

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7945 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 4 JULY, 2020

### MINERALS



GOVT PLANS TO BAN EXPORTATION OF RAW GOLD PAGE 2

### AGRICULTURE



COFFEE FARMERS WANT ACCESS TO MARKETS PAGE 3

### INVESTMENT



TPC ADVISED TO PRODUCE INDUSTRIAL SUGAR PAGE 4

### EDUCATION



AMENDMENT OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CURRICULA PAGE 6



Page 13

# Covid-19 camp closed for lack of patients

## Only 11 facilities remain countrywide, from 85 initially



## Appointment: Andengenyne taking over as Kigoma RC

By Guardian Reporter

THE former Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force, Thobias Andengenyne (pictured), has been appointed regional commissioner in the latest changes made by President John Magufuli.

Andengenyne was in January sacked along with other top officials of the

**The State House statement said the appointments were with immediate effect. The appointees will be sworn in on Monday morning at State House in Dodoma**

ministry over a 1trn/- irregular firefighting equipment tender, and obtained a pardon last week, and promised to be assigned other duties.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House said in a statement yesterday that the former police commissioner is taking over as Kigoma RC. He replaces Brig Gen Emmanuel Maganga who has retired.

President Magufuli also appointed Dr Philemon Sengati as Tabora Regional Commissioner. Dr Sengati was District

TURN TO PAGE 2



Times may indeed be terribly hard, with public transport far from smooth, particularly for school children. But, surely, courting disaster this way should not be an option. The practice calls for an immediate stop. Who will chip in with definitive action - and when? Roving correspondent Miraji Msala's camera captured this scene in Dar es Salaam's Tegeta suburb yesterday.

# Five die, two injured in lorry-van collision

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FIVE people were confirmed dead and two were seriously injured in a minivan collision with a lorry at dawn yesterday in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

Briefing reporters at the scene of the crash yesterday, Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto said the police saw signs of dangerous driving, as the lorry driver may have

**Lorry drivers act as if they own the roads and all other drivers should give them way. This is a very dangerous attitude and its results are as you can see, the loss of innocent lives**

rushed into the main road without prior safety checks.

The driver of the lorry which was bound to Morogoro from Dodoma escaped from the scene after the crash and police are following his tracks to arraign him in court, he said.

The driver of the Noah minivan, Yohana Ndugai, (34) was among the dead, with one of the injured in a critical condition, he said.

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Buy Tanzanian goods to push forward industrialisation - PM

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRIAL sector contribution to the national economy has increased to 10.2trn/- in the past year from 9.6trn/- in 2015, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has declared.

Officiating at the launch of the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF)



yesterday, the premier said the industrialization drive being pursued by the current government can only yield fruits with a robust local market for manufactured products.

The sector now employs about nine million people, distanced by agriculture which employs the main part of the productive population in the

country, and the service sector. Industry is a major contributor to the country's entrance into middle income economy status as recently announced by the World Bank, he stated.

The sector's contribution to the national economy

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

HEALTH authorities yesterday closed the Covid-19 treatment camp for Coast Region at Kibaha town following a lack of patients.

Closing down Lulanzi camp, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu said only 11 out of 85 centres designated for such patients countrywide remain open and "with very few patients."

"We have closed 74 camps so far, and this was one of the biggest and busiest in the country. The last patient here was discharged on May 26 and since then there has been no new patient," she elaborated.

The minister urged area residents to continue seeking routine health services at the Kibaha District Hospital, as the facility was thoroughly disinfected after Covid-19 patients were discharged.

She sought to dissuade residents from flocking Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital since the district facility has formally resumed regular operations.

"Let the facility handle referral cases. This hospital is

TURN TO PAGE 2

**"Let the facility handle referral cases. This hospital is safe and there is absolutely no reason to fear it"**

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL RELIABLE NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES THAT YOU TRUST

NipashaTZ

The Guardian digital

nipashaTZ TheguardianLTD

NipashaTZ TheguardianTZ

0745 700710

To get e-paper log in: <https://epaper.ippmedia.com>

DOWNLOAD

The Guardian - IPP Media



For inquiry, Please Contacts us: [epaper@guardian.co.tz](mailto:epaper@guardian.co.tz), +255 745 700 710 / +255 677020701



9 770856 542009 >



## Five people die, 2 injured as van and lorry collide

FROM PAGE 1

RPC Muroto said the minivan driver who was headed to Dodoma was taking a vehicle spare part to the capital but on the way he took some passengers, some of whom died in the crash.

The RPC appealed to motorists to adhere to road safety regulations to avoid loss of life, intoning that law enforcers in the region shall heighten patrols as the region prepares to receive CCM delegates headed for the nomination congress ahead of October general elections.

"Most of these accidents are avoidable with just a bit of alertness on the road. I appeal to motorists to drive carefully not only in Dodoma but all over the country," he pleaded.

He expressed acute disappointment with drivers of big vehicles saying they are habitually arrogant on the road, "to the point of not minding the safety of motorists behind the wheels of smaller vehicles."

"Lorry drivers act as if they own the roads and all other drivers should give them way. This is a very dangerous attitude and its results are as you can see, the loss of innocent lives," he pursued.

Speaking at the crash site, Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr. Binilith Mahenge directed police in the region not to rest until the lorry driver is arrested and booked.

"I also appeal to drivers to be careful on the road especially when they carry passengers. Once lost, human life cannot be replaced," he remarked.

The RC also directed district executive directors for Kongwa, Bahi and Chamwino to ensure that lorries do not park on undesignated areas in the region.

"We agreed at the regional consultative meeting that no more lorries are allowed to park on roadsides at Kibaigwa, Chalinzenyama and Bahi. DEDs should designate parking spaces for them," he directed.

Kongwa District Commissioner Deogratius Ndejemi said the crash rendered the Dodoma-Morogoro road impassable early in the morning. Police officers arrived, removed the vehicles from the road and permitted traffic to resume.



CRDB Bank Plc CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-R) pictured yesterday briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (3rd-R) at the bank's pavilion shortly before the PM opened the 44th edition of the annual Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Right is the bank's eastern zone manager, Badru Idd.. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Covid-19 camp closed for lack of patients

FROM PAGE 1

safe and there is absolutely no reason to fear it," the minister underlined.

Amana Regional Referral Hospital in the city, also a designated facility for Covid-19, resumed regular operations early last month after most patients recovered and went home.

But speaking yesterday, Mwalimu was quick to advise that people continue

taking precautionary measures such as observance of social distancing as recommended by health experts.

Speaking at the event, Kibaha municipal health officer Tullitweni Mwinuka said the facility resumed routine services June 6 but patients turnout was still low compared to pre-pandemic levels.

"Residents are as yet apprehensive. We have to convince them that it is safe and

that is what we are doing," the municipal officer noted.

The nose-ward dive of Covid-19 cases and patients in hospitals left some wards empty and others with a paucity of patients.

Speaking during the resumption of normal operations at Amana early last month, the minister said that the commercial capital had only four patients,

with the facility hosting only three patients and Mloganzila Centre the other patient.

Tanzania registered its first positive case of coronavirus on March 16 and by late April there were 509 cases of Covid-19 positivity, 21 fatalities and 183 recoveries.

By midweek, there were over 11m novel coronavirus cases globally, with more than 0.5m fatalities and over 6m recoveries, WHO updates indicated.



The Guardian Limited staff and other mourners pay their last respects to Raphael Kibiriti (52), until his death in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday Political Editor with the Kiswahili daily newspaper Nipasa - a sister publication of The Guardian. The solemn event was held at the city's Wazo Catholic Church yesterday, followed by burial at a Wazo cemetery. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Buy Tanzanian goods, help to push forward industrialisation - PM

FROM PAGE 1

increased in the last five years from 8.05 percent to 8.5percent, "a great achievement which must be supported through emphasis on consumption of local products," he emphasized.

He appealed to the public to consume locally-manufactured products for the country to create more jobs and record faster economic growth.

The government has put in place various initiatives to protect local industries including imposing higher taxes on imported goods, he said.

"We have been preaching industrialization and we have so far achieved a lot, but we need to protect these industries by coming up with strategies that emphasize on Tanzanians to consume locally made products," he stated.

The premier hailed preparations for this year's DITF taking into consideration an environment poisoned by the novel coronavirus outbreak.

This year's DITF is being marked under the theme 'Industrial Economy for Employment and Sustainable Trade.'

Innocent Bashungwa, the minister for Trade and Industry, earlier said the government intends to hire trade officials for attachment to various foreign missions.

There are 2,827 local companies and individuals participating in this year's DITF, with 47 foreign companies, he said.

He pledged continued support to entrepreneurs as the government at all levels is working to ensure a good business environment.

"We have started and we will continue providing entrepreneurs with industrial shades. We are doing this in collaboration with municipal and district councils," the minister noted, expressing the hope that this measure will enable the budding firms to grow further.

DITF has established itself as a key trade event in East Africa. Held annually, the fair is an ideal platform for companies to showcase their products on a regional and pan-African platform.

The fair has grown in stature over the years and has been attracting more than a 1,000 companies, including regional and overseas firms to participate.

## Appointment: Andengenyne taking over as Kigoma RC

FROM PAGE 1

Commissioner for Magu in Mwanza Region and replaces Aggrey Mwanri who has retired.

The president appointed nine district commissioners in what appears to be an effort at improving the political atmosphere in various areas as the country heads towards general elections late October.

President Magufuli appointed Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Ismail Twahir Mlawa as District Commissioner for Kilombero in Morogoro Region.

Prior to this appointment SACP Twahir

headed the Prisons Department in the region, and is replacing James Mugendi who has retired.

Dr Magufuli appointed Jamila Yusuf as District Commissioner for Mpanda District in Katavi Region. Prior to this appointment the new DC was CCM regional secretary in Dodoma. Jamila replaces Lilian Matinga who has retired.

President Magufuli also appointed Martin Ntomo as Kibaha District Commissioner in Coast Region, filling a vacancy left by Ashumpta Mshama who has retired. Ntomo was an engineer with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications.

The Head of State also appointed Salum Kali as District Commissioner for Magu

in Mwanza Region. Kali was regional secretary for the ruling party and is replacing Dr Sengati, the new Tabora RC.

President Magufuli also appointed Wilson Samwel Shimo as the District Commissioner for Nyang'ale in Geita Region. Shimo was District Administrative Secretary (DAS) for Singida.

The president similarly appointed Colonel Mathias Kahabi as District Commissioner for Biharamulo District in Kagera Region. Kahabi takes over from Saada Malunde who has retired.

Also appointed was Abbas Kayanda, who becomes District Commissioner for Karatu in Arusha Region, taking over from Theresia Jonathan who has retired.

Lazaro Twange becomes District Commissioner for Babati in Manyara Region, replacing Elizabeth Simon Kitundu who has retired.

Toba Nguvula takes over as District Commissioner for Handeni in Tanga Region, a position left vacant by Godwin Gondwe who heads to Temeke District in Dar es Salaam. Gondwe replaces Felix Lyaniva who has retired.

Prior to the appointment Nguvula was District Administrative Secretary in Longido, Arusha Region.

These appointments take immediate effect and appointees will be sworn-in on Monday morning at the Chamwino State House, the statement added.



## NIRC puts in place ambitious strategies to expand the country's irrigation sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) has put in place ambitious strategies to expand the country's irrigation sector to one million hectares by 2025.

Speaking when addressing journalists in Dodoma the managing director for the commission Daudi Kaali said the commission is committed to ensure the targeted agenda is achieved within the proposed period.

He said one among the strategies include establishment of the national irrigation fund as directed by the Irrigation Act, No 4 of 2013 which calls for establishment of the fund for development of the sector.

"The implementation of the fund will enable the commission to expand its activities including the storage of machines and other equipment used for irrigation," he said.

The fund will also enable the commission to improve irrigation infrastructure whereby about 300.4bn/- is projected to be collected in five years.

He said other issues include the establishment of the consultative company for construction of irrigation infrastructure whereby as of now the commission has already started a process register the company.

He went further to say the commission is working towards registering the company which is projected to reduce the costs incurred by the commission in building irrigation infra-

structure.

On the other hand, he said other strategies was to implement strategic projects including developing the Ruvuma water basin which is 26,066 hectares, river Ruhuhu water basin 3,700 hectares and the Songwe water basin 3,005 hectares.

Others are the Rufiji water basin 64,896 hectares and the Luiche water basin 3,000 hectares.

"We are also working implementing the construction of dams in dry areas where most of our projects are stalled because of climate change" he said.

He said in addressing the challenges, the commission in collaboration with other stakeholders is working constructing the dams to facilitate irrigation.

He added that the project will involve regions of Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora, Manyara and some sections of Mara and Geita.

The National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) is charged with coordination, promotional and regulatory functions in the development of the irrigation sector. It has developed comprehensive guidelines to manage irrigation schemes countrywide.

NIRC, among other things, promote integrated water resources management for increased and sustainable agricultural production, productivity, ensuring food security, poverty reduction and national economic development in the country.



Hussein Mussa, commander of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Shinyanga Region, shows journalists yesterday 600 pairs of 'vitenge' emblazoned with the CCM logo which he said were found at businessman Johas Tasia's residence at Mwasele in Shinyanga municipality - apparently meant to influence voters within the party. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Government to deploy security guards at non-operating horticulture farms

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe has tasked the Arumeru District Commissioner Jerry Muro to deploy security guards from national service economic wing (SUMA JKT) in the seven flowers and vegetable farms, which have stopped production in Arusha Region.

Bashe was speaking here yesterday soon after completing his official tour in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, where he visited several farms including those producing barley, wheat, flowers and vegetables.

The deputy minister said that the idea is to make those farms free from invaders.

"It is so astonishing to see sev-

en farms of vegetables and flowers in Arusha are not operating because local investors have failed to run them despite the fact that they were given money by the government through Bank of Tanzania (BoT)," he said. According to Bashe, some of the investors were given 19bn/-, while others were given 24bn/- in 2005, 2006 and 2007,

but they ended up spending the money on other different activities. The situation made those farms fail to continue with production.

"So I direct the Arumeru District Commissioner to deploy security guards from national service economic wing (SUMA JKT) so that the farms remain free from invaders.

"We want to see infrastructures in those farms remain intact until when my ministry and that of Finance and Planning come up with better strategies for farms to resume operations," he said.

He named farms, which are in daring need of security guards as Kombe Roses, Shira Flowers, Allua Flowers, Arusha Blooms,

Kiliflora, Finlays and Flamingo.

However, the minister lauded foreign investors who have worked hard to improve the horticulture sector in Tanzania.

"These farms are the heart of flowers and vegetables sectors in our country," he said, urging prospective investors to chip in and invest in the sector.

The government, he said has

provided priorities to the horticulture sub-sector by creating friendly environment including removing 95 per cent of taxes in the sector.

The deputy minister further said that barley growers stopped from growing the crop since last year, after the Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) ceased from offering contracts to farmers.

## Coffee farmers for access to international markets

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyerwa

SOME coffee farmers in Kyerwa District, I Kagera Region have appealed to the government to make sure the price of the crop to be announced for this season will be beneficial to farmers as well as accessing to international markets.

Currently, farmers sell their coffee to Karagwe District Co-operative Union (KDCU) at a price of 1,200/- per kg.

The farmers raised their concerns when speaking to the acting director of the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) Prof Jamali Adam when he was presenting the board's report to farmers, chairpersons and secretaries of the cooperative societies on how private buyers will enter into coffee purchase agreements in the coming season.

Prof Jamali said qualified buyers will purchase coffee from cooperative societies after following legal procedures issued by the government.

Jovin Ndetabula, a coffee farmer from Nkwenda village in the District said in 2018 the price of coffee announced by the government was not the one that was ultimately applied - they were told the price would be 1,800/- per kg but it was sold at 1,200/- per kg.

"I ask myself - these people who will enter into agreement as other cooperatives than KDCU - will they have a transparent price, or will they later come with a lower price? He questioned.

The government should intervene and tell us what the real price is going to be so that we can benefit from our sweat, said Ndetabula. Abdrahim Hassan, another farmer from Lukulaijo village in Nkwenda ward said he has been toiling a lot during the past 40 years without seeing any benefits. He claimed that most farmers struggle to see the crop they cultivate fetches good prices at international market.

He said there are cooperatives that engage in fraud by benefiting from farmers' sweat when they initially promise to give them an increase of 20/- per kg that is never given, and only being told they should be patient.

Acting TCB director, Prof Jamali Adam said during the 2020/21 season the government has decided to uplift farmers by entering into agreements with buyers and issue licenses to private buyers to buy coffee from farmers through cooperatives. Prof Adam said the aim to allow these agreements is to uplift farmers because they are the ones who toil much compared to other farmers countrywide.

"If a private buyer has money and has the necessary qualifications to trade in coffee and has good intention to uplift the farmer by buying his coffee, why not let him do that? he queried. He added that this way will help because it will create competition within the coffee market that could ensure higher prices for the coffee.

Recent statistics from TCB depicts that coffee exports for 2019/2020 season was estimated at 50,000 tonnes, down from 68,000 tonnes in 2018/19 farming season.

Until 2000, coffee used to contribute to at least five per cent of Tanzania's export earnings accounting with Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions accounting for 20 per cent of the export.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constatine Kanyasu (R) presents an award in Dodoma yesterday to Omari Mohamed Birango, manager of the city's Fantasy Village Hotel, in recognition of the facility's three-star services. Looking on (C) is the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Adolf Mkenda. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

## TFS realises 900m/- from teak auction

THE Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) has collected more than 900m/- through sale of teak via an auction held on Wednesday at Longuza Reserve Forest in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

Speaking after the auction the TFS deputy commissioner for forests conservation (forests planning and utilisation) Mohamed Kilongo said despite various business challenges due to Covid-19 pandemic, TFS has been able to sell five forest blocks out of the ten that had been put up for sale.

"Many teak traders depend on foreign markets as many countries are still in

lockdowns that has shaken teak trade, we shall conduct another auction after one month at Mtibwa and Longuza reserve Forests to ensure local factories get raw materials," he added.

He called upon both public and private institutions engaged in construction to participate in the auctions as teak wood has similar qualities with other wood such as the 'Mninga'.

"We have already started talks with other government authorities and also met with stakeholders in the construction sector to look for a procedure for

public institutions to obtain the raw materials," he said.

He said it would not be necessary for public institutions to participate in the auctions and instead they can choose one way out of three including applying for purchase of the teak, to participate in the auction or through discussion with TFS.

The chairman of the teak auction Dr Celina Mongo said there have been applications from teak dealers for price decrease to enable them to purchase, but laws and regulations prohibit that.

"The auctions are conducted according to the Forests Act (cap 323 and 2004 Regulations thereof as well as Government Notice (GN) No 255 of 20176," said Dr Mongo.

The auction was participated by various transport firms engaged in the transport of forest products, government institutions that came to learn about the conduct of auctions of forest products, senior officials from the Forests Department of the Ministry of Natural resources and Tourism, TFS and the government chief valuer.





Aikansia Muro (L, in glasses), NMB Bank Plc's northern zone manager, pictured at Mirerani in Simanjiro District on Thursday presenting an achievement award to small-scale tanzanite miner Saniniu Laizer (2nd-R) for recently digging up gemstones that earned him roundabout 7.7bn/- . With them are the bank's Mirerani branch manager, Allan Kombe (R), and a son of the billionaire, Mengi Laizer (C). Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Tanzanians counselled on PSSSF membership

By Guardian Reporter

THE Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has called on Tanzanians to use the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) to join the fund so that they could benefit from the various services offered by the Fund. The country's biggest trade show, DITF kicked off on Wednesday.

This year's exhibition themed 'Industrial Economy for Employment and Sustainable Trade', and the 44th DITF has introduced business-to-business virtual meetings to avoid mass gatherings.

PSSSF principal public relations officer, Abdul Njaidi told reporters yesterday that the fund provides all services at the trade fair similar to those provided in its branches across the country.

Njaidi called on the fund's members and the public in general to visit the pavilion at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere grounds along Kilwa road in Dar es Salaam and get all the services needed.

"We're here to provide all the information needed, particularly on what we do to our members. So, it is a full office," he said, adding that PSSSF provides members with all the information on pension, terminal benefits.

It also responsible to collect contributions to and payments of social security benefits in respect of the ser-

vice of employees in public service.

In another development, public relations of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Theresa Chilambo said that the trade fair has attracted 2,880 companies, where 2,835 are local companies and 43 being international ones.

In his speech Minister Bashungwa said this year's exhibition will observe all guidelines issued by health authorities to protect exhibitors and visitors against Covid-19.

Products exhibited at the trade fair include food and beverages, textiles, garments and yarns, manufacturing equipment, and building materials.

Others are automobiles, electrical articles, chemicals and cosmetics, timber and furniture, engineering products, machinery, information technology, and agricultural products.

On the use of Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX), he said in the future the trade fair will be using such a platform to reach many people at once in the world. TMX is the first commodity exchange in Tanzania.

The exchange is established as a platform where farmers, traders, exporters, and other various market actors are able to access the domestic and global market and obtain a fair price in selling or buying of commodities.

## Centre embarks on sensation programme to educate stakeholders of PwDs labour rights

By Getrude Mbago

THE Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) has embarked on a programme to educate and sensitise stakeholders on labour rights and laws in a move aimed to improve awareness and legal aid services for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Dubbed: "Community Legal Empowerment", the two-year

project which is funded by Legal Services Facility Tanzania (LSF), focuses on training members of trade unions, employers' associations and labor officials in all districts of Dar es Salaam Region.

In her opening remarks during the launch of the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, WLAC executive director Theodosia Muhulo said that the programme also aims to capacitate trade unions with more skills and knowledge to

enable them strengthen their role of fighting grounds of discrimination in work places.

"Our aim is to strengthen the understanding of trade unions in labour issues premised on principles of equality specifically in the areas of employment standards and collective bargaining of wages as well as prevention of youth and women rights," she said.

According to her, since 1989, WLAC has been at the forefront

of the fight for the promotion and protection of women's rights in Tanzania, accomplishing its successes through four units: legal aid, advocacy and networking, paralegal training and outreach, and publication and documentation.

For her part, project coordinator Consolata Chikoti, said the project has been launched by bringing together stakeholders from various trade unions, employers' associations and government officials to

educate and remind them on various labour laws and rights.

"The training will take through the new labour laws regulations issued in 2017, nuts and bolts on the standard rules and guidelines operating at the workplace and changes that are affecting the labour laws in the era of globalization," she said.

Chikoti added that the project also aims to increase awareness on labor rights to women and youth

working in formal and informal sectors so as to reduce the gender gap in employment and wages.

"Poor people in general and women in particular lack information about their rights and about access to mechanisms to enforce them, so with the implementation of this project more women will be reached with training and educational programmes to support them understand their rights," she said.

According to her, reports show that in Tanzania there is dominance of men among well paid employees in the formal sector, men cover 66 percent and women cover 34 per cent. Legal gender provision are not effective in the dominating informal economy where women are employed in low paying and hazardous jobs, being bullied and experience threats and sexual harassment.

## Minister Kairuki advises TPC to consider starting making industrial sugar

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

MINISTER of State in Prime Minister Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki has called on the Moshi-based sugar manufacturing company (TPC) to venture into the production of industrial sugar to reduce importation of the product.

Kairuki said that so far there is no large producer of industrial sugar in the country; hence the government imports 155,000 tonnes annually.

"That's why it is important for TPC to start producing industrial sugar to reduce costs of importation," he said.

Kairuki made the call on Thursday when she visited TPC and other factories in Kilimanjaro Region such as the Hai-based Harsho Group and Bonite Bottlers.

"I advise TPC management to consider venturing into production of industrial sugar, an area which is yet to be explored as there is no local producer of the product," she said.

The minister further urged investors to look for more investment opportunities available in the country so as to make Tanzania an industrialised nation.

"This will also help to create employment opportunities for Tanzanians," she said adding that there is a high demand for glass and plastic bottles in Tanzania as most of them are imported, that's why it is important for investors to venture into it.

