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Man accused of possessing army uniforms



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Bureaucracy deters investments in Dodoma




Malaria carrying mosquitoes can sense insecticides through protein in their legs: study

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCHERS at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine have identified a previously unknown mechanism by which mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasite can become resistant to the insecticide that is used to impregnate bed nets.

The scientists found that pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles gambiae* and *Anopheles coluzzii* mosquitoes expressed high levels of a chemical binding protein known as sensory appendage protein (SAP2), in their legs, which comes into contact with the insecticide when the insects land on the nets.

Their studies linked high expression of SAP2 with resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) that have been so successful in reducing the incidence of malaria in many areas of Africa.

Experiments showed that partial deletion of SAP2 rendered previously pyrethroid-resistant *Anopheles* mosquitoes susceptible to the insecticide, whereas over expressing SAP2 rendered

TAWA abandons crocodile auctions, thinks of fences



Mbeya residents look at the flooded Lupa River, with motor vehicles failing to cross yesterday. The Mbeya regional security committee moved to close the road for two weeks to give time to rebuild the main bridge demolished recently. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Dr Wakibara said TAWA is considering establishing demonstration action for the new approach in one of the water bodies where new operation areas for human beings and wildlife are marked for communities to co-exist with the animals

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) is set to come up with a project to address the deadly human-wildlife conflicts for communities living near conservation areas.

The new strategy is a replacement of an earlier plan by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to auction 10 percent of the country's crocodiles.

The plan also involved selling all hippos found in lakes, dams and rivers located in or nearby communities as a measure to control invasion and loss of life and properties caused by the beefy animals.

TAWA was tasked with preparing a draft process

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Six die as lorry avoids pothole, hits minibus

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SIX people have died on the spot in a road crash that involved a lorry, T 364 AZZ and a minibus, T 846 AYU.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Gilles Muroto told journalists here yesterday that the accident which occurred on Sunday night near Martin Luther primary school was caused by the lorry driver who was attempting to avoid a pothole thus knocking the Coaster from behind.

Muroto named the deceased as Omary Mdiolo, Prisca Mbaigwa, Gihali Chilangazi, Simon Mtagwa and Shukuru Ruvuwesh. He said twelve people were injured in the accident, among them three women.

"All the injured persons were taken to Dodoma Referral Hospital for treatment. They are progressing well with exception of two who are in intensive care (ICU)," said the RPC, elaborating that police are holding the lorry driver-Joseph Zacharia (26). He called upon drivers and other road users to be

careful when using roads especially during this festive season.

A senior nurse at the hospital, Stanlay Mahundo confirmed that six bodies had been received, of five men and a woman. Five bodies had been identified and taken by their relatives for burial.

Mahundo said the injured are progressing well and some may be discharged today.

"Their condition is stabilizing; we will discharge some of them today. The condition of those in ICU is also encouraging," the hospital officer noted.

An accident victim, Godfrey Kilimo residing at Nzuguni area said he was asleep when the accident occurred, and regained consciousness in a hospital bed, to be told that he was involved in an accident.

Khadija Ikaji, a nurse at the male ward, said doctors have successfully conducted operations on all the patients brought yesterday night. "We are expecting to discharge some of them today," she added.

Olduvai to have airport for tourist Ngorongoro access

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Ngorongoro Conservation Authority Area (NCAA) is planning to construct a new airport with a 3.2 km runway to ease transport services for tourists.

The airport to be built at the Olduvai area will facilitate transport for visitors going to Ngorongoro Crater, Laetoli and nearby tourist attractions.

Chief Conservator at Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) Dr Freddy Manongi told 'The Guardian' that the decision to construct the airport was reached after realizing that some tourists fail

to visit the Ngorongoro Crater due to the long distance from Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

"This will increase the number of visitors at the Ngorongoro Crater. Most visitors complain of the long distance when travelling by road which takes them between five and six hours," said Dr Manongi, noting that air transport will be a convenient to people with special needs and those who cannot travel long distances by road. This also includes businessmen who may not want to

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TAWA abandons crocodile auctions, thinks of fences

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on how to go about the auction.

However, speaking in an interview with The Guardian yesterday, TAWA Conservation Commissioner Dr James Wakibara said they dropped the harvesting and auction approach because it wouldn't change matters considering the reproduction cycle of crocodiles which he says is complicated.

"For example crocodiles lay up to about 40 eggs, therefore it is not easy to kill all of them. But again even a single crocodile in a water body can kill depending on the dimension so how many of these animals are you supposed to kill to be satisfied that the problem was at least contained," he demanded.

This approach was also dropped because of a directive not to kill the animals by President John Magufuli during a tour in Katavi.

Dr Wakibara said TAWA is considering establishing demonstration action for the new approach in one of the water bodies where new operation areas for human beings and wildlife are marked for communities to co-exist with the animals.

"Remember the aim here is protection of both man and wildlife, so we are considering demonstrating how the two sides can co-exist peacefully for example building a fence like structure in areas where wildlife attacks on human are notorious," he said.

The main problem was that wild animals are supposed to live in the bush therefore no conservationist is taught at school on how to deal with the situation when it is the opposite.

He singled out human activities and climate change for the increase in human-wildlife conflicts.

The demonstrations for the new approach are expected to start after the end of the rainy season and will be conducted in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

The move to auction the animals resulted from a study conducted by TAWIRI in 2018 which showed there

has been an increase in the number of crocs and hippos due to a decrease in poaching activities.

The Minister for Natural Resources Dr Hamis Kigwangalla named areas with rivers and lakes where crocodiles and hippos were to be auctioned as Mpanda, Mafia and Babati.

The government also intends to build walls and fences in areas with frequent reports of crocodiles attacking people, such as Maleza and Ruvu in the Coast region, he had affirmed.

Permanent security points will be established in all areas where there is a repeat of incidents where lions and elephants invade inhabited areas and wreak havoc on their farms.

In August last year TAWIRI announced that it was about to conduct a nationwide crocodile and hippo census.

The exercise was however disrupted due to weather patterns after the earmarked reptile habitat rivers overflowed off-season.

Records show that the last countrywide census specifically for hippos was conducted in 2001 and the result showed there were 20,079 of them.

It is not known how many hippos are left across Africa, but during the past few decades the animal, confined to rivers or lakes but reputed as more ferocious on land than habitual marauders like lions, elephants or buffalo, has become increasingly threatened by hunting.

Information from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism shows that Tanzania has a licensing system which allows sport hunting along with sale of hippopotamus teeth from animals that die from natural causes.

However, issuance of permits for export of hippo teeth was suspended in 2004, meaning that no hippo teeth were exported legally except those obtained through sport hunting.

Conservationists believe with the existing regulatory mechanism and intensified anti-poaching efforts, the country's hippopotamus population was not threatened by the existing level of legal harvest.



A food vendor popularly called Mama Lishe prepares stiff porridge at her kiosk situated at Veterinary market near Tazara station in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Most of the women and men engaged in food businesses to earn their incomes. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Olduvai to have airport for tourist Ngorongoro access

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use much time touring the vicinity.

The constructed airport, he said, will have advanced instruments to allow landing and take-off of various types of aircrafts.

Dr Manongi stated that the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) has already conducted feasibility study at the proposed area, with the findings presented to the NCAA management last week.

He said the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is also

expected to review the environmental appraisal.

"We have chosen to build the airport at Olduvai area because it is located between the Ngorongoro and the Serengeti National Park," he specified.

Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) Aerodrome Inspector Eng Bernard Kavishe said NCAA will build a new airstrip that will be equipped with high quality instruments to ensure safety and security of tourists.

He said the authority will provide guidance to NCAA throughout the project implementation as well as

facilitate availability of required compliance documents such as license and registration approval.

"We are supporting them because we know the benefits of having an airfield at the area. We also do this to ensure safety of tourists," said Eng Kavishe.

Commenting on the removal of 208 aerodromes from the register of the Civil Aviation Authority and prohibition of their use, he called on aerodrome operators who have not complied with the 323 aviation regulations and other provisions of the Civil Aviation (Aerodromes) Regulations 2017 to do so

and make sure they acquire aerodrome certification, licensing and registration.

He said the authority has extended the deadline to provide them with enough time to complete the processes.

"All private and public aerodrome operators have now been given three months until March 31st to comply to the licensing, certification and registration requirements prescribed in Part III, Part IV, and Part V respectively of the Civil Aviation (aerodromes) Regulations, 2017, the TCAA executive intoned.



Abdallah Mohamed painting metal boxes at his make shift-factory near the veterinary market in Temeke district, Dar es Salaam yesterday. The boxes normally are bought by secondary school students. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

20-year-old man in custody for possessing army uniforms

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya region are holding a twenty-year-old man, Isaka Jacob from Shigamba village in Utengule - Usongwe ward allegedly for possessing of army uniforms.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Ulrich Matei said the suspect was arrested in the afternoon of December 27th 2019. He said the young man was found with uniforms belonging to the National Service including a belt, two caps and a bag that soldiers used to carry personal

equipment.

Matei said Jacob was arrested while carrying the said uniforms on a motorbike registered-MC 852 BLE. He said police continues with investigation to know exactly where he got the uniforms and where he was taking them to.

Early investigations show that even the motorbike he was using does not belong to him, said the RPC.

He said police arrested Jacob when conducting their routine patrols. He said police were doubtful and decided to stop him

for search.

"We are yet to establish where he got the uniforms. He will be arraigned in court as soon as investigation is completed", said the Regional Police Commander insisting police will continue to conduct day and night patrols within the region to ensure the safety and security of the residents.

He said police have also intensified security at border areas to control illegal importation of goods into the country especially liquors from neighbouring Zambia and Malawi.

Malaria-carrying mosquitoes can sense insecticides through their legs: study

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after many years of progress, gains in malaria control are now stalling, with an estimated 219 million cases and 435,000 malaria-associated deaths across Africa in 2017 prompting a re-examination of the effectiveness of the primary prevention tools." The widespread use of LLINs has forced selection pressures on the mosquitoes to develop mechanisms that confer resistance to pyrethroids. As a result, insecticide-treated bed nets containing the synergist piperonyl butoxide (PBO) in addition to pyrethroid insecticides have now been introduced. The synergist targets one of the most widespread and most potent known resistance mechanisms caused by cytochrome P450s, and so re-establishes insect susceptibility to pyrethroids.

"By blocking this resistance mechanism, PBO-pyrethroid nets restore insecticide susceptibility, leading to a reduction in malaria cases in areas in which metabolic resistance prevails," the authors stated. However, not all pyrethroid-resistant mosquito populations can be targeted by the use of PBO to restore pyrethroid susceptibility, and Anopheles mosquitoes are developing new resistance mechanisms. By screening gene expression data from mosquito populations in Burkina Faso and the Côte d'Ivoire, which are areas with "particularly high pyrethroid resistance and low PBO synergism," the investigators found that a family of chemosensory proteins (CSPs), known as sensory appendage proteins, was over-expressed in resistant mosquito populations. CSPs are small, soluble proteins that are only found in arthropods, and they transport small hydrophobic molecules as part of a chemical communication system.

The team's experiments first showed that insecticide exposure induced expression of the sensory appendage protein, SAP2. They then demonstrated that susceptibility to three different pyrethroid insecticides tested could be restored in highly pyrethroid-resistant mosquitoes, by using RNA interference (RNAi) to almost completely silence the SAP2 gene. Conversely, the team noted, "... over-expression of SAP2 in an insecticide-susceptible population significantly increased pyrethroid resistance, directly linking the function of this protein to insecticide resistance." Tests confirmed that SAP2 bound directly to all three pyrethroid insecticides tested.

The team then analyzed the genomes of West African Anopheles populations over time using a combination of data from the Anopheles

gambiae 1000 Genomes project and from direct sequencing. The results indicated that a "selective sweep" had occurred at the locus where CSP genes are found, over the time period during which resistance to pyrethroid insecticides also increased. A selective sweep refers to when a beneficial mutation becomes fixed in a population and increases in frequency as a result of natural selection, and also reduces variation in linked sites.

"Our results show that SAP2, a chemosensory protein with no previous known function in insecticide resistance, has a key role in conferring pyrethroid resistance in the A. gambiae species complex through the binding of insecticides at the first point of mosquito contact with bed nets," the authors commented. "Given its strong binding to pyrethroid insecticides, it is possible that SAP2 acts by sequestering the insecticide directly, thus either preventing the function of the insecticide on the nervous system or facilitating its detoxification. Notably, longitudinal sequencing of field samples and available transcriptomic data from wild collections show that this mechanism is being selected for in multiple countries in West Africa, highlighting its relevance in field settings."

The researchers claim that discovery of the new resistance mechanism may help in the development of new synergists that could be used to restore pyrethroid susceptibility in some populations of resistant mosquitoes. "... the identification of this previously non-described insecticide sequestration mechanism offers the concrete possibility to restore the effectiveness of pyrethroid insecticides in natural mosquito populations through the identification of new targets for inhibitors that can be incorporated into bed nets, in an analogous manner to the incorporation of PBO into nets—this may prove to be critical for the elimination of malaria across Africa," the team concluded.

"Long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets remain one of the key interventions in malaria control," stated Hilary Ranson, PhD, senior author on the paper. "It is vital that we understand and mitigate for resistance within mosquito populations in order to ensure that the dramatic reductions in disease rates in previous decades are not reversed. This newly discovered resistance mechanism could provide us with an important target for both the monitoring of insecticide resistance and the development of novel compounds able to block pyrethroid resistance and prevent the spread of malaria."



Head of safety blood in Dodoma region Dr Leah Kitundya attends to Eva Mangula a resident of Mailimbili who volunteered to donate blood following the acute shortage facing the hospital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Elephant population increase in Mkomazi national park

By Guardian Reporter, Same

THE number of elephants inside Mkomazi national park that borders Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions has increased following the government's control of elephant poaching.

The park's Assistant Commissioner Abel Mtui revealed this yesterday when launching a campaign to mobilize local tourism especially in villages around the national park.

Basically Mkomazi national park borders with Tsavo national park in Kenya that has a bigger number of elephants as per 2014 census and many elephants migrate to Mkomazi park during dry seasons.

"Therefore the number of in our Park as of now has increased especially through war against poaching," he said.

He said the mobilisation campaign tempo to woo domestic tourists visit Mkomazi national park has increased whereas 78 Tanzanians visited the park yesterday, led by TANAPA Goodwill ambassador Nancy Sumari.

Mtui also warned wananchi who invade areas where elephants roam, saying:

"Right now these elephants are so many and roam everywhere looking for food, hence I beseech you do not invade their trails for farming purposes."

He added: "Right now Mkomazi national park in collaboration with ecologists have started a campaign to chart elephant trails, the campaign that is also involving people surrounding the park."

On her part, TANAPA goodwill ambassador Nancy Sumari called on the wananchi to visit the country's national parks and game reserves to view the attractions and enjoy their nation's heritage.

Earlier, launching the campaign, Same District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said the coming of 'black rhinos' in the national park has increased the number of tourists coming to see them.

She added: "The country's tourism sector is a big source of the GDP and for individual Tanzanians, the presence of black rhinos in Mkomazi national park had made the number of both foreign and local tourists on the increase."

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Dodoma faces acute shortage of blood

DODOMA Region is facing an acute shortage of blood due to the reduction in the number of donors, the situation that threatens the lives of patients needing blood transfusion at the region's various hospitals.

This was revealed here yesterday by the head of safe blood - Dodoma region Dr Leah Kitundya when speaking to reporters in her office.

DR Kitundya said the blood bank is

faced with an acute shortage of blood for those in need especially those injured through accidents. She even suggested requesting the people in the military personnel stationed in the region but no one had showed up to donate blood.

She said the main reason for blood shortage is the low number of people

willing to donate blood. She said another reason is closure of secondary schools as many students were coming up to donate blood.

She said the balance of blood in the blood bank is 131 pints out of which only 24 has been examined by the Central Laboratory in Dar es Salaam.

She said another 1,336 pints have been arrived from Dar es Salaam Central laboratory which were sent for examination.

She said the remaining balance has to cope with the needs of various hospitals in the region especially large hospitals in Dodoma city - including Benjamin Mkapa, Makole,

St Gema, Dodoma Referral Hospital, Dodoma Christian Medical Centre (DCMC) and UDOM Hospital at its dialysis centre.

She said in the past they used to collect between 7509 to 800 pints per day but at present the number is less than 20 pints per day, which, she said is very does not augur well.

She said Dodoma referral hospital alone needs about 25 to 30 pints of safe blood per day.

She asked government leaders to mobilize wananchi to come up and donate blood to save lives of patients needing blood transfusion.

She said her unit has been visiting various places with large number of people including markets, churches, mosques and bus stations to mobilize people to donate blood.




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Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu receives briefing from an entrepreneur Maiko Nalimi shortly after opening Utalii festival held at Lamadi in Busega district, Simiyu region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Plan tourism festivals in sync with tourism calendar - Kanyasu

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu has called upon the country's tourism stakeholders to ensure whenever they conduct festivals for the promotion of tourism, they should do so during the tourists' seasons to enable tourists participate in them.

He said every festival to be conducted should follow the tourism annual timetable prepared by the ministry to ensure it brings required results.

Speaking yesterday at the opening of Lamadi Tourism Festival that ends on January 1 next year in Busega District, Simiyu Region, Kanyasu said the festival should take place during the coming high tourism season so that all tourists coming from Serengeti National Park can be able to participate.

He said the aim of the Festival is to make the tourists participate directly through traditional ngomas, dresses and even including traditional dishes including, the strategy that would woo them to stay longer.

He said: "This Festival is of special importance since it offers

opportunities to tourists who had just visited tourists attraction near the district, to participate with the society through our customs traditions."

Kanyasu also called on the Festival organisers to invite traditional ngoma groups from the country's various areas instead of just a few groups from one area of the country.

Meanwhile, Kanyasu congratulated the Busega District Commissioner Tano Mwera for coming up of the festival idea that he said, will stimulate tourism in local citizens after foreign tourists come from Serengeti National Park.

He also called upon other district commissioners to conduct similar festivals in their areas.

The Busega District Commissioner Mwera who is also the Festival's chairperson said the festival will also incite local tourism and make local tourists become ambassadors for the country's tourist attractions.

She also said the festival will spur people living in the area to engage themselves in tourism activities for income.

Dead rhino Fausta to be 'revived' again via taxidermy

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFTER setting ablaze all the global news outlets with reports of her death, the World's Oldest Rhino is about to be 'revived' again through taxidermy and immortalized for life at Olduvai Gorge.

The Commission of Conservation at Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Dr Freddy Manongi said his authority was consulting with experts to find ways of preserving the legendary

'Faru Fausta,' which goes down the world record of being the longest survived Rhino having aged 57 years, by the time she died four days before New Year 2020.

So far the authority is contemplating stuffed taxidermy, which will see the Rhino being built back to her original shape through stuffing, thus retaining original shape and size, so that people will always get to see how Fausta used to be.

Posting on his social media pages, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla wrote that, the ministry plans to scientifically preserve the 'oldest Rhino's body and place it for public view at the Olduvai on sight Museum, in Ngorongoro Area, believing that lady Fausta will continue to posthumously attract visitors.

It is being believed that the Rhino, succumbed to natural death. Fausta was discovered in the Ngorongoro

crater by Zoological Researcher, Humphrey Kiwia of the University of Dar-es-salaam, back in 1965 when the Rhino was only three years old.

It was Kiwia who christened the female black Rhino, 'Fausta' a name which some claims it belonged to the scientist's grandmother. However, Humphrey reportedly denied, explaining that he simply chose a female name for the Rhino and that is all.

After the death of Fausta on the 27th of December 2019, the oldest Rhino currently roaming the crater is 'Vicky' believed to be 49 and which the Ngorongoro Authority plans to place under special care just as it was the case with the late 'Fausta.'

The lifespan of Rhinos averaged at between 35 and 40 years, depending on environment. Fausta's 57 years' record has thus awed the entire world.

The Commissioner of Conservation, Dr Manongi stated that, coincidentally, another Rhino was born on the same day that Fausta died in the Crater.

Some of the popular Rhinos currently living in the Conservation Area include 'Faru Ndugai' named after the speaker of National Assembly, Job Ndugai and Faru Salma, carrying the identity of the former First lady, Mama Salma Kikwete.

Bureaucracy deters investments efforts in Dodoma region

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IT is no longer easy to invest in Dodoma city, thanks to bureaucratic process in land acquisition, a situation that now worry leaders in the region.

Speaking during the recently held Regional Consultative Council (RCC), several leaders pointed fingers at the city fathers for what they termed as a bad sign for the city that has since attracted many investors.

Led by the Regional Commissioner (RC) Dr Binlith Mahenge, they argued that there are a lot of complaints from some investors who have said that it takes too long to get approval, especially on land for investments.

The RC called on the city authority to ensure they clear all the obstacles to investments in the city as the government spearheads the campaign for industrialisation by creating conducive environment for people to establish industries.

"I would like to get full report on steps taken following complains raised by some investors who sought investment land in the city," he said adding such cries are clear indications that something is wrong somewhere.

He said there are big investors both from inside and outside the country who have raised concern on the bureaucratic process in land acquisition in the city.

Dr Mahenge singled out the case of ministry of Education, Science and Technology that acquired 200 hectares of land in Dodoma for the building of a vocational training college but city authority has insisted on full payment of the land.

"It is really strange, one can wonder why city authority is not concerned on increasing revenue through land rents other than through acquisition fees," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai who complained of difficulty in

acquiring land in Dodoma and hiking price of plots for both residential and investment purposes.

"Why is it difficult to acquire land in Dodoma while it is one of the new cities which attract investors from within and outside the country?" he queried.

Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Kessy Maduka while contributing at the discussion, also complained of bureaucracy in city council offices, especially those in land office.

"Let me inform this meeting that there are many investors who have come to my office and when you take them to the city council office, you hardly access the land officers" he said, adding that the trend is not good for the development of the city.

The City Council director, Godwin Kunambi was however not present at the meeting. City Mayor, Prof David Mwamfupe and the acting director, Bartazar Ngowi said they were not aware of the allegations but promised to work on them.



It is really strange, one can wonder why city authority is not concerned on increasing revenue through land rents other than through acquisition fees



A heap of garbage remain un collected for a long time at Veterinary market near Tazara station in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. Pedestrians and petty traders working nearby complain about the bad smell as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya are holding three people allegedly for importing illegally a consignment of fabric products (Vitenge) from neighbouring countries of Malawi and Zambia.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander SACP Ulrich Matei said the suspects were importing the products through illegal border posts thus evading to pay required taxes and levies.

"On December 22, around 21hrs, police officers who were in their daily patrol duty caught two suspects

Mbeya police holds 3 allegedly over illegal importation of fabric products

Elia Mwakagile (30) and Furahe Mwakalengela (35) residents of Mbeya city transporting 24 batches of vitenge," he said.

The suspects were caught at Ituta areas in Iyunga ward along Tanzania-Zambia highway (Tanzam) transporting the consignment in a Toyota Hiace car with registration number T.471 BJJ," he added.

According to him, every batch had

50 pairs of vitenge which is equal to 1200 pairs for all the 24 batches.

Commander Matei said that the second incident also occurred on December 22, when the Police Force caught a woman identified as Mariam Japeht (35) from Ilembo ward in Mbeya city having 42 pairs of vitenge which she also imported without paying required levies.

"The third suspect was caught at

around 6.30am in Kyela and she had no documents to verify the legality of the cargo," commander Matei further explained.

According to him, the suspect is a fabric product trader and may have been evading tax for many years.

He said that all the suspects have been surrendered to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) for further measures.

TFS to educate villagers on better management of forest reserve areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) in partnership with Land Use Planning Commission will start giving training in 150 villages surrounding the country's forest reserves to determine the exact boundaries separating the reserves and human settlements.

This was revealed by the TFS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prof Dos Santos Silayo when speaking with this paper on the strategies in place to control rampant tree cutting and forest fires inside the reserves.

Prof Silayo said the aim of the

training include the need for reducing land conflicts within the surrounding communities who are not well conversant with the reserves' boundaries and allocation of areas fit for farming.

He said last year they conducted training in 90 villages with positive results as the villagers no longer conduct farming activities inside the reserves.

"The education strategy to a large extent has helped and next year we will ensure every village near the reserves is educated on their protection," said Prof Silayo.

