately thought to paint a western monkey, an Asian monkey and a black monkey, because I would like to change people's perceptions by my work," Fugazzotto said. "My paintings fully reflect the values of fair play and tolerance. I use monkeys as a metaphor for human beings because the color of our skin is not important."

Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo said the league's commitment against prejudice was strong. AP

'Other than knowing where the training ground is, what does Arteta bring?' - Merson

LONDON

ARSENAL will be taking a "big, big gamble" with Mikel Arteta, says Paul Merson, with a "clueless" board questioned for turning to a rookie manager whose previous ties to the club appear to be the only thing putting him in the frame.

A move to bring a former captain back to north London appears to be edging closer, with meetings having been held between the Gunners and a Spanish coach currently working as assistant to Pep Guardiola at Manchester City.

Many have backed the decision to favour youth over experience, with Arsenal considered to be in need of a fresh approach, but Merson is not convinced that even those with enviable hauls of silverware on their respective CVs could turn things around at Emirates Stadium.

The former Gunners star told Sky Sports of the efforts to bring 37-year-old Arteta on board: "This is a big, big gamble putting someone that has never managed before in charge of a club the size of Arsenal. "It's all well and good saying he's

worked under Pep Guardiola, but let's be honest, Guardiola would struggle managing this Arsenal team. Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp would struggle!

"You're only as good as your players at the end of the day and the idea of Arteta replicating Guardiola's style of football at the Emirates just falls apart when you look at the players he'll be working with.

"It's not as if Arsenal are under-achieving, they're just not good enough. Sunday's defeat to Manchester City was embarrassing, cringe-worthy even. I cannot think of a single player Guardiola would take out of this Arsenal team.

"To ask someone with no managerial experience to take charge in the current circumstances at Arsenal is a big ask. But there are also massive question marks over his credentials, massive questions.

"One of the major factors with Arteta being linked with the job is that he's worked closely under Guardiola, and he used to play at Arsenal. Other than the fact he won't get lost on the way to training, I don't know what else he brings to the table.

Barcelona ramps up security as Catalan separatists target Clasico

MADRID

SPAIN will deploy a large-scale security operation involving 3,000 personnel at the Clasico on Wednesday, when the likes of Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos look set to share the limelight with Catalan separatist protests.

Tension in Spain's north-east region boiled over in October when demonstrations and riots caused the original La Liga fixture between Barcelona and Real Madrid to be postponed.

Democratic Tsunami, the protest group advocating another independence referendum for Catalonia, has called publicly for its supporters to gather at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium from four hours before kick-off at 1900 GMT.

Renewed fears of unrest have even raised the possibility of the match being postponed for a second time.

"It will be played, the Clasico will be played," Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Thursday, a pledge repeated in recent days by sports, political and police authorities in Spain.

Meetings have taken place between the police, clubs and the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to ensure the safe arrival of the two squads and referees, as well as the nearly 100,000 fans expected to attend.

The operation will involve some 3,000 security personnel, as well as a cordon to prevent demonstrations blocking entrances to the ground.



Protesters from the Democratic Tsunami group has called for supporters to gather before Barcelona face Real Madrid on Wednesday (AFP Photo)

In the stands, the numbers of private security staff will also be increased to reduce the threat of pitch invasions that could interrupt the game.

"The operation will ensure that the Clasico is played normally," said the chief commissioner of the Catalan regional police Eugeni Sallent.

The fixture was supposed to be played on October 26 but the RFEF decided to postpone "due to exceptional causes".

Violent protests had broken out in Catalonia after nine separatist leaders were sentenced to heavy prison sentences for their involvement in the independence referendum of 2017.

Democratic Tsunami has previously received support from former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola and hopes to transmit its message through one of the world's most famous football matches, which has an estimated global audience of 650 million.

In just a few months of existence, the group has already led major acts of disruption. In October, they partially blocked Barcelona airport and in November, they cut off the main motorway between Spain and France for two days.

- Close association - Tsunami aims to promote both "in the stands and on the pitch" its slogan: "Spain Sit and Talk", a call to

negotiate a referendum for independence.

But any details or their plans for protesting around the game remain unknown.

"The plans announced in advance are usually based on three things: expectation, surprise and execution," said the organisation on Saturday during an exchange of messages with the Catalan regional television TV3.

The group has insisted "it has not said it wants to block or suspend the game."

Barcelona have historically had a close association with Catalanism, with Camp Nou routinely used as a setting for flags, banners and chants in support of the movement.

After the rulings on the nine separatist leaders were announced in October, the club released a statement in which it declared prison sentences were not the answer.

"We know we are living in a complex social and political situation but I am convinced that it is compatible with playing a football match," said Bartomeu.

The club could also suffer the consequences of any altercations or interruptions during the fixture.

