



National Pg 2

SUMA JKT sets up iron sheets factory

National Pg 3

Minister Kairuki praises Tanzanian investors

National Pg 4

TAMWA for voters' gender equality

TOLERANCE

Page 5



LOAN SHARKS

Page 6



FEMALE REPORTERS

Page 7



Teargas, 72 arrests rattle early voting in Zanzibar



Assistant supervisors to take charge at polling centres in Dodoma Region today carry ballot boxes yesterday ready to head for their respective stations. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Ibrahim

●ACT-Wazalendo complain of 'barred' poll agents, IGP Sirro castigates stone throwing mobs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Urban West Regional Police Commander Awadhi Juma said here yesterday that 72 people were arrested for allegedly causing violence by burning tyres and hurling stones at police officers.

"We were forced to use teargas after seeing clear indicators of violence. We have 72 people who will be taken to court once we complete investigations," he stated

Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro meanwhile told reporters in Dar es Salaam that law enforcers arrested 42 people in Pemba on Monday for disturbing the peace by throwing stones.

The bone of contention was absence of agents of the main opposition ACT-Wazalendo in the exercise reserved for members of security forces and staff of the Isles election management body.

ACT-Wazalendo Director of Communications Salum Bimani told this paper that the party was not issued with badges by the Zanzibar Electoral Commission to enable its agents watch the

TURN TO PAGE 2



Cereals board unveils plans for wheat, contract farming

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) has said it is in talks with Tanzanian and foreign companies to enter contracts to purchase cereals in the country.

CPB acting Managing Director Valerian Mablanteti said in a press conference here yesterday that the aim is to help Tanzanian farmers easily access markets for their

produce.

The crops that the board has put forward for contract purchasing are green beans, sesame, soybeans and a range of spices. Creating such opportunities shall provide a reliable market for local farmers, he said.

CPB is focusing on increasing the production of wheat to meet an ever growing demand and reduce importation of the cereal, he stated, noting that the board is focusing on the northern highlands zone of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

Tanzania imports a total of 800,000 tonnes of wheat taking up Sh 530bn/- annually given the low levels of wheat production locally.

The CPB zonal office in Arusha has moved to propel contract farming with farmers in West Kilimanjaro area, Mbulu

TURN TO PAGE 2

Appeal to Police: Exercise restraint

●UN Secretary General lays accent on stability, sustainable development

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHARGG) has appealed to the police force to refrain from using excessive force while on duty as Tanzanians elect their leaders today.

In a statement issued yesterday, CHARGG chairman Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu appealed to the law enforcers to act diligently by respecting human rights and principles of good governance.



Election contestants who lose must accept the results in order to maintain peace, the statement emphasized

"The (police) should refrain from using excessive force unnecessarily," Mwaimu said, noting that law enforcers should help Tanzanians exercise their constitutional right in a calm and peaceful environment.

The call was also directed to other stakeholders including election management bodies mandated to oversee the polls, namely the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), both asked to follow the law to the letter and respect principles for human rights and ensuring that peace prevails.

"They are supposed to make sure the polls take place peacefully by making sure that the entire process is transparent," the human rights ombudsman underlined.

Today, Tanzanians go to polling stations to vote for their president, members of Parliament and ward councilors in the general election taking place across the country.

The CHARGG statement underscored the need for religious leaders to pray for the nation

TURN TO PAGE 2

JPM: There is life after elections

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday asked Tanzanians to uphold peace and refuse to be divided as they exercise their constitutional right to vote for leaders of their choice in the today's election.

Addressing elders at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre in Dodoma yesterday, Dr Magufuli said elections come and go while Tanzania remains, hence there is no need to engage in violence.



"As we exercise our rights today, we should keep in mind that there is life after elections. We need to continue loving each other for the betterment of our great nation," he said.

Dr Magufuli, who is vying for the presidency once more on the CCM ticket, said the election is a decisive one in which Tanzanians will have a chance to choose leaders to lead the country in the coming five years.

He has since declared Election Day a public holiday to allow people to exercise their

TURN TO PAGE 2





Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, appealing to members of the public to keep the peace during the General Election (today) and thereafter. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Teargas, 72 arrests rattle early voting in Zanzibar

FROM PAGE 1

voting.

This absence of agents did not augur well with the party followers as the party smelt a rat in the exercise, believing rigging was in the course of being conducted.

The party's national chairman and its Zanzibar presidential candidate, Seif Sharif Hamad told party supporters to go to polling stations and observe what was going on.

Hamad himself walked his talk and presented himself at Garagra polling station in Zanzibar Urban West Region, prompting his arrest by the police.

Urban West Regional Police Commander Awadhji Juma told reporters here in the afternoon that 72 people were arrested for allegedly

causing violence by burning tyres and throwing stones at police officers.

"We were forced to use teargas after seeing clear indicators of violence. We have 72 people who will be taken to court once we complete investigations," he stated.

Bimani said the party's senior cadre and former Zanzibar minister for Infrastructure, Works and Transport, Hamad Masoud was arrested in Pemba Island alongside scores of party members.

Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro told reporters in Dar es Salaam that law enforcers arrested 42 people in Pemba on Monday for disturbing the peace by throwing stones.

Still Bimani queried how an election can take place without agents of the

main opposition party participating, describing what happened as "strange."

Hamad's call to supporters to appear at polling stations and his actual going to one station was greeted with heightened security with heavily armed police being commonplace in the streets and public spaces.

The tension brought the normally busy Zanzibar to a standstill as people quickly disappeared into their homes, leaving the streets nearly empty.

At 10:20, a contingent of police lobbed teargas at Darajani area, normally a beehive of activity although there were no large crowds yesterday.

Abuu Mohammed Haji, a resident of Sogea suburb in Unguja said there was no need to deploy security forces as the impact could be low turn-out in today's

polls.

"Police going around lobbing teargas on empty streets can do nothing but instill fear among voters," he said.

Tanzanians go to the poll today to elect the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament, members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and ward councillors.

Hamad has been seeking to lead Zanzibar since the first multiparty elections in 1995 but each time has had his bid as contrived.

However, his earlier bids were conducted with a Civic United Front (CUF) ticket where he was secretary general, but this year after leadership wrangles he shifted to ACT-Wazalendo where he is national chairman, being joined by a legion of supporters.

Appeal to Police: Exercise restraint

FROM PAGE 1

at this crucial moment in order to make sure an atmosphere enabling broad constitutional rights, peace, calm and caring for one another is maintained during and after the polls.

Election contestants who lose must accept the results in order to maintain peace, the statement emphasized.

"Contestants who will not be comfortable with election results are urged to follow legal procedures to file appeals in court, instead of using the wrong means to demand their rights as this might not be productive," he specified.

Judge Mwaimu urged citizens across the country to exercise their constitutional rights and to elect leaders who will maintain peace, unity and who will be able to accelerate the development of the country.

He applauded the government for making a remarkable decision to fund the entire process of the general election, a decision that has enabled the government to cut donor dependence in elections, he said.

Mwaimu said the commission was satisfied with the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) for making good preparations for the polls and smooth provision of voter education.

"Both electoral commissions have succeeded to supervise election procedures by obeying the law and regulations prevailing in the country, for rights, equality, protection of individuals and maintenance of peace," the ombudsman observed.

The commission applauded the police for maintaining peace and defending people and their properties as election tensions rise, he said, acknowledging the role played by media in informing the public on the positions of various political parties involved in the campaign.

This has provided an opportunity for the public to understand what leaders will help to influence economic development of the country, he said.

Stephane Dujarric, a senior official of the United Nations Secretariat in New York, said in a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General, that all national stakeholders in Tanzania must ensure that the polls are conducted in an inclusive and peaceful manner.

"In this regard, the Secretary-General recalls that an inclusive electoral process and a broad effective participation of political parties and their candidates, particularly women, remain essential for safeguarding the progress made by Tanzania in consolidating stability, democracy and sustainable development," the statement noted.

All political leaders and their supporters need to participate in this exercise peacefully and refrain from violence, while the state authorities must provide a safe and secure environment which will allow Tanzanians to exercise their civil and political rights, the statement added.



Contestants who will not be comfortable with election results are urged to follow legal procedures to file appeals in court, instead of using the wrong means to demand their rights as this might not be productive

JPM: There is life after this election

FROM PAGE 1

democratic right without undue constraints.

He said the country's unity and co-existence was pegged on peace, which is a key national value that must be upheld, affirming that Tanzania is well known for its peace for decades. "There are all reasons as to why we should keep the record and remain an example among African countries," the contestant declared.

Tanzanians will today elect the Union president and members of Parliament as well as the president of Zanzibar and members of the House of Representatives, apart from ward councillors.

The voting comes after 60 days of campaigning which has seen parties selling different points of view on the proper course of development for the attention of voters across the country.

"Fellow Tanzanians we have come a long way, and it will be useless to destroy our country just because of an election. Let us vote knowing that life will continue even after this exercise," he told the elders in an event televised by a number of television and online broadcasting channels.

He asserted that for the last five years his government has worked on maintaining the state of peace, which in the long run has facilitated the growth of the national economy.

Dr Magufuli used the opportunity to explain to the elders what his party has on its sleeves for the next five years, saying he wants to transform Dodoma so that it portrays the image of a capital city.

Plans are underway to extend the Lake Victoria water project from Igunga district in Tabora to Dodoma to end water woes in the capital city, he added.



It's early voting at Mjini Magharibi in Zanzibar yesterday - the eve of General Election polling day - for these defence and security officers with special assignments today. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Slame

Cereals board unveils plans for wheat, contract farming

FROM PAGE 1

and Karatu in Arusha Region as well Hanang in Manyara Region, he said.

CPB is working on plans to reintroduce wheat farming in areas it was produced in the past, mostly in the northern highlands and the more famous Southern Highlands zone, he stated.

He cited as incorrect a recent newspaper report that the board's Unga Limited wheat industrial unit is not operational.

He said the said factory has since June 2019 created employment for 59 people, 20 staffk being on permanent basis, while processing 2,309.55 tonnes of maize, noting that reports that farmers have nowhere to sell their maize since the factory is closed are similarly inaccurate.

The factory was handed to CPB in

June last year and has never been closed since then, he stated. It was carrying out its activities, while from July to September 2020 it bought 3,000 tonnes of maize for processing and handing over to the World Food Programme (WFP).

On the working strategy for 2020/2021 in the northern zone, he said the board plans to purchase 40,000 tonnes of cereals, process 15,750 tonnes of maize and 27,000 tonnes of wheat at the Unga Limited factory. It will also produce 36,000 tonnes of wheat through contract farming, he stated.

The tonnage purchased for WFP is part of the 21,000 tonnes that CPB sold through its zonal offices in Dodoma, Iringa and Mwanza. The board has opened a warehouse in Kiteto, Manyara region that has so far purchased 1,000 tonnes of cereals from July to September 2020, he added.

EISA election observer team in for today's poll

By Guardian Reporter

A 14-member election observer mission (EOM) from the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) has arrived in the country to observe today's General Election.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the EISA's mission is in the country after being invited by the National Electoral Commission (NEC), to conduct an independent assessment of the electoral process.

Led by Pansy Dikeledi Tlakula,

former Chairperson, Electoral Commission of South Africa, the mission is comprised of 14 international observers drawn from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from across Africa.

She is being assisted by EISA's Senior Manager for Governance Institutions and Political Processes, Grant Masterson and supported by a coordination team and a technical team.

This IEOM is the 4th to be deployed by EISA in Tanzania since the 1999

elections. The mission will base its assessment on the legal framework governing elections in Tanzania and the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections, the standards and obligations stipulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMOMO) and the International Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation," the statement reads in

part. EISA observers will be deployed to seven (7) regions in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to observe key processes beginning with the electoral campaigns, pre-polling activities, Election Day and post-polling activities. On 30 October 2020, the EISA EOM will prepare a statement on its preliminary findings and recommendations on the electoral process up to the voting and counting phases.

The mission will remain in Dar es Salaam until November 2, this year.



Angellah Kairuki (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), has a word with members of NMB Bank Plc's executive committee when she visited the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She was updated on the bank's support to development projects in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Decision on sale of cashew nuts in the hands of farmers'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CASHEW nuts farmers are the ones to decide for selling their crop after being satisfied with prices recommended by buyers at the ongoing various auctions. Acting director of the Tanzania Cashew Nuts Board (TCB) Francis Alfred told reporters here yesterday that in the warehouse receipt system, the government

will not set the prices for the crop, instead it will continue giving guidelines according to the world market. He said the aims of the guidelines was to instill competition among cashew nuts auctions, but the final decision to sell the crop remains with the farmers themselves. In regard to the issue involving the Tunduru auction centre

refusing to sell the crop, he said the decision was reached by farmers themselves and there is no law to compel them to sell. Alfred said experience shows that as Christmas New Year holidays approach, cashew nuts prices drop and advised that the best time to sell the crop was January the following year when the prices rise. He said during end of the year

holiday season many farmers shift from their farms hence they sell the crop at a loss, hence he advised them to be patient until start of the year. Dr Geradina Mzena, National TCB Coordinator from Naliendele Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Naliendele) said farmers are supposed to abide by production quality of the crop.



Contractors Registration Board registrar Rhoben Nkori closes a one-day seminar for contractors. The thrust was on the importance of joint ventures. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanga Region 'ready' for General Election today

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Electoral Commission has said a total of 1,300,832 people in Tanga Region are expected to cast their ballots today in the General Election for the Union President, Members of Parliament and Councilors. Tanga regional election coordinator Sebastian Masanja told this paper in a special interview

yesterday that the region has been allocated 3,814 polling centres in 12 constituencies. "Basically, all preparations for the election are 99 per cent complete. What remains is to transport the voting equipment from constituencies to the polling centres," he said. He added: "We are not faced with any challenges, financial or equipment and that is why I

say preparations are 99 per cent complete, as we have enough vehicles and extra polling centres have been created to offload voters' congestion at certain centres." However, he called on polling centres' supervisors to abide by the guidelines from the National Electoral Commission (NEC), especially in regard to giving priority to people with special

needs including elders, people with disabilities and pregnant women. He also called on them to abide the opening and closing times of the polling centres so that results are pinned up as early as possible. "This year we want results to be pinned up at polling centres as early as possible - voting ends at 4.00pm, after which the centres transform to tallying centres," he added.

Kairuki hails Tanzanian investors for scaling up manufacturing industry

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angela Kairuki has commended the role played by local investors in scaling up manufacturing industry in the country.

Kairuki made the call Monday in Dar es Salaam when she visited Omar Packaging Industries Ltd, and Bakhressa Food Products Ltd, which are part of the Azam Bakhressa Group of Companies.

She said that the government will provide them with all support they need to improve their production, hence their products win international markets.

The minister lauded the firms for tapping in the export market by trading products to as far off countries such as Malaysia and Yemen and encouraged them to continue promoting the country through their brands.

She also hailed the company for creating massive employment, both directly and indirectly, and embracing state-of-the-art technology.

"We commend you for putting emphasis on quality and it should be noted that you have been instrumental in assisting the government in its desire to see import substitution. Do not compromise quality of goods," she said.

She encouraged the company to continue being innovative and in seeking financing to expand their businesses and vowed to support them in their quest to bridge skills gap in manufacturing goods.

The food products company uses local produce in manufacturing their products, working closely with both large scale and smallholder farmers in curbing post-harvest losses.

During the tour, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Acting Director of Investment Facilitation, Revocatus Rasheli, promised continued cooperation with the company since it is registered with the centre.

"We commend the company for its investments and whenever the need arises you are encouraged to consult with us. To address the issue of employment of foreign experts, we recommend that you register more projects so that we can help you hire more foreigners," he said.

Rasheli was representing TIC Executive Director, Dr Maduhu Kazi, where he also advised the company to expose its brand through the centre's various platforms.

Earlier, Salim Aziz, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bakhressa Food Products Ltd, told the minister that the company has invested over Itri/- since it was established and employs over five thousand people.

He, however, said that the country still

suffers from the handicap of skills gap and asked for government's support to ensure that they hire needed experts in the manufacturing sector.

During the same tour, Prof Sylvia Temu, a lecturer in Business Management, raised the issue of skills gap in the manufacturing sector and called for more efforts to address the shortage.

"We have people who are investing heavily in the manufacturing sector but we still have a huge skills gap. We should put more efforts in addressing the matter," she said.

Prof Temu has conducted research and taught in the areas of Accounting and Finance, Small Business and Project Management, and Strategic Planning.

Her leadership experience in higher education includes being in charge of university finances and strategic planning as the Director of Planning and Finance, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM); as the Director of UDSM Consultancy Bureau, Deputy Director UDSM Centre for Continuing Education as well as Head of the department of Accounting at UDSM Business School.


In addition to consulting, her corporate experience include serving as a Director in various Boards including the National Board of Accountants and Auditors, UNESCO Finance and Administrative Committee, CRDB Bank Plc, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority as well as in diverse Universities' Senates and Councils.

She has published on accounting and finance, and small business management topics and authored a textbook on Auditing.

Among other things, Omar Packaging Industries manufactures various flexible packing materials such as co extrusion 3 layers, P.P. extrusion, mono layer extrusion, co extrusion for milk pouches, co extrusion for shrink-wrapping, and HDPE extrusion for shopping bags.

The company uses state-of-the-art technology such as multi-colour flexographic printing machineries from Europe which are used to print on LDPE, BOPP, metalised BOPP, paper, P.E. paper in full color process, meeting international standards.

“We have people who are investing heavily in the manufacturing sector but we still have a huge skills gap”



MTANDAO WA JAMII WA USIMAMIZI WA MISITU TANZANIA

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019

This publication of the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018 which requires Non Government Organizations receiving funds exceeding TZS 20 Million to publish bi annually the funds received and its expenditure.

DETAILS	ACTUAL - TZS
RECEIPTS	
Opening fund balance	0
Disbursement from Donors	903,091,435.00
Total Receipts for Donor implemented activities	903,091,435.00
PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE	
	655,402,201.00
OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	
Personnel	307,633,877.00
TOTAL PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURES	963,036,078.00
FUND BALANCE	- 59,944,643.00

Fund balance represent an obligation to conduct donor funded activities per contractual commitments made between donor/development partners and the organisation/recipient, where funds have not been transferred and such activities have not yet occurred.

Executive Director
Mtandao Wa Jamii Wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania(MJUMITA)
 Plot 323, Msaani Village
 Mwaikibaki Rd
 P.O. BOX 21522,
 Dar es Salaam



Attorney General Prof Adelardus Kilangi (L) and Total Africa Exploration and Production president Nicolas Terraz show a just-signed MoU on the implementation of the African Crude Oil Pipe Line project. This was at a ceremony held in Arusha city on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Simanjiro's herders, hunters trained on voting procedures

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

HERDERS, farmers and hunters in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region have been provided with training to identify their rights and vote for leaders of their choice.

The training has been provided by community educators through Civil

Social Protection Foundation (CSP), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) under sponsorship Legal Services Facility (LSF).

Obeid Sarakikya, a community educator from CSP has said in order to enhance the Foundation's participation in the election, they ought to know their rights first.

Sarakikya said they were supposed to identify their polling centres near them and not to shift from the areas until after the election.

He said they are also required to know the day and time for them to vote so that they set up a timetable for their day to day activities.

Eliakim Paul, CSP Legal Officer said

a voter is supposed to cast his ballot in the atmosphere of peace, and freely without being coerced, and should get assistance when needed.

He said the expectation of the people was to see all procedures were adhered to before, during and after the election, peace and security are beefed up by security organs.

Health experts express concerns over recurrence of communicable diseases

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

HEALTH experts have expressed concerns over possible recurrence of communicable diseases as majority of Tanzanians are no longer adhering to the preventive measures issued by the government.

Tanga regional medical officer (RMO), Dr Jonathan Budemu said in an interview with this paper that since the infections have declined people are seemingly ignoring the actions that have made Tanzania win the war against the plague.

"We are concerned with what we see as laxity in maintaining measures that helped stem the pandemic scare in the country, the adherence of COVID-19 preventive measures has also helped Tanzania fight a number of communicable diseases, we should maintain the culture including frequent hand-washing," he said.

According to him, communicable diseases caused by poor sanitation have decreased significantly in Tanga Region due to adherence to sanitation measures including washing hands taken during the Covid-19 period.

Dr Budemu said: "Diseases caused by poor sanitation such as diarrhoea, cholera and dysentery have decreased by almost 14 percent from 34 percent during that period. Maintenance of the culture of washing hands and general sanitation can minimize the possibility of recurrence of such diseases or eliminate them altogether."

Regional Health Officer Jumanne Magoma said that statistics show that communicable diseases have decreased comparing the period of January to September 2018/19 and the same period 2019/20.

He noted that the use of flowing water to wash hands among households has increased from 17 per cent to 42 per cent, thanks to measures taken to promote washing hands during the Covid-19. Magoma said the use of hand-washing water facilities in public institutions has

reached 95 per cent.

He further expressed concern over the tendency of the majority of the public to ignore those measures saying such behavior could bring the nation back to, not only Covid-19 but also eruption of other communicable diseases.

"People think that the disease is gone forever, not only the novel coronavirus that we are fighting against but also other communicable diseases that are still rampant. So it is crucial to continue to maintain the culture of washing our hands and other sanitation measures," Magoma said.

A random observation conducted by this paper in Tanga shows that most people and institutions that put buckets and soaps for washing hands have abandoned them. "Some have literally decided to keep those buckets away while some of them are still in place but empty," he added.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 4 billion people in the world lack access to basic sanitation facilities like toilets or latrines. In addition, USAID estimates that 2.1 billion people currently do not have access to safe drinking water. The World Health Organization estimates that four per cent of all deaths worldwide are the result of waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio that thrive in unimproved sanitation conditions.

"This might not sound like a high number, but when considering that these diseases can be relatively easily prevented with inexpensive sanitation and potable water solutions, this percentage sounds absurd," the WHO says. It says a glimpse of five waterborne diseases that thrive in poor sanitation provides a glimpse of what is at stake when communities are devoid of proper water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. For instance, one of the most important factors in eliminating diarrhoea deaths, next to proper sanitation facilities, is hand washing



Bishop (rtd) Charles Salala of the African Inland Church of Tanzania's Coast Diocese makes remarks yesterday shortly after handing over bicycles donated by Compassion International Tanzania to primary and secondary school students in Kondoa District previously walking long distances from home to school and back. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Media Women Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar) has urged voters to consider gender equality when casting their votes.

TAMWA Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa made the appeal yesterday calling on all citizens to look and vote for women candidates whom they see and believe can bring changes in their societies.

"It is 35 years now since the efforts towards gender equality started after the Beijing Platform for Action, women are still under-represented in the decision-making bodies. So in the tomorrow's (today) election, voters have to vote for women and thus increase representation in decision

making bodies," he said.

According to her, as is the case all over the world, women in Zanzibar have proven themselves to be hardworking, putting the interests of society ahead of their own, more committed and willing to make decisions in a participatory way commonly known shura in arabic.

Dr Mzuri noted that Zanzibar has not yet got a female President, in the previous elections only seven women equal to 13 percent were elected as members of the House of Representatives, and three parliamentarians equal to six percent

Manyara in new drive to curb child, maternal mortality rate

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AUTHORITIES in Manyara Region in partnership with stakeholders introduced a digital platform—'MomCare' to ensure quality reproductive health services to expectant mothers.

MomCare project is literally translated in Kiswahili as 'Safari Salama ya mama Mjamzito'. It engages expectant mothers from early months of pregnancy.

Implemented by PharmAccess International-Tanzania (PAI) last year, the new initiative is geared towards tackling child and maternal mortality rates in the region.

According to Manyara Regional Medical Officer, Damas Kayera, the project covers Babati District in Manyara Region and Siha District in Kilimanjaro Region.

"Plans are underway to scale up the project in other districts following recorded achievements in improving reproductive healthcare services," he said, noting that

PAI has enabled health care service providers in the region to use the technology to improve service delivery at health facilities.

"May I request PAI to assist us in scaling up the project in other districts to ensure mothers' safe delivery", he noted.

Through the project, the regional chief physician said health facilities have been improved, and the capacity of its staff in provision of quality delivery services, which are in line with the recommended standard procedures.

"This has resulted in an increased number of pregnant women attending antenatal care as well as those joining the Community Health Fund (CHF)," he said, adding:

"We want more people to be enrolled with CHF to enable them and their families to freely access healthcare services."

MomCare Project Manager, Johnson Yokoyana said the project as a digital

based financing system has significantly improved the quality of health services offered by health facilities in Manyara Region.