Speaking about beefing up security, Prof Silayo said they have five large boats that can sail deep waters for fighting criminal gangs in the reserves.

He said the boats operate in the Indian Ocean - Mtwara, Lindi, Rufiji Delta, and Nkinga in Tanga Region, and two boats in Lake Victoria.

He explained that TFS has improved transport for its staff and workers in various districts and added that they believe come next year all forest reserves will be safe and called on the members of public to report on any acts that in any way degrade the forest reserves.



The NBC 'Ibuka Kidedea na Malengo' account campaign winners with their partners, open champagne bottles before departing to Seychelles at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The prizes include holiday trips to Seychelles and Serengeti National Park, motorbikes and three wheel motorbikes (toyo). To win customers need to deposit in their 'malengo' accounts. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Supervise projects implementation for quality assurance, officials told

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government responsible for health, Dr Dorothea Gwajima (pictured) has urged ministry officials to properly supervise implementation of projects to ensure quality and value for money.

She made the remarks over the weekend when speaking after inspecting progress implementation of health projects in Busokelo district, Mbeya region. She also inspected construction progress of a 1.5bn/- district hospital which is fully funded by the government.

She was concerned that some of the projects are not of the required standards thus requiring regular maintenance.

She however urged project supervisors to ensure regular consultations with contractors to avoid conflicts which may lead into termination of contracts.

"Poor supervision of projects results in regular repair which is costly to the government. You should ensure proper implementation of projects as well as value for money," said the Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Dr Gwajima noted that there are some places where contractors have been urged to re-build structures after completion, only because the structures are not of the required



standards. She said to avoid such circumstances, supervisors should closely monitor implementation of the projects especially those in the health sector.

Busokelo District Medical Officer, Dr Ramadhani Hussein assured the PS that construction of the district hospital will be completed on time insisting they are working closely with the contractor and consultant to ensure the building is constructed as per required standards.

Dr Hussein added that district officials have been directed to conduct regular checks at the buildings to ensure they are constructed as per directives from the Ministry of Health.

"Almost all the heads of departments are involved in the inspection exercise, we aim to come up with a good structure as per ministry's directives", he said.

Busokelo District Executive Director, Eston Ngilangwa said the project nears completion saying the contractor is finalising construction of some few buildings.

He said they are planning to complete the remaining structures including the one for outpatients, for the hospital to start operating by end of January 2020. He assured the PS of value for money insisting the hospital has been built as per required standards.

Sudan sentences 27 intelligence agents to death by hanging for teacher's killing

KHARTOUM

A Sudanese court sentenced 27 members of the national intelligence service to death by hanging on Monday over the killing of a teacher in detention in February during protests that led to the overthrow of former president Omar al-Bashir.

It was the first time courts have handed down convictions over


crackdowns on demonstrations in the months before and after Bashir was toppled in April.

Thirteen defendants were sentenced to prison terms and a further four were acquitted in the verdict, which could face several stages of appeal.

The death of teacher Ahmed al-Khair in the eastern town of Khashm al-Qirba became a rallying point during 16 weeks of protests against

Bashir's rule. Khair's family said security officials initially claimed he had died of poisoning, though days later a state investigation found he had died of injuries from beating.

Hundreds of people rallied outside the court in Omdurman where the verdict was delivered on Monday, some waving national flags or holding pictures of Khair.

 MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES. TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM 31st January 2020		
DESCRIPTION	CHARGE/FEE	
ACCESS RAHISI, ACCOUNT		
Required minimum opening balance	10,000.00	
Monthly service fees	2,000.00	
Cash withdrawal over counter	1 free per month	
Subsequent Cash withdrawal over counter up to 10M	3,000.00	
Subsequent Cash withdrawal over counter >10M	0.15%	
Bank statement 1 free per month	Free	
Bank statement subsequent months	10,000.00	
New ATM card issuance	10,000.00	
ATM card renewal or replacement	15,000.00	
Replacement of the PIN	10,000.00	
Standing order Internal	2,000.00	
Standing order External	12,980.00	
Dormant account fee	5,000.00	
Interbank transfer	10,000.00	
Closure of account	20,000.00	
ACCESS NUFAIKA ACCOUNT		
Required minimum opening balance	100,000.00	50.00
Monthly service fees	15,000.00	15.00
Cash withdrawal over counter	1 free per month	1 free per month
Subsequent Cash withdrawal over counter up to 10M	3,000.00	0.18%
Subsequent Cash withdrawal over counter >10M	0.15%	0.18%
Fees per ATM withdrawal	2,000.00	N/A
ATM mini statement	1,000.00	N/A
Bank statement 1 free per month	Free	Free
Bank statement subsequent months	10,000.00	10.00
Cheque book 25 leaves	20,000.00	10.00
Cheque book 50 leaves	35,000.00	15.00
Dishonored cheque	30,000.00	30.00
Bankers Cheque	50,000.00	FREE
Stop payment	30,000.00	30.00
Standing order Internal	2,000.00	1.00
Standing order External	12,980.00	12.98
Balance enquiry	1,000.00	1.00
New ATM card issuance	15,000.00	N/A
ATM card renewal or replacement	15,000.00	N/A
Interbank transfer	10,000.00	4.20
International transfer	N/A	55.00
Dormant account fee	5,000.00	5.00
Reactivation of Dormant account	FREE	FREE
Letter of recommendation and certificate of balance	50,000.00	23.00
SPECIAL ACCESS NUFAIKA ACCOUNT		
Required minimum opening balance	100,000.00	50.00
Monthly service fees	60,000.00	50.00
Minimum monthly turnover	20,000,000.00	10,000.00
Cash withdrawal over counter	Free	0.18%
Fees per ATM withdrawal	2,000.00	N/A
ATM mini statement	1,000.00	N/A
Bank statement 1 free per month	Free	Free
Bank statement subsequent months	10,000.00	10.00
Cheque book 25 leaves	20,000.00	10.00
Cheque book 50 leaves	35,000.00	15.00
Dishonored cheque	30,000.00	30.00
Bankers Cheque	50,000.00	FREE
Stop payment	30,000.00	30.00
Standing order Internal	2,000.00	1.00
Standing order External	12,980.00	12.98
Balance enquiry	1,000.00	1.00
New ATM card issuance	15,000.00	N/A
ATM card renewal or replacement	15,000.00	N/A
Interbank transfer	FREE	FREE
International transfer	N/A	55.00
Dormant account fee	5,000.00	5.00
Reactivation of Dormant account	FREE	FREE
Letter of recommendation and certificate of balance	50,000.00	23.00
MIKAKATI SAVING ACCOUNTS		
Required minimum opening balance	20,000.00	20.00
monthly service fees	FREE	FREE
Bank statement 1 free per month	Free	Free
Bank statement subsequent months	10,000.00	10.00
Cash withdrawal over counter	1 free per month	1 free per month
Subsequent Cash withdrawal over counter	20,000.00	20.00
Dormant account fee	5,000.00	3.00
International transfer	N/A	70.00
Account closure	12,000.00	5.00
AGENCY BANKING		
Agent cash deposit	Free	
Agent cash withdrawal		
0 - 20,000	700.00	
20,001 - 100,000	2,000.00	
100,001 - 200,000	3,500.00	
200,001 - 300,000	4,500.00	
300,001 - 750,000	5,500.00	
750,001 - 3,000,000	7,000.00	
MOBILE BANKING		
Transfer to Wallets		
01-50,000	500.00	
50,001-100,000	1,000.00	
100,001-200,000	2,000.00	
250,001-750,000	3,000.00	
750,001-3,000,000	4,000.00	
Air-time top-up	FREE	
Utility payments	FREE	
ABT internal transfers (same account holder)	FREE	
ABT internal outgoing transfers (other account holder)	500.00	
Balance inquiry	200.00	
Mini-statement	200.00	
Full account statement request	100.00	
Cheque book request	600.00	
FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTION		
Telegraphic Transfer - Normal Customer (SWIFT)	N/A	55.00
TISS- Normal Customer	10,000.00	4.20
TISS-Staff	6,000.00	2.10



Bajaj taxi carries passengers and huge amount of luggage on top which is against traffic laws as captured along Morogoro road in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Grapes growers assured of reliable market now

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GRAPES growers in the country have been rest assured of the availability of reliable market; hence they should continue cultivating the crop as large grapes farmers and other foreign investors have resolved to establish grapes processing plants in the country. Speaking in a special interview with this paper, The Director of Tanzania Agricultural research Institute on Grape Farming Makutupora (TARI-Makutupora) Dr Cornel Massawe (pictured) said already grapes processing and wine making plants have already been constructed in Dodoma Region and will be buying grapes from farmers in the region and beyond.

Dr Massawe said the building of the factories follows by TARI-Makutupora mobilizing large grapes growers to join forces in building small and big grapes processing plants.

Dr Massawe, a renowned grapes researcher in the country said in ensuring continue to grow the crop, they have also started to produce quality seeds that withstand pests that have always been a menace to growers.

The TARI-Makutupora coordinator of technology and communications Vidah



Mahava said as of now Dodoma region is the leading producer of grapes and already they have started mobilizing farmers in other neighboring regions including Morogoro, Tabora and Singida to start growing the crop.

One grapes farmer from Kongwa district Janet Samson said they stopped growing the crop but after TARI-Makutupora started educating them on the benefits from better farming methods and use of quality seeds they now have the urge to cultivate the crop.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

25 stalls razed by fire at Dodoma market

AT least 25 stalls belonging to small traders at Dodoma Sabasaba market have been razed by a terrible fire whose cause is claimed to be an electrical fault in one of the stalls.

The traders said the fire started at around 7.00 and razed down food stalls, a hair salon, stalls for mobile phones clothing.

One of the traders, Adam Makamburu who deals with mobile phones and accessories thereof, mobile money

transactions told reporters that the Fire Brigade and Rescue Services did not reach in time to save anything. He said he alone has suffered a loss of more than 25m/-.

The market manager Edward Ndahani said 25 stalls were completely destroyed by fire, out of more than 120 at the market. He said: "It was difficult

to establish the value of the goods in the gutted down stalls because we are still evaluating."

On his part, the Dodoma Fire Brigade Commander Assistant Commissioner Gibert Mvungi said they received a call at 06.48 am but failed to respond in time because the fire tender was at the airport tending to a plane that was

departing.

He said fire tender left the airport for the scene of fire at around 07.33 after the plane's departure but it was further delayed as it got stuck at Kisasa Mwangaza area due to ongoing heavy rains.

He said: "We have two fire tenders in Dodoma - one for the city area and

another for the airport, but the one from the airport was stuck on the way and up to this moment efforts to get it unstuck are still going on."

He said after arrival they managed to put down fire in 26 stalls that were still burning and thus saved others from the raging fire. He also blamed the existing infrastructure at the market as the

market does not have ample space for fire tenders to squeeze through.

On whether or not the Fire Brigade was incorporated in the planning of the market Mvungi said the City Council is the one that supervised the construction and the Fire Brigade was supposed to be incorporated in the design plans.

ELCT in drive to empower youth with income-generating projects

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

FOR the past three years 1,980 youth from Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions have benefited from a training project aimed at empowering youth on better ways of running different income generating projects in their localities.

With the support from Norwegian Church Aid in Tanzania (NCA), the project is being executed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND). Started in 2016, the project is expected to end 2024 and 10,000 youth are to benefit from the initiative. Among other projects, beneficiaries are being empowered on horticulture and poultry farming skills in the region.

With the support from the program is also geared towards addressing the problem of unemployment among youth in different districts in the region.

Speaking at the Kilimanjaro Regional Interfaith Youth Forum (IYF) held here yesterday, vice chairperson of the forum, James Mbuya said: "Apart from training, our Youth Interfaith Forum also aims at peace building among the youth for the sustainable peacemaking in our country as well improving community development activities among us."

Coordinator of IYF in Kilimanjaro region, Sunnah Abdallah said: "We've nine Youth Interfaith Committees in the region with a total of 180 active members.

"We as youth, through our Youth Interfaith Forum, we are working together as a team regardless differences of beliefs of our religions for sustainable peace, love, harmony and integrity of our nation for sustainable community development.

For his part, Pastor Enoch Makundi from ELCT-ND cautioned youth against misuses of social media, appealing them to use them for marketing their socio-economic activities as well their products for sustainable income generation among them.

The Cleric warned youth against misuses of social media; proclaiming that social media is to blame for turning people 'useless' and into Satanists.

Commenting on the misuse of the social media, Rev Makundi explained that, globalization is not bad; the problem is the misuse of it among many people in the community.

"The use globalization is like eating sugar cane, that there are some materials to be swallowed, and some to be removed out.." the Cleric further explained.

Reverend Andrew Munisi, project officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Northern Diocese where NCA is implanting its various projects through the diocese, said number of projects that have been implemented in the context of the IYF had proved to be of reducing unemployment among youths.

He said that IYF projects are implemented to the local leaders from various areas of Babati district in Manyara region, Karatu in Arusha district, Rombo, Moshi Municipal, Siha, and Moshi Rural in Kilimanjaro region.

"The use globalization is like eating sugar cane, that there are some materials to be swallowed, and some to be removed out.."



Dodoma referral hospital nursing officer Hadija Ikaji attends to Shukuru Stephen one of the survivors of a road accident which involved a commuter bus and a lorry in Dodoma over the weekend. Six people died and 12 were injured. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Dealers explore strategies for drought resistant seeds

ENTREPRENEURS dealing in crops seeds have examined strategies to produce seeds that withstand climate change and drought so as to enable farmers reap bigger yields for cash and food crop.

Speaking yesterday at an agricultural technology exhibition held at Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Seliani

(TARI-Seliani), Seedco sales manager Daniel Ulimboka said they have done research and came up with quality seeds that can withstand drought and produce adequate yields.

He said in this year has ample rainfall but there are years when there are little

rains, hence the seeds will help farmers face any drought periods that may arise.

"We have 'Tumbili 419' seeds which do better during periods of inadequate rains, but farmers become happy nonetheless as they know they

reap good harvests," said Ulimboka.

The Arusha Region acting Administrative Secretary Melchior Temu called upon researchers to come up with technology that go in tandem with climate change to enable farmers benefit from the farming instead of

ending with loss.

He also called farmers to abandon traditional farming and instead they adopt modern farming methods for better yields.

The director of East African Cereals Council Gerald Masila said they are

currently making efforts to connect farmers with markets to enable them sell their crops.

"We know our efforts will bear fruits, because farmers have acquired markets and will be certain in increasing their incomes," he said.

Hospital warned against selling blood to patients

By Guardian Reporter, Siha

DOCTOR in charge at Siha district hospital Dr Andrew Method has warned health workers that no blood should be sold insisting the patients who will need blood transfusion should receive it for free.

He made the remarks during the closing ceremony of the CCM-Youth Wing (UVCCM) camp, an event which went along with blood donation.

Dr Method reminded the health practitioners to always adhere to professional ethics when executing their duties for better service provision.

"This blood that youth are donating here is for needy people in our hospital, so those who will be found selling the services will be punished accordingly," he said.

He also urged the public to report whenever they face any health professional asking money for blood transfusion.

He noted that the government incurs costs of collecting, safe keeping and ensured the blood collected was safe, insisting that it must be given to patients for free.

The doctor further said that the hospital has an annual goal of collecting a total of 680 bottles of blood where he called upon blood donors to continue donating blood whenever necessary to help rescue lives the needy."

For his part, Siha District Commissioner Onesmo Buswelu said that the government has continued to improve infrastructures while capacitating hospitals with modern equipment for quality health service provision.

Bulugu Magege, UVCCM secretary in Siha said that the camp brought together 105 youth from various parts in the district to discuss and learn various matters including patriotism.



This blood that youth are donating here is for needy people in our hospital, so those who will be found selling the services will be punished accordingly



Same district commissioner in Kilimanjaro region (black T-shirt) Rosemary Senyamule and Tanzania National Parks Tourism ambassador Nancy Sumari (wearing a hat) sharing a light moment during the launch of a campaign to sensitise domestic tourism at Mkomazi national park yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

Sub-Saharan African aquaculture sector challenged by feed accessibility

By Shem Oirere

SUB-SAHARAN Africa's aquaculture production, estimated at 1.7 million metric tons (MT) of the global 76.6 million MT of production in 2015, continues to face fish feed shortages.

Those shortages have dimmed hopes of the sector's growth in response to the region's increasing population - now estimated at one billion people.

According to an African Union report, stumbling blocks constraining the growth of the region's aquaculture to its full potential include "challenges in the supply and access to key inputs notably, feed, seed, human resources, appropriate technology and finance."

Although the existing aquafeed manufacturing capacity in sub-Saharan Africa and the regional demand cannot be determined precisely, there is an increasing concern that a lack of local access to quality fish feeds - which has consigned the region into an import-reliant market - could hamper efforts to scale up transformation of aquaculture in the region.

In Tanzania, where an estimated 3,400 MT of fish is produced - 85 percent of it tilapia - aquaculture farmers rely on fish feed imports from Egypt, Mauritius, The Netherlands, Zambia, and Kenya.

"However, due to high tax barrier, farmers suffer a high cost of production," according to a report by the Aquaculture Association of Tanzania.

Some of the region's aquaculture farmers produce their own fish feed at an estimated cost of USD 1.30 (EUR 1.44) per kilogram, but the report said this feed is usually "powdery and un-floating pellets." The farmers formulate the fish-feed utilizing locally-produced plant grains such as cassava flour, rice bran, maize bran, and cotton seed cakes, but the feeds "are still too costly for small farms to be profitable."

In Zambia, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports the sector is underexploited because of inadequate capacity to generate adequate quality fingerlings and fish feeds.

The landlocked country - which has attracted investments in aquaculture inputs and feed manufacturing from Aller Aqua, Horizon Aquaculture, and Skretting that progressed the development of fish feed milling and input supply facilities - produced an estimated 26,800 MT of fish - 90 percent of it tilapia - from aquaculture in 2017. However, the country's aquaculture potential is projected to grow to 40,000 MT at least by 2023, according to the Global Aquaculture Alliance.

In Nigeria - sub-Saharan Africa's biggest aquaculture producer with an estimated production of 340,000 MT, 95 percent of it catfish - some investment has also been made in the country's fish feed milling facilities by Aller Aqua and Singapore-based Olam International.

Both Kenya and Uganda are producing floating (extruded) pellets to serve the East African market.

"There is also a variety of local feed manufacture solutions, especially in the less-productive aquaculture countries, ranging from farmer-formulated meal-type diet to a quasi-pellet produced with a grinder and subsequent drying to form water-soluble, hard, sinking pellets," FAO says.

But across the African continent, the majority of Africa's feed needs are being met by farm-made feeds, rather than industry-produced formulas, according to the University of Lilongwe's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"The aquaculture sector relies on farm-made feeds while feed manufactured by the formal industry accounts for less than 20 percent in most of the countries except in Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, and other fast-growing aquaculture countries," the university said in a report.

FAO expressed optimism in the growth of sub-Saharan Africa's aquafeeds manufacturing capacity, especially with the progress of expansion in feed milling capacity in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zambia.

GARISSA

Kenyan police launches manhunt for Al-Shabaab militants in border region

KENYAN security forces have launched a manhunt for al-Shabab militants behind the abduction of two Kenyans in Liboi area along the Kenya-Somalia border.

Garissa County police commander Alfred Angengo said the two businessmen, Abdullahi Issack Harun and Abdi Hassan Ilkaase, who were kidnapped by about 20 al-Shabab militants on Dec. 26, were traced and arrived at the Liboi police station on Sunday.

He said only three militants boarded the vehicle in which the two businessmen were traveling in and proceeded with the captives to neighboring Somalia.

"Only three of the al-Shabab militia proceeded with the captives to Somalia at a place called Bagdad, 60 km from Hosingo, to the east where they have established a camp and hosted black flag," Angengo said in a statement.

The two businessmen, who were freed on Dec. 27, appeared in good health though tired, he said.

The two were ferrying miraa (khat) to Liboi when they were ambushed by al-Shabab militants and taken to Somalia, Angengo said.

He said security forces will conduct operations along the border areas

to flush out militants believed to be planning to stage attacks in the region.

"It is evident that the rest, who were more than 15 al-Shabab, remained within Liboi Walburat and Daddquran Dam and are planning to plant improvised explosive devices, attack on police camps, lay ambush to police vehicles, attack non-locals traveling by buses," Angengo said.

The abduction came two weeks after militants ambushed a Garissa-bound commuter bus and killed 11 people, including eight police officers.



A traffic police writes a note for a commuter bus driver accused of breaking traffic regulations along Uhuru Street in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Selemani Mpochi



USAID | TANZANIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

(NOFO) No. 72062120RFA00003

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Tanzania is seeking applications for Cooperative Agreements from qualified Tanzanian organizations to implement a Comprehensive HIV activity in the Police and Prison facilities.

The purpose of the Police and Prison activity in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs in Tanzania is to reduce HIV, and tuberculosis (TB) transmission through detection, care, and treatment of people living with HIV and TB in police and prison settings. This includes prisoners, servicemen and women in the uniformed forces, their dependents, and civilians living in the vicinity.

If interested, you can follow this link to access the Notice of funding Opportunity

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=72062120RFA00003>

Please note that eligibility of this award is restricted to local Tanzanian entities.

The Guardian

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Addressing challenges of cancer is absolutely essential

CANCER is a group of diseases involving abnormal cell growth with the potential to invade or spread to other parts of the body. These contrast with benign tumors, which do not spread. Possible signs and symptoms include a lump, abnormal bleeding, prolonged cough, unexplained weight loss, and a change in bowel movements. While these symptoms may indicate cancer, they can also have other causes. Over 100 types of cancers affect humans.

Tobacco use is the cause of about 22 per cent of cancer deaths. Another 10 per cent are due to obesity, poor diet, lack of physical activity or excessive drinking of alcohol. Other factors include certain infections, exposure to ionizing radiation and environmental pollutants. In the developing world, 15 per cent of cancers are due to infections such as *Helicobacter pylori*, hepatitis B, hepatitis C.

Approximately 5-10 per cent of cancers are due to inherited genetic defects from a person's parents. Cancer can be detected by certain signs and symptoms or screening tests. Many cancers can be prevented by not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, not drinking too much alcohol, eating plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grains, vaccination against certain infectious diseases, not eating too much processed and red meat and avoiding too much sunlight exposure. Early detection through screening is useful for cervical and colorectal cancer. The benefits of screening in breast cancer are controversial. The chance of survival depends on the type of cancer and extent of disease at the start of treatment. In children under 15 at diagnosis, the five-year survival rate in the developed world is on average 80 per cent.

In 2015, about 90.5 million people had cancer. About 14.1 million new

cases occur a year (not including skin cancer other than melanoma). It caused about 8.8 million deaths (15.7 per cent of deaths). The most common types of cancer in males are lung cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer and stomach cancer. In females, the most common types are breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer and cervical cancer.