"As government, we're ready to support you (investors)," she stressed.

Speaking at the Harsho Group factory, Kairuki urged investors to produce more livestock feeds to cut down importation.

TPC administrative officer, Jaffari Ally said that the factory has more than 3,300 tonnes, which are in the warehouse, allaying fears of sugar shortage in the country.

He discouraged wholesalers, and retailers to ensure they sell sugar as per indicative prices.

Harsho Group director Harold Shoo, appealed to the government to invest heavily in producing competent human resources.

"Getting skilled personnel is a serious challenge in Tanzania, the situation that compels us to rely on expatriates from outside the country, the move that makes us spend lots of money for that purpose," he said.



Angellah Kairuki (C, with bottle of Fanta), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), receives explanation from a member of Bonite Bottlers staff shortly after visiting the Moshi-based soft drinks factory on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## WMA conducts inspection and testing of weigh scales to expose unscrupulous businesses

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) has vowed to continue with impromptu inspections of weighing machines to protect customers against unfaithful business persons using tempered weighing scales.

According to WMA, the regular inspections in different regions have so far showed positive results as most of the traders are now using genuine weighing machines. The inspections have also helped to ensure fairness in measuring of farmer's crops.

WMA port manager, Peter Chuwa made the remarks yesterday

when speaking to this paper at the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) in Dar es Salaam.

He said the agency has been conducting inspections after every 12 months aiming at identifying some dishonest business people who have been tempering with the weighing scales to steal from farmers.

Chuwa noted that WMA has introduced a toll free number which enable whistle blowers to give them information whenever they find some businessmen who temper with weighing machines.

According to him, the regular inspections have helped them to

nab unfaithful business persons whose weighing scales have been tempered. He said the agency has taken stringent punitive measures against the culprits.

"When they hear that WMA will conduct inspection of the machines, they pretend to be clean but after we have finished inspecting them, it is business as usual. We have now resolved to continue with impromptu inspections to protect farmers," he stated.

"We have been responding quickly whenever we are informed on the abnormal practices, we are thankful that people are using the toll free numbers because we are receiving a lot of

information," Chuwa added.

Chuwa said they have been inspecting weighing scales at different industries like cement factories, tiles and steel making industries to make sure all products have the right weight for the benefits of the last consumer.

"For example, if you declare a certain commodity that it is 12 millimeter; we must verify if it is real 12 millimeters, he said.

WMA surveillance manager, Almachius Pastory said they have been educating farmers in the regions of Mwanza, Simiyu, Geita, Mara, Shinyanga and Kagera on the importance of using proper weighing scales.

Pastory said the education protect farmers from unfaithful cotton buyers who normally use fake weighing machines.

He said that farmers can now differentiate between fake and genuine weighing machines.

"This has helped a lot because buyers were taking advantage of farmer's ignorance to steal from them using tempered weighing scales," he said.

Section 340 of the Weights and Measures Act, 2002 which was revised in 2016 required them to verify and certify weighing scales used in businesses to ensure fairness.

**This will also help to create employment opportunities for Tanzanians," she said adding that there is a high demand for glass and plastic bottles in Tanzania as most of them are imported, that's why it is important for**



## Two foreign clerics facing charges over illegal entry

By Guardian Reporter

TWO pastors from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Patient Sunga (53) and Michou Sunga (50) have appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrates Court charged with being in the country illegally.

Before Kisutu Resident Magistrate Richard Kabati, Prosecutor from the Immigration Department, Godfrey Ngwijo alleged that on May 3 2019 in Ilala District, in Dar es Salaam, being DRC citizens they were found living in Tanzania without resident permits.

He alleged that the couple was conducting their activities at Buza Assemblies of God Church in Temeke District.

The couple pleaded guilty to the offence as charged and the Magistrate Kabati said the court will hear initial statements on July 8 this year and that

the accused should stay in remand.

Meanwhile three other DRC nationals including musicians Cleo King, Yanick Makanga and a student Ombeni Pierre and a priest of Mbaga Ebenezzer Church also appeared before Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate Court Thomas Simba.

The prosecutor alleged that the first, second and third accused were found to be staying in the country illegally.

In the second count, the priest is also accused of accommodating his fellows while knowing they do not have resident permits. The accused pleaded guilty to all the charges and were penalised to pay 500,000/- each or serve a five years jail term.

Magistrate Simba alleged that upon completion of their jail terms, the DRC nationals should be deported back to their country.



**In the second count, the priest is also accused of accommodating his fellows while knowing they do not have resident permits. The accused pleaded guilty to all the charges and were penalised to pay 500,000/- each or serve a five years jail term.**



Tigo Tanzania communications manager Woinde Shisael (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the firm's being picked as the official sponsor of communications at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair for the fifth consecutive year. She is with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) head of communications and public relations, Theresa Chilambo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dar recruitment firm develops tool to help employers reduce influx of low-quality applicants

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam-based recruitment firm has eased the hiring process for employers by reducing the burden of going through hundreds of CVs during the recruiting process.

This has been empowered by the technology introduced by the recruitment giants in Tan-

zania earlier this year. The technology enables employers to filter candidates who are applying for a certain position and remains with only a few candidates who are qualified for that job.

Candidates will first be assessed during the application process through a 'skills assessment tool', the test technology that measures applicants' abilities

beyond what is described in their CVs. This tool will test for core competencies and hard skills required for a specific role advertised.

The results of the tests will then be presented to the employer through applicant tracking system (ATS), the dashboard of the employer that enables them to filter the candidates based on

different criteria, including the performance of the tests.

Brighter Monday Tanzania CEO Reshma Bharmal-Shariff pointed out how the process of hiring turns to be overwhelming when a hiring manager is surrounded by applicants, most of whom are under-qualified.

"Due to the technology, Job seekers are now able to apply

any job advertised by just creating a profile on any job website and endlessly click and apply for any job advertised. This is a headache for lots of HR," explained Reshma.

"This is why we saw a need to help HR identify which candidate has the right skill of that position. The hiring manager won't have to go through hundreds of

CVs again, looking for certain candidates. Perfect candidates are just there, few clicks away," said Reshma.

She said hiring manager can view candidate scores alongside other filters such as education and experience levels. This way, an employer can compare a candidate's proficiency, qualifications, and experience levels at

a glance. This has been a major breakthrough to employers in Tanzania as they can now objectively pick the most capable candidates, using the filter of choice by the manager.

The tests have been curated by experts and are excellent predictors of a candidate's cognitive ability to perform the tasks required for the role.

## Do not charge villagers high water rates, DC tells RUWASA

By Guardian Correspondent, Nkasi

NKASI District Commissioner in Rukwa Region Said Mtanda has called on Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) not to charge people high water rates that may force some of them to stop using clean and safe water.

Mtanda expressed worries that when people stop using safe and clean water they invite the eruption of water borne diseases which will make them spend more money for treatment.

The DC issued the appeal on Thursday when opening a one day meeting that brought together RUWASA officials in the district as well as village water committees. The meeting was aimed at enhancing the capacity of the officials to collect funds to finance sustainable water projects.

Mtanda said many villages lack water supply services into the homes and only get it through communal standpipes. He said that village leaders make estimations on how much each of the users pays for the service per month.

One of those in attendance at the meeting who is the Secretary of the village water committee, Joyce Sabuni thanked RUWASA for the service rendered as of now women are not faced with the challenge in fetching water from long distances.

Earlier, Nkasi district executive director, Missana Kwangula called on the people to contribute to the water service as the money is used in repairs of the infrastructures and purchasing of water treatment chemicals.

The 2017 National Environmental Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 between 10 people (59.7 percent) had access to clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people access clean and safe water in urban areas.

With approximately 60 percent of the country's population having access to water, over 50 percent of Tanzanians spend more than 30 minutes searching for the precious liquid. Tanzanians spend at least 5 percent of their income on water against the international standard which is 2 percent.



**Earlier, Nkasi district executive director, Missana Kwangula called on the people to contribute to the water service as the money used in repairs**



UTT AMIS director of operations Issa Wahichindena (L) cuts ribbon yesterday to open the company's new office at the Ngorongoro Conservation Tower Complex in Arusha city. With him: CRDB Bank Plc supervisor in-charge of UTT accounts, Mary Mponda (2nd-R), and the manager of the bank's TFA Branch in Arusha city, Ronald Paul (R). Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

## 'One million Dar, Kisarawe residents to benefit from ongoing water projects'

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo, Kisarawe

ABOUT one million Dar es Salaam and Kisarawe residents are expected to benefit from two water projects of Kibamba-Kisarawe and Pugu-Kisarawe after completion in 2035.

A recent statement released by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) Community Liaison section said the two projects are implemented by the authority at a cost of 18.039bn/-.

Upon completion, the projects will benefit

the residents who are currently in need for clean and safe drinking water.

The Kibamba-Kisarawe water project which was inaugurated by President Dr John Pombe Magufuli has already seen 1,650 people being registered for connection to get water.

The president also laid down foundation stone for the Kisarawe-Pugu project on the same day when he visited the district on Sunday last week. DAWASA said in the statement that the Kibamba-Kisarawe project will cost

10.649bn/- and that is expected to benefit residents of Kisarawe town and its surrounding villages of Kiluyva, Kazimzumbwi, Kwembe, Kisopwa, Mloganzila and special industrial areas in the district.

The Kisarawe-Pugu water project will cost 7.34bn/-, it will benefit residents of Pugu, Majohe, Gongo la Mboto, Kigogo, Bangulo, Ukonga Airwing, Kinyamwezi, Buyuni, Chanika and some areas of Kinyerezi-Tabata in the city, after completion.

The projects constructed by the authority

and the Chinese contractor-CHICO is being consulted by an Indian company WAPCOS Limited. The contractor signed a contract with DAWASA on May 21, 2018 and the construction started on June 27, 2018 after President Magufuli directed the authority on June 21, 2017 to construct the project pumping water from Upper Ruvu River via Kibamba village in Coast region.

The authority also built a reserve tank with capacity of six million litres equivalent to 6,000 cubic metres.





Dodoma City Council marketing officer James Yuna (L) has a word yesterday with vegetable and fruit traders shortly after allocating them space at Sabasaba market where they will conduct business. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Roads agency installs temporary bridge on river in Moshi District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilimanjaro

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) is continuing to restore road communication in various areas in the country that had been destroyed by heavy seasonal rains that caused havoc to road users.

TARURA has installed a temporary steel bridge on Rau River in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region after the former one connecting Moshi Rural District and the Moshi Municipality broke down severing road communication between the two areas.

TARURA Manager for Moshi District, Eng Roy Johansen said after the bridge on Rau River broke down, the agency took quick steps to restore communication by installing a 23m steel bridge to enable people continue with their economic activities as the area has two wards with nine villages.

"We installed a temporary bridge for pedestrians, motorcycle and

tricycle users, before constructing a new permanent bridge. We call upon the people to be patient as we continue working hard to restore normal communication," said the TARURA boss.

He said the next step is installing a permanent bridge and already, in collaboration with the office of the TARURA Coordinator for Kilimanjaro Region a total sum of 650m/- has been requisitioned from TARURA headquarters.

Eng Johansen said the agency has found another solution on the challenge facing the people in the area by starting to refurbish the 4km Mandela access road flanking the area which will assist the residents to transport their goods by road while waiting for the permanent bridge.

Emmanuel Massawe, a resident of Mamboleo village thanked the government for installing the temporary bridge saying it was helping them a lot.

## PCCB returns to teachers 15m/- stolen by Msalala Saccos leaders

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has rescued 15.02m/- belonging to retired teachers of Msalala District Council that had been embezzled by the Kahama Teachers Saving and Credit Cooperative Society

(Saccos).

Handing over the money yesterday to the Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha, the PCCB Head in Kahama District Cosmas Shauri said the monies were divided into two groups - the

first one was for 7,780,625/- and the second for 7,275,500/-.

He said the PCCB conducted investigations on the Kahama Teachers Saccos and discovered of long time debts for 29 retired teachers the money they contributed when

they were still working, but was not paid after retiring from public service.

"In the first phase we returned 5,815,800/- to 13 retired teachers who had been demanding the money for a long time and we made sure all their debts were

paid to them," Shauri said.

He added: "In the second phase, after investigations we succeeded to return 7.2m/- that had been embezzled in the construction of Ngaya Health Centre."

Kahama DC Anamringi Macha congratulated PCCB for the efforts

in recovering the money and returning it to owners thereof and called upon it to take legal steps against those responsible.

Macha also called on employees from public and private institutions to ensure they work diligently in regard to money entrusted on

them.

The Chairman of Msalala Teachers Saccos, Buya Mipawa confessed of the irregularities in regard to retired teachers' contributions and hailed anti-corruption body for its effort to rescue the embezzled money.

## Covid-19: Kenya cases reach 7,188

NAIROBI

THE number of Covid-19 cases in Kenya passed the 7,000 mark with confirmation of 247 more positive test results yesterday.

Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Rashid Aman announced, during the daily briefing at Afya House in Nairobi, that these new cases raised the country's total to 7,188.

The country reported its first case of the coronavirus on March 13, weeks after confirmation of the outbreak in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019.

Dr Aman further reported that the number of recoveries had increased to 2,148 as 39 more patients had been discharged.

He also said two more patients had died, raising the death toll to 154.

Meanwhile, scientists and doctors now say Kenya could be in the eye of a Covid-19 storm, estimating that the number of people exposed to the virus to be 2.7 million.

Blood samples from several places across the country show that there could be a huge gap between confirmed cases and the number of people exposed to coronavirus.

The data is contained in a study by the Kenya Medical Research Institute and Wellcome Trust.

It found that as many as 12.4 per cent of Nairobi residents could be having the virus.

With a population of about 4.5 million, it means slightly more than 550,000 city dwellers could be infected.

Meanwhile, Deputy President William Ruto has crafted a "war council" for his 2022 presidential bid, with the team made up of old and new allies.

The list of advisers and strategists includes former allies of Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga.

It also has state officials and beneficiaries of the Jubilee government who are keeping a low profile until the "right time" comes. The "war council" is expected to be unleashed ahead of the looming referendum and the General Election.

The Team Ruto council consists of political and technical advisers, religious leaders and trade unionists.

It is expected to offer day-to-day advice on how to tackle opposition and endear him to Kenyans. The team of technical advisers consists of technocrats that will offer advice the country's economy.

Dr Ruto has taken some advisers from the Raila-led National Super Alliance (Nasa) on board, including two members of the steering committee - former senators Boni Khalwale (Kakamega) and Johnson Muthama (Machakos).

Also in the team is former Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar. Muthama is leading a team of former elected leaders who have pledged their loyalty to Dr Ruto.

The DP has also befriended Caroli Omondi, the businessman who was Odinga's chief-of-staff during the Government of National Unity. Until recently, his building - dubbed the Orange House - was the ODM headquarters.

Contacted, Omondi was non-committal on his role in the plan.

"We are going to surprise our opponents as soon as the lockdown and cessation of movement are lifted," Khalwale said. Muthama said: "There are only two teams competing for the presidency. One is with Uhuru Kenyatta, Raila and Gideon Moi while the other is with Ruto and Kenyans."

Omar said there is need for Kenyans to stand against oppression and other ills affecting the country.



Kambira Mtebe (3rd-R), chairman Shinyanga Region's African Inland Church Tanzania choir, presents a goat to children with albinism at Buhangija Centre on Thursday. It was donated by members of the choir. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Govt demands amendments to agricultural training curricula

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AGRICULTURE Ministry Permanent Secretary Gerard Kusaya has directed heads of agricultural training colleges in the country to make amendments on six curricula and increase practical trainings to give students more experience.

Kusaya gave the directives yesterday at a joint meeting with the

heads of the training colleges that discussed how to improve training to extension officers who graduate from the colleges.

He said the curricula being used now appear to be outdated as it has been discovered that some extension officers fail to become accountable to small farmers due to lack of adequate experience.

"Agricultural training colleges

are supposed to provide the students and graduates more practical knowledge than theory, students are supposed to go for one year practical training to enable them serve farmers better," he said.

He said the curricula that need to be amended include that for irrigation, food processing and nutrition, better soil use, horticulture, farming implements and seedlings produc-

tion. He said such amendments are to be quickly effected to be in use starting September this year to assist graduates to go in tandem with the job market needs.

Janeth Maro, the Director of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) - a non Governmental Organisation (NGO) said in recognition of the curricula improvement, her organisation has started capacity building for

the students in the agricultural training colleges.

She said this will ensure production of better, experienced extension officers from the colleges.

Meanwhile, the heads of the colleges said the process for the improvement of the curricula involves all stakeholders in the value chain on agricultural crops hence it will take time to be completed.



## One person dead in Kibaha's road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

ONE person was killed and several others were injured in a road accident at Mkaramo-Mlandizi, Kibaha District, Coast Region.

Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa said yesterday that the incident involved a lorry with registration numbers T 597 CBC which was loaded with Irish potatoes and a tanker with registration T 376 BTH/ T.822 BQA the property of Safari Cargo Transportation Company which was heading to Rwanda from Dar es Salaam.

"After the accident, two other vehicles which were behind the tanker also crashed," said

commander Wankyo adding that the vehicles included a lorry, T 386 DRQ / T 387 DRQ which was loaded with cement and a tanker-T 225 DCV/ T.839 ABK that was heading to Morogoro from Dar es Salaam.

He said the lorry which had cement consignment was heading to Dodoma from Dar es Salaam.

According to the commander, the tankers exploded.

He said the body of the deceased, Rahim Kulwa who was driving a lorry with registration number T 225 DCV/T839 ABK has been preserved at the Tumbi hospital while the injured persons were stable.

Those injured are Omary Rayi, Mfaume Damson and Habibu Omary.



Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary Riziki Shemdoe makes remarks when he visited the Weights and Measures Agency pavilion at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday in the presence of W&MA officials Irene John (R) and Almachius Pastory (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

## Ministry empowers youth to succeed in self-employment

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE ministry of Livestock and Fisheries yesterday dished out at least 650 broiler chickens, four bags of chicken feeds, medicines as well as other key start-up chicken rearing kits to Dodoma-based ASACRI entrepreneur youth group.

The timely 3m/- worth support, rolled-out in cooperation

with AKM Glitters Limed is part of continued efforts and strategies by the ministry to improve production and uses of white meat in the country.

At a brief handling over ceremony, director of production and marketing (Livestock) in the parent ministry, Dr Felix Nandonde said the ministry was determined to uplift performance of the poultry sector in the country with an eye to alleviate poverty among households, a major focus be-

ing dedicated to youth and marginalised women.

Apart from that, he noted that the county-wide strategy goes in tandem with the crucial exercise to disseminate key information over best chicken vaccines, but also, recommended practices pertaining to chicken keeping.

Statistically, he observed that the country was currently with at least 79 million chickens, out of the number, 38.5 million are local breeds

and the rest, 40.6m/- are hybrid chickens.

"Poultry projects stands among promised means to helping the youth and women communities to cheat poverty through self-employment, and thus, that's why the government has decided to now put more efforts in improving the side," he detailed.

Dodoma City Mayor, Prof Devis Mwamfupe challenged the youth and women within the fast-growing city to stand

at fore front in taping numerous economic opportunities that continue to crop-up under the support of the government.

He urged the beneficiaries of the support, ASACRI entrepreneur youth group, to use the provided donation bravely in order to stand a professional chance to benefit accordingly, and later on assist other youths in the future.

"Since the fifth phase government shifted the coun-

try's administrative capital to Dodoma, the region saw an exponential growth of numerous economic chances, a positive advantage that must be utilised profitably by the youth and women.

However, the government has set, and will continue to strategise helpful mechanisms to enable the two groups (youths and women) to venture effectively in diverse economic project,

among others, is provision of

friendly capital loans," he insisted.

Speaking briefly, Head of Department of Livestock and Fisheries development in Dodoma City Council, Dr Gratian Mwesiga, apart from hailing the ministry for the donation, said his department was working round the clock to earmark chunks of land for enabling youth and women entrepreneur groups within the city to initiate useful economic projects.

## Water project boosts yields in Mozambique as farmers grappling with climate extremes

HARARE

FELICIDADE Machava (60) is a farmer in Guija district in Mozambique, she recounts the story about how she filled a small truck with maize from her harvest.

The country has been experiencing weather volatility in the form of longer and more frequent cyclones and droughts.

Extreme climate events affected the agriculture sector, a source of employment for 70 percent of Mozambicans, by hampering productivity, straining subsistence output, and reducing opportunities along the agricultural value chain.

With funding from the African Development Bank, Climate Investment Funds and the Mozambican government, the project provided irrigation kits, constructed boreholes, small dams and water troughs that increased access to water for people and cattle and also helped boost farmers' yields to the benefit of nearly 60,000 people.

The project covered five districts in the country's drought-prone Gaza province.

Machava is a member of Green Revolution, a farmers' association that participated in the Sustainable Land and Water Resources Management Project (SLWRMP).

The 20 members of Green Revolution farmers' association in Guija, 12 of whom are women, rotated 12 irrigation kits among themselves so that each day three farmers had the use of them on small plots.

The project also provided a pumping system for the collective's farmers to use. It was expensive to run - fuel costs run as high as \$15 a day - but members' fees contributed to covering it.

With advisory support from a government official in their district, the farmers generated a financial surplus by selling green beans, maize, pumpkin, kale, onion and green pepper in the local market.

According to Machava: "In 2017, I was able to focus strongly on the production of green beans, which allowed me to buy an additional plot of land for approximately \$83 and start to build a new home - which I hope to complete with the earnings of the next agricultural season."

Another farmer, Rute Bila said the project has allowed her to access a reliable source of water from a river near her farmland. Bila has increased production from her fields and is now able to pay school fees for her nephews.

Speaking of her business plans, she said: "I bought a goat, which I paid approximately \$38 for, and I hope to expand into a flock of goats that I can sell."

She's not the only one. "My goal is to someday supply to the big manufacturing companies in the area," said Guezanes Maluleque, a 53-year-old farmer in the village of Mapai Rio.

He heads up two households but finds it advantageous to pay four laborers to work some of his 30 hectares, freeing up members of his family to cultivate their own plots of land.

Under SLWRMP, Maluleque received 150 cashew and 60 mango trees and in his first crop produced 50 kilos that he was able to sell to a traveling salesman for \$1 a kilo.

The project distributed a total of 56 irrigation kits across the five participating districts, which directly benefitted 3,600 people, more than 80 percent of them women. The target beneficiaries of the irrigation kits were trained in how to use them properly.

With the nearest river at least 20 km away for many of the farmers, the project also built 21 small earth dams to water cattle and to meet villagers' needs.



Public Service Social Security Fund senior compliance officer Zainab Dullah (R) attends to a member of the Fund at the ongoing 44th edition of the annual two-week (July 1 to 13) Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Demokrasia Makini also to seek Zanzibar presidency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SECRETARY general of Chama cha Demokrasia Makini Amey Hassan Ameyir has announced his intention to contest for the Zanzibar presidency promising to improve the education and health sectors if elected to lead the Isles.

Speaking here soon after he announced his intention, Ameyir said in case his party nominates him to be its flag bearer in the coming general elections later this year and wins, his priorities will be in two sectors.

"I have very many priorities but in case I get elected I promise to develop the education

sector especially in science and technology and offer free health services to all Zanzibaris," he said. Ameyir said he would improve all the basic social services including availability of clean and safe water, adding that all these services will be provided for free.

He said he will also strengthen the tour-

ism sector to benefit all Zanzibaris and create more jobs for the youth.

He further said he will ensure that Zanzibar has better infrastructures as well as the establishment of both big and small industries for increased production of goods and for jobs creation.



# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 4 JULY 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Our early middle income status deserves big cheers

RESIDENT John Magufuli was perhaps the most surprised person among the country's leaders when the World Bank announced on Wednesday that Tanzania is now classified as a lower middle income country rather than a poor country strictly speaking. At first instance one wonders if this isn't one of those statistical ploys where global institutions and their clients, governments, get room to breathe by a positive spin on statistics, but gradually it starts making sense. Its signals or signs have been with us for a while, like rapid annual growth and constantly diminishing foreign aid, apart from a rather rapid reduction of agro-sector activities.