At a meeting in Madrid last week, the RFEF warned it "will apply the regulations in force," which range from heavy economic sanctions to the closure of Camp Nou to supporters.

AFP

Egyptians in Qatar ready for Salah-mania despite boycott

DOHA

QATAR's large Egyptian community is clamouring to welcome their country's "icon" Mohamed Salah when he comes to the Gulf this week as Liverpool kick off their Club World Cup campaign.

But a regional diplomatic crisis has frustrated travel plans for fans based in Egypt and complicated the desire of expats in Doha to celebrate their country's best-known player.

The Egyptian diaspora in Qatar number around 300,000, according to official statistics, out of a total population of 2.75 million.

For many years, Qatari authorities sought out skilled Egyptian migrants to staff a range of sectors from oil and gas to teaching and the health system.

But an economic and travel embargo on Qatar by a Saudi-led coalition that includes Cairo has cooled Doha's enthusiasm for mass migration from Egypt.

The two-year-long effort to isolate Qatar stems from accusations that Doha backs radical Islamists and has sought closer ties with Saudi Arabia's arch rival Iran.

Doha vehemently denies the charges.

- 'Obsessed with Salah' - Egypt and Saudi, along with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, closed their airspace to Qatar Airways and banned travel to the country, putting their citizens in Qatar in a difficult position.

Large numbers of Egyptians gathered in the Souq Waqif tourist bazaar to watch Liverpool's 5-2 trouncing of Everton in this month's Merseyside derby.

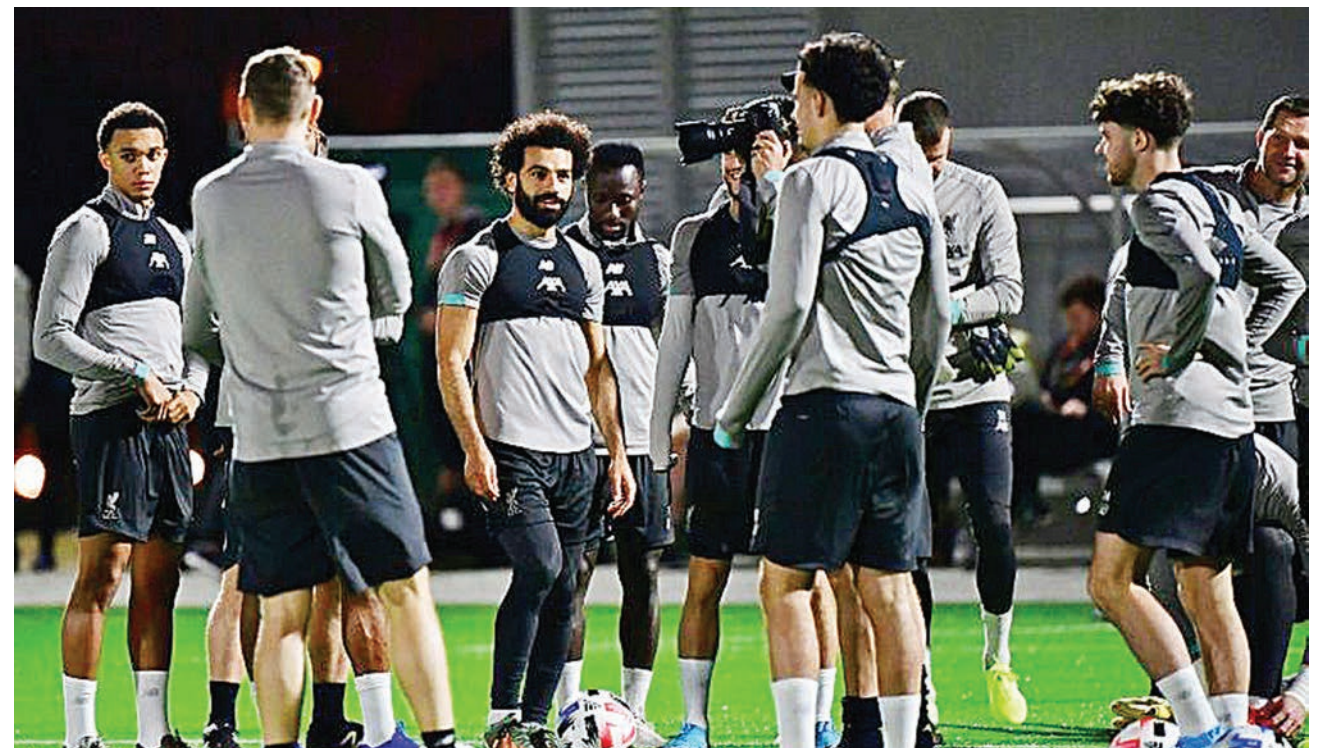
In a market cafe, other Salah fans called the 27-year-old Arab soccer talisman "an icon for many".