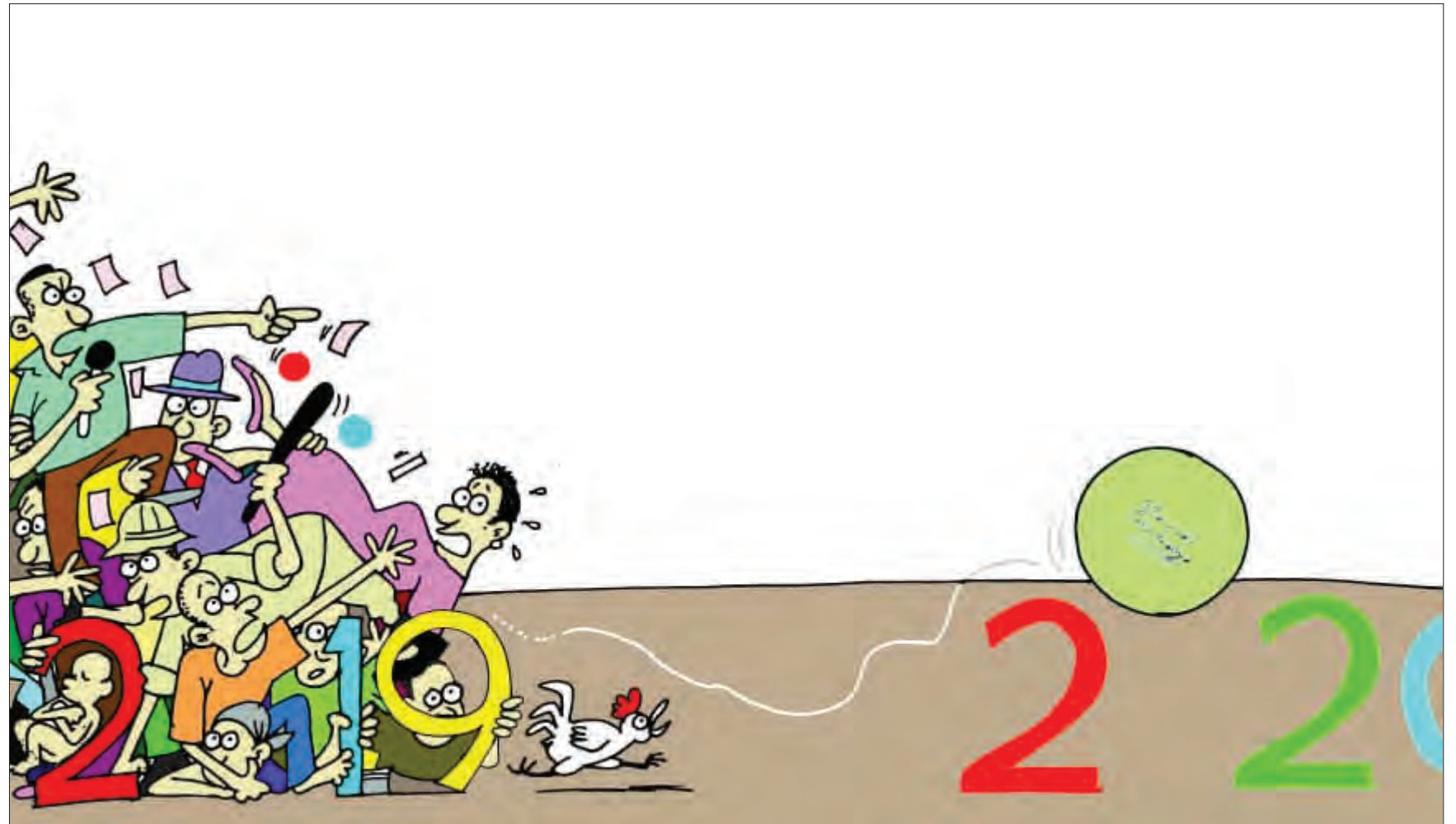
The newly launched initiative worth 38bn/- 'Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project' will see more cancer patients seeking treatment at hospitals as services including prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment will be provided at grassroots level.

Under the project, which is to be implemented in 13 districts, Tanzanians in rural areas will have access to cancer screening, awareness campaigns and treatment at their localities.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndungulile made the remarks in Dar es Salaam last year where the government, Aga Khan Health Service (AKHS) and the French Development Agency (AFD) signed an agreement for implementation of the project under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

The four years project aims to strengthen and expanding the quality access and capacity of cancer care services through an innovative PPP initiative. The project is co-financed by French Development Agency-29bn and Aga Khan Foundation providing 9bn/-.

We are optimistic that after the implementation period, at least 60 per cent of Tanzanians will be reached by cancer awareness campaigns following increased ecology services from prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment to survivorship especial to rural population.



By Carin Smith

ONE of the consequences of people increasingly living longer, is that it has changed the number of working years compared to those eventually spent in retirement.

Pension funds today should be investing for a "horizon" of 80 years or more, as technology and medical research advances at a rapid pace, says Petri Greeff, head of investment advisory at RisCura.

"The old model of studying or training for a job and then building a long-term career in that field until retirement may soon be outdated," he says.

"Increasingly, people may opt to stop and retrain mid-career, possibly even a few times."

People will likely end up working for longer and spending more time in retirement too.

Increasing longevity will have a significant impact on retirement contributions required, as well as on asset allocation, risk levels, and investment strategies for pension funds, he explains.

This creates the need to reconsider traditional calculations of how much money one would need to ensure you saved enough to support yourself after retirement, says Jan van der Merwe, head of actuarial and product at PSG Wealth.

One challenge is to avoid drawing too much income from your retirement savings, so you won't "outlive" your capital.

"Your financial products should be supported by smart investment choices to ensure you attain growth at the right risk level for your needs," says Van der Merwe.

He suggests that, before retirement,

IT was surely the turn of historic events that gave Cameroon its linguistic shape. And as fate would have it, the people approved of it and that is why English and French became the two official languages of this great triangle. This year, as the nation celebrated the bilingualism week it became necessary to regale minds of the fact that bilingualism is rather a binding force for national integration and a springboard to peace and development than a bone of contention that should put people at loggerhead.

Apart from the historical element that obliges Cameroon to institute English and French as official languages, the whole idea of speaking the two languages remains a huge advantage. English and French are two very important international languages that cut across several countries of the World.

Bilingualism, it should be underscored, opens up chances of grabbing a job, eases the mastery of instruments of communication and

Humans have longer life expectancy than their money



An in-depth analysis of SA's economic and financial situation suggests that the rose-tinted forecasts need to be approached with a great deal of circumspection

one should at least have a retirement savings product, supplemented by a tax-free savings plan, as well as discretionary investments and risk cover.

After retirement, it should likely include an annuity product, invested in an appropriate manner, supplemented by longevity guarantees and continued

investment in growth assets.

Deane Moore CEO of retirement income specialist Just, recently revealed the 2019 findings from the "Just Retirement Insights" study.

"Our key concern rising from this latest study is the high proportion of people approaching retirement who have not saved enough, yet expect an

unrealistically high level of income from their existing retirement pot," says Moore. "Few people realise that they can sustain a 2.5 percent a year higher level of income in retirement, and guarantee this for life, by using a life annuity or a lifetime income option within a living annuity."

For him the study highlights the important role of careful planning to help make informed decisions.

The study found that around half of respondents lacked the confidence that their money will last and if it runs out, they intend to rely on children to support them.

It also highlighted a large gap between the expectation and reality of how much retirement money is enough to last.

When asked if they had done any retirement budgeting, over half (53 percent) of the respondents admitted that they had not calculated how much they would need per year and just under half (48 percent) lacked confidence that their money would last.

The study also showed what it calls "a misplaced optimism" among respondents about the amount of retirement savings required to cover their expected lifetime.

About 80 percent indicated that they have less than R2 million in retirement savings and more than half of these respondents expect a monthly income in retirement that is significantly higher than the sustainable income that can be purchased in the market.

African countries ought to develop climate-resilient agriculture systems

FIFTY-FIVE African countries recently signed a five-point declaration to increase the climate adaptation and resilience of the continent's food systems.

The declaration, signed by government representatives at the African Green Revolution Forum - 2019 in Accra, Ghana on September 4, 2019, recognises climate change as a challenge to Africa's food security.

Africa's population will increase to 2.4 billion by 2050, requiring the continent to scale up its food production while tackling the challenge of climate change.

Eradicating hunger in Africa by 2025 will require governments to build agricultural systems that are resilient to climate change, activists have said, arguing that this would ensure sustainable food production.

The civil society organisations made the call last month during a regional dialogue on food and nutrition security held in Kigali, Rwanda.

They observed that climate change is an increasingly growing threat to food and nutrition security on the continent and more so to economies that are heavily reliant on agriculture.

Prof Sidi Osho, chairperson of the board of governors for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), said that most African countries are suffering from poverty and low productivity in agriculture, with serious human nutrition challenges.

"We are having a problem of climate change across Africa...it has affected the smallholder farmers' crops and livelihoods," she said, expressing the need for irrigation technologies and increased budget allocation to agriculture.

She said that availability and accessibility to nutritious food and research as well as innovation is critical

to tackling stunting.

"The UNICEF study says that one out of every five children is severely malnourished," she said.

African heads of state through their Malabo Declaration of June 2014, recommitted achieving ending hunger by 2025 and reduce stunting among the continent's children to 10 per cent.

The declaration also affirmed their commitment to enhancing investment in Agriculture and uphold the 10 per cent public spending target to the sector. Focusing on inputs, irrigation and agriculture mechanisation, they argued, would at least double productivity.

However, hunger remains a daunting challenge globally. Current evidence shows a rise in world hunger, FANRPAN says.

Today, 821 million people are undernourished in the world, an increase of 36.4 million from 2015, FANRPAN adds. Of these hungry people, 257 million are in Africa.

The current situation implies that if the trend is not reversed, Africa and the world at large, will fail to meet the Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal of ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all and eliminating all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

While irrigation is a potential solution to this challenge, currently, only around 6 percent of the region's cultivated land is irrigated.

Venuste Muhanyankaka, Executive Director, of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance - an umbrella of civil society organisations in Rwanda aimed at promoting sensitive and specific nutrition actions - said that their 2015 study indicated that only 17 percent of children in Rwanda get appropriate breast milk supplement after six months of exclusive breastfeeding.

He pointed out that a70 per cent of stunted children are attributed to the lack of such nutritional support.

Toeing the people's will

access to communication technology, widens the sphere of human relation as well as the capacity to adapt to the exigencies of the changing World and finally, helps to develop not only a critical spirit and initiative but also the spirit of creativity.

All these are qualities clear enough to know, unfortunately, because of reasons, mainly linked to greedy politics, the whole policy has so far not hit the target. And of course, the consequences have been such a bitter pill to swallow.

The law on the promotion of the two official languages adopted in parliament, materialises the prescription of the Head of State to reinforce the bilingual character of the country. This prescription draws inspiration from the medley of problems emanating from the low or non application of the two official

languages in their equal status as stated in the constitution. The English language being the greater victim in the discriminatory use, it is highly understood to be at the centre of the upsurge of protest in the North West and South West Regions.

In the wider sense of it, it's not just speaking the language but the fact that it is the substratum of the two distinct systems. Having realised this, the President proposed this law to ensure the use of the languages in public places, public offices and spur Cameroonians towards their usage. The new law institutes a National Bilingualism Day in an effort to keep the bell of bilingualism ringing in the minds of many a Cameroonian.

Now that the bill has been voted into law and one which represents one of those measures taken to contain tempers in the English-speaking

population of the North West and South West Regions, the ball is in the court of those working in government offices. As the nation awaits the effective implementation of the law which has already gone full with all Presidential decrees since the major National Dialogue ended, being published in both languages, it should be recalled that the socio-political upheavals in the English Speaking part of Cameroon came as a reawakening.

In effect, this crisis which has led to several deaths largely has its roots in the loose manner with which the whole idea of a bilingual nation was being handled. The President's political will has been expressed, now is the turn of the Cameroonian people especially those that have the keys to policy implementation to get down to work. They have the obligation to toe the will of the people.

2019 International Person Of The Year: Greta Thunberg

By Kevin Bloom

I. The view from space

Of all the things that humanity remembered about itself in 2019, there was one that for millions of us felt like an entirely new truth: the living planet had a threshold beyond which it would refuse to support further extraction, combustion and abuse. The first big wake-up call sounded a few months before the dawn of the year, in October 2018, when the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced that 91 scientists from 40 countries had reached consensus on a numerical value for the threshold: it was 1.5°C of planetary warming above pre-industrial levels, they said, and avoiding it would require "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" by 2030.

The phrase and the cut-off date, which were headlined by the world's major media houses and instantly elevated climate journalism to a mainstream beat, had the added effect of reminding humanity about a truth that did not feel new at all. Power elites would always defend the status quo, we recalled, as evidenced by events at COP24 in Poland in December 2018, when the US, Russia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia ensured that the international climate conference failed to adopt the IPCC's report.

And so, since it had never shown much respect for our kamikaze geopolitics, the living planet opened 2019 with an extreme weather event that set the tone for the year. In early January, sudden stratospheric warming was observed above the Arctic, causing the polar vortex – which was supposed to be held in place over the North Pole by the jet stream – to weaken and split. The disruption was exacerbated, according to scientists, by the release of warm air from the ocean, which helped to push the Arctic freeze over Canada and the Midwestern US, where 680 temperature records were broken and the state of Illinois logged its coldest day since measurements began.

A few weeks later, the UK celebrated its warmest February day on record, the first time the island had experienced a winter temperature above 20°C, but freak wildfires soon killed the mood. And then, in March and April, the planet let us know it wasn't playing.

A pair of cyclones, named Idai and Kenneth, barreled into Africa's Indian Ocean coast, leaving close to 2.2 million people in urgent need of assistance in Mozambique alone. In Zimbabwe and Malawi, a further 400,000 were affected, with roofs torn from houses and crops and livestock decimated by the winds and the floods. The death toll wasn't confined to the 1,000 people who were taken by the immediate ravages of the storms, but included those who would later succumb to the cholera, malaria and dysentery that waited in the fetid waters.

According to the UN, never before in recorded history had two tropical cyclones hit Mozambique in the same season, a situation that actualised what observers had long been dreading – as the planet warmed and weather systems became more volatile and unhinged,



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg. FILE PHOTO

the world's poor would bear the brunt of the carbon emissions of the rich.

In May, cognisant of the realities of climate apartheid and yet mostly removed from its sharp edge, a group of schoolchildren in 130 countries staged one of the largest environmental protests the living planet had yet seen. The campaign, made up of 1.4 million teenagers wielding placards that read "Please don't burn my future!" and "System change not climate change!", was inspired and led by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, who on a Friday in August 2018 had staged a solitary strike outside the Swedish parliament in Stockholm, a protest she would repeat every Friday thereafter until first the prime minister of Australia and then the plutocrats at Davos and finally Donald Trump himself had no choice but to react.

The Instagram photo of Greta's original strike – like Pelé and Ronaldo, she would achieve a level of fame that obviated the need for a surname – would, according to auteur filmmaker Darren Aronofsky, become "a kind of historical shorthand for the age", akin to the captured moment of Kennedy's assassination or the freed Mandela's raised fist.

Greta, who credited her ability to withstand the media attention to the side-effects of her autism, watched and took notes as floods destroyed crops in North America's breadbasket, a historic drought in India became visible from space and glaciers that were meant to melt in geologic time began to crumble in human time.

She afflicted the comfortable in a way that no adult activist could, delivering her rebukes in soundbytes that held the resonance of deep and inarguable truth – and so her messages packed the weight of urgent and necessary change.

"This ongoing inaction of people in power, and the companies responsible, will in the future no doubt be remembered as a crime against humanity," she said in late May 2019, at the World Summit in Vienna, during a speech livestreamed by Time.

"Those who know of the consequences of business as usual for all living species must be held accountable if they're still not doing anything."

By which she meant the fossil fuel executives and their enablers in plush government offices across the globe. Although these intertwined cousins would continue to not do a thing – and in fact would simply double-down, pushing greenhouse gas concentrations to levels unseen in three million years – the global finance sector would be the first of the old-guard to respond. After mid-April 2019, when UK reserve bank governor Mark Carney and his French counterpart François Villeroy de Galhau sent a climate collapse bulletin to central bankers and the investment community at large, it was open season on financiers.

How much did this have to do with Greta? The question was best answered with another: if she had not channelled the archetypal forces that were already destroy-

ing societies in the developing world, would the grownups from Extinction Rebellion have superglued themselves to the entrance of the London Stock Exchange and blockaded traffic outside Goldman Sachs?

What these protestors knew, what Greta had articulated months before them, was that climate collapse was a zero-sum game – business as usual would soon enough result in no business at all. On 21 June 2019, taking all of the above into account, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund (with \$1-trillion of Norway's assets under management), was given the parliamentary go-ahead to dump more than \$13-billion of its holdings – a comparatively tiny number, and yet the most significant fossil fuel divestment anywhere, ever.

It was a smart move, particularly because extreme weather would displace a record seven million people in the first half of 2019, a figure that included the 3.4 million Indians and Bangladeshis who fled their homes before Cyclone Fani made landfall in early May.

II. The view from the Union Buildings

Meanwhile, in South Africa, the government was coming at climate collapse as if it was a PR problem.

In late June 2019, when France, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey were all recording their hottest historic temperatures for the month (a second heatwave in July would break a number of all-time records), the South African delegation at the UN climate talks in Bonn were toting a "secret" document.

According to this document, a copy of which was obtained by Daily Maverick, our government was still "considering" whether the IPCC's 1.5°C threshold, as determined by those 91 international climate scientists who'd assessed in 6,000 peer-reviewed papers over a three-year period, was a strong enough basis for action. Our appointed climate negotiators, the confidential memo made clear, had been ordered to wait and see what the science would say in the reports yet to come. And anyway, even if the 1.5°C target did prove watertight, they were under strict instructions to leave it to developed (richer) nations to do the honourable thing.

This from a country whose subsidies to the coal industry had just been confirmed as the fourth-largest in the G20, a country whose annual carbon emissions were 70 million tons higher than the UK's (which, on 12 June 2019, had committed to the IPCC's net-zero target by 2050), a country whose president was about to become the African Union's head honcho in charge of climate change.

Meaning, the only plausible reason for the secrecy was that there was a faction within the 33-member South African delegation at Bonn who knew that the contents of the document were disastrous for the country's image. Which

was spot-on, given the added fact that the delegations from the oil-producing nations of Saudi Arabia, the US, Australia and Iran flat-out rejected (in much harsher language than some of them had done in Poland the previous December) the IPCC special report on global warming of 1.5°C.

In early July, as confirmation that the world was splitting into climate rogues and climate neutrals – with only a handful of nations, like Costa Rica and New Zealand, truly in the category of climate protectors – the all-powerful Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) declared a fatwah on the activist infidels.

"Civil society is being misled to believe oil is the cause of climate change," said Mohamed Barkindo, Opec's secretary-general, after announcing that the "unscientific" claims of climate campaigners and the school strike movement were "the greatest threat" to his industry.

Once again, Greta's response channelled the ancient laws of the living planet, a planet that now seemed amused by humanity's idiocy. "Thank you!" she tweeted. "Our biggest compliment yet!"

As if that wasn't enough, on the same day that Barkindo handed his ass to the 16-year-old, Vladimir Putin rubber-stamped a deal with Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman to extend oil production cuts. The deal effectively meant that Saudi Arabia was suddenly deferring to Russia when it came to defending the price of oil – or, more to the point, that Putin (an active celebrant of climate collapse and the personal riches it would bring) was the new boss of Opec.

Putin, of course, was South Africa's buddy in BRICS, an old friend who was still intent on shilling his exorbitantly expensive and climate-hostile nuclear technology to us, despite (or because of) the fact that environmental activists had scuppered his deal with former president Jacob Zuma in April 2017.

In August 2019, another of our BRICS buddies would offer a window into this approaching "climate world order", a likely near-term future in which extreme weather would engender a set of political responses as vernal as any humanity had ever seen.

His name was Jair Bolsonaro, and within a matter of days he had moved from downplaying the severity of the Amazon wildfires and blaming them on leftist NGOs to deploying his military to deal with the problem. The reason for the about-face, as David Wallace-Wells (one of the world's

pre-eminent climate journalists) wrote in New York Magazine, was French president Emmanuel Macron's promise to squash a major EU trade deal with Brazil if Bolsonaro didn't react with an urgency that befitted the tipping-point threat to the rainforest.

"In other words," noted Wallace-Wells, Macron's intervention applied "the same tools of leverage and sanction and shame to crimes of climate as have been applied, in the past, to violations of human rights and territorial sovereignty."

What this unprecedented action brought to the fore – and the reality of it was arguably the most important climate-geopolitical event of 2019 – was the looming prospect of climate wars. As per the logic of Macron's threat, if a climate crime transcended a national boundary, which it very much did when it came to the Amazon rainforest and its importance as a carbon sink for all of humanity, then national sovereignty was an easy sacrifice. But clearly Bolsonaro wasn't intimidated, because when the world's media moved onto the next extreme weather event of 2019, September's Hurricane Dorian (the strongest storm to ever hit the Bahamas), the Brazilian strongman reverted to his policy of opening the rainforest to loggers, cattle ranchers and soya-bean farmers, who were the real culprits behind August's wildfires.

Back in the Union Buildings in Pretoria, no doubt, there was an eagerness to not be cast among this rogues' gallery.

Our two remaining BRICS friends, Narendra Modi of India and Xi Jinping of China, had been displaying their own brand of trans-border aggression by respectively maintaining the world's first climate fence (around Bangladesh) and pouring billions into the funding of coal plants in Africa (while claiming to be climate-friendly at home).

On 24 September 2019, four days after Greta had outdone herself by leading the largest co-ordinated mass action event of the century, President Cyril Ramaphosa sent a statement to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

"The world depends on us," he declared. "We have seen the disastrous effects of climate change across the globe in the increased incidence and severity of extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts."

As Daily Maverick reported, the statement was also the first official confirmation that Ramaphosa was backing an \$11-billion climate finance deal to turn the Mpumalanga coalfields into the largest renewables energy hub on Earth. But, at the time of this writing, although the deal was still a distant possibility, it had become despairingly obvious that the minerals-energy-complex had won out against the president's best intentions.

III. The view from the soil

On 28 November 2019, the "Bantustan Act" became a reality in South Africa. Published in the Government Gazette, the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill was now law – which meant 18 million rural South Africans, whose security of land tenure was enshrined in section 25(6) of the Constitution, could be deprived

of their water and soil without their prior and informed consent.

The act was arguably the greatest betrayal of Ramaphosa's career, because while at face value it gave statutory recognition to the Cape-Khoi, Griqua, Nama, Koranna and San – something that no government since Van Riebeeck's arrival at the Cape had ever done – its more nefarious purpose was to slip in section 24, which allowed mining companies and other developers a back-door pass to the resources in the former Bantustans.

By most accounts, since nine out of 10 new mining rights applications were in these areas, the Act was a response to the precedent-setting Maledu and Xolobeni judgments, in which the Constitutional Court and the North Gauteng High Court ruled in late 2018 that mining companies had to bow to customary law. By these terms, land rights were held by the community and no single person, particularly a chief, could sign them away.

The threat this posed to the Republic of South Africa's founding industry was severe – and so government, by granting chiefs the authority to do deals without the consent of their communities, had come up with a ruse (as in, section 24) to hit back.

What did this have to do with the climate?

In a word, everything. On 7 May 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, or IPBES, released what Guardian columnist George Monbiot called "the biggest and worst news humanity has ever received". The natural world, we learnt in the summary of the report for policymakers, was in the middle of an unprecedented crisis, with extinction rates tens to hundreds of times higher than they had been in the past 10 million years. Prepared by 145 leading experts from 50 countries, the report was a devastating blow to the humans of late-stage capitalism.

The threads that held nature together were unravelling, IPBES declared, and it was the activities we took most for granted that were causing it: How we fed, watered and housed ourselves; how we travelled from one place to another; the stuff we were spewing into the air from our power plants and factories; the stuff we were flushing into the rivers and seas; how (as in, how fast) we were having babies; how (as in, how fast) we were extracting resources from the ground; how (as in, how fast) most of this was heating up the planet.

The phrase "indigenism" was mentioned 32 times in the 40-page summary, with the following on page six providing a précis of what the report's authors – ecologists, zoologists, botanists, biologists and climatologists, among others – meant by their use of the term:

"Regional and global scenarios lack an explicit consideration of the views, perspectives and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, their knowledge and understanding of large regions and ecosystems and their desired future development pathways."

Put another way, the local communities that lived closest to the land, drawing water from its undammed rivers and harvesting crops

from its untreated soil, were in the best position to teach the rest of us how to mitigate and adapt to the breakdown of climate and ecosystems.

The IPCC reiterated the point in its special report on climate change and land released in August 2019, with the authors (107 leading scientists from 52 countries, citing 7,000 peer-reviewed papers) presenting a stark and pressing choice – either humanity could perpetuate the same vicious cycle, in which case apocalypse was pretty much assured, or we could pivot to a virtuous cycle, which implied a sharp scaling down of industrial farming practices, actions that allowed soils and forests to regenerate, the cutting of meat consumption and food waste and the planting of drought-resistant crops.

Mining, needless to say, was a big no-no as far as these and other UN-backed reports were concerned – and yet in South Africa, mere weeks after IPBES dropped its global assessment, Ramaphosa let the fox into the henhouse.

With Gwede Mantashe's appointment on 29 May 2019 as the cabinet minister in charge of mineral resources and energy, the instruction from the top was to dig and to burn. A champion of coal and its imaginary friend "clean coal", Mantashe had shown in Xolobeni that he was also a man dedicated to extracting resources at all costs, a man to whom the opposition of rural communities in eight out of nine South African provinces meant nothing.