There are numerous other indicators of a middle income status, from the profound to the anecdotal, like having most major city roads being four lanes while ten years ago two lane roads mostly sufficed. Six lane roads are coming up, as are traffic interchange facilities to cut on queues, all of which belie an economy transitioning from poverty to relative affluence.

Lately, the government has survived a sharp downturn in tourism earnings without being shaken to its feet, like failing to deliver credible Budget estimates for the next fiscal year. This is what is happening for donor dependent East African Community network of organs of cooperation, lacking a budget.

But as top level economists point out, putting a country's finances on the right footing with an ethically upright selection of priorities in public expenditure go a long way to explain this early achievement of middle income status, if just at the tail ends of it.

Vast improvements in urban and territorial infrastructure as a whole have made it easier for people to invest and a hub of manufacturing to start taking shape. This has been there

for decades but diminution of expendables in government expenditure led to a sharp rise in capital expenditure whose needs are more solid, push industry.

To a certain extent also the country has been attracting more foreign capital as the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange has constantly a greater influx of foreign buyers of shares than local share movement.

Not even in the lists of rich people in Africa or the region is the country being left behind, as datum trending in the wake of this reclassification says Tanzania is the only country in East Africa with a local dollar billionaire, whereas ten years ago this would be virtually unthinkable, that we could quite soon play rivals with Kenya. All isn't settled yet in that direction but progress is abundant.

Top level explanation of this achievement in a briefing on Thursday touched for instance on tax collection, from 850bn/- towards the peak of the 2014/2015 fiscal year to 1.3trn/- per month as the outgoing financial year was closing.

Vast improvements in infrastructure outlays, medical or hospital capacities are illustrations of the value of diligence and painstaking effort to close revenue drain and expenditure loopholes. This deserves our utmost salutations, as no one expected it would be realized too rapidly.

Even the fact that the government was able to pay with relative ease around 7.5bn/- after taxes as the value of two big tanzanite stones, despite that their going price is likely to rise appreciably when placed in cutting and branding markets abroad, is a case in point.

When in 1998 total local revenues totaled 720bn/- and the total budget 1.2trn/- how could such payment come about? It was unthinkable, and that is 22 years ago, just.

## Benjamin Mkapa Hospital kidney surgery record good for Tanzania

MEDICAL circles and the wider public had something to smile about on Wednesday as surgeons at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma, also a teaching facility, registered its second successful kidney transplant without the supervision of foreign specialists. Ecstatic mood among the staff and academic medical profession as a whole was perfectly understandable, and moreover this confirmation came at the right time. It cemented the datum that strictly speaking Tanzania is a lower middle income state, not 'poor.'

Being able to conduct delicate operations like kidney or heart, liver or lung transplant is the mark of reaching the apex of the medical profession, and when this skill is domesticated, it means we aren't required to learn but maintain that ability. We can say at the level of definition that a poor country must always send its patients abroad for delicate surgeries in particular, whereas a lower middle income country can do it with an effort. It is the history of the country being written from a medical point of view.

BMH administrators said that this demonstrated ability, with a first case of unaided kidney transplant in March and a second one after a few months, shows that Tanzania now has no need of sending such patients abroad.

All the same it depends on how many patients there will be in due course and their provenance, as medical attention is also a tradable service like any other, so one can choose sending a patient abroad for one or other reason. When one goes to a far country for such services it is known as 'medical tourism' - in many cases pursued for secondary needs, like a

facial uplift.

For a while the hospital has performed the delicate surgical procedure with close support and supervision of specialists from the Tokushukai Medical Corporation of Japan. The BMH administrator did not say if cooperation arrangements were supposed to end earlier or local experts mastered the procedures rather fast. When they are sufficiently qualified, they learn fast.

Given the fact that the cooperation arrangement dates back to not much earlier than 2018, it is entirely possible that local experts would have done a good job in taking note of every little step in the surgery and its ancillary aspects. The latter is strictly speaking an aspect of the nursing profession but when it comes to the most delicate of medical procedures, the way it is organized at the clinical level is a medical profession of its own. Any error in setting up the patient and what is clinically administered leads to fatality.

Without crossing any boundaries of being reasonable or hypothetical, it is also evident that the governance ethos of the fifth phase has an input in this achievement. First there is the vastly increased expenditure on medical facilities, such that lockdowns elsewhere haven't led to a visible medical emergency in terms of the need to send people abroad. Tied with creating new facilities is a boost in training and reinforced cooperation, and also a measure of either luck or blessing, where BMH conducted its first case of unaided kidney transplant back in March, as lockdowns were spreading.

Even within this limited scatter of data, this could not have been achieved if BMH staff were thinking of foreign trips, getting acquaintances favored in sending people for treatment abroad. Good governance was the key.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## WORLD ECONOMY



UPPER  
MIDDLE  
INCOME

LOWER  
MIDDLE  
INCOME

@MSAMBA

# From African Development Bank to African renaissance

By Tunji Oloapa

RACISM has a global and transnational reach. The objective of the neoliberal capitalist hegemony is to make the whole world in the image of the United States. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has been slanted as the worst manifestation of the ideological battle between Beijing and Washington. And where two elephants are engaged in a death struggle, only the grasses are doomed! And one blade of grass bearing the brunt of racial aggression is Africa and its governance architecture. One significant import of Africa's development impasse is the willingness with which the continent sold itself in a second slavery to the lure of the western template—from our American presidential system to the British bureaucratic system. African states pay obeisance to western and Asian leaders who invite them over and dish out crumbs of governance insights (that we are too dumb to grasp) at regular intervals. Western financial institutions dictate the dynamics and operational framework of our governance and well-being through the stronghold of their loans and aid. Western states have a hand in our institutional and structural effectiveness. The worst and most blatant manifestation of this is France and her bold involvement in the affairs of the francophone African states. Others maintain a behind-the-scenes instrumentality that still enable them to dictate how things work, or fail to work, on the continent.

It is in this light we can begin to understand the travails of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and its president, Dr Akinwumi Adesina. All postcolonial states in Africa and the rest of the world, have had to contend with the lingering interest of the colonial masters in the affairs of the ex-colonies. Neocolonialism, as an offshoot of the racial ideology, is founded on the belief in the fundamental inability of the former colonies to effectively and coherently articulate the dynamics for their own governance and to efficiently carry it out to transform the well-being of their battered citizens. Racism is founded on the inherent superiority of one race over all other inferior races. And it is that racist belief that led to colonialism

and the 'white man's burden' to lift the subhuman Africans out of their barbaric existence into the liberating light of civilization and modernity.

Independence for African states happened reluctantly. And this was due to the massive international rally that became a movement in support of the decolonization efforts that sought to dislodge the imperialists from the African continent and to undermine all their structural and value strongholds. The first step in the decolonization process—political independence for national states—succeeded. However, in Kwame Nkrumah's vision, independence was supposed to lead to more than just a change of flag. According to his famous statement, "seek ye first the political kingdom, and every other things shall be added to you." The capacity to sit over our own political affairs, which independence provided, was supposed to become the fulcrum through which the process of decolonization will eventually lead to the full liberation of the mental and institutional might of the African continent. Unfortunately, as it is now clear to us, this did not happen.

Decolonization became stalled for so many reasons. One significant one is that the nationalists and political elites who fought for independence failed to understand the many landmines that colonialism had already planted in both the consciousness of the African leadership, and in the political frameworks of the continent.

The most atrocious of this colonial legacy is the mindset of Africans that still remained colonized even after the formal exit of colonialism. Africa remains in perpetual debt to the erstwhile colonizers. Once the pan-African dream of the most intellectual and the most radical of African leaders—Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sekou Toure, etc.—became lost in the complexities of national existence, the neocolonial overlords stepped right back in and took over and recommenced their exploitation of the continent.

Except for a few states which have been able, through visionary leadership, to relatively transform their governance dynamic, Africa has her development framework already hijacked by imperialist control. In the first

place, colonial exploitation ensured the acceleration of African states into the world capitalist economy as pawns for economic maneuvers. Since independence, Africa has been struggling to achieve a modicum of control over her political and economic agenda. From the emergence of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and its transformation to the African Union (AU), we all are witness to its mighty efforts at undermining the imperialist stranglehold on Africa. Unfortunately, even the AU is caught in the global neocolonial designs. From the Lagos Plan of Action to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the whole gamut of Africa's development planning and continental recovery have been snarled by imperialist intrusion and manipulation. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for instance, represent the two global financial institutions that have steadily mediated Africa's economic and development frameworks.

The African Development Bank is one of the most formidable of Africa's institutional conglomerations for Africa's recovery and renaissance. It is the companion institution to OAU, both established in 1963. Both the AU and the AfDB are supposed to be pan-African institutions, founded on and pursuing pan-African ideals and imperative that will lead eventually to the renaissance of the continent, especially away from imperial domination and neocolonial global hegemony. The AfDB's overall objective is to fight poverty on the continent and to thereby improve the living conditions of Africans through assisting with the development objectives of African states.

This is critical because any dream of an African renaissance is entirely conditioned by the capacity of the African states to transform the welfare of their citizens. Unfortunately, by 1982, the AfDB allowed non-African countries to join the bank and hold controlling shares. Currently, apart from Nigeria that holds the largest share in the bank, the bank's non-regional members—especially Germany, the United States, and Japan also have enormous voting powers that determine the governance direction of the bank.

This move had long been a source of worry for the founding

member states of the AfDB. This is even more so for Nigeria and her leadership role on the continent. The former president Shehu Shagari not only warned about the danger of extending the bank's equity to non-members in 1964, he determinedly vetoed the bank's move in 1982 to bring in non-regional western donor states. But serious pressure from other regional members prevailed and the decision scaled through. Now, it should not be a surprise that these non-regional members must show interest in the running and even ideological direction of the AfDB. And it would be a gross illusion to think that the US, the UK, Japan, Canada, France, Germany and the other western members would serve any other interest than that dictated by their economic, development and ideological imperatives. This is one way to situate the Adesina Akinwumi leadership debacle. Those who are crying foul over a Franco-American conspiracy may not be far from the truth. The US has been vociferous in asking for an independent panel to look into the allegations against the bank's incumbent president. But there is another angle that seems to me a complement thought that will facilitate a broader understanding for revalidating the AfDB's, and even the AU's, role in facilitating the African renaissance.

Outside of the controversy surrounding its president, all is not well in the AfDB itself. The current controversy is just a manifestation of the internal governance challenge the bank might be contending with that had extensively sidelined it from its vision and mission objectives for a long time. Internal jostling for positions among the regional members has led to accusations and counter-accusations about, for instance, the domineering status of Nigeria and her overrepresentation in the bank, to the exclusion of a fair dynamics of representation of other members. Even worse is the long list of accountability and governance issues that have dodged the capability readiness of the bank for years to doggedly pursue its urgent goals of helping regional member states and their development needs.

We cannot keep flogging the imperial dog while leaving out our own complicity in our own underdevelopment. Of course, the United States, for instance, is the worst of all the states to point accusing fingers or to even demand accountability as if it is interested in the future of Africa. Yet, if our own continental house is in dissonance, then it becomes easier for outsiders to penetrate through the institutional and structural cracks. The African renaissance will not be built, like the anticolonial outcry, on pointing accusing fingers at others (however complicit these others may be in undermining our liberation).



# Why volunteering is still worth a try



**F**IRST let me start by saying that, I had never thought of working without pay but when I learnt how the history of the company's performance and its overall professional image would elevate my career and boost my CV I forgot all the security a monthly wage comes with and actually gave it a try.

Now am not advocating for a college graduate to initially study a company's history and background before volunteering because it's all about what volunteering will get you at the end rather than a company's background footage.

I graduated from college with the very first thought of landing myself a job in an institution with a very attractive wage just like any other normal and like-minded college graduate would look forward to after completing their studies.

I scrolled through several job sites countless times in a day and would tirelessly apply for any job opportunity that popped up, I had by then got shortlisted in like two job applications amongst the several I applied for and neither did I secure any.

I then came across a young man's job search journey on social media which was not only a story about his struggle and eventual success but also on how he was able to launch two companies after several years of employment after graduating from college and I saw so much sense into it, practical results, career growth and even self-development from his very rare experience and unique initiative he applied throughout his journey and had the dire need of heading down the same road.

Sometimes the road less travelled has indeed the plentiest of treasure.

As crucial as it is to remain positive about job seeking especially for a graduate who is fresh from college with no experience, it's also important for students to be in a position to learn from working in various institutions regardless of low pay or no pay at all.

However this requires discipline and commitment that not a majority of college students can pull up.

A young man's story on social media encouraged me to volunteer to work in a banking institution as a volunteering assistant accountant some years back and I was in the position to gain various career insights

**It enabled me to add a valuable referees' list in my CV**

Volunteering exposed me professionals in my field of study who I relied upon in doing my daily duties in the field who supervised me and who I built a professional relationship with that I use in my referees' list in my resume to date.

This professionals have an opinion about my skill set, ethical behaviors amongst others.

I have then learnt that if you ever need people to vouch for your skills in your field of study, volunteering will provide you with experienced people who have seen you in action and can recommend you for a job even later when you are called for one. Don't be a plain paper graduate with no skills but instead volunteer to get recommendations and references that could separate you from the rest in the job market

**It outlined work experience in my CV**

This was the most important strategy in my job search by then, especially when a job advert would make me quit looking at it twice due to the number of years of experience working in a relevant field one was required to have to apply.

I have come to the realization that its way better to volunteer so as to have a current employer list in your CV which will add higher chances of success of securing the position than having a resume with no experience at all which always leaves recruiters doubting your ability to perform

well enough for the advertised role.

**I built priceless networks**

We have heard it before and I will say it once more, it's not what you know, it's who you know. Volunteering enabled me to grow my network where I was in a position to find out about new positions and be at the forefront of people's minds if they learn of an opportunity.

I have come to learn that, if you don't know many people in your field, then you are at a distinct disadvantage.

Go out there volunteer and meet people and don't just know them by their names but also associate with them professionally.

People are investments, don't forget that.

**It kept me busy**

Volunteering allowed me to be quite busy and to lift

my spirits.

Volunteering prevents you from staying idle at home with nothing to do instead allows you go to work while you develop your skills and practice basics of your field of study.

It listed me on the top if a job was available in the institution

A job would even be created that wouldn't have existed in case there wasn't someone working tirelessly three months straight without pay as a Thank you note to you.

Imagine you are volunteering at a company and suddenly an opportunity pops up, they sure won't go for someone else over you literally!

You have already proven your skills, your dedication and your passion hence will best fit the requirements for the role.

I have since come to learn that, you ought to work hard, show case your skills and always have in mind why you are there in the first place and watch yourself land an opportunity right there. All in all volunteering opened up opportunities for me that I wouldn't know existed if I hadn't made that decision.



**College Comfort Zone**  
With **Salima Hamisi**  
saly30@gmail.com  
0762 174 124

# According to Steve Jobs, this one thing separates the doers from the dreamers

By Michael Thompson

**W**HEN Steve Jobs was 12 years old he wanted to build a frequency counter, but he was lacking some of the necessary parts to complete the project.

Instead of giving up, however, he did the only thing he could think of: he looked Bill Hewlett's number up in the phonebook and he gave him a call.

To Steve's surprise, Bill, the co-founder of Hewlett Packard, personally answered the phone. After Steve explained who he was and what he was up to, Bill agreed to give him some spare parts for his project. Not only that, but he also gave Steve a summer job at HP putting nuts and bolts together on the assembly line that built frequency counters.

While sharing this story in 1994 with the Silicon Valley Historical Association, Jobs stressed the importance of asking for what you want: "Most people never pick up the phone. Most people never call and ask. And that's what separates sometimes the people who do things from those who just dream about them. You gotta act. You gotta be willing to fail. You gotta be willing to crash a burn. With people on the phone or starting a company, if you're afraid you'll fail, you won't get very far."

**If you don't ask, you won't get far**

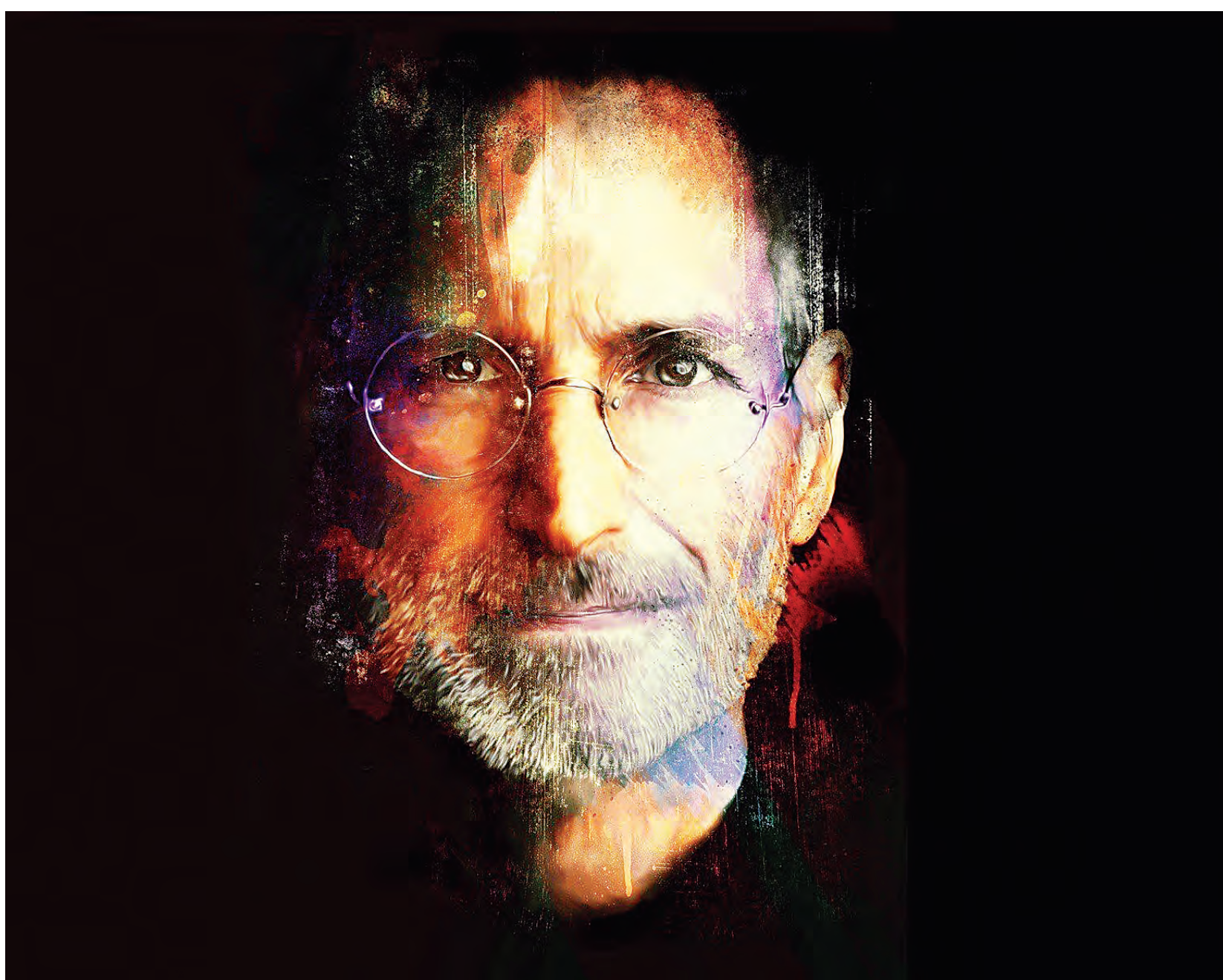
Throughout my career, I've worked with successful entrepreneurs, coaches and creatives. These people are scattered all over the globe and they come in many different shapes and sizes.

However, like Jobs, the one characteristic they all have in common is that they know that no one is coming to save them and it is up to them - and only them - to go after what they want.

When most people think about taking a chance, they paralyse themselves thinking about all the negative things that could happen.

They allow their self-talk to be flooded with "What if" statements like, "What if I get rejected?" "What if they laugh at me?" and "What if I'm not ready?"

The people who make an impact, however, silence their doubts by



Steve Jobs

focusing on the potential positive outcomes: "What if they say yes?" "What if they know a friend who can help me?" "What if this is my big break?"

They do this because they know the adage "Good things come to those who wait", is out of date.

The people who get what they want have the balls to ask for what they want.

**Ask yourself who around you is moving forward**

Steve Jobs and Elon Musk both got started in their careers by asking for what they wanted. Jobs wanted a few spare parts and ended up

with a summer job. Musk cold-called people he wanted to meet and after getting on the radar of Peter Nicholson, a top executive at the Bank of Nova Scotia, he was offered an internship where he went on to pitch Nicholson ideas.

It's easy to look at change-makers like Jobs and Musk and say to yourself: "It's easy for them. They're geniuses."

To encourage you to put down your doubts, and pick up the phone, below are a few stories from people you walk by every day who decided that their dreams were more important than a moment of potential embarrassment.

**If a recovered heroin addict can do it, so**

**can you**

For 15 years, my friend Brian Pennie was addicted to heroin. However, a few years after getting clean, he decided that he wanted to ask leaders in his home country of Ireland to help him spread his message that change is indeed possible.

From billionaires and CEOs of multinational companies to athletes and politicians, each week Brian sat down and sent them a message.

This shouldn't come as a surprise that some of the people said no. Eighty-one per cent of the people, however, said yes.

Brian has since grown out a massive social media following, published his first book - Bo-

nus Time - and he is currently in talks about a TV programme on his life and the tactics he used to turn it around. Brian picked up the phone.

**If a 17-year-old kid can do it, so can you**

One month ago, Flynn Blackie, a 17-year-old from Scotland, sent me an email requesting a chance to speak. The next day we got on the phone and he told me point-blank: "Michael, I want you to write about what I'm doing. In exchange, I'll help you with your marketing. Do you see any holes in that request?"

Two weeks ago, I published my first article about Flynn and he has since added a few new clients to his already massive rolodex. Flynn picked up the phone.

**If an 87-year-old woman can do it, so can you**

While walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain, a Norwegian woman crossed paths with a man from Holland. It was nothing more than your standard encounter with a stranger. They didn't even exchange names.

Months later, however, the woman - who was 87 years old at the time - couldn't shake the feeling that this man was worth getting to know.

So instead of only dreaming about him, she reached out to the offices of the Camino and asked them for the names of any Dutchmen who finished the walk around the same time as her.

Today, the two people are a couple. Miss Marry picked up the phone.

**The world is full of incredibly kind people**

When talking about his experience with HP, Steve Jobs said something that stopped me in my tracks: "I've always found something to be very true, which is that most people don't get those experiences because they never ask." Jobs continued: "I've never found anybody that didn't want to help me if I asked them for help."

Now, granted that not everyone is going to want to help you. Overall, however, from my experience and that of my friends, Jobs is right: the world is full of people who want to help but they just don't know you need it.

Opportunities come in all shapes and sizes. However, the one thing they have in common is that they always come from other people.

If you want to make an impact in the world, steal a line from Steve Jobs and pick up the phone. When it comes to life skills, few things compete with learning how to ask people to support your cause.



# Removing VAT on hermetic bags key to ending post-harvest grain losses

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POST harvest losses (PHL) in cereals and other staple food crops pose a significant threat to food security in Africa, including Tanzania.

A report by the Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO- 2013) says that total food losses in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is estimated \$4bn per year, enough to feed 48m people.

About 1.3bn tons of food gets wasted or lost per year, with an economic cost estimated at \$750bn.

PHL is an increasingly topical development agenda. In response, various storage technologies have been developed to reduce losses, for which hermetic storage technologies are a standard recipe.

HSTs are bags that keep farmers' stores against contamination by molds, pests or other causes, which can cost farmers 25 -30 percent of their yield for the season.