He said the project has facilitated the assessment making it simple for stakeholders to monitor the quality of healthcare services and allocate resources effectively.

It has motivated health care providers to engage in improvement activities and make performance data available to health centres and managers on a real time basis.

Dr Yokoyana said that initially the healthcare centres were paid based on the district health management team, but they can now receive payments electronically.

He said that currently, healthcare facilities receive a capitation fee for every household enrolled with CHF. He said the move has contributed to an increased number of residents enrolled with the health insurance scheme.

"More patients translate to more income for the healthcare facility, leading to improvements such as higher working standards and better equipment", he added.

He said that in improving quality of service provision through safe care, selected facilities receive some support in upgrading their quality. The specific health centres are also assured of availability of drugs, equipment, refurbishment and training to staff.



Plans are underway to scale up the project in other districts following recorded achievements in improving reproductive healthcare services

Political leaders, candidates advised to exercise tolerance during entire polling period

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

LEADERS of political parties and candidates in Arusha City have been called upon to restrain themselves, exercise tolerance and avoid publishing false information including election results as these could cause breach of the peace.

Dr John Pima, Arusha Urban Returning Officer, who is also the Executive Director of Arusha City Council has said all preparations for the election in the constituency have been completed.

Dr Pima said it would be better for politicians to tolerate each other during this period, by not posting false statements in the social media.

He said up to now they have received all voting equipment for the October 28 election whereas in the Arusha Urban constituency there are 910 polling centres, 910 supervisors and an equal number of assistants, 150 standby supervisors in the 25 constituency's wards.

He said they have already displayed

replicas of the ballot papers for the election of the president, members of parliament and councillors and added that polling centres will open at 7.00am and close at 4.00pm.

"Special groups in the community, including elders, people with disabilities and women with infants or those with pregnancies will be given priority," Pima added.

He called on all people to go home after voting and wait for the announcement of the results, and added that all votes will be counted at the polling centres after which the results will be sent to the ward headquarters for tallying.

He called on the people to be calm and beef up security so that the election exercise is accomplished peacefully.

Pima further said there were 18 election observers from various countries including many internal ones from various civil societies organisations and called on them to observe the country's laws.

Arusha Urban constituency has 374,000 registered voters who are

expected to cast their ballots in 910 polling centres.

Arusha Regional Commissioner has called on the people to elect good leaders to represent them and push for their development in the next five years.

He assured Arusha residents that security has been beefed up, and people should feel free to go out and vote.



Special groups in the community, including elders, people with disabilities and women with infants or those with pregnancies will be given priority



A prisons officer casts her vote at Mjini Magharibi in Zanzibar yesterday. Under Zanzibar laws, civil servants supposed or expected to be on special assignment on polling day during the General Election are at liberty to vote the day before. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame

Cooperate with authorities to find proper mitigation to jumbo invasions, says WWF

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

WWF Tanzania has called on Tunduru villagers to be patient and cooperate with district game office, facilitators and other stakeholders to find proper mitigation and solution to elephant invasion in their village.

WWF has also advised creation of village game scouts teams in combination with some community villagers and create a rapid response team towards elephants encroachment. Speaking at different meetings convened to get feedback of mitigation measures and materials supplied at Majimaji village, Misyaje and Hulia villages in Tunduru district, Ruvuma region.

Community Conservation and Environmental Education Officer for WWF Tanzania Ally Mbugi told the villagers that finding solution or mitigation measures to human-wildlife conflicts is not an overnight thing but rather a process that needs patience and close cooperation among district authorities and other key players.

He said that he was aware that some mitigation measures did not work out well because some of the elephants are already used to some materials supplied such as horns, touch and noise.

"I beg your patience and cooperation as we continue supporting the

government to work on these challenges. I know there are some challenges, we are working out other means to get other effective materials to harmoniously address this situation," he said.

Where these elephants have got used to the measures, in that particular place, they will not be applicable. Some of the areas where these measures have been used have shown some positive results, he added.

"As you have seen, some villagers have said the mitigation measures have already helped them. Some of them are better but the villagers need more training on how to use them for better results," he said.

Mbugi said that the measures have helped them however not at a large extent because of different factors including education. Education has not been conducted in a whole kind of level, so there is a need for more education on these mitigation measures and precautions is supposed to be done.

"This was just a modal, not in a large scale, it was a pilot, on the use of chilli fence, we are going to extend it further. The number of mitigation materials provided to the community will also increase to cover large area and reach more people.

For his part, one of the Game Wardens in Tunduru district, Cosmas Daud Cosmas said the district understands

the magnitude of the problem that's why people are being given education. "We have been conducting education on several mitigation measures because in some areas, the human-wildlife conflicts have disrupted production activities including farming.

Margret Mollé from Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) urged the villagers to support initiatives being taken by the government and other stakeholders to address the station.

"The villagers are key stakeholders on this problem. As TNRF, we will continue working with them. "I ask them to play an active role as the community in tackling poaching and illegal wildlife trade," she said.

Earlier on, the villagers of Majimaji, Hulia and Misyaje complained that the mitigation measures were not effective that's why the elephants still invade the villages farms to eat their crop.

"The elephants are still invading our fields. Some time, some enter the village and eat whatever food they found. We ask you to bring effective mitigation measures," said Kitenge Selemani from Majimaji village.

Kaimu Nkonyani from Hulia village said the government need to put in place comprehensive mitigation measures to end the problem because the villagers have suffered from the elephant invasion for more than a decade now.



JOB VACANCY

Position: Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)

Abt Associates is seeking a qualified Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for the anticipated USAID/Tanzania Public Sector Systems Strengthening Plus (PS3+). This large, complex and integrated project will involve all systems functions, levels of government, and public services, prioritizing health, nutrition, social welfare, education and agriculture. PS3+ is expected to institutionalize Government of Tanzania (GOT) public systems that are responsive to citizens' needs for quality services at the local level, particularly for underserved populations. The project includes three objectives/results areas: 1. Improved evidence-based, inclusive planning and management at local levels; 2. Strengthened local governance to promote citizen engagement and social accountability; and 3. Increased efficiency in the collection and use of financial resources. The project Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will serve as a member of the senior management team tasked with building GOT ownership of project achievements. The DCOP will supervise a team of senior technical specialists and ensure the completion of milestones and deliverables along Tanzania's Journey to Self-Reliance.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

- Support the COP in overall technical management and oversight of the PS3+ activity.
- Provide substantive involvement regarding development of technical management and oversight for the accomplishment of the objectives of the PS3+ activity. Work closely with the COP and senior technical team in the development of work plans and activity timelines. S/he will ideally bring significant prior experience serving as DCOP on a bilateral project or as senior technical director on a global project.
- Support reporting, update and implementation of the technical strategies, identifying technical assistance needs, and mobilizing required technical resources and staff. This includes assuming primary responsibility for overseeing the timely production of quality deliverables to USAID, such as quarterly and annual reports, work plans, budgets, technical reports, and publications. The DCOP will work with the project technical teams, M&E Team Lead, Finance and Operations Director, and Regional/LGA Director to meet these deliverables according to work plans and timelines. S/he will also serve as field-based Project Quality Assurance (PQA) manager, coordinating quality reviews with relevant project staff and the US-based Technical Program Manager (TPM).
- Responsible for harmonizing the three objectives of the PS3+ activity specifically ensuring effective complementary and efficient implementation of PS3+'s three objectives.
- Provide technical guidance and create opportunities for institutional strengthening and capacity development for in management and leadership especially for local staff.
- Coordinate and interface with partners, donors and clients on the technical components of PS3+. Assume primary responsibility for managing the work and monitoring the performance of international and local subcontractors, working with regional and technical staff to ensure that all activities and outputs are technically sound and appropriate.
- In the absence of the COP, on a temporary basis, the DCOP will assume responsibilities for coordinating contract management and implementation tasks, liaises with USAID/Tanzania and responds to technical matters.
- The DCOP will also work with the Finance and Operations Director on budget preparation, processes, and management in conjunction with the relevant program managers, including the development and review of relevant standard costs and scales for the program as technical compliance with USAID rules and regulations
- S/he will collaborate with the project Communications Lead and the project Technical Director to ensure high visibility of project accomplishments in and beyond Tanzania. This will include supporting the COP and other project staff in efforts to engage donors, government officials, and other stakeholders in policy and technical discussions.
- The DCOP for Technical Development will reside in Tanzania for the duration of the Contract.

At a minimum, the Deputy Chief of Party for Technical Development must have the following qualifications:

- A Master's degree in the field of management, and/or international development with at least 10 years' experience, or a Bachelor's degree with at least 15 years' experience in international development include 1-5 years of management experience.
- At least 10 years international experience in development, managing, overseeing, or evaluating public health programs of similar size and complexity.
- Proven ability to create and maintain effective working relations with senior Government personnel (particularly in Tanzania), international organizations, NGO partners, host country governments, and U.S. Government Agencies.
- Technical expertise in at least two of the following areas: citizen Engagement, public sector systems strengthening, local governance, and public financial management
- Expertise in effective institution strengthening, citizen engagement, and partnership building with government at local level.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the capacity to prepare and deliver formal presentations in English. Evidence of prior publications and/or formal presentations may be requested.
- Computer literacy (MS Word, MS Excel).
- Strong English writing and speaking skills.
- Strong communication skills, both interpersonal and written.
- Working experience in developing countries with a comparable technical scope is required. Experience in Tanzania preferred.

Interested candidates may send a CV to TanzaniaJobs@abtassoc.com. Please include the title of the position (Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)) in the subject line of the email. One email per position application. Deadline for applications is November 26th, 2020. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

Centre for International Policy urges voters to put country's interest first

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CENTRE for International Policy Africa (CIP) has reminded all eligible registered voters to show up in large numbers and vote peacefully for their leaders.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam the CIP President Omary Mjenga said that the voters must put the country first and understand that there is life after election.

He said Tanzania must prevail and continue to be a model of peace in the region, Africa and global, calling for the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) to demonstrate principles that will lead to free, fair and credible election.

"The verdict is yours. Put your country first, and understand that there is life after election. I urge all stakeholders to respect the verdict of the people," he advised.

According to official statistics provided by NEC, there are 29,188,347 million registered voters in the mainland, while in Zanzibar there are 566,352 only.

Furthermore, there will be 80,155 polling stations in Tanzania mainland and 1,413 polling stations in Tanzania Zanzibar.

He however thanked all participating political parties for demonstrating very peaceful political processes including peaceful campaigns.

According to the president, the final decision rests with the mandate of the people (voters) to elect leaders they want.

CIP has sent more than 100 observers across the country to observe the general elections which are to be held today.

It is currently on the ground on 17 regions namely Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Mara, Mbeya, Mtwara, Mwanza, Lindi, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Tabora, Tanga, Pemba and Zanzibar.

On October 26, this year, the East African Community (EAC)'s election observer mission led by former president of Burundi, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, dispatched 59 observers to 13 regions across the

country to observe the voting process in today's General Election.

Addressing a press conference in Dar es Salaam on Monday this week, Ntibantunganya said the observers were drawn from complementary disciplines—members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in EAC Partner States, national electoral commissions and EAC youth ambassadors.

Observer teams have been dispatched to Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Unga, Pemba, Lindi, Mtwara, Dodoma, Mbeya, Kigoma, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Mwanza regions.

He said that EAC seeks to build public confidence in electoral processes by encouraging voters and stakeholders to freely participate in elections in an environment that promotes competition and tolerance without intimidation or violence.

The mission is charged with identifying challenges, weaknesses, opportunities and strengths that can be considered for the improvement of electoral practices in a member country and within the community, he declared.

"The mission seeks to assess the legitimacy of the electoral process and its results in accordance with international standards. It makes recommendations for strengthening the electoral process for the benefit of all EAC partner states," he further noted.



The verdict is yours. Put your country first, and understand that there is life after election. I urge all stakeholders to respect the verdict of the people



Kunje Ngombale-Mwiru (C), the opposition Sauti ya Umma's parliamentary candidate for Kibamba constituency in Dar es Salaam, addresses journalists yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PCCB reclaims 33.3m/- from loan sharks

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Singida Region has reclaimed 33.3m/- loaned to retired public servants by loan sharks with unusually high interest rates.

Adili Elinipenda, PCCB Head for Singida Region said they conducted a crackdown following directives from the Regional Commissioner to eradicate the illegal loan sharks.

"The bureau in the region is fully mobilized to eradicate the loan sharks and today you will hand over the victims 33.3m/- loaned to them," said Elinipenda.

He mentioned the firms that returned the money to the loan victims as including Bomang Microfinance of Singida Town which returned 7.2m/- to Albert Sungi, a retired teacher who was required to repay 17m/-, and Biseko Mungeta Kazungu, also of Singida Town

who loaned another retired teacher 2m/- and required him to repay 31m/-.

Others firms are Magirei Company Ltd (Micro Credit) which returned to Garase Kajuna 17m/- and Widop Company Ltd returned 2.4m/- to Lucia Petro Nyika, a retired nurse.

Some of the victims, Albert Sungi, Garase Kajuna and Lucia Nyika thanked President John Magufuli for minding the poor as some of them had even lost the hope to continue living as retired

public servants.

Handing the money to the victims the Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi consoled them and told all illegal money lenders in her region to transform and adopt other occupations, while praising the PCCB for the good job done.

Meanwhile Nchimbi gave directives to all administrative officers in the region to ensure their staff are not conned by the loan sharks.



Bargaining over price of tomatoes under way at Magole in Morogoro Region, as captured by Correspondent Sabato Kasika earlier this week.

Police in Iringa reassures public of peaceful election

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

POLICE in Iringa Region have assured the public that it is well prepared to protect the country's peace, vowing to deal with any group or an individual with intent to disrupt the electoral process.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, Regional Police Commander, Juma Bwire said: "We've received information that there are some dishonest people who are planning to cause chaos in the polling day and during results announcement."

"Due to the sensitivity of the day, there are reports of minority groups organising themselves with the aim of disrupting the voting exercise and the counting of results, let me warn them not to even try to do anything against the country's laws, we are well prepared to fight those acts," he said.

RPC Bwire said that due to the confidential information that some people wanted to bring a nuisance on the polling day he urges them to stop immediately as they (police) are well prepared to deal with such threats.

However, Commander Bwire thanked the people of Iringa Region for their co-operation in maintaining peace and tranquility during the 2020 general election campaigns, as

the situation is still fine in the region despite some few cases of violence here and there.

"As we all know, October 28 is a polling day, this is a day Tanzanians elect leaders at various levels, including parliamentary and presidential, therefore, people of Iringa region should actively exercise their constitutional right and vote for leaders, we the police are there to provide protection," he said.



Due to the sensitivity of the day, there are reports of minority groups organising themselves with the aim of disrupting the voting exercise and the counting of results, let me warn them not to even try to do anything against the country's laws, we are well prepared to fight those acts

By Correspondent Enock Charles

CCM parliamentary candidate for Ubungu in Dar es Salaam, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, has vowed to upgrade three dispensaries in the constituent to improve health service delivery in the area.

Wrapping up his campaign rallies yesterday, Prof Mkumbo said that dispensaries at Mabibo, Mavurunza and Makurumla will be elevated and get health center status to improve

CCM parliament aspirant vows to upgrade dispensaries into health centres in Ubungu

health services delivery in the district, whose population is going up and services remained the same.

He explained that Ubungu constituency is in need of more health facilities to meet with the increasing

demand.

On addressing employment, the CCM aspirant urged youth to form groups, hence, set up sanitation companies and grab waste collection tenders from Ubungu Municipal Council. He

said that the area has a number of opportunities which are yet to be explored, taking into account that the district has numerous factories, which generate lots of garbage.

Citing examples, Prof Mkumbo said:

"Mabibo street alone has 16 factories and warehouses. To me, I see this as an opportunity for youth and women who can mobilize themselves and venture into it."

He also vowed to address water woes

in the constituency, noting: "I gained a lot of experiences when I was the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Water. So, I can assure that water woes in the district will be a story of the past."

He also assured voters that if elected all 42 streets of the constituency will be easily accessible by building tarmac roads.

Mkumbo further said that if elected he'll improve discipline and accountability of health workers as part of scaling up services in the area.

Board: We will continue annual meetings tradition

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CONTRACTORS Registration Board (CRB), has vowed to continue the annual meetings with local contractors in four zones in the country to build capacity for them so that they can increase efficiency while implementing big projects.

This was revealed yesterday by the board registrar, Rhoben Nkori when closing the one day training session for local contractors on the importance of joint ventures among them so that they can be able to compete with foreign companies.

“CRB see the importance to go again to our four zones for annual meetings and we plan to do annual meetings in Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha and Dar es Salaam which will start immediately in March and end in May 2021 and the last meeting which will be the climax will be held in Dar es Salaam,” said Nkori

He said most of contractors in Tanzania are small so they need regular capacity building trainings to compete with their fellows from outside the country who always implement most of the big projects in the country.

“Our local contractors have different capabilities, some of them are good financially, some are good when it comes to equipment and others have good expertise so if they join they can be very strong and compete in tenders with any one,” he said.

Christopher Nyagaswa who is Managing Director of Ostrich company congratulated the CRDB move to equip local contractors through different trainings which he said will open their eyes on different issues in construction industry like the importance of joint ventures.

He said the tailor made trainings conducted by CRB is of great importance for local contractors because they need more knowledge on how they can grow their companies and eventually compete with big foreign companies.

“A long serving contractor Mayanga Company Director has given us his experience on the importance of joint ventures and the challenges on how to do it so at least we are aware of what to do if someone needs to go for it, after this training we will change,” he said.

Nyagaswa requested CRB management to continue with such trainings in different regions and zones so that they can benefit many local contractors and eventually increase the number of local contractors who implement big projects.

Nyagaswa said many local contractors face challenges of capital and when they go to seek loans from financial institutions they cannot afford conditions to repay back their loans.

“I would like to take this opportunity to ask our good government to put in place enabling environment for local contractors which will help them acquire loans so that they can have muscles to compete in big tenders with their counterparts from outside the country,” he said.

Another participant of the training, Colin Mwaluka said he was not aware of the pros and cons of joint ventures but after the presentation from renown and famous contractor Mayanga says now he is aware of how to go about it if he needs to join with his friends.

He commended the training and asked all local contractors to attend when they are called to do so by CRB because he believe that is where they can increase their experience in implementation of construction projects.

“Our local contractors have different capabilities, some of them are good financially, some are good when it comes to equipment and others have good expertise so if they join they can be very strong and compete in tenders with any one”



Stella Ikupa (R), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment), closes training on workplace safety for people with disabilities in Rufiji District yesterday. With her is Occupational Safety and Health Authority acting CEO Khadija Mwenda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt distributes over 200 tonnes of free fertiliser to farmers in Lushoto

By Guardian Correspondent, Lushoto

THE government has distributed more than 200 tonnes of fertiliser to farmers in Lushoto District while calling on them to use it for the production of both food and cash crops to increase yields.

Speaking to farmers soon after inspecting their farms in preparation

for the new farming season, Lushoto District Commissioner Januari Kugangika said the government has already played its part and it is now remained with farmers to ensure they prepare their farms while adhering to various farming guidelines given by extension officers.

He also called on them to stop setting fires to their farms when preparing

them as the habit has often caused destruction to the natural growth of trees resulting in great loss to the government.

Geoffrey Salaas, the Acting Lushoto District Agricultural Officer called on farmers to start planting their seeds early following a warning from Tanzania Meteorological Authority indicating insufficient

seasonal rains.

Ramadhani Muhudi, a Lushoto-based agent of Agrovet—the firm dealing in farming inputs said there were 12,000 farmers who have registered themselves with the district's free fertiliser distribution programme, but they have been able to distribute it to only 1,179 farmers.



Prof Ibrahim Lipumba, the opposition Civic United Front candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency, addresses a campaign rally at Temeke in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Smiles after construction of 160m/- worth police station

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

IT was all smiles for residents of Mbarali District in Mbeya region following the construction of a new 160m/- police station.

The police station handed over to the government for use was built by the former Mbarali Member of Parliament Haroon Pirmohmed and aimed at beefing up security in the district.

He handed over the station at the weekend in the presence of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila and the Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei.

Pirmohmed said the police station cost 160m/- and the one-acre plot of land on which it was built was part of the farm belonging to his firm Mbarali Estate.

He said the building consists of various offices, toilets, vehicles' parking area and a special area for police drills.

He said the police station was among his pledges when he was seeking for votes in 2015 elections.

Speaking at the event Mbeya regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila thanked the former MP for the construction of the police station, saying only few people have the heart of doing that especially when they abandon politics.

He directed Mbarali District land officer to remove the land plot from the investor's title deed, and a new title

deed was to be issued.

Chalamila said the police station was strategic for security purposes in the area due to Ubnaruku Town's hectic production activities and the nearby Ubungo Bus Station.

RPC Matei said the Inspector General Simon Sirro was supposed to attend the event but failed to do so due to other pressing duties.

He called on other stakeholders to emulate Pirmohmed's example in revamping various police's infrastructures due to the importance of the work of the police.

“He handed over the station at the weekend in the presence of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila and the Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei

By Special Correspondent

Award to recognise influence of female reporters to women entrepreneurship

APO Group, the leading pan-African communications and business consultancy, presents the second annual African Women in Media Award set to recognise, celebrate and empower continental female journalists who support female entrepreneurship in Africa.

The award will be bestowed to the winner at the 6th Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum's (AWIEF) Virtual Conference and Awards to be hosted on 2-3 December 2020, with the theme

‘Reimagining Business & Rebuilding Better.’

AWIEF's prestigious annual event is a platform that sees global thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, academics, development organisations and investors gather to dialogue,

connect, network, share, collaborate and transact in a combined effort to boost Africa's entrepreneurship ecosystem for women.

Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard, Chairman and Founder of APO Group said: “The launch of our inaugural

award in 2019 was successful in putting a spotlight on the work of female journalists sharing the stories of women entrepreneurs in Africa.

“We are proud to continue the APO Group African Women in Media Award as part of our commitment

to supporting the development of journalism on the continent. We look forward to presenting this award with AWIEF in Johannesburg as we celebrate women in journalism and entrepreneurship.”

Entries for APO Group African

Women in Media Award must offer valuable insights into African female entrepreneurs while appealing to a global audience.

The award is open to African woman journalists and bloggers, whether directly employed or freelancers, working in the continent of Africa who have produced a story that has been broadcast or published in English, French, Portuguese or Arabic in the form of a printed publication, a television feature, a radio story, a website or a blog whose primary audience is based in Africa.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Tanzanians have ability to ensure that the General Election is free, fair and peaceful

TODAY is voting day in this year's General Election, and our country has yet another opportunity to demonstrate to the world that there is a firm intention to organise peaceful polls.

This ought to be the case despite political tensions that unavoidably exist here as in any other country in the world. Contrary to what it may first appear, the task seems tougher than expected, though by the end of preparations yesterday there was nothing really out of hand as such. It was even more urgent that all stakeholders exercise restraint, first.

At the time that preparations were being completed, a team of elections observers from member states of the East African Community (EAC) had already arrived, led by former Burundi president Sylvestre Ntibantunganya.

He is leading a mission of 59 observers who are being posted to 13 regions across the country to observe the voting tomorrow.

Ntibantunganya told the media that the observers were drawn from functional bodies in the EAC region and Secretariat that have an interest in the polls.

Tanzanian citizens aren't part of the observer mission as per the rules of EAC election observation, and the mission's report will be presented to ministries for EAC Affairs in partner states and thus to the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Observer teams have been dispatched to Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Unga, Pemba, Lindi, Mtwara, Dodoma, Mbeya, Kigoma, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Mwanza regions. It means that, apart from social media postings, any wrongdoing will be observed on the spot.

Already there were plenty of images and statements of concern from diplomatic missions and the United Nations, which serves to underline that there is a credibility gap that must be covered in the last hours, so to speak, of election organisation.

There must be sufficient assurance

and explicit demonstration of good faith in the various steps taken by election organisers, like schedules of swearing in party agents in respective polling stations, and even with regard to early voting by a section of public officers. Indeed, transparency is vital.

What the EAC observer mission seeks to do is basically what everyone wants to see, which is building public confidence in electoral processes by encouraging voters and stakeholders to freely participate in elections.

This requires an environment that promotes competition and tolerance without intimidation or violence, if one borrows from remarks by former president Ntibantunganya. From the look of it, the teams will have plenty on their hands in challenges, weaknesses, opportunities or strengths in the current poll.