The fix, in other words, was in – and Greta's words applied to no-one so much as to him.

"Right now, we are ignoring natural climate solutions," the teenage icon said in September 2019, in a short film she co-produced with George Monbiot. "We spend 1,000 times more on global fossil fuel subsidies than on nature-based solutions."

As far as the living planet was concerned, those subsidies, which were ipso facto coming from the world's governments (South Africa's foremost among them), were one of the chief reasons global carbon emissions were certain to hit an all-time high in 2019. They were one of the structural causes behind the fact that the decade, according to the World Meteorological Organisation, was about to close out as the warmest on record. And they were inextricably linked to the reality, as laid out by the UN Environment Programme, that global emissions would need to fall by 76% per year between 2020 and 2030 if the 1.5°C threshold wasn't going to be breached.

There was almost zero chance that the world's governments would get us there, which was why the best thing to happen in 2019 was Greta.

In South Africa, perhaps the best thing to happen was the Climate Justice Charter, where non-government actors – drought-affected communities, faith-based organisations, labour, media, civil society and the youth – collaborated to map a grass-roots path to an inhabitable future.

Because our living planet had now become our burning planet, 2019 had brought us to the brink of a range of no-return tipping points and ushered in the "age of fire", and the fate of humanity belonged more than ever to the kids.

Sisters in arms: The families fighting femicide in France

Paris, France

Sandrine Bouchait remembers the possessions laid out on the bed in her sister Ghylaine's apartment. Ghylaine had put them there the night she had tried to leave her partner, Christophe.

Ghylaine had been wanting to leave for weeks, Sandrine says, but Christophe had been threatening suicide if she did. He had also been surveilling her movements, meeting her at work every night when she finished her shift.

On September 22, 2017, Ghylaine had had enough. She told their daughter to go and get ready while she packed up her own things in the bedroom she shared with Christophe in the fourth-floor apartment they owned in the southern suburbs of Paris.

As she was packing, Sandrine says Christophe, whose surname we are not publishing to protect the identity of his daughter, hit Ghylaine, knocking her to the ground. He took a bottle in which he had mixed petrol and water and doused her with the contents before setting her alight, Sandrine explains.

When the couple's daughter saw the flames, she opened her window and called out to her neighbours for help. The fire began to spread. Ghylaine heard her neighbours trying to break down the door and shouted to the girl to run out as soon as it opened. The seven-year-old escaped suffering only smoke inhalation.

"In giving up her life, she saved her daughter's," Sandrine says. She has recounted this story many times to many journalists.

Throughout the telling of it, Sandrine is stoic, straightforward, methodical. But her voice cracks and tears begin to well as she explains what happened next.

Ghylaine was taken to hospital, but there was little the doctors could do for her - she suffered burns to 90 percent of her body. As she lay there, wrapped in bandages "like a mummy," Sandrine says she told her sister that she could depart in peace, that she would look after her child. Two days later, Ghylaine died of her injuries.

She was 34 years old.

First and second mothers Sandrine, 45, is the oldest of the four Bouchait siblings. She is the doer, the organised one - if someone needs help with life's admin, it is Sandrine who steps in, says middle sister, Nadege Botza, 42.

A childcare worker and mother of two, Sandrine carries with her an unassailable air of authority and an occasional sense of exasperation at the inefficiency of others. This is offset by a profound and genuine warmth; Sandrine is someone you would instinctively trust with your children.

When Nadege, who works in a primary school, momentarily forgets how old her own daughter is, Sandrine rolls her eyes, laughs amiably and in a no-nonsense manner, informs us that she is seven.

The Bouchaits grew up in Boulogne-Billancourt, an inner-west suburb of Paris nestled between a deep bend in the Seine and the vast former hunting grounds of the Bois de Boulogne.

Ghylaine was the young-



Sylvaine Grevin holds a picture of her sister Benedicte who was killed by her partner. File photo

est sibling, born nine years after Sandrine, and six years after Nadege. They were always close, Sandrine says. The whole family, including their brother, remains so. To this day, most of them live in the same sprawling apartment complex that spans a block of the suburb where they grew up. Sandrine, her partner and children are on the third floor, while her mother and brother are on the ground level. Nadege, her husband and her three children live over the river in Sevres.

Ghylaine was the furthest away, 10km to the south in the suburb of Plessis-Robinson, "but still in the same département!" Sandrine points out keenly.

Despite being furthest apart in age, Sandrine and her youngest sister shared a special bond. "I was like a second mother to her," she says. "She followed me everywhere."

When she was 16 years old, Ghylaine was the first person to hold Sandrine's oldest son in her arms. Sandrine and the boy's father had separated while she was pregnant, so it was her youngest sister who accompanied her to the hospital when she went into labour.

"She was a second mother for him, just as I was for her," Sandrine says.

Now, as she raises her sister's child alongside her two sons, the cycle has repeated once more.

The year France woke up When Ghylaine was killed in 2017, Sandrine says femicide was still rarely discussed in France. Today, things are different.

It is possible that 2019 may be remembered as the year France woke up to the seriousness of its domestic violence problem. Pressured by activists such as the feminist campaign group Nous Toutes, the government held a national summit on the issue that ran from

September through to November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Two days before the government released their findings, tens of thousands of people marched through the streets of Paris to protest against sexual and sexist violence, the largest such demonstration in French history, organisers said.

Sandrine and other relatives of women who had been killed by a current or former partner led the march, carrying photographs of their deceased loved ones in their hands.

"Today, anyone who says they don't know about [femicide] must be living in a cave," Sandrine says.

But if awareness is at an all-time high, women are still being murdered at an alarming rate. By October this year, as many women had been killed by a current or former partner as in all of 2018 according to feminist collective Femicides by a Partner or Ex. The total for 2019 today stands at 148 compared to 120 in 2018 and 137 in 2017.

These numbers are updated in real-time throughout the year by anonymous volunteers from Femicides by a Partner or Ex, who scour media outlets across France to provide an updated tally of domestic violence deaths.

A founding member of the collective told Al Jazeera they had a grim series of Google alerts set up for every term they could think of relating to femicide - "woman slayed", "body found", "husband taken into custody" - as well as the euphemisms media organisations often use to describe or, in her view, downplay them - "family drama", "crime of passion", and so on.

When one of their search terms pings a report of a woman killed by a current or former partner, they publish the

details on their Facebook and Twitter accounts, updating the yearly tally as they go.

Lawyer and domestic violence specialist Catherine Le Margueresse says this simple act of counting the dead women has played a huge part in the changing conversation about femicide in France.

"Every time a woman is killed, we know about it right away," she explains. "Before, once a year in November we had one study that was released by the Ministry of Interior which said we had 110, 120 or 130 women killed [the previous year]."

"Now we know from January to December how many women are killed."

The collective has also provided families like the Bouchaits with an opportunity to connect with other people who have lost a loved one to femicide, and to turn their collective grief into political action.

The life of the party Sandrine and Ghylaine Bouchait used to speak on the phone every morning. They would discuss their children, their plans, their jobs as they made their way to work.

Ghylaine was like any other woman her age, Sandrine says. "She was a very happy young woman, very bubbly, very funny. She loved life. She had a lot of friends."

Among the family, she was always playing the clown. When they would watch movies together, she would try to repeat back the actors' lines, getting them hopelessly wrong. "We'd die laughing," Sandrine says, laughing at the memory.

"My little sister was the life of the party," adds Nadege.

On her phone, she flicks through selfies the two of them took together, in which they are trying out a series of ridiculous poses - their tongues poked out, their hands clamped over their eyes, nose and mouth, imitating the facehugger in Alien.

"This one's my favourite," she says, lingering on a picture of the two of them with their eyes wide open and mouths agape in faux-shock.

A few months before her death, Ghylaine had started work in a bakery in Plessis-Robinson. It was a perfect job for someone with her energy who liked to be around people, Sandrine says.

It was there that she struck up a friendly relationship with a client; a relationship that later became romantic. One that made her realise that there was something very wrong at home with Christophe.

United by grief

In 2017, Femicides by a Partner or Ex counted Ghylaine as the 96th woman killed in an episode of domestic violence that year.

But it was only in May this year that Sandrine came across the collective's entry for her sister. She had been reading through the media reports about Ghylaine's murder online, having recently realised that her niece would soon be old enough to find these articles for herself. She wanted to flag any false information that needed to be corrected ahead of time.

Femicides by a Partner or Ex had written that Christophe had attempted suicide after attacking Ghylaine. Her family disputes this - they say he accidentally got petrol on himself during the attack, and when he opened a window, the fire jumped onto his clothes, resulting in burns to 70 percent of his body. He was in a coma for three months. The lawyer representing Christophe in his upcoming trial declined to comment for this story.

When Sandrine asked the collective to change her sister's entry, they introduced her to a private Facebook group com-

posed of other families who had lost someone to femicide.

Sandrine, who was in the middle of preparing for Christophe's trial for Ghylaine's murder in January 2020, said she realised she could help those families who were newly grieving the loss of a loved one - people like Helene de Pensay.

Helene and her older sister, scientific consultant Marie-Alice Dibon, look startlingly alike.

They used to have fun with it, says Helene, 50. "As we grew older, we looked more and more alike and we played on that with people. It was very funny," she says.

"But now it's a heavy burden to look so much like her, when she's not here anymore."

Marie-Alice, 53, became the 51st femicide recorded in 2019 when her body was found in a suitcase floating in the River Oise in Paris's northwestern suburb of Neuville-sur-Oise in April. Media reports said she had been drugged and suffocated. Two weeks later, her partner and suspected killer, Luciano Meridda, 66, was hit by a truck in central Italy in a presumed suicide.

Helene last saw her sister at her 50th birthday party, a few weeks before Marie-Alice was killed. "So this is how I'm entering my fifties," she says, wearily.

Helene says she was trying to navigate the bewildering aftermath of her sister's death - and the fact that no one would be held accountable - when she saw that the case had been recorded by Femicides by a Partner or Ex.

"They were the only ones who had actually written his name," she says, referring to Luciano. Until then, in all the reporting on her sister's death, she says no media organisation had identified the person responsible. "They had found his name somehow and they had written it, which for me was extremely important."

But the collective had also gotten something wrong. They had said that Luciano had beaten Marie-Alice while they were together, which Helene said was not true. She got in touch to ask them to change their entry for her sister, and she too was invited to the private group.

Helene says that before she joined the group, she felt like she was walking through a desert, alone with her grief and incomprehension. After she joined, she was able to talk to people who understood only too well how she felt.

"Even though I was afraid to be in touch with people who were so traumatised, I realised that in fact it was doing me a lot of good to exchange with them," she says.

On November 23, Helene walked with Sandrine Bouchait, Nadege Botza and dozens of other family members of femicide victims at the front of the march.

The picture of a smiling Marie-Alice she held in her hands could just as easily have been a picture of herself.

A man with two faces

Ghylaine met Christophe in 2007. They moved in together soon after and had a daughter in 2010.

"He seemed normal," Sandrine says. "I trusted him."

But Christophe was a different person behind closed doors.

"He had two faces," she

says. "He had a face for when he was with people, and a face for when he was at home."

Ghylaine told her sisters that he made her clean the house in a certain way and controlled what she ate, demanding to know what she had consumed recently and telling her she could not gain weight. "It was never compliments with him, it was always reproaches," Sandrine says.

He was fiercely jealous, "even of us," Nadege explains. It turns out Ghylaine's phone conversations were short for a reason. Otherwise Christophe would start asking questions, demanding she hang up, Nadege says.

And while the sisters all spoke on the phone every day, it was usually when Christophe was not at home. Both Sandrine and Nadege say their sister would end calls suddenly with a quick whisper if she heard her partner returning.

The sisters say they see now that when Ghylaine told them about things like this, they should have been warning signs.

"I did not measure the importance of what she was saying to me," Sandrine reflects. "It was only after that I thought, 'She was trying to tell us something, but we didn't see it.'"

Two years after she lost her sister, she still sounds shocked at how quickly things deteriorated.

"If I had known, I would have told my sister to be careful, to leave, but I couldn't see it. I couldn't see it at all."

From private group to political force

For a while, the Facebook support group for family members of femicide was simply that: somewhere grieving relatives could go to connect over the death of a loved one.

"It was very, very calm," a volunteer from Femicides by a Partner or Ex, an anonymous collective, explains to Al Jazeera on condition of anonymity. That was until Sandrine and Helene joined. "When [they] arrived ... it was like a storm."

It is clear from the first instant you meet Sandrine and Helene that they are driven by an inexorable force.

"I'm someone who decides, who moves, who does things," Sandrine says. "I don't wait around."

Helene puts it this way: "I have this thing: in my life, everything I do has to make sense."

"When something like that happens which just doesn't make any sense, which is totally insane... the only way I have found to make some sense of it is to fight for this cause and to make sure that Marie-Alice has not been killed for nothing, that her assassination would help prevent this from happening again to other women."

So when, in July, France's gender equality minister Marlene Schiappa announced that there would be a national inquiry into domestic violence, the newly energised Facebook group saw an opportunity to turn their informal online gathering into a political force that could be heard at the highest level. They began to talk about forming an official organisation, one that would become the National Union for Families of Femicide (UNFF).

AGENCIES



An activist group has been plastering posters across France to draw attention to the rising numbers of women killed in acts of domestic violence. The poster reads 'Femicide: The state is guilty and the judiciary is complicit'. File photo

Small holder farmers to benefit from off-grid technologies

By Beth Nyaga

INVESTING in new off-grid and mini-grid technologies to extend energy access across Africa will be instrumental in helping smallholder farmers to meet rising food demand, according to a new report.

Africa accounts for just six per cent of the world's energy demand, despite hosting 20 per cent of the global population, leaving rural areas relying on manpower for as much as 80 per cent of the energy used in farming.

In Energized: Policy innovation to power the transformation of Africa's agriculture and food system, experts from the Malabo Montpellier Panel highlighted opportunities for greater energy access to transform the livelihoods of the rural poor, reducing the drudgery of their work and generating higher incomes.

The rapid spread of off-grid and mini-grid solutions for renewable energy offers hope that Africa can leapfrog outdated and dirty technologies, with almost five million families installing solar home systems in 2018, the authors said.

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But achieving universal

energy access will require a fourfold increase in investment to US\$120 billion a year by 2040.

"As demand for food continues to grow globally, universal access to energy will become an urgent necessity, both for the production, processing and consumption of more nutritious food," said Ousmane Badiane, co-chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel, which met in Gambia for the Malabo Montpellier Forum.

"Access to reliable, affordable and sustainable sources of energy to prepare land, plant, harvest, process, distribute and cook food, will ensure that Africa's agricultural sector can respond to this demand, all within the context of climate change and increasingly scarce natural resources."

The report made several recommendations to help Africa achieve widespread sustainable energy use that supports agricultural productivity.

These included integrated policies for agriculture, energy and health, a cross-border framework for energy security, and investing in innovative, alternative solutions such as mini, micro and nano grids in addition to conventional sources of power.

The authors also highlighted how greater



Smallholder farmers to meet rising food demand, according to a new report

energy access would benefit African women in particular, allowing them to spend less time collecting fuel for cooking and heating, and benefitting from less pollution in their homes.

Around 600,000 people die every year in Africa from noxious fumes produced by cooking stoves and fuelwood - more than the annual global deaths caused by malaria.

Meanwhile, women perform 90 per cent of the

weeding on farms, spending up to 324 hours to weed one hectare of sorghum.

Overall, cooking accounts for more 70 per cent of household energy usage in Africa compared with less than 10 per cent globally.

"Africa is the highest consumer of traditional solid biomass such as fuelwood, charcoal and farm residues, including animal dung, in the world," said Joachim von Braun, co-chair of the Panel.

"For those cooking in

poorly ventilated spaces, this means daily exposure to noxious fumes and the burden of collecting fuelwood - falling heavily on women and girls. Improving Africa's energy access, then, is also a public health issue."

The Panel analysed six African countries that had made significant progress in connecting rural areas to energy sources in its latest report.

Among them was Ethiopia, where access to electricity

doubled between 2010 and 2016, partly through the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy launched in 2011.

In South Africa, the Cabinet approved the New Household Electrification Strategy (NHES) in 2013, with a target of providing 300,000 rural households

with off-grid electrification through solar home systems installations and other cost-effective, renewable energy technologies.

Meanwhile, Ghana has one of the highest rates of electrification in sub-Saharan Africa, thanks in part to its Self-Help Electrification Programme as well as the Energising Development (EnDev) partnership, which has prioritised grid extension for irrigation, solar-powered irrigation systems and improved stoves for processing cassava that are designed to consume less energy and reduce emissions.

"Under the Malabo Declaration, African governments have committed themselves to increase the use of reliable and affordable mechanization and energy supplies, including agricultural inputs. Africa is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030," said Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost and Professor of Information Technology and Computing at the American University of Nigeria and Member of the Malabo-Montpellier Panel.

"This report offers valuable insights and recommendations to help hasten Africa's journey towards universal energy access"

The report's recommendations in full include designing integrated approaches to energy strategies and policies for agriculture, to ensure that energy access targets benefit rural areas and are consistent with the overall development strategies adopted by African countries, scaling investments in off-grid and mini-grid solutions which have a positive, disruptive impact on African energy landscapes and enable Africa's consumers to leapfrog outdated technologies.

Adopting gender-responsive energy strategies that involve women in the design and implementation stages, to ensure new technologies and tools fulfil their needs and benefit their families, rural communities and the broader economy, addressing the multiple challenges of biomass-based energy use to ensure that it is produced more sustainably, with more emphasis placed on designing indoor cooking stoves to be more environmentally friendly as well as developing cross-border policies for energy security that reduce the unequal distribution of energy resources across Africa and govern both the development and use of renewable energy sources.

Alarm over mass vulture poisoning in South Africa

By Fred Kockott, Durban

ANOTHER mass vulture poisoning incident has ended the year on a sour note for Wildlife ACT rangers in the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Soon after releasing two rehabilitated vultures, rescued from a different poisoning scene earlier this year, Wildlife ACT was alerted to another incident on December 23, this year on Rolling Valley Ranch, located between Pongola and Mkuze in the far north of the province.

"Arriving at a scene like this with everything so fresh, but too late to assist in saving any poisoned birds is heart-breaking. Losing one vulture is always a tragedy. Losing at least 16 birds at one feeding is a crisis," said PJ Roberts, manager of Wildlife ACT's Emergency Response Team.

Wildlife ACT works closely with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, local farmers and communities, and other conservation groups to protect three endangered vulture species in KwaZulu-Natal.

The first bird found, a white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*), hinted at Roberts's worst fears: "It had a full crop (still containing undigested food), contorted feet and many dead flies were scattered around its remains - all clear signs of fast-acting poison."

The team swept the area, but it took an aerial search to locate more victims. "We landed to find the devastating remains of multiple birds hidden at the base of the tree. Included in this discovery was the removed, yellow, wing tags of H065; a young lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*) tagged in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park in October 2017 as a fledgling," said Roberts.

"No more than 30m away, the morbid discovery of 13 processed and harvested white-backed vultures, with their heads and feet removed, were found very



More than 1,200 vultures have been deliberately poisoned in Southern and Eastern Africa in 2019.

purposefully hidden in a thick bush," added Roberts.

Nearby was the body of an impala - snared, killed, and laced with poison. The rangers burned all the contaminated carcasses to ash to remove the poison from the ecosystem.

It is the fourth vulture poisoning incident in northern Zululand this year, bringing the total recorded number of vultures harvested for body parts in this region alone to 53. The actual number of birds killed is believed to be much higher as many incidents are never detected.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Vultures for Africa Programme manager, Andre Botha, said it was difficult to quantify how many vultures are deliberately poisoned for body parts.

According to records kept by EWT, more than 1,200 vultures have been deliberately poisoned in Southern and Eastern Africa this year. Culprits include poachers who poison the carcasses of elephant and other game in an apparent effort to conceal illegal activities from rangers. These poisonings are referred to as "sentinel poisonings", as vultures circling over poached animals alert rangers to the killings.

Africa's vulture populations have already declined by an average 62 percent over the past three decades - with seven species crashing by 80 percent. Experts recently warned that the continent's vulture populations face the prospect of collapsing, in much the same way as vulture species did in Asia thirty years ago.

In the early 1990s, millions of Asian

vultures died after eating the remains of cows in carcass dumps; India has 500 million cows raised for milk, but not eaten by the majority Hindu population. Scientists identified the culprit: diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory used by vets. Vultures feeding on carcasses containing the drug died swiftly of kidney failure.

The reasons for the African vulture crisis are vastly different. They include habitat loss, ingestion of lead ammunition, collisions with power lines, accidental drownings in farm water reservoirs, and the use of poisoned bait by livestock owners to kill predators like jackals. Vultures feeding off the carcasses subsequently die, often in significant numbers.

But many more are poisoned deliberately to harvest body parts for belief-based use.

"The vultures are killed for their heads and feet and other parts," said Chris Kelly, a species director at Wildlife ACT. "This is definitely the single biggest threat to diminishing vulture populations in this province," said Kelly.

In many parts of Africa, vultures are believed to have psychic powers, including an ability to see into the future.

According to a fact sheet from EWT, the brains of the bird are dried, rolled and smoked as joints or simply burnt and the fumes inhaled. Users believe this improves their odds when they gamble on the lottery or place bets on sport. Students take it when preparing for exams. Other reported uses of vultures include consuming their eyes to improve eyesight, their beaks for protection, or their

feet to heal fractured bones or make a person run faster.

In 2014, EWT estimated that 130,000 traders, hunters and traditional healers were operating in South Africa. This figure is believed to have increased, sparking calls from conservationists, environmental scientists and wildlife experts at this year's Conservation Symposium for an awareness-building campaign to reduce this consumption and demand for vulture parts.

"Vultures provide critically important ecosystem services by cleaning up carcasses thus reducing the spread of dangerous diseases such as anthrax and rabies and resulting in highly significant economic and human health benefits," said Brent Coverdale, an animal scientist for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife at the symposium. "We really can't afford to lose them."

As vultures are protected by law, it is illegal to possess or kill any of the six vulture species found in South Africa. Nevertheless, deliberate killings continue.

Roberts said the latest poisoning incident had been reported to local police.

"We are hoping this leads to an arrest," said Roberts. "If the illegal harvest of these birds is not halted, then extinction may be just around the corner and the services that they provide within the ecosystem will be lost forever."

As part of a bid to save vulture populations, managers of conservation areas and private game reserves in South Africa are collaborating to create safe havens for existing vulture populations.

195 per cent more Africans affected due to extreme weather events in year 2019

By Kiran Pandey

A whopping 195 per cent more Africans were affected by extreme weather events in 2019, with the continent witnessing an increase in such events as compared to 2018, according to data from the international disasters database maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Brussels.

Africa recorded 56 extreme weather events this year, as compared to 45 extreme events in 2018.

Nearly 16.6 million people were affected due to natural disasters in 29 African countries, in comparison to 5.6 million people in 2018. This means close to 11 million more people were affected by seven types of disasters - drought, wildfires, floods, landslides, extreme temperature, fog and storms.

Seventy-nine per cent of those affected were in just five African countries - Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Somalia.

The data also notes that 82 per cent more Africans died due to extreme weather events in 2019. About 1,865 people died in 2019, as compared to 1,024 deaths in 2018. With 996 deaths, Mozambique and Zimbabwe accounted for more than half of these deaths.

Drought and cyclones were the two leading disasters which affected most of the people in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania.

About 7.6 million people were affected by drought in Zimbabwe and Kenya and 3.8 million people were affected due to cyclone and storms in Tanzania and Mozambique. In 2018-19, Zimbabwe witnessed the worst drought in 40 years.

According to the United

Nations, Cyclone Idai, which affected Mozambique the most along with Malawi and Zimbabwe in March 2019, was supposedly the worst disaster to strike the southern hemisphere

In terms of death toll, Mozambique ranks first primarily due to the extra-tropical storm that killed around 600 people. South Africa, where 96 people died, was among the countries with the least number of people affected. For a country which ranks as the second-largest economy in Sub-Saharan Africa, this is worrying.