On Wednesday they will have a chance to watch Salah in the flesh when the Reds face Mexico's Monterrey in their semi-final at the 40,000-capacity Khalifa International Stadium.

Egyptian Mustafa Abdel Moneim, 42, told AFP he "got four tickets to the semi-finals, because I expect Liverpool to win and I know that there will be a lot of pressure from Arabs and Egyptians on the team's first game".

"My children put so much pressure on me to book the tickets because they are obsessed with Salah. They will be very happy to see him on the field."

British newspapers have reported that Liverpool have received assur-



Mohamed Salah (C) at a Liverpool training session in Doha ahead of the FIFA Club World Cup. (AFP Photo)

ances from Qatar, which will host the 2022 World Cup, that Salah's visit to the Gulf monarchy will not be politicised.

Salah was the at the centre of a political storm when he was pictured alongside Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, who is accused of rights abuses, during Egypt's 2018 World Cup stay in the Russian region.

"Frankly I only support Liverpool for him, if they scored 10 goals, I do not rejoice -- except when the goal is Salah's," said Mahmoud Mansour, 30.

- 'Too many Egyptians' -

"I would have liked to have seen him on the field, but it is difficult to get a ticket now. There are too many Egyptians and Arab fans. Look at all

these people here for Salah."

Salah scored twice at Watford which extended Liverpool's lead at the top of the English Premier League to 10 points.

Ahmed Abdel Hamid, a 33-year-old salesman said he had been "eager to see Salah with Liverpool at the stadium".

"Unfortunately, all online tickets sold out in just 15 minutes."

"But we will go see him from the fan zones."

Some fans, who declined to be named, told AFP that friends from Egypt faced difficulties obtaining visitor visas.

Egyptians outside of Qatar have been wary of making the trip which

must involve a stop in a third country, adding hours to the trip and hundreds of dollars to the cost.

"No Egyptian would come here to watch a match, we just come here for work," said one Egyptian football fan.

"If we have the money to travel to Qatar to watch Salah, it would be better to see him with Liverpool in England."

Gamal Sebaai, an Egyptian who previously worked for the Qatar Football Association, said: "We don't consider him to represent only Egyptians, but also all Arabs and Muslims.

"We hope sports will be the reason for a reconciliation between brothers."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barcelona ramps up security as Catalan separatists target Clasico

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dewji dreams of Simba SC glory in CAF Champions League



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for this season's Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SPORTS CLUB

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Sports Club have set themselves the ambitious goal of winning the CAF Champions League trophy within five years.

The side's majority shareholder, Mohamed 'Mo' Dewji, is aware no club from East Africa has ever won the CAF Champions League.

He understands the squad's fans are hungry for more continental success after last season's his-

toric quarter finals progress.

Simba, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', have not won any continental title.

They however came close once, only to lose to Ivory Coast's Stella Abidjan in the 1993 CAF Confederation Cup final.

Since Mo Dewji returned back to his boyhood club, they have won the premier league title back to back and are well on

course for a third domestic triumph.

Winning the league title is no longer an ambition but a mere expectation at the Msimbazi Street side, and satisfying expectations does not get any billionaire owner hot under the collar. Mo Dewji wants continental recognition

Having gone all the way to the quarterfinals of CAF Champions

League last season and despite the hiccup of an early elimination in the continental tournament this time around, Dewji believes Simba can go further and lift the trophy.

"In five years (2025) I see Simba win the CAF Champions League. This is our vision. The first East African club to win the Champions League, dislodging such clubs like Al Ahly, Zamalek, Sundowns and TP Mazembe, etc."

Dewji said in an interview reported by Uganda newspaper, the Daily Monitor.

Mo understands it is going to take a well-thought out plan to achieve that goal. He admitted for the short term, Simba are some way adrift of the continental giants and there will be no return on investment but he is happy to invest the needed cash to bridge the gap and realize his bold continental dream.

"I think in the short run, no. I am burning money, I am losing money. You see everything is not about money," he said.

"You do development, you do philanthropy, and you build hospitals, give accessibility to water and health care. Do you get a return? No, but you save people's lives. You help people, you help your fellow Africans," Dewji continued about his plans.

On Monday, Dewji revealed the club's ambition to CAF president, Ahmad Ahmad, when the two met in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo.

"It was a pleasant surprise to bump into my brother, Ahmad Ahmad the president of CAF earlier today in Antananarivo. I told him that Simba will continue fighting until we become the Champions of Africa, Insha'Allah' he tweeted from Madagascar.

TODAY @11:00

DADAZ.

WEDNESDAY DADAZ.

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
20:00 EPL REVIEW
21:30 Mid Week Movie

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica RADIO

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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Scotland announce 2020 fixtures against New Zealand, Australia

EDINBURGH

CRICKET Scotland has announced fixtures against New Zealand and Australia for the home summer of 2020.