While the former president was on the wavelength of the mission working to figure out what needs to be considered for the improvement of electoral practices in a member country and within the community, the task for the host country is far more complicated and urgent.

The polls aren't an experiment in 'what works, what doesn't and why' but a show of intent, which must show integrity so as to be credible, and in addition, there is nowhere to hide wrongdoing. Public agencies have every reason to wish to pass this test.

However, there is a dimension to the observer mission that isn't being raised intensely enough in the public education effort by NEC.

Ntibantunganya said the mission seeks to assess the legitimacy of the electoral process and its results in accordance with international standards. That is a rather stiff climb, though generally understandable.

Indeed, it is to be assumed that all Tanzanians appreciate the fact that it is in the nation's interest for today's General Election to prove its worth as free, fair, transparent and peaceful as humanly possible.

No single task is easy in observing laws and regulations on voting day

AS Tanzanians geared for the General Election today, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) on Monday urged media practitioners to demonstrate integrity, observe ethical guidelines in their reporting so as to safeguard peace and unity.

These affirmations, made by TCRA director general James Kilaba, in a way suggested that the proper conduct of elections and maintenance of peace hugely depended on media conduct. There is a point in that impression, though media stakeholders may have felt their burden was too heavy.

Kilaba has said that existing regulations and laws should be observed throughout the voting and other proceedings. That may have touched beyond the specific task of the media, which summarily is to truthfully and objectively take note, report and broadcast or print what is taking place.

The media don't predetermine the effects of what they convey as factual reports of what took place, but it is also careful not to add salt - or sugar - to suit their preferences. It is a tightrope when diametrically opposed sides of the political divide equally expect truthful accounts.

There was, for instance, a stern reminder that stern measures will be taken against anyone who will be found violating communication regulations relating to the conduct of the polls.

Similarly, journalists ought to avoid using offensive language as it may stimulate action leading to breaches of the peace, even if such language was used by any stakeholders in the first place.

It is true that media practitioners are important towards a peaceful poll, despite challenges. Journalists are also citizens and constitute 'the fourth estate' upon which the state relies to have its point of view taken up and properly communicated to the citizenry.

Other stakeholders also have points of concern that need to be put across so that communication is two-way and informative, whereas effective information on what the other side expects risks belittling what the dominant side wants. It is the proverbial choice between a rock and a hard place, such that either way it is the media that may appear the villain.

But there is still a way out, as noted by Kilaba: that media practitioners should adhere to professionalism during this important period.

That way the task will be easier for TCRA as it continues to monitor all media reportage so as to ensure that every media organ fulfills its duties in line with the country's laws.

This much the media will definitely be striving to achieve, but just how far it will have been truthful needs restraint from the other sides as well, that the contending point of view has the right to newspaper space and airtime.

It is democracy we are talking of, in which case there will be some fine points of interpretation between TCRA and other statutory bodies where they might differ with media organs.

However, hardly any media organ worth the name can shirk its duties. It will be letting down its customer base and well-wishers, or diminish commercial interest for unfulfilled expectations.



Lots of riding on outcome of the US presidential election in terms of Africa's relations with China

By David Monyae

A Trump victory in the 3 November US elections is likely to see the US intensify its attempts to roll back China's successful Africa policy. A Biden administration will find areas in which its US-Africa policy will converge with that of China. The US and China will be more likely to cooperate within multilateral forums and will actively seek a multilateral approach to global challenges, such as peacekeeping and health matters.

American democracy is too big and fortified to completely collapse. However, the controversy over Russia's alleged involvement in the 2016 elections and the events of the last four years have shown that indeed America's democracy is not completely impregnable. The 3 November 2020 US elections are rightly perceived as "generational elections". More than anything else, these elections will become a major landmark and a point of reference in the history of America. They stand to make or break not just President Donald J Trump but America itself, as a global hegemon.

On Wednesday, 21 October 2020, the African Centre for the Study of the United States, based at Wits University, will hold a timely virtual town hall meeting open to the public. African and American scholars will debate the vexing questions: What does the US election outcome mean for Africa-China, Africa-Europe and global politics? Why should Africans be concerned about the state of American body politics and more so its elections? Where do China and Europe fit in both the outcome of the US elections and their implications on its own quest for development?

First, Africa invested heavily in human capital (African-Americans constitute 13.4% of the total 328,239,523 US population, according to the July 2019 estimates of the US Census Bureau), raw material and knowledge in the development of America's economy and its electoral politics.

As a country that depicted itself as a "City upon a Hill", the US is no stranger to Africa's politics. Its footprints are seen in all phases of the continent's political and economic life. It has also influenced Africa through its soft power by expanding education through missionary schools. Many non-governmental organisations from America have also been instrumental in advocacy work across Africa. Most of the founding leaders of African national liberation movements and



current leaders in different fields were educated in America. America has therefore played a critical role in shaping what we consider as African politics.

More importantly, America intervenes in Africa's electoral politics and often plays a critical role in its development through investments in infrastructure, health, education and trade (Agoa being the main trade agreement). In doing so, it competes with other players such as the EU and the rising China. The outcome of the upcoming elections carries heavy implications on the African continent. Due to these factors and more, it is in Africa's interest to pay great attention to the new direction of the US policy towards Africa and the world after 3 November 2020.

I intend to dispel outright three major assumptions erroneously made by observers of the American elections. Firstly, the elections are about American domestic politics and the illiberal Donald J Trump - a leader who has undoubtedly sledgehammered the liberal international order largely built by America in the post-World War 2 system. The second assumption that these observers make is that the American democratic system is "remarkably stable and self-regulating". Thirdly, Trump's ruinous four years have accelerated the decline of America's economic and global leadership and should Joe Biden win the elections, his administration will likely reverse all of the above.

There are structural changes taking place in America's real and indeed perceived global power. The US-China rivalry will continue, and Africa is going to be a stage where it openly plays out. The US will intensify its attempts to roll back China's successful Africa policy.

Graham Allison and Joseph Nye have both rung the alarm bells about America's standing in the global arena. A 25 October article by Allison in The National Interest declared: "China is Now the World's Largest Economy. We Shouldn't Be Shocked." According to Allison, we should not be shocked because China has already displaced the US as the largest economy in the world.

Joseph Nye, another Washington insider scholar has laid out five US future scenarios: 1) the end of the globalised liberal order; 2) a 1930s-like authoritarian challenge; 3) a China-dominated world order; 4) a green international agenda; and 5) "more of the same".

Regardless of who wins the November elections, Trump or Biden, America will not be the same. There is little to say about Trump's America First foreign policy and its destructive impact on US relations with allies and foes. Although it is increasingly becoming unlikely that he will win, if he does, some of the bleak futures that Nye imagined will certainly come to fruition.

The greatest danger in this scenario will be a high likelihood for heightened tensions resulting in accidental wars in the South China Sea, the India-China border dispute, between China-Taiwan, and on the African continent where American and Chinese troops face each other in Djibouti. Advanced weaponry, nuclear and otherwise, needs leaders who have a level-headed temperament. The 21st century belongs to Asia and Africa's trade with this region is high. Any disturbances in Asia will impact the continent adversely.

There are structural changes taking place in America's real and indeed perceived global power. The US-China

rivalry will continue, and Africa is going to be a stage where it openly plays out. The US will intensify its attempts to roll back China's successful Africa policy.

The first area in which the US will lock horns with China in Africa will be on infrastructure building. Washington will exert its weight within international financial institutions such as the Bretton Woods to restrict poor African countries from signing new infrastructure deals with China. This will come under the so-called "debt trap" narrative. Although the debt trap narrative comes as a genuine altruistic move to protect poor Africans from what it perceives as an expansionist China, the main motives are none other than stopping China's Belt and Road Initiative, an alternative route to the current US-dominated routes in global trade.

Agathe Demarais, the global forecasting director at The Economist Intelligence Unit argues in the South China Morning Post that even if Biden wins, "there's little perspective for meaningful improvement in US-China relations... The two countries will remain locked in a strategic competition for economic and technological dominance".

However, China has an upper hand in Africa because while America talks negatively about China, it does not have an alternative solution. In other words, talk is cheap: for example, American hi-tech companies do not have an appetite to invest heavily in Africa's hi-tech industry.

There are however high chances that a Biden administration will find areas in which its US-Africa policy will converge with that of China. The US and China will be more likely to cooperate within multilateral forums. First, Washington will certainly rejoin the Paris Agreement on climate change and also return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal with Iran. In addition, Washington will actively seek a multilateral approach to global challenges such as peacekeeping and health matters. Such a move will see joint Washington and Beijing efforts boosting Africa's Agenda 2063.

Still at an international level, a Biden victory might revitalise America's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We might see an America that is once again committed to be a rational leader, not insular looking as has been the case under the Trump presidency. Once again, there is a lot riding on the impending election, as it has the potential to change not only America but the globe in fundamental ways. DM

TANAPA renovates Nyerere's Magomeni house, seeks more space

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Mwalimu J.K Nyerere Memorial House at Magomeni suburb in the city of Dar es Salaam will soon start being recognizable in tourism circles around the world after Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) begins to promote it so that local and international tourists get the idea to visit the place.

The house was built in 1958 by the Father of the Nation and first president Julius Nyerere and right now it is under the control of TANAPA as a public utility of cultural value.

The Commissioner of Conservation, Dr. Allan Kijazi who is also TANAPA CEO made this observation recently at the launching of the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial House officiated by the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr. Hamisi Kigwangalla.

The house is one of several new tourist attractions, which include an iconic landmark on the map of Tanzania, a world-class visitor's view of tourist attractions for research on the country's historical heritage, Nyerere's striving for the independence of Tanganyika and wider liberation struggles.

TANAPA is now struggling to obtain a plot of land adjacent to Mwalimu House to build car parking, a library and restaurant for local and international visitors.

"We need more space so that we can expand the area for visitors viewing Mwalimu Nyerere's Independence struggle days and the place where he used to stay so as to learn from him," he said.

The house will be marketed in the local tourism market and the secondary market abroad to attract more tourists to see what Tanzania is endowed with in the tourism sector.

"In TANAPA we want to make the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial House an international spot attracting domestic and international tourists as the house harbors a collection of memorable photographs of the late Mwalimu Nyerere and his family, a sewing machine (Titan make) that was used by Omari Selemani Sumbula (his tailor) sewing clothes for Mwalimu during the 1950s in particular.

Visitors shall also witness a radio used by Mwalimu at this house to monitor local and international news as Tanganyika pursued its independence in the 1950s, apart from a cupboard and the utensils used by family members. There is also a dining table and chairs, along with the bed Mwalimu was using.

There is a set of sofas made of hard wood, leather and cotton used by the family, and a copper water pot for storing and cooling drinking water, and a "local microwave" used to warm Mwalimu's food especially when he came back late from meetings.

Citing the fees charged for tourists visiting the house, head of station Neema Mbwana said local tourists would pay 2360/-, children 1180/- and five dollars charged on international visitors.

For his part, TANAPA board chairman (retired) Gen. George Waitara appealed to residents in the area to provide space to the memorial house after compensation from the government has been agreed.

"The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial House will be among the best tourist attractions in the country to bring us foreign currency and contribute to the growth of our economy," he suggested.

Renovation of the house which started in June last year was done by SUMA JKT and finalized back in May, with local and international visitors now invited to visit the area as electronic payments system is being installed.

The late Nyerere lived in the house from 1958 while spearheading the campaign to replace trusteeship authorities led by Governor Sir Edward Twining and later, after independence on 9th December 1961, Governor General Sir Richard Turnbull.

Mbwana said that most strategy meetings of the anti-colonial effort were held in this house, where Nyerere held discussions with fellow nationalists to chart out the modalities for Tanganyika to be free of colonial rule.

For his part, Executive Director of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, Joseph Butiku said that despite that TANAPA renovated the Memorial House, there are many activities carried out by Mwalimu Nyerere that are not documented, for instance in Mwisenge area in Mara region, Tabora and even in Dar es Salaam.

"As you have begun to embark on this initiatives it is time for TANAPA to ensure it preserves Mwalimu Nyerere's itinerary of activities in those areas, that they are well-documented and accessible.



Makongoro Nyerere, a son of Mwalimu Nyerere applauds with other participants after the house in which the late leader and his family lived from 1958 in Dar es Salaam was unveiled as a memorial site last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

ble. "We are ready to help you get more information about Mwalimu Nyerere's activities that is not well known to Tanzanians, so that it is preserved in a digital format," he specified.

Butiku urged TANAPA to make documentation of those areas for posterity and for tourism purposes, noting also that the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation has 1800 items relating to the late Nyerere that are not preserved in digital format.

"TANAPA can come in my office to see how it will document these scattered moments of Nyerere's ideas so they can be put into digital format as well," he stated.

TANAPA can visit Mwitongo in Butiama District

where Mwalimu Nyerere was buried to make other renovations as his cemetery is dilapidated, he affirmed.

For his part, Dr Kigwangalla noted that the ministry will be soon come up with a 10 year strategic plan to mark the legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere, to help the youth understand Mwalimu's philosophy of socialism and self-reliance.

The ministry has formed a committee under the permanent secretary which includes a few other permanent secretaries for areas touching historians, activists, communication experts and other professionals, he said.

The main goal is to collect relevant information on Mwalimu Nyerere's history, his ideas and activi-

ties to give a picture of Tanzania, "helping Tanzanians to understand how we reached where we are today."

Dr. Christowaja Ntandu, Assistant Managing Director at the Division of Antiquities, said they have decided to come up with the new strategy after discovering that Mwalimu Nyerere's legacy is not well-known for broad parts of the population, especially youths.

"There are so many youths in Tanzania who are not aware what is Mwalimu Nyerere's philosophy of socialism and self-reliance and even his legacy.

"We want to impart this knowledge to youths so that they can live in similar manner as Mwalimu Nyerere in practice, for the work he did at different periods of his life, and learn from him," she elaborated.

The coronavirus surge that will define the next four years

By Robinson Meyer

THE United States is sleepwalking into what could become the largest coronavirus outbreak of the pandemic so far. In the past week alone, as voters prepare to go to the ballot box, about one in every 1,000 Americans has tested positive for the virus - and about two in every 100,000 Americans have died of it.

This third surge is far more geographically dispersed than what the country saw in the spring or summer: the coronavirus is at risk of careening out of control, and it can be found in every kind of American community - from tiny farm towns to affluent suburbs to bustling border cities.

This is the first of the American surges with no clear epicentre: from North Carolina to North Dakota, and Colorado to Connecticut, more Americans are contracting Covid-19.

The US now reports nearly 60,000 new cases every day, numbers previously seen only during the peak in July and early August, according to the Covid Tracking Project at The Atlantic.

Since the middle of September, the number of new cases diagnosed each day has swelled by 73 per cent. The number of Americans hospitalised has increased by at least 40 per cent.

True to its pandemic response so far, the White House has not mounted an effort to stop this spike. President Donald Trump has not spoken to the nation or pushed forward a strategy to address a third surge.

And both the president and Vice President Mike Pence are holding crowded in-person rallies in some of the same states - such as Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Indiana - now seeing surges.

In the next two weeks, yet more Americans will fall ill, in numbers that are certain to make this an Election Day unlike any other. If the country's medical and political crises were ever separate, they are not now.

The third surge has belied some of Trump's predictions about the pandemic. The president has repeatedly said that only states led by Democrats have struggled with the virus. "If you take the blue states out, we're at a level that I don't think anybody in the world would be at," he said at a press conference last month.

Since then, coronavirus infections have

skyrocketed in rural America. The number of people hospitalised with Covid-19 has more than tripled in North Dakota, Montana and Wisconsin. It has roughly doubled in South Dakota, Utah, Indiana and Ohio.

But describing what's happening now as simply a red-state surge would be too quick and easy to convince anyone. Cases are now rising in all but nine states - meaning that this surge is more widespread, and harder to explain, than either of the earlier waves.

It may end up being less deadly, however: The US now runs many more tests than it could in March and April, and people who are hospitalised with the virus are less likely to die. At the same time, the virus's long-term complications, which might range from respiratory disability to cognitive decline, now seem more ominous.

What's happening now might be best understood as three smaller types of outbreaks. You could call them the rural explosion, the swing-state surge, and the fatigue creep.

The rural explosion

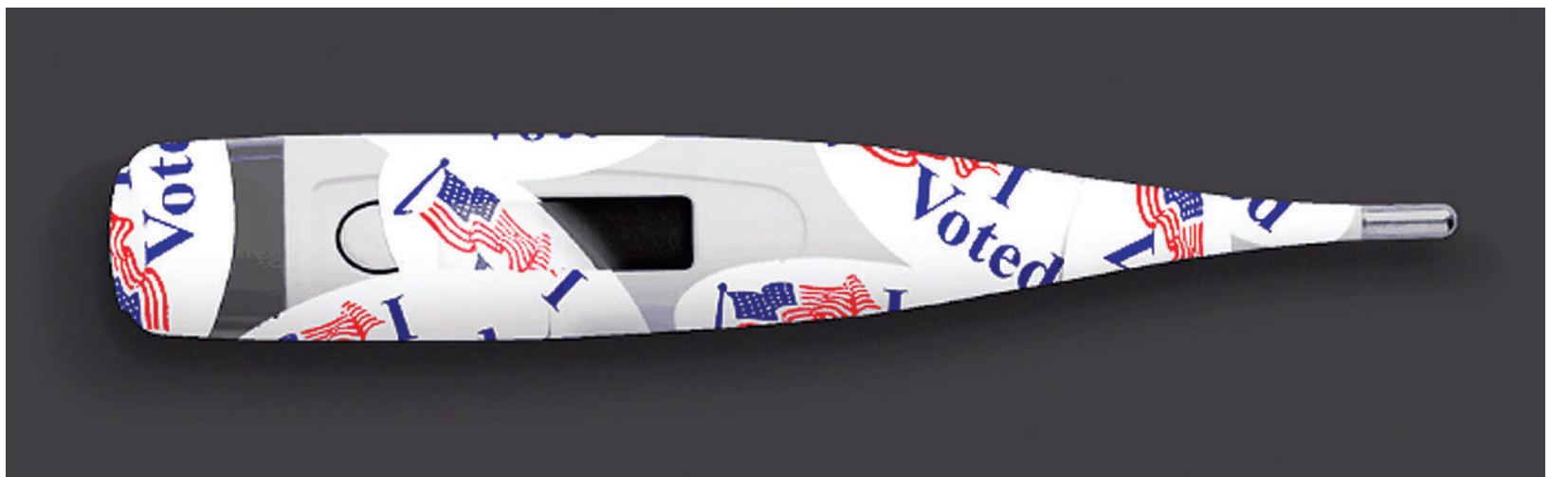
The first phenomenon: After months when viral transmission seemed to dominate cities, the coronavirus has now wheeled its way into rural America. That's a large part of what's happening in North and South Dakota, which stand out even in a country of hot spots.

I earlier mentioned that one in 1,000 Americans has tested positive for Covid-19 in the past week. But on Tuesday (last week) alone, one in every 1,000 residents of North and South Dakota was diagnosed with the coronavirus. That's a per capita rate of infection nearly double New York State's during the spring.

In North Dakota, the harder hit of the two, the number of people hospitalised with Covid-19 has tripled in the past month. The state is so deluged that it has asked residents to do their own contact tracing.

The state's cases are not limited to its largest cities, such as Fargo and Bismarck. Look at Ward County, for instance, which is home to about 68,000 people and, according to the state health department, reports nearly 646 active cases - one case for every 105 residents.

Or Williams County, with a population of about 38,000, which reports 203 active cases - one case for every 187 residents. The state of



A plastic oral thermometer covered with 'I voted' stickers. Photo illustration: The Atlantic

Maine has 43 times more residents than tiny Stark County, North Dakota, but they reported the same number of new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. To some degree, the rural explosion is playing out across the conservative Mountain West. The western US now reports as many cases per capita as it did in late June - but spread over the country in a very different way.

In the early summer, California and the Pacific Northwest dominated the region's numbers; today, the interior states lead. Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, where Democratic Governor Steve Bullock has fought incumbent Senator Steve Daines in a close congressional race, now each report at least 400 cases each day per 1 million residents.

Utah is reporting more than 1,200 new cases a day, its worst-ever outbreak, but most cases remain concentrated in Salt Lake City and the surrounding area, according to state data.

The swing-state surge

Cases and hospitalisations are also rising across some of the Great Lakes and upper-Midwest states that could prove most crucial in the presidential election. The Midwest now has more Covid-19 cases per capita than any other region in the country, and is reaching rates of infection that come close to matching the worst of the Northeast's during the spring and the worst of the South's during the summer.

I wrote last month that Wisconsin looked

like a growing hot spot. That warning has come true: new cases in Wisconsin have more than quintupled since dipping in late August, and hospitalisations have reached an all-time high.

More than 3,500 Wisconsinites now test positive for the virus every day. The state's pandemic response has been politically polarised: while its Democratic governor, Tony Evers, has defended a mask mandate against criticism from Republican leaders and conservative legal groups, mask wearing has been spotty in some areas and many people have refused to reduce their travel to stop the spread of the disease, according to Wisconsin Public Radio.

In Ohio, cases and hospitalisations have more than doubled in the past month and now exceed the previous all-time peak. More than 2,000 Ohioans, on average, are now diagnosed with the virus each day.

In Iowa, the home of a close congressional race that could determine whether Democrats retake the Senate, a large outbreak continues to grow. More than 950 Iowans, on average, are diagnosed with the virus each day; and more than 500 are currently in the hospital - an all-time high. The most ominous state may be Pennsylvania, whose 20 electoral votes could determine the election's winner. The Keystone State saw a huge coronavirus outbreak in the spring, but this appears not to have protected it from another surge: its numbers have deteriorated in the past month.

On Saturday, the state reported more than 1,800 new cases, its third-highest single-day total of the pandemic. While many fewer people are hospitalised now than were in the spring, the state's outbreak is still growing: there are now at least 1,400 new cases a day, as many as in late April.

Voting in Pennsylvania has already become contentious, and Republicans and Democrats have fought over rules for voters who want to avoid going to polling places. Earlier this week, the Supreme Court ruled that the state could count mail-in ballots received up to three days after Election Day, blocking a Republican challenge to the policy.

While voting in person is relatively safe, registered Democrats have requested absentee ballots at two to three times the rate of Republicans, according to the Pennsylvania Department of State. If a surge in Covid-19 cases limits turnout on Election Day, it could depress the GOP vote more significantly.

Pandemic-fatigue-induced creep of cases

The fact that Pennsylvania's cases are rising despite its earlier outbreak raises a third spectre, which seems to be happening in New Jersey, where new cases have quadrupled since their low in mid-August. More than 1,000 residents of the Garden State now test positive for the virus every day, a return to late-May levels. Hospitalisations have remained at much lower levels, though about 300 more people are hospitalised than were last month. Deaths have not increased at all.

In the Northeast, cases have also recently increased in Massachusetts and Connecticut. They have also modestly risen in New York - every day, about 400 more people now test positive for the virus than did in the middle of last month - but numbers still pale in comparison with springtime levels.

KILOMBERO SUGAR COMPANY
 AN ILOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, the largest producer of sugar in Tanzania operating cohesively with Illovo Distillers Tanzania Limited (IDTL) and a member of Illovo Sugar Africa Limited (Africa's largest sugar producer), is seeking to recruit a dynamic and result oriented person to fill a vacancy of Human Resources Head.

Job Purpose:

The key objective of the Human Resources Head is to Align the country Human Resources strategy, plans, and resources to directly support the strategic imperatives of Country business strategy, to manage an integrated country talent approach to meet talent and leadership needs today and in the future, Partner to support strategies to ensure organizational effectiveness, Develop the in-Country learning and development strategy and programme to build critical skills to drive the growth strategy and achieve business results, Ensure effective country reward strategies, Lead Country HR functional excellence and business partnering, Collaborate to ensure a healthy employee climate, culture and relations, Provide accurate HR analytics for effective decision making, Manage HR risks (statutory, regulatory and policy requirements), Collaborate with Group and champion / guide implementation of relevant standards in-Country and provide strategic leadership and guidance, Adhere to safety standards and promote world class safety practices

- Duties and Responsibilities.**
- Partner with the Country Executive to set direction and drive an integrated medium and long term HR Strategy to enable business performance and effectively support change management
 - Lead relevant and sustainable country talent acquisition, talent management and retention strategies
 - Manage Country reward and remuneration plans to ensure alignment with Group head office and to enable performance
 - Lead effective Country localisation and diversity management strategies and plans
 - Develop a mutually beneficial industrial relations climate to achieve harmonious working environments and productivity
 - Manage business relevant employee value proposition
 - Drive HR performance against minimum standards and ensure compliance to statutory, regulatory and policy requirements (e.g., Modern slavery)
 - Coach and oversee line manager competence development of people processes
 - Resolve complex employee relations issues and address grievances
 - Manage and coordinate sharing of identified best practices, frameworks and minimum standards and

provide additional opportunities for problem identification and knowledge sharing

- Enable and drive effective talent and performance management within function and across Country
 - Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC)
 - Ensure enablers are in place to promote success (e.g. systems and processes)
 - Identify and monitor KPIs to track performance and Intensity to realise improvement
 - Qualifications & Experience
 - Master's degree in Human Resources, Public Administration or related field
 - 10 years senior management experience (with Country Exco member experience)
 - Impressive, demonstrable track record and skills/experience gained within a similar position(s), at a similar level.
 - Human Resources Certification from recognized International Human Resources Body will be an added advantage
- Terms of Service: The successful candidate will be engaged on a permanent contract.