Utilisation and manufacturing of HSTs remains low in Tanzania, mainly due to affordability. However, this may come to pass as it was due to this reason stakeholders advocate for the removal of value added tax on manufacturing of HSTs to promote wide-scale use.

Tanzania Post-Harvest Management Project (TPMP) secretary Honest Mseri appeals to the government to remove VAT charged to hermetic storage bags. Their use shall help to reduce aflatoxins and post-harvest losses generally.

In a presentation, "An Economic Assessment of Government Incentives to Promote Wide-Scale Utilization and Local Manufacture of Hermetic Storage Technologies (HSTs)"



Hermetic storage bags used for storage of cereals.

conducted early this year was viewed across the country.

The study was sponsored by the Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) in collaboration with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), with Talanta International being commissioned to conduct it.

Once the bags are charged zero rate this will enable more farmers across the country to store their produce for a longer time, enabling them to sell them at better prices.

Currently the cost of hermetic bags to the farmer: stands at 5,000/- (\$2.5) which is rather expensive as crop prices tend to be low as well.

Mseri who is head of programmes at ANSAF says the utilization and manufacturing of HSTs depends on VAT removal for their manufacturing so that wide-scale manufacturing can take place, with low user end prices..

Without VAT, price of hermetic bags will decline by 18 percent, with farmers increasing demand from 103 bags to 154 bags per unit of farming taken as an average, the programme manager underlines.

"With demand currently standing at 5m hermetic bags, if VAT is removed, then demand will increase to 7.5 million bags", he asserted.

With farmers storing their produce for a longer time, the rush to sell is diminished as fears of crop decay are vastly reduced.

Benefits accruing to the farmers in using HST come from lower storage losses, higher market value of the produce due to enhanced quality and improved price opportunity by extending the selling period significantly.

Other benefits include lower or negligible costs of using storage pesticides, as current estimated losses at

the storage stage reach 8.4 percent of total harvest for maize.

With hermetic bags, the loss is lowered by 5.6 percentage points (67 percent loss reduction). A farmer will be able to save around 25,000/- per ton with far less storage loss.

In view of the fact, a farmer using technology faces the cost of purchasing HST and extra costs related to using HST (for example more labor hours involved).

Other costs relate to investing more in proper harvesting, which involves proper immediate handling of the harvest, sorting, proper drying, plus storage facility improvement such as installing pallets or controlling rodents.

"The choice of a storage method by farmers hinges on the price of the storage technology, its ability to maintain the quality of the stored product and its availability," he says.



Crew members of a train running between Nairobi and Malaba wait for passengers to board. Photo by Lyu Qiang, People's Daily

## China-Africa cooperation writes new chapter of righteous cause

By He Yin

"LET me reaffirm China's commitment to its longstanding friendship with Africa. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China shall never waver in its determination to pursue greater solidarity and cooperation with Africa."

Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks made in his speech delivered at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit On Solidarity Against COVID-19 indicated the firm resolve of China and Africa to jointly combat the novel coronavirus pneumonia, and charted the course for the two sides' pragmatic cooperation in the future.

International public opinion holds that the summit has built a practical platform for China and Africa to learn each other's demands, as well as make and implement a task list.

Huge impacts have been exerted on Africa's economic and social development by the pandemic. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the economy in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to shrink by 1.6 percent this year. The pandemic will swipe away the positive progress achieved by the region, and even bring huge pressure on the economic growth of the region in the years to come. A World Bank report predicted that that overall sub-Saharan Africa's economy will be between 2.1% and 5.1% smaller by the end of the year, triggering the first recession in the region over the past 25 years.

Undoubtedly, African countries are facing double pressure, from both the pandemic and economy. To support them in pandemic response will help them boost economic and social development, while to support them in economic and social development will help them better fight the virus. It is urgent to defeat COVID-19, as promoting economic and social development remains a fundamental approach to improve livelihood and well-being for the people.

"To cushion the impact of COVID-19, it is important to strengthen Belt and Road cooperation and accelerate the follow-ups to the FOCAC (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation) Beijing Summit. Greater priority needs to be given to cooperation on public health, economic reopening, and people's livelihood."

For those African countries that are hardest hit by the coronavirus and are under heavy financial stress, China will work with the global community to give them greater support, as it helps African countries enhance public health spending to better cope with the pandemic at the critical moment, and is conducive to Africa's long-term and sustainable development. "China's solidarity with Africa is a vital part of this effort,"

said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Former South African diplomat Gert Grobler also pointed out that China has played the role of a responsible major country with its concrete actions.

Extending sympathy to and helping each other, China and Africa have embarked on a distinctive path of win-win cooperation.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner in the past 10 years, as well as the biggest financier of the continent's infrastructure. China-built industrial parks, factories, schools and hospitals are seen everywhere in Africa, and the country has helped the continent construct over 10,000 kilometers of roads, 6,000 kilometers of railways and over 100 airports, ports, and power stations.

China-Africa cooperation has greatly promoted Africa's development. To help the continent get rid of the pandemic as soon as possible, China supports Africa in its effort to develop the African Continental Free Trade Area and to enhance connectivity and strengthen industrial and supply chains. China will explore broader cooperation with Africa in such new business forms as digital economy, smart city, clean energy, and 5G to boost Africa's development and revitalization.

These efforts for China-Africa cooperation will lay a solid foundation for Africa's development in the post-pandemic era, and further indicate Xi's remarks made at the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit five years ago: "Friendship and justice, which defines China-Africa relations, require us to facilitate Africa's development endeavor with China's development and ultimately deliver win-win progress and common development cooperation."

The pandemic won't impede the progress of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the FOCAC, as well as a new starting point for China-Africa joint development. All the ten cooperation plans with Africa raised by China at the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit have been implemented, and significant progress has been achieved regarding the eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries raised by China at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC.

The urgent task remains that China and Africa seize the major opportunities presented by the Belt and Road Initiative, and see to it that the Belt and Road Initiative and the AU Agenda 2063, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development programs of African countries better complement each other, so as to expand areas of cooperation, unlock new cooperation potential, consolidate their traditional areas of cooperation, and foster new highlights of cooperation in the new economy.

People's Daily

# What has been so maddening – and humbling - about the Covid-19 crisis

By Hesham A. Hassaballa

I had a father and his son in my ICU, both very sick with Covid-19. The father was in his 70s. The son was in his 30s. The father was not as healthy as his son. The father survived and was discharged from the hospital. His son, however, died.

Before them, I had multiple members of one family in my ICU who were also sick with Covid-19. The outbreak started in the patriarch, a man in his 70s. He gave it to his wife.

His sons - who cared for their parents - caught the virus and got sick themselves. They gave it to their families. It was such a tragedy.

Both parents died. Of the multiple children who got sick, some recovered after several days in the hospital. Others, however, got very, very sick and had to be transferred to another hospital for a heart-lung machine (ECMO). They ultimately survived, but with significant disability. One is still on ECMO as I write this.

This is what has been so maddening about Covid-19. It is the same virus, but it causes vastly different diseases in every person it afflicts. Sure, some people have underlying conditions - like high blood pressure, heart disease, and (especially) diabetes - that can cause the disease to be worse in that specific person.

At the same time, as we took care of patient after patient after patient with Covid-19, what drove us crazy is that the same treatments would work for one person but not the next. For some patients, steroids worked. For others, they didn't.

For some patients, blood thinners worked. For others, they didn't. For some patients, Remdesivir seemed to work. For many others, it didn't make any difference.

Why is this so? Why does this disease act so differently in different people? We are used to diseases behaving relatively the same in different patients.



With occasional variations, sepsis looks like sepsis. Pneumonia looks like pneumonia. Heart attacks look like heart attacks. Of course, some patients have very bad manifestations of these diseases.

With Covid-19, however, it is a brand new disease in every single person. It is so confounding - and maddening - and it is something we have never seen before in critical care.

It has also been very humbling. It is very easy to become arrogant in medicine, especially critical care medicine. When someone comes to you trying to die from respiratory failure, you put them on a ventilator, and they live.

If someone comes in in shock 'trying' to die, you give them fluids and

blood, and they live. When someone comes in trying to die from an infection, you give them antibiotics, and they live.

Of course, we are not successful 100 per cent of the time. At the same time, when the treatments you provide are successful most of the time, it is easy to think that you are invincible, that nothing can stop you.

Covid-19 has overturned all of that. It has been a very humbling experience, and it definitely has kept me honest as a critical care physician.

When this is all over, I know that I will be a better physician. This pandemic has taught me many things, and I know that I will become better as a result. But that day - the day when it is "all over" - is a long way off.

I look at the spikes in Covid-19 cases in Texas, California and Arizona - places where I have friends in the ICU taking care of Covid-19 patients - and my heart aches for them. I know they are going through hell right now, trying so hard to care for super sick patients trying to die from this terrible, maddening, confounding and humbling disease.

May the Lord keep their patients as well as keep them and their families safe from harm.

Article first published in BeingWell, a Media Life publication for the medical community. Dr Hesham A. Hassaballa is a NY Times featured pulmonary and critical care specialist, a physician leader, author and blogger.



# EU gives money to Mozambique in strategy set to combat drought

MAPUTO

THE European Union has contributed three million euros (about 3.4 million US dollars) to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities for better adaptation to the impacts of climate change in drought-prone areas in the Mozambican provinces of Gaza and Tete.

The project, entitled 'Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) in Mozambique', will be implemented jointly by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) over a period of three years.

A joint release from the EU, the WFP and FAO notes that Mozambique is the third most vulnerable country in Africa to climatic disasters.

"With the growing frequency and variability of drought-related shocks, national and individual capacities to prepare for these events and to manage them need to be improved", it said.

Financed by the EU, PRO-ACT will adopt a model of financing based on seasonal and meteorological forecasts, making it possible to take action in advance to mitigate disasters.

The forecasts will be tied to contingency plans and to financing instruments which will be used to reduce losses and damage to the livelihoods of people who are facing increasingly extreme climatic conditions.

The release says the project "will concentrate on



strengthening the resilience of small farmers to the impacts of climate change, by increas-

ing access to durable goods, knowledge and to climate information".

To assist in this goal, FAO "will set up 40 peasant field schools to benefit at least 1,000

households in Guija and Mabalane, two of the most drought-prone districts in Gaza".

"FAO will lead the implementation of activities that seem to increase the resilience and productivity of farmers, by promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, by improving livestock production through better access to animal feed and to animal health services, and by the use of climate information, particularly for farmers and for rural women and youths," said the FAO representative in Mozambique, Hernani da Silva.

The WFP will support institutional resilience, in developing and testing early warning systems in drought prone parts of Gaza and Tete among selected communities that are worst hit by food insecurity.

The release says WFP will prioritise vulnerable groups, such as households headed by children, or by elderly or disabled people.

"Since the shocks are becoming increasingly recurrent, and there is less time for the people affected to recover, it is necessary to strengthen their resilience to climatic shocks", said James Lattimer, the interim representative of the WFP in Mozambique.

"There is an important role for local government authorities to support these communities and their resilience, which requires additional strengthening of their technical capacity."

# Africa's coronavirus cases pass 400,000 with over 10,000 deaths

By Abdur Rahman

THE continental case load crossed the 400,000 mark as of July 1 according to John Hopkins University tallies. The death toll also surpassed 10,000.

There are over 201,800 active cases against 193,000 recoveries across Africa. South Africa

remains the most impacted with over 150,000 cases from over 1.6 million tests.

The top five countries are South Africa (151,209), Egypt (68,311), Nigeria (25), Ghana (17,741) and Algeria (13,907). These statistics are valid as of July 1, 2020 at 11:01 GMT. Africa's figures continue to be very low compared to other

continents. Europe and America alone accounted for over 50 percent of cases when the World Health Organization (WHO) recently confirmed that global figures had gone past 10,000,000.

In South America, Brazil remains one of the worst impacted along with Iran in the Middle East. Russia and India also have high

case loads.

Africa's case load passed the 300,000 mark late Sunday according to statistics by the John Hopkins University tracker. As of June 22, the figure had reached 306,000 with 8,116 deaths.

The active cases were at 151,937 with recoveries at 146,337. The continents' most impacted re-

mains South Africa whose tallies are almost a third of confirmed cases - current case load stands at 97,302. Egypt (North Africa) and Nigeria (West Africa) complete the top three slots with 55,233 and 20,244 respectively. The most impacted in East / Horn of Africa region is Sudan (8,580), while Cameroon is Central Africa's most

hit (11,892).

Africa breached the 200,000 mark on June 10 according to the AU's Africa Centers for Disease Control, which at the time reported that there were 203,899 cases along with 5,530 deaths and 91,398 recoveries.

Concerns continue to be raised across the continent relative to

testing strength of countries especially at a time when the virus is said to have reached the stage of community transmission in most places. Despite that, governments are easing lockdowns and reopening economies as populations are urged to embrace the new normal and play a more active role in helping to combat the virus.

# Botswana busy investigating mystery deaths of elephants

GABORONE

MORE than 350 elephants have died in northern Botswana in a mysterious mass die-off described by scientists as a "conservation disaster".

A cluster of elephant deaths was first reported in the Okavango Delta in early May, with 169 individuals dead by the end of the month.

By mid-June, the number had more than doubled, with 70 percent of the deaths clustered around waterholes, according to local sources who wish to remain anonymous.

"This is a mass die-off on a level that hasn't been seen in a very, very long time. Outside of drought, I don't know of a die-off that has been this significant," said Dr Niall McCann, the director of conservation at UK-based charity National Park Rescue.

The Botswana government has not yet tested samples so there is no information on what is causing the deaths or whether they could pose a risk to human health. The two main possibilities are poisoning or an unknown pathogen. Anthrax - initially considered the most likely cause - has been ruled out.

McCann said: "When we've got a mass die-off of elephants near human habitation at a time when wildlife disease is very much at the fore-

front of everyone's minds, it seems extraordinary that the government has not sent the samples to a reputable lab."

Local witnesses say some elephants were seen walking around in circles, which is an indication of neurological impairment. "If you look at the carcasses, some of them have fallen straight on their face, indicating they died very quickly. Others are obviously dying more slowly, like the ones that are wandering around. So it's very difficult to say what this toxin is," said McCann.

Elephants of all ages and both sexes have been dying, local reports found. Several live elephants appeared weak and emaciated, suggesting more will die in the coming weeks. The true number of deaths is likely to be even higher because carcasses can be difficult to spot, say conservationists.

Cyanide poisoning - often used by poachers in Zimbabwe - remains a possibility, but scavenging animals do not seem to be dying at the carcasses. Local reports say there were fewer vultures on carcasses than expected, but none showed signs of abnormal behaviour. "There is no precedent for this being a natural phenomenon but without proper testing, it will never be known," said



One of the hundreds of elephants that have died from unidentified causes

McCann. Covid-19 has been mentioned as a possible cause but is considered unlikely.

There are about 15,000 elephants in the delta, 10 percent of the country's total. Eco-tourism contributes

between 10-12 percent of Botswana's GDP, second only to diamonds. "You see elephants as assets of the country. They are the diamonds wandering around the Okavango delta," said McCann. "It's a conservation disaster

- it speaks of a country that is failing to protect its most valuable resource."

The tusks of deceased elephants have not been removed and conservationists have urged authorities to

guard the carcasses so that poachers do not take them.

There have been no reports of elephant deaths in neighbouring countries.

"There is real concern regarding the delay in getting the samples to an accredited laboratory for testing in order to identify the problem - and then take measures to mitigate it," said Mary Rice, executive director of the Environmental Investigation Agency in London.

"The lack of urgency is of real concern and does not reflect the actions of a responsible custodian. There have been repeated offers of help from private stakeholders to facilitate urgent testing which appear to have fallen on deaf ears ... and the increasing numbers are, frankly, shocking."

Dr Cyril Taolo, acting director for Botswana's department of wildlife and national parks, told the Guardian: "We are aware of the elephants that are dying. Out of the 350 animals we have confirmed 280 of those animals. We are still in the process of confirming the rest."

"We have sent samples off for testing and we are expecting the results over the next couple of weeks or so," he said.

Taolo added: "The Covid-19 restrictions have not helped in the transportation of samples in the region and around the world. We're now beginning to emerge from that and that is why we are now in a position to send the samples to other laboratories."

By Special Correspondent

# We can reopen informal sector better

With around three quarters of the economically active population earning a living in the informal sector according to official statistics, the reopening of this swathe of businesses was obviously a priority as lockdown conditions were eased.

But, as President Mnangagwa made it clear recently, the reopening of the informal sector is not a return to the total anarchy of March.

The reopening needs to be done in an orderly way and with public health safeguards, otherwise the huge health gains of the lockdown will be totally dissipated and Covid-19 can run amok.

In any case, the formalisation of the informal sector has been

a long-term goal of the Government and many others for some years, converting what was seen as a survival strategy into what it should be, the breeding ground of new businesses.

Treating those providing services and goods in the informal sector as a different breed from those opening new formal businesses was always a bit weird and somewhat insulting.

These people are, in fact, businesspeople even if their businesses are small.

So, first of all, the Government wants the informal traders and service people to be registered. The legal procedures have existed for decades.

Local authorities have the facility for licensing hawkers, people who move around selling vegetables and other small items, and vendors, people who sell from a fixed point, often from a table or a booth.

The problem is that very few local authorities have been insisting on this, Bulawayo being the major exception.

Registration at least gives a list with names, ID numbers and addresses, and offers the opportunity for control and regulation, that you cannot just set up shop where you like.

The seizure of pavements by vendors has been a problem for a long time, and hawkers at some

suburban shopping centres have driven customers away to better controlled shopping areas, to the detriment of both formal shops and informal traders.

This can be fixed. We have already suggested that flea markets are a more obvious solution with the private sector encouraged to help and cooperate. We already see this in some areas, and town planners have allowed purpose-built markets to be erected in Harare city centre, and for suitable premises to be converted.

More informally there has been sub-letting, an ordinary shop divided into several counters. Places like Mupedzanhamo have been established by Harare

City Council itself.

There are other buildings and premises that could be converted, or proper markets established.

Avondale in Harare is perhaps a prime example of how a suburban shopping centre can be used by everyone in a highly controlled way, with a limited number of hawkers, a flower market for the next stage up and a private flea market giving the upper end of the informal sector controlled premises and security. This is important when it comes to the other conditions set by the President, the need for public health. In a controlled market, or even with controlled hawk-

ing, enforcing social distancing is not difficult, as tables can be spaced and aisles between tables can be wide enough.

The enforcement of masks is simple, and taps and bathrooms are an obvious condition for the licensing of the market premises. It would probably be better to figure out market facilities, on a small scale, in every suburban shopping centre rather than have tens of thousands of vendors piling up in a city centre. Again some effort has been made by local authorities in recent weeks as they try and regulate the already-permitted vegetable markets, and this can be extended. At the same time

property owners can be encouraged to establish flea markets. The one major problem from the past, that vendors just start trading wherever they like, can be avoided as we rebuild better by using the registration system, but at the same time we cannot just dump people far from customers.

This is why a sensible planning and regulation of suburban markets could be a partial answer, spreading out the informal traders.

The next stage up from a local authority vendor licence is registration as a small enterprise, where someone who has started off very small can now move into the more formal world, access some working capital and generally start that journey to what was once called a real business.



# Violence against children could be getting much worse

By Guardian Correspondent

**G**LOBAL status report on preventing violence against children calls for more government action and warns of 'dramatic impact' of Covid-19.

Half of the world's children, or approximately one billion children each year are affected by physical, sexual or psychological violence, suffering injuries, disabilities and death, because countries have failed to follow established strategies to protect them.

This is according to a new report published last week by the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Partnership.

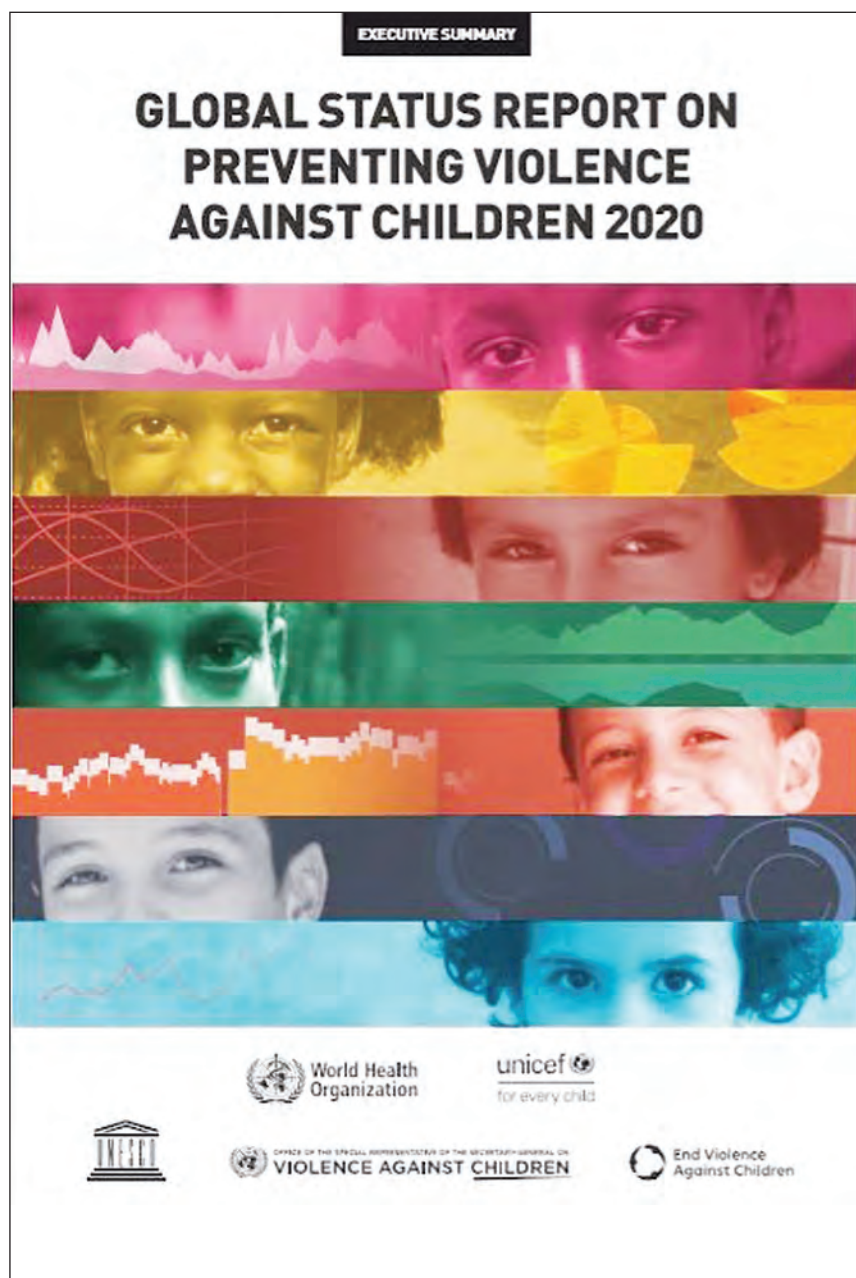
"There is never any excuse for violence against children," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general. "We have evidence-based tools to prevent it, which we urge all countries to implement. Protecting the health and well-being of children is central to protecting our collective health and well-being, now and for the future."

The report, Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020, is the first of its kind, charting progress in 155 countries against the "INSPIRE" framework, a set of seven strategies for preventing and responding to violence against children.

It signals a clear need in all countries to scale up efforts to implement them. While nearly all countries 88 percent have key laws in place to protect children against violence, less than half of countries 47 percent said these were being strongly enforced.

The findings include the first ever global homicide estimates specifically for children under 18 years of age - previous estimates were based on data that included 18 to 19-year olds. It finds that, in 2017, around 40,000 children were victims of homicide.

"Violence against children has always been pervasive, and now things could be getting much worse," said UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore. "Lockdowns, school closures



**Ending violence against children is the right thing to do, a smart investment to make, and it's possible. It is time to fully fund comprehensive national action plans that will keep children safe at home, at school, online and in their communities.**

and movement restrictions have left far too many children stuck with their abusers, without the safe space that school would normally offer. It is urgent to scale up efforts to protect children during these times and beyond, including by designating social service workers as essential and strengthening child helplines."

#### Progress is generally uneven

Of the INSPIRE strategies, only access to schools through enrollment showed the most progress with 54

percent of countries reporting that a sufficient number of children in need were being reached in this way.

According to the report, between 32 percent to 37 percent of countries considered that victims of violence could access support services, while 26 percent of countries provided programmes on parent and caregiver support; 21 percent of countries had programmes to change harmful norms; and 15 percent of countries had modifications to provide safe physical environments for children.

"Although a majority of countries 83 percent have national data on violence against children, only 21 percent used these to set baselines and national targets to prevent and respond to violence against children," the report stated.

"About 80 percent of countries have national plans of action and policies but only one-fifth have plans that are fully funded or have measurable targets. A lack of funding combined with inadequate professional capacity are likely contributing factors and a reason why implementation has been slow," the report explained.

#### The Covid-19 response and its impact on children

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, and the related school closures, we have seen a rise in violence and hate online, and this includes bullying. Now, as schools begin to re-open, children are expressing their fears about going back to school," said Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO director-general.

"It is our collective responsibility to ensure that schools are safe environments for all children. We need to think and act collectively to stop violence at school and in our societies at large," she said.

The director highlighted that stay-at-home measures including school closures have limited the usual sources of support for families and individuals such as friends, extended family or professionals.

"This further erodes victims' ability to successfully cope with crises and the new routines of daily life. Spikes in calls to helplines for child abuse and intimate partner violence have been observed," she added.

"And while online communities have become central to maintain many children's learning, support and play, an increase in harmful online behaviours including cyber bullying, risky online behaviour and sexual exploitation have been identified," said Azoulay.

"Whilst this report was being finalised, confinement measures and the disrupted provision of already limited child protection services exacerbated the vulnerability of children to various forms of violence," said Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-Gen-

eral on Violence against Children.

"To respond to this crisis a unified, child rights and multi-sectoral framework for action for children is critical requiring a strong mobilization of governments, bilateral/multilateral donors, civil society, private sector and children, whose views must be heard and truly taken into account to ensure duly protection and the possibility for all to thrive and reach their full potential," she insisted.

#### Accelerating action to protect children

WHO and its partners will continue to work with countries to fully implement the INSPIRE strategies by enhancing coordination, developing and implementing national action plans, prioritizing data collection, and strengthening legislative frameworks.

Global action is needed to ensure that the necessary financial and technical support is available to all countries. Monitoring and evaluation are crucial to determine the extent to which these prevention efforts are effectively delivered to all who need them.

"Ending violence against children is the right thing to do, a smart investment to make, and it's possible. It is time to fully fund comprehensive national action plans that will keep children safe at home, at school, online and in their communities," said Dr Howard Taylor, End Violence Partnership. "We can and must create a world where every child can thrive free from violence and become a new generation of adults to experience healthy and prosperous lives."

The data for the report was compiled through a survey administered between 2018 and 2019 with responses from over 1000 decision-makers from 155 countries.

The INSPIRE strategies launched in 2016 call for the implementation and enforcement of laws; changing norms and values to make violence unacceptable; creating safe physical environments for children; providing support to parent and caregivers; strengthening income and economic security and stability; improving response and support services for victims; and providing children with education and life skills.

The World Health Organisation

provides global leadership in public health within the United Nations system. Founded in 1948, WHO works with 194 Member States, across six regions and from more than 150 offices, to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

Our goal for 2019-2023 is to ensure that a billion more people have universal health coverage, to protect a billion more people from health emergencies, and provide a further billion people with better health and wellbeing.

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children is a global independent advocate promoting the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children.

The Special Representative acts as a bridge builder and a catalyst of actions in all regions, across sectors and settings where violence against children may occur. She mobilizes political support to generate renewed concern at the harmful effects of violence on children working with governments, national institutions, civil society organisations and children promoting behavioural and social change to end violence against children by 2030.

The End Violence Partnership is a public-private partnership established by the UN Secretary-General in 2016. End Violence is made up of over 420 partners and acts as a global platform for advocacy, evidence-based action and investments to end all forms of violence against children. The End Violence Partnership focuses on three main areas: keeping children safe at home, online and in and through schools.

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. It seeks to build peace through international co-operation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the Sustainable Development defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

# BBC England to cut 450 jobs across TV, radio and online by March 2022

By Charlotte Tobitt

**T**HE BBC has revealed plans to cut 450 jobs in England as it seeks to make savings of £25m in the nation by the end of March 2022.

The roles affected include journalists as well as presenting, technical and operation staff.

Some 142 jobs will be lost in online and TV news, according to the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), while 139 jobs will go from local radio where a reduced schedule that began at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic will continue.

The proposals will see the end of current affairs programme Inside Out, which has 11 regional editions, resulting in the loss of 29 jobs despite an outpouring of support for it from more than 100 famous names and MPs.

But the programme, which has been off-air since the start of the pandemic, will be replaced by a new long-form original investigative journalism show produced from six regional hubs in Newcastle, Yorkshire, Norwich, Birmingham, London and Bristol.

The NUJ also said seven jobs will be lost at the BBC's London-based wire service and that the broadcaster will look to make 125 further voluntary redundancies.

This means that the proposed job losses will total 15 per cent of the 3,000-strong BBC England workforce. This is further to 150 job cuts announced last week across Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

NUJ general secretary Michelle Stanistreet said: "These are huge cuts which will inevitably have an impact on the BBC's ability to sustain the breadth and depth of news coverage throughout England which truly reflects the diversity of the nation."

"We are consulting our members on how these plans will impact on the BBC's output and the extent to which



it will increase workloads on already stretched newsrooms."

Press Gazette understands that 33 of 36 jobs will be lost at BBC England's online hub in Birmingham, which houses sub-editors that manage and publish much of the copy written by local reporters in regional offices.

It also hosts sports and features writers as well as data and video journalists who produce content for the BBC England webpage, according to a source.

The BBC says it is devolving online sub-editing to regional offices and that this will make online content "more relevant locally".

But one source said: "They have

decades of experience between them. They are some of our most talented journalists. It's been rumoured it would happen for a while but I don't think anybody thought it actually would."

"The decision to get rid of it is madness. It's a 24-hour operation without which many stories on the BBC website wouldn't have seen the light of day," added the source.

#### Covid-19 means £125m in lost income for BBC

The cuts are separate to the plans to cut 450 jobs at BBC News as outlined earlier this year but put on hold at the start of the Covid-19 crisis.

The BBC faces an estimated £125m in lost income this financial year as a result of the coronavirus crisis, despite record broadcast and digital figures. It already had to make £800m in savings by 2022, including £80m in the news department.

Nevertheless, the BBC plans to improve its political output outside Westminster, including by reinvigorating its 11 regional Sunday Politics programmes after lobbying from MPs that followed fears that they would be cut along with Inside Out.

The BBC said the programmes will "undergo editorial and creative changes to ensure that they have more impact and reach a broader audience".

It also plans to pilot two new digital political programmes in Yorkshire and the Midlands which will be available on streaming services.

The BBC has promised to modernise its regional TV centres, changing the way they operate to put digital storytelling at the centre of their work and merging regional TV news and online staff.

The regional TV news programmes will appear the same on-screen but with a reduction in the number of 6.30 p.m. presenters in some areas.

BBC England also wants to commission a "broader range" of TV programming

to reflect life across England, particularly in the North and Midlands.

#### 'We must adapt'

Helen Thomas, director of BBC England, said: "I'm proud that people have turned to us for trusted news and information in huge numbers during Covid-19, proving the importance of our local and regional services. But those services were created more than 50 years ago, have changed very little and need significant reinvention. That has meant taking some difficult decisions."

"We are in the age of the Facebook community group and the WhatsApp neighbourhood chat. We must adapt to better reflect how people live their lives, how they get their news and what content they want," she noted.

The director elaborated: "We're going to modernise our offer to audiences in England by making digital a central part of everything we do. We'll take forward lessons from Covid-19 that will make us more agile and more in touch with communities while also ensuring we're as efficient as we can be. I'm confident we can evolve our local and regional services while improving our impact and better serving our audiences."

However, NUJ national broadcasting organiser Paul Siegert warned that the permanent reduction in local radio programming to three daytime shows rather than four with one presenter each will be a "major blow" as "commercial radio has all but given up on providing any local news".

"It's also unclear how 142 jobs can go from regional TV and online unless there's going to be a serious drop in quality and standards," he said, adding: "The union will fight these cuts and ensure that any changes that take place are dealt with as fairly as possible."



## BUSINESS



Kritika Pandey won the 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her short, *The Great Indian Tree and Snakes*.

## SUCCESS

## Story Prize winner in Commonwealth announced online

## LONDON

Last night marked the first ever online ceremony for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Unlike the seven ceremonies before it, where a set number of guests are invited to take part in the festivities, the latest hosted innumerable patrons from across the world.

Once 2020 submissions were opened, the panel received more than 5,000 entries from 49 Commonwealth countries. With entries being submitted in over 11 languages, the selection committee had over 30 readers and translators involved in selecting the short stories that made it to the judging panel which looked for pieces of writing that had the right combination of craft, invention, surprise and boldness.

"Defiant, tragic and uplifting, the stories were grounded in the humanity we all share. [The entries were] a real pleasure to read and a headache to narrow down to a shortlist, let alone just one winner," said this year's judging panel chair, Ghanian writer and editor, Nii Ayikwei Parkes. Together with Parkes, the 2020 judging panel included literary practitioners from the five Commonwealth regions, Mohale Mashigo, William Phuan, Heather O'Neill, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Nic Low.

This year, the regional prizes were

awarded to Innocent Chizaram Ilo (Africa), Kritika Pandey (Asia), Reyah Martin (Canada & Europe), Brian S. Heap (Caribbean) and Andrea E. Macleod (Pacific). Each of the regional recipients receive a cash prize of £2500 while the overall winner takes home £5000. Along with a cash prize, the winning short stories are set to be published in the quarterly literary magazine, *Granta*, as well as an online literary platform for new writing, *adda* magazine.

Once the ceremony had announced regional winners, caught up with alumni as well as read excerpts from 2020's winning short stories, Parkes concluded the ceremony by introducing the overall prize winner: author of *The Great Indian Tree and Snakes*, Kritika Pandey.

When introducing the winner, Parkes congratulated her ability to write empathetically by describing her short story as a "beautifully complex" give and take between the narrator and the reader. In her virtual acceptance of the prize, a stunned Pandey said, "This is an incredible moment for me because like all aspirational middle class people my parents wanted me to become an engineer... They wanted me to marry a certain type of guy to have a certain type of life and I said no, I just wanted to write... To get this award and to get this recognition is so reassuring. It tells me that I was not wrong."

## DIVERSIFICATION

## Cycling tourism launched in Rwanda

## KIGALI

Local and foreign tourists can now easily wind down by enjoying a ride around the country's hills thanks to cycling tourism scheme launched by Rwanda Cycling Federation (Ferwacy) over the weekend.

The federation unveiled the cycling tourism on Saturday at the Africa Rising Cycling Centre, in Musanze District, with dozens of local and foreign tourists taking part in a cycling exercise that went around the National Volcano Park.

The riders had a glimpse of scenic view of Twin Lakes of Burera and Rohondo among other destinations in the North-West part of the country. Among the participants at the launch was Bernard Makuza, the former senate president. Others included officials from the national Olympic and sports committee, Ferwacy president Abdallah Murenzi as well as tourists from Belgium, U.K., India and Australia among other nationalities.

Addressing journalists, Ferwacy boss Murenzi underscored that the federation launched cycling tourism in an effort to contribute to the country's development. "After cycling was among other sectors that were given a green light to resume activities after Covid-19 lockdown, we opted to not waste that opportunity and that's obviously the main reason we came up with an idea to launch cycling tourism," he said.

"The move will enable tourists explore some other charming parts of our country," Murenzi explained that the federation welcomes whoever needs to experience cycling tourism regardless their backgrounds and experience in cycling.

"We are calling upon those who are fond of bicycle to take part in cycling tourism; we welcome those who may need to train themselves, riding



Local and foreign tourists pose for a group photo at the Africa Rising Cycling Centre before departing for the inaugural ride as cycling tourism was formally launched in Musanze District, Rwanda, June 27.

professionals and non-professionals and cycling teams that may need to prepare for competitions," he noted.

The federation, Murenzi revealed, is working hand-in-hand with Rwanda Development Board (RDB) to ensure the smooth running and growth of cycling tourism. He said that a visitor who shows up for the ride with their own bicycle pay Rwf25,000 while those hiring bicycles from the federation add an extra Rwf10,000 per individual.

"As part of the package, we provide tour guides and other equipment for visitors to have the best experience, we also arrange accommodation at our facility (Africa Raising Cycling Centre) for those who may need to stay," Murenzi also urged local communities to play a big role in cycling tourism by warmly welcoming tourists in their respective villages.

Ruben Habarurema, the manager of Africa Rising Cycling Centre - a

Musanze-based training hub for local and international riders, noted that cycling tourism was timely given that previously the centre would receive a number of tourists requesting to ride.

"Now-on whoever needs to ride is welcome at our centre, all is set. We have a summer package that will go through September and a Christmas package that will run from November to December," he said While taking part in cycling tourism, tourists should trail Twin Lakes of Burera and Ruhondo, Buhanga Eco-Park and some other touristic attractions in the North-West of Rwanda.

Tourists buoyant

Some of the tourists from the first cohort that took part in the cycling tourism welcome the initiative, stressing that they immensely experienced the beauty of Rwanda in a way that they had never done before.

"I had a great experience; we had a

professional guide from the Rwanda Cycling Team, he took us out and we started on some easier roads and once he judged our efforts he took us to some smaller roads, we got to pass by the lakes and also the small villages. It was so beautiful," said Stephanie May, an Australian who is currently living in Rwanda. "I liked the diversity...it is nice to get out to rural of Rwanda and particularly after this coronavirus pandemic. The people of Rwanda in countryside are warm and welcoming, she added.

Valence Nyamucuhakomeye, a Rwandan tourist who went for the ride from Kigali, echoed Stephanie's sentiments, stressing that he got to taste the volcano atmosphere - an experience he noted that inspired him to visit the place again in the near future. Ferwacy provides equipment and observe strict preventive measures to ensure that tourists are safe from Covid-19.

## RACISM

## 'Whitening', 'lightening' and 'fair': L'Oreal to ban skintone-related phrases from products

## PARIS

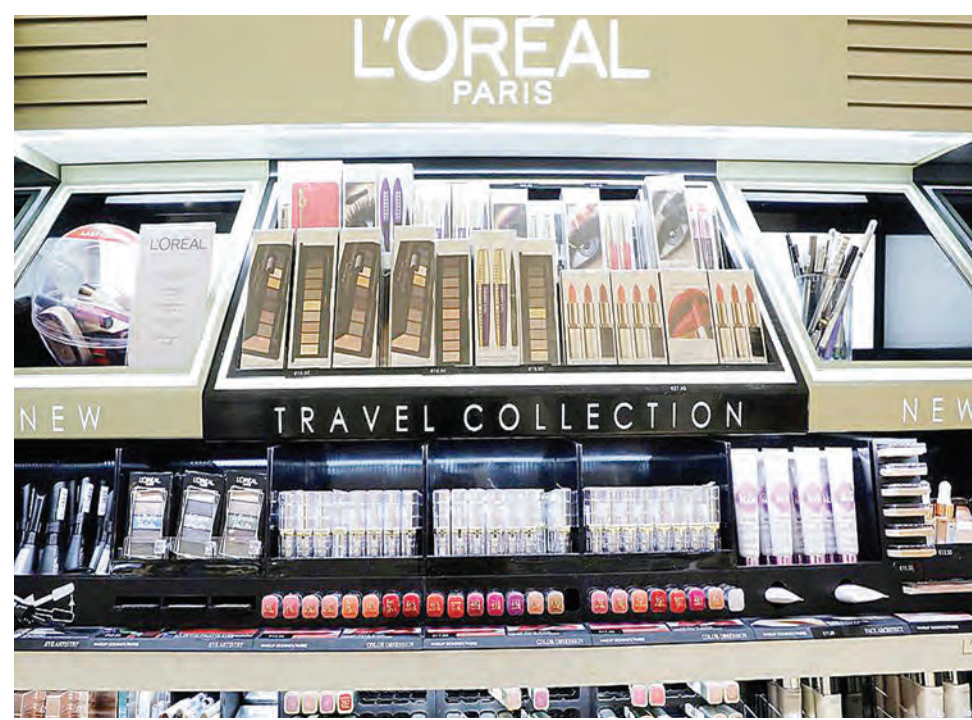
French cosmetics giant L'Oreal has announced it will remove words like "whitening" from its products, against the backdrop of global anti-racism protests.

L'Oreal is the latest multinational after the likes of Unilever, Johnson & Johnson and Mars to respond to the Black Lives Matter movement, prompted by the death of African-American George Floyd in police custody in May.

"The L'Oreal Group has decided to remove the words white / whitening, fair / fairness, light / lightening from all its skin evening products," the company said in a brief statement. The announcement follows Thursday's decision by the Indian and Bangladeshi arms of Unilever to rename their locally marketed Fair & Lovely skin-lightening cream for the same reason.

Unilever - which reportedly raked in about \$500 million in revenue from the product in India last year - said it would stop using the word "Fair" in the name as the brand was "committed to celebrating all skin tones."

In India, several Bollywood stars have come under fire for endorsing skin-whitening products, including actress and former Miss World Priyanka Chopra, who faced a backlash after



L'Oreal's popular skincare lines on display.

posting in favour of the BLM campaign.

Several companies - including L'Oreal - have been criticised recently for skin-lightening products after the global rise of the movement.

Johnson & Johnson said last week it would stop selling some Neutrogena and Clean & Clear products, advertised as dark-spot reducers in Asia and the Middle East.

"Conversations over the

past few weeks highlighted that some product names or claims on our Neutrogena and Clean & Clear dark-spot reducer products represent fairness or white as better than your own unique skin

tone," a Johnson & Johnson statement said, adding: "This was never our intention - healthy skin is beautiful skin."

Not just beauty brands taking action

Several American groups have said they would change their visual identity, including confectioner Mars, which announced its plans to develop its famous Uncle Ben's brand, which uses a caricature of an African-American as its logo. Elsewhere, Quaker Oats has promised to withdraw its 130-year-old image of Aunt Jemima from a brand of syrup and pancake mix by the end of the year, saying it represents a "racial stereotype."

Australia is to rename its Allen's Lollies-branded Red Skins and Chicos confectioneries made by Nestle over perceived racial connotations. Colgate-Palmolive is, meanwhile, to "re-examine" the name of its toothpaste brand Darlie, which is sold in Asia but means "toothpaste for black people" in Chinese.

## HURDLES

## Ramaphosa's plan for crime detection university in Hammanskraal faces delays

## CAPE TOWN

President Cyril Ramaphosa will have to wait a little longer before his promise of a new university dedicated to crime detection is realised.

Higher Education, Science and Technology Minister Blade Nzimande confirmed this in response to a parliamentary question from DA MP Belinda Bozzoli, who wanted details on the proposed establishment of a university for crime detection in Hammanskraal.

During his 2020 State of the Nation Address, Ramaphosa announced the establishment of a crime detection university to improve the quality of general and specialised SAPS investigations. "In terms of the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997, as amended), the proposed institution for crime detection in Hammanskraal cannot be established immediately as a university. The Act allows for new institutions to be established as either Higher Education Colleges or University Colleges.

"The decision on whether this institution will be established as a university college or a higher education college will be dependent on the outcome of a feasibility study that must be undertaken," Nzimande said. He said a higher education college is an institution established as an independent institution, which offers a range of qualifications "relatively narrow" to a specific field, like crime detection.

"It is likely to have a relatively small student population, less than 5 000

students when it is fully operational. It will offer a range of qualifications and skills programmes. The qualifications would include higher certificates, advanced certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, undergraduate degrees and postgraduate diplomas accredited through the Council on Higher Education," he said.

Nzimande said the institution could also offer short skills programmes or accredited occupational programmes. "Once the college is fully established and it shows potential to grow further

and expand, it could then be declared as a university college, under the governance structure of an established university.

"While the institution would initially start with a small number of programmes, in a limited number of fields like crime detection and safety and security, it would be planned to grow over time to cover a wider range of related fields and programmes in higher education, including undergraduate, honours, masters and doctoral degree programmes," he said.

A project plan has been developed for ministerial approval to set out the process and deliverables towards the production of a feasibility study. Nzimande said the feasibility study will be undertaken in the current financial year and will determine the timelines for the establishment of the institution in line with a costed plan. "In terms of the Higher Education Act, a new institution can only be established once funding is appropriated for that purpose, as this is required before the institution can be legally established," he said.



## LEISURE

# Kenyans rediscover pleasures of gardening

NAIROBI

For many Kenyans, there was always comfort in living in city apartments near workplaces, schools, entertainment spots, and shopping malls, which saved them the trouble of commuting for long hours.

However, as the Covid-19 pandemic graduates from an acute distraction to a long-term disturbance, city residents trapped in small apartments with little or no outdoor space are feeling suffocated. Now homeowners are outfitting their homes with backyard resting spots and outdoor spaces that offer extra room to relax, work or exercise from, unsure how long the coronavirus threat will persist.

Homeowners living on small plots are becoming creative. Some rooftops may be relegated for hanging out clothes, storing water tanks, and smoking, but to others, these are mini-paradises with lots of greenery. In Nairobi's Parklands estate, Meerabella Shah has turned her rooftop into a miniature garden.

It is impossible to imagine her delightful rooftop, filled with colours and smells inspired by nature was once an open, concrete space. "Every time I take the stairs to the rooftop, it's like I'm going to a paradise far away," she says as we walk up to see the wonder that she has created.

I was not prepared for what I saw. On my right, she has placed an indoor metallic swing, with Ankara cushions and throw pillows. A jewellery designer by profession at Suhani Mara Designs, here is where Meerabella sits to draw inspiration for her jewellery collection.

On the right side, she has put two seats/tabletops made from old tyres and painted pink and blue. Then on both sides, she has vegetable gardens with everything luscious green: a variety of herbs, carrots, swiss chard, kales, chillies, beetroot, radish, and cherry tomatoes.

Her rooftop feels like stepping outdoors in a different location. Because of the rain from the previous night, the air smells earthy and the soil is damp. To protect the plants from

the sometimes unforgiving sun and mousebirds, she had put over them a green shading net and small garden umbrellas. At the edge of the net, she has hung baskets with flowers.

She has grown more flowers and herbs in pots of different shapes and sizes, some store-bought and others repurposed. In one of the corners, she has a potted lemon tree, heavy with fruits. "I've seen it grow from flowers to this," she says.

On the far left of the balcony are large pots of fast-growing bamboo and fruit trees of grafted avocado, orange, mulberry, strawberry, and guava. "When the bamboos grow, they'll give us much needed privacy," she says. It is during this stay-at-home and curfew period that she has truly come to appreciate her garden.

"It keeps me busy and connected to nature. The birds, bees, soil, and plants are a great company. They give rather than demand," says Meerabella, who loves life outdoors. Additionally, it has been a place to hang out with her six-year-old daughter.

"After her online classes are done, she comes up here to relax, watching the birds chirping by the bird feeders, the bees sucking nectar from the lavender, checking on her pet beetle, the wiggly worms and bugs," Meerabella says.

Meerabella had desired a green space and sought help from Sheena Shah of Harvesting For Good East Africa, who did the initial design, then Meerabella added onto it. Before Covid-19, the rooftop garden was a smaller project. Now that the pandemic gifted her more time at home to spend with her ever-energetic daughter, she poured her heart and soul into the garden and watched it thrive.

Mother and daughter added tomatoes, strawberries, lavender, lemon verbena, and a host of flowers and fruits. The also added jasmine and passion fruits which she hopes will grow into an arch over the shading net.