Cost of damage up by 150 per cent

The continent lost around \$2.4 billion, as compared to 0.8 billion in 2018. Africa is, and will be among the regions that are most vulnerable to climate change, warned a study conducted by the scientists of Met Office Hardley and Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, based in the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University in the United States has projected a very high probability of deficit rainfall during January-June 2020 in Southern African countries including Zimbabwe; and above normal rainfall during January-March 2020 in eastern equatorial Africa.

The continent should, therefore learn from the experiences of 2019 and focus on planning and actions for climate-resilience in 2020.

Nearly 195 per cent more people (as compared to 2018) were affected by extreme weather events this year. This means Africa needs to be better prepared to cope-up with extreme weather events.

By Amara Quardu Kamara

Ellen step-down vs Weah step-down, lack of sustained economic alternatives for Liberia

I have argued that in Sub Sahara Africa most demonstrations, protests, and mass citizens' actions are deeply attributed to rant seeking, political corruption, marginalization, mismanagement, malfeasances, pronounced deprivation of wellbeing, and unequal distribution of resources on the part of the political leaderships of the continent. These several of menaces have harnessed and continue to midwife civil conflicts in most part of Africa. Here I would build a comparative analysis between Liberia and Rwanda given the conspicuous similarities of both countries' gloomy historical past.

Like Liberia, Rwanda experienced a dreadful historic genocide that owned the lives of about 1 million Rwandans including women and children of the Tutsi minority tribe and moderate Hutus. This happened as a result of what I have mentioned above. The Rwandan nation was completely paralyzed and failed, World Bank then referred to the country as "nonviable" the war had obliterated virtually everything, most competent bureaucrats had been killed or fled, and looters had stripped government offices down to the last piece of paper. All government institutions were looted and vandalized. When the post-conflict government of National Unity had taken charge in July 1994, the country had no running water and little electricity. The new president, Kagame had no idea either did his colleagues have much expertise or institutional knowledge to draw on in consolidating the broken fabrics of the Rwandan society. Before the genocide, the country had about eight hundred judges but fewer had

survived the mass slaughter. As mentioned, today, Rwanda's case is completely different as the country has buckled its belt for governance and human capital investment; it has transitioned from hopelessness to hopefulness and is now considered as the Singapore of Africa within twenty-five years, less than what was projected for Rwanda to re-establish itself as a sovereign country and positive member of the comity of nations.

This synonymously depicts the Liberian nation. A country that was once seen as an epicenter of the fourteen years of civil conflicts from late 1989 to 2003 had embraced peace through the intervention of the then American, President George W. Bush, and other world leaders mainly the circle of the United Nations. It is estimated that about two hundred fifty thousand people were killed during the civil conflict. Like Rwanda, the Liberian civil conflict had its historical root embedded in the class system orchestrated by the freed slaves after the rebellions in the Americas and were migrated and settled in Liberia.

The powerful elites, Congou, though a very small population, had ruled the country for almost 133 years. The natives who account for the country's highest population had been politically and socially excluded and soon revenged against the ruling class when the opportunity for redemption availed itself. This resulted in a military coup d'état in April, 1980 and resulted to Master Sgt. Samuel



Sirleaf handed over power to her successor, George Weah, in January 2018. File photo

K. Doe and his men in arms murdering President William R. Tolbert at his Executive mansion office. This caused a prolonged period of anarchy characterized by ethnicity and plunder.

Sadly, the ringleader of the coup due to similar reasons he President Samuel K. Doe was in 1990 slaughtered by then leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front and now a member of the Liberian Senate, Sen. Prince Y. Johnson. These historical circumstances bred the Liberian civil war which led to massive atrocities and agony.

Following the cessation of hostilities by various parties, in 2003, the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) headed by the late Charles Gyude Bryant took charge as the country's interim government from 2003 to 2006. This interim arrangement took the country to its first postwar democratic elections that subsequently brought the first elected female president on the continent of Africa, Mrs. Ellen J. Sirleaf. Even after the interim leadership, state capacity

was limitedly weak to enhance governance and set the pace for national development. Almost every sector of the country was broken and needed to be rebuilt. Poverty and diseases had ransacked the country and its people. Liberia was considered a failed state backed by indebtedness. During the administration of the former president Mrs. Ellen J. Sirleaf, Liberia graduated from the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) from the rankings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Interestingly and despite the similar historical circumstances that beclouded the two countries, Liberia is yet to regain its full capabilities in governance, rule of law and inclusive sustainable development. Currently, reconciliation and political

division are increasing challenges to national unity and development. Unlike Rwanda, the lessons of the civil conflict have not resonated with the country's government and people. There are visibly vices that are considered conflict triggers: corruption, inequality, and social discrimination. Rwanda's rebirth is accredited to the country's progressive leadership championed by H.E President Paul Kagame whose immaculate leadership has led his country to rapid economic and human capital development.

Can Protests and Demonstrations Hold in Rwanda? This is hypothetical considering the progress that the country is making with the full participation of about 12 million Rwandans who have embraced peace and harmony and involved in the rebuilding efforts of their great country. There seems to be zero iotas of citizens' actions or any act of political instability because the country has spectacularly positioned itself to achieve economic and social development of its people and onward ensure sustainable livelihoods. The reasons I have not seen nor heard about demonstrations and protests in Rwanda or even attempting to coin a campaign for "Kagame Step-down" is that governance in Rwanda is participatory. The leadership ensures the country's economic development like agricultural, employment, empowerment, job creations, regional trades, digital economy, and infrastructural development, etc. is done collectively with inclusivity being the hallmark.

The Sirleaf Chronicles

Former president Ellen J Sirleaf is remembered for ensuring efficient and effective performance of the ministries, departments and agencies which set governance on the pace for performance through competent, experienced and skilled administrators. Most Liberian youths in her government were given opportunities for capacity development and scholarship opportunities were afforded to many Liberian students desired for foreign education which propelled them to contribute to nation-building efforts in both private and public sectors. As mentioned, Sirleaf ensured that Liberia graduated from the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) from the rankings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Her accomplishments are enormous, as she built roads that connected Liberia's capital Monrovia to connecting counties. Her efforts on infrastructural development are conspicuous. According to economists, her supports to road connectivity have created externalities for rural dwellers who are involved in farming activities. Yet, her 12 years of leadership was expected to have created the country's development framework on the foundation of radical economic development that will guarantee employment of Liberian youths who account for nearly 60% of our population considering her strong relationship with Washington and aids received from donor countries and institutions. This was not achieved and opportunities to achieve them were squandered due to classic corruption, malfeasance, rant seeking and the mismanagement of the country's resources.

Madam Sirleaf's policy on salaries of some heads of government was astronomically high while civil servants were working poor. Like many others, the former Maritime boss, Hon. Binyal Kesselly was alleged to have received a monthly salary of USD 25,000 amidst rampant corruption, extreme poverty, massive unemployment, declining economy, infant and maternal mortalities, extreme crime rates, and fragile healthcare delivery services across Liberia. While heads of SOEs and autonomous agencies; Liberia Petroleum Refinery Corporation, National Oil Company of Liberia, National Port Authority, Liberia Telecommunications Authority, and Liberia Revenue Authority amongst others allegedly received 15 to 20 USD as monthly salaries. This happened when healthcare workers were frequently on go-slow actions in demand for increment and incentives, while lecturers at the

state-run University and other public colleges were similarly abandoning classes due to low budgetary allotments. At the same time, the unemployed youths were regularly seen agitating for sustained jobs and skills that will make them potential citizens. As a result of fiscal indiscipline in her government, state coffers were depleted and our resources were gang-raped and bastardized. Dating to Sirleaf's administration, I argue that her legacy is marked by systemic controversy "some done - some na done" while I appreciate significant progress/reforms in governance and public bureaucracy, but at the average, our people were robbed of their dignity and condemned to extreme poverty!

Weah's Conundrums

Is Gbekugbeh Learning from his predecessor?

Well, one would not conclude President George M. Weah's success or failure as he has gone nearly 2 years of his 6 years term. However, what seems to be vivid is the incompetence of the bureaucrats who supposedly run the day to day activities of the executive branch of government. His early approach to governance was highly unorthodox; positions were rewarded to his loyalists and partisans based on political reciprocity, not competence as it has termed to be. Nevertheless, Mr. Weah has got a spectacular history to learn from Mrs. Sirleaf. Vices that were ingrained in Sirleaf's administration are unearthing in his government wearing reflective jackets. His government is accused of massive corruption and siphoning of the state coffers for personal initiatives with a practical example of his duplexes and the Jamaica resort property. This accusation has triggered numerous protests in demand of accountability in the case involving the 16 billion Liberian dollars that were allegedly confiscated and unaccounted, and as well calls for the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Liberia to provide findings on the expenditure of the 25 million dollars meant to mob up the economy. Sadly, the president has remained tightlipped on these multiple accusations and the economic prosperity of his people remains a fantasy. This has certainly rejuvenated the campaign to oust him from the presidency through a protest designed "WEAH STEPDOWN" under the canopy of Counsel of Patriots. Conventional wisdom dictates that poverty and hunger cannot be compromised, when the people are excessively hungry they result in demanding radical solutions to instantaneous change. This has led to forceful removal heads of governments in Africa and elsewhere.

The question of how we change the narrative remains a task to ponder. There are diverse views as to how the former can be changed and the country's economic development is secured. Some argue that a lack of political will on the part of our leaders has increased the existing problems, while others believe that Liberia's problems are tied to its historical foundation and the behavioral issues "mentality of the people" towards the country remains structurally undeveloped. As for pundits and academics, they argue that the quality of leadership sets the country for progress and sustainable development. The above is true.

Agencies

Protestors march against the presidency of Weah, whose policies they see as having failed to curb economic decline and mitigate corruption in Monrovia. File photo



THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =028=

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

5 letter word: HOT, KEY, STY, EAT, EGG, ADO, ALE, AWE
 4 letter word: RAFT, LOSS, AWAY, CAYS, NUDE, ONCE, OFAY
 5 letter word: STAGE, STYLE, ANGRY, STRAY, AORTA, HAMAL AFARA, G-SUIT, CLOAK
 6 letter word: STOREY,
 7 letter word: ARTLESS, YOGHURT, UFOLOGY, SURFACE
 8 letter word: TRUTHFUL
 9 letter word: ETYMOLOGY

WORD FIT

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across

- Capital city of Tanzania (6)
- a moon of Uranus (5)
- "father of light" (5)
- Everyday (5)
- Something allotted (5)
- Protects animals in Tanzania (6)
- Best preserved swahili settlements (4)
- Be adjacent (4)
- Team, mob (4)
- Suppose something (6)
- Former name of Malindi town (7)
- Influential country in the World (3)

Down:

- "Abode of peace" (3, 2, 6)
- Eighth largest city in the World (5)
- First black South African president (6)
- Part of surface (4)
- Type of fine soil (4)
- Hehe people call it "Lilinga" (6)
- City close to Pemba Island (5)
- South African social right activist (4)
- Referred as "the giant of Africa" (7)
- abdominal muscles (3)
- Capital of Mara (6)

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African 'varsity bestows Taha's CEO with honorary doctorate degree

By Smart Money Reporter, Arusha

TANZANIA Horticultural Association's Group CEO, Jacqueline Mkindi has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Business Administration and Entrepreneurs by African Graduate University.

Speaking at AGU's 39th congregation held during the weekend, AGU Vice Chancellor, Professor Timothy Kazembe described Mkindi's performance in developing the country's horticulture industry as impressive.

Prof Kazembe who bestowed the PhD certificate to Mkindi during the ceremony said she was recognised for her painstaking struggles to nurture the multi-million-dollars horticulture industry.

The Zambian academic said Dr Mkindi's steadfast leadership has complimented government's efforts in bringing about rapid growth of the agriculture sector.

"As you receive this honor, I strongly urge you to continue supporting the government's whatever efforts geared towards the welfare of the people. I wish you every success," Prof Kazembe pointed attracting applause from the largely academic gathering.

On his part, chief guest who is also Vice-Chancellor of Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Prof Emmanuel Luoga, paid tribute to Dr Mkindi for playing an outstanding role in the development of the country's horticulture industry.

Prof Luoga said the honorary doctorate given to was testimony that her personal sacrifice and leadership contributed significantly in developing the horticulture industry in Tanzania.

"I happened to know Jacqueline Mkindi during her undergraduate studies at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), where she passed with flying colours, prompting the management to decide on retaining her as a tutorial assistant, the offer she rejected opting for the least developed private sector," he revealed.

He said after years of Mkindi's leadership at Taha, he now understands



Taha Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline David Mkindi, moments after receiving a doctorate degree in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship from Africa Graduate University in Arusha last weekend. Photo courtesy of Taha.

why she took the calculated risk of joining the private sector and that now he feels proud of being part of experts who nurtured her.

"This conferment of a doctorate is confirmation of how women can spearhead development in any sector including agriculture," he added.

Taha Group's board of directors' chairman, Engineer Zebadia Moshi also praised his CEO saying she indeed deserved the accolade.

"Through Taha Group, Dr Mkindi took a huge responsibility on her shoulders to nurture horticulture from scratch to the level of being the giant economic industry now it is with contribution of about 43 percent of overall agriculture exports value per annum," Eng Moshi stated.

The latest award affirmed that Dr Mkindi who is a graduate of Sokoine University of Agriculture

in Morogoro and a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), is regular dominant figure in the rapidly growing agribusiness subsector in the country.

The Taha Group CEO is also a recipient of Tanzanian Women Achievement Award (TWA) in 2014 when she was named as the greatest achiever in Agriculture Category

and thereafter added Clouds Media Group's 'Malkia wa Nguvu' Award in 2017 as the most influential woman for the year.

Dr Mkindi was elected Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT) chairperson earlier this year when she vowed to enable the country get a lion's share of US\$1 trillion worth of Africa's food and agribusiness market by 2030.

Uganda plans to borrow nearly \$2 bln to fund 2020/21 budget

KAMPALA

Uganda said it plans to borrow 6.9 trillion shillings (\$1.89 billion) from external lenders in the 2020/2021 (July-June) fiscal year to partly finance its budget, which could come under pressure as veteran leader Yoweri Museveni seeks re-election.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni attends a meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi, Russia October 23, 2019.

A finance ministry budget paper seen by Reuters on Monday showed the funds will be in "form of concessional and non-concessional" credit.

The paper did not indicate how much was borrowed in the previous financial year. It also did not indicate from whom the money would be borrowed, but in recent years China has become one of Uganda's top external lenders.

Museveni, in power since 1986, is widely expected to seek re-election early in 2021. He is expected to face a formidable challenge from pop star-turned-lawmaker Bobi Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi.

Public spending typically surges in election periods in Uganda, which has sometimes triggered pressure on consumer prices and the local currency.

The paper said economic growth in 2020/2021 would be 6.2%, driven by higher productivity in manufacturing and agriculture and "public and private sector investment as well as regional and domestic trade."

Uganda's mounting public debt has been fuelling concern. The International Monetary Fund has urged authorities to rein in borrowing.

Some opposition critics have also accused government of front-loading debt before an expected windfall from oil sales. Uganda hopes to commence crude oil production in 2022.

This month, the government said it was planning to borrow 600 million euros (\$661 million) from international banks to plug a hole in its 2019/2020 budget after domestic revenue collections fell short by 9%.

The shortfall was caused by delays in implementing some planned tax-generating measures, according to the finance ministry.

Minister: How we embarked on new initiatives to attract more tourists in 2019



Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Hamis Kigwangalla addresses the National Assembly in Dodoma recently. File photo.

By Francis Kajubi

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism had in this year eyed on new initiatives and diverse opportunities that it can possibly explore to attract more foreign tourists to the country's unique destinations.

Among tourism angles that the ministry decided to embark on in this year are cruise ship where it sees a huge potential, beach tourism as well as conference tourism that it is dedicated at making good use of them.

Speaking at the three-day Swahili International Tourism Expo 2019 (SITE) that brought together 600 tourism stakeholders across the world that took place in Dar es Salaam mid-October, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamis Kigwangalla, said introduction of new national parks, reserved areas and games should be go abreast with new visions to attract more tourists to Tanzania.

The Burigi-Chato National park was inaugurated in early July as the ministry's initiative to promote the former Burigi, Biharamulo Kimisi (BBK) game reserves with promotion of other game reserves namely Rumanyika-Karagwe and Ibanda-Kyerwa.

"Promotion of these game reserves makes a total of 19 national parks in Tanzania mainland. The Burigi national park will now stand as the third biggest park behind Serengeti and Ruaha." Said the Minister.

Recent statistics released by the ministry show that the number of tourists entering the country increased from 1.3 million in 2017 to 1.5 million in 2018 whereby tourist activities generated USD2.4 billion which is an increase of 72 per cent from USD2.3 billion earned in 2017.

According to the minister, the global growth of tourism last year stood at an average of 6 per cent but for Tanzania the sector grew at 13 per cent. The sector

leads in attracting foreign currency had contributed 17.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

"Tourism is a sector that have employed many Tanzania formally and informally. It is the governments and every stakeholder and citizens to play their part in making sure that the sector prospers;

I thank the private sector for its fully participation in the growth of the sector for its its big investment in hospitality" said Kigwangalla.

He said initiatives and commitments that the government has entered with development partners such as the REGROW project for the Southern Highlands regions with the World Bank are meant at strengthening the sector.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Chairman, Judge (rt) Thomas Mihayo told this paper that the board has strengthened ties with China as an initiative to attract Chinese tourists to

the country that he believes will contribute to boosting the number of tourists to achieve the intended goal of 2 million tourists by 2020.

The TTB boss said Tanzania will host more than 500 tourists from Hangzhou city in China who will visit the country by late February and early March next year.

He asserted that the ministry had already interfered an agreement earlier this year with TOUCHROAD international Holdings Group from China for flying tourists from Hangzhou city of Zhejiang Province in East China to Tanzania and had already flew 300 tourists from Hangzhou in May this year.

"The first route to Hangzhou will be on 24th February 2020 with Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that is currently flying to Mumbai. The second flight will departure Dar es Salaam on 2nd March 2020 and will return the following day. We are expecting 262 tourist from each route

that will make a total of 524 tourists visiting Tanzania" said Mihayo.

On his part, the Zanzibar Minister of Information, Tourism and Ancient Property Mahmoud Thabit Kombo told Smart Money that Zanzibar had already met the target set for attracting 500,000 tourists to the island by attracting 528,000 as the end of last year.

"We hope that by the end of next year we will be able to attract 700,000 tourists. From every 100 tourists visiting Tanzania, 28 out of them visits Zanzibar during their last three days of touring Tanzania. The growth of tourism sector for the mainland mean growth for the sector in Zanziba" said Kombo.

He said 30 per cent of Zanzibar's GDP come from tourism sector and contributes above 80 per cent of foreign direct investments. He said the sector contributed USD476million in 2018 to the GDP.

World stocks hold onto gains, dollar under pressure



The German share price index DAX graph is pictured at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany. File Photo

LONDON

World stocks clung to recent gains on Monday following healthy advances in Asia on hopes for a U.S.-China trade deal, a more optimistic growth outlook and a softer dollar, while the euro climbed to a 4-1/2 month high.

Yet European stock markets failed to follow the lead and took a breather following last week's record highs.

The pan-regional Euro Stoxx 600 STOXX was down 0.3% while Germany's DAX .GDAXI slipped 0.5%. Banks .SX7P, which had been lagging the 2019 rally, were the only sector to mark small gains in thin year-end trading.

"Investors appear to be growing a tad apprehensive about chasing the record setting U.S. equity market risk-reward premise into year-end," Stephen Innes at AxiTrader wrote in a note to clients. "Much focus continues to fall on the abundance of liquidity offered up by the Fed as a critical driver

behind the late-season equity market window dressing."

Many Asian bourses had marked healthy gains with Chinese blue chips .CSI300 roaring 1.5% higher, bolstered by a report that 2019 retail sales are forecast to rise 8% and expectations that a new benchmark for floating-rate loans could lower borrowing costs and boost flagging economic growth.

Yet Japan's Nikkei stock index .N225 finished its last trading day of the year down 0.76%. The index gained 18.2% in 2019 after dropping 12.8% last year.

Easing trade war worries have offered a lift to global equities this month, putting MSCI's global equity index .MIWD000000PUS on track for a 3.8% rise in December - its fourth straight month of gains.

U.S. futures ES1 NQ1 YM1 also pointed to a higher open after the S&P 500 .SPX and the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI closed at records on Friday.

In currency markets, the dollar index - measuring the currency against a basket of rivals - weakened 0.1% to 96.793 .DXY in its

third straight session in the red. Thin end-of-year volumes exacerbated the broad weakness in the greenback which on Friday suffered its biggest one-day fall since June.

"The U.S. dollar is the worst performing G10 currency overnight," said MUFG's Fritz Louw. "The main drivers of the weaker dollar have likely been risk appetite holding up in the wake of comments from the U.S. Federal Reserve's continued repo operations."

The weak greenback helped other currencies shine. The euro climbed as high as \$1.1211 its strongest level since mid-August. Sterling also benefited, rising 0.2% to \$1.3122 GBP against the dollar. Yet the pound was flat against the euro at 85.38 pence amid concerns that Britain could be headed for a disruptive "hard Brexit" at the end of 2020.

China's yuan held below the key level of 7 per dollar, rising in offshore markets to 6.9752 CNH its highest since Dec. 13.

In fixed income markets, rising risk appetite saw euro zone bond yields rise across the board, with most 10-year bond yields two basis points higher on the day. Germany's Bund yield stood at -0.23% DE10YT-RR, heading back toward recent six-month highs.

The softer dollar also lifted commodity markets with gold XAU= hitting a two month peak.

Oil prices held near three-month highs with traders also keeping a close watch on the Middle East following U.S. air strikes in Iraq and Syria against Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militia group. U.S. officials said on Sunday that the attacks were successful, but warned "additional actions" may be taken to defend U.S. interests.

Global benchmark Brent crude LCO1 traded at \$68.33 a barrel and U.S. West Texas Intermediate CL1 stood at \$61.74.

Oil prices were also supported by a bigger-than-expected decline in crude inventories in the United States, the world's biggest fuel consumer.

British digital bank Monzo closes in on new fundraising round

LONDON

British digital bank Monzo is close to raising between 50 to 100 million pounds (\$65.58-\$131.16 million) within weeks to help fund its rapid growth, a source close to the company confirmed on Monday.

Talks have involved existing and new investors, the person said, and could be followed by a potentially larger 'Series G' fundraising next year.

The funds would be an extension to a 113 million pound capital raise in June this year, which valued the company at just over 2 billion pounds and was backed by investors including Silicon Valley venture fund Y Combinator.

The imminent fundraising was first reported by the Mail on Sunday.

Monzo, founded in 2015 by entrepreneur Tom Blomfield, has amassed more than 3.5 million customers by offering user-friendly online current accounts and mobile money management tools.

The lender - which made a loss of 33.1 million pounds last year - launched in the United States in June.

During June 2018, Monzo gained significant public interest after fraud analysts with the bank spotted signs of and publicly announced a Ticketmaster data

breach in April 2018, before Ticketmaster had spotted the breach themselves, and two months before Ticketmaster admitted the breach had occurred.

On 25 June 2018, Monzo announced their team up with TransferWise to provide international money transfers from within their Monzo app. Existing TransferWise customer can connect their account to use along Monzo app. It was later announced in November 2018 that interest would be paid on savings (in 'Savings Pots' above £1,000

In October 2018, Monzo reached one million customers, and was also named the best tech startup.

On 21 November 2018, Monzo added the functionality for users to pay cash into their Monzo accounts using PayPoint, charging users £1 for each deposit.

On 28 January 2019, Monzo announced a partnership with Flux to add itemised receipts and loyalty points. In addition to this, the API to create receipts was published by Monzo.

In August 2019, the company announced that it had inadvertently logged 480,000 customer personal identification numbers, making them accessible to Monzo's internal team of engineers.

France's Voltalia to invest \$247 million in new Brazilian plants: paper

SAO PAULO

French Energy Company Voltalia SA (VLTA.PA) plans to invest 1 billion reais (\$247.24 million) in Brazil to build new wind farms, solar and hydroelectric plants over the next few years, its Chief Executive Robert Klein told local newspaper Valor Econômico in an interview published on Monday.

The investment planned will lift Voltalia's installed capacity in Brazil to 1 gigawatt (GW) compared to 483 megawatts (MW) currently, the media outlet reported.