All those who meet the above requirements and would like to apply for the position, should send their applications together with detailed curriculum vitae and three referees with their contacts via email: kscl.services@illovo.co.za and include Human Resources Head in the subject line before 06th November 2020. Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.

NB: The position is open for internal and external candidates to apply.

BEDA MARWA CHACHA HUMAN RESOURCES HEAD


Kilombero Sugar Company Limited
 Msolwa Office, Kidatu, Morogoro, Tanzania
 PO Box 50, Kidatu, Morogoro, Tanzania,
 T: +255 23 2617061 | F: +255 23 2617018
 @ www.illovosugar.co.za
 @ illovosugargrp
 Reg No: 2539

Directors : A.R. Mpungwe (Chairman), G.H. Williams (Managing Director), J. A. Coughtrie, G.B. Dalgleish, S.N. Hululu, M.A. Nyasama, N. Saayman, J.L. Sutcliffe

KILOMBERO SUGAR COMPANY
 AN ILOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, the largest producer of sugar in Tanzania operating cohesively with Illovo Distillers Tanzania Limited (IDTL) and a member of Illovo Sugar Africa Limited (Africa's largest sugar producer), is seeking to recruit a dynamic and result oriented person to fill a vacancy of Estate Agriculture Head

Job Purpose:

The key objective of the Estate Agriculture Head is to develop country's Estate Agriculture strategy with a view towards long-term growth, development and sustainability. Ensure Estate Agriculture is managed within budget and achieve cost synergies, Adopt and embed the "Illovo Way in Agriculture" to ensure Illovo is the best in class sugar producer in the country. Optimize Estate Agriculture performance by holding the function accountable to the highest standards of asset management, cane quality (production) and farming productivity, whilst meeting the required cane crop volume at the optimal cost. Ensure the Estate Agriculture function fully leverages available support from the Illovo group (HO and other countries). Ensure talent and performance management is best in class across the Agricultural function. Develop and performance manage a highly effective functioning team. Provide technical support to the Grower Agriculture function where required. Promote a culture of continuous improvement across Estates. Collaborate with Group and champion and guide implementation of relevant Illovo Ways and related standards in-Country and provide strategic leadership and guidance. Adhere to safety standards and promote world class safety practices.

Duties and Responsibilities.

- Develop Estate Agriculture strategy and long term yield forecasts; ensure that appropriate processes are run to refresh strategy at appropriate intervals and that initiatives are in place to deliver on the strategy
- Develop annual agriculture operations plan for crop establishment, husbandry and removal, including innovation and new technology adoption and implementation which complies with conservation legislation and sustainable agriculture requirements
- Build a strong leadership team and talent pipeline for Estate Agriculture through ongoing coaching, mentoring and guidance
- Drive rigorous performance management, biased towards rewarding strong performance and compliance with critical behaviours, and including managing consequences where required
- Drive operational excellence across agriculture by making informed tradeoffs and driving initiatives that will deliver greatest possible yields at optimal cost and quality levels
- Ensure adoption of group minimum standards and processes for Crop Production, Agronomy, Engineering, Harvesting and Haulage.
- Oversee provision of technical expertise to Grower Agriculture
- Drive synergies with the group, effectively partnering with group counterparts to identify, share and embed opportunities for optimisation
- Oversee relationships with key stakeholders and 3rd party suppliers
- Report on Estate Agriculture performance and key adverse or positive developments to Country Executive and Group Agriculture
- Initiate and develop the business case for key capital projects in Agriculture, ensuring required outcomes are delivered on
- Manage and coordinate sharing of identified best practices, frameworks and minimum standards within function through Head Office platform, and provide additional opportunities for problem identification and knowledge sharing
- Oversee effective talent and performance management within function
- Promote and adhere to Illovo SHERQ procedure, policy and guidelines
- Ensure enablers are in place to promote success (e.g. systems and processes)
- Identify and monitor KPIs to track performance and flag any issues
- Promote and adhere to Illovo's procedures, policies and guidelines, including, without limitation, those relating to SHERQ, Competition Law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC)

Qualifications / Knowledge

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture / Agricultural Engineering / Agricultural development
- 10 years' experience in sugar cane agriculture, at least 5 years in a senior agricultural operations position responsible for greater than 3,000 ha
- Proven track record of effectively developing and implementing strategies through managing budgets, people and resources to meet business KPIs
- Good business acumen and agricultural expertise, with ability to anticipate, interpret and respond to changes impacting on functional area
- A formal business/commercial qualification would be an advantage
- Strong agriculture data analysis skills.

TERMS OF SERVICE: The successful candidate will be engaged on a permanent contract. All those who meet the above requirements and would like to apply for the position, should send their applications together with detailed curriculum vitae and three referees with their contacts to the under mentioned addressee not later than two weeks after appearance of this advert. Email kscl.agric@illovo.co.za. Only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.

NB: The position is open for internal and external candidates to apply.


BEDA MARWA CHACHA HUMAN RESOURCES HEAD

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited
 Msolwa Office, Kidatu, Morogoro, Tanzania
 PO Box 50, Kidatu, Morogoro, Tanzania,
 T: +255 23 2617061 | F: +255 23 2617018
 @ www.illovosugar.co.za
 @ illovosugargrp
 Reg No: 2539

BIASHARA ZOTE MAKINI HUTANGAZWA HAPA

Nipashe Nipashe mwendo mdundo

? Unafahamu ni kwa nini?

✓ "Tunaongoza na Kuaminika"



Nipashe
 MWANGA WA JAMII

WASILIANA NASI

☎ 0745 700 710 au 0677 020 701

✉ advertise@guardian.co.tz

subscription@guardian.co.tz

epaper@guardian.co.tz

(Matangazo)

(Magazeti)

(epaper)

PATA NAKALA YAKO

🌐 <https://epaper.ippmedia.com>

Pakua The Guardian-IPP Media



Rockefeller Foundation commits US\$1bn for COVID-19 recovery

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rockefeller Foundation has said it will commit US\$1 billion over the next three years to catalyze a more inclusive, green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement released by the foundation from New York yesterday said the commitment is building on current efforts and long-standing programmes with focus on two key areas: catalyzing billions of dollars in private and concessional investments to scale distributed renewable energy across developing countries and ensuring more equitable access to Covid-19 tests and vaccines, sci-

ence-based tools, and data to fight the pandemic, while strengthening public health systems to prevent future outbreaks.

In addition to this, one-time commitment of additional resources, the foundation said its efforts and energies, as a whole, will be rededicated and reoriented toward improving the lives of the world's poorest people and addressing inequities made worse by this virus.

"There's no going back to the past, to before-Covid. We need to reimagine the future we want," said Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. "To meet this moment, we must

leverage all our resources and relationships to build an equitable, sustainable future, where everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential and climate disaster is avoided.

The time to act is right now to make sure vulnerable children and families are included in the pandemic response and recovery."

Prior to the pandemic, half the world's population lacked access to essential health services, and more than 800 million people worldwide lacked access to electricity.

Billions more have their potential diminished by unreliable

or insufficient energy access, predominantly provided by carbon-emitting fuels. The energy accessibility gap has further widened because of the pandemic.

This year alone, more than 100 million people have seen their electricity access severed because they couldn't pay their bills during the pandemic, with the toll falling disproportionately on the poor and most vulnerable. The World Bank also estimates that the combined impact of climate change and the damage done by Covid-19 will push 132 million people into poverty.

Over the past decade, The Rockefeller Foundation has made

ending energy poverty in a clean, sustainable way a priority around the world. Providing reliable electricity to communities that often receive the brunt of climate change is essential to creating the economic opportunity for them to lift themselves out of poverty. As a result of pioneering breakthroughs in distributed renewable energy technologies, it is now possible to end energy poverty in ten years without accelerating carbon emissions.

Compared to conventional grid-based electrification, scaling these technologies to provide green energy to half a billion people would save 1.5 billion tons of CO2 emis-

sions over the next decade.

Access to energy can also boost the irrigation, crop yields, and productivity of local agriculture. Farmers can further protect crop values with cold storage or increase their returns with post-harvest processing.

"Over the past decade, our Smart Power Initiative's investments have improved the lives of almost 500,000 people in India, Myanmar, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, so we know this can work," said Ashvin Dayal, Senior Vice-President of the Power and Climate Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation. "By refining the business case for distributed re-

newable electrification and deepening our technical knowledge of mini grid systems and their impact on people's lives and livelihoods, we paved the way for the launch of a partnership with Tata Power, TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG).

This effort is expected to invest \$1 billion by 2026, deploying up to 10,000 mini grids that will provide clean energy to 5 million households, create 10,000 new green jobs, support 100,000 rural enterprises, deliver irrigation to 400,000 farmers, and in total, provide access to reliable power for more than 25 million people across the communities they serve."

New research shows how food security in Africa could be protected by an algorithm

By Guardian Reporter

NEW research shows how food security in Africa could be protected by an algorithm that can track diseases in banana crops

The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) has released new research that shows how a combination of imagery from mobile phones, drones and satellites can be used to clamp down on banana threats. The images of varying resolutions are fed into a platform "trained" through machine learning to identify banana crops and analyse threats with 97% overall accuracy.

Bananas are thought to be the first fruit on earth, originating in Southeast Asia. African people created the present name for them, derived from the Arabic for "finger", and trade began in force at the end of the fourteenth century. The development of railroads and technological advances in refrigerated maritime transport subsequently enable bananas to become the most traded fruit in the world.

The research case studies, conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Benin, have important implications for the 90 million people in East, West and Central Africa who rely on bananas and plantains as a primary food source. These mostly small-scale farmers are dependent on their cultivation for food, income and job security.

The increasing arrival and spread of serious diseases, fungal infections and viruses, due to climate change and land-use change among other factors, pose a serious food security threat. There are six major and devastating threats to banana, among them bunchy top disease (BBTD) and Xanthomonas wilt of banana (BXW).

"Threats are currently detected by experts in the field using cell phones," said Michael Gomez Selvaraj, a crop physiologist and co-author at the Alliance of Bioversity

International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

"But to track and detect diseases across huge tracts of land at country, district or village level, you need a platform that quickly detects threats."

Using a pixel-based classification system, first the researchers trained the model to detect banana plants on mixed-farm systems, where smallholder farmers grow many things on one piece of land.

After 'learning' the patterns and algorithms of banana plants, the researchers then trained the platform to analyse physical symptoms of the six diseases, and the percentage threat. Information about the severity of the specific threat can be sent to government authorities who can take immediate measures to clamp down on them - protecting food security in Africa.

"Otherwise potential threats multiply quickly, for example, farmers may give infected crop stems to others, and, in the case of a virus, spread it around the country or district without knowing until it's too late," said Selvaraj.

Bananas are worth an estimated US \$8 billion in 2016, and are the most traded fruit globally. The need to preserve banana production in Africa goes beyond the economic benefits - the nutrition benefits of the fruit are immense for how cheap the fruit is, worldwide.

In the proposed new method for tracking crops, farmers and workers in the field bring field information, which is richly supplemented with satellite data to detect crop area. Drones are then deployed to analyse the exact disease threat and how bad it could be.

The problem with current tracking systems is that they rely on a single-sensor, something that can't keep an eye on larger landscapes through combined methods of technology e.g. mobile phones, drones.

"We can now detect six major banana threats with



speed and accuracy with our Tumaini mobile phone app," said Selvaraj. The database is free for farmers, organisations and governments to use, and has been downloaded from the Google App store 2,500 times.

"The next step is to find financial support to bring more partners together, so we can track more data over a wider area.

The hope is to cover Africa, India, Australia and Lat-

in America where bananas are a major crop and these threats are looming," he added.

Graham Thiele, the Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas, said:

"We congratulate the team on this breakthrough research. It validates the use of aerial images for disease detection, potentially transforming our ability to assess threat impact."

Africa more vulnerable to climate change, says UN

By Special Correspondent

THE African continent is warming quickly, and climate change is expected to disproportionately affect every aspect of life on the continent, from human health to food security and economic growth, according to the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) first climate report on Africa.

Temperatures in Africa have increased over 1°C compared with the average between 1901 and 2012, and warming in large areas of the continent may exceed 2°C from pre-industrial times by 2080 to 2100 if emissions continue at their current levels, according to the report released on Monday and co-ordinated by the WMO.

"We know that climate change impacts we suffer today are consequences of development choices that countries, mainly developed, adopted over the years," said Vera Songwe, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

"Africa is more vulnerable than most and, even if it is the least responsible, it also has the most viable solutions."

The continent has already seen an increase in heatwaves and erratic rainfall patterns. Heat and drought are affecting agriculture production, increasing pest damage and disease. Climate change and climate variability, together with conflicts, instability and economic crises, are listed as key drivers of a recent increase in hunger in Africa.

African nations are already spending between 2% and 9% of their GDP in climate adaptation and mitigation measures, Songwe said during the presentation of the report on Monday. Tropical cyclone Idai, which hit Mozambique in March 2019, slashed the country's GDP growth that year to 2.3%, compared with the 6.6% forecast before the storm.

Extreme heat, drought and changes in precipitation are trends set to con-



tinue over the next few decades as the continent - and the planet - warms. Under the worst-case climate scenario, in which the world warms by 4°C by the end of the century, African GDP will decline between 7.04% and 12.12%, according to the report. Middle-warming scenarios see GDP falling between 3.3% and 8.28%.

The changing climate is already impacting agriculture production, the backbone of Africa's economy. In drought-prone sub-Saharan countries, the number of undernourished people has increased by 45.6% since 2012, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. Changes in rainfall patterns will also increase the presence of biting insects in new areas, and the transmission of diseases such as dengue fever, malaria and yellow fever.

Under the worst case climate change scenario, crop mean yields would decline 13% in West and Central Africa, 11% in North Africa, and 8% in

East and Southern Africa by 2050. Millet and sorghum would be among the most resilient crops, while rice and wheat are expected to be among the most affected.

The report highlighted that the lack of data is a challenge when it comes to forecasting climate change impacts and designing measures to counter them.

The lack of weather stations means heatwaves are barely being recorded in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a report published in Nature Climate Change in July.

Only two heatwaves in sub-Saharan Africa were recorded by the Emergency Events Database in the past 120 years, the study found. That compared to 83 European heatwaves recorded in the past four decades.

Reporting of droughts and floods in Africa has improved over the past few decades, partly because not-for-profit organisations doing relief work on the ground are gathering the data, said

Friederike Otto, report author and acting director of the the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute. By comparison, heatwave data is much more sparse at a time when they're becoming more frequent, more intense and more deadly.

"In poorly governed countries where you have regime changes and suddenly weather stations are not manned anymore, you have gaps in the records," Otto said. "That's a problem because it makes it much harder to quantify and identify changes."

The early warning systems that are working well to alert people of droughts and floods could be applied to heatwaves, she said.

"The great impact that climate change is posing around the world is that it exacerbates inequality," Otto said. "It exacerbates the divide between developed and developing nations, but also within a society. The people that die from heat are not those who have air conditioning."

AfDB, partners announce new women in ethics and compliance in Africa initiative

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

THE Women in Ethics and Compliance in Africa network, (WECA), a new initiative creating a membership group for women executives and management leading the fight against corruption and non-compliance in business, made its debut at an online webinar co-hosted by the Bank on Monday.

Its organisers, leaders from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Coalition for Ethical Operations (CEO) and the United Nations Global Compact, announced the formation of the unique support organization for female leaders and executives working to curb unethical business practices in Africa.

"The formation of this network reiterates the Bank's commitment to ensuring that sustainable development is hinged on bridging the gender gap, with emphasis on key areas such as ethics and compliance. We're inviting women from all across the private and public sectors on the continent to join in and help in achieving the objectives of this network," said the Bank's Director for Gender, Women and Civil Society, Vanessa Mounzar.

Sanda Ojiambo, Director-General of UN Global Compact, told the virtual audience of experienced ethics and compliance professionals that her organization supports WECA's mission.

"The UN Global Compact is very much aligned with the objectives of the Women in Ethics and Compliance in Africa to advance coordinated ethical business practices, anti-corruption measures across the continent, and to empower a new generation of female leaders in the field," Ojiambo said.

The webinar attendees discussed multiple challenges women leaders face in Africa's male-dominated corporate world. The WECA network founding members said they plan to address the lack of avenues and support for ethical leadership. The network also aims to bridge the gap in human resources for ethics and compliance across the continent, through mentoring and coaching young women pro-

fessionals for career progression. Some WECA network supporters said this starts from a young age.

"There is a need to create a global awareness and education to address the gender issue from a cultural perspective," said Rhibetnan Yaktal, Global Head of Compliance at Puma Energy. To girls, her advice: "Build yourself up. There is no glass ceiling. There is no limit."

The online gathering also explored how the COVID-19 pandemic has brought another dimension of challenges for ethical concerns for all leaders, especially women. Under the theme Women in Compliance in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities, Navigating in the era of COVID-19, webinar attendees told a panel that the compliance issue is very timely. Some noted that women play a significant role in the fight against the pandemic, which has forced major changes in how businesses operate and interact. Other participants said COVID-19 cannot be an excuse for businesses to ignore the ethical and integrity challenges faced in ensuring compliance systems are working and withstanding new and emerging risks.

"Women are uniquely well-positioned to deal with difficulties, challenges, and crises. For example, women leaders are better managing the current COVID-19 pandemic, yielding more results built on ethical leadership and strong integrity," said Lisa Miller, Integrity Compliance Officer at the World Bank Group.

African public and private sector entities and civil society institutions are still lagging behind in ensuring the establishment and adherence to a culture of ethics and compliance in business. Olajobi Makinwa, Chief of Intergovernmental Relations and Africa for the United Nations Global Compact and founding member of WECA, said, emphasizing the network's core mission. "WECA will support peer engagement, exchange of ideas and information on ethics and compliance best practices, dialogue on emerging ethics and compliance challenges, and champion women's ethics and compliance leadership across the continent."

Is Covid-19 getting less lethal? A very difficult question to answer

By Gideon M-K

IN this era of vast uncertainty, one thing that has remained constant is the innumerable questions. When is this going to end? Are children at risk to the virus? Is ordering fried chicken three nights in a row a terrible idea?

And one really quite important query: is Covid-19 getting less lethal over time? If you listen to the headlines, the answer is an emphatic yes.

According to many news sources, recent evidence has shown that Covid-19 is now less lethal than it was earlier in the year, which may be down to better treatments, mutations in the virus, or whatever theory is most popular at the time of writing.

And don't get me wrong: I also think that the answer to this question is almost certainly yes. Over time, with newer treatments and improved modalities of care, it's pretty much a sure thing that Covid-19 will kill fewer of the people that it infects.

However, there's a huge caveat to all of this - we expect that the virus will get less lethal, but the timeline of that reduction is very much in the air. I would be perfectly comfortable saying that, in ten years' time, you are probably very substantially less likely to die from the disease.

But today compared to March? Or April? That's a much more challenging question to answer, despite the headlines.

As someone who has spent an enormous amount of time researching the death rate of Covid-19, I am incredibly interested in knowing the answers here.

So, how would we know if the pan-

demic was becoming less dangerous for those infected?

The science

The quickest and easiest way to examine death rates would be to look at the case-fatality rate (CFR) of Covid-19 over time. This is simply the ratio of deaths to the number of people testing positive to the disease, and if you look at the figures you immediately see a drop between March and now across the board.

The problem is that the CFR of Covid-19 isn't really that informative. The denominator of the ratio is simply the number of confirmed cases of the disease, which means that testing rates largely define the CFR - if you test more people, there are more cases, and the CFR drops. Over time, testing has gotten better, so a falling CFR is to be expected.

A much better way of looking at whether mortality rates for Covid-19 are improving would be to calculate an infection-fatality rate (IFR) over time.

Both of my studies into Covid-19 lethality are using IFRs rather than CFRs for precisely this reason, because it tells you the ratio of deaths to total infections, giving you the risk of dying if you get infected with the virus.

Unfortunately, owing to the nature of this calculation and the studies you need to estimate it, it's really hard to know what the IFR has been over time, and so we can't use this metric (yet).

However, there is yet another way of trying to figure out whether the death rate has been falling - looking at a specific group of patients over time. In this case, it means people



Something that can really only be properly answered while staring into a crystal ball. Source: Pexels

who have been hospitalised or admitted to an intensive care unit with Covid-19, to see if they are less likely to die over time.

There have now been several studies that have done this, and all are relatively similar in nature. Basically, if you look at the group of people who are being admitted to hospital, or treated in an ICU, for Covid-19 over time, a smaller proportion of them are dying.

This is to say that, compared to the first weeks of the pandemic, fewer people who were treated in these conditions died within a particular time period - usually about a month.

Now, that sounds like great news, but there's a problem. You see, it's really quite hard to compare the situation in March with now for any number of reasons.

Hospitals are, generally, less overwhelmed, and thus the people that they are admitting are very different. Indeed, if you look closely at each of these studies, the average age of people with Covid-19 admitted to hospital/ICU drops quite a bit over the weeks, as do markers of disease severity.

While we can correct for this to an extent, it's very likely that people who are being admitted now are dissimilar in ways that can be quite challenging to capture compared to people admitted earlier in the year.

Yes, I'm talking about residual confounding, and it's quite a big potential issue when we look at these numbers. We can correct for the things we know about and measure - like age - but people who were admitted for Covid-19 in July are different from those going to hospital in March in ways that may be really hard to measure.

Improvements in testing, for example, may have meant that people who previously would not have been hospitalised were actually hospitalised, or were hospitalised earlier in their disease course and so were less likely to die within 30 days.

It's just not easy to compare the situation in these disparate times, especially when you consider that the data are not consistent everywhere.

Even one of the studies cited above found that, while mortality overall decreased, at the start of March people were less likely to die, which got worse until mid-April, and then improved after that. This seems to indicate that the most likely explanation was changes in the denominator - that is, who got admitted in this time.

What does all this mean? Well, firstly, it's absolutely still probably right to say that the death rate from Covid-19 is decreasing over time and will continue to do so. You are almost certainly less likely to die from the disease today than you were in March, regardless of anything else.

That being said, it's quite hard to know exactly how much your risk has decreased. While the news has been

filled with massive reductions of 50-90 per cent in mortality based on one study or another, the true figure is extremely problematic to capture.

Hospital admission is, after all, not a concrete phenomenon, and exactly who gets admitted to which hospital changes over time and location. It's not at all unlikely that much of the difference we're seeing in hospital patients comes down to the people who have been admitted over time, rather than a reduction in the disease severity per se.

Without a constant denominator - ideally, a marker of the true proportion of people who have been infected in the population over time - it's just not easy to say that the death rate has declined in any meaningful way.

Ultimately, I'd say that the news is still good. Getting sick with Covid-19 today is less likely to be a fatal experience today than it was when the coronavirus first emerged. The longer you delay getting ill, the better your chances are, and there's every reason to believe that the death rate will drop enormously over the next few years.

However, it's still worth being cautious about the very spectacular claims out there. Yes, the death rate is probably dropping, but whether it's dropped quickly over the last six months, and how big a drop that represents, are still questions with open answers.

So is Covid-19 getting less lethal? Probably, it's hard to say how much less dangerous it might be.

Epidemiologist Gideon M-K penned this analysis for Medium.

We are headed for a third Covid-19 surge, but this time, we know more

By Abraar Karan

AS we are headed towards a third Covid-19 surge in the United States, we are better prepared now than we were before, if for no reason other than our collective experiences with the virus.