They have also repurposed most of their waste like plastic oil jars and old toy crates into planters. "My daughter and I spend weekends here making memories: painting

these (the oil jars and stones) and making crafts," she says, as her daughter shows me her latest painting from the previous weekend.

She has certainly got her mother's creativity pouring out of her in childlike bits and pieces. "We have so much fun here. I don't know how sane we would have been without this garden. I love the joy my beautiful garden brings to me and the people who visit," she says.

## Reaping its value

There is always comfort in a big house on a plot of land that is your own. The allure of suburban life is bringing the outdoors indoors, having spaces where a father can do his Zoom conference away from the Zoom classes of his children and phone conversations of his wife.

There is also the advantage of having an urban garden, which gives the illusion of self-sufficiency. In Nairobi's Kamulu, Kelvin Munyottah, a businessman and a part-time pastor, has named his outdoor space Grace Garden.

The garden sits on an eighth of an acre piece of land and was groaning under the weight of neglect before the busy schedules pre-Covid-19. The only things that stood proud were young palm trees. But thanks for spending more time at home, the garden tells a different story.

Kelvin's hard work is noticeable right from the entrance of his home. The first thing you see is the mix of colours: green, red, orange, pink, and purple, rising and falling with the height of the plants attached to them. "This place is a dream come true," he says.

"Gardening was a passion cultivated by association. When I was young, we had a neighbour who sold flowers and flower nurseries in Westlands, Nairobi. I would visit her and spend time admiring the flowers, and eating her vegetables," says the 34-year-old.

The neighbour's love for greenery soaked his mind and he purposed to have a garden when he grew up. The second thing you

notice is the garden's design made by Kelvin. This is what has been keeping him busy at home. Using ordinary stones, he has subdivided his land into rectangular beds where he grows different types of plants.

He has many herbs and spices, vegetables, fruit trees, and an exotic flower bed. Around the edges of the vegetable gardens, which have kales, swiss chard, and onions, he has planted flowers. All their different smells draw you in and you find yourself bending to inhale their scents. "The flowers act as a windbreaker as well as attracting pollinators like bees. Plus, I enjoy the beauty and fragrances of flowers," he says. On the other beds, he has planted the Kai apple hedge plant.

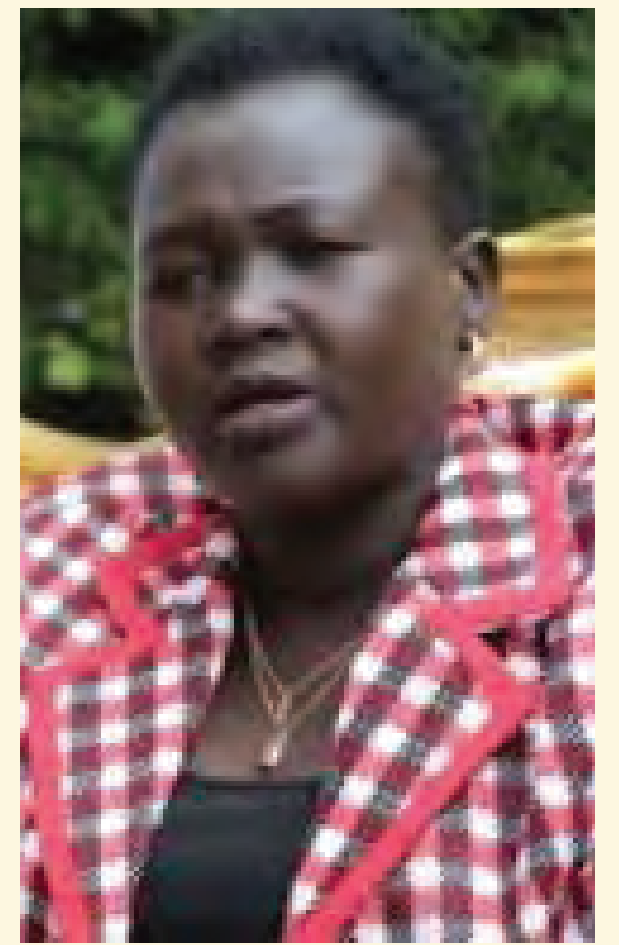
## Borrow herbs and cuttings

Even more interesting is his live fence of beans stalks and luffa normally used for cleaning and exfoliating the skin. In my curiosity, I inquire about them. "I just discovered them a short while ago," he says, adding that this is one benefit of neglecting his space. "Nature shows you what does well and what doesn't."

The space between the beds and the pathways between the house and the gate are gravelled. Graveling is inexpensive, environmentally friendly, and the grey background allows the plants to shine. He and his wife are reaping value from the garden.

"Having our food during this time makes economic sense. Besides, the garden feels like another place to go to other than sitting indoors watching TV," says Kelvin, who can spend a whole day in the garden. "This place is our 'new outdoors.' I cringe when I imagine what I'd be doing without this space. I love my beautiful garden," he says.

With many people craving for beautiful outdoors, his neighbours have been coming for gardening tips and tricks, and to borrow herbs and cuttings. "I'm thinking of commercialising my herbs knowledge. When you come here next, I'll have a new title: herbalist," Kelvin says.



Amer Manyok Deng, chairperson of the South Sudan Women's Bloc.

## ACTIVISM

## South Sudan women seek equity in the government

JUBA

Partners in South Sudan's unity government violated a provision of the 2018 revitalized peace agreement that states that 35% of all government positions should be filled by women, women's groups say.

Amer Manyok Deng, chairperson of the South Sudan Women's Bloc, a stakeholder at the peace talks, urged President Salva Kiir on Thursday to revoke his recent appointment of eight governors, of which only one is a woman.

If he refuses, Deng told South Sudan in Focus, Kiir should find a solution that meets the required 35% quota for female representation at all levels of government. "These spaces, we are not going to leave it like that," Deng told VOA. "They have to call out the rest of the people who are seated in our space and the women must be there. In case it becomes difficult for the president to reverse the decree for the appointment of the governors, he has to appoint all deputy governors female."

In addition, Deng said, half of the president's cabinet should be female, as should the speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly and chief justice. The September 2018 revitalized peace deal states that all stakeholders should allocate 35% of their share of positions at all levels of government to women.

Not too late for change

Kiir announced the appointment of eight of 10 governors and three area administrators on Monday, all of whom took the oath of office on Wednesday. It's not too late to reverse those appointments, according to Deng.

"This [is] a right in the agreement and it is signed and the SPLM Party [Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement] are the ones who launched the anticipation of women, and women affirmative action 35% in 2016, so we are wondering why should it be SPLM again to violate it," she said. Women lobbied relentlessly to ensure that the country's stakeholders would appoint women to positions of power in the transitional government, according to Caroline Kibos of the South Sudan Women's Coalition.

"We even submitted a list of women we thought could have positions in this government, but we are just so disappointed that these people did not consider women voices, although women have been in this throughout the negotiations, the mediation, and women have played a role in all these processes," Kibos told South Sudan in Focus. "We wonder why it is only at this point that they forget women, yet they made commitments to honour the 35% representation of women."

Women who try to meet with government officials to discuss the inequity issue cannot get an appointment, Deng said. "They have very serious security at their gates," Deng told VOA. "When we want to approach them in their offices, we are given an appointment, which is not taking place for years. Their security personnel at the gate, in their offices, are the ones who start ignoring us." If women were given a chance to lead public offices, they would do better than men in terms of service delivery and maintaining security, Deng said.

## STRANGE

# Miss, the dogs ate my homework - for real!

JOHANNESBURG

The classic "the dogs ate my homework" excuse became a reality for a Bryanston Primary School pupil in a bizarre series of domestic disasters that started with an innocent glass of Milo.

Johannesburg-based nursery school teacher Andrie Krokos told News24 that the home-schooling efforts of her son Chris went to the dogs on 25 June. Twelve-year-old Chris is in Grade 6 and, like most pupils forced to study at home during the national coronavirus lockdown, is battling to keep up with schoolwork and homework assignments as it is.

But on that fateful day, Chris was not going to get much work done... Krokos said she had collected Chris' assignments in paper format from the school because he is dyslexic and finds it easier to learn from books as opposed to online resources.

"So we had everything on the table, ready to go, and suddenly he said he was thirsty and went off to get some Milo. He put the glass of Milo on the table on the edge of one of the tablecloth weights and the glass just fell over and the Milo was just everywhere - on every single book. It was just chaos! We were trying to clean it up by shaking off the Milo and wiping it down, before putting the books outside in the sun to dry." That is when the second disaster struck.

"All of a sudden I hear Chris shouting: 'Ants! Ants! There were just ants everywhere. Every ant in the greater Johannesburg area decides that it is a Milo party at our house and attacks his books and anyone sitting in



Chris Krokos with the dogs that 'ate his homework', Max and Leo.

their path. We shake them off, sweep the ants out the door and put the books on the table outside in the sun to finish drying them off and for the remaining ants to enjoy their feast."

"We were watching TV and then I hear Chris shouting: 'The dogs got my books!'. These dogs are super

playful, so as soon as Chris tried to grab the books from them, they just bolted." According to Krokos, the dogs are used to playing tug-of-war with ropes and other toys, so they thought it was playtime and tried every trick in the book to not let go of Chris' schoolwork.

"They would drop one book and run to pick up the next book as we were trying to grab the books from them - this went on for about 10 minutes." Krokos posted a picture of Chris' torn-up, Milo-drenched homework on Facebook under the caption: "How is lockdown home

schooling going you may ask. Well..."

"This is a classic case of 'the dog ate my homework'," Krokos says, laughing. Fortunately, Chris returns to school on Monday, so his schoolwork will not end up looking like a dog's breakfast again anytime soon.







## WORLD

## Diplomacy in time of virus cements ties

BY CAO DESHENG

THE COVID-19 pandemic may have pressed the “pause” button on interaction between countries, but China’s diplomacy led by President Xi Jinping, in the form of phone calls, correspondence and videoconferences, has helped to further enhance the country’s relations with the rest of the world amid the pandemic, officials and experts said.

The intensive interactions between Xi and other world leaders in the first half of this year have contributed to jointly working out ways to effectively respond to the public health crisis and offset the impact of the pandemic on the world economy, they said.

Since the start of the outbreak, Xi has engaged with more than 50 foreign leaders and heads of international organizations through phone calls and meetings, and advanced international cooperation in fighting the novel coronavirus.

On June 22, he met with the European Union’s new leadership European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen via video link to strengthen China-EU cooperation.

He also attended a series of virtual multilateral events, including the Ex-

traordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit and the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly, and hosted the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 via video link.

In addition, Xi sent letters to foreign leaders to extend his sympathy to the people of epidemic-affected countries, express China’s support to them for their efforts in curbing the virus and strengthen bilateral ties.

Speaking at a news conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People’s Congress, the nation’s top legislature, on May 24, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that in all of Xi’s diplomatic engagements in what was called “cloud diplomacy”, in the form of phone calls, correspondence and video conferences, the president underscored China’s unequivocal commitment to global solidarity and cooperation against COVID-19.

More than 170 foreign leaders, 50-plus heads of international and regional organizations and more than 300 political parties or organizations have expressed their sympathy over the outbreak and their support for China’s efforts to curb the virus through phone calls, letters or making statements, the Foreign Ministry said.

China has also provided aid in medi-

cal supplies and expertise to other countries while sharing information and anti-epidemic experience with them. By the end of May, China had exported anti-epidemic materials such as masks and protective clothing to over 200 countries and regions, the ministry said.

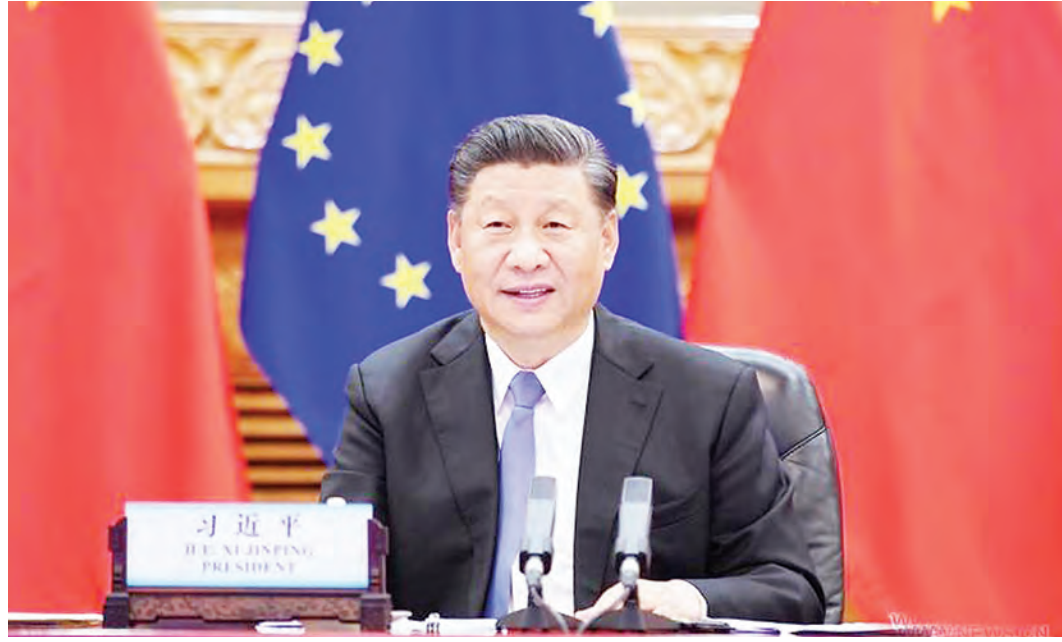
Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxi said at a news conference last month that China’s relations with the majority of countries have been improved and strengthened amid the epidemic and its circle of friends has been expanded.

China’s cooperation with the international community in the fight against the virus has significantly enhanced its ties with other countries and promoted pragmatic cooperation with them, Ma said.

Addressing the Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit, Xi called on the international community to be resolute in fighting a global war against COVID-19, make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level, leverage and coordinate international macro policies to counteract the negative impact of the contagion and prevent the world economy from falling into recession.

In a written message to the China-Arab States Political Parties Dialogue Extraordinary Meeting held via video link last week, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is also the general secretary of the Ba’ath Party in Syria, praised China’s active efforts in upholding cooperation with the international community in the fight against the disease.

He said that China has played a significant role in responding to the pandemic, and he expressed hope that China will play a bigger role in the field of international politics.



President Xi Jinping

## Brazil’s Bolsonaro would veto bill regulating fake news in current form

BRASILIA

BRAZIL’S President Jair Bolsonaro said he would veto a bill regulating fake news, which has also been criticized by social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter, if it comes to his desk from Congress in its present shape.

A network of Bolsonaro’s right-wing supporters is being investigated for propagating fake news to denigrate opponents and attack the country’s democratic institutions.

Speaking on a Facebook live broadcast, his favorite channel of communication with his backers, Bolsonaro (pictured) said he was for “total freedom of the media” as he criticized the bill passed by the Senate on Tuesday.

The proposal has returned to the lower chamber to approve changes.

Facebook, Twitter and Google have jointly criticized the bill as a serious threat to privacy by requiring social media account holders to provide an identity document and a cellphone number for verification purposes when registering.

The companies called it a “massive gathering of data on people” that undermined the right to protect data.

They also said the requirement to keep databases on servers in Brazil would endanger privacy and hurt the economy because it would create barriers to commerce that were contrary to the global and open nature of the Internet. Bolsonaro said he would “consult the people” before deciding whether to veto the bill or sign it into law.

Agencies

## Brexit negotiators home in on landing zone despite disputes

By Bloomberg

UK and European Union negotiators have started to sketch out the broad outline of an agreement on their future relationship as both sides look to the other to make compromises to seal the deal.

After talks in Brussels ended this week a day earlier than planned, officials close to the negotiations said the two teams are beginning to coalesce around a general “landing zone” that could form the basis of an agreement on trade and other areas of cooperation.

The two sides will regroup in London next week. While both acknowledge major sticking points remain and time is short, the negotiators have so far managed to retain the air of optimism that has surrounded the talks since a telephone call between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the EU leadership last month injected fresh momentum, the officials said.

The teams are conscious of the need to make swift progress. Johnson has called for an accord by the end of July, while the EU has identified a summit of leaders in mid-October as the last possible moment for a deal to be reached, to allow for the several weeks then needed to ratify it.

The two sides are heading for a stripped-down agreement that includes a free trade deal eliminating tariffs and quotas, but it will probably fall short of the broader accord the bloc had originally proposed, an EU official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

Judges, fish

The bloc has signaled that it is prepared to back down from its demands to keep the same access to British fishing waters it enjoys today and for the European Court of Justice to have a role in policing any agreement.

Negotiators are also looking at ways to distance the UK from the direct jurisdiction of the ECJ, even if, under the bloc’s rules, it has to remain the ultimate arbiter of EU law.

The EU’s chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, has also signaled that the bloc is ready to rethink its position on the level playing field. The rules, designed to ensure fair competition between the two sides, are one of the biggest points of contention in the talks. Barnier has suggested he is open to discussion about whether Britain will be required to follow the EU’s framework for state aid.

Agencies

## WHO says ‘very little risk’ that pets can infect owners with virus

GENEVA

THERE is ‘very little risk’ that pets can infect their owners with COVID-19, the chief scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

Soumya Swaminathan, WHO chief scientist, told a Geneva news conference that felines, ferrets and “even tigers” have been infected with the disease.

“There is very little risk from domestic animals because there was some concern about domestic animals becoming a source of infection,” she said.

UK

Britain will end coronavirus quarantines for people arriving in England from more than 50 countries, including Germany, France, Spain and Italy - but not the United States - the British government said on Friday.

The move, effective July 10, clears the way for millions of British tourists to take summer holidays without worrying about being quarantined when they return. Those arriving from higher risk countries will still have to self-quarantine for 14 days under a rule which has angered airlines

and travel companies. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s government had debated for days how to ease the quarantine rules. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which set their own health policies within the United Kingdom, have not an-



and travel companies.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s government had debated for days how to ease the quarantine rules. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which set their own health policies within the United Kingdom, have not an-

nounced plans to lift the measures.

“There will be a list of 50 plus countries and if you add in the overseas territories, 60 something or other that we will publish later today,” Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said.

“Today marks the next step in carefully reopening our great nation,” he said.

As the spread of the novel coronavirus slows in Europe, countries are reopening travel after more than three months of lockdown.

The full list of countries has not

yet been published. New Zealand is included, as are the Vatican and Britain’s overseas territories such as the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar. The United States remains on the “red list”.

“The US from a very early stage banned flights from the UK and from Europe so there isn’t a reciprocal arrangement in place,” Shapps said.

Britain’s foreign ministry will also set out exemptions from a global advisory against “all but essential” international travel, from July 4, a key to normal insurance being valid. Agencies

## No decisions on reopening Russian borders as of yet, negotiations underway – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is discussing with certain countries reopening of borders closed amid the coronavirus pandemic, but no concrete decisions have been made as of now, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

“This is a question to the response center of the government. Contacts continue with certain states, but no

concrete decisions have been made as of yet,” Peskov said.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Russia was scaling down international flights from February 1, while on March 27 all flights abroad were stopped with the exception of repatriation, cargo and mail flights.

The government also issued instructions to restrict from March 30 travel across automobile, railway, pedestrian and other border-cross-



ing points.

In reply to a question about difficulties faced by foreign nationals during border crossing, emerging on Russia’s border with its neigh-

bors, for example Kazakhstan, Peskov said. “Everything that Russia can do in terms of coordinating its activity with the colleagues in respective countries is being done, but the situation is no easy sometimes, we are all well aware of this.”

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. According to the latest statistics, over 10.8 million people have been infected worldwide and

about 520,000 deaths have been reported.

To date, 667,883 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Russia, with 437,893 patients having recovered from the disease. Russia’s latest data indicates 9,859 fatalities nationwide. Earlier, the Russian government set up an Internet hotline to keep the public updated on the coronavirus situation. Agencies

By Harrison Kimani

## ‘I feel proud to stick to my job on the railway artery’

I was born in the 1990s and became an attendant for the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) three years ago and later a chief conductor.

I now serve at the dispatching center of the railway operator, mainly responsible for dispatching the trains, monitoring their operations and providing assistance in emergencies.

Contracted and built by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR is the first newly built railway in Kenya in nearly a century.

As an important part of the standard-gauge railway project in Kenya, the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR has greatly driven economic and social development along the route since it opened on May 31, 2017.

In 2019, the average attendance rate of the SGR passen-

ger trains reached 95 percent. Besides, 16 freight trains run on a daily basis along the railway, transporting six million tons of cargos.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Kenya, the country has taken strict safety measures. Though the SGR suspended its passenger service, it is still transporting freights, ferrying medical supplies and daily necessities to different parts of Kenya.

To ensure orderly operation of the railway and avoid the risk of infection during the commute, many Kenyan employees volunteered to station at work-

places. As the dispatching center is crucial to the safe operation of the railway and has to be equipped with adequate personnel, I also volunteered to



A local electrician checks the equipment at a plant along the Mombasa-Nairobi standard gauge railway. (File photo)

stay.

The company has worked hard to ensure the safety and

health of the employees that chose to stay at workplaces, and provided us with masks, gloves,

hand sanitizer, goggles and other supplies. It was really heartwarming and reassuring.

During this period of time, my colleagues and I worked extra hours with a sense of duty.

Consilia, head of train drivers, got up at 5 a.m. every day to take the temperature of on-duty drivers, made sure the trains were disinfected and the employees wore masks and gloves and washed hands.

I’m inspired by my colleagues’ devotion, and feel proud to stick to my job on the railway artery during the pandemic.

Nearly 80 percent of the employees working at the operator of the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR are from Kenya. The Chinese side has shared experience in railway construction and operation with them and helped them

grasp and understand relevant skills and knowledge in a more comprehensive and professional way, which helps facilitate the localization of the company and the railway development in Kenya. Recently, the Chinese side has doubled its training courses for Kenyan employees to 16 every month and enabled each employee to receive training for eight times every month, up from the original four times.

As I once studied at Shandong Normal University of China and could speak both fluent Mandarin and English, I volunteered to be a translator in the training courses and benefited a lot from the courses.

In recent years, China and Kenya have continuously deepened cooperation in railway construction under the frame-

work of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The first phase of the Nairobi-Malaba SGR, contracted by China Communications Construction, opened on October 16, 2019 and I witnessed the precious moment on the first train departing.

As the extension of the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR, the first phase of the railway linking Nairobi and Malaba has improved the standard gauge railway network of Kenya and solidified the position of the country as a regional transport and logistics hub.

I hope that railway will bring prosperity and hope to every corner of Kenya after the pandemic ends.

A local electrician checks the equipment at a plant along the Mombasa-Nairobi standard gauge railway.

People’s Daily



# A more stable Hong Kong will better serve global investors

BEIJING

THE national security law has officially taken effect in Hong Kong late Tuesday. It will effectively guarantee long-term stability and prosperity in the Chinese city for global investors in the years to come.

The Pearl of the Orient has long been an ideal place for multinational companies. Over the more than two decades since returning to China, the city has further consolidated its status as an international financial hub and global trade center, as well as a key bridge linking the Chinese mainland with the rest of the world. It was rated the world's top IPO market in 2018 and remains the largest offshore RMB business center in the world.

However, Hong Kong last year saw rampant violence and chaos as radical extremists in the city colluded with meddlers overseas. That turbulent situation in Hong Kong has raised the red flag on the absence of a legal system and enforcement mechanisms on safeguarding national security, and reminded Beijing of the urgency and necessity to better defend China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

The timely arrival of the national security law, just ahead of the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China,

is a decisive step to better uphold and implement the "one country, two systems" principle, create a safer and more stable environment, and better protect the legitimate rights and interests of residents and businesses in the territory. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and its role as a free market and trading hub will never be changed.

In fact, many businesses worldwide have cast their vote of confidence in Hong Kong protected by the new law. In a recent survey by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce on 418 businesses in the city, 75 percent expect positive or no impact at all on their day-to-day operations. Another report by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong showed that over 70 percent of U.S. companies have no plans to relocate their businesses.

"What businesses want is stability and certainty. They want to know that their business isn't going to be disrupted by social unrest," Stephen Phillips, director-general of Investment Promotion at Invest Hong Kong, said in an interview with Xinhua. "So the vast majority are really welcoming (the law)."

Hong Kong's geographic strengths coupled with its generally stable and peaceful society are an important factor behind its growing global economic and



trade clout. Yet an ever stronger economy in the Chinese mainland and its increasingly closer bond with Hong Kong are a more attractive factor for investors around the world. And only by combining those elements together can Hong Kong's brighter future be possible.

For years, Hong Kong has seen an increasingly deeper participation and played a more active role in China's modernization process and its unremitting reform and opening-up drive.

On the one hand, development initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area city cluster, and

the RMB's internationalization will offer a multitude of opportunities to inbound investors and electrify the city's long-term growth.

The Greater Bay Area, with a population of about 70 million and an over 1.4 trillion U.S. dollar economy, will greatly expand Hong Kong's scope for development, and effectively support its sustainable growth with more open and diversified industries.

On the other hand, a more prosperous Hong Kong will also help promote economic development for China as a whole. As a "super connector" between China and its global BRI partners, a more tranquil Hong Kong can better leverage its traditional advantages in world trade and finance to help build a global trade and investment network and enhance regional and international connectivity.

Since last year, rampant street violence has taken a heavy toll on Hong Kong's economy, notably on its tourism industry, and sent the city on track for economic contraction. It once again shows that without stability, economic development would be a non-starter. And the freshly implemented national security law will serve as a ballast for Hong Kong's long-term stability and prosperity.

Xinhua

## No plans to take into account other countries' 'concerns' about amendments, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has no plans to take into account other countries' so-called concerns about constitutional amendments approved in Russia's nationwide vote, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

According to him, Moscow is aware of critical statements that some countries have made in relation to the approved amendments.

"However, we are not ready to take them into account," the Kremlin spokesman said. He pointed out that "Russia has definitely been and will remain committed to international law, to the letter and spirit of international law."

"At the same time, Russia has been and will remain committed, first and foremost, to national sovereignty, which is in no way contrary to international law," Peskov stressed, adding: "Moreover, a number of countries pursue similar practices."

"We are not ready to take these so-called concerns into account and will not do it," the Russian presidential spokesman emphasized.

According to earlier reports, the European Union believes that the amendment asserting the primacy of the Russian Constitution over international law is "incompatible with Russia's international obligations."

The EU's foreign policy spokesman Peter Stano said in a statement: "We expect Russia, regardless of any amendments to its constitution, to live up to its international obligations." Agencies

# Tokyo's 1st woman governor set for re-election even as virus cases rise

TOKYO

TOKYO Governor Yuriko Koike looks set to cruise to victory in her bid for re-election tomorrow, buoyed by approval of her handling of the novel coronavirus even as a recent rise in infections triggers new concerns in the Japanese capital.

Koike, 67 (pictured) often floated as a potential prime minister, won plaudits from the public for her straight-talking approach to the pandemic in contrast with

what critics say was Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's initially slow and clumsy response.

A former defence and environment minister, Koike is promising to prepare Tokyo - which accounts for about 20 percent of Japan's economy - for any second wave of infections and gain public understanding for a "simplified" Olympics next year after the 2020 Summer Games were postponed because of the coronavirus.

"She'll win by a landslide," said



independent political analyst Atsuo Ito, noting a poll in late May put her approval rating at about 70 percent while her opposition is divided and Abe's Liberal Democratic Party is not running

a candidate.

A former television announcer with well-honed communication skills, Koike warned in late March that Tokyo could face a coronavirus lockdown and called for an early state of emergency to tackle it. She then tussled with Abe's government over what businesses to target for shutdowns after he declared an emergency in April. Japan has not seen the explosive outbreak of the virus suffered elsewhere but Tokyo, with a population of some 14 million,

accounts for nearly 6,400 of its approximately 19,000 cases.

On Thursday, the metropolis confirmed 107 new cases, the most in two months, but the government - eager to revive a slumping economy - said it was not planning to reimpose the emergency that was lifted on May 25. More 120 new cases were found in Tokyo yesterday, the Nikkei newspaper reported.

Koike has said it might be necessary to hold a more bare-bones Olympics next year because of

the pandemic's impact, but it is not clear who will shoulder the huge costs of the postponement and whether the Games can really go ahead in 2021.

Among other challenges she will face are repairing the city's finances and coping with an ageing population. Koike, who has switched parties several times and shares many of Abe's conservative views, bolted from the LDP in 2016 to make a successful bid to become Tokyo's first female governor. Agencies

# Health hazard and environmental degradation in Xinjiang

ON April 16, 2020, the US State Department said in a report that China may have secretly conducted low-level underground nuclear test at Lop Nur despite claiming to observe an international pact banning such blasts.

The report further claimed extensive excavation activity being carried out at Lop Nur nuclear test site throughout 2019. Though the test might come as a surprise for international community, for Uighurs it is just another one added to the long list of nuclear test that have been conducted at Lop Nur.

Urumqi, Turpan, Qumul and Korla are cities with Uighur population that reside within 320 km from the test site. The nuclear tests, conducted over the years, have led to death of around 200,000 people and at least 1.5 million people have been affected by radioactive material released during the nuclear test.

Just to give a comparison, the total amount of plutonium released over the years in the atmosphere of Xinjiang is estimated to be 6 million times more than what was released during the Chernobyl accident.

Cases of leukaemia, bone cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, brain tumours and bone diseases are on the rise in the region. There is no health system; the victims, themselves, have to pay for the cost of treatment.

These nuclear tests have also polluted air and underground water with radiation resulting in diseases and destruction of ecology. The Techa River, which is the main

source of water supply for many people, is also affected by radiation that has probably led to 90% of the patients in Xinjiang suffer from blood cancer.

Beside nuclear hazard, the Uighur are also witnessing exploitation of their natural resources and environmental degradation. On April 22, 2020, the Uighur Human Rights Protect (UHRP), in a statement, mentioned that the Chinese government had increased extraction of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region's (XUAR) natural resources like minerals and fossil fuels and had expanded intensive agriculture and industrial production in the region.

They believe that Chinese government's plans to establish water intensive textile industries would only exacerbate pollution and water scarcity. Heavy polluting industries are already being relocated from Chinese provinces to XUAR.

The Uighurs are not only being marginalized from exploitation of their homeland's natural resources, but also have no freedom to speak about environmental issues affecting their well being.

China should allow an independent investigation to find out the extent to which the Uighurs have been affected by nuclear testing and the damage these tests have caused to the environment. It needs to acknowledge its responsibility and provide appropriate medical care to the victims and also implement necessary measures to provide compensation to the victims. The international community, including the UN, the EU and en-

vironmental NGOs must continue to draw attention to this issue.

A new relation about the exploitation of Uighur Muslims was made in March this by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). The ASPI published a report claiming that at least 80,000 Uighurs had been subjected to do "forced labour" in factories across China supplying to 83 global brands.

The report identified a network of at least 27 factories in nine Chinese provinces where more than 80,000 Uighurs from Xinjiang had been transferred. When confronted, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said "those studying in vocational centres have all graduated and are employed with the help of our government."

"They now live a happy life". This is perhaps the next phase of the ongoing crackdown in Xinjiang where more than a million Uighurs have been detained under the guise of "Vocational Training Centre".

It seems China is not content with oppressing only the living Uighurs as it has not spared even the dead from the community. It has demolished more than 100 Uighur graveyards in what human rights groups described as an escalation of the communist regime's campaign to destroy the Muslim minority's culture. Satellite images show that burial sites in western Xinjiang province have been wiped out with some turned into car parks and playgrounds.

Aziz Isa Elkun, a Uighur poet who fled the region more than 20 years ago and now lives in London,

said he had "visited his father's grave on Google Earth for nearly two years after he died. But one day an updated satellite image showed the cemetery a had been replaced with a field."

Sophie Richardson, China Director at Human Rights Watch, says, "Authorities in Beijing and Urumqi don't seem content tormenting Truckie Muslim alive today - it appears their hostility to that community also extends to the dead".

Another shocking aspect of the repressive measure in Xinjiang is the harvesting of organs from Uighur Muslim. The China Tribunal, an independent global group initiated by the International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China accused China of harvesting organs from persecuted minority groups.

Hamid Sabi, a lawyer for the Tribunal, claimed that Beijing was taking hearts, kidneys, lungs and skin from minority groups, including Uighur Muslims. He underlined that it involved hundreds of thousands of victims and termed it as one of the worst mass atrocities of the century.

Whenever questioned, China has always officially responded by saying that the Xinjiang issue is not about ethnicity, religion or human rights rather it is about fighting violence, terrorism and extremism.

But time and again reports on human rights violations in the region have validated the contrary. It is high time the suffering of the Uighurs in Xinjiang ended and Chinese leadership held accountable for the injustice.

Agencies

# ILO warns of uncertain job market

THE global labor market is facing a highly uncertain recovery in the second half of the year amid the coronavirus pandemic, with female workers suffering disproportionately from its impact, according to a report from the International Labour Organization, or ILO.

The report "ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work: 5th Edition" shows that the number of working hours lost across the world in the first half of 2020 was significantly worse than previously estimated. It was released by the ILO on Tuesday.

Global working hours saw a 14 percent drop during the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to the loss of 400 million full-time jobs. It is a sharp increase from an estimate issued on May 27 of a 10.7 percent drop, or the loss of 305 million jobs, the report said.

The new figures also reflect the worsening situation in many regions over the past weeks, especially in developing economies in parts of the Americas, the Asia-Pacific and Africa. Countries in these regions were among those with the biggest loss of working time.

About 93 percent of the world's workers live in countries with some sort of workplace closures, with the Americas experiencing the greatest restrictions, the monitor said. Mexico's national statistics agency INEGI said on Tuesday that 12 million people have lost their jobs since March as part of the economic fallout from the pandemic, and



Migrant labourers wait to get tea and refreshment at a camp set up by Delhi Government during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus, in New Delhi. (File photo)

the number of people working in the informal sector has shot up significantly. In Brazil, the unemployment rate rose to almost 13 percent in the March-May quarter as the effects of the pandemic saw a record 7.8 million jobs cut, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

Gender inequalities

As for women, the ILO's report highlighted the disproportionate impact on them, so much so that is feared that some of the modest progress on gender equality made in recent decades will be lost and work-related gender inequalities will be exacerbated.

The severe impact of COVID-19 on female workers relates to their overrepresentation in some of the economic sectors worst affected by the crisis, such as accommodation, food, sales and manufacturing, it said.

Globally, almost 510 million,

or 40 percent, of all employed women work in the four most-affected sectors, compared with 36.6 percent of men, according to statistics from the agency.

Chen Yun, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security, said industries based on customer service "experienced the most direct and greatest impact brought by the pandemic", and would be affected for a relatively longer time.

"It will take some time for people to eliminate the psychological effects caused by the pandemic. It is difficult for such industries to recover in the short term," he said.

Women also dominate in domestic work and the health and social care sectors, where they are at greater risk of losing their income, of infection and transmission, and are less likely to have social protection.

Agencies

# Beijing takes measures to intensify epidemic prevention

BEIJING has rolled out various measures to build a solid line of defense in the battle against the COVID-19 epidemic by plugging the loopholes in epidemic response and raising the standards of epidemic control.

The capital city had reported 205 confirmed cases as of June 19. It has raced against the clock and made all-out efforts to contain the epidemic in a proactive manner since the first new local case was reported on June 11.

So far, Beijing has strengthened inspection and screening to ensure that no case is left off, focusing on the service sector with high population mobility and medical institutions.

Beijing has done blanket tracking on cases, conducted epidemiological investigations of confirmed cases and enhanced epidemic prevention and control of hospitals.

A nurse from the emergency department of Peking University International Hospital (PUIH) was

diagnosed with the coronavirus on June 19, drawing public attention.

At a press conference held on the next day, Beijing introduced the details of the case and PUIH's prevention and control measures, as well as the city's control of hospital-acquired infections, responding to public concerns.

The capital has sent 11 medical groups and 14 experts to guide and supervise fever clinics of 20 medical institutions with a relatively higher numbers of confirmed cases. They

summoned heads of eight hospitals, five districts and two administrative units for face-to-face meetings regarding the problems discovered.

Besides, they also requested medical institutions to take serious measures to identify problems according to the city's 16 precautions against hospital-acquired infections, and conquer such problems with quick actions, asking medical institutions and local governments to shoulder their responsibility.

The city has strengthened super-

vision and screening in key industries with high population mobility, mainly focusing on the service sector, and immediately rectified problems identified.

Beijing has launched comprehensive monitoring and law enforcement on epidemic control in public places of massive gathering, such as medical institutions, shopping malls, supermarkets, hotels, and bus stations, as well as centralized and secondary drinking water suppliers.

A total of 479 units and places failed to meet standards and were requested to rectify to close loopholes and build a solid line of defense.

Focusing on key groups of people, key areas and key sectors, nucleic acid tests will first be conducted for high-risk groups related to affected markets, including Xinfadi, and their neighboring communities, and then gradually extended to people working in catering businesses, shopping malls, supermar-

kets and bazaars, residents in the 36 medium- and high-risk areas, and those working in parcel and food delivery.

A total of 2,083 testing stations are operating at 474 testing sites set up at the city and district levels, where 7,472 medical workers, seconded from 59 Tier-Two and Tier-Three medical institutions, 28 third-party testing institutions and 20 disease control and prevention centers, are working in shifts to take samples at full capacity. People's Daily





Adam Silver

## As Florida virus numbers rise, NBA arrivals draw closer

NEW YORK

THE coronavirus numbers kept climbing Thursday, with a single-day record for new cases being set in Florida and the NBA revealing that the count of players and staff from the 22 remaining teams that have confirmed diagnoses of COVID-19 continues to grow.

The NBA numbers: nine more positive players from tests conducted between June 24-29 to bring the total to 25 who have been positive since mandated testing began June 23, as well as 10 positive-testing staff members from the teams that will start arriving at the Disney complex near Orlando, Florida next week for the resumption of the season.

And statewide, health departments around Florida got more than 10,000 new positive cases back on Wednesday, a single-day record for a state that remains very much under siege from the virus and likely a troubling sign for the NBA - which remains hopeful that highly restrictive rules at Disney will keep players and staff safe.

"It's so much uncertainty," San Antonio guard DeMar DeRozan said Thursday. "Name me a player who can give you an answer on anything. I wish I could give you an answer. It's tough, man. It's tough. I sit up here and tell guys on my team we've just got to take things day by day, because it becomes overwhelming and frustrating at times when you try to look at the whole spectacle of things and try to figure it out."

Percentage-wise, the NBA numbers are much lower than the rate of positive tests in many hotspot areas, including the average in Florida. With 351 players tested through June 29, the league had 25 positives for a 7.1% rate. Among 884 team staff tested between June 23 and June 29, the rate was minuscule - the 10 positives equate to a mere 1.1% positive rate.

Under NBA policy, "any player, coach or team staff member who tested positive will remain in self-isolation until they satisfy public health protocols for discontinuing isolation and have been cleared by a physician."

Still, it is an issue that, as NBA

Commissioner Adam Silver has said many times, the league cannot outrun. Thursday marked the 113th day since the league suspended its season after Utah's All-Star duo of Rudy Gobert and Donovan Mitchell tested positive; they may have largely recovered physically, but there is still clearly a strain in the relationship, something Mitchell discussed in a teleconference Thursday.

"I wasn't happy in the beginning," Mitchell said. "I've said that publicly. It's no secret. ... And on top of that, it really took away from like what guys were working on. We've talked about what we've been working on for the past two months, and I feel like that's really been hijacked because of this whole thing."

As the numbers rise, the games get closer. At Disney, preparations continued for the arrivals that start on Tuesday. Practice courts have been put into place in what typically are hotel ballrooms. The arenas that will play host to games are being set up for NBA needs, and some staff were getting set to arrive to begin their quarantines.

"I trust the NBA, and the bubble," New Orleans rookie Zion Williamson said. "We're going to be in a safe environment. We're taking advice from certain situations. It's crazy - we're actually about to go. It's a lot to process, but I am excited."

So is Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, whose team is going to Disney with serious title hopes.

That said, Davis is also very aware of what's happening with the numbers.

"For the safety of the league, for the safety of all the players and the people there, I think everyone would be mindful of following the rules," Davis said.

"Obviously, the numbers are spiking in Orlando and I don't think anyone wants to get COVID - so I don't think that guys will put themselves or other players and staff that's going to be in the bubble in jeopardy. I know the NBA and Adam Silver talked about doing as much as they can to keep the bubble as safe as possible. I trust in them."

AP

## Mercedes one-two as F1 gets back on track in Austria

SPIELBERG, AUSTRIA

FORMULA One got back on track in changed circumstances yesterday but with Mercedes bringing a familiar look to the timing sheets as six times world champion Lewis Hamilton led team mate Valtteri Bottas one-two in Austrian Grand Prix free practice.

The Briton did 41 laps and lapped with a best time of one minute 04.816 seconds in a damp and overcast session, 0.356 faster than the Finn.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, winner of the last two races at his team's home track, was third fastest and 0.602 off Hamilton's pace.

McLaren's Carlos Sainz, who is heading to Ferrari at the end of the season, was first on track and finished the session fourth.

Ferrari, who have recognised problems with their car but have to wait for updates, had Charles Leclerc 10th and Sebastian Vettel, celebrating his 33rd birthday, 12th.

Sunday's race, the first of two in Austria on successive weekends, will be the latest start to a championship after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the scheduled Australian opener on March 15 before a wheel had turned.

Friday marked the first time all the drivers had been on track together since the end of pre-season testing in Barcelona last February.



McLaren's Lando Norris during practice, as F1 resumes following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Styria, Austria yesterday. REUTERS

The last time any of them raced was in Abu Dhabi in December last year.

"Motor Sport is back!" said International Automobile Federation (FIA) president Jean Todt on Twitter, moments after the cars left the Spielberg pitlane to begin lapping the scenic circuit.

"It's good to hear the engines and see cars again and almost get back to some phase of normality," Red Bull team boss Christian Horner told Sky F1 television.

"We all look like we're in some kind of hospital programme,

with all the face masks and the PPE (personal protective equipment)... but other than that working practices are very much as normal.

"This is day one of the season so it's a little bit odd coming here halfway through the year."

The race is being run under strict health and safety conditions, with teams operating in 'bubbles' and isolated from each other in a paddock, with drivers wearing face masks even when talking to the media by video link.

The race will be run completely without spectators

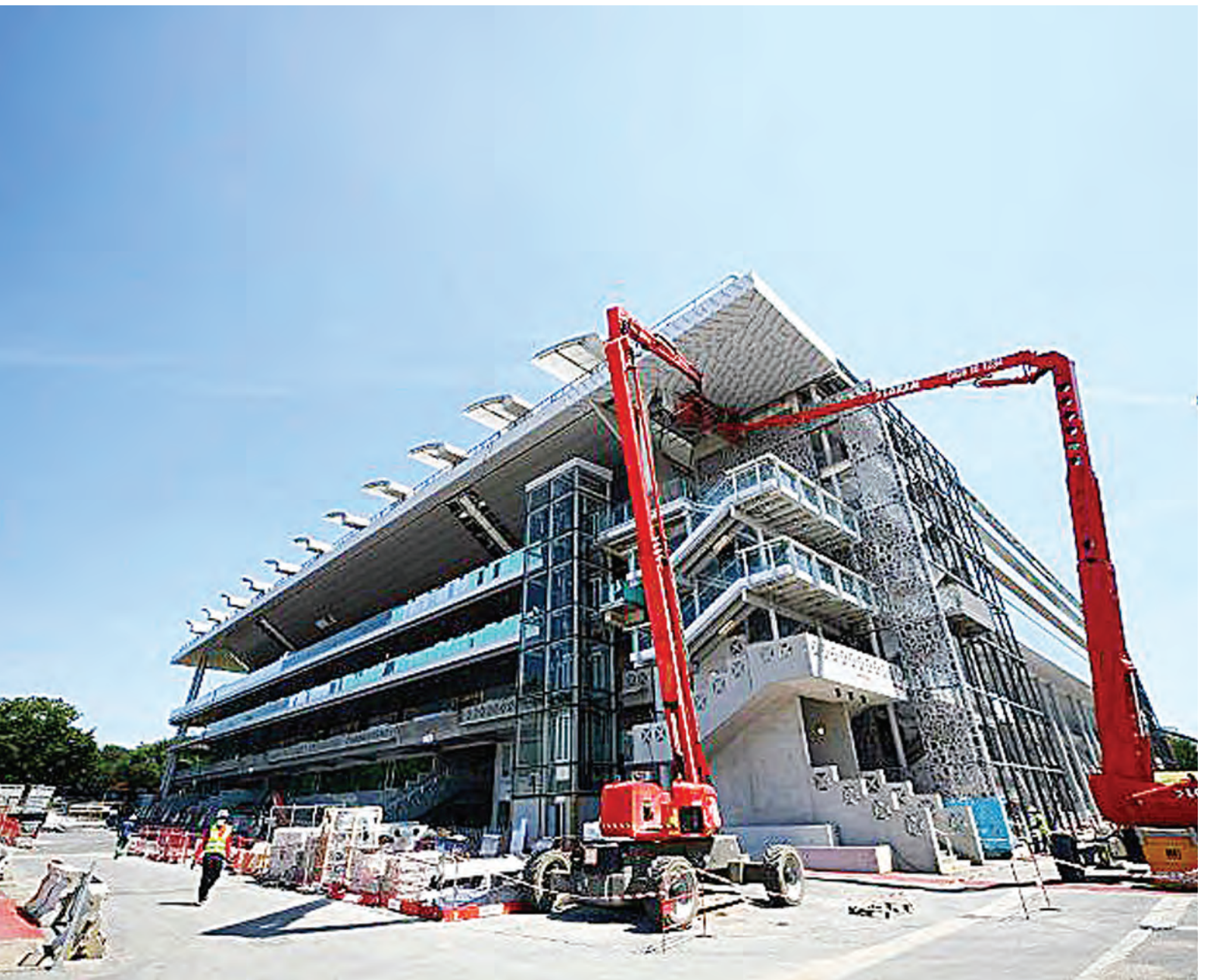
for the first time in Formula One history.

"We are all used to a lot of fans in the campsites, grandstands... but the most important thing is we are finally back on track and can put up a good show," said McLaren principal Andreas Seidl on a Zoom call.

McLaren triggered the abandonment of the Australian race in Melbourne after an employee tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Seidl said the entire team had a clean bill of health after the latest round of tests.

REUTERS



The 2020 edition will be the first French Open featuring Court Philippe Chatrier's new roof (AFP Photo)

## Djokovic, wife Jelena test negative for COVID-19

BELGRADE

NOVAK Djokovic and his wife Jelena have tested negative for COVID-19, nine days after returning a positive test, the world number one tennis player's media team said on Thursday.

Djokovic, along with Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki, tested positive after playing in the Adria Tour, an exhibition tournament organised by the 17-times Grand Slam champion.

"Novak Djokovic and his wife Jelena tested negative for COVID-19, as the most recent

test they took in Belgrade showed. They felt no symptoms of the virus and took the test after consultations with the doctors," the statement said.

"They spent the past 10 days in self-isolation upon returning from Zadar (in Croatia), having adhered to all COVID-19 protocols and safety measures."

The tournament witnessed packed stands during the opening leg staged at Djokovic's tennis complex in Belgrade from June 13-14, with players hugging at the net, playing basketball, posing for pictures and attending press conferences together.

REUTERS

## Up to 20,000 spectators to attend French Open each day

PARIS

THE French Open will allow up to 20,000 people to attend each day of this year's tournament despite the coronavirus pandemic, organisers announced on Thursday.

The French Tennis Federation (FFT) also said that up to 10,000 people would be able to watch the finals and that it may increase the capacity should the situation with COVID-19 continue to improve in France.

The clay-court Grand Slam event is set to start on September 27 and finish on October 11, with tickets to go on sale for the general public on July 16.

"The number of spectators allowed inside the stadium will be 50 percent to 60 percent of its usual capacity, allowing us to ensure the barrier measures are respected," the FFT said in a statement.

It also warned rules regarding attendance could be tightened in the event of another outbreak in the country.

"However, if the situation requires more stringent hygiene standards that force us to reduce the number of spectators on site, the tournament organisers will refund any supplementary tickets sold," the FFT added.

The US Open in New York is set to be the first Grand Slam since the coronavirus lockdown, starting on August 24, but is to be played behind closed doors, while Wimbledon was cancelled for the first time since World War II.

The French Open was pushed back from its traditional slot in the calendar in late May and early June after France entered a near two-month lockdown on

March 17.

The ATP and WTA Tours are set to restart in August, having been suspended since March.

Several exhibition tournaments have gone ahead since, with mixed success, including Novak Djokovic's ill-fated Adria Tour which had to be ended early after the world number one and three other players tested positive for the virus.

- Wearing masks obligatory - Spectators will have to adhere to social-distancing rules at the French Open and wearing a mask while on the Roland Garros site will be obligatory.

One seat will be left empty between each group of fans on show courts, with a maximum group of four people allowed to sit together, with every other seat to be vacant on outside courts.

"General public" tickets will be

accessible to spectators around the world, without "purchase discrimination", said FFT president Bernard Giudicelli.

But FFT director general Jean-Francois Vilotte stressed that people should "know the risks" related to their country of residence and will not be able to be reimbursed for their ticket if the health authorities prohibit them from travelling to France.

Unlike the US Open, Roland Garros will maintain its qualifying event in the week before the main draw.

Rafael Nadal will be bidding for a record-extending 13th men's singles crown, with Australian Ashleigh Barty defending the women's title.

France has recorded almost 30,000 deaths due to the coronavirus, with more than 165,000 confirmed cases.

AFP



## French prosecutors want Benzema to stand trial over sex tape

VERSAILLES, FRANCE

FRENCH prosecutors on Thursday asked for ex-national team star and Real Madrid footballer Karim Benzema to face trial on charges of involvement in an alleged attempt to blackmail fellow player Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape almost five years ago.

Prosecutors in Versailles outside Paris told AFP they want Benzema tried on charges of complicity in attempted blackmail over the incident in 2015. If convicted, he could face a five-year prison sentence.

Benzema's lawyer, Sylvain Cormier, said he was "not at all surprised" by the request. "These are false and unjustified charges," he added. "It's in line with what the prosecution has been doing in this case from the start."

Four others should also face trial, they said, but not former Liverpool and French international Djibril Cisse who had previously been implicated in the probe.

It is now up to the court to decide if a trial should take place and fix a date for the process to begin.

Benzema, 32, is suspected of encouraging his former teammate in the France team Valbuena to pay blackmailers who threatened to make the intimate video public.

According to the prosecution, Benzema evoked the existence of the video to Valbuena while the French team was preparing in October 2015 for a friendly match against Armenia in Nice.

Benzema contends all that took place was a simple and friendly

conversation to warn his international team-mate that such a tape existed.

Valbuena, however, alleges that there was the implication he had to pay to keep it out of the public sphere.

Benzema was indicted and briefly detained in November 2015 just before France was the next year to host the Euro 2016 football championship.

He has never since added to his 81 appearances for France and insists he is innocent. Valbuena, who played 52 times for the national side, has also never since played for France.

Cisse had been the first to inform Valbuena that the video existed but insists he was simply warning the footballer.

Benzema is the second highest scorer in La Liga this season for a Real side that is chasing just a second Spanish title in eight years.

However, French football federation president Noel Le Graet has said on a number of occasions that Benzema's international career was effectively over.

After being left out of the France squad for Euro 2016, Benzema accused the national coach Didier Deschamps of bowing "to pressure from a racist part of France".

But Deschamps has said that not selecting Benzema was better for the "balance" and "harmony" of his squad.

"As long as Didier Deschamps is coach, I have no chance of getting back into the France team," Benzema said in 2017.

AFP

## Mourinho now fumes at 'office' ref after VAR row

SHEFFIELD, UNITED KINGDOM

JOSE Mourinho claimed VAR will make fans fall out of love with football after Tottenham were the victims of a controversial goal reversal in their 3-1 defeat against Sheffield United on Thursday.

United took the lead through Sander Berge's first half strike at Bramall Lane.

But Tottenham were denied an equaliser moments later when Harry Kane's goal was chalked off by VAR for a dubious handball against Lucas Moura.

Lucas appeared to have the ball kicked against his arm in the buildup to Kane's strike and Tottenham manager Mourinho complained angrily on the touchline.

Lys Mousset and Oli McBurnie rubbed salt into Mourinho's wounds as they both netted for United after the interval.

Kane's last minute goal was no consolation for Tottenham, who are now in grave danger of missing out on next season's Champions League.

In a Premier League season marred by VAR making debatable calls too often, Mourinho said he fears for the future of football if the system is not addressed.

"I can only say that normally I'm a professional guy on the bench in these moments, I never complain at the guy with the whistle because it's not the referee any more," Mourinho said.

"This is the start of everything. I think the referee should always be the man on the pitch and the people in the office should just support and assist."

"That's not the way it is. The referee who is not very good on the pitch, we cannot expect that he's good in the office."

"We're going in a direction that's really bad for the beautiful game, the game that everybody fell in love with."

United manager Chris Wilder backed Mourinho, saying: "I have got a back catalogue of decisions that have gone against us. We are the unofficial champions of Europe on VAR decisions going against us."

"I can understand their manager's frustrations. I would be super

frustrated. It's a nonsense rule, it wasn't intentional."

Tottenham sit nine points behind fourth placed Chelsea and seven adrift of fifth placed Manchester United after their first defeat since the restart.

"We have to be mentally stronger to cope with what happened during the game. We cannot mentally die after Michael Oliver's decision," Mourinho said.

"With 50 minutes to go we have to be stronger. That's my criticism to my team in the second half."

The Blades, winners for the first time in five games following the hiatus, moved two points above Tottenham into seventh place, keeping alive their hopes of qualifying for European action.

- Sloppy defending -  
Mourinho's headache started when Berge put United in front in the 31st minute.

After spreading the ball wide to Chris Basham, Berge broke into the Tottenham area, collected the return pass and drilled his low shot into the far corner.

Tottenham thought they had equalised two minutes later as Lucas sprinted forward and, despite being pushed over, managed to knock the ball onto Kane, who cut inside and fired home.

Kane's celebrations were curtailed when VAR disallowed the goal for a handball by Moura, who had the ball kicked against his arm as he tumbled under pressure from several United players.

Mourinho's mood wasn't improved when already-booked United midfielder Oli Norwood escaped a red card for elbowing Son Heung-min.

Ben Osborn was making his first Premier League start and the United midfielder had a key role as they struck again in the 69th minute.

Breaking into the area, Osborn's deft pass picked out Enda Stevens and he squared for the unmarked Mousset to slot home from close-range for his first goal since December.

McBurnie put the result beyond doubt when he tapped in from Berge's cross in the 84th minute after more sloppy Tottenham defending.

# Liverpool thrashed 4-0 by Man City in 1st game as champions

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

AS they stepped onto the pitch, Liverpool's players were given a guard of honor from Manchester City. It was the only time they looked like Premier League champions on Thursday.

"I think they drank a lot of beers in the last week," City manager Pep Guardiola said.

The dethroned champions made sure there was an abrupt comedown from the partying. A merciless attacking display sparked by City scorers Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling and Phil Foden consigned Liverpool to a 4-0 loss exactly a week after its 30-year title drought ended.

"They were quicker than us in mind -- we lacked fluidity," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "Isn't it nice another team can be champions when Man City play so well?"

The slack defending and lack of sharpness from Liverpool was perhaps forgivable from players who had spent the previous 31 rounds establishing an unprecedented 23-point lead to become England's earliest champions.

Such an emphatic loss is not how Liverpool wanted to close out such a memorable season. Especially when there are still has enough games to overhaul City's record 100-point haul from 2017-18.

Klopp wasn't as downbeat as the result suggested - despite Liverpool going a fifth away game in all competitions without scoring.

"I saw a brilliant attitude, I saw boys who were fighting with all their effort," he said. "We didn't behave like somebody who became champions a week ago."



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah leaps over Manchester City's goalkeeper Ederson during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Liverpool at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England, Thursday, July 2, 2020. (AP Photo)

It was a night to forget for so many Liverpool players -- particularly Joe Gomez, who dragged Raheem Sterling down to concede a penalty converted by Kevin De Bruyne in the 25th minute.

"We tried to play football, taking risks," Guardiola said. "because they are the best team I ever faced in my life with high pressing, it is incredible how fast they are, how quick they play."

De Bruyne and Phil Foden helped City stylishly waltz through Liverpool and show how the title can be reclaimed next season.

Receiving a pass from Foden, Sterling took the ball past Gomez with left boot before using his right to knock in City's second in the 35th minute. Sterling and Gomez reunited in a Premier League match for the first time since Liverpool's victory over City at Anfield in November that was followed the next day by a training camp altercation while they were on England duty.

After being run ragged in central defense, Gomez was substituted at halftime.

Before the break, City still had time to produce a third.

The technique in the buildup would have had fans on their feet - if they were not prohibited due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead fewer than 300 people inside the Etihad Stadium could savor the counterattack that was capped by Foden playing a one-two with De Bruyne before raising the ball into the net past Alisson.

"This is a team that is evolving and changing - you can see the maturity Phil is playing with," Sterling said. "I think in the future we have some great players."

It summed up Liverpool's night that the fourth goal came from an own goal after another blistering City attacking move. De Bruyne picked out Sterling who turned Andrew Robertson and sent in a shot that was deflected into his own net by Alex Oxlade Chamberlain.

Only VAR spared Liverpool a greater humiliation in stoppage time when a handball by Foden was spotted in the buildup to Riyad Mahrez putting the ball in the net.

Consider it a message from City.

"Next season started today," said Sterling, who has won the Premier League twice since leaving Liverpool five years ago. "and we did well."

There is still unfinished business for City before pandemic-delayed conclusion to the season in August.

City plays Arsenal in the FA Cup semifinals and has a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid after the first leg of the Champions League's interrupted round of 16.

"We were disappointed at times this season having lost some games we shouldn't have," Sterling said. "So we had a test against the new champions (a chance) to make a point."

AFP

## 'Quite sad': Bayern, Leverkusen lament absent fans for German Cup final

BERLIN

TREBLE-CHASING Bayern Munich are hunting their second title this season in Saturday's German Cup final, a behind-closed-doors showdown that should have been an "absolute highlight" for success-starved Bayer Leverkusen fans.

Normally, the end-of-season showpiece final at Berlin's iconic Olympic Stadium would be a festive affair in front of a packed house of 75,000 supporters.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic just 700 will be allowed into the enormous stadium for this year's final, including both teams, their backroom staff and officials.

Germany head coach Joachim Loew is one of the few invited guests.

After the final whistle, when German FA president Fritz Keller hands over the trophy, only the cheers of the winning team will echo around the cavernous stadium.

Former Bayern president Uli Hoeness finds it "a pity" that no fans will be present for the Berlin spectacle, while Leverkusen sports director Rudi Voeller feels the same before his club's first cup final since 2009.

"For our fans, this would have been an absolute highlight after many years," said former Germany midfielder Voeller.

"To play in this giant cauldron in front of just a few spectators is quite sad."

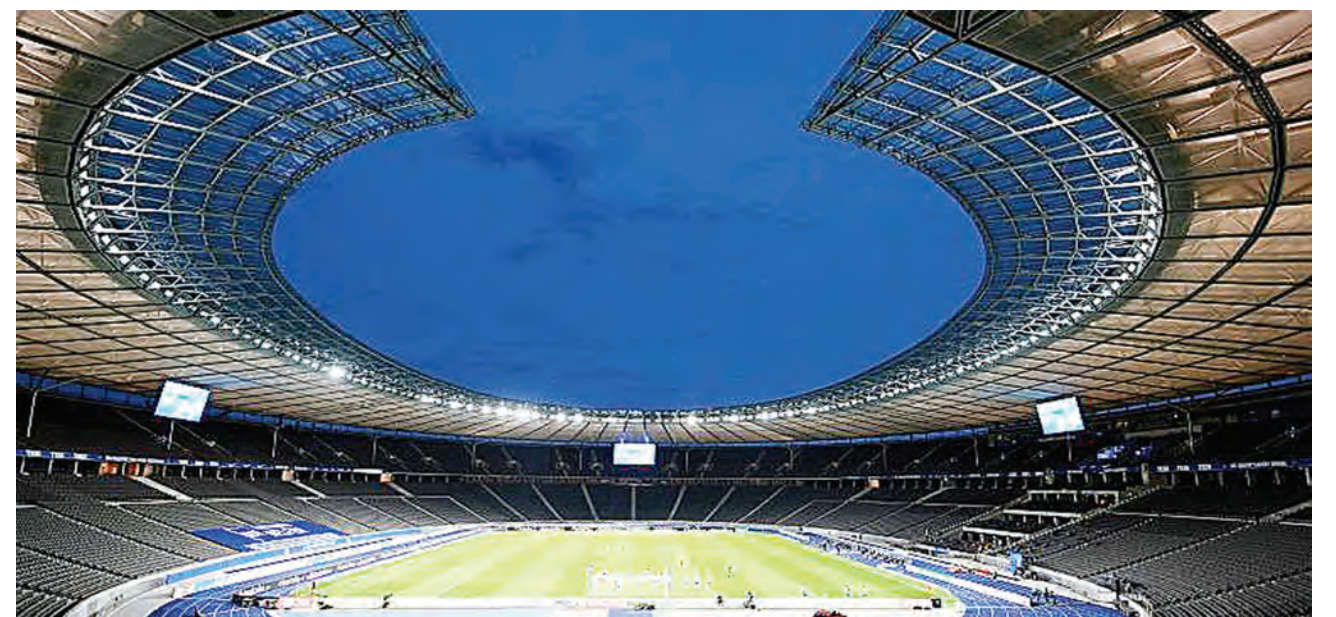
Nevertheless, holders Bayern are determined to defend the cup, even if head coach Hansi Flick admits that without travelling support, their fans will be "very, very absent".

Having lifted the Bundesliga trophy last Saturday for the eighth straight year, Bayern are targeting the next piece of silverware in their treble bid before tackling the Champions League in August.

"The boys are up for it and want to win the next title, we will do everything we can to achieve that," said Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidzic.

"We are very optimistic that we will come out as winners."

- 'Best in Europe' -  
While Bayern are looking to win



Berlin's iconic Olympic Stadium will be near-empty for Saturday's German Cup final between Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen (AFP Photo)

the cup for the 20th time, Leverkusen are chasing only their second title since their lone triumph in 1993. They finished as runners-up in both 2002 and 2009.

Jamaica winger Leon Bailey scored twice when Leverkusen shocked Bayern with a 2-1 win at the Allianz Arena in November. However, the Bavarian gi-

ants are now on a 16-match winning streak.

"We're playing against the best team in Europe at the moment," admitted Voeller, but "in a cup final, there's always something possible."

An ace up Leverkusen's sleeve is attacking midfielder Kai Havertz, who has been linked with a move to Bayern.

The 21-year-old German international was injured for both Leverkusen's shock win in Munich and last month's 4-2 home league defeat against Bayern.

Voeller believes Havertz, who has scored 16 goals this season, will play a major role because dealing with pressure is "one of his great qualities. He has

a world-class career ahead of him."

Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski is seeking his 50th goal of the season. He is one shy of a half-century and last weekend was crowned the Bundesliga's top scorer for the fifth time in his career after netting 34 times.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Liverpool thrashed 4-0 by Man City in 1st game as champions**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

## West Indies batting form a 'worry', admits Estwick

LONDON

RODDY Estwick, West Indies assistant coach, has admitted he is slightly troubled by the top-order's form ahead of the Test series against England but insists there is no concern over captain Jason Holder's form.

While many have made scores of substance in the two intra-squad matches at Emirates Old Trafford in the last couple of weeks, there was some alarm when their frontline batsmen capitulated to the first-choice bowlers on Wednesday.

A top-five of Kraigg Brathwaite, John Campbell, Shamarh Brooks, Shai Hope and Roston Chase subsided to 9 for 3 and 49 for 5 in their final competitive innings before next week's first Test at the Ageas Bowl.

"I would have loved to see the batsmen spend a little bit more time in the middle," Estwick told the PA news agency. "That would be one of the biggest worries, that none of the batsman in the Test squad got a score in this innings."

"In the first game players got scores so it's not a major concern but I would love to see a couple getting scores in this match. They've still got a little bit more time."

"In England you've got to get used to leaving the ball, especially early on. The ball's obviously going to nip around so you've got to be able to know where your off stump is, know what to leave and what to play at. We're obviously going down to a different surface at Southampton, we've got to assess that surface as quickly as possible and hit the ground running."

Holder's woes with the bat continued on Thursday after his move to open the innings backfired when he was dismissed for 2 off 15 balls, leaving one from Anderson Phillip that nipped back in and clipped his off bail.

That means he has scored just seven runs and faced fewer than 30 deliveries in three innings while he has bowled only five overs across the internal matches after an ankle niggle. Estwick, however, believes Holder, No. 1 in the ICC Test allrounder rankings, will not be undercooked at Southampton.

"Anybody that knows Jason Holder well wouldn't be worried. He is a strong and tough competitor and he's mentally very, very strong as well. Jason knows how to prepare for Test match cricket, he's been the number one allrounder for a number of years so he'll be ready come July 8, no worries at all."

Joshua Da Silva was the star performer with the bat for the Holder XI in the drawn four-day contest against a side led by Brathwaite, the 22-year-old following up his unbeaten first-innings century with 56 not out in the second dig as he amassed 189 runs without dismissal.

It will not be enough to be catapulted into the Test squad from the reserves but Estwick has been impressed by the youngster. "He played very well in the game and I'm sure that his time will come," Estwick said.

Estwick had been leading the side this week as head coach Phil Simmons was self-isolating in his hotel room after recently attending his father-in-law's funeral.

Simmons was back presiding over the warm-ups on Thursday morning after testing negative for coronavirus for a third time, allowing him to link up with the rest of the touring party.

Estwick added: "We've missed him, obviously. But he's back now with us and everything is good to go. It wasn't a disruption because it happened in the game. You tend to miss more hands on deck in practice but if there's a game going on, you've only got to monitor preparation and the odd person going into the nets."

"But as our leader, we're happy to have him back and it's very important that he's back for us because now we can sit down, plan and prepare. We've been here now for three weeks so it's all about good, solid planning and letting the players execute properly."

Agencies

## Union SC cricketers set to face Annadil Burhani in Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 Division B final tomorrow



Union Sports Club's batsman Athuman Kakonzi celebrates notching 50 runs when his outfit confronted Jaat Blasters in the previous season's GP Gymkhana Shield clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Standing (L) is Jaat Blasters wicket keeper, Hamisi. PHOTO: NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

UNION SC cricketers have an opportunity to win their first trophy this season, as they are set to lock horns with Annadil Burhani in the Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 Tournament's Division B final at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) has organized the 10-over formatted tournament in honour of Paul Manyanda, a respected cricket coach and official who passed away in the city early this year.

Much as Union SC is arguably one of successful clubs in domestic cricket,

it was hardly plain sailing for the squad, as far as qualification for the competition's final is concerned.

Union SC cricketers had to toil

for progression to the final, as they were bundled out of the Division B semi-finals by Annadil Burhani.

Annadil Burhani cricketers

made short work of Union in the first semi-final, commanding a seven-wicket win over the latter.

Union batted first and could only manage 71 runs for the loss of five wickets in 10 overs.

Notable batting showing in the side came from opener Danish Unia that recorded 15 runs, which consisted of a sixer, and Athuman Kakonzi, who posted 17 runs which included a boundary and a sixer.

In response, Annadil Burhani mounted a confident chase, recording 74 runs whilst dropping three wickets.

Union SC got a second chance to get a shot at making it to the final, as they took part in the second semi-final against Dar Cricket Club (DCC), which had won the Eliminator against Estim.

In the second semi-final, Union SC made the most of the opportunity, trouncing DCC by 36 runs.

Union SC raced to 87 runs for three wickets in 10 overs once they got the opportunity to bat first.

Kakonzi was in great form with the bat given he blasted 28 runs not out which included two fours.

He partnered Shiraz Shokat, who nailed 19 runs not out which consisted of three fours, to see to it Union SC posts a challenging target for their opponents.

They later bowled DCC out for 51 runs in 10 overs and sailed through to the final.

In tomorrow's final, Union SC will be banking on their key players, namely Unia, Seif Khalifa, Sameer Musa, Hasnain Damji and Kakonzi to post victory over Annadil Burhani and lift the trophy.

Annadil Burhani are equally expected to come out firing on all cylinders in a bid to get the much needed victory over Union SC and get their hands on the top honour.

The Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 Tournament's Division C will see Dar Black Panthers confront Patel Brotherhood in the final at Annadil Burhani oval in the city tomorrow.

Dar Black Panthers booked a place in the division's final with an emphatic seven-wicket win over Tamil Nadu in the second semi-final, which took place on June 28.

Dar Black Panthers had previously suffered 16-run defeat to Patel Brotherhood in the division's first semi-final, played on March 15.

The defeat did not deter Dar Black Panthers from getting a second opportunity to seek progression to the final, given they took on Annadil Burhani B in the Eliminator.

The Eliminator, which took place prior to the suspension of sporting activities in the country, effected by the government on March 17 in an effort to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, ended with Dar Black Panthers defeating Annadil Burhani B.

## Namungo FC confident of progression to Federation Cup final

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

LINDI's Namungo FC has maintained it will come out firing on all cylinders in the Federation Cup's semi-final against Sahare All Stars, which will take place at the latter's venue, Mkwakwani Stadium, in Tanga on July 11.

Namungo FC sailed through to the semi-finals in grand fashion given they walloped Mwanza's Alliance FC 2-0 in the quarter-finals, which took place in Lindi last Tuesday.

Sahare All Stars commanded a shock win over Ndanda FC in the penalty shootout of the quarter-finals, which took place the following day, to progress to the last four.

Namungo FC information officer Kindamba Namlia stated they now do not worry much about the last four clash with Sahare All Stars.

Namlia noted his outfit's followers are instead thinking much of their club's participation in the Federation Cup final which will take place at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga, Rukwa.



Namungo FC

"It is true our fans will travel to Tanga to support our club but most of them say they are ready for a trip to Sumbawanga given they

know our squad will not face trouble in the last four match," he stated.

The Namungo FC official disclosed the club

targets to compete in the next year's CAF Confederation Cup therefore they have prepared well for the Federation Cup's coming

stages.

He disclosed: "It is almost like a butcher, he will always slaughter an animal brought to him, Sahare All

Stars are indeed unfortunate to play us in the last four," he noted.

"Processing our players' travel documents is what we are currently doing in preparation for participation in CAF Confederation Cup."

Namungo FC posted 1-0 win over Mighty Elephants and later commanded similar win over Green Warriors in the early stage of the Federation Cup.

The Lindi club went on to cruise to 2-0 victory over Biashara United in the round of 32 stage and thereafter notched 2-1 win over Mbeya City FC in the round of 16.

Strikers Bigirimana Blaise and George Makang'a, later, netted for Namungo FC to guide the club to 2-0 victory over Alliance FC in the quarter-finals.

Namungo FC has more-over been chalking up good results in the ongoing Vodacom Premier League as the squad boasts of having not suffered a loss in 16 outings.

The squad is currently placed fourth in the top flight standing after collecting 56 points in 32 matches.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

TRUST ME, HOW DO I TRUST YOU SUCH AN UNTRUSTWORTHY MAN?



TRUSTN'T YOU?!