New Zealand will play an ODI and a T20I ahead of their trip to Ireland, while Australia will arrive for a T20I before travelling on to England.

New Zealand had been due to visit for an ODI on June 26, but have changed their itinerary and will be in Edinburgh for games at the Grange on June 10 and 12. Australia will now play at the Grange on June 29, ahead of three ODIs and three T20Is against England in July.

"The opportunity to play against two of the best teams in the world is an exciting prospect," Scotland men's head coach, Shane Burger, said.

"We have beaten teams of this caliber previously and we will be looking to push them all the way on all occasions.

"Cricket Scotland has set big goals for the year 2020 and this is part of that vision of playing against the world's best and challenging players and staff to keep improving both on and off the field."

Scotland memorably beat England in an ODI in Edinburgh in 2018, although their recent form in World Cup League 2 has been patchy with losses to USA and UAE earlier this month.

In October, they secured qualification for next year's T20 World Cup, despite finishing fourth in their group behind Papua New Guinea, Netherlands and Namibia.

Cricket Scotland CEO Gus Mackay said: "We are delighted to welcome Australia and New Zealand to Scotland for three summer internationals in 2020.

"To host these high-profile matches further demonstrates Cricket Scotland's ambitions of playing more fixtures against Full Member opposition and also provides our fans and supporters with more international cricket. In addition, it presents a great opportunity to prepare for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia the same year."

AGENCIES

Tanzania, Kenya shine in Chipukizi Cup

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame - Arusha

KENYA have retained their mass winning in the just ended 2019 season of East Africa youth football tournament, known as 'Chipukizi Cup', held in Arusha. But hosts Tanzania were not far behind either.

The neighbouring country won four trophies, including those of Under-7 category, won by Sakata Soccer team, Under-9, by Express Soccer team, Under-11 (Angaza Soka) and Soka Talents that won the Under-13 category of the tournament staged at the Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) arena, for five days.

But it was no surprise, Kenya had brought 114 teams to Arusha, while hosts Tanzania managed to field only 52 squads.

Azam FC of Dar es Salaam took the trophy for the Under-20 category, while the Saint Patrick School of Arusha won the Under-17 event and Upendo friends of Arusha took



One of junior soccer squads which took part in the 2017 edition of the Chipukizi Cup pictured with silverware after the completion of the event which took place in Arusha. Arusha-based Future Stars Academy hosts the competition which takes place every year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FUTURE STARS ACADEMY

the Under-15 event's cup.

Tanzania managed to garner four trophies, including Under-20 (Azam FC), Under-17 (Saint Patrick), Under-15 (Upendo Friends) and for the girls, the Under-20 (Arusha Soccer Center) and Under-15 girls (Future Stars Acad-

emy).

The event was organized by the Future Stars Academy of Arusha and the academy's director, Alfred Itaeli, said the tourney was even more successful this year, enlisting more teams and new talents have been identified and absorbed in

a number of Youth Academies.

Fountain Gate Academy's Director, Japhet Makau, whose team travelled all the way from Dodoma but only managed to get into semi-finals before crashing out of the stage via penalty shootout, said it was not

a bad thing because they were here just to survey the situation.

"Next year we will be more prepared, outfitting over five teams for the Chipukizi Cup 2020," Makau said.

Azam FC U-20 team's coach, Vivier Bahati, on his

part said, it was a great opportunity for the teams to identify better talents and were confident that next time they will get more trophies. A total of 168 youth soccer teams have turned up for the East Africa youth soccer competition, which was taking place for the 10th year, with Kenya breaking records by fielding 114 teams.

Kenya with over 1500 players here, had covered the entire span, ranging from youth aged below seven all the way to those playing in the U-20 category and being the defending champions, the neighbouring country seems set to retain the crown this year again.

Hosts, Tanzania, fielded 52 teams, almost half of the Kenya entries.

Zanzibar had floated two teams. Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia teams that had previously announced participation have all pulled out of the tournament, citing financial problems.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu, is on Saturday expected to be the guest of honour at the closing of this year's edition of Karatu Festival, organizers have disclosed.

Coordinator of the event, Filbert Bayi, who also serves as

Karatu Festival set for Saturday

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, said all is set for the climax of the festival which acts as talent identification platform.

He said this is the 18th year that the festival is being held and they have lined up a number of

activities, which include 10km race for men, 5km race for women and 2.5km race for children.

Bayi also said there will be different traditional dances, choir and poems performed by artistes from within Karatu.

He said he is delighted that

many people have confirmed their participation at the event.

"All is set for the climax of Karatu Festival and we are happy that the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Kanyasu, will grace the event, there are many activities lined

up for the event," he said.

He also disclosed that the climax of a football tournament, which is as well part of the festival, will be on Friday.

On his remarks, organizer of the event, Meta Petro, said he is happy with the number of people who have confirmed to attend the climax.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