Among these, the CDC's Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases recently published a Covid-19 super-spreading outbreak that occurred at a bar in Vietnam. The report describes a St. Patrick's Day party in which one guest infected 12 others at a poorly ventilated, crowded venue. Genome sequencing helped to confirm that the viral transmission indeed happened during the event.

The researchers noted that asymptomatic secondary spread occurred among people who were not at the bar as well. Once again, we are reminded: indoor, crowded, poorly ventilated spaces without masks are dangerous. These types of cluster spreading events are propagating this epidemic.

And while this outbreak happened at a bar, we have seen the same happen in many other settings as well.

A few key outbreaks to note that can help us be better prepared for the next Covid-19 surge: A recent CDC report revealed a Covid-19 outbreak at an indoor hockey game. Masks were not used during game-play and were also not used in locker rooms; the index case became symptomatic the day after the game, and infected players on both teams.

Additionally, we have the significant outbreak at an indoor call centre in South Korea from earlier in the epidemic. This has implications for crowded indoor workplaces.

And then there's this outbreak from an indoor restaurant in China associated possibly with an air-conditioning unit and poor air exchange. Indoor dining is often high risk because of close face to face contact without masks.

In terms of travel, there's this investigation published in JAMA (Journal of American Medical Association) on viral spread throughout a bus, well beyond six feet of distance from the index case - suggesting contribution from aerosols.

We have also seen a number of reports of transmission on aeroplanes as well; most, if not all, were in the era before masks. I have yet to see any large or small plane outbreak since universal masking was introduced on flights.

In the US, we had a notable outbreak at summer camps in Georgia. Here too there was limited mask use; and there was singing, cheering, crowding, and also asymptomatic spread.

Adding to the singing indoors thread, there was the infamous choir outbreak from Washington state in which 53 cases were identified out of 61 people who attended; three were hospitalised and two died.

And in South Korea, we saw Covid-19 outbreaks associated with high-intensity fitness and dance classes; we have seen others since then as well, such as this more recent outbreak in a spin class in Hamilton, Canada, in which masks were not used during the session.

One outbreak that is particularly unfortunate is from a wedding in Jordan - in the Middle East - early in the pandemic, in which the father of the bride was the index case. He had greeted most guests at the door, propagating a super-spreading wedding as a result.

Similarly, we saw another more recent wedding outbreak from Maine, which led to subsequent outbreaks throughout the state, including in a jail. Again - indoors, no masks, dancing, singing - you get the drill.

And we all remember Covid-19 spread on ships and cruises, which were noted from the very start. In this CDC investigation of the Yokohama ship, attack rates highest in the more crowded cabins, and again there was asymptomatic spread - the patterns repeat themselves.

Also important to note are religious gatherings. In the US, we



have seen Covid-19 outbreaks at churches, where singing, socialising and eating together propagated spread. This was predictable, and we didn't stop it.

We had an outbreak in Boston over the summer at a hospital in which the break room was the location of spread, and where masks were removed to eat and rest. Transmission can - and will - happen when we least expect it.

And then more recently, this autumn, there have been multiple outbreaks across hospitals in Massachusetts, many linked to crowded working conditions that make it nearly impossible to physically distance - as well as a lack of regular testing for staff and asymptomatic spread. I would know, as I work at one of these hospitals.

This is all to say that there are very clear take-aways from all that

we do know, and we know so much more now than we did in March or April. We are clearly headed into a third surge of Covid-19 in the United States, and we need to employ the lessons of the past.

This is what we can learn from these past outbreaks: close/prolonged indoor contact is high risk, especially in areas with poor ventilation; singing/dancing/high intensity exercise or activity will likely lead to more droplets and aerosols being emitted and more inhalation, which means more spread of disease.

This virus has many weak points. It spreads largely through clusters in which few people infect many people

- and many people don't necessarily infect any people. So if we can stop large outbreaks, we can drive transmission down.

Asymptomatic spread is very real. MASKS WORK! This is a key part of Covid-19 control. We must act urgently.

Abraar Karan MD, MPH, DTM&H penned this piece for Medium Coronavirus Blog.

INCENTIVE

Tour operators' chief spells out major shift in destination marketing strategy

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TOUR operators plan to bring the key global travel agents to Tanzania as they change marketing strategy to promote the country as a safe destination, amidst the spiking of coronavirus outbreak which has decimated tourist niche markets.

Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (Tato) is currently working round the clock with 300-plus strong members, to roll out a red carpet treatment for dozens of global travel agents as soon as possible.

"We are working extra hard to implement the just ended Tato members' annual general meeting resolution of bringing dozens of global travel agents, at our own costs, as part of a new strategy to market destination Tanzania," the association's CEO, Sirili Akko said.

This comes as a surprise move, as the tour operators attempt to diversify their marketing strategy in order to attract more visitors and boost tourism numbers to survive the onslaught of cutthroat competition from other destinations, in the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indeed, tourism industry analysts

say that the move, suggests a historic shift in marketing strategy, as traditionally tour operators' approach, has been skewed towards travelling abroad to promote the country as a favourite destination.

Chairman of Tato, Wilbard Chambulo floated the idea of inviting leading global travel agents at the AGM which members unanimously agreed by passing a resolution to that effect.

"Tato has conceived an idea to change its marketing strategy because it makes more economic sense to bring home major global travel agents to get a glimpse of what we have as a country," Chambulo said adding that the move will better attract tourists from niche foreign markets.

Tanzania reopened its airspace for international passenger flights in June this year after a three-month hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic hence becoming the pioneer country in East Africa to welcome foreign tourists.

Latest statistics from the state-run conservation and tourism agency shows that France is leading in terms of number of tourist arrivals for the past three months covering July, Au-



Tanzania Association of Tour Operators' chairman, Wilbard Chambulo, addresses the association's annual general meeting held in Arusha last week. Photo courtesy of Tato.

gust and September 2020.

Tanzania National Parks Authority's Assistant Conservation Commissioner in charge of Business Portfolio, Beatrice Kessy, said records indicate a total of 3,062 French tourists visited the country during the period thus putting the European nation as a top international tourists market for the country overtaking the US which had 2,327 holidaymakers.

Other key sources of foreign tourists currently thronging the country include Germany with 1,317 visitors, UK with 1,051, Spain was fifth with 1,050 holidaymakers and

India had 844. The last top ten countries on the list included Switzerland with 727 tourists, Russia was eighth with 669 visitors, Netherlands had 431 and Australia brought in 367 vacationers during the period under consideration. Tourism is Tanzania's largest foreign exchange earner, contributing an average of over US\$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 percent of foreign currency earned by the state.

The sector also contributes to more than 17.5 percent of the nation's gross domestic product while creating more than 1.5 million jobs directly. According to United Nations

World Tourism Organization, the industry has been worst hit by the virus hence needs urgent bailouts from governments.

The UNWTO estimates loss of 850 million to 1.1 billion international tourists, which translates to between US\$910 billion and US\$1.2 trillion in export revenues from the industry with an estimated between 100 and 120 million direct jobs, lost.

SUBSTITUTION

Petra Diamonds' Q1 revenue up helped by inventory sales, prices

JOHANNESBURG

PETRA Diamonds' first-quarter revenue climbed 33% year on year helped by inventory sales and a 21% increase in diamond prices since the start of the coronavirus pandemic,

the miner said on Tuesday. Petra, which mines diamonds in South Africa and Tanzania, said revenue for the quarter to September 30 was \$82 million.

Production fell 10% year on year to 974,346 carats due to the ongoing

closure of the Williamson mine in Tanzania, which Petra shuttered in April. Its reopening is contingent on stronger diamond prices and market conditions, Petra said.

The miner kept production guidance for the full-year 2021 suspended.

ed.

"While the mines are generally operating at planned levels, there remain risks to production relating to the impact of the stringent Covid-19 measures in place," Petra said. Although diamond prices have

improved since March, they are still down around 10% compared with pre-Covid-19 levels, the company said.

The economic fallout of the pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to the diamond industry which relies on

consumer demand for luxury jewellery. Petra last week announced a debt restructuring agreement including a debt-for-equity swap which would leave noteholders with a combined 91% of the shares and dilute existing shareholders to just 9%.

APPRECIATION

Steady growth for Airtel Africa

NAIROBI

AIRTEL Africa says despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, over the last six months it has grown its customer base by 12% to 116.4 million and its revenue by 14.3%. The telecommunications services provider has also reintroduced mobile money transaction fees that were waived due to the pandemic.

According to the company's half year results ended 30 September 2020, revenue growth was recorded across all regions: Nigeria up by 20.2%, the East African region 21.9% and Francophone Africa 4.4%.

Airtel Africa CEO Raghunath Mandava said in these unprecedented times, the telecommunications industry has emerged as a key and essential service for economies.

Mandava said the company has continued to enter new partnerships with leading institutions such

as WorldRemit, MoneyGram, Standard Chartered bank and Mukuru, to increase use cases and improve customers' access to digital payments and financial services. He added that revenue grew as a result of a strategy focused on expanding distribution in the rural areas, investment in its network and increasing 4G coverage.

"The company has delivered a strong set of results as lockdown restrictions eased during the second quarter and our performance continued to improve with constant currency revenue growth of 19.6%, up by 6.6% from the prior quarter," said Mandava.

With operations in 16 African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, the company said it remains alert to the potential for further disruption from a second wave of COVID-19 across Africa, and the associated actions of



Airtel Africa CEO, Raghunath Mandava.

governments to minimise contagion.

Mandava said: "Despite the resilience demonstrated by the business during the course of the

first wave, we are constantly monitoring how the situation is evolving to identify key risks and put in place adequate mitigation plans to minimise

any potential disruptions of reintroduction of stricter social distancing rules."

RECONCILIATION

Kakuzi seeks to settle rights abuse cases out of court

NAIROBI

KAKUZI'S parent company Camellia Plc is seeking an out-of-court settlement of a human rights abuse case in which scores of Kenyan victims have sued the agricultural firms in the UK.

The multinational, Kakuzi and another unnamed subsidiary

have been sued over allegations that their employees meted out violence and rape to members of the community in Murang'a County.

Camellia, which owns a 50.7 per cent stake in Kakuzi, has already spent more than Sh500 million in legal expenses and now wants a quick resolution of the human rights row.

"Meanwhile, we are urgently exploring with UK law firm Leigh Day (which is bringing legal claims based on allegations of wrongdoing by Kakuzi's security guards) whether their clients' claims can be quickly resolved as this would help ease the tensions in Kenya that have recently been mounting," the multinational says in a trading

update.

Leigh Day brought the claims against Camellia and its subsidiaries on a no-win no-fee basis. It remains to be seen whether the alleged victims and the multinational can agree on a level of compensation that will result in the termination of the court case.

Resolution of the human

rights row will be important in Kakuzi's readmission as a supplier of avocados to UK supermarkets including Tesco that recently suspended their orders after the issue was reported by UK's Sunday Times.

Camellia says it is also making changes to its governance policies and processes that will be cascaded to the subsidiaries

and which are aimed at dealing more effectively with future abuse cases.

"Undoubtedly, even if only some of these claims are true, something has gone very wrong in a company we invest in," Camellia said.

"These claims have prompted Camellia to take urgent action to review and, if appropriate,

upgrade the group's governance and safeguarding oversight functions to ensure that in every respect they comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights." The multinational added that it will use its shareholding influence to encourage its subsidiaries to implement any changes that are necessary.

DIVERSIFICATION

Transport institute ventures into blue economy courses

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to support government's efforts to maximise exploitation of the Indian Ocean and other marine resources, National Institute of Transport, will effective this academic year, start offering courses that include ship building and repairing.

"This blue economy concept is very important to our economic development and prosperity of the country hence we have introduced a Diploma in Ship Building and Repair programme to build manpower capacity to support the blue economy initiative," said NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa.

Prof Mganilwa said in Dar es

Salaam this week that apart from introducing the ship building and repair diploma programme, the institute will also establish a Bachelor's Degree in Shipping and Port Logistics Management.

"In 2020/21 academic year, we have also introduce Ordinary Diploma in Shipping and Port Logistics operations as well as Bachelor's Degree in Naval Architecture aiming at producing local technicians and engineers who will be capable to serve as ship builders," he said.

The further added that prospective students of the courses need to have basic technician certificate in related field or technician certificate level 5 in related field recognized by National Council for Technical Education.

"Apart from the above requirements for prospective students, they also must possess form four certificate with at least four passes excluding religious subjects; or form six with one principal pass in relevant combination subjects," he added.

The NIT Rector explained that apart from the new maritime courses introduced, the institute will also introduce more courses to support government efforts to modernise the transport industry and will include Ordinary Diploma in Road and Railway Logistics Operations as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Road and Railway Transport Logistics Management.

"We have introduced such courses on road and railway to



NIT's rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa speaking at a past event

support maritime because railway and road means of transport work in tandem with maritime sector in transporting people and goods on land and at sea," he noted stating that courses in pipeline work, oil and gas engineering are also planned to start in the

2020/21 academic year.

"Qualified welders will be capable of working in Hoima-Tanga oil pipeline project," Prof Mganilwa said noting saying NIT is looking at all aspects of serving the country's rapidly changing transport and logistics industry.

The country has over 1,000 kilometres of beach front from Tanga in the north to Mtwara in the south with abundant of resources such fish which have not been fully exploited. Tanzania has three major lakes which it shares with Mozambique and Malawi (Lake Nyasa); Burundi, DR Congo and Zambia (Lake Tanganyika) and Kenya and Uganda (Lake Victoria).

OPTIMISM

AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine produces an immune response in older people

LONDON

ASTRAZENECA'S Covid-19 vaccine produces an immune response in elderly people, the drugmaker said on Monday.

This does not necessarily mean the vaccine, being developed alongside the University of Oxford, is safe and effective in older people – but it is promising news, given that the immune system weakens as a person grows older. AstraZeneca also said "reactogenicity" – expected adverse reactions to the virus, which commonly include sore arm or swelling – was lower in older people than younger people.

An AstraZeneca spokesperson told Business Insider: "It is encouraging to see immunogenicity responses were similar between older and younger adults and that reactogenicity was lower in older adults, where the Covid-19 disease severity is higher." "The results further build the body of evidence for the safety and immunogenicity of AZD1222," the name of the vaccine, the spokesperson added.

The drugmakers' statement Monday came after the Financial Times reported that the vaccine, one of the world's leading candidates, triggers protective antibodies and T-cells in older people, citing two people familiar with trial data. The findings came from blood tests carried out on a subset of older participants in the vaccine trials. Details of the results are expected to be published in a clinical journal, the FT said.

These results compare to data released in July that showed the vaccine produced immune responses in a group of healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 55, the FT reported. The findings come after the Food and Drug Administration allowed AstraZeneca on Friday to resume its vaccine trials in the US after a participant reported a "severe adverse reaction" on September 6.

Ugandan city twins with Chinese counterpart in efforts to deepen ties

KAMPALA

JINJA City, in eastern Uganda, on Monday twinned with its Chinese counterpart, Shenyang, capital of China's northeast Liaoning province.

The leaders of the two cities signed a cooperation agreement via a virtual meeting. Rebecca Kadaga, speaker of the Ugandan parliament and patron of Busoga Consortium, said the cooperation between Jinja and Shenyang has long been awaited.

"The cooperation established today is a manifestation of the deep diplomatic relations between our two countries," she said. "We have not forgotten that China was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Uganda." The twin-city cooperation is one of the first products of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which was first held in Beijing, Kadaga said. "We commit to support efforts of the cooperation which will facilitate the mutual benefit at the people-to-people level, city to city and country to country," she said. Zheng Zhuqiang, Chinese ambassador to Uganda, said despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the comprehensive cooperative partnership between the two countries continues to grow steadily.

"I am very confident that with joint efforts by our two countries, including exchanges and cooperation between sister cities, our cooperation will surely be further promoted," Zheng said.

Titus Kisambira, mayor of Jinja City, described the cooperation agreement as monumental. "We are optimistic that this twinning will usher in a new era of cooperation that is based on mutual trust and common values between the people of Uganda and China," he said.

CENSURE

Three African consulates opened in Morocco to boost trade ties

RABAT

THREE more African countries opened consulates in Dakhla in Morocco as they seek to boost trade ties and support the Kingdom's control Sahara.

Burkina Faso, Guinea Bisau and Equatorial Guinea opened their consulate general offices in Dakhla on Friday at a ceremony graced by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad, Nasser Bourita and his counterparts from Burkina Faso, Alpha Barry.

Bourita said during the consulates opening ceremonies that the move by the three countries is in respect of support for the Kingdom's position on Sahara but also to strengthen trade and investment ties.

"As Morocco has always said in regional and international for a where we stress on the need to strengthen bilateral relations with permanent political consultations among our countries concerning several regional and international issues," Bourita said. He also commended the three African countries for their decision while commending Barry and his peer from Guinea Bissau, Suzi Carla Barbosa for championing the move. Bourita promised his peer of full trade, investment and political cooperation.

The Moroccan Minister further commended his counterpart from Equatorial Guinea, Simeon Oyono Esono Angue for his role in facilitating the opening of his country's consulate in Dakhla.

"With these three new consulates inaugu-



Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, African cooperation and Moroccans living abroad, Nasser Bourita.

rated in Dakhla, this Moroccan city now hosts seven consular representations accredited in Kingdom," Bourita added. Other African countries which have opened consulates in Dakhla include

Gambia which did so in January this year, Guinea which also started operations in mid January.

Then followed Djibouti which opened its consulate in February and Liberia followed suit in

March as the Kingdom seeks to turn Dakhla into a major diplomatic city with focus on African countries as it cements its relations with the continent.

INVESTMENT

Neoen inaugurates the construction of its 41 MWp Metoro solar power plant

MAPUTO

FRENCH independent power producer (IPP) Neoen has just launched the construction of its Metoro photovoltaic solar power plant in the Cabo Delgado province in north-eastern Mozambique.

With an expected capacity of 41 MWp, the project is financed by Proparco, the private sector arm of Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The works are being carried out by the Portuguese company Efacec Power Solutions.

The launch of construction work on the Metoro photovoltaic solar power plant was the occasion for a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of Mozambique on Friday. Filipe Nyusi was assisted by David Izzo, the French ambassador to eSwatini and Mozambique. The presence of this French diplomat is linked to the fact that the Metoro solar project is being developed by the Paris-based com-

pany Neoen in France.

The Independent Power Producer (IPP) is developing the Metoro solar project with its partner Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM), within the framework of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) signed with the Mozambican authorities responsible for energy issues.

Neoen has entrusted the construction of the solar power plant to Efacec Power Solutions. The company, based in Porto in Portugal, will build the installation on a 138-hectare site in the Cabo Delgado province in north-eastern Mozambique. All the solar panels installed on the site will have a capacity of 41 MWp. The electricity will transit through a substation of the public company EDM, via a high-voltage line to be built by Efacec.

The electricity produced by the Metoro solar power plant will be sold to EDM on the basis of a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA). The power of the park is capable of powering



David Izzo, France's Ambassador to Mozambique

175,000 Mozambican households while avoiding the emission of 49,000 tons of CO2 per year.

As part of its renewable energy project, Neoen has received €40 million in funding from Proparco. The private sector arm of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) estimates that the new power plant will reduce Mozambique's greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to the fight against climate change.

The environmental and social benefits of this project will also be significant, "particularly for the inhabitants of Cabo Delgado prov-

ince" where 135 000 people could be electrified. "France, through the Agence Française de Développement group, is very proud to participate in the financing of the construction of this solar power plant.

It is important to specify that the loan from AFD and Proparco includes a concessional tranche, authorized thanks to the financial effort made by the French State, in order to optimize the proposed tariff and support locally the positive environmental and social benefits of this project," said David Izzo, France's Ambassador to Mozambique and eSwatini.

EXPANSION

Facebook's Express Wi-Fi initiative gets launched in Uganda

KAMPALA

FACEBOOK has partnered with Ugandan telecommunications services provider Roke Telkom to introduce its Express Wi-Fi initiative in the East African country.

A new internet service called Roke Express Wi-Fi is expected to deliver affordable, high-speed internet connection. Uganda is the eighth African country in which Facebook has established local partnerships to build more internet access points to ensure developing markets can easily set up and manage hotspots.

Roger Sekaziga, CEO of Roke Telkom welcomed the partnership with Facebook and aligned his company's vision with that of Facebook's Express Wi-Fi initiative. "We thank Facebook for choosing us as the ideal partner for the Express Wi-Fi initiative in Uganda. Your choice is a great mark of confidence in our services and brand and we commit to ensure that through this partnership, millions of Ugandans gain access to affordable internet across the country," said Sekaziga.

Sekaziga described Roke Express Wi-Fi as a more scalable service network that will enable the company to increase the number of internet access points, improve deployment scale and enhance the efficiency to over 600 Rokespots.

In a statement, Roke said it is now able to offer a more diversified set of services including promotional offers, while charging for some, which will ultimately improve the company's customer's experiences and position Roke Telkom as a front runner in internet service provision.

According to the Facebook-commissioned Inclusive Internet Index, South Africa is the highest ranked African country at 33 out of 100 international countries, followed by Morocco (59th), Kenya (65th) and Egypt (66th). Uganda ranked 83rd globally and 11th out of 23 ranked African countries.

CONCERN

Key Brexit software won't be ready on time

LONDON

VITAL software needed to keep goods flowing after Brexit won't be ready in time because the UK government hasn't given developers the information they need, according to a trade group.

The Association of Freight Software Suppliers, whose members develop programs that plug businesses into the government's customs systems, has written to the UK tax authority warning that the industry doesn't have enough time to build and test new software by the end of the Brexit transition period on December 31.

Developers "will not get the detailed specifications they need to allow them to produce the required functionality in time," AFSS Chairman Stephen Bartlett said in a statement. He added that it is "unrealistic" to expect users to be trained up on the new software by the year-end.

The warning highlights how Britain's departure from the EU's single market and customs union poses a risk to the smooth flow of goods

between the UK and the European Union, its biggest and closest trading partner. Businesses will have to grapple with additional customs checks and processes that they haven't had to go through for a generation.

The trade group, which is a member of HMRC's Joint Customs Consultative Committee, called on the UK tax authority to step up its contingency planning to mitigate potential disruption at the year-end.

"The delivery of HMRC border systems necessary for the end of the transition period is on track," Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs said in a statement.

"We are continuing to engage extensively with the software developer community and community system providers to ensure that they have everything they need."

HMRC said it's exploring contingency plans to ensure the largest number of businesses can continue to move goods across the country's borders.

The government highlighted the situation in Northern Ireland, where companies will need to submit data to the Customs Declaration Ser-

vice to move freight across the Irish Sea.

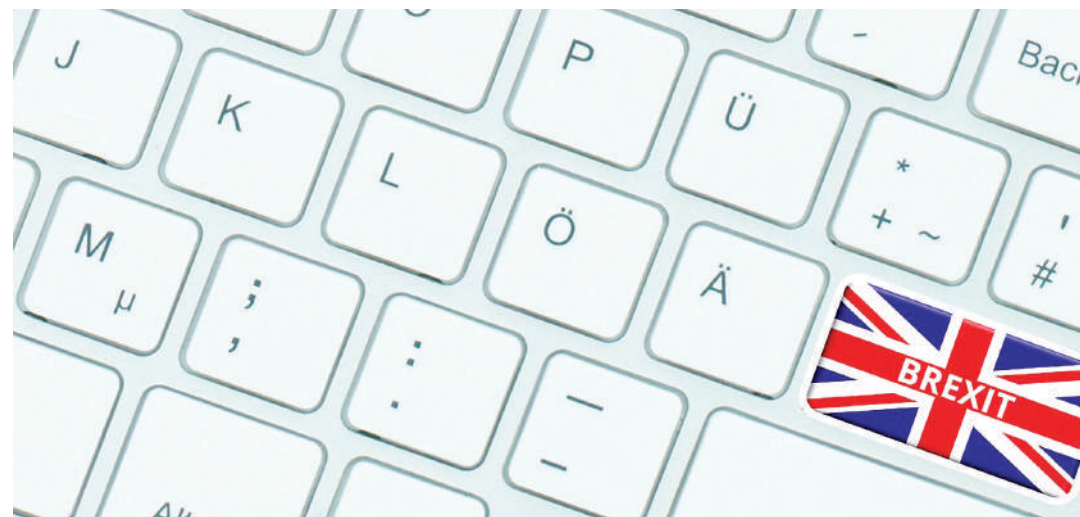
The government is using the CDS instead of an older system, the Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight service, or CHIEF, because the newer system has the ability to apply two different tariff rates to a product.