Klein added Brazil will continue to be the group's main global operation, representing more than half of its installed capacity by 2023.

I am thrilled to announce that this new 90-megawatt contract lays the foundation of our new cluster of wind farms in Brazil. We are replicating in the State of Bahia some key competitive advantages of our Serra Branca cluster in Rio Grande do Norte, including excellent wind regime and economies

The new cluster shows the ability of Voltalia to replicate the business model implemented in the 2.4GW cluster of Serra Branca. This strategy consists of developing a large and competitive group of projects on the same site, with

the aim of retaining some projects and selling others, with all projects benefiting from economies of scale.

The company will bring values in Canudos in several ways: producing renewable energy at a competitive price building the relevant connection facilities, employ in globally human resources, and impacting positively the different communities.

The value creation arises from Voltalia's mission to improve global environment and foster local development.

Founded in 2005, Voltalia is a power producer and service provider in renewable electricity production from solar, wind, hydro and biomass energies (combining storage solutions).

As an integrated company, Voltalia has developed a strong expertise throughout the value chain of a renewable project: project development, project financing, EPC and operation & maintenance.

The Group is active in 20 countries and is able to offer services to its clients worldwide.

As of December 31, 2018, Voltalia has developed and sold more than 1.8 GW and built more than 1.3 GW. It operates more than 1 GW and owns more than 0.5 GW of consolidated installed capacity.

Tesla delivers first China-made Model 3 sedans in just under a year



Staff members witness the China-made Tesla Model 3 vehicle at the Shanghai Gigafactory of the U.S. electric car maker in Shanghai, China. File photo

SHANGHAI

THE U.S. electric vehicle maker marked the start with an event on Monday where 15 Tesla employees received cars they had purchased, one of whom took the opportu-

nity to propose marriage to his girlfriend after getting his new set of wheels.

The China-made Model 3 sedans are priced at 355,800 yuan (\$50,000) before subsidies. Imported Model 3 vehicles start at

439,000 yuan for the longer-range version, while the standard range plus model costs under \$40,000 in the United States.

The Shanghai plant, up and running in just 357 days, is part of Tesla's plans to bolster its presence

in the world's biggest car market and minimize the impact of the U.S.-China trade war.

The automaker, which previously imported all the cars it sold in China, had said it wanted to start deliveries from the Shanghai plant

before the Lunar New Year beginning on January.

"From now onwards China-made Model 3 vehicles will start running on China's large streets and small lanes," Tesla Vice President Tao Lin said at the delivery ceremony which was attended by employees and Shanghai government officials.

China General Manager for the Silicon Valley carmaker Wang Hao said Tesla plans to ramp up Model 3 deliveries in January.

The Chinese government has been supportive of the factory, the first wholly foreign-owned car plant and a reflection of Beijing's

broader shift to open up its auto market.

Tesla has taken a different approach to the Chinese market, the world's biggest for electric vehicles with 1.3 million new-energy vehicles sold last year, as is evident from its marketing blitz in the country that is quite unlike anywhere else.

The company and its flamboyant billionaire CEO Elon Musk openly disdain marketing, but in China Tesla has offered racing events and showroom parties.

It is also building service centers and charging stations across China to assure customers of standardized

after-sales service, Tesla's senior executives said, confirming a Reuters report on the plans published last month.

The car maker will double the number of service centers and fast charging stations in China next year, and plans to more than double its after-sales workforce to 1,500 from about 600 currently, the executives added.

Wang also told reporters the plant had achieved a production target of 1,000 units a week, or around 280 cars a day, and that sales for the China-made sedan had so far been "very good".

2019 IN REVIEW

How bankers empowered women entrepreneurs with business start-ups capital in year 2019

By Francis Kajubi

Commercial banks CEOs in Tanzania have pledged to promote gender diversity in their leadership framework alongside implementing new initiatives to financially empower Tanzanian women who are involved in entrepreneurship and self-employment.

In October five large commercial banks, namely CRDB Bank Plc, NMB Bank Plc, TPB Bank Plc, National Bank of Commerce and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania signed a special pact with International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group to work together in making sure that they bring equality in the sector by making women hold executive positions and access to finance.

Through the Finance2Equal program, banks and other financial institutions signed agreement with IFC to reduce gender gaps across leadership, workforce and access to products and services.

Speaking with the banks' Chief Executive Officers on the implementation of the 18 months Finance2Equal program, held in Dar es Salaam in October, Frank Ajilore, IFC's Resident Representative for Tanzania and Burundi, said that for companies and economies to grow, gaps between men and women must be bridged in the private sector.

"An estimated 7 million women own micro, small and medium enterprises but there is US\$40 billion finance gap for women owned businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Tanzania, this gap stands at US\$16million for women-owned MS-MEs" said Ajilore.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, CEO and Managing Director, CRDB Bank said the bank have invested much in strengthening women's equality in the bank's leadership frame and the workforce in general whereby more than 30 per cent of the bank's high administrative positions are held by women.

"In case of empowering women entrepreneurs, we have a special program called Women Access to Finance (WAFI) that is dedicated to offering financial knowledge and support. About 300,000 women have accounts at CRDB in which they have deposited over 700bn/-" said Nsekela.

According to him, despite striving for financial aids, women are facing a security challenge in securing funds. He said in overcoming the security is-



Abdulmajid Nsekela, CEO and Managing Director, CRDB Bank

sue, CRDB is working with different partners such as Danida the Denmark's development cooperation, and have been able to compromise the security issue. The bank is also working with TCCIA in a marketing initiatives of the same group.

"Most of unbendable people particularly women are worried of the cost of loans that lies in interests, fees and charges. We at CRDB have a segmented product called Financial Tool Kit Package where they can access funds without fees and charges" he added.

NBC Bank Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, said that the bank had 30 per cent of women in its high leadership positions and is working with MS-MEs through the supply chain finance model.

"We have so far remitted 3bn/- for the same purpose. This year alone we have trained about 6,500 young people mostly ladies in entrepreneurship knowledge and skills through the Wajibu program and are all certified" said Sabi.

TPB Bank Plc CEO Sabasaba Moshingi, said that 35 per cent of senior managers at the bank are women.

"Women are doing better when it comes to repaying their loans. According to IFC, 4.6 per cent of non-performing loans are for women but 7.8 lies to men defaulters, we really need to support women" said Moshingi.

On his part, Sanjay Rughani, CEO

Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania, said gender balance and diversity inclusion facilitates business that bring a big return on investment. He said 50 per cent of the bank's high positioned leaders are women.

According to the World Bank report for the cost of gender inequality released in May 2018, globally, women account for only 38 percent of human capital wealth versus 62 percent for men. In low- and lower-middle income countries, women account for a third or less of human capital wealth.

On a per capita basis, gender inequality in earnings could lead to losses in wealth of US\$23,620 per person globally. These losses differ between regions and countries because levels of human capital wealth. Said differently, human capital wealth could increase by 21.7 percent globally, and total wealth by 14.0 percent with gender equality in earnings. Across the world, countries are losing US\$160 trillion in wealth because of differences in lifetime earnings between women and men.

But the UN Women states that gender wage gap is estimated to be 23 per cent. This means that women earn 77 per cent of what men earn, though these figures understate the real extent of gender pay gaps, particularly in developing countries where informal self-employment is prevalent.

Rand strength seems 'somewhat divorced' from actual SA sentiment – economist

JOHANNESBURG

The current strength of the rand appears to be "somewhat divorced" from actual sentiment around the South African economy, emerging markets economist Peter Attard Montalto of Intellidex told Fin24 on Saturday.

The rand closed at R14.1307 on Friday. About 10 days ago, the rand broke below R14.30/\$, translating to its strongest performance in four months, according to analysts

In Montalto's view, investors are just looking to South Africa's "rising carry in a falling carry world". According to Investopedia, a currency carry trade is a strategy whereby a high-yielding currency funds the trade with a low-yielding currency, attempting to capture the difference between the rates, which can often be substantial.

Montalto thinks investors also seem to have some residual hope of "a bounce" in South African equity markets "that seems to be more about valuation than growth itself".

Adam Phillips, a treasury specialist at Umkhulu Treasury, told Fin24 on Saturday that, early in December the rand was hit on the back of Eskom's woes.

He points out that, however, possibly the most important issue dominating markets throughout the year was



South Africa's rand strength regain mean a lot to consumers' pockets. File photo

whether the US and China could come to some sort of trade agreement.

"With the agreed phase one document (of the trade agreement) coming out soon, the rand has benefitted like other emerging market currencies. The hunt for yield and lack of import interest has also helped," explained Phillips.

Sanisha Packirisamy, economist at Momentum Investments, is also of the view that the recent rand strength can be attributed to the recent reprieve in the trade war between the US and China.

"The US administration delayed the imposition of 15 per cent duties on US\$156 billion worth of Chinese imported goods. This has increased risk appetite towards emerging markets,"

she told Fin24.

"On a month to date basis, the biggest emerging market currency appreciations against the US dollar have been in the Chilean peso (8.5per cent), Colombian peso (6.5per cent), Brazilian real (4.7per cent) and the rand (4.6per cent)."

It was reported earlier on Saturday that South Africa's trade surplus widened in November as the value of imports of equipment components and chemical products decreased.

Phillips cautioned that the rand's fate could, however, change in February or March after the announcement of the National Budget by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni. Trump Administration a headache.



One of mining sites in South Africa. File photo

Ferrochrome prices continue to fall

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICA'S ferrochrome industry is poised for a shaky start to 2020, as the price of the mineral continues to fall while the reliability of the country's electricity supply remains uncertain.

Ferrochrome is a mineral that is mostly used to produce stainless steel and specialty steels. SA is the dominant player in the global industry, accounting for about 72 per cent of the world's chrome reserves.

According to Merafe Resources, the industry employs about 200 000 people in SA, directly and indirectly through linked industries.

On Monday Merafe, which holds a 20.5 per cent interest in the Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture that operates several ferrochrome plants, said the European benchmark ferrochrome price will decrease by 1% in the first quarter of 2020 to \$1.01 a pound. In the fourth quarter of 2019, price of ferrochrome stood at \$1.02 per pound.

While the new settled price only reflects a 1 US cent decrease, it is now at 2016 lows. In 2019, the European benchmark ferrochrome price declined by 17.8per cent. The fall was largely driven by weak global demand for stainless steel.

The weak demand was partly responsible for the 29 per cent

decrease in ferrochrome production by the Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture for the third quarter of 2019, the last production update published by the company.

The compounded effect of price decreases will probably be a secondary concern for SA ferrochrome producers, after Eskom announced on Sunday and again on Monday that the country's electricity system remains "constrained and vulnerable" with breakdowns above 13 000MW, more than a quarter of SA's nominal capacity.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in mid-December, only gave a commitment that there would be no load shedding between December 17 and January 15, 2020. This means that from mid-January onwards the possibility of blackouts remains.

Merafe was among mining companies that expressed concern about the return of load shedding early in December. It said that coupled with a challenging economic environment, load shedding was expected to have a negative impact on the future economic viability of some of its operations "and the wider ferroalloys sector."

South Africa has been hit by massive power cuts as heavy rains flood power stations and disrupt coal-fired electricity generation.

The state-owned utility Eskom

had already made it clear that it could only meet 80 per cent of the country's energy demand and called for a "concerted collective effort" after about a quarter of its generation capacity failed.

The failure to provide adequate power for what has long been seen as Africa's most developed economy will underline the huge challenges faced by the president, Cyril Ramaphosa, as he attempts to turn round flagging growth rates and bring in much-needed reforms.

South Africa is struggling with soaring unemployment, high rates of violent crime and patchy delivery of basic services. Many blame incompetence and graft under the previous president, Jacob Zuma. Power cuts earlier this year pushed the country close to recession.

Environmentalists and experts have criticised a new energy plan which maintained a central role for coal-fired power generation.

Executives have blamed a failure to maintain the power infrastructure. Two massive new coal power stations have been crippled by a series of technical problems.

The utility owes about 450bn rand (£23bn) and has been described as "the biggest challenge facing the country" by analysts.

Read carefully before you sign on the dotted line - Wesbank

PRETORIA

The excitement of buying a car, combined with perhaps being presented with information one is unfamiliar with, can sometimes cause consumers to overlook the finer details of what they are actually buying, says Lebogang Gaoaksetse, communications, social media and PR manager at WesBank.

This is especially with regard to additional products, also known as value-added products.

"It is important to be as informed as possible, and to be alert to potential dishonest behaviour by dealers who might want to take advantage of your inexperience and lack of knowledge by selling you products you don't want, need or understand," cautions Gaoaksetse.

"In some instances, dealers might try to add these into your deal without you realising, or even understanding what they are, so be aware and do not be afraid to ask the relevant questions."

In the case of a new or pre-owned vehicle purchased through a reputable dealer, consumers are likely to be offered a motor plan, service plan

or an extended warranty as part of the purchase agreement.

These are insurance-related products and are aimed at protecting you from unforeseen costs down the line such as a vehicle breaking down.

Additional products that may be offered to someone purchasing a vehicle can range from a tyre warranty to cover you against pothole damage to scratch and dent cover. These may vary among dealers and finance institutions.

Other than comprehensive vehicle insurance, these products are not compulsory.

Gaoaksetse suggests carefully going through the terms and conditions of any additional products with the finance agent before signing on the "dotted line" This is to avoid any surprises later on.

"Check that any products or services that get offered to you by the dealer, or a bank, are from reputable organisations and are market related with regard to price, benefits and the relevant terms and conditions," says Gaoaksetse.

"As a vehicle owner or driver, you

WORLD

President Trump faces blowback for outing the alleged whistle-blower

By Bloomberg

US President Donald Trump faces criticism from political opponents -- and queasiness even among some supporters -- for naming the alleged whistle-blower whose complaint triggered the congressional inquiry that resulted in his impeachment.

A retweet late Friday to Trump's 68 million Twitter followers identified a person it says is the whistle-blower. That could run afoul of two laws, said David Colapinto, a lawyer who represents whistle-blowers at law firm Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto LLP in Washington.

"The president has a responsibility under the whistle-blower statute to ensure protection of the intelligence community" officials who report alleged wrongdoing, Colapinto said Sunday. Trump's act was "willful violation of the law."

Colapinto's colleague, attorney Stephen Kohn, wrote in the National Law Review on Friday that when Trump

"signed onto the job of president, protecting intelligence community whistle-blowers became one of his few mandatory job duties."

Trump has for months demanded the whistle-blower be identified and testify. Republicans in the House and Senate -- which may hold an impeachment trial as soon as next month -- also have demanded testimony from the whistle-blower, a step that could pose legal and ethical issues.

Senator John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican and backer of Trump, said when asked in a CNN interview if he thinks it's appropriate for the president to publicly identify the alleged whistle-blower, "I think we ought to follow the law."

Fewer Tweets

Kennedy didn't specifically denounce the president's tweet, though he said Trump might consider spending less time posting on the social media website. "I have suggested before



US President Donald Trump

to the White House that, if the president would tweet a little bit less, it wouldn't cause brain damage," Kennedy said on CNN's "State of the Union." "But the president does not have to take my advice, nor do I expect him to."

Trump's Twitter move, while a retweet and not an original message, could potentially run afoul of two sets of laws, one protecting whistle-blowers in the intelligence community and another portion of the criminal code that protects confidential informants from retaliation.

"No responsible government official or lawyer in the US could credibly argue that someone who brings a complaint to the inspector general is not protected by the statute," Colapinto said. That protection includes remaining anonymous, as well as being shielded from retaliation, he said.

The tweet -- from @Surfermom77 or "Sophia," who describes herself as living in California and a "100% Trump supporter" -- names someone who's allegedly the person who alerted the intelligence community's Inspector General to the president's conduct in his July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Legitimacy Questioned

Trump has been edging toward identifying the whistle-blower. He's previously questioned the person's legitimacy and legal standing, called on media organizations to publish the person's name -- as some conservative outlets have -- and even demanded to meet the whistle-blower himself. His late-Friday tweet was regarded as a provocation even by some officials within the White House, and appeared intended to create a public furor.

The president claims the whistle-blower, working with Democrats, misrepresented his "perfect" conversation with Ukraine's leader. But the main facts listed in the complaint were confirmed in the partial transcript of the call later released by the White House.

"By making public the unsubstantiated name of the whistle-blower Trump encapsulated the pathology of his presidency -- a callous and cruel disregard for the well-being of anyone one or anything untethered from his own personal needs and interests," tweeted Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow focusing on foreign policy at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a former State Department analyst.

Representative Steve Scalise, the No 2 Republican in the House, defended Trump's naming of, and regular attacks on, the informant. He said on "Fox News Sunday" that he doesn't believe the whistle-blower deserves that title because he or she was able to submit the complaint anonymously relying on "innuendo" and "false statements."

'Ought to Know'

"A lot of that should come out," Scalise said. "The public ought to know."

Trump has tweeted at a furious pace as the impeachment investigation unfolded, averaging more than 50 postings a day over the two weeks that saw the House Judiciary Committee approving articles of impeachment and the full chamber voting to impeach him, according to an analysis by NPR.

Agencies

DPRK ruling party meeting calls for decisive turn in economy

PYONGYANG / WASHINGTON

The ruling party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) emphasized the need to straighten economic work system and order at a plenary meeting of the central committee, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday.

At the second-day session of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) on Sunday, DPRK top leader Kim Jong-un analyzed the problems arising in the overall state building, including state management and economic construction.

Kim put forward in detail the orientation of the struggle for bringing about a decisive turn in the development of the country's economy and people's standard of living, accord-

ing to the report.

Kim "presented the tasks for urgently correcting the grave situation of the major industrial sectors of the national economy," it added.

He also emphasized the need "to take positive and offensive measures for fully ensuring the sovereignty and security of the country as required by the present situation," the KCNA said.

According to the report, Kim also stressed the issues of intensively struggling against anti-socialism and non-socialism, strengthening the work of the working people's organizations and tightening the moral discipline throughout society.

The KCNA said the plenary meeting "goes on," suggesting it will be a multiple-day meeting.

The plenary meeting came a week after a meeting of the WPK's Central



Military Commission that discussed "important organizational and political measures and military steps to bolster" the armed forces.

White House: US to take action if DPRK chooses another approach

The United States would demonstrate disappointment and take

action if the DPRK takes another approach over the nuclear issue, a senior aide to US President Donald Trump said on Sunday.

In an interview with ABC News, Trump's national security adviser Robert O'Brien warned of "additional pressure" on the DPRK while refusing to speculate on future developments on the issue.

The DPRK had set its deadline for the denuclearization negotiations at the end of this year, and it also carried out two "important tests" at its Sohae Satellite Launching Ground earlier this month.

The denuclearization negotiation between Washington and Pyongyang has lost momentum since the impasse of the Hanoi Summit in late February and unproductive working-level talks in Stockholm in October.

Agencies

Trump aides call US strikes on Iraq and Syria 'successful'

WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD

US officials said on Sunday that air strikes in Iraq and Syria against an Iran-backed militia group were successful, but warned that "additional actions" may still be taken in the region to defend US interests.

The US military carried out the strikes on Sunday against the Kataib Hezbollah militia group in response to the killing of a US civilian contractor in a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base, officials said.

US President Donald Trump was briefed by his top national security advisers following the strikes at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

"We will not stand for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take actions that put American men and women in jeopardy,"

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters after the briefing with Trump.

Pompeo (pictured), Defense Secretary Mark Esper and General Mark Milley, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared briefly in a club ballroom to comment on the airstrikes.

Esper termed the offensive "successful," but said that Trump was informed that a further military response could be warranted.

"We discussed with him other options that are available," Esper said. "I would note also that we will take additional actions as necessary to ensure that we act in our own self-defense and we deter further bad behavior from militia groups or from Iran." Iraqi security and militia sources said at least 25 militia fighters were killed and at least 55 wounded fol-



lowing three US air strikes in Iraq on Sunday. At least four local Kataib Hezbollah commanders were among the dead, the sources said, adding that one of the strikes had targeted the militia group's headquarters near the western Qaim district on the border with Syria.

The Pentagon said it had targeted three locations of the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militia group in Iraq and

two in Syria. The locations included weapons storage facilities and command and control locations the group had used to plan and execute attacks on coalition forces, it said.

A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the strikes were carried out by F-15 fighter jets.

The United States had accused Kataib Hezbollah of carrying out a strike involving more than 30 rockets on Friday which killed the US civilian contractor and injured four US service members and two members of the Iraqi Security Forces near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

"In response to repeated Kataib Hezbollah attacks on Iraqi bases that host Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) coalition forces, US forces have conducted precision defensive strikes ... that will degrade KH's ability to conduct future attacks against OIR coalition forces" chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Pompeo blamed Iranian-backed forces for a series of attacks on bases in Iraq and warned Iran that any attacks by Tehran or proxies that harmed Americans or allies would be "answered with a decisive US response."

Cyprus court rules 'gang raped' Briton guilty of lying

PARALIMNI

A Cyprus court yesterday found a British woman guilty of lying about being gang raped by Israeli youths six months ago.

In a case closely followed by rights groups, a district court in the town of Paralimni ruled the woman, aged 19 at the time, had lied about being sexually abused by 12 Israeli teenagers.

The woman was arrested after police said she withdrew an accusation that the Israeli teenagers raped her in a hotel room at the holiday resort of Ayia Napa in mid-July. She had faced charges of public mischief.

The woman has said she recanted her accusation under duress from police during persistent questioning without a lawyer present. Prosecutors and the court dismissed that claim.

"My conclusion is that the guilt of the accused has been proven beyond reasonable doubt," the presiding judge said in his verdict, describing her claims as inconsistent and adding that she had attempted to mislead the court.

The Israelis, who denied any accusation of rape, were released 10 days after their arrest without charge and on the day the woman gave her retracting statement.

The individuals she had accused of assaulting her were not summoned to court because prosecutors considered it a case of public mischief and not rape.

In testimony in open court, the defendant said she was in a hotel room with one of the Israeli youths with whom she had a relationship before others appeared and she was pinned down.

One defense witness, Marios Matsakis, a forensic pathologist who formerly worked for the state, said the woman's injuries were consistent with rape. Prosecutors say she fabricated the allegation, angry at being filmed during sex.

The incident was reported as having occurred in the coastal resort of Ayia Napa, some 8 km from Paralimni and popular with young people.



This photo taken on Nov 28, 2019 shows a British teenager (right), accused of falsely claiming she was gang raped by Israeli tourists, covering her face as she arrives for her trial at the Famagusta District Court in Paralimni in eastern Cyprus. (AFP)

Abbas says no election unless Palestinians vote in East Jerusalem

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas insisted on Sunday that there will be no general Palestinian election unless Israel allows Palestinians to vote in the heart of East Jerusalem.

Abbas (pictured) made the remarks during his Fatah Movement's Advisory Council meeting, held at the Palestinian Presidency Headquarters in Ramallah, according to the Palestinian News Agency (WAEA).

"We won't hold any elections without having Jerusalem as part of it," said Abbas, adding, "Any resident of Jerusalem must go to vote in the heart of East Jerusalem." Abbas' insistence on holding election in East Jerusalem is actually a challenge to US President Donald Trump's declaration at the end of 2017 that Jerusalem would be the capital of Israel.

Abbas declines to issue a presidential decree on setting dates for holding legislative and presidential elections in the Palestinian territories before getting Israel's approval to include East Jerusalem in the voting. Israeli media earlier reported that the Israeli government ignored the Palestinian Authority's request.

Xinhua



UK Labour's Long Bailey mulls bid for party leadership

By Bloomberg

REBECCA Long Bailey, the front-runner to succeed Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader, said the UK's main opposition party should be a champion for "progressive patriotism" as it seeks to recover from its worst electoral performance in more than 80 years.

Laying out her vision for the party -- but stating only that she's considering a run for leader -- Long Bailey wrote in the Guardian newspaper that Labour's "compromise" position on Brexit was party to blame for the electoral rout this month, but said that lack of trust in Labour's program was also an issue among voters.

Labour's business spokeswoman also said she would back Angela

Rayner, the party's education spokeswoman, as deputy leader.

Though the formal succession process isn't expected to begin until January, with an election likely in March, the jostling for support is well under way.

Long Bailey, 40, is widely viewed as the current leadership's preferred choice, having stood in for Corbyn at Prime Minister's Questions in June. She also ticks many party members' boxes as a young and media-savvy woman from a northern constituency.

"We must rebuild trust, not only in our party but in the idea that change really is possible. This means we cannot return to the politics of the past," Long Bailey wrote in her Monday editorial, which retained some of the



core themes of Corbyn's tenure.

"Real wealth and power must be returned to the people of Britain, and their desire for control over their own lives and the future of their com-

munities must be at the heart of our agenda."

But the race to succeed Corbyn -- who said he will stand down after the catastrophic losses -- is exacerbating deep-rooted divisions in the party, and Long Bailey's intervention comes after former members of Parliament who lost seats this month demanded an "unflinching" review into why the leader's message had proved such a turnoff among voters.

'Anti-Western'

"We need to be honest about why our outgoing leadership's reflexive anti-Western world view was so unpopular, and address the reasons for that unpopularity," Labour politicians including Mary Creagh, Emma Reynolds

and Anna Turley -- all from former Labour strongholds that voted Conservative in the election this month -- wrote in a letter to the Observer newspaper on Sunday.

"Fundamental change at the top of our party is required."

Read more: Life After Corbyn? The Politicians Vying to Become Labour Leader

Corbyn's allies are also divided over whether Long Bailey has the broad appeal needed to win over the Labour membership, according to a report in the Sunday Times. The newspaper also said Ian Lavery, the party's pro-Brexit chairman, is considering running for the top job himself, which could split the Corbyn vote and boost the prospects of Brexit spokesman

Keir Starmer, who is significantly more pro-European than Corbyn's team.

Starmer has so far said only that he is "seriously considering" a bid for the leadership, though he has also set out his stall as a middle-ground candidate between the centrist leaning of former Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has urged a complete overhaul of the party, and the socialist views of Corbyn.

Starmer has also warned the party not to "oversteer" as a result of the election defeat, arguing that Labour should "build on" Corbyn's anti-austerity message and radical agenda.

Only Emily Thornberry, the foreign policy spokeswoman, and Corbyn loyalist Clive Lewis have officially declared their candidacies. **Agencies**



Timing right for trilateral cooperation

THE China-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit was held Tuesday in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Over the past decade or so, Northeast Asia has achieved rapid economic growth and trade among the three countries has continued to expand.

But during this period, acute problems emerged in bilateral ties, hampering trilateral cooperation and causing the summit to come to a standstill for some time.

This should be attributed to both internal and external reasons. The impact of the Korean Peninsula issue on China-Japan-South Korea cooperation has been discussed more often than not.

But the US factor has obviously exerted more influence. The US not only is a powerful gravity field, but also has levers that directly affect Northeast Asian affairs. Washington is capable of interfering in China-Japan-South Korea relations visibly or imperceptibly.

The majority of international politics scholars hold that the US is unwilling to see a close relationship between China, Japan and South Korea. The three Northeast Asian countries regard establishing a free trade zone as a significant goal for deepening cooperation.

But it is generally believed that before a free trade deal was reached between the US and Japan, Washington is reluctant to witness Beijing and Tokyo build such a relationship. The US would also be happy if a free trade agreement between the three Northeast Asian countries is put off.

The three countries happen to have some enmities that may deeply affect national sentiments. The US can thus take advantage of such enmities to increase the three's entanglements.

The US has its own national interests and there is no need to make any value assessments in this regard. But China, Japan and South Korea should be well aware of the geopolitical environment their trilateral cooperation faces and thus gain more initiatives.

All the three countries prioritised their relations with the US. This is a

realistic choice. However, strengthening China-Japan-South Korea cooperation will in fact help their ties with the US, as good trilateral cooperation will serve as a lever for each country to win more respect from the US. The legitimacy of their cooperation is enough to resist US pressure.

No essential clash of interests exists between the three Northeastern countries now, and many of their specific frictions have been amplified at the collective psychological level.

In fact, the three countries have already formed an interdependent benefit-based relationship. With their cooperation going on well, Northeast Asia can continue to stand out in global development.

China-Japan-South Korea cooperation is the key to setting the stage for signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

On the basis of RCEP, a higher level of free trade between the three countries will greatly consolidate the leading role of their cooperation in Asia's development.

The world is undergoing profound changes, and changes in the environment will have subtle effects on many countries' identities. Who am I? Who are my neighbors? What are my interests?

Answers to these questions will inevitably produce a new dimension due to the changing times. Chinese, Japanese and South Korean societies should never turn numb in facing these major issues.

During the Cold War era, the bipolar world shaped countries' interests and self-awareness.

The position of a country at that time seemed decisive. In the current globalized world, a country's path has become much more complicated.

Each country needs to be of a more independent mind, bear more responsibilities for its own destiny, explore more positive factors for its development from the geographical environment and global relations, and make the best of them.

Global Times

AU vows to step up efforts to stabilise Somalia despite attacks

MOGADISHU

The Africa Union condemned the terrorist attack which killed at least 79 people and injured 149 others in Mogadishu on Saturday and vowed to step up efforts to stabilize the Horn of Africa nation despite increased attacks.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission said the pan African body will not relent in the face of such heinous crimes against humanity, stressing that it will not be intimidated by cowardly acts of violence by terrorists who do not want a peaceful Somalia.

"Our support to the Federal Government of Somalia, and our mis-



sion in Somalia will maintain its resolve and commitment to see through its mandate and to fulfill the legitimate desire of the people of Somalia to live in freedom, peace and security," said Mahamat (pictured) in a statement issued by the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on Sunday.

A suicide bomber early Saturday detonated a car bomb at a busy checkpoint where several vehicles had lined up for security check in the outskirts of Mogadishu.

Among the lives lost were university students, women and children as well

as members of the Somali national security forces.

Mahamat said he was deeply shocked by the Saturday attack in Mogadishu in which dozens of innocent people who were going about their normal businesses were killed.

"Our hearts and thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those killed in this horrific attack. We commiserate with the Federal Government of Somalia. We pray for the speedy healing and recovery of the injured," he said.

"As has been their practice all along, the terrorists target innocent and defenseless Somali civilians, who continue to bear the brunt of this senseless bloodshed," said Mahamat. **Xinhua**



CPC leadership meeting stresses staying true to Party's founding mission

BEIJING

A MEETING convened by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has underlined efforts to always preserve the political character of Chinese Communists and keep forging ahead.

The two-day meeting of criticism and self-criticism, which ended Friday, stressed that members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee must take the lead in making "staying true to our founding mission" a lifelong task.

Xi Jinping (pictured), general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting and delivered an important speech.

The meeting began with reviewing a report on the implementation of the eight-point decision on improving conduct by the Political Bureau in 2019 and another report on addressing the practice of formalities for formalities' sake.

Afterward, Political Bureau members spoke one by one, examining themselves in aspects such as ideals and convictions, political integrity, sense of responsibility, and serving the people.

The meeting noted that it is a major political task for the entire Party to arm itself with Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and put it into practice.

The meeting stressed upholding Xi's position as the core of the CPC Central Committee and the whole Party, as well as the authority of the CPC Central Committee and its centralized, unified leadership, saying that it is the fundamental political guarantee for socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era to achieve continuous progress.

The meeting noted that the campaign of "staying true to our founding mission," being held at the right time as the People's Republic of China celebrated its 70th founding anniversary and the CPC is about to celebrate its centenary, produced significant results and were broadly endorsed by the people.

It pointed out that the fundamental reason behind the remarkable achievements of the CPC over the past nearly 100 years is that the Party always stays true to its original aspiration and founding mission, which is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation.

In his speech, Xi summarized the self-assessment remarks by members of the Political Bureau and demanded further efforts to implement the eight-point decision on improving conduct and address the practice of formalities for formalities' sake. Xi called on Party members to stick to their noble ideals and convictions, and urge Party officials to take the stance of the people and preserve their sense of mission. Noting that both China and the world are in the midst of profound and complex changes, Xi underscored the urgency to make greater efforts in institutional building of the state and capacity building for governance.

To make the institutions work, leading officials should set a good example, Xi stressed, adding that members of the Political Bureau must take the lead in resolutely upholding the authority and centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, implementing the systems of the Party and the country, and carrying out the major policies and decisions of the CPC Central Committee. **Xinhua**

Turkish military support for UN-backed Libyan govt around corner despite no official announcement

TRIPOLI

ALTHOUGH the UN-backed Libyan government has not officially announced its request for direct Turkish military intervention in Libya against the rival east-based army, media reports have confirmed this request which is expected to be revealed in the next few days.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that Turkey will introduce a bill to send troops to Libya as soon as the parliament resumes in response to the country's invitation.

"We go where we are invited. We don't go where we are not," Erdogan noted, referring to sending troops to support the UN-backed Libyan government.

"Now given that we have such an invitation, we'll accept it," he said. Also, the Turkish Defense Ministry announced on Friday that Turkey is fully prepared to deploy its armed forces in Libya as required.

"A request for Turkish military assistance in Libya to stop military threats of Haftar (the east-based army commander) to seize Tripoli is not necessarily in the form of a ground military presence," a senior official in the Libyan Foreign Ministry told Xinhua.

"There are several ways in which Turkey can assist the Government of National Accord in expelling Haftar's forces from southern Tripoli, the most important of which is providing advanced air defense systems to restrict the ability of foreign aircraft supporting his forces in the air, as well as pro-



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

viding advanced drones and specific weapons that enable the government forces to move from defense to offense and regain sites they lost to Haftar's forces," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Discussions with Ankara to reach an integrated formula for the military support have been going on for weeks, he added.

Omran Al-Najeh, a Libyan military expert, believes Tripoli does not need direct Turkish military intervention because it may be detrimental to its status as the sole legitimate government in Libya.

"The Government of National Accord is reluctant to announce request for direct Turkish military intervention.

No official, whether Prime Minister Fayez Serraj or Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha, has explicitly made the request. This reveals the depth of the

crisis and the pressure on the Government of National Accord," Al-Najeh told Xinhua. "Directly requesting Turkey to interfere in its favor will invite regional and international parties on the front line to explicitly support Haftar in completing the process for taking control of Tripoli," he explained.

In fact, the security cooperation deals signed between the UN-backed Libyan government and Turkey are equivalent to direct military intervention as they provide full military and logistical support for the UN-backed government, the Libyan expert said.

On Nov. 27, Turkey and the UN-backed Libyan government signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on security cooperation. One of the two MoUs is a maritime boundary deal that covers areas also claimed by Greece.

It was denounced by Greece, Egypt and Cyprus as a violation of international law. Iman Jalal, a Libyan university professor, describes the controversy triggered by Tripoli's request for Turkish military intervention as a way to know positions of international parties regarding a possible military move.

"Turkey has recently been making massive political moves, starting with the intention of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin early next year, along with the moves made by Erdogan to Tunisia and his desire to visit Algeria as well, in an attempt to achieve international and regional consensus regarding any expected military move in Libya," she told Xinhua. **Xinhua**

Over 30,000 forced to flee Australia's Gippsland Valley as bushfires rage

SYDNEY

OVER 30,000 people had been told to evacuate Australia's East Gippsland region before 9 a.m. local time on Monday, as soaring temperatures and high winds are expected to fan the flames of three enormous wildfires which have already burnt through 130,000 hectares of forest.

"Everyone in East Gippsland must leave the area today due to the fire danger," Victoria State's Country Fire Authority (CFA) posted to social media.

"Do not travel to this area. It is not possible to provide support and aid to all the visitors currently in the East Gippsland region."

A popular destination during the Christmas period for hikers, campers and families on holiday, the area in the

Gippsland Valley affected by bushfires is over 15,000 square kilometers.

"It's always a tough decision when you're asking a lot of people to leave an area," Andrew Crisp, the Commander of Emergency Management Victoria told the Seven Network.

"However it's based on the evidence. We have a forecast today that it is going to be hot, it's very, very dry and it's going to be very windy, so we have dangerous conditions and we don't want people to be in East Gippsland."

Expecting temperatures around 43 degrees Celsius and wind gusts of 35 kilometers per hour, Crisp said because conditions are going to radically deteriorate as the day goes on, it's now too late to leave.

"If you are not out by 9 o'clock, then you have to stay where you are because there is every chance the high-

ways could be cut off," he warned.

"We almost saw that yesterday afternoon. A fire fire at the Cann River, we saw that fire travel 26 kilometers overnight with a column that was punching 14,000 meters into the air, creating its own weather."

Known as a pyrocumulus cloud, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology explained the phenomenon of "fire clouds" can cause dry lightning which authorities fear may spread the blaze even further by igniting more bushland.

Over 550 forest firefighters have been dispatched in response to the emergency, along with 300 CFA volunteer firefighters.

There are also 70 planes and helicopters with water-bombing capabilities on standby for the emergency response efforts. **Xinhua**

New York governor condemns mass stabbing at rabbi's home as 'domestic terrorism'

NEW YORK

NEW YORK State Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Sunday that Saturday's mass stabbing at a rabbi's home in upstate New York was an act of domestic terrorism.

The governor made the remarks while visiting the scene in the small town of Monsey, some 30 miles (48 km) north of New York City with a large orthodox Jewish community. Dozens were celebrating the Jewish traditional festival of Hanukkah at the home of rabbi Chaim Rottenberg, when a man brandishing a machete walked in and stabbed and injured five people.

"This is terrorism, it is domestic terrorism," Cuomo said. "These are people who intend to create mass harm, mass violence, generate fear based on race, color, creed." The suspect, a local man from Greenwood Lake, New York, fled the site in a car after the stabbing. He was arrested two hours later in New York City's Manhattan.

On Sunday, he appeared in a New York court and was charged with five counts of attempted murder, local media reported.

New York and its surrounding areas have seen a surge of anti-Semitic incidents in recent days. In New York City, police presence has been stepped up in major Jewish neighborhoods following multiple suspected anti-semitic attacks over the past week. **Xinhua**

MOSCOW

THE outgoing 2019 was another year of confrontation between Russia and the United States in various regions and spheres, particularly in arms control, the Middle East, gas supplies to Europe, and Latin America.

Some chronic rifts grew even deeper this year, and there are no signs for quick reconciliation as the 2020 election is likely to heat up negative sentiment in the United States against Russia.

ARMS CONTROL

One prominent issue that testifies to their worsening ties in 2019 was the withdrawals of the United States and Russia from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, one of the cornerstones for

Russia, US continue confrontation in 2019

the arms control regime between the two military powers.

After the collapse of the INF Treaty, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) remains the last legal instrument that mutually limits the nuclear missile potential of the two countries and provides predictability in the field of arms control.

The bilateral New START is due to expire in February 2021, but Washington has yet to respond to Moscow's proposal to extend it, Russian President Vladimir Putin said earlier this month at his annual press conference.

Russia is ready to work on new arms control agreements but in the meantime will continue to

strengthen its nuclear forces to ensure adequate deterrence, Putin later told a meeting of senior defense officials.

MIDDLE EAST

In 2019, Russia delivered two batches of its most advanced S-400 air defense missile systems to Turkey, a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in defiance of strong U.S. opposition.

Russia offered to sell Turkey Su-35 fighters if Ankara wants them, after the United States kicked Turkey out of the F-35 jet program due to the S-400 purchase.

Following an October agreement, Russia and Turkey started joint patrols in northern Syria,

where Russia has permanently deployed helicopters to provide air coverage for the missions. Moscow also accused U.S. troops in Syria of looting oil facilities and deposits.

As for the Iran nuclear issue, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in November the U.S. policy of confrontation with Iran was destructive and short-sighted, and a possible collapse of the Iran nuclear deal would be the result of the unilateral illegitimate exit of the United States from the agreement.

GAS PIPELINE

Earlier this month, the U.S. Congress approved the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which includes sanc-

tions on the Nord Stream-2 pipeline that is designed to deliver 55 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas per year to European countries under the Baltic Sea.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the U.S. sanctions would not stop the construction of the Nord Stream-2 pipeline and the sanctions violated international law and were an example of unfair competition.

U.S. President Donald Trump has criticized the project, which, according to him, will increase Europe's dependence on Russia. Moscow has retorted that Trump's criticism was aimed at promoting sales of more expensive U.S. liquefied natural gas to Europe.

Putin told senior executives of German businesses in December that the Nord Stream-2 would make an additional contribution to meeting the energy demand of European countries and strengthen the energy security of the continent.

LATIN AMERICA

Russia this year kept close ties with Venezuelan and Cuban governments, which are thorns in the U.S. side.

Putin met with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in the Kremlin in September and reiterated support for him and the dialogue between Maduro's government and the opposition.

Putin said that Russia would

honor its obligations in carrying out the maintenance of Russian-made military equipment in Venezuela, supplying spare parts and creating service centers. Russia could invest around 1 billion U.S. dollars in mining projects in Venezuela.

As for Cuba, the other major target of U.S. sanctions in Latin America, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev visited the island country in October and Moscow hosted visiting Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel later in the month.

On Oct. 3 in Havana, Medvedev criticized the tightening of U.S. blockade against the island, which has been there for more than half a century and created a toxic atmosphere around cooperation with the island and scared economic investors. **Xinhua**



South Africa's Dwayne Pretorius celebrates taking a catch to dismiss England's Jos Buttler with teammates, off the bowling of Kagiso Rabada during their First Test at Supersport Park in Centurion, South Africa on Sunday. REUTERS

Sudden structural changes work in South Africa's favour

PRETORIA

DRASTIC structural changes in South African cricket over the last month contributed significantly to the test side turning around their fortunes and starting the four-match series against England with a win, says captain Faf du Plessis.

The hosts ended a run of five straight test defeats with a 107-run win over England at Centurion Park on Sunday and the skipper hailed the new coaching structures and fresh personnel in Cricket South Africa's (CSA) administration.

"Now we can trust the system a little bit more and just focus on playing cricket," said Du Plessis. "There is a lot more confidence in the structures, going from the top down."

"Obviously there were plans in place before, but right now I feel there are better plans in place."

"We have got the right people in the right jobs, we've got the right people at the top of Cricket South Africa, which is really important."

CSA suspended chief executive Thabang Moroe on Dec. 6 following allegations of misconduct and just hours after their major sponsor said it would not renew its contract in protest at poor governance in the organisation.

Former captain Graeme Smith was appointed acting director of cricket five days later and he quickly chose ex-team mates Mark Boucher as coach and Jacques Kallis as batting consultant.

Enoch Nkwe, who as acting coach took the team on a three-test tour to India in November where they were soundly thrashed, stayed on as assistant coach.

"Leadership always comes from the top and filters down and so I feel like, by starting that, it sets the tone for the way that we are playing now," Du Plessis added.

"You have to put those things in place for the things underneath to work in your favour."

South Africa's test side have struggled since iconic players like Smith, Boucher, Kallis, Hashim Amla and Dale Steyn retired but also have had to deal with the tricky issue of balancing team selection with the need for racial transformation.

Off the field CSA clashed with the powerful Indian cricket board (BCCI), who had a tenuous relationship with previous CSA CEO Haroon Lorgat, and lost millions when India reduced the number of money-spinning matches they played in South Africa.

REUTERS

More recently, the botched launch of a Twenty20 league also hit CSA's coffers hard and they are still at loggerheads with the players' association, who are demanding that the entire CSA executive resign.

Meanwhile, South Africa coach Mark Boucher said winning his first test match in charge was as good as the many victories he enjoyed as a player after his maiden triumph against England on Sunday.

The 107-run victory in the first test at Centurion Park came a fortnight after Boucher, 43, was appointed to the post after a shake-up of Cricket South Africa's structures at the start of the month.

"I've played quite a few test matches and we won a couple of good ones but certainly this is up there, especially from where we have come," he said.

"It has been a hectic two weeks, we've put in a lot of hard work as a coaching staff, so this is a reward."

"I'm also very happy for the players and the way they approached it," Boucher added.

"We said before we wanted to instil some confidence back in the players and to see them walk off the field with a win you can see now there is a belief that we can win test matches against very good teams."

Boucher took over the domestic Titans franchise in 2016 and within a year was named Coach of the Year. He now has a contract with South Africa until 2023.

"We understand there is a long way to go," he said. "We've got a couple of youngsters we need to impart knowledge to and speed up the process of becoming experienced cricketers and we'll certainly do that."

Boucher, one of the world's best wicket-keepers, had his playing career ended in horrific fashion in a freak incident in Taunton in 2012 where he got hit by a ball in the left eye, losing his lens, iris and pupil.

It brought a premature end to a 147-test career in which he took a world record 999 dismissals in all forms of cricket so to return to the South Africa dressing room was a thrill.

"I've been out of international cricket for quite some time now so it's an honour for me to walk back into that changing room and be part of hopefully a change in South African cricket," he said.

"There's been quite a few changes but the spirit and passion is still there. I'm looking forward to the challenge and working hard with the guys and seeing them develop," Boucher added.

The King reigns: LeBron James is AP's male athlete of decade

BY TIM REYNOLDS

HE left Cleveland for Miami, finally became a champion, went back to his beloved northeast Ohio, delivered on another title promise, then left for the Los Angeles Lakers and the next challenge. He played in eight straight finals. No NBA player won more games or more MVP awards over the last 10 years than he did. He started a school. He married his high school sweetheart.

"That's all?" LeBron James asked, feigning disbelief.

No, that's not all. Those

were just some highlights of the last 10 years. There were many more, as the man called "King" spent the last decade reigning over all others – with no signs of slowing down.

James is The Associated Press male athlete of the decade, adding his name to a list that includes Tiger Woods, Wayne Gretzky and Arnold Palmer. He was a runaway winner in a vote of AP member sports editors and AP beat writers, easily outpacing runner-up Tom Brady of the New England Patriots.

"You add another 10 years

of learning and adversity, pitfalls, good, great, bad, and any smart person who wants to grow will learn from all those experiences," James, who turns 35 Monday, told the AP. "A decade ago, I just turned 25. I'm about to be 35 and I'm just in a better (place) in my life and have a better understanding of what I want to get out of life."

Usain Bolt of Jamaica was third for dominating the sprints at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, soccer superstar Lionel Messi was fourth and Michael Phelps – the U.S. swimmer who retired

Why player longevity seems to be declining, perhaps even fast

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

BRIDGES are being built rather fast between the soccer scene in Western metropolises and in Africa, as more of metropolitan teams have players from Africa and the African Diaspora in South America. In that context there is a bridging of standards, to enable watchers to figure out things like player longevity, whether there are similar determinants in the England premiership for instance as comparable to the Tanzania Premier League. Tanzania has no players in the English Premier League but in the UEFA Champions League in recent months, some standards were set.

Taifa Stars captain Mbwana Samatta, in back to back fixtures vs UEFA defending champions Liverpool scored in both matches for his KRC Genk club side from Belgium, cementing his position as one of the most reliable strikers in the Belgian premier league. We aren't all the same forgetting that his first goal against Liverpool was disallowed on a technicality, that a colleague was somewhat offside when the ball was coming over. That he again scored in the return match may thus serve to indicate that the first score against the Anfield-based side hadn't been a fluke.

Comparing longevity among players isn't quite different from plotting the reasons of success, as the more deep-seated the reasons for a player's success, the more assured that the player shall remain on his feet at top level action for many years. And the converse is also true, that the less profound reflection of determinants of chances, the more luckily such success would have come about similarly predetermines longevity, on the basis of an expression, 'come easy, go easy.' If a player has reached top level by some natural flair and energy rather than hard work, he is likely to last fewer years in major stadiums as compared to those who are imbued early to work hard.

Picking Samatta as an illustration serves more than one pur-



Azam FC winger Iddi Selemani (R) gets the better of Polisi Tanzania's Mohamed Mkopi when the squads clashed in a Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Kilimanjaro last weekend. Azam FC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

pose, as first he is the most successful player in Tanzanian soccer history, as those who went earlier played for minor league clubs, the more ancient like Sunday Manara or more recent ones like Kali Ongala. Those who know of his playing days in Tanzania will admit that he is a sort of local version of Cristiano Ronaldo – which doesn't come to saying he matches either his skills or hard work, but just a comparison. The Portuguese marksman is reputedly a hard worker beyond measure, and his longevity as a top player tells it, as his pitch performance outshines those of endowed youths like Kylian Mbappe.

For some reason Mbwana had this intuition of hard work (in his early years in some clubs and more so at Simba SC), and he kept to this outlook, of strict observance of his training schedule and avoidance of energy sapping extras that shorten a player's shelf life and upward motion. Without need to push the problematic too far, this kind of observance isn't just a sporting point of reference though it is possible the player understood early what observances he needed to ad-

here to in order to succeed. This way upward climb and longevity become a bonus to hard work; still it may not have been a work addiction alone that lifted him, but a sense of morality.

This notion of morality isn't in the first place that which focuses on legitimacy of certain actions but rather the need for their avoidance not just for their moral controversy but also as they would only serve to pull down the player. As a matter of fact it isn't having an opposite number that is altogether at issue but enjoyment as such, including drinking, and at times partying to late nights. It is a characteristic of African youth in the Diaspora to find solace and happiness in such parties, and unless one has a particular bent of character it is hard to keep out of such troubling company.

We may not have much reason to complain that we haven't had several such players, and it also appears that at present some pundits are beginning to turn their back on the player because of what seems to be poor performance in the national team as compared to his club. There is of

course the problem of player combination as well as motivation, but standing out singularly in a team can be bad for a player as he is more energetically marked, and often with malice, which is unlikely to happen in the UEFA Champions League. Even within the Belgian premier league the chances of his being special are scarce, but galore in the continental tournaments, if he appears.

While all this is fairly ordinary, what looks a bit strange is that the resolve to work hard so as to stay at the top of the game seems to be diminishing in the past decade compared to what some of us knew of the city rivals in the past. This year things are even stranger as the Jangwani Street club administrators more or less embarked on a restructuring of the team near the halfway point, not just because they don't want to pay bills but also due to disappointment. Often the Msimbazi Street outfit started with so many draws as to change the coach and outfit; why? Loving life, and the greater inequality these days that makes those having cash to enjoy even more sumptuously.



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James reacts after making a 3-pointer during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won 111-106. (AP Photo)

just kind of let it happen. Whatever happens, happens. But I see it. I do see it."

His work ethic, even now, makes even those closest to him marvel.

Here's a typical day this past summer for James, who remains obsessed with working even though fame and fortune found him long ago: He'd wake up at 3 a.m. and be at the Warner Bros. lot by 3:45 – where a weight room and court, built just for him, were waiting. He'd be lifting by 4 a.m., getting shots up by 5:30 and be ready to start another day of shooting the remake of "Space Jam" that he has been planning for years by 7 a.m.

"That's who he is," said Mike Mancias, one of the longest-tenured and most trusted members of James' inner circle, tasked for more than 15 years with keeping James fit. "He does whatever it takes when it comes to fulfilling his commitments to everything – especially his game and his craft."

The 2010s for James started with "The Decision," the widely criticized televised announcement of his choice to leave Cleveland for Miami. (Lost in the hubbub: The show raised more than \$2.5 million for charity.) He was with the Heat for four years, went to the NBA Finals all four times with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, finally won the title in 2012 – "it's about damn time," he said at the trophy celebration – and led the way in a Game 7 win over San Antonio to go back-to-back the following year.

"He grew immensely here as a leader," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He impacted winning as much as with his leadership as he did with his talent. I think that was the most important thing he learned with us. And he's been able to take that to different franchises and continue using that as a template."

Cleveland was devastated when he left. It forgave him. James returned home in 2014, took Cleveland to four consecutive finals, then led the Cavaliers to the

2016 title and came up with one of the biggest plays of his life by pulling off a chase-down block of Golden State's Andre Iguodala in the final seconds of Game 7 of that series.

And in 2018, he was off to LA.

Going Hollywood made so much sense – he's making movies, has a production company, has a program called "The Shop" as part of his 'Uninterrupted' platform featuring an array of guests from Drake to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who signed a bill on the show that will allow college athletes to get paid for the use of their likeness and sign endorsement deals.

"There's a lot of moments from this decade that would be up there, winning the two Miami championships, winning a championship in Cleveland, the chase-down block," James said. "But the best moment? Definitely marrying Savannah. That would be No. 1."

James and longtime partner Savannah Brinson got married six years ago. They already had two sons – both are very good basketball players already – and added a daughter in 2014.

James also spent most of the last decade as a lightning rod for critics.

He used his voice often on social matters, speaking out after the killing of unarmed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin and campaigning for Hillary Clinton. He supported Colin Kaepernick's methods of protesting police brutality and racial injustice. Most recently, he was criticized by many – including top U.S. lawmakers – for his remarks after Houston general manager Daryl Morey sparked a massive rift between the NBA and China by sending out a tweet supporting pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

"I don't live in regret," James said. "There's no moment in this last decade that I wish I could have back. If a situation was bad or you feel like you could have done better, then I learned from it."

VAR is a 'big mess', says Guardiola after more controversies

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola declared the VAR video review system a "big mess" on Sunday after a weekend which saw a series of controversial decisions from the system.

VAR was introduced in the Premier League for the first time this season and there is no sign of the controversies dying down nor of fans warming to the use of the technology.

"Every weekend is a big mess. In other games, it was a big mess. Hopefully next season, it can do better," said Guardiola after City's 2-0 win over Sheffield United on Sunday.

It was one of several games which saw a goal overruled for the most marginal of offside calls, after VAR's geometrical lines had been used to deliver a time-consuming verdict.

The Yorkshire side looked to have grabbed the lead through Lys Mousset in the 28th minute but the goal was ruled out after a VAR review found the slimmest of margins for offside.

Moments after the incident, both sets of supporters expressed their opposition to VAR in a loud, united chant, while United fans also adopted the 'It's not football any more' anthem that has become a familiar refrain at various games.

United manager Chris Wilder noted Norwich City forward Teemu Pukki had a similar goal ruled out for a fractional offside decision in their 2-2 draw with Tottenham on Saturday and said there had been "eight or nine" incidents over the

weekend.

"There's no conclusive evidence, blurred lines and angles. There needs to be a more clear way of defining it," he said.

Asked about the City fans joining in with the visitors in expressing strong opposition to VAR, Wilder said he was not surprised.

"Up and down the country, all the people at Norwich, a four-letter word about VAR, these are proper football people," he said.

Asked whether the system needed to be reformed or fully scrapped, Wilder said: "It's not my decision, it has to improve. Yet again, it's the first question, eight or nine goals knocked off."

"Where there's so much debate on every goal, it will be analysed yet again. I just don't think it's been refined enough to make a difference."

He was also upset about City's first goal where referee Chris Kavanagh appeared to obstruct United defenders before Kevin De Bruyne found Sergio Aguero for the opener.

"I've been to see the referee and he has been honest about it. We make mistakes and I believe he made one too," said Wilder.

"We talk about the new rule where if the referee touches the ball then he has to blow up. So surely if he is in the way and hinders us, then he makes a sensible decision."

"If he made the sensible decision then I don't think anyone in the ground would have said anything about it."

REUTERS

Klopp: Liverpool will not celebrate title prematurely

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp said the runaway Premier League leaders will not celebrate prematurely, insisting the title race is still not over.

The Reds will enter the New Year with a 13-point lead atop the table following Sunday's 1-0 victory over Wolves at Anfield.

Liverpool recorded a 17th successive Premier League home win and extended their unbeaten domestic run on Merseyside to 50 matches thanks to Sadio Mane's goal.

As Liverpool close in on a first league crown since 1990, Klopp told reporters his side are not getting carried away following 19 matches.

"I think our fans are exactly like the team is," said Klopp, whose Liverpool have won 18 and drawn one of their 19 league fixtures this season to be ahead of Leicester City and two-time reigning champions Manchester City.

"They are not interested in the

moment. They don't want to celebrate now. They take it like it is. They dig in a game, like today, today I liked it a lot. All the fans were really in the game. This was a game where the crowd can be nervous, they weren't, so that's good.

"We are a unit so we fight until somebody says 'it's enough' and 'you have enough points' or not. We will see. But it's not about belief. If we were not confident it would be really crazy but it's not about knowing, or wanting to know, that it's already done. Imagine, really, if you asked me and I sat here and said 'yeah, actually, I think it's done'. But we still play of course but I think it's done. That would be really crazy."

"But, since five, six or seven weeks ago we are still asking that question constantly. And I, as a normal human being, have the same answer. Because it's not done. So discuss it if you want, ask me if you want, but don't expect a different answer."

(Agencies)

'I'd sign Kane for Real Madrid, even for €200m!' - Sanchez

MADRID

REAL Madrid legend Hugo Sanchez says he would like to see his old club sign Tottenham talisman Harry Kane, even if he were to cost up to €200 million (\$224m/£171m).

Kane burst onto English football's biggest stage in 2014 after rising through the youth ranks at Spurs, and has since established himself as one of European football's finest centre-forwards.

The 26-year-old has won two Premier League Golden Boots, and finished as Tottenham's top goalscorer in each of the last five seasons, helping them emerge as top-four regulars.

Kane has also made his mark on the international stage with England, scoring 32 goals in 45 appearances and picking up another Golden Boot at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

He is setting the standard at club level for Tottenham once again this term, with 16 goals to his name

from 23 outings across all competitions.

Real Madrid have been heavily linked with a move for Kane in recent years, with fresh speculation surrounding his future starting to crop up ahead of the January transfer window.

Former Blancos forward Sanchez - who is widely regarded as the greatest Mexican footballer in history - has urged club president Florentino Perez to go all out to try and land Kane's signature.

"I'm of the opinion that Real Madrid should have two teams and two strong No.9s. I've noticed Harry Kane for a long time," he told Marca.

"I'd sign him, even for €200m. [Cristiano] Ronaldo also cost a lot and look what he gave the club."

"But knowing Florentino Perez, with his magic he surely has something in his head to do something, but I know the remodelling of the stadium will take money out of the budget."

(Agencies)

Runaway leader Liverpool already has soundtrack of champions

LONDON

LIVERPOOL fans ended 2019 by chanting "Champions of the world" for the first time at Anfield. "Champions of England" will surely be sung by the Kop in 2020.

Sadio Mane ensured Liverpool reached the halfway point with a 13-point lead - with a game in hand - that seems unassailable after clinching a 1-0 victory over Wolverhampton on Sunday.

And all Wolverhampton fans could forlornly chant was: "Is this football anymore?"

That reflected more frustration with the application of VAR in the technology's first Premier League campaign, of course. Even if the calls were ultimately correct by on-field referee Anthony Taylor.

Mane's goal was initially ruled out by Taylor for handball but it was actually helped on by teammate Adam Lallana's shoulder. There was a handball by Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk in the buildup but that didn't appear to be factored into the decision.

"I just heard there was complaints of handball, I thought it was for Adam," Van Dijk said. "What can we do? They made a decision and the goal stood."

The naked eye would have struggled to see a reason to deny Pedro Neto an equalizer but once the hazy footage had lines inserted over it, offside was the decision from VAR HQ in London.

"VAR is killing us," Wolves captain Conor Coady said. "It is constantly against us. I don't know where we are going wrong. It is affecting games. No one likes it."

Liverpool has built a lead more than double the six-point advantage surrendered at this point last season before being overhauled by Man-



Liverpool's Sadio Mane celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England, Sunday Dec. 29, 2019. (AP Photo)

chester City.

Pep Guardiola's side is certainly less of a threat this season, still 14 points back after beating Sheffield United 2-0 on Sunday night. Leicester is a point better off to sit as Liverpool's closest but very distant challenger.

The cushion looks unsailable for a club that has endured three decades of anguish and near-misses since last winning the English championship in 1990 - three years before the new Premier League trophy was handed out for the first time.

Liverpool certainly has the winning habit, bringing the Club World Cup back from Qatar last weekend to join the European titles - the Champions League and Super Cup - collected earlier in 2019.

Chelsea was the other English side to lift a European trophy this year, and there was a rematch of the Europa League final at Arsenal on Sunday with a very different complexion.

Both teams have brought in former players as managers and neither club is in title contention. In his first home game in charge, Mikel Arteta's Arsenal threw away the lead to lose 2-1 to Frank Lampard's Chelsea.

Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno missed an attempt to punch Mason Mount's

free kick clear, allowing Jorginho to net in the 83rd minute and cancel out Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's first-half opener.

Jorginho had been fortunate to still be on the field after avoiding a second yellow card for pulling down Matteo Guendouzi.

The winner came after Chelsea launched a counterattack from the edge of its own penalty area, with Tammy Abraham then allowed to race through unchallenged and playing a one-two with Willian before putting the ball through Leno's legs from close range.

It leaves Arteta with a point from his first two games since being hired as Unai Emery's full-time successor. But the problems are more deep-seated with Arsenal losing four consecutive games in all competitions at home for the first time in 60 years, a spell that covers Freddie Ljungberg's ill-fated interim reign.

"I am really disappointed with the result and the way we conceded the goals and the timing of it as well," Arteta said. "I'm pleased with a lot of things that we've trained, and they actually happened in the game and how they are buying into this. But I am disappointed to lose the game obviously. We had to sustain that level for longer periods against a very, very physical team

like Chelsea. And yes, we have to move on."

While Arsenal is 12th in the standings, Chelsea is 11 points ahead in the fourth Champions League place after Lampard's side quickly recovered from a home loss to Southampton.

"I don't want to sit here and declare we're full of spirit but it's a great sign for us that we won the game, to see the difference in the second half," Lampard said. "Fight, desire. We kept pushing and controlled that second half. Our problem at home has been control. It took a mistake from them to get the goal and then we had the belief."

Lampard took no risks on Christian Pulisic, resting the American due to a slight hamstring issue that isn't a longer-term injury concern.

CITY RECOVERY

After a damaging 3-2 loss to Wolverhampton on Friday, City took until the second half against Sheffield United to find a breakthrough.

Kevin De Bruyne was the creator, picking out Sergio Aguero for a fine finish seven minutes into the second half. De Bruyne was powerfully on target himself in the 82nd after combining with Riyad Mahrez.

Sheffield United dropped to eighth over the weekend.

AP

Arteta has his work cut out to revive Arsenal

LONDON

ARSENAL's final game of the decade ended like so many of the games that had preceded it: deflation, rows of empty seats and a nagging feeling of déjà vu. The sense of disappointment that greeted the final whistle in their 2-1 home defeat by Chelsea was only exacerbated by the knowledge that what had come before had, briefly, felt like a fresh start.

Taking charge of his first home game as Arsenal manager, Mikel Arteta had spoken before the match of the need to re-establish a "connection" with the club's supporters, and, in the first half at least, he got what he had asked for. Arsenal took a 13th-minute lead, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang stealing in behind Emerson to head home after Calum Chambers flicked on Mesut Ozil's corner, and the home side defended their lead with tigerish appetite.

With Arteta pacing the touchline, Arsenal's players massed themselves behind the ball and swarmed every blue shirt that tried to retain possession. Each challenge and every selfless defensive intervention by wide players Aubameyang and Reiss Nelson, drew an approving roar from the Emirates Stadium faithful. But although it took Chelsea until the 83rd minute to draw level, the balance of power in this London derby had shifted well before that.

Frank Lampard, Arteta's opposite number, took decisive action before half-time, jettisoning his side's 3-4-2-1 system mid-match for the second game running by sending on Jorginho for left wing-back Emerson and reverting to Chelsea's default 4-3-3 formation. Swiftly positioned in his customary role at the base of midfield, Jorginho helped Chelsea wrest control of the game.

Having been very fortunate to avoid a second booking for blatantly hauling back Matteo Guendouzi, there was a certain sense of inevitability that he should find himself with the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net after Bernd Leno foolishly flapped at Mason Mount's free kick from wide on Chelsea's left with seven minutes of the game remaining.

Individual errors have been one of the recurring themes of Arsenal's decade, and it came as little surprise four minutes later when Shkodran Mustafi (who had replaced the in-



Mikel Arteta has already managed to get more out of this Arsenal squad than perhaps Unai Emery, but Sunday's late defeat vs. Chelsea showed he has a lot of work ahead to truly turn this team around. (Agencies)

jured Chambers) inexplicably stood off Tammy Abraham and allowed the England striker to gather Willian's cut-back, set himself and squeeze the shot between Leno's legs that would settle the game.

Arsenal end the decade having lost four consecutive home games for the first time in 60 years and having conceded at least two goals in five successive home games for the first time since 1965. They've won only one of their past 12 Premier League games and enter the new year 11 points below fourth-place Chelsea in 12th position.

With a home game against Manchester United just around the corner on New Year's Day, Arteta already finds himself in the midst of a slump of historic proportions. Nevertheless, he will have detected grounds

for optimism in the first half, with Ozil's performance on a brisk, sunny winter's afternoon typifying both Arsenal's early creativity and their early endeavour.

The Arsenal No. 10 was a blur of delicately weighted lay-offs, slick touches and delightful dummies, and his efforts out of possession also earned him the noisy approval of the home crowd. When Ozil made way for Joe Willock in the 76th minute, it was to a standing ovation. On his last home appearance, in Arsenal's 3-0 defeat at Manchester City's hands earlier this month, he had been booed off.

Lucas Torreira also appeared transformed. The Uruguayan international turned in another composed display in front of Arsenal's defence, tidily breaking up Chelsea's attacks and quickly moving the ball

on, while David Luiz momentarily threatened to become the symbol of the hosts' second-half resistance, thundering into challenges and producing one brilliantly timed block to thwart Abraham.

Arsenal have not beaten one of their fellow "Big Six" teams in the league since a 2-0 win over Manchester United in March, and with the final whistle nearing, the home fans started to enjoy themselves, cheerily informing Willian that he was a less good version of Nelson - albeit in slightly more colourful language than that - and goading 19-year-old Tariq Lamptey with cries of "Who?" when he came on to make what turned out to be an assured Chelsea debut.

In the end, it would be the crowing voices of Chelsea's supporters that filled the air as the stadium emptied in stoppage time, but Arteta said he would take encouragement from what he had seen and put his side's late capitulation down to fatigue rather than anything more insidious.

"I'm pleased with a lot of things that I've seen," he said. "I'm pleased with a lot of things that we trained and actually happened in the game and how they bought into this. But I'm disappointed to lose the game, obviously."

"More than something related to the organisation, it was physically tough to maintain the level that Chelsea's players are at. We are asking them to do something different, to play a different pace and to be much more aggressive, and they suffered."

For Arteta's Arsenal, the future starts now.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Runaway leader Liverpool already has soundtrack of champions

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
12:00 PUNJALA
14:00 UTAKE
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SLEET
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNawz
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 RAJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

11 teams line up for Musoma canoeing race

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ELEVEN teams are expected to compete in a special canoeing race, which will take place at Bukima Village in Mara on Tuesday.

The race will serve as part of activities for marking the end of the year 2019 and welcoming the year 2020.

The event's coordinator, Fedison Masawa, disclosed 11 wards, Bugwema, Bukima, Bukumi, Bwasi, Etaru, Mugango, Murangi, Musanja, Nyakatende, Rusoli and Suguti, will each field one team, which will have five canoeists.

He pointed out the office of Rural Musoma Constituency's Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo, is overseeing the race.

"Cash prize and trophies have been set aside for winners, champions will be presented with 1m/- and trophy, runners-up will rake in 700,000/- and trophy, third-placed will walk away with 400,000/- and trophy," he noted.

Masawa, who is also Muhongo's personal assistant, noted each of the remaining teams, which will compete in the race, will be presented with 50,000/-.

He said preparations for the race have been completed.

"Teams, which will take part in the race should be at Bukima ward at 8.30am, safety measures will be adhered to," he disclosed.

He noted participation in cultural activities and sports are some of issues the Rural Musoma Constituency MP values the most.

He pointed out Muhongo has as well been organizing choir and traditional dances' competitions, and football tournaments for the constituency's residents.

Athletes ready for National Championships

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

NYAMAGANA Constituency's Member of Parliament, Stanslaus Mabula, graced the opening ceremony of this year's Ngorongoro Crater National Athletics Championship, which took place in Mwanza last week.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer, Tullo Chambo, noted preparations for the event had gone smoothly.

Chambo disclosed 13 regional athletics teams had already made their way to the Lake Zone region to battle it out in the showdown.

He mentioned the teams as Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma, Tabora, Mara, Geita, Morogoro, Zanzibar's Urban West, South Unguja, North Unguja, North Pemba, as well as South Pemba that joined hosts Mwanza.

"We hope the rest of the regional squads will make their way to the region a day before the start of the showpiece, which is expected to be quite competitive," he disclosed.

Chambo called on Mwanza residents and fellows from around the zone to attend the National Championships in big number.



Yanga's vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela.

Simba SC trades mind games with Yanga ahead of derby

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MIND games have intensified ahead of the coming Vodacom Premier League clash pitting Simba SC against traditional rivals, Yanga, which will take place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Yanga will host Simba in the mouthwatering duel, which is expected to attract the interest and emotions of many people both from within and outside the country.

The match, bringing together the two sides, is always a game of tension, emotions and excitement.

It is no wonder both clubs are saying they are ready for the encounter, which is played for not only three points but also pride, which is an overriding stimulant that triggers the fans' adrenals.

Yanga information officer

Hassan Mbumbuli said his side is ready for the Saturday game.

He pointed out that preparations for the encounter are going on smoothly.

"We are taking part in other league assignments, but that doesn't mean we have forgotten our Saturday game against our rivals Simba, preparations for the clash are going on smoothly and I'm sure we will get good results," he said.

Antonio Nugaz, Yanga's mobilization officer, said all preparations for the Saturday game are at an advanced stage.

He urged the side's supporters and the rest of football followers to flock to the National Stadium to cheer their team.

Nugaz said Yanga are looking forward to inflict more pain on Simba SC.

He also disclosed that Yanga's management has settled all outstanding dues with the club's players.

"I thank our club's management for paying the players their dues, this is a clear indication that they want to see the club winning the championship this season," he disclosed.

"I'm calling on all of our supporters to flock to the National Stadium on Saturday to cheer our team, all I can say is that they should come on Saturday, Simba will be 'slaughtered'," he insisted.

Mwina Kaduguda, Simba SC's Acting Chairman, said his side is looking forward to Saturday's game against Yanga.

Speaking after his team had cruised to 2-0 victory over KMC FC in Dar es Salaam on Saturday, he said Simba's focus is on the Saturday match.

He promised his club's supporters the squad will register good results.

"Today (Saturday)'s results are just a warning that we are ready for the next Saturday game, the game against Yanga is the one which we want to

win," he noted.

"You know beating our aged rivals is the best New Year present to our supporters," he said.

The last time the two domestic giants met was in the second phase clash of 2018/19 Mainland Premier League, which was played at the National Stadium on February 16.

The clash ended with Simba winning 1-0 through Meddie Kagere's goal.

On paper, Simba SC will seemingly carry the day, but the clash, dubbed 'Kariakoo Derby', is always a game of strong willed players.

It is a game which needs players with big heart, strong mind and work rate of a donkey.

Experience has proved that skill and talent are inadequate and irrelevant as they cannot bring a team the desired results in the match.



Simba SC striker, Emmanuel Okwi (R), challenges Yanga midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi, during the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League's first phase match that took place in Dar es Salaam last year. The two teams settled for a 0-0 draw.

Company to present prize to Yanga's best player in derby

By Guardian Correspondent

AS the long-awaited Vodacom Premier League match between Simba SC and Young Africans SC (Yanga) is moving closer, GSM Group has promised to award Yanga's best player in the clash a quality mattress.

GSM Group, through GSM Mattress brand, is one of Yanga's main sponsors.

The derby, the first of two matches between the outfits in this season, will be played at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on January 4.

The clash is expected to attract fans from different parts of the country.

Speaking at the company's head office located at Mwenge, Dar es Salaam, GSM Marketing and Communication Manager, Matina Nkurulu, said the company believes that the prize will motivate players to perform well.

Nkurulu said GSM, being the team's sponsors, are responsible for creating an environment that will enable the team to win every match, including the long-awaited Saturday match.

"Heading to the big match between the traditional rivals, Simba and Yanga, GSM, being one of Yanga's main sponsors, will award the team's best player a 5x6x8inch quality mattress with GSM brand," he noted.

"We believe the prize will motivate Yanga players to do all they can to make sure that the team wins the match and make their fans happy."

He added: "Yanga are a big and best football club here in Tanzania, as it is the case for our GSM mattress."

"We believe Yanga fans deserve good results from this match and that is why we have set a prize to be won by the team's best player in order to motivate every player to play well and bring victory to the outfit."

On his remarks, Yanga vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela, expressed his appreciation to the company for the promise.

He disclosed the pledge would boost his team's players' morale ahead of the big match.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