That facility is needed because some goods crossing from the rest of the UK into Northern Ireland will be deemed at risk of moving on to the Republic of Ireland, and therefore liable for tariffs in the event Britain and the EU fail to strike a trade deal.

The problem for the software developers is that Britain and the EU are still negotiating how trade with Northern Ireland will work – including which goods will be liable for tariffs. The CDS "program's current delivery plan is too late," Bartlett said.

As many organisations don't allow changes to their IT systems in December and January, "it may be impossible to roll out any new software," he added.

The government has said it will support companies through the transition with a free-to-use service which will submit customs dec-



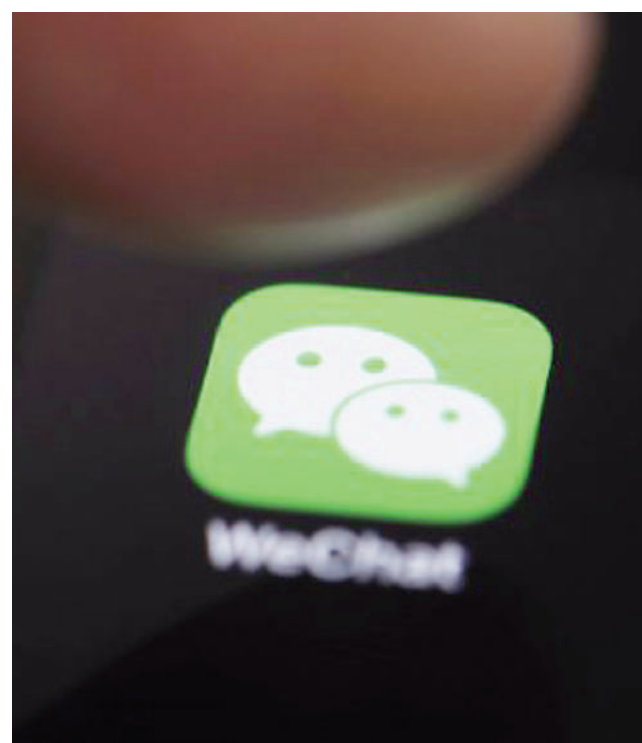
The problem for the software developers is that Britain and the European Union are still negotiating how trade with Northern Ireland will work - including which goods will be liable for tariffs.

larations to the CDS on behalf of businesses. The systems are just part of the jigsaw of software projects that the government

needs to have ready in time for the year-end. The other pieces include a digital permit that will allow trucks to enter Kent, as

well as the Goods Vehicle Movement Service, which will control the flow of trucks between the UK and EU from July.

RELIEF



A WeChat symbol is displayed on a smartphone.

Tencent surges after US court upholds stay on WeChat ban

SAN FRANCISCO

THE Trump administration lost a bid to enforce its prohibitions against the Chinese-owned "super app" WeChat in the US after appealing a judge's ruling that the ban probably violates the free-speech rights of its users.

Upholding a trial judge, the US Court of Appeals in San Francisco on Monday rejected the administration's request for a stay of the preliminary injunction that prevents the administration from enforcing a wide range of measures, including barring the app from Apple and Google's app stores for US downloads, over purported national security concerns. Shares of WeChat owner Tencent Holdings jumped as much as 3.1%, the most in two weeks, on Tuesday to an intraday record in Hong Kong trading.

The Trump administration has claimed that WeChat is a threat because Tencent is intertwined with the Chinese Communist Party, which can use the app to disseminate propaganda, track users, and steal their private and proprietary data. It's a similar argument that the administration

has used to target the TikTok app, owned by ByteDance Ltd., while also forcing a sale of that app's US operations.

US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler in San Francisco issued a preliminary injunction on September 19 – the day before the ban was to go into effect – at the request of a group of US WeChat users. They argued the prohibitions would violate the free-speech rights of millions of Chinese-speaking Americans who rely on it. The app has 19 million regular users in the US and 1 billion worldwide. In Monday's order, a three-judge panel said the administration hasn't shown it will suffer "an imminent, irreparable injury" while the litigation plays out.

Even as Tencent gets a reprieve from the broader WeChat ban, the company may still face restrictions against the app's payments services. US officials have stepped up behind-the-scenes talks about measures against WeChat Pay and Ant Group's Alipay, people with knowledge of matter said earlier this month. The case is US WeChat Users Alliance v. Trump, 20-16908, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (San Francisco).



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM **ITV**

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 24 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Isidingo rpt
- 00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 25 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Nurse Bandia
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:30 Mwangaza
- 16:30 ITV Top 10
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:14 Bongo Movie: Wonder girl
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 26 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera News
- 12:30 Mtego rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:45 Kesho leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari

- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 27 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Kesho leo rpt
- 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Yu wapi
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Twende pamoja
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
- 21:30 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 28 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Uchaguzi mkuu 2020
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

THURSDAY 29 Oct

- 5:30 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

FRIDAY 30 Oct

- 5:30 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

SATURDAY 31 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Isidingo rpt
- 00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 01 Nov

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Wonder girl
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:30 Mwangaza
- 16:30 ITV Top 10
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:14 Bongo Movie: Wonder girl
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Sat 24 Oct

- 08:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Rev rpt
- 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
- 10:30 Innovation rpt
- 11:00 Out n'about rpt
- 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
- 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
- 13:00 Business edition rpt
- 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:45 Bundesliga kick off
- 18:15 Capchat rpt
- 19:15 Mizengwe
- 19:30 The Decor
- 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
- 21:00 Out n' About
- 21:30 Movie: Ed McBain's 87th precinct heatwave
- 23:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice
- 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 25 Oct

- 08:00 Aljazeera
- 09:00 In good shape
- 10:00 Capchat rpt
- 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
- 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
- 12:00 Jagina rpt

- 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
- 13:00 In good shape rpt
- 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
- 15:15 Aibu yako
- 15:30 Rev rpt
- 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
- 16:45 Mizengwe rpt
- 17:00 The Decor rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
- 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
- 21:00 Shift
- 21:15 Capchat live
- 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 26 Oct

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
- 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 The Décor rpt
- 19:30 Shamba lulu
- 20:00 Series: Itohan
- 20:45 The Monday Agenda
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Kipima Joto
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 27 Oct

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
- 16:30 Capchat rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Innovation
- 19:30 Jagina rpt
- 20:00 Series: Itohan
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime
- 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
- 22:30 Eco@Africa
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 28 Oct

- 06:00 Habari
- 07:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

Thurs 29 Oct

- 06:00 Habari
- 07:00 Uchaguzi mkuu 2020
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

Frid 30 Oct

- 06:00 HabariAl Jazeera
- 06:00 Habari
- 07:00 Uchaguzi mkuu 2020
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Uchaguzi Mkuu 2020

Sat 31 Oct

- 08:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Rev rpt
- 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
- 10:30 Innovation rpt
- 11:00 Out n'about rpt
- 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
- 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
- 13:00 Business edition rpt
- 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:45 Bundesliga kick off

Shares of WeChat owner Tencent Holdings jumped as much as 3.1%, the most in two weeks, on Tuesday to an intraday record in Hong Kong trading



WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: Pandemic transforms some Americans into voting rights activists in raft of lawsuits

WASHINGTON

FEAR of the novel coronavirus has cast some Americans into an unfamiliar role: litigants in an unprecedented wave of court battles over voting procedures.

For Regina Root, 53, the journey to suing Virginia's election officials began during the state's nomination contest in June when the university professor cast her ballot in person before the voting day to avoid potential crowds at her polling place.

The brain surgery that saved Root's life left her with impaired vision and her election office lacked a machine that would allow her to cast her vote without relying on her husband.

"I thought wait, this doesn't make sense. I can vote on my own. I have a PhD," said the Williamsburg, Virginia, resident.

Root contacted a law professor and advocacy groups and ended up as one of the plaintiffs leading a lawsuit against Virginia.

The state eventually agreed to provide a system to electronically transmit and mark ballots, using screen reading technology, so blind and impaired-vision voters can cast their ballots on their own from home.

More than 300 lawsuits have been filed in 44 states about the Nov. 3 election between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden, according to the Stanford-MIT Healthy Elections project, which tracks cases.

With coronavirus infections surging in the United States, a record 60 million plus people had opted to vote early or use mail-in ballots to avoid Election Day crowds, according to U.S. Elections Project data.

Trump, without providing evidence, has said voting by mail leads to widespread fraud. He has also played down the COVID crisis.

MIXED RESULTS

Court battles have erupted over everything from a person's eligibility to



A voter places their ballot in a curbside ballot drop box to help prevent the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) during the Maryland U.S. presidential primary election as other voters stand in a long line waiting to cast their votes in College Park, Maryland, U.S., June 2, 2020. (File photo)

vote absentee to the use of boxes where voters can deposit their mail-in ballots. The results of the litigation are mixed.

Christian Green, a legal and religious studies researcher in Lafayette, Louisiana, said she feared voting at a polling place would cause community spread of COVID-19 and put her 81-year-old mother at risk. Green, a board member of the Women's League of Voters of Louisiana, became one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking to remove barriers to absentee voting and expand early voting.

A federal judge in Baton Rouge in September ruled in the plaintiffs' favor. The secretary of state, which has filed an appeal that will be heard after the election, did not return a request for comment.

"I think it was the sense that something was taken away from us and we needed to take it back that was my primary motivating factor," in bringing the lawsuit, said Green, 52.

Susan Ellis, the executive director of People First of Alabama, which advocates for the de-

velopmentally disabled, said her members traditionally prefer to vote in person but the virus made it too dangerous.

Her organization, along with voters at high risk of infection, sued the Alabama secretary of state to remove the requirement that two adults co-sign a mailed-in ballot, which can be daunting for her members.

"It's hard to have people who want to help because you're viewed as the weird one down the street," Ellis said. "It's intimidating. It ties you up in knots."

The lawsuit also sought to ensure that members such as Jenny Lux, who suffered lung damage from swine flu, could have access to curbside voting.

A court ruled in favor of Ellis's group but the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals subsequently reinstated the signature requirement.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed John Merrill, the Alabama secretary of state, to ban curbside voting, which he has said can lead to fraud.

A meal of meat, Xi's earnest hope of ending China's poverty

BEIJING



FIVE years ago, when Chinese President Xi Jinping made a speech in Seattle, the United States, he recalled his early days in Liangjiahe Village in Shaanxi Province, where he worked and lived with peasants on the Loess Plateau.

Back then, life was hard and there was no meat in their diet for months. "One thing I wished most at the time was to make it possible for the villagers to have meat and have it often," said Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Later on, as Xi became the village's party secretary and over the decades worked his way up to the role of the country's top leader, enabling the impoverished to get a decent and happy life was always a top priority on his work agenda.

As China makes a final sprint to eliminate absolute poverty, Xi's earnest hope of bringing meat to the tables is about to come true for all.

The nation will meet the poverty-eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, Xi told the 75th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly last month. For all those poor areas he visited and the struggling villagers he met, the relentless efforts are finally paying off.

Xi Jinping (R) talks with elderly Party member Ma Gang in the Yuanguodui Village of the Weiyuan County in Dingxi, northwest China's Gansu Province, Feb. 3, 2013. (Xinhua/Lan Hongguang)

SPRING FESTIVAL GREETINGS

The Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals for Chinese people, who routinely beat all the odds to return home to their families and friends. Every year, ahead of the festival, Xi would always visit impoverished areas to learn about poverty-alleviation efforts and extend his festival greetings.

In 2013, braving a journey across hills and bumpy roads in Gansu Province, Xi visited the home of old Party member Ma Gang in the village of Yuanguodui, in Weiyuan County, in the city of Dingxi.

After extending his greetings, Xi observed the dilapidated state of the house and asked, "When was your house built?"

How long have you been living here? As Xi chatted with Ma, he noticed a water tank and scooped some water up to his mouth, but immediately frowned at the taste. Droughts were a major issue haunting Weiyuan County.

On the second day, Xi visited a major water supply project in the county, urging coordinated efforts to make clean water available for the villagers.

At the Spring Festival in 2015, Xi returned to the village of Liangjiahe where he spent seven years and where his understanding of poverty took root.

"I will never forget Liangjiahe, never forget the villagers here and never forget the people in the old revolutionary base," Xi said.

Over the years, the festival routine took Xi to many of the country's most remote and impoverished regions, including ethnic-minority villages in Sichuan Province and pastures and forest farms in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

"Getting rid of poverty is just the first step towards a happy life, it is a starting point for a new life and new endeavor," Xi noted when he visited the house of pig farmer Li Fashun in Sanjia Village in Yunnan Province.

Xi Jinping (4th R) meets with representatives from Gongshan Dulong and Nu Autonomous County of the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, Jan. 20, 2015. (Xinhua/Zhang Duo)

LETTERS WITH CONCERN

On the evening of Jan. 20, 2015, Xi met with cadres from Gongshan Dulong-Nu Autonomous County, in southwest China's Yunnan Province. It was a long-awaited meeting.

A year before, cadres from the Gongshan County wrote to Xi and reported the news that the much-anticipated highway tunnel of Gaoligong Mountains-Dulongjiang River was about to be completed.

Xi congratulated the opening of the tunnel and wished them early realization of "Xiaokang" -- a moderately prosperous society.

One year on, out of deep concern for the Dulong people, Xi specifically asked to meet with the cadres who had written to him, hoping to learn about progress on the tunnel and the changes in people's lives.

"How long would it take to tramp over the mountain in the past?" Xi asked. Before the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, it took half a month for the locals to make a round-trip between the village and Gongshan County seat, according to Gao Derong, a former county magistrate.

The time was reduced to six or seven days after a post trail was blazed, and it was further cut to seven to eight hours in 1999 after a road was built. Nowadays, since the tunnel has opened, it only takes three hours to arrive in the county seat.

Xi said he was there to encourage the Dulong people to keep up the good work, and to assure people of all ethnic groups that the Communist Party of China is concerned with people's development. In 2018, the Dulong people were all lifted out of poverty. "Poverty eradication is only the first step, better days are yet to come," Xi noted in another letter sent on April 10, 2019.

Xinhua

US Senate votes to confirm Judge Barrett to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

A divided U.S. Senate voted mostly along party line on Monday to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett, President Donald Trump's nominee, to the Supreme Court, succeeding late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

With 52 votes in favour and 48 against, the Republican-controlled Senate's confirmation of the 48-year-old conservative judge to the high court drew opposition from all of the Democratic members in the chamber. Susan Collins, Republican senator from Maine who faces a tough reelection battle, was the only GOP senator who crossed the political aisle to side with the Democrats.

The confirmation made Barrett, a devout Catholic and longtime law professor at Notre Dame University, the 115th justice of the Supreme Court and the fifth woman ever to sit on the bench.

Shortly after the Senate vote, Justice Clarence Thomas administered Barrett's Constitutional oath during a nighttime ceremony at the White House South Lawn presided over by Trump.

"The oath that I've solemnly taken tonight, means at its core that I will do my job without any fear or favor and that I will do so independently of both the political branches and of my own preferences," said Barrett after her swearing-in.

Barrett was previously a judge on the Chicago-based Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Her installation on the Supreme Court to serve what will potentially be a lifelong tenure will further consolidate the conservative majority on the bench, giving Republican appointees a 6-3 edge over those picked by Democratic presidents.

Moments before Barrett took the oath, Trump, while expressing his confidence in Barrett's ability to "issue rulings based solely upon a faithful reading of the law and the Constitution," told her in a speech that "the American people put their trust in you and their faith in you as you take up the task of defending our laws, our Constitution and this country we all love."

Chief Justice John Roberts, also a Republican appointee, will administer the judicial oath of Barrett at the Supreme Court Tues-



Judge Amy Coney Barrett

day, according to a news release from the Supreme Court, which said the newly approved justice will then "be able to begin to participate in the work of the Court."

Since Trump announced the nomination in late September, Democrats have consistently opposed the Senate move to confirm Judge Barrett, citing the proximity to Election

Day, which is just eight days out now.

They have insisted that the winner of the election be allowed to decide who fills the vacant seat.

Democrats accused Republicans of being hypocritical because they, relying on their majority status in the Senate, shot down then-President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016, also an election year.

Despite the boycott from Democrats, Senate Republicans pushed for a swift confirmation process for Barrett, arguing, on the one hand, for her eligibility for the job, and on the other hand, that their move is justified because now, unlike four years ago, the same party controls the White House and the Senate.

EU calls on Turkey to take positive actions to deescalate

BRUSSELS

THE European Union (EU) is still willing to offer a period until December for Turkey to take positive actions to deescalate the recent tension in between, a spokesman for the European Commission said on Monday.

According to media reports, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has made verbal shots towards his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, after the latter condemned the killing of a French history teacher as an "Islamic terrorist attack."

At a daily briefing, the commission's foreign affairs spokesman Peter Stano said that the position of the 27 EU member states made clear in the leaders'

summit early October has set out the positive lines for Turkey to follow, and the heads of state and government will reconvene to assess the development in December as planned.

"However, if we keep getting provocations against the European Union or a member state of the European Union, then we're going to have to think again about what we can do about such action or any statements," he added.

Stano underscored the background that Turkey is in the middle of a process of joining the EU as a member. "We clearly expect a change in action and declarations from the Turkish side," Stano said.

The latest cross-Mediterranean row was triggered by the

death of the 47-year-old history teacher, who was beheaded by a refugee of Chechen origin on Oct. 16 after he had reportedly shown his students cartoons of Prophet Mohammad.

Macron later condemned the killing, calling on the French to stand together while pledging quick and firm action by the government to combat terrorism. In the following days, the country announced police operations in investigating and arresting extremists, as well as plans to dissolve groups of extremist religious beliefs and expel suspected radicalists.

According to reports, Erdogan questioned Macron's mental health in an open speech and called for a boycott of French goods.

On the French part, Macron has the support of the EU and several member countries. On Sunday the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy Josep Borrell urged Erdogan to stop "the dangerous spiral of confrontation."

"The conclusions of the European Council contain a real offer to relaunch our relationship, but there must be a political will on the part of the Turkish authorities on this positive agenda. Otherwise, Turkey will be even more isolated," he tweeted.

European Council President Charles Michel also accused Turkey of choosing "provocations, unilateral actions in the Mediterranean and now insults" rather than a positive agenda,

adding that "this is intolerable."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said his country stood by France "for the freedom of speech and against extremism and radicalism," while German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas also stressed Germany's solidarity with France, calling Erdogan's remarks on Macron as "a new low point."

The row between Turkey and France has added fuel to the maritime disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean.

France has long opposed Turkey's drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean while Erdogan in September warned his French counterpart not to "mess with Turkey and Turkish nation."

Xinhua

Information technology gives China's medical and health field a new look

CHINA'S medical and health field has taken on a new look, becoming more convenient and benefiting the public more after it was supported by information technology and the application of 5G and artificial intelligence.

"What is a new hospital? In the past, it was thought that a waiting hall had to be big, even bigger than a small auditorium.

Now two sofas are enough, and the time between accurate appointments for diagnosis, treatment and examination is less than 15 minutes," said Wang Jianye, director of Beijing Hospital.

Wang noted that information technology is changing the way daily diagnoses and treatments are being carried out.

Long queues and crowded clinics will become a thing of the past for China's medical and health services.

In August 2020, 64.1 million residents in south China's Guangdong province received their own unique QR codes. Using this "electronic health code", residents can gain access to 1,420 medical institutions in the province.

They can also use the code for registration, medical examinations, laboratory tests, health insurance payments and so on.

When patients see a doctor, they can show the QR code, and the medical records will be immediately displayed on the doctor's computer.

Since 2015, the National Health Com-

mission (then called the National Health and Family Planning Commission) has been drawing up and carrying out an action plan to improve medical services, proposing the use of "Internet +" as a means to build a smart hospital.

"In addition to more than 40,000 health care workers sent to help Hubei (the former epicenter of the COVID-19

epidemic in central China), relying on Internet hospitals, remote consultation and other platforms, more doctors have opened up a 'second battlefield' on the Internet," said Mao Qunan, director of the Planning Department of the National Health Commission.

People's Daily



A pop-up shop is set up by White Rabbit, a Chinese candy brand with a nearly 70-year history on Nanjing Road, Shanghai, June 23. File photo

Chinese brands riding wave of 'new manufacturing'

CHINA'S home-grown brands are gradually claiming an increasingly larger share of the country's domestic consumption market as Chinese original designs are attracting more and more fans.

The reemerging time-honored brands of China, such as White Rabbit candies, Yashuang vanishing cream, and Warrior sneakers, which have accompanied generations of Chinese, are glowing again today with new vitality.

According to a recent report on Chinese brands, over 80 percent of products consumed by Chinese in 2019 were manufactured by domestic brands.

Other data also indicated that 173 China's home-grown brands reported sales volume of over 100 million yuan (\$14.96 million) during last year's "Double 11" online shopping festival, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the total. It reflected in part the strength of the Chinese domestic brands in the country's consumption market, as well as their increasing influence.

A series of excellent China-designed products were recently displayed at an exhibition of "China chic" (a term refers to fashion trends native to China) launched by the People's Daily New Media Center, including smart televisions that were able to interact with users and recognize dialects, Peking Opera-themed toothpastes with Chinese herbal ingredients, and garments that combined retro and modern elements.

The exhibition not only attracted many young people, but also well explained the emergence of China's home-grown brands during the past five years.

"Made in China" has constantly enhanced its quality and evolved toward intelligent manufacturing during the country's 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020).

A few years ago, the news of Chinese consumers buying toilet covers, electric cookers and hair dryers from overseas once spammed the internet, which reminded the country a fact that Chinese consumers were paying more attention on products' quality and brands as they embraced a better life.

They need domestic products to be great rather than just being functional, durable and practical. When consumption is gradually becoming personalized and diversified, it is more important to ensure products' quality and stimulate demand through innovation.

That explains why China has been striving to carry out supply-side structural reform during the past five years

to satisfy people's ever-growing, constantly upgrading, and increasingly individualized material, cultural, ecological, and environmental needs.

Thanks to the upgrading of the country's manufacturing sector, as well as the in-depth implementation of the Internet+ strategy, China's home-grown brands have continuously improved their capability and quality of supply, winning broad recognition from consumers.

They used to focus on quantities, but now they care more about quality and user experience; they once relied on original equipment manufacturer (OEM) businesses, but now they started their own brands; they manufactured products after receiving orders, but now they are producing more customized goods and have a more precise understanding of the market.

Domestic brands are no more known only for their high cost performance, but become a leader in quality and trend.

Apart from the advantages in production scale and cost, their popularity also come from the recognition of the consumers. The performance of domestic brands is a proof to the increasingly enhancing competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing, and reflects the favorable effects of supply-side structural reform.

If the changes of consumers' demands have created new development space for Chinese brands, then the rising of these brands is also in turn shaping consumers' aesthetic capability and their pursuit for culture.

In recent years, Chinese elements have been a distinct character of the products designed by domestic brands. For instance, Chinese domestic cosmetics brand Pechoin and Tong Ren Tang, the largest producer of traditional Chinese medicine in China have incorporated trendy elements in the design of their classic products, winning recognition from the young Chinese.

The new Chinese products are not only satisfying consumers' increasingly diversified demands, but also further stimulating their cultural confidence. In this regard, the rise of Chinese brands concerns both economy and culture.

Today, China's home-grown brands are standing at a new starting point, and the broad market of the country is also offering a vast platform for their innovative development.

As long as they stay alert to the demand of the market, make innovation, produce products with higher standards, and dig into the cultural value, we have every reason to believe that Chinese domestic brands will win a larger market and help people achieve a better life.

People's Daily

AU, EU vow continued support to peace, security efforts in Sahel region

ADDIS ABABA

EXPRESSING deep concern over the growing deteriorating security situation in the Sahel region, the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) have strongly condemned attacks against civilian populations, against armed and security forces of the countries of the region, and all other regional and international forces.

According to a joint statement on Tuesday, during their latest meeting on Monday, the AU Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) and the EU Political and Security Committee (EU-PSC) have discussed the situations in the Sahel region, Sudan and Somalia.

The AU-PSC and the EU-PSC have noted that the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel, have mainly been caused by social and economic unbalances, terrorism and organized crime, which is further aggravating the security and humanitarian situation in the region.

Re-affirming their commitment to continue supporting the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUS-MA), they underscored the need for additional resources to be availed to the Mission, with a view to further en-



hancing its capacity to more effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate.

Also reaffirming their support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, they have called upon all stakeholders and international community to also support the Force by providing the necessary resources and building its capacity to enable it to effectively and efficiently discharge its mandate.

The AU PSC and the EU PSC have underlined the need to address the root causes and drivers of the deteriorating situation in the Sahel region, through comprehensive approaches that include development of peace-building/post-conflict reconstruction, as well as

a political and a development dimension.

They have welcomed the creation of the Coalition for the Sahel, and in this regard reaffirmed the importance of respect for human rights and fight against impunity by all stakeholders and State authorities, including security and defense forces.

They have further noted the upcoming elections in Burkina Faso and Niger, and stressed the importance of ensuring their peaceful organization.

They have commended efforts being deployed by the G5 Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in combating the

Kenya president, deputy spar over plan to end ethnic clashes

BY BLOOMBERG

KENYA'S plans to amend the constitution to curb divisive politics and election violence risk backfiring as President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy, William Ruto, pull in different directions.

Sweeping changes to the structure of the government were outlined in the so-called Building Bridges Initiative, which was agreed between Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga and aimed at preventing a repeat of hostilities that ensued after a disputed presidential election in 2017. That vote was nullified by the Supreme Court and saw Odinga boycott the rerun.

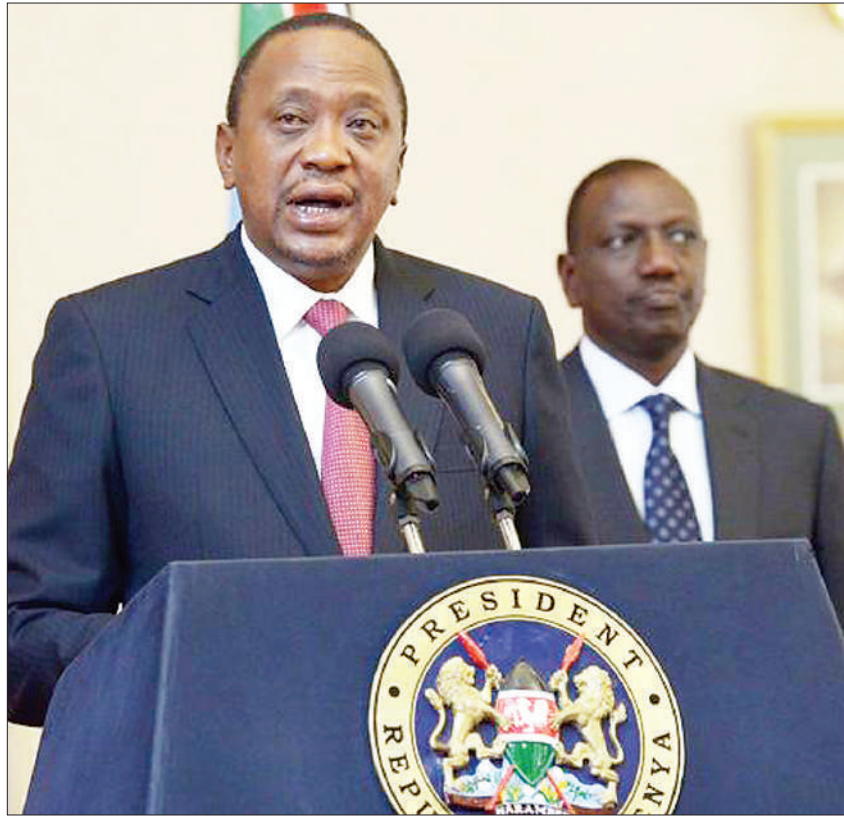
The panel that drew up the initiative proposed reintroducing the posts of prime minister and two deputies to make the government more inclusive and replace a winner-take-all electoral system. Elections in Kenya have been marred by ethnic violence since the return of multi-party rule in 1992, derailing the economy in the process.

"Ethnicity has been the basis of Kenyan politics and the reforms are part of a strategy to end this," Kenyatta said at a meeting on Monday that was held to elaborate on the proposals. Efforts to develop the economy and create jobs have been undermined by a five-year voting cycle that sees leaders spending most of their tenure campaigning for office or dealing with the aftermath of elections, he said.

Independent Judiciary

The plan has fractured the ruling Jubilee party, with Ruto's supporters claiming that it's aimed at derailing his ambitions to replace Kenyatta as president in 2022 and positioning Odinga as a potential successor. Kenyatta and Odinga said they haven't discussed presidential succession.

The proposal that the president appoint a prime minister and deputies may not necessarily result in a more inclusive government, while a suggestion that the executive appoint a judicial ombudsman could undermine its



Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta (left), flanked by Deputy President William Ruto, delivers a speech at the State House in Nairobi. File photo

independence, Ruto told the meeting.

"There are gaps," he said.

Fears are now rising in Kenya that campaigning around a new constitution incorporating the panel's proposals and a referendum to approve it - which could possibly be held next year - will reignite hostilities and draw attention away from other priorities. The government is pushing to implement Kenyatta's plan to boost manufacturing, farming, health care and housing amid mounting debt.

"It is now clear that for the next two years, Kenyan politics will be consumed with the debating the merits of BBI and whether it can be implemented, rather than any of the pressing economic and developmental challenges facing the country," said Nic Cheeseman, a professor of democracy at the University of Birmingham.

"I think this is clearly about elite poli-

tics and trying to build an unbeatable coalition for 2022."

The candidate who wins the support of three of the five biggest ethnic groups - Kenyatta's Kikuyu, Ruto's Kalenjin, Odinga's Luo, the Luhya and the Kamba - is almost guaranteed to win Kenya's presidency.

Kenya's tribal clashes hit a crescendo in 2008 when more than 1,300 people died. Kenyatta and Ruto were indicted by the International Criminal Court for their alleged roles in the bloodshed. The cases were eventually dropped for lack of evidence.

If Ruto opposes the proposed changes, it would "exacerbate existing divisions and would increase the tension between his Kalenjin supporters and Kenyatta's Kikuyu community in parts of the Rift Valley," a flash-point for previous violence, Cheeseman said in an emailed note.

Agencies

Johnson stalling on EU deal until after US poll, report says

By Earle Gale in London

A FORMER United Kingdom ambassador to the European Union has told Britain's Observer newspaper that some senior EU politicians and officials believe Prime Minister Boris Johnson is stalling for time in trade talks with the bloc.

Ivan Rogers, who was London's top diplomat in Brussels between 2013 and 2017, said they believe Johnson wants to know whether the United States President Donald Trump will return to the Oval Office before making up his mind on whether Britain could cope with a so-called no-deal Brexit, in which the nation's departure from the bloc is not accompanied by a comprehensive free-trade deal.

"Several very senior sources in capitals have told me they believe Johnson will await clarity on the presidential election result before finally deciding whether to jump to 'no-deal' with the EU, or to conclude that this is just too risky with (Democratic Party challenger Joe) Biden heading for the White House," the Observer quoted Rogers as saying.

The former ambassador said Johnson would think "history was going his way" if Trump wins on Nov 3 and he continues to have a right-wing ally in the White House who will be likely to strike a quick and substantial post-Brexit free-trade deal with the UK.

Rogers said Biden would be more likely to focus on rebuilding relations with the EU if he emerges as the winner.

"I don't think either Biden or his core team are anti-British, but I think they are unimpressed by both Johnson and his top team," Rogers said.

The Guardian newspaper said Kim Darroch, a former UK ambassador to the US, believes Biden would favor a trade deal with the EU over one with the UK.

"Whoever wins in November, the bedrock of the relationship defense, security, and intelligence collaboration will remain as strong as ever. But if it's Biden, there are likely to be some issues.

The Democrats don't like or support Brexit. They may prioritize trade deals with the Pacific region or the EU over a UK/US deal."

The UK and EU are seeking a free-trade deal in talks that began soon after the nation left the bloc in January. They are currently trading as if the UK is still a member, but that arrangement a so-called transitional period ends on Dec 31.

If a new trade deal is not in place by then, they will revert to trading under the terms of the World Trade Organization, something UK business groups have warned will lead to long lines at the border and new tariffs.

Raising problems

But trade deals also come with problems.

On Sunday, EU television manufacturers warned they could miss out on the benefits of a free-trade deal and face losing thousands of jobs if the wrong deal is struck.

Digital Europe, an association that represents technology companies, has written to the European Commission to warn that 3.7 million TVs exported to the UK annually worth 931 million euros (US\$1.1 billion) could be classified as non-EU imports because of rules Brussels is insisting upon in trade talks.

Agencies

China continues improving driving forces for win-win cooperation

CHINESE President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at a grand gathering celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in south China's Guangdong province on October 14. His remarks have attracted wide attention from the international community.

While interpreting the global significance of China's determination to promote reform and opening-up at a higher starting point, international observers said the Chinese leader once again emphasized the importance of reform and opening-up in Shenzhen, the forefront of China's reform and opening-up, and acknowledged the positive

role of the policy in promoting the rapid development of China's economy.

Shenzhen is the epitome of China's reform and opening-up and the city will innovate and advance reform more boldly in the future, they said, noting that China's continuous efforts to advance reform and opening-up will inject positive energy into global economic growth.

China unwaveringly follows a win-win strategy of opening-up, through which the country can draw strength from the world and better benefit the world with its development, Xi noted.

China, as a major developing country with 1.4 billion people, a 900-million-strong labor force

and 120 million market entities, welcomes the participation of more countries in the world in its reform and opening-up as well as the forming of a new pattern featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has not yet been effectively brought under control across the world, and the world economy is suffering from the worst recession since the World War II, China's efforts to promote reform and opening-up at a higher starting point have injected strong impetus into global economic recovery.

The fact that China's economy has bucked the trend of a global

recession and secured impressive performance has fully demonstrated the country's confidence in advancing reform and opening-up at a higher starting point as well as the certainty that China's development means greater benefits to the rest of the world.

The latest statistics suggest that China's economy expanded 4.9 percent year on year in the third quarter and that the country's economic growth of the first three quarters shifted from negative to positive.

China's economy is moving faster back on track, pointed out the international community.

China was pulling up the global numbers, said Gita Gopinath,

Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

China's growth amid the COVID-19 pandemic is a positive impulse for the world economy, noted IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

China became a vital refuge for many of them (U.S. companies) as China's rebounding consumer economy helped offset the damage from tumbling sales back home, according to an article published on The Wall Street Journal.

Those who recognize the trend are wise and those who ride the trend will win.

International economic connectivity and exchanges are still the objective requirements of

world economic development.

Standing on the right side of history, China has kept up with the times, deepened reform on all fronts and expanded all-around opening up.

With lower overall tariffs, shorter negative lists for foreign investment, easier market access, more transparent market rules, and a more attractive business environment, the country has closely connected its domestic market, the largest one in the world, with the global market, realizing a virtuous circle and mutual promotion between the domestic market and global market at a larger scale and with greater efficiency and stronger dynamism while opening up vast

development opportunities for itself and various countries in the world.

With practical efforts to promote higher-level opening-up, China has won universal recognition and trust from the international community.

Data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that China's restrictions on foreign investment have declined rapidly since 2013, and the decline is one of the sharpest among major economies.

China has made great achievements in optimizing business environment, said a report released by the World Bank.

People's Daily

SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Al-Farouq Islamic Primary School's pupils display acrobatic skills during the eighth graduation ceremony for the school's nursery and Standard Seven pupils, which took place at Tabata in the city last Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Remembering his friends, Springsteen pens 'Letter to You'

NEW YORK

LAST year as Bruce Springsteen reflected on the death of his friend and teenage bandmate George Theiss, who died in 2018, he grabbed his guitar and pen and began writing a song about being the sole living member of his first band.

He wrote about the New Jersey clubs where the Castiles played their first shows. And the flannel shirts and thrift store jeans he and his bandmates wore onstage. Reminiscing about his first musical experiences as well as his longtime friends who have died, 71-year-old Springsteen sings the refrain: "Somewhere deep into the heart of the crowd/I'm the last man standing now."

"Last Man Standing" brought the emotions out of The Boss, and after writing it, more songs came. The album "Letter to You," released last week, was born.

"It was the key to the rest of the record," Springsteen said of "Last Man Standing," the first song he wrote for his new album. "My friend George passed away. Him and I were the last guys from my first band, which meant it left me sort of on my own."

Alone, he wrote songs about his off-and-on friendship with Theiss, who invited a teenage Springsteen to join the Castiles as its guitarist six decades ago. Tension rose in the young band as Springsteen began to move to the front of the stage, outshining Theiss. The group eventually broke up.

They connected later on in life, but then Theiss became ill and died.

Springsteen said penning lyrics about his friend wasn't an easy process. Of the track "Ghosts," he says: "Quite a storm to write."

"That song was specifically written, I'd say, using my memories of George and my youth and what it felt like if you had a close friend who you knew all the clothes they wore, the books they read, the records they listened to and all of those things meant something to you," he said.



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band perform in Barcelona, Spain, on May 14, 2016. Springsteen's latest album, "Letter To You" was released on Oct. 23. (AP Photo)

The 12-track "Letter to You," Springsteen's 20th album, has the rock star looking to the past as he sings about the ones he's lost, including Theiss, E Street Band players Clarence Clemons and Danny Federici as well as his longtime assistant Terry Magovern.

Album opener "One Minute You're Here" finds Springsteen singing about being on his own. He soul searches on the title track. And on "I'll See You In My Dreams," which closes the album, he's ready to "meet and live and laugh again" with his late pals.

"Clarence is never out of our thoughts and neither is Danny. They'll always be in the E Street Band. ... They're an ongoing living part of our spirits," Springsteen said. "The record also did encompass the thoughts of losing them and how that feels at this point in time. That was a part of the journey of this particular record."

"It was heavy. It was emotional. We've all had to learn our life inside the band and outside the band, how to coexist with the joy of life and the sadness of loss," added E Street Band player Nils Lofgren. "This album - Clarence was with us every track sitting on all of our shoulders and it shows. So is Danny."

Reflecting on his first band excited Springsteen about the E Street Band, who he last performed with in 2016. This time, they recorded a full-length album in just days.

"We cut one song every three hours. In four days, we were done. The fifth day we sat around, drank and listened to them," Springsteen explained. "The band is at its very best. We've learned our lessons over the years."

The recording process was captured last November for the black-and-white Apple TV+ documentary "Bruce Springsteen's Letter to You," also released last week. It includes funny and tender moments between Springsteen and his longtime friends.

It is also emotional. As Springsteen plays "I'll See You In My Dreams," his manager Jon Landau breaks down.

"The funny thing was - I didn't realize it happened until I saw the film. I was sitting behind him and I was just listening to the track and I went, 'Hey, that's pretty good' when it was done," Springsteen said. "I knew the song was very intense. It's about people who have passed on ... I'm glad that he agreed to leave it in the film."

Springsteen called writing the new album "a cathartic experience," explaining that he wrote nine of the 12 tracks in seven to 10 days at his home (three of the songs were written in his early twenties but were never recorded for an album).

Writing about death has Springsteen thinking differently about life - sort of. When asked if he wished he had done things differently, he says: "At my age I feel like that every day."

"I'm kind of a little bit thankful for every day that's passing by. I have no regrets about things that I did or didn't do. I feel like I gave my full shot at what I was best at. I don't think I have any regrets about any particular moment in my work life. I had to struggle to get a good personal life together. That took a long time and a lot of work. I'm lucky that I got a great home and a great family right now. That's been a great blessing. I have to thank my lovely wife, Patti Scialfa, for all of that," he said.

"So, things are good at the moment. Once you reach my age, death is a part of life. You get in your 50s, 60s and 70s - it just becomes a regular occurrence among family friends. And it's just a part of living."

AP

Mtibwa Sugar hands Azam FC first loss in 2020/21 VPL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) leaders, Azam FC, conceded the first defeat in the league, losing 1-0 to Mtibwa Sugar in a match that was played at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro on Monday.

Azam FC, led by head coach, Aristica Cioaba, therefore, dropped three points for the first time in the season.

Mtibwa Sugar came into the game with plenty of confidence and concentration that did not allow errors.

The approach made it difficult for Azam FC attacking force, led by Zimbabwean Prince Dube, to pose threat to Mtibwa Sugar defense.

Mtibwa Sugar netted the only goal of the match through forward Jaffary Salum on the 62nd minute.

The muscular goal getter scored a fantastic goal, which stands to be one of the goal of the season's contenders after firing a wonderful left foot shot into the top corner, leaving Azam FC goalkeeper, David Kissu, sprawling on the turf.

Azam FC had played a total of seven matches without losing and scored 14 goals while conceding just two goals.

The club's number one goalkeeper Kissu had kept a total of six clean sheets out of seven matches.

Mtibwa Sugar's management has said that efforts and dedication of their players turn out to be the biggest thing that keeps them on the field.

The Morogoro side's victory over Azam FC that had played seven matches without a loss reveals the latter had been posting victory over weaker opponents.

Mtibwa Sugar, headed by caretaker coach Vincent Barnabas, have been on a different track for the 2020/21 season after the side's then head coach, Zubeir Katwila, had left the outfit and joined VPL debutants Ihefu FC.

Barnabas has now led Mtibwa Sugar in two matches and posted six points



Mtibwa Sugar players celebrate after netting a goal against Azam FC in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Morogoro on Monday. Mtibwa Sugar won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

with both games taking place at the Jamhuri Stadium.

He first led his charges against Namungo FC, the game saw the hosts win 1-0.

Mtibwa Sugar's Information Officer, Thobias Kifarur, said that the team are a football academy and every player who plays there knows his responsibilities.

"Mtibwa Sugar are a football college and our young players attend classroom to study, we are strong all the time, we are not random in our work," he disclosed.

He stated: "We had made it clear early on we will beat Azam FC, we know they did not drop points but they were meeting small teams, now they have met a big team and we have taken three points."

"The bad results we were getting in the past were annoying because they were happening for no reason, with the players being paid well and on time, clean camp and everything in place, we are now starting to get back to our pace," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar have played a total of eight matches, they have won three matches, lost three and recorded draw in two to hold the 10th position in the VPL table with 11 points.

Azam FC Information Officer, Thabit Zakaria, said: "It was

not our game, we were stuck today and lost three points, we are preparing for our next matches."

He noted: "The players have done a good job but at the end of the day the results was not on our side. We lost our first game for the 2020/21 season."

"It's still part of the game and we will continue to fight as it was not our chance to win. We are preparing for the upcoming matches, we have a good squad and the players are fine."

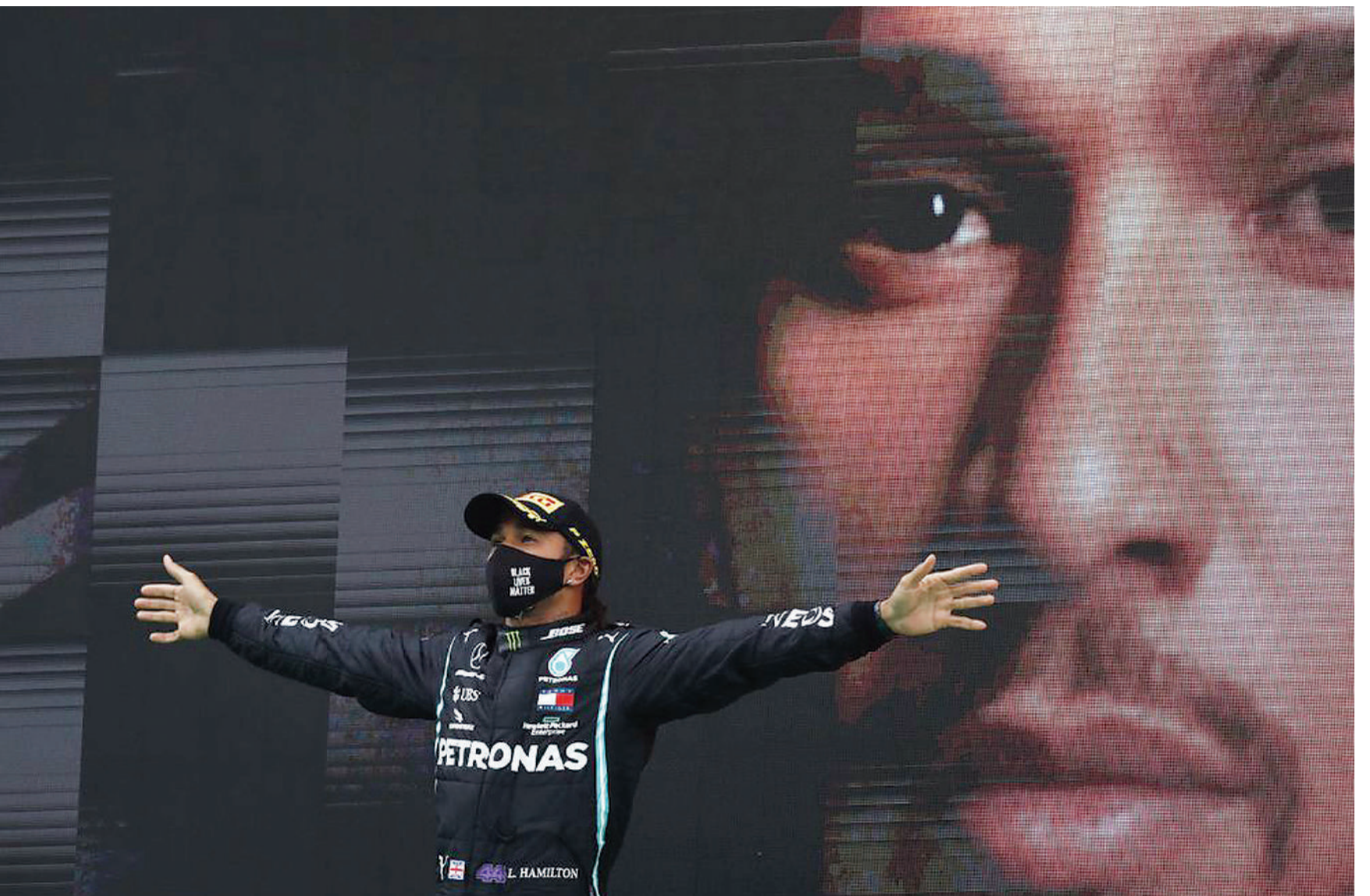
Azam FC missed the services of the outfit's prolific goal getter, Obrey Chirwa, and skilful midfielder, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', in the Monday duel.

Chirwa, who has netted four goals for the outfit this season, was suffering from ankle pain.

Abubakar was serving a one-match ban given he had accumulated three yellow cards in the previous three consecutive matches.

Azam FC still leads the rest of the pack in the VPL with 21 points after playing eight matches.

Hamilton's future comes more into focus after record win



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates after winning the Formula One Portuguese Grand Prix at the Algarve International Circuit in Portimao, Portugal, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020. (AP)

LONDON

MERCEDES Formula One boss Toto Wolff jokingly suggested he would have to sell the factory to keep Lewis Hamilton after the Briton's record 92nd career win in Portugal on Sunday.

Hamilton is out of contract at the end of the year, by which time the 35-year-old is likely to have won a record-equaling seventh championship and rank as the most successful driver in the history of the sport.

He and Wolff have yet to sit down and hammer out the details of a new deal in a season disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic but time is pushing on.

"It's huge. We have to sell plenty of inventory. Sell a leaseback of the buildings and just come up with

the money," said Wolff when asked about the contract implications of the victory.

The reality is less drastic, with both sides keen to stay together and set more records in a sport they have dominated since the start of the V6 turbo hybrid era in 2014.

If Ferrari great Michael Schumacher's record 91 wins once seemed an impossible target, Hamilton now looks likely to go well beyond 100 with an eighth title also no longer in the realms of fantasy.

"In 10 or 20 years we're going to look back and really acknowledge what a special driver he was," said Wolff.

Mercedes, meanwhile, are on the brink of becoming the first team to win seven successive constructors' titles.

Hamilton, who has been with

Mercedes since 2013, already earns a reported 40 million pounds (\$52 million) a year but the pandemic has changed the financial landscape for even the biggest companies.

The champion knows no other team can give him what he wants, and no other team will feel like family in the way Mercedes does.

"I don't think I'm at my peak. I'm in a good area for sure but I still want to continue to race. I don't know how much longer that will be," the 35-year-old told Sky Sports television.

"This is a period of time where I've got to slowly work out what the future holds.

"All I can say is I plan to be here next year."

Hamilton's contract talks have always been something of a saga and this time he has also wanted to be sure

of where Wolff's future lies.

The Austrian, a shareholder in the team, said he and Daimler boss Ola Kaelenius had agreed "to continue with each other".

"Where we stand today is that everybody has the will to continue," Wolff told reporters by video conference.

"With Lewis and I it is simply that we are living like hermits and I think our team is particularly disciplined ... I was in Monaco last week but we decided not to meet because the worst that could happen is me dragging corona into our meetings.

"It simply wasn't the time to sit down and meet. I hope we can finish the next couple of races on a high and then concentrate on the contract." (\$1 = 0.7662 pounds)

REUTERS

Arsenal's defeat a reminder of how far Arteta has to go

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC



Lacazette had one goal disallowed but squandered several other chances to give Arsenal a win. It seemed fitting that Leicester snatched all three points. (Agencies)

ONLY one of Arsenal and Leicester City started with a centre-forward on the pitch, but it says a lot about Alexandre Lacazette's performance that you couldn't really tell the difference.

Mikel Arteta has made considerable progress in evolving Arsenal since taking charge last December, but Sunday's 1-0 defeat was a slip back into the past as they failed to make their early dominance pay, fizzled out as an attacking force and were undone by a classic counter-attack goal.

"I'm really disappointed, we had it in our hands in the first half," said Arteta to Sky Sports after the match. "They caught us with space at the back and in that moment we lost the game."

"It is difficult to create spaces with 10 men behind the ball, but we should have finished the game better. When it comes to those moments, you can't give away chances at the back."

The villain of the piece from the Gunners' perspective was an all-too-familiar foe: Jamie Vardy came off the bench with 30 minutes remaining, had Leicester's first shot on target all night and scored his 11th Premier League goal against Arsenal to hand the visitors a precious win. Only Wayne Rooney (12) has breached the Gunners more times in League history, and this was an archetypal example of many that have gone before: Leicester moved the ball quickly in midfield, Yuri Tielemans spotted substitute Cengiz Under with a raking forward pass and the Turkey international winger teared a ball in from the right wing for Vardy to stoop and head home.

There were, of course, no fans in Emirates Stadium to voice their disapproval, but one small crumb of comfort from their absence will come in the fact they have seen this all before. Vardy could hardly miss, such was the quality of Under's cross, but his clinical touch only heightened the contrast with what happened at the other end for the hosts all night long.

Lacazette was not the only culprit -- Pierre Emerick-Aubameyang headed over from a Kieran Tierney cross, Bukayo Saka was unable to capitalise on several dangerous moments in an otherwise promising display, and Hector Bellerin missed Arsenal's clearest opening in the second half -- but he missed the best chance in the 29th minute when somehow failing to meet another wonderful Tierney delivery with any meaningful contact inside the 6-yard box.

One miss should never define a player, especially one who had a goal disallowed early on for an offside that was theoretically correct, but

practically questionable. Granit Xhaka was deemed to be interfering with play as he stood in an offside position, blocking Kasper Schmeichel's view of Lacazette's glancing header from Dani Ceballos' second-minute corner.

For his part, Schmeichel did not protest, punching the ball out of his net in frustration at what he thought was an early concession, yet VAR referee Paul Tierney deemed an interference the goalkeeper seemingly did not see himself.

That said, there was a collective lack of conviction in attack from Arsenal thereafter. Given Saka's fine form and Aubameyang's talismanic status -- even though he's palpably less incisive off the right flank -- Lacazette looks most

vulnerable in this team. His lack of aerial ability sometimes compromises Arsenal's effectiveness in the final third. It's a weakness not resolved by Aubameyang or Eddie Nketiah, and can cost them dearly on nights like this.

Lacazette started the season in promising fashion, netting in each of Arsenal's first three games. His understanding with Aubameyang remains a compelling reason to recommend him, as is his pedigree in comparison to the relatively unproven, but promising, Nketiah. Yet it must be difficult for the 29-year-old's mind not to wander a little to what may lie ahead should he start to consistently fall short in front of goal.

No doubt enthused by the chance to champion one of their own, Nketiah has a sizeable section of Arsenal fans calling for the 21-year-old to start more often, and Arteta is clearly a believer, having brought him back from an indifferent loan spell at Leeds last season to reintegrate him into the first-team group ahead of schedule.

There is also the wider picture: Lacazette has entered the final two years of his current contract with no sign of the club opening talks over an extension. It's especially alarming given that how many times Arsenal have been forced into difficult decisions by players with a year remaining on their deals. This is therefore a pivotal season -- one that also ends with a European Championships, and Lacazette hasn't entirely given up hope of forcing his way back into the France setup -- and costly profligacy like this must be the exception.

"Obviously, the strikers need goals. [Lacazette] started tonight, he was sharp and really aggressive in his play," Arteta said. "He had an opportunity to score that goal, and he didn't. But you have to support, give them more confidence and try to create more."

This was Leicester's first away League win at Arsenal since 1973, one that perhaps also benefited from David Luiz and Saka being forced off early with injuries. (Arteta said after the match that Luiz would have a "muscular problem" assessed within the next 48 hours.) Thomas Partey, making his full League debut, looked largely unflustered, but he didn't get close enough to Tielemans for the through-ball that facilitated Leicester's winner, perhaps due to fatigue after playing against Rapid Vienna 72 hours earlier.

Shkodran Mustafi, on for Luiz as a replacement, failed to track Vardy's run despite a visible instruction from Gabriel Magalhaes -- precisely the type of error that will prompt further criticism of the much-maligned centre-back. It might not have mattered, however, had Arsenal translated their earlier superiority to the scoreline.

Blame game: Koeman and Barca's sense of injustice clouds Juve test

BARCELONA

TWO days before Barcelona were due to face Juventus in the Champions League, their toughest match in Group G, the Catalan club were still bemoaning the one thing they said won the Clásico for Real Madrid - VAR.

There was no talk Monday of Barca's lack of creativity that meant Madrid, as the away team, had more shots at Camp Nou, nor their timid response that allowed their opponents to coast through the last half an hour with a one-goal lead.

There was no admittance of failure from coach Ronald Koeman, whose substitutions proved ineffective or, worse, counter-productive.

There was no addressing the question of defeat, or a single question at all, by Barca's senior players, not even captain Lionel Messi, who has now gone six games without scoring against his team's greatest rivals.

The players had just lost their fourth match in 10 games including the dismal end to last season, and their new coach has overseen only three wins from his first six in charge.

When the president Josep Maria Bartomeu sacked Ernesto Valverde in January, Barca were top of the table. Under Bartomeu's first replacement they capitulated at the end of last season. Under his second, they sit 12th.

The disappointments keep coming for Barcelona, but those prepared to take any responsibility continue to shrink from view.

Up next are Juventus on Wednesday, when another set-back would not be irretrievable thanks to last week's 5-1 drubbing of Ferencváros.

But a growing sense of deflation and injustice -- initiated by sections of the Catalan press but now adopted fully by players, coach and president -- will be harder to be rid of, regardless of the result in Turin.

After the final whistle blew on

Saturday, Koeman was not with his team in the dressing room but waiting for the referee.

After the match, his press conference was less an assessment of his team's performance than a tirade against VAR.

- Messi silence -
"Koeman explodes" read the front page of Mundo Deportivo on Sunday.

His anger ignored the fact Sergio Ramos's controversial penalty put Madrid just 2-1 up, hardly out of sight, and there were still 27 minutes plus added time remaining to retrieve something from the match.

It also conveniently masked Koeman waiting too long to make three substitutions, none effective.

"Was it a penalty?" Koeman asked a reporter, who responded he thought that it was.

"Well we disagree. Hopefully one day you can explain the issue of VAR here in Spain. We have had five games and VAR has only intervened against Barca."

Unlike Koeman, Barcelona's senior players did head straight down the tunnel, leaving the 19-year-old American Sergino Dest, having just played his first Clásico, to field the post-match media duties with an interviewer who thought he could speak Spanish.

"I'm just pissed we lost," Dest said.

Messi chose not to speak, despite having a lot to say in recent months about the failings of the board.

Neither did Gerard Pique, despite giving an interview the day before to La Vanguardia in which he also listed his criticisms of the club.

Then the team lost to Real Madrid, nobody spoke at all.

Meanwhile, Bartomeu was still cursing VAR on Monday night, even after more than 16,000 of the club's members signed an official petition to say the one really to blame was him.

AFP

Man Utd search for home comforts as Leipzig test looms

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has stopped the rot at Manchester United but he must rediscover the winning formula at home as he prepares for Wednesday's visit of RB Leipzig in the Champions League.

United's collapse against Tottenham in early October plunged the club back into crisis mode as the Norwegian scrambled to fix his broken defence.

The sense of panic has receded, with a 4-1 win at Newcastle followed by an impressive 2-1 away victory against Paris Saint-Germain in United's European opener.

But the Red Devils played out a drab 0-0 stalemate against Chelsea at an empty Old Trafford at the weekend, leaving them without a Premier League win at home this season.

Solskjaer's team became the first United side since the 1972/73 season to fail to win any of their opening three home league matches -- leaving them languishing in the lower reaches of the table. Despite the underwhelming result, the manager was sanguine after Saturday's home draw, which came after an embarrassing 3-1 reverse against Crystal Palace and the humiliating 6-1 thumping by Tottenham both at Old Trafford.

"We had a clean sheet, we had some pressure, we stopped the home run of defeats," he said.

"We wanted to win, of course you want to win at home, but I think it's a solid performance when you think of the week we've had. We've had a very good week with two wins and a draw."

- Away form -

In sharp contrast to their poor home form, United have been genuinely impressive on the road. Their eye-catching victory in Paris was their 10th consecutive away win, excluding games at neutral venues -- a new club record.

Solskjaer has speculated that one reason for the drop-off in home form is the change of routine during the lockdown period. He is also desperate for the return of fans to add noise and colour. The manager changed the pre-match routine before the Chelsea game in an effort to turn round his side's Old

Trafford fortunes, taking them to stay in a hotel the night before the game.

Despite United's inconsistency, defender Luke Shaw believes they are heading the right direction.

"When we're on the pitch now, it feels different to what it was before (at the start of the season). Before, we made a lot of sloppy, silly mistakes -- individual mistakes -- and I think we've learned from that and we've worked hard in training," he said.

"We knew we needed to improve, and I think we need to build on this today (Saturday) and take it to Wednesday."

Victory against the Bundesliga leaders would put United in a strong position to finish in the top two in Group H, with a double-header to come between Leipzig and PSG.

But Julian Nagelsmann's in-form team, who started their European campaign with a 2-0 win against Istanbul Basaksehir, also have a chance to stamp their authority on the group.

Solskjaer must decide whether to stick or twist against the Germans, who reached the semi-finals of last season's Champions League.

He played a makeshift three-man central defence of Axel Tuanzebe, Luke Shaw and Victor Lindelof in Paris, with Aaron Wan-Bissaka and new signing Alex Telles operating as wing-backs.

But Solskjaer reverted to a back four against Chelsea, with Harry Maguire, who endured a rocky start to the season on and off the pitch, back in the side. Solskjaer also has decisions to make in midfield.

Scott McTominay and Fred have started all three games since the international break, with Paul Pogba coming on as a substitute each time to add forward thrust.

Solskjaer is spoilt for choice up front, with new signing Edinson Cavani and Mason Greenwood in the mix and Anthony Martial available despite his domestic ban alongside Marcus Rashford.

The Norwegian is becoming used to false dawns but a win against the German league leaders would be another sign that United might be heading in the right direction.

AFP

Pirlo sees positives as Juventus miss Ronaldo before Barca clash

LONDON

ANDREA Pirlo sees positives despite preparing for his biggest match since taking over as Juventus coach with Covid-19-stricken Cristiano Ronaldo in doubt against Lionel Messi's Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Pirlo took over after Maurizio Sarri was sacked immediately after Juventus' last 16 exit to Lyon in August, the veteran coach lamenting another failure in a "competition cursed for Juve".

The Turin side have won the tournament twice, but not since 1996. They have been runners-up seven times, including twice in the last five years.

In fact, 41-year-old Pirlo's last Juventus game as a player came in the 3-1 loss to Barcelona in the 2015 Champions League final.

Juventus signed Portuguese star Ronaldo in 2018 with the aim of lifting the coveted European trophy, and his absence against Messi's Barcelona could weigh heavy.

The 35-year-old will need to test negative 24 hours before being allowed to feature in Turin. The return at the Camp Nou is on December 8.

"We miss him right now, of course," said Colombian teammate Juan Cuadrado. "He's a champion. In these very difficult matches, his strength, his mentality and his desire shine through."

Ronaldo scored three goals for Juventus in their first two league games, before contracting the virus while on international duty.

Even if Pirlo has yet to record a loss this season, Juventus are fifth in Serie A, with three draws in five games.

"Barcelona? It doesn't worry me, they are two different matches," said Pirlo after Sunday's 1-1 stalemate against Hellas Verona.

"Verona play differently than Barcelona, against teams that play like this you have to prepare a certain type of match."

"We're in the construction phase," continued the novice coach.

"We're sorry to leave points on the road, but we are on the right path. We are building a long-term project. I only see positive things."

- Kulusevski, Morata spark -
Pirlo's main weapons in Ronaldo's absence have been Spanish forward Alvaro Morata, who scored both goals against Dynamo Kiev, and Swedish striker Dejan Kulusevski, who rescued the point against Verona.

Former Chelsea and Real Madrid player Morata returned to Juventus this season with Kulusevski signed from Atalanta in January before being loaned



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) and Juventus' Ronaldo are the top two scorers in Champions League history. (Agencies)

back immediately to Parma.

The 20-year-old Swede was up and running immediately, scoring on his club debut in September and came off the bench to give Juventus the edge against Verona.

Pirlo has also been impressed with how Paulo Dybala performed "well above expectations," in his seasonal debut against Verona after over three months out.

Captain Giorgio Chiellini's presence is in doubt, with fellow defender Leonardo Bonucci's thigh strain being monitored, al-

though Gianluca Frabotta, 21, has stepped into the breach, with Alex Sandro also out.

"Seeing how we started the other championships, this start has been a bit slow," said Cuadrado of the nine-time reigning Italian champions.

"But we haven't lost yet."

Both teams won their Group G openers with Barcelona beating Hungarians Ferencváros 5-1 and Juventus 2-0 at Dynamo Kiev.

- Ronaldo v Messi -

If Ronaldo misses his chance to line out on Wednesday he will have to wait until December to renew his rivalry with Argentine Messi.

They are the two greatest players of their generation with 11 Ballons d'Or between them, and the two highest scorers in Champions League history.

They have not faced off since the Portuguese superstar left Real Madrid for Juventus, and both are running out of time to win the Champions League again.

Messi, now 33, has featured in four victorious campaigns, all with Barcelona, while Ronaldo has won it five times, four with Real Madrid and once with Manchester United.

Ronaldo has 130 Champions league goals, of which ten have been for Juventus, to Messi's 116.

Messi has won 16 of their 35 encounters to Ronaldo's 10, with the remaining nine ending in draws. Messi has also scored 22 goals in those games to Ronaldo's 19.

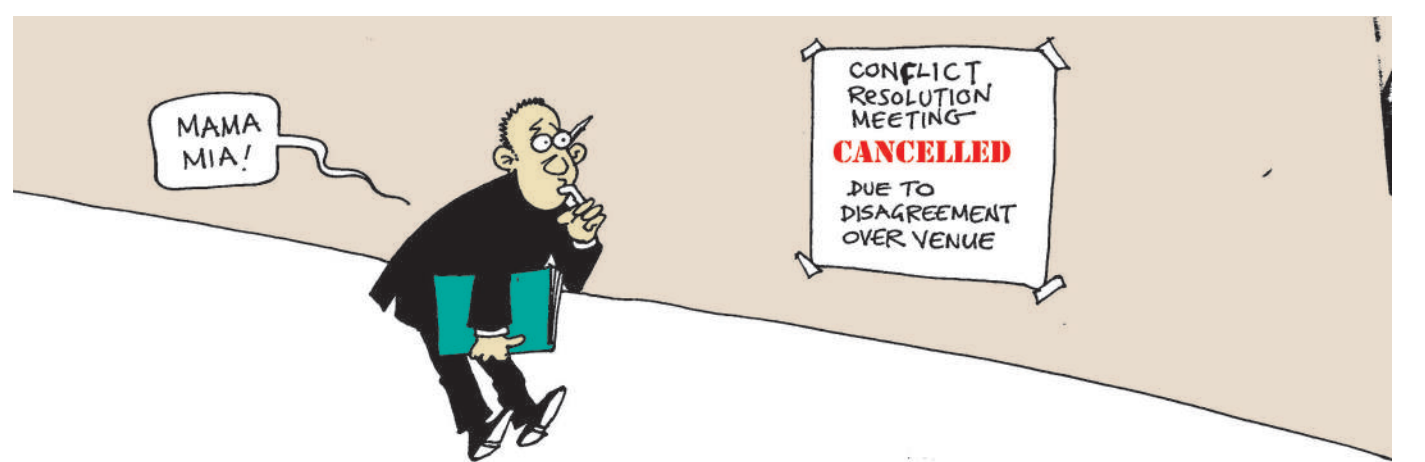
The pair have only met five times in Champions League games, most recently in the semi-final in 2011.

Barcelona got the better of Real Madrid with a 3-1 aggregate win with Messi scoring twice in the first leg.

Their most memorable clash was the 2009 Champions League final when Messi scored as Barcelona beat Manchester United 2-0.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal's defeat a reminder of how far Arteta has to go

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Novatus Dismas

Azam FC now focusing on coming VPL matches

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

AZAM FC officials have disclosed the side fairly conceded 1-0 loss to Mtibwa Sugar in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) tie, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro on Monday.

Azam FC, according to the officials, is preparing for the next assignment whilst maintaining its target of lifting this season's VPL silverware.

Thabit Zacharia, Azam FC Information Officer, stated his club has lost the duel given it was not a good day for them.

Zakaria disclosed the side's players gave their all in the tie but their efforts ended in vain.

"In soccer there is a point a team will reach such a stage. There is a time everything does not go the way you expect. We failed to exploit two clear chances which we, in normal circumstance, exploit them," he disclosed.

"We were also denied by the post on two occasions. I short I would like to say it was not our day."

Thabit congratulated Mtibwa Sugar for preparing well for the clash and winning, noting Azam FC's loss does not mean the club's hopes of lifting the VPL trophy are over.

He noted: "We had players who are nursing injuries, Oscar Masai and Obrey Chirwa, they missed the clash, Salum Aboubakar who has been banned for one match as well did not play."

"That was though not a major reason for the defeat, our dream of winning the trophy still stands, the defeat does not mean the dream has been frustrated."

Azam FC has conceded defeat for the first time this season after the side had come out victorious in its past seven outings.

The Dar es Salaam side, nevertheless, is still enjoying the driver's seat in the VPL having collected 21 points from eight games.

Azam FC sits two points above second-placed Yanga that have collected 19 points.

Azam FC will later face JKT Tanzania at the former's venue, Azam Complex, in Dar es Salaam in the VPL's ninth round clash.



Mtibwa Sugar's forward, Haruna Chanongo (R), challenges Azam FC forward, Prince Dube, in a Vodacom Premier League tie which took place in Morogoro on Monday. Mtibwa Sugar won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Dismas aims at competing in UEFA Champions League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER successfully sealing a move to Israel Premier League's club Maccabi Tel Aviv, Tanzanian midfielder, Novatus Dismas, has said his dream of playing in the UEFA Champions League with another Tanzanian player, Mbwana Samatta, will now come true.

Samatta, also Tanzania's senior national football team's skipper, turns out for Turkey soccer giants, Fenerbahçe S.K.

Dismas, aged 18, had been playing for Tanzania's Azam FC before heading to Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv.

He stated that getting a chance to sign and go to a club that usually gets a chance to play in the UEFA Champions League is quite important to him.

He pointed out he is going to increase the number of Tanzanian players playing in major European leagues, after Samatta had represented the country for several years in the tournaments.

Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, said that Dismas, who grew up at the club's academy, had been offered a chance to sign for Maccabi Tel Aviv after passing a short-term trial with the Israeli outfit's junior and senior teams.

Zakaria pointed out a secret agreement was then reached between Azam FC and Maccabi Tel Aviv in the transfer of the youngster who had also played for Tanzanian club, Biashara United, on loan last season.

"To get a chance to qualify for the trials and to be registered with Maccabi Tel Aviv, for me, I consider it as a step towards fulfilling the dream of playing with Samatta in Europe," Dismas disclosed.

He stated: "Much as Israel is not in Europe, the country always offers one team to play in UEFA Champions League and this club is one of the teams that participate in the tournament regularly. I thus believe I can be in the league next season."

"So now Tanzania may have two players who will be seen in the major European leagues if God continues to bless us. I am very grateful to Azam FC, Biashara United and all teams that have helped me reach here."

"I also thank all Tanzanians who are praying for me and Samatta so that we can prosper through football."

Dismas, who laid his hands on the previous season's Mainland Premier League's Best Young Player prize, was promoted to Azam FC's youth sides alongside several players including Shaban Chilunda before they were promoted to the senior team at different times.

Dismas becomes the second player to be sold by Azam FC this season, after Chilunda joined Mouloudia d'Oujda of Morocco a few weeks back.



Union SC cricketers in a group photo shortly before taking part in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Group A match, which took place in the city last Sunday.

Union SC cricketers bounce back in 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney

By Guardian Reporter

UNION Sports Club posted a 35-run win over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Group A duel, which took place in the city last Sunday.

It was the first victory for Union SC that is, consequently, positioned fourth in Group A after playing three matches.

Union SC is two points below the group's top three clubs, Aga Khan Sports Club, Aces Club and GP Pak Stars that have each recorded four points, only to be separated by net run rate.

Union SC recorded 171 runs for six wickets in 20 overs after they had won toss and chose to bat against SKLPSC at Leaders Club venue.

Danish Unia that had opened the innings put his batting virtuosity to show and ended nine runs short of half century.

Unia's innings had him nailing four fours and two sixes.

Fellow opener, Athumani Kankonzi, for the second match in a row, failed to live up to expectations as he made his way back to the pavilion early with four

runs to his name.

He was also below par at the crease during Union SC's match against Aces Club played a day back, which ended with the latter coming out victorious.

The experienced player ended notching six runs in the clash. Union SC had to contend with yet another quick dismissal of key top order batsman, Ali Sumar, given he was dismissed by SKLPSC's spinner Athumani Siwa with the batsman posting nine runs.

Sumar, in the process, failed to replicate stellar batting displays he put in the game against Aces Club that saw the batsman record 26 runs.

Sameer Zaidi helped Union SC stay in control of the innings with his 30 runs, which included five fours.

Shiraz Shokat improved the club's pursuit of an imposing total, posting 49 runs whilst clearing the boundary on seven occasions.

He ended as the performer with the best innings, cracking five fours and two sixes. He as well received the man of the match prize for his batting exploits.

Captain Sameer Mussa also

put solid knocks to show and chipped in with 20 runs not out for the side, cracking a four and a six.

Vinesh Gorasiya took three wickets, conceding 24 runs in four overs for the SKLPSC in what was generally the only significant bowling display in the side.

Much as they were chasing an achievable target, SKLPSC lost steam in the chase given they recorded 136 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.

Captain Naran Vekariya, who had opened the inning, sought to see to it that SKLPSC gets off to a good start with his 32 runs, cracking three fours and a six.

Siwa, slotted in at number four, scored 13 runs to somehow push his side's total after early exits of opener, Anil Pindoriya, and Pravin Hirani.

Gorasiya stepped up to boost confidence in the team with his 36 runs which consisted of four fours and a six.

His contribution came in handy, given Vipul Pindoria, also a reliable batsman, had a brief spell at the crease, recording eight runs which included a four. Navin Dabasiya formed an eighth wicket stand with Mu-

kund Vekariya, scoring 20 runs not out and 11 runs not out respectively, which though failed to help the team successfully chase Union SC's total.

Zaidi wrapped up an impressive all round showing, taking two wickets and leaking 14 runs in four overs for the duel's eventual winners.

The Sunday win turned out to be a timely boost for Union SC given they had suffered five-wicket loss to Aces Club in a duel, which took place at the Leaders Club venue on Saturday.

The SKLPSC therefore are rooted to the bottom of Group A without victory in four games.

The team have scored 397 runs and leaked 580 runs to record a net run rate of -2.6691.

The competition, which is an annual feature, is hosted by Caravans Club in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



To get a chance to qualify for the trials and to be registered with Maccabi Tel Aviv, for me, I consider it as a step towards fulfilling the dream of playing with Samatta in Europe,

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MUJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM