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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY, 2020

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People censure Wuhan state organs as coronavirus whistleblower dies

WUHAN

THE death of a Wuhan city doctor who tried to warn about the coronavirus outbreak yesterday sparked an unprecedented level of public anger and grief in China.

Li Wenliang died after contracting the virus while treating patients in Wuhan.

Last December he sent a message to fellow medics warning of a virus he thought looked like Sars - a previous and deadly form of a similar virus.

But he was told by police to "stop making false comments" and was investigated for "spreading rumours."

"I don't think he was rumour-mongering."



The country's anti-corruption body said it will open an investigation into issues involving Dr Li

Hasn't this turned into reality now?" his father, Li Shuying, told the BBC. "My son was wonderful."

News of his death was met with an intense outpouring of grief on Chinese social media site Weibo - but this quickly turned into anger.

There had already been accusations against the government of downplaying the severity of the virus - and initially trying to keep it secret.

Dr Li's death fuelled this further and triggered a conversation about the lack of freedom of speech in China.

The country's anti-corruption body said it will open an investigation into "issues involving Dr Li."

The Chinese government has previously admitted "shortcomings and deficiencies" in its response to the virus, which has now killed 636 people and infected 31,198 in Mainland China.

The Chinese internet site Pear Video said Dr Li's wife is due to give birth in June.

The Chinese social media scene was flooded with anger - it is hard to recall an event in recent years that has triggered as much grief, rage and mistrust of the government.

The top two trending hashtags on the website were "Wuhan government owes Dr Li Wenliang an apology" and "We want freedom of speech."

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MPs: Form commission to overhaul education system



WHEN NATURE PROTESTS... Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (L, foreground) and other officials waded through Lake Victoria waters yesterday to board MV Tegemezi ferry on Maisome Island in Sengerema District and onwards to Kaunda Island for an inspection tour of road infrastructure damaged by ongoing rains. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

THIS is not the first time for the House to make a call for major changes in Tanzania's education system. In May last year, lawmakers said the country's education system was more theoretical than practical

By Guardian Reporter

PARLIAMENT has recommended the formation of a commission to overhaul the education system in the country from kindergarten to university.

Tabling its annual report here yesterday, the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services and Community Development said education being provided in the country does not respond to massive changes in the world including in the areas of science and technology.

For the system to produce competent, competitive job creators as opposed to half-

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Pipeline project report on environment impact okay

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AN environmental impact Assessment (EIA) certificate has been granted by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga port.

Speaking at a ceremony to present the certificate to Total East Africa Midstream BV (TEAM BV), the project contractor in Dodoma yesterday, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu said the assessment has ensured that economic, social, environ-



The role of NEMC is not just to issue a certificate but to continuously monitor and evaluate its implementation in accordance with provisions of the certificate issued

mental, health and safety issues were addressed in plan-

ning, construction and operation of the pipeline.

He said in order to minimize the impact on the environment and communities along the pipeline route, the assessment has focused on protection of important ecological areas and protected areas such as parks, forest reserves and densely populated areas.

The minister stated that pipeline stations will be installed and operated carefully to minimize environmental and ecological impacts during the con-

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Restrictions extended to civil servants' local trips

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) setting new guidelines on local trips to restrict travels by regional administrators and district officials.

Minister Selemani Jafo said that all local trips by officials under the ministry

will henceforth have to be applied for and approved.

This comes in addition to restrictions on foreign travels by civil servants introduced by President Magufuli upon assuming office late 2015.

The first victims of the new rules are district administrative secretaries

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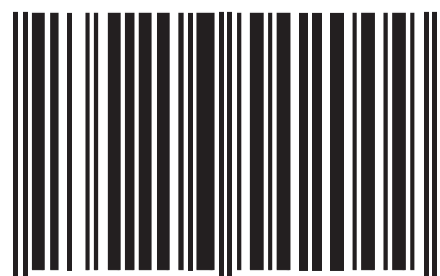
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Pipeline project report on environment impact okay

FROM PAGE 1

struction and operation of the 1147 km major infrastructure.

Implementation of the project requires cooperation between the three parties, that is the Tanzania and Uganda governments and private sector project investors, he said, noting that the Uganda version of the report was being awaited.

"It is my hope that the completion of this report on the part of Tanzania will be a catalyst for completing the report in Uganda so that the project is implemented in accordance with national and international laws and regulations," he stated.

The role of NEMC is not just to issue a certificate but to continuously monitor and evaluate its implementation in accordance with provisions of the certificate issued, he said.

"My team is prepared and will continue to cooperate with the Ministry of Energy which is the coordinator of the Tanzania oil and gas industry as well as investors when they start implementing this project from the construction to operation stage," he said.

For his part, Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani said that the first five steps have been completed in the implementation of the project, including access to the construction of four hundred lakh tankers, compensation for residents of the project area, geological and physical studies as well as compensation for renters in a corridor that will cover eight regions and 24 districts.

The EACOP project acquisition of this certificate is a milestone for the project development stages as it represents project compliance to safety standards as well as social, economic and environmental requirements set by the government.

The EIA studies were conducted

ed by TEAM BV between 2017 and 2019 as per national laws and regulations. On 21st December 2018 the first report was submitted to NEMC and after a thorough review, recommendations by NEMC and submission of the final report, the project was then issued with the Certificate of Approval on 21st November 2019.

Construction and operation of the longest electrically heated crude oil pipeline will be carried out in Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manara and Tanga regions.

The pipeline is a landmark project billed to unlock East Africa's potential by attracting investors to explore opportunities in Tanzania and throughout the region. It is projected to result in over 60 per cent increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Uganda and Tanzania during the construction phase.

Project activities in Tanzania will include establishment of an onshore East African crude oil pipeline, marine storage terminal, plus an offshore trestle jetty and load-out facility.

The purpose of the EACOP project is to transport oil produced in Uganda from fields located on the shores of Lake Albert.

The implementation of the project in Uganda has been delayed since late 2018 when a dispute involving USD 900m in deferred taxes arose between the investor Tullow Oil and the Uganda government.

At the heart of the dispute was the law governing taxation of the sale of shares, reports indicated.

When visiting Tanzania mid last year, President Yoweri Museveni was tasked by his host President John Magufuli to speed up resolution of the matter and get the project on its feet. He promises to diligently work on it, saying Uganda 'shall not be found wanting' on the issue.



Mussa Hassan Zungu (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union), looks on in Dodoma yesterday as National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (2nd-L) presents an environmental impact assessment certificate to Total CEO Martin Tifany. The French oil giant is implementing the East African crude oil pipeline project (EACOP). Photo: VPO

MPs: Form commission to overhaul education system

FROM PAGE 1

baked job seekers, an education commission be formed to set out what is required so that the government can implement the changes.

Committee chairman Peter Serukamba (Kigoma North-CCM) appealed to the responsible ministry to swing into action and form a commission to undertake a review of the entire system followed by major changes to make Tanzanians who come out of schools and colleges able to employ themselves or easily employable.

"The deputy minister (William ole Nasha) said they are planning to review the country's education policy. We say overhaul the entire

system," Serukamba said.

Overhauling must be comprehensive to ensure that both private and public schools are put on the same rail to get rid of the emerging gap between the two, the MP underlined.

"We need a system of education that addresses current and emerging challenges from kindergarten to university. If we don't do that then we will be in big trouble."

Speaking earlier, Nasha said the government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the quality of education in the country.

"The committee has recommended the formation of a commission but the ministry has al-

ready initiated a strategy to review education policy in a process that will involve MPs and other education stakeholders," he said.

He appealed to the MPs to take part in the review of the policy by recommending changes that should be made to the policy.

This is not the first time for the House to make a call for major changes in Tanzania's education system. In May last year, lawmakers said the country's education system was more theoretical than practical.

They also faulted the government for its little support for teachers and poor education delivered, which was not in synchrony with quality education needs.

Restrictions extended to civil servants' local trips

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(DAS) who were scheduled to attend training at the Tanzania - Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations in Dar es Salaam later this month.

The decision has been informed by the fact that there have been trends of abuse of local travel opportunities as in some offices or departments, some senior officials travel repeatedly, he stated.

This travel cartel, he said, denied other less connected yet more productive civil servants a deserved opportunity for capacity building and exposure. The connected group at times found ways of attending seminars and workshops out of their work stations, he pursued.

"We have already written to regional commissioners, district commissioners, regional and district administrative secretaries and all executive secretaries for councils and districts on the directive that they remain at their respective work stations and concentrate on implementation of development projects," he specified.

The minister said there has been a craze for seminars and workshops that will now be put under scrutiny to determine if they are beneficial to the nation before one is allowed to attend.

This brings to mind what was said when President Magufuli announced restrictions on foreign travels - that the person had to state the benefits that would come out of the trip.

"I direct Permanent Secretary Joseph Nyamhanga to cancel permits of all those who were scheduled to attend training at the Centre for Foreign Relations this month," he declared.

The minister justified cancellation of the training that was already scheduled and planned for by arguing that currently there are more pressing issues that executive secretaries should concentrate on, citing the impact of recent rains.

"We are dealing with floods in various parts of the country. I don't expect to see a leader attending a seminar instead of resolving challenges facing the people," he added.

People censure Wuhan state organs as coronavirus whistleblower dies

FROM PAGE 1

Both hashtags were quickly censored. When the BBC searched Weibo on Friday, hundreds of thousands of comments had been wiped. Only a handful remained.

"This is not the death of a whistleblower. This is the death of a hero," said one comment on Weibo.

A photo circulating on Twitter reportedly sourced from the messaging platform WeChat also shows a message in Chinese saying "Farewell Li Wenliang" written in the snow on a riverbank.

Many have now taken to posting under the hashtag "Can you manage, do you understand?" - a reference to the letter Dr Li was told

to sign when he was accused of disturbing social order.

These comments do not directly name him - but are telling of the mounting anger and distrust of the government.

"Do not forget how you feel now. Do not forget this anger. We must not let this happen again," said one comment on Weibo.

"The truth will always be treated as a rumour. How long are you going to lie? What else do you have to hide?" another said.

"If you are angry with what you see, stand up," one said. "To the young people of this generation, the power of change is with you."



Foundation for Civil Society director Francis Kiwanga addresses a forum for directors of civil society organisations in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The focus was on the role of CSOs in the fostering of democracy during elections. Left is the forum's moderator, Lulu Urio. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Foundation engages citizenry on coming General Election

By Getrude Mbago

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) yesterday brought together members from various civil society organisations to engage in a profoundly discussion on how they are going to participate effectively in educating the public on the forthcoming general elections.

Speaking during the forum in Dar es Salaam

yesterday, FCS executive director Francis Kiwanga said that the foundation is well prepared to ensure that it promotes greater citizenry participation and accountability in the elections.

"As the general election is approaching, strengthening civic education provision is vital. So we have seen it between to come here together and see how CSOs can

strategically collaborate within the sector and with citizens, the government to ensure that the elections are conducted peaceful and fairly."

He said that since the 2015 elections, FCS has supported civil society to provide civic education, engagement with electoral authorities, and oversight of electoral process and inclusion of marginalized communities in election

processes.

"Elections in Tanzania have generally been judged to be free and fair. The role of civil society organizations in elections takes the form of support for democratic processes.

For his part, Emmanuel Kawishe, the director of Legal Services from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) said that the body has completed the improvement exercise

of the permanent voters' register in many regions and it is now finalizing in three regions.

According to him, Dar es Salaam and Coast region residents will get opportunity to participate in the voters' registration exercise from February 16, this year.

He noted that the government will ensure all eligible voters are registered. Eligible voters are those who

have attained 18 years or would attain that age before the General Election in October.

The exercise also involves registering all eligible voters who have migrated from their former settlements and those who have lost their voting cards.

"The commission will also come back for verification exercise to give an opportunity for the voters to verify their information."

NSSF suing 34 employers for failure to remit employees' contributions

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE National Social Security Fund in Arusha has taken to court 34 employers from various companies who owe the fund 7.16bn/- in pension contributions.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday NSSF Manager for Arusha, Juma Mwita said the fund reached the decision after being satisfied that they have failed to send their contributions for their employees even after thorough discussions.

"The law directs that every employer contributes money for their employees on time but, unfortunately many of them failed and hence going against the law and we believe the best solution is to take them to court," he said.

He said the move by the employers has caused panic among workers as

the monies have been deducted from their salaries but not taken to the fund.

He however, said some employers including construction companies have shown interests of reducing the amount they owe to at least 400m/-.

He named some of the companies as Mount Meru, Kijenge animal, pride Tanzania and pride mining.

He said Arusha has a huge number of companies who contribute money to the fund saying this time most of them have failed to do so.

He warned employers who are doing the malpractice that serious legal actions will be taken against them including being taken to court because they are denying their employees their right.

He added that the law lists down various punishments for employers who do not take pension contributions to the NSSF.



The law directs that every employer contributes money for their employees on time but, unfortunately many of them failed and hence going against the law and we believe the best solution is to take them to court



National Electoral Commission director Dr Wilson Mahera pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing election stakeholders on the upgrading of the Permanent Voters Register expected to run for seven days in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

UNFPA launches humanitarian aid appeal to reach 48 million women and youth

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has appealed to international community for US \$ 683 million to provide life-saving reproductive health and protection services to 48 million women, girls and young people in 57 countries affected by conflict or natural disasters in 2020.

The humanitarian aid will also include 4 million pregnant wom-

en. The appeal, known as 'UNFPAs Humanitarian Action Overview' describes how women and girls face unique challenges during humanitarian disasters, from being more likely to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth to an increased risk of gender-based violence.

"Women and girls pay a high price in conflicts that they had no role in creating. It is time to prioritize their rights, safety and dignity in

humanitarian action. During crises and conflict, violence against women and girls is staggering. And women do not stop getting pregnant and having babies when crisis strikes—we must provide them with the services and the support they need," said Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director. Globally, more than half of all maternal deaths take place in countries affected by humanitarian crisis and fragility.

The humanitarian assistance

received following the appeal will provide life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, combat gender-based violence and extend mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies.

In 2020, the world will face enormous humanitarian challenges whereby one out of every 45 people will be affected by a crisis.

Currently, more than 168 million people need humanitarian assistance worldwide. UNFPA is currently

assisting millions of women and girls affected by emergencies: from Bangladesh, Venezuela and Yemen to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and 52 other countries affected by natural disaster, war or conflict.

In 2019, UNFPA humanitarian assistance reached over 19 million people in 64 countries.

Around 73 million women received sexual and reproductive health services, including antenatal

and postnatal care, emergency obstetric and newborn care, and the clinical management of rape. Over 24 million people obtained family planning services.

A US \$ 100.5 million for life-saving assistance in Yemen is the largest humanitarian crisis and the top humanitarian requirement for UNFPA in 2020. Nearly 80 percent of the population requires humanitarian assistance, including more than half a million pregnant women in need

of antenatal care, skilled birth assistance and nutritional support.

A US \$ 65.2 million for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the world's worst protracted crises facing armed conflicts, food insecurity, and recurring epidemics.

In DRC nearly 16 million people in need, 3.5 million are women and girls of reproductive age. Gender-based violence is endemic and UNFPA is coordinating support to over 30,000 survivors per year.



Police Headquarters Gender and Children's Desk coordinator SSP Faidha Suleiman (R) among participants of an event organised by the European Union in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to mark International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Zanzibar education ministry determined to better conditions in all public schools

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar has announced plans to start constructing multi-storey buildings as part of efforts to end the shortage of class-rooms in primary and secondary schools.

Deputy Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Simai Mohamed Said, said the move will enable schools to accommodate a good number of pupils as the number increases annually.

He was responding to a question from Konde Representative, Omar Seif Abeid at the ongoing meetings of the House of Representatives. He said to start with, the government with support from World Bank constructed a storey building at Wingwi secondary school in Pemba.

"The storey buildings will reduce congestion at our schools. This will also provide conducive learning environment for students because at some schools pupils were sitting on the floor," he said adding that the storey building at Wingwi secondary school has greatly reduced student congestion in classes.

He however added that the six newly launched schools will further improve learning environment for pupils as well as contribute into increased performance in national examinations.

"The new storey building schools in Unguja will apart from reducing congestion have better learning environment as they are equipped with laboratories and other important equipment," said the Deputy Minister.

Simai commended the support from World Bank and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for funding various educational projects in the Isles. He said the two banks signed an agreement with the government of Zanzibar to fund school construction projects in Unguja and Pemba. The agreement which was signed in 2019 will see five schools constructed in Unguja and one in Pemba. He added that so far two schools have been constructed as preparation for construction of remained schools is underway.

TTB reiterates intentions to promote country's tourism attractions in Africa

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has reiterated intentions to continue promoting the country's tourists attractions in African countries.

TTB Managing Director, Devota Mdachi made the remarks on Thursday at the ongoing three-day domestic tourism exhibition

dubbed-UWANDAE EXPO 2020 taking place at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam

"Today we have got participants from Angola, Ethiopia, South Africa, German, UK, and other countries, they will get a chance to see what Tanzania has to offer in tourism sector and assist us to market them in their respective countries," she noted.

According to Mdachi there are many Africans who are not aware of tourists attractions available in Tanzania hence the need to promote them. She said Tanzania offers various tourism products including cultural tourism, wildlife Safari packages, beach, Island packages and several others.

"We have Mount Kilimanjaro,

the highest and tallest mountain in Africa. Serengeti national park is the best place to see wildebeest migration where every year the animals migrate from the Serengeti plains in Tanzania to the Masai Mara in Kenya," said the TTB official.

She said UWANDAE EXPO is the best platform that will help exhibitors share experiences as

well as promote domestic tourism. She called on Association of Women in Tourism Tanzania (AWOTA) to sensitize women to join the organization to benefit from business opportunities available in tourism sector.

Tourism is the most significant industry that can support women to improve their livelihood and generate income, she said

noting that 54 percent of workers employed in this sector globally are women.

For his part Ambassador of African Tourism Board from Angola, Angela Diamantino added that they are in Tanzania to support AWOTA and Tanzanians as well in supporting the tourism sector. "We stand to empower women, we can go further and

empower communities so that we can have healthy communities and develop our countries," she says.

Mdachi added: "Nobody is going anywhere alone, let us move together as women in Africa and then men will join us after seeing what we do to support our fellow women socially and economically".

Valentine is about platonic love for family, friends and even coworkers

Love is in the air and it's time for you to develop a love affair with your customer.

It's February, and with this starts the season of lovers as Cupid strikes everyone and sends everyone into a world of fizzy where people find true companions in other people.

Valentine's Day, the day of lovers, is celebrated all over the world with unbound frenzy where each and everyone wants to do something special for his/her valentine. On this day, people celebrate love and their bondage with their loved ones. This attachment and the relationship they share are commemorated with special occasions with each other.

These occasions, which the lovers create for their better halves, show their love for each other. An affectionate and compassionate feeling of togetherness is what defines this day.

To make this day more special valentines award their valentines special gifts just to convey their never-ending love for their special ones. These gifts range from special jewelry, vacations to places such as

Bali and the Maldives, all known as lovers' paradises, or spending quality time together at special locations. This is the time when the hospitality industry runs into a frenzy, with bookings for people to spend quality time with their special ones. Everyone wants to spend quality time with their special ones and they make sure they book the best places to make that night alluring and to make it worth remembering.

This is where hotels come in with an especially important role to play. Valentine's Day can be made special for people looking for a romantic evening at hotels of their choice. This experience can be made great for them with exciting plans which are up for grabs and which can make your hotel a go-to hotel for a special night.

Hotels can take full advantage of this occasion to increase their bookings through new social media marketing tricks and tips and gain an upper hand over their competitors. Hoteliers can follow these tricks and tips to make this Valentine's Day a special occasion to remember for those coming in to spend quality time at their property.

- Special Discounts: The couple

coming in should be made to be felt special on that occasion with attractive discounts which draws them to your hotel. Special rate cuts should be made available to them along with special facilities. Discounts can come across as a medium to woo them which gives them the liberty to spend quality time with their loved ones but also not burning a hole in their pocket.

- Exciting Services: Rooftop candle-night dinner with the most exquisite wine and rich spread of delicacies. What can be more special for two people who are there to celebrate their love?

Room services should also be revved up with colorful bed sheets and eye-catching screens to give the rooms a romantic feel. Romance is enhanced with beautiful surroundings and the hoteliers should do its best to provide the most romantic setting for their guests.

- Lip-smacking menu: A romantic night with lip-smacking food makes it all the more special. Special delicacies under the open

sky are a treat for your customers who will definitely be attracted to it.

The hotel can also give your food exciting names on the basis of the occasions such as Lover's Delight for your special cocktail drink or Classy Love for the range of dishes that you will serve. Names attract people and calling the rich food by special names will definitely catch people's eyes who in return will want their mouth to taste that special delicacy.

The hoteliers should look forward to creating special nights for the special couple that's coming in which will definitely be a step forward in marketing their hotel as the most sought-after romantic location. Social media marketing should be extensively used by the hoteliers to market their hotels as the favorite romantic location among couples.

Exciting social media stories should be posted regarding the upcoming events as it will create a buzz among people and especially youngsters as who doesn't want to spend their first love in a location which will provide them the best of services and shall make that night memorable for them.

Hotels can also arrange for special romantic musical night graced over by singers of Bollywood fame who will mesmerize the crowd with their amazing music and make the night even more memorable. Hoteliers should always harp on these occasions to generate bookings through amazing deals which will attract customers and increase their hotel's name and fame.

They should also make it sure to convey their special deals to their respective OTAs and also update the deals on their websites which have the services of a hotel booking engine provided by companies such as Booking Link.

On Valentine's Day, romantic love usually sits at the centre of attention, but platonic love for family, friends, and even your coworkers can be just as important as the love you have for your partner.

Think about the last person you laughed with on the phone or whoever you turn to when you need to solve a problem. Maybe you never got them a holiday gift. If so, Valentine's Day is the perfect second chance. Spend it rewardingly.

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MP raises concern over high fees imposed on small-scale fishermen

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBER of Parliament for Mtambile constituency (CUF) Masoud Abdallah Salim yesterday raised concern over high charges imposed on small-scale fishermen from Zanzibar who are conducting their activities along Tanga fishing sea.

The MP said this in the House during the questions and answers session calling on the government to probe the matter.

In his basic question, MP Masoud claimed that the fishers are being charged up to 10,000/- per month by Marine Park Unit officials, which according to him is too high.

He said that most of fishermen from Isles have been facing a number of obstacles when conducting their activities which include high fines and being arrested something which affects their development.

Responding, deputy minister for Fisheries Abdallah Ulega promised to investigate the matter.

According to him, the sector is being governed by laws and regulations so if the charges opposed to the fishermen were illegal, the ministry will take stern measures to those involved.

Ulega however said that fishing in the national waters was not a union

matter as per the Tanzania Constitution.

"As per the Fisheries Act no 22 of 2003 and its regulations of 2009 as well as the amendments of 2018 and 2019 directs that any fisherman who shifts his fishing activities from one place to another should have a licence and all permits to enable him conducts his activities smoothly," Ulega highlighted.

In regard to that, all fees and levies should be charged as per the governing laws and regulations.

"The ministry has embarked on various strategies to address various challenges facing the sector including nuisance fees imposed to fishers to conduct their activities in various parts. We have also been educating the fishermen to adhere to the country's laws," he noted.

He also added that the government was reviewing some fishery laws to enable Tanzanians to benefit more from the country's marine resources.

The deputy minister further noted that the fisheries sector is among the important economic sub sectors of the economy in Tanzania. The sector provides substantial employment, incomes, livelihoods, foreign earnings and revenue to the country.



Entrepreneur Neema Saidi (L) introduces her home-made products at Creative, Entrepreneurship and Small Industry Exhibition held at Monduli in Arusha Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Employment contracts for drivers, conductors in the pipeline - minister

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has announced plan to start conducting inspections to identify drivers and conductors who work without job contracts.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment,

Youth, and Antony Mavunde said the move is aimed at ensuring all the drivers are provided with job contracts and are formally recognized.

He made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday when responding to a supplementary question from Nyamagana MP, Stanslous Mabula (CCM).

In his question, Mabula said

despite the good work of formalizing employment there are a number of drivers and conductors who have been working for a long time without job contracts.

"I would like to know when will the government ensure job contract for drivers as well as making them legally recognized, questioned the legislator insist-

ing once formally recognized, they will be able to demand for their rights.

In his response, Mavunde told the House that the ministry has already started working on directives from the President's Office. He said the minister, Jenista Mhagama has already consulted vehicle owners including bus and truck owners and the driv-

ers' association for purposes of developing strategies on how to formalize drivers employment.

According to Mavunde the ministry is still working with bus/truck owners and leaders of the drivers' association to ensure implementation of the plan. He said government would wish to see drivers treated in accordance with the Tanzania Employ-

ment and Labour Relations Act of 2004.

The deputy minister noted that various interventions are being taken by the government to empower young Tanzanians as well as job creation.

He said regional and district authorities have been directed to allocated specific areas for agricultural activities to be con-

ducted by youth whereas a total of 217,882.36 acres have been set aside for agricultural, pastoral, industrial and business activities.

"We are also providing youth with training on life skills to enable them employ themselves", he stated adding that this financial year, the government provided trainings to of 49, 265 youth across the country.



Macon Dunnagan (foreground), goodwill ambassador of Tanzania's tourism in the US, pictured with colleagues at Rongai Gate in Kilimanjaro Region earlier this week shortly before setting out for his 45th special Mount Kilimanjaro Climb. Kilimanjaro National Park authorities confirmed that he was a record holder in scaling Africa's highest mountain. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Climate stakeholders calls upon states to adopt use of natural gas

By Guardian Reporter

CLIMATE stakeholders around the globe have called upon countries to adopt the use of natural gas in various social and economic activities in order to reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

The stakeholders attributed human activities such as cooking, industrial production, use of vehicles as main causes of climate change which has so far resulted into many effects to the society including changing weather cast that causes torrential rains.

Delivering his presentation on climate change at the conference held at the Training Center for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC) in Arusha recently, Economist, Dr Brian Cooksey said that climate change that most of the countries around the world experiences has been largely contributed by massive use of charcoal, pollution from vehicles that provides greenhouse gas.

"The pollution from human activities releases Carbon dioxide which broke the atmosphere and causes the sun's heat to fall," he said.

He said for example the use of char-

coal in many African countries contributes to the carbon dioxide and the agricultural system in big countries such as America-large scale farming which uses tractors that emit high levels of smoke contribute to the situation.

The expert mentioned China as a leading country in polluting the environment due to the fact that the country has a big number of factories which uses charcoal.

Other countries in the list are German, America, London and Canada while in Africa; South Africa is in the list.

He called on the industries to use nuclear power to obtain energy because producing electricity by using diesel fuel causes environmental pollution and leads to climate change and global warming.

However, Africa, small islands and Asian mega deltas are regions that are likely to be further affected by climate change.

Within other areas, some of the people who are particularly at risk of being adversely affected by climate change include the poor, children and the elderly.



The stakeholders attributed human activities such as cooking, industrial production, use of vehicles as main causes of climate change which has so far resulted into many effects to the society including changing weather cast that causes torrential rains

Cotton growers assured of farm inputs, minister

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has assured cotton farmers of availability and timely distribution of agricultural inputs including pesticides.

Deputy Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe gave the assurance

in the National Assembly when responding to a question posed by Geita Rural Member of Parliament, Joseph Kasheku (CCM) who wanted to know the government plans to supply cotton farmers with pesticides.

The MP was concerned with the

shortage of agricultural inputs and pesticides in Geita.

The deputy minister said a total of 4.6 million litres of pesticides worth 16.8bn/- were supplied to cotton farmers during the 2017/2028 farming season. He said during the period, a total of

1,488,406 acres of cotton were cultivated countrywide whereas the harvests were 132,961 tonnes.

He said in the 2018/2029 season, a total of 1,865,000 acres of cotton were cultivated producing 222,725 tonnes. He said the government distributed 6 million bottles of pes-

ticides worth 29bn/-.

During the 2019/2020 farming season, a total of 1,786,890 acres of cotton were cultivated producing 350,473 tonnes whereas 8.2 million bottles of pesticides worth 41bn/- were distributed to farmers across the country.

Bashe noted that the government has been supplying agricultural inputs to all cotton framers including those in Geita region adding distribution is ongoing in the region for the 2019/2020 season.

"The government has been sen-

siti ng people to cultivate cotton but also taking measures to ensure timely availability and distribution of agricultural inputs including pesticides. We will continue encouraging farmers to embark on cotton farming to improve their welfare", he noted.

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UN health agency: Female genital mutilation costs \$1.4 billion annually

UNITED NATIONS

FEMALE Genital Mutilation (FGM) poses serious risks to the health and well-being of women and girls, but it also exacts a crippling economic toll, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

New modelling by the UN agency to coincide with the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, marked on Thursday, reveals that the cost of treating the total health impacts of FGM would amount to \$1.4 billion globally per year.

The figure sees individual countries devoting nearly 10 per cent of their yearly expenditure to treat FGM; for some countries, it could be as high as 30 per cent.

"FGM is not only a catastrophic abuse of human rights that significantly harms the physical and mental health of millions of girls and women; it is also a drain on a country's vital economic resources", said Dr Ian Askew, Director of WHO's Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research.

"More investment is urgently needed to stop FGM and end the suffering it inflicts."

FGM a 'manifestation of gender inequality': UN chief

Female genital mutilation is a blatant manifestation of gender inequality, said UN chief António Guterres, in his message to mark the International Day, noting that it was "deeply entrenched in social, economic and political structures. It is also a human rights violation and an extreme form of violence against girls."

He applauded the focus on the Day on the power of young people to make their voices heard: "We must amplify those voices and help them to advocate for change and for their rights. Together, we can eliminate female genital mutilation by 2030. Doing so will have a positive ripple effect on the health, education and economic advancement of girls and women."

More than 200 million affected



It is estimated that more than 200 million women and girls today have undergone FGM, which involves altering or injuring female genital organs for cultural or non-medical reasons.

The procedure is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and 15-years-old, and the impacts on their health and well-being can be immediate—from infections, bleeding, or psychological trauma—to chronic health conditions that can occur throughout life.

Women subjected to FGM are also more likely to suffer life-threatening complications during childbirth, and to experience pain or problems when they

menstruate, urinate or have sex.

With decentralisation on the cards, elections should ideally build the legitimacy of Parliament and municipal councils. File photo

menstruate, urinate or have sex.

Medicalized FGM on the rise

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) further reports that around a quarter of FGM survivors, or roughly 52 million women and girls, were cut by health care providers. The death of a 12-year-old girl in Egypt last month highlighted the dangers of medicalized FGM.

Although the Egyptian authorities banned FGM in 2008, it is still common there and in Sudan, according to UNICEF.

Agency analysis indicates that

medicalized FGM is increasing due to the misguided belief that the dangers of FGM are medical, rather than a fundamental violation of a girl's rights.

"Doctor-sanctioned mutilation is still mutilation. Trained health-care professionals who perform FGM violate girls' fundamental rights, physical integrity and health," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

"Medicalizing the practice does not make it safe, moral, or defensible."

Agency analysis indicates that

Abandoning FGM is possible

The trend toward medicalized FGM comes as opposition to the practice continues to grow.

Since 1997, global efforts have led to 26 countries in Africa and the Middle East enacting legislation against FGM, while 33 other countries with migrant populations from nations where it is practiced have also followed suit.

UNICEF also found that the proportion of girls and women in high-prevalence countries who want FGM stopped has doubled over the past two decades.

"We are making progress. At-

titudes are changing. Behaviors are changing. And overall fewer girls are getting cut," said Ms. Fore, the agency's chief.

Dr. Christina Pallitto, a scientist at WHO, added that many countries and communities are showing that abandoning FGM is possible.

"If countries invest to end female genital mutilation, they can prevent their girls from undergoing this harmful practice and promote the health, rights and well-being of women and girls," she stated.

Agencies

Germany to help boost SA's vocational training

By Peter Fabricius

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel have launched an initiative for Germany to lend South Africa its renowned expertise in vocational training. Its aim is to help find work for SA's youth - about half of whom are unemployed - and also to boost commerce and industry which face skills shortages.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel held an official meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday 6 February and brought a large delegation of German business leaders exploring opportunities for investment and trade. Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Blade Nzimande and the German government signed an agreement on the vocational training initiative at a press conference of the two leaders in Pretoria.

Merkel said South Africa provided good youth education but after receiving that education, young people needed jobs. Although the about 600 German companies in South Africa were already providing much vocational training, it was not enough and the new initiative would expand it, starting with a few educational institutions to show how it would work.

Merkel was probably alluding diplomatically to South Africa's existing Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges (TVETs) which are not held in very high esteem in business quarters, German or otherwise. What they say, and what Merkel seemed to be hinting at, is that the TVETs don't really prepare their graduates sufficiently for actual employment.

In Germany, the equivalent institutions work much more closely with business representatives to learn what their requirements are and to tailor their education accordingly. This is likely to be the core of the joint initiative just launched, although details were not divulged.

Many German business people - like their South African counterparts - consider the levy of 1% of payroll that they have to pay to South Africa's Skills Education Training Authorities (Setas) as a

mere "sin tax" that does little to finance what the Setas are supposed to do - boost skills, create jobs and grow their companies.

Ramaphosa said at a joint press conference with Merkel that the signing of the joint initiative on the promotion of vocational training had been "of particular importance" in his discussions with the chancellor.

"I have made addressing the high rate of youth unemployment in our country a foremost priority of this administration."

"We have begun to implement the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention to address this challenge, which includes five priority actions over the next five years that will significantly reduce the rate of youth unemployment."

"An important part of this intervention is to provide young people with the skills that companies require, and to better align the skills development system with demand in the economy."

"We have to make sure that young people transition from learning to earning at a much faster rate."

"Part of our discussion with the chancellor today focused on how we can work together to strengthen technical and vocational education in South Africa."

"We know that Germany has one of the most admired and successful training systems in the world, and we look forward to finding ways for us to learn from each other's experiences and build a world-class skills development system for young people in South Africa."

Addressing a business forum with Merkel, Ramaphosa urged German companies operating in South Africa to partner with the country's technical and vocational colleges to develop the skills that they needed for their businesses.

He said he and Merkel had discussed how the acquisition of critical skills "is among our foremost priorities as we prepare our workforces to adapt to the changing world of work."

"The knowledge and skills transfer that will come with greater German investment in South Africa will play a key role in propelling our economy to greater heights."

Another focus of the discussions be-



President Cyril Ramaphosa and German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 6 February 2020. File photo

tween the two leaders was energy. South Africa is, of course, stuck in an energy-deficit crisis with the ailing state energy utility Eskom unable to provide the country with continuous electricity.

It is not clear if Ramaphosa and Merkel discussed any specific projects but Merkel said afterwards that Germany would like to help South Africa manage its transition from coal-burning power stations to renewable energy and gas as sources of power. Ramaphosa said Merkel had extensively shared Germany's own experience of making the transition from coal

to renewables. He noted that Germany had set 2038 as its deadline for eliminating coal entirely from its energy mix.

South Africa was still far behind, relying on coal for 89% of its energy generation, "but we have started the journey towards renewables", which he said would play a growing role.

This journey had been considerably boosted by the government's recent decision to allow companies, towns and others to generate their own electricity.

"What was pleasing was to learn from the German experience of

renewable energy. transition is what happens in those areas where coal stations have been," Ramaphosa said. South Africa was just at the start of that transition and was looking at what a just transition meant for workers and communities who relied on coal.

"So, we learnt a lot which we can apply. It doesn't mean workers can be thrown into the pool of the unemployed," Ramaphosa said.

He told business leaders at the start of their forum that he was particularly keen to see how Germany and South Africa could collaborate in the field of clean and

renewable energy. "Our collaboration is all the more critical as we strive to meet our obligations under the Paris Agreement to combat climate change."

"Low-carbon growth that is climate change resilient is a fundamental tenet of our National Development Plan and we look eagerly to the enhanced collaboration between local companies and their counterparts in Germany in rolling out appropriate technologies in pursuit of that objective."

Agencies

BUSINESS



Bocar Ba, chief executive of Samena Telecommunications Council.

SECURITY

Alert: Cyber spend in Africa, Middle East to grow more than five-fold to \$13bn by 2023

DUBAI

Organisations in the Middle East and Africa should develop a reliable information-sharing mechanism with the public sector to beef up the cybersecurity framework and cut down costs predicted to grow more than five-fold in the next three years, say industry experts.

"MEA companies spent \$2 billion (Dh7.34bn) tackling cyber attacks last year ... this was only the tip of an iceberg as this amount will reach \$13bn by 2023," said Bocar Ba, chief executive of the South Asia, Middle East and North Africa (Samena) Telecommunications Council.

The private sector cannot handle cybersecurity issues alone, though, and "needs government padding", said Mr Ba. "Besides an information-sharing mechanism, there should be financial incentives from the government to support cyber investments in the private sector," he added.

Dubai-based Samena is a tri-regional group that represents a community of telecommunications firms, manufacturers, regulators and academia. "Many regional companies are adopting new [cybersecurity] technologies without having a plan on how to integrate them into the work culture. The situation is [as if] we want every shining object but we don't have an integration plan," Michael Steed, managing partner at Paladin Capital Group, told The National.

Washington-based Paladin, which is working with various companies in the Gulf region, is a global investor in technologies, products and services. Most of the region's new cybersecurity infrastructure, especially critical cybersecurity used by defence, police and national security bodies, is provided by private manufacturers, said Mr Steed.

"Most of the times there is no exchange of knowledge or data that could potentially thwart many major attacks in critical sectors. We need to bring them [public and private sectors] on the same page of

information sharing otherwise long-term results will be not desirable," he added.

Organisations in the Middle East on average take 77 days to contain incidents of insider threats, according to a report released by cybersecurity company Proofpoint on Tuesday. The report found organisations in the MEA region have experienced the "highest number of insider-related incidents over the past 12 months" and are likely to experience "credential theft."

"It is, therefore, crucial in the Middle East to build a culture of cybersecurity among their employees," said Emile Abou Saleh, regional director at Proofpoint MEA. An insider threat is one that comes from within an organisation, such as current or former employees, partners and business associates, who have inside information related to the company's security practices and sensitive data. Challenges around cybersecurity will become "ever more complex" in the coming days and "no enterprise can survive by working in isolation", said Claran Martin, chief executive of the UK's National Cyber Security Centre.

"Both the government and private sectors need to be more resilient. Fixing the problem together instead of blaming each other is the key to success." The US-based Global Resilience Federation, which works with partners in five continents and builds security information-sharing platforms, predicted "a constant escalation" in cybersecurity spending in the coming years.

"This cycle is unstoppable ... the attackers will come up with new forms of attacks and you have to come up with new ways to defend," William Nelson, chief executive of GRF, told The National. He argued, however, that the pace of escalation can be reduced with the timely sharing of information. On Tuesday, GRF signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia's National Cybersecurity Authority for a national information-sharing blueprint to help safeguard critical infrastructure in the kingdom.

ENTREPRENEURS

What it takes to start your own law firm, according to this 25-year-old KZN woman

DURBAN

Not many people have the courage to leave their jobs to start a new venture. 25-year-old Sne Mthembu left her employment and started her own law firm.

The 25-year-old who was born and raised in the small town of Eshowe in KwaZulu-Natal recently got admitted as an Attorney of the High court (Legal Practitioner). Shortly after she took a leap of faith to make herself the life of her dreams.

This is her story.

"Initially, I wanted to be a doctor because that's what most of us wanted to be while growing up and my dad and I were pushing the being a doctor narrative. I never imagined that I'd be a lawyer. But I got to a point where I realised that I actually didn't like mathematics or any of the subjects that were a prerequisite to doing medicine. So, I then decided to take subjects that weren't related like life sciences and business studies and told myself I'd decide what I wanted to do once I left school.

In grade 11 we had to shadow someone as part of a Life Orientation project. My mother suggested that I shadow a lady who was a Magistrate in Eshowe. I spoke to her and she agreed to let me shadow her for a day. After a day with her I realized law interested me. I saw that people had issues and I could help with.

I then finished Matric and studied law at UKZN where I studied for four years and completed my degree. I then choose to become an Attorney even though I knew I wanted to become an advocate later in life after I gained experience.

I did my Practical Legal Training for six months and applied to do my articles but I didn't get accepted anywhere. I was applying for other jobs in the meantime because I didn't want to sit around at home. Eventually I got a job at the municipality under a graduate program. I took that job because no internships or articles were coming up.

And while I was working there, I was still looking for articles and it got to a point where I started doubting that they'd ever come. I worked at the municipality in December 2017 and at the end of February 2018, I got



Sne Mthembu.

a call from a law firm asking if I was still interested in doing my articles with them. I went for the interview and they gave me an offer.

Now I was in a predicament because my contract with the municipality was for two years and the articles internship was only for one year. I sat down with myself and with my parents and decided on doing the articles because this was my career at the end of the day and I needed to qualify as an attorney. I resigned and started at the law firm.

I did my year of articles and it was so challenging. Then I had to write my four board exams. I failed one of them and I felt like my world was end-

ing, but I got a second chance and did an oral board exam. I passed the oral and applied to the high court and was admitted as a legal practitioner in October 2019.

My one-year contract had ended in March 2019 but my director kept me at the firm and I continued working. Eventually I got to a point where I realized that I was still earning an intern salary even though I was now fully qualified. I had been applying at other law firms with no success. I wanted to leave my job but I couldn't without figuring out what to do next.

I had side hustles to sustain me such as a décor company and being a make-up artist but

I knew there was more I had to do. At the age of 25, I left my job and started my own firm and it was fully operational as of 2020. I named my firm after my 2nd name and I included 'partners' because I'm open to working with other people.

The challenges I've faced in starting my practice was finances. If you don't have a good financial standing, you it's hard to open a law firm. My other challenges were my age - people would look at me and question whether I'd be able to represent them - and the mental strain having a business comes with.

I have to give my all and sometimes represent people who were accused of heinous

crimes and then realise it's the path I chose and I have to do it. I overcame the financial challenge by saving some of the money from my salary which wasn't a lot, my extra two companies also helped, and I saved that money. My loved ones and parents who saw potential also contributed financially. Not to say that I'm completely financially secure now, but that's how I managed.

My ultimate goal is to inspire young, black women and show them that it's possible to do your own thing. If women want to open their own medical practices or law firms or any other company, I want them to see that they can do it.

DEPARTURE

Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam stepping down after scandal

ZURICH

Credit Suisse Group AG said Chief Executive Officer Tidjane Thiam is resigning in a shock move likely to fuel an uproar among key shareholders who had backed the CEO amid a damaging spying scandal.

Thiam will step down after presenting the Zurich-based bank's fourth-quarter and full-year results next week, the lender said in a statement on Friday. He will be replaced by Thomas Gottstein, a 20-year veteran of the bank who leads the Swiss unit. The bank also said Chairman Urs Rohner has the board's "unanimous" backing to complete his term until April 2021.

The decision is the culmination of a conflict between the CEO and Rohner that escalated after a recent spying scandal dented the bank's reputation and prompted difficult questions about the culture at the top of the firm. While Thiam was cleared in an internal probe and a close lieutenant of his took the fall, the bank has struggled to move beyond the scandal after more cases surfaced.

Top shareholders including



CEO Tidjane Thiam of Swiss bank Credit Suisse addresses a news conference in Zurich, Switzerland April 24, 2019.

Harris Associates, Silchester International Investors and Eminence Capital had warned the board of directors ahead of this week's meeting that they shouldn't take action against the CEO. Instead, they urged Rohner to back Thiam or step down himself, in an unusual

public display of support for the CEO.

"Tidjane has made an enormous contribution to Credit Suisse since he joined us in 2015. It is to his credit that Credit Suisse is standing on a very solid foundation and has returned successfully

to profit," Rohner said in the statement.

For Thiam, who was born in Africa and previously held top roles at Aviva Plc and Prudential Plc, the departure blemishes a largely successful four years at Credit Suisse, which he pivoted away from

volatile trading and toward the more stable business of catering to affluent clients. While the shares lost about half of their value during his tenure, he won shareholder support for stabilizing the franchise by scaling back trading and bolstering wealth management.

Thiam's troubles The troubles started in September when it emerged that the bank spied on star banker Iqbal Khan after he announced he was joining crosstown rival UBS Group AG. The details that emerged in the wake of the scandal, including a personal falling-out between the two executives earlier that year and the suicide of a contractor, rattled business circles in Zurich, which normally enjoys a reputation for quiet professionalism.

An internal probe by the bank concluded Thiam didn't know about the spying, and that Chief Operating Officer Pierre-Olivier Bouee was responsible. Bouee was fired late last year. It soon emerged that human resources chief Peter Goerke was also followed, which the bank also blamed on Bouee.

Stay on alert, no need to panic

INTERVIEW with H.E. Wang Ke, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, on Novel Coronavirus Outbreak, on 7 February

Q: Since its outbreak in December 2019, the novel coronavirus has infected over 28,000 people and spread to more than 20 countries. Should we get worried and panic?

A: The novel coronavirus outbreak has become a matter of common concern worldwide. Since its first infection was diagnosed in Wuhan, a megacity with 11 million population in central China Hubei Province, the virus has been spreading at a speed beyond expectation. As of 24:00 6 February, 31,161 confirmed cases and 26,359 suspected cases were reported in mainland China, with 1,540 cases of patients cured and 636 fatalities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 6 February, 24 countries have reported a total of 216 confirmed cases, with only one fatality.

Faced with such a serious challenge, the Chinese people have not lost heart. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Chinese government has been taking the most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures with a high sense of responsibility for people's health, many of these measures go well beyond the requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR).

The Chinese government mandated a quarantine of the Wuhan city; new hospitals have been constructed in Wuhan to further enhance local public health capacities; the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays have been extended to keep the nationwide migration of population at the minimum level; 31 provinces and municipalities, including Beijing and Shanghai, have also taken measures on first-level response to this major public health emergency. At present, high-level emergency alerts have been activated all across China and vigorous public health measures taken to identify, diagnose, and isolate infections or suspected cases at the earliest moment.

What's more, China has been in close communication and cooperation with the WHO and other countries, releasing information in an open and transparent manner, and sharing the genetic sequence of the virus with the international community.

China's efforts to contain the epidemic have brought encouraging news. Firstly, cured cases have exceeded fatal ones by a significant margin. For example, on 5 February, 261 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, whereas only 73 patients died from the disease. Secondly, the total number of confirmed cases outside of China is less than one percent of that in China, which shows China's response in curbing the spread of the epidemic globally is very effective. Thirdly, with China's unrelenting efforts, the mortality rate of novel coronavirus in China is about 2.1%, much lower than the



H.E. Wang Ke, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

mortality rates of 2009 H1N1 flu, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) of 2012 and Ebola, which are 17.4%, 34.4% and 40.4% respectively.

There are some fears of transmission of novel coronavirus from infected persons with no symptoms. Actually such cases are very rare because the infected persons with no symptoms account for only a small proportion of all infected patients and the number of viruses in such persons are very few.

All in all, I think there is no need to panic in the face of the novel coronavirus outbreak, and we have full confidence and capability to contain the outbreak.

Q: In the face of the quick spread of the deadly virus, I think international solidarity and support is very important for China to win the battle against the epidemic. Until now, what kind of support has China received from Tanzania?

A: Sure. With China making all-out efforts to fight the epidemic, many countries have expressed their sympathy and support to China, including Tanzania.

President John Pombe Magufuli recently handed me a letter to President Xi Jinping, in

which he expressed Tanzania's willingness to stand firmly with China at this tough time. Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi is the first foreign minister of Sub-Saharan African countries who made a phone call to Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to express appreciation of China's efforts after the outbreak of the epidemic. During the 146th session of the WHO Executive Board meeting, the Tanzanian delegate, on behalf of African countries, emphasized that owing to China's great efforts and sacrifice, Africa has so far no confirmed cases. China cherishes those support rendered by Tanzanian friends, which embodies our deep-rooted relationship.

Q: The WHO has declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, but disfavored adoption of travel and trade restrictions. What's your opinion on this?

A: With the utmost openness and promptness, the Chinese government is working closely with the WHO on every step of the epidemic. On 30 January, the WHO declared the global outbreak of novel coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern. As the Director-General Mr Tedros said, the main reason for the decla-

ration is not because of what is happening in China, but because of what is happening in other countries, and the greatest concern of the WHO is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems, and which are ill-prepared to deal with it. Actually in many ways, China is setting a new standard for outbreak response, which has been acknowledged by the WHO.

It is true that the WHO does not recommend, and actually oppose any travel or trade restrictions based on the current information available. The WHO's Emergency Committee further noted that evidence has shown that restricting the movement of people and goods during public health emergencies may be ineffective, interrupt needed aid and technical support, disrupt businesses and have negative effects on the economies of the countries affected. In the 146th session of the Executive Board, the WHO once again called on all countries in the world to implement the decisions that are evidence-based and consistent.

Q: What are the Chinese government doing to guarantee the safety of Tanzanian students who are stranded in Wuhan and what is their status? Is it necessary for Tanzania to evacuate its citizens from Wuhan and other severely affected areas in China now?

A: As a mother, I fully understand the feelings and concerns of the Tanzanian parents whose children are currently studying in Wuhan, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak. I would like to take this opportunity to tell Tanzanians the real situation in Wuhan.

Firstly, as far as I know, there is no novel coronavirus case or suspected case among Tanzanian students who are currently studying in Wuhan.

Secondly, Tanzanian students in Wuhan are safe in their respective universities. They are taken good care of by the local authorities. For instance, in Wuhan University, foreign students are provided free meals, face masks, disinfectant and psychological counseling. University staff disinfects surrounding areas of the student dormitories every day. Foreign affairs offices at all levels in Hubei Province have opened 24-hour hotlines for expatriates, providing timely information and assistance when such need arises. Moreover, each university in Wuhan has designated a contact person for foreign students and publicized that person's name and mobile phone number online.

Thirdly, to reduce people-to-people contacts, all universities in Wuhan have postponed the start of the upcoming semester. The specific date to begin the new semes-

ter will be announced later depending on the status of the epidemic.

By the way, the provision of necessities in Wuhan and other cities in China is sufficient. The Chinese government has pledged efforts to sustain continuous supply of necessities to coronavirus-stricken areas, arranging daily transport of vegetables, cooking oil, rice and flour to Wuhan. Please be rest assured that the Tanzanian students in Wuhan and other cities in China will get sufficient food and other logistic support.

When meeting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the WHO does not recommend the evacuation of nationals, and called on the international community to remain calm and not overreact. Based on the professional advice from the WHO and considering the current situation in Wuhan, including the fact that China is pooling its resources to the city to fight the epidemic, it is a wise and safe choice for Tanzanian students to stay in Wuhan as it is good for themselves, their families and their country.

Q: What advice do you have for Tanzanians and the authority here?

A: The Tanzanian Government has taken swift and responsible measures to prevent the importation of novel coronavirus cases from foreign countries and get prepared for such possibility. Major measures taken by the Tanzanian authorities include screening all incoming passengers at all major entry points, setting up Infectious Diseases Units in Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam, providing training to health practitioners on how to deal with infectious diseases and disaster management, and opening 24-hour toll-free hotlines for the general public to report suspicious cases. We believe that the Tanzanian government will intensify its efforts to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus, and China will stand firmly with Tanzania in this regard.

I also hope Tanzanians follow the instructions and guidelines given by relevant authorities, both national and international, in order to perceive the disease and protect themselves in a rational and scientific way. On the one hand, people should be cautious and pay more attention to hygiene and maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. For instance, wash your hands with soap more frequently; avoid close contact with anyone with fever and cough, eat nutrient food and take exercise regularly, etc. On the other hand, you should learn some knowledge about the novel coronavirus so as to not get in a panic.

Xi talks with Trump over phone on novel coronavirus outbreak

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping spoke over phone with U.S. President Donald Trump yesterday-morning.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the Chinese government and people have been making all-out efforts to battle the disease, Xi said. China, he added, has carried out national mobilization, across-the-board deployment and swift responses, adopted the most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures, and launched a people's war against the epidemic.

Noting that China's efforts are gradually yielding positive results, Xi stressed that China has full confidence and capability to prevail over the epidemic and that the trend of the Chinese economy maintaining long-term growth will not change.

Xi pointed out that China is dedicated to safeguarding the lives and health of not only its own people but also people all over the world.

With an open, transparent and responsible attitude, China has kept the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as relevant countries and regions, including the United States, posted on the epidemic, and invited WHO and other experts to conduct field visits in Wuhan, the central Chinese city that is the epicenter of the outbreak, he said.

He added that China is the first line of prevention and control against this epidemic, and its timely, decisive and effective response measures have been highly appreciated by the WHO and many countries.

Noting that China and the United States have maintained



communication over the prevention and control of the epidemic, Xi said he appreciates Trump's positive comments on China's efforts on multiple occasions, and is grateful for the supplies donated by various sections of U.S. society.

He stressed that countries around the world need to pool their efforts to fight epidemics, and that the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak is currently at a crucial stage.

Reiterating the call the WHO has repeatedly made from a professional perspective for all countries to avoid overreaction, Xi said China hopes that the United States will assess the epidemic in a calm manner, and adopt and adjust its response measures in a reasonable way.

The two sides, he added, can maintain communication, strengthen coordination and work together to contain the epidemic.

For his part, Trump said the United States fully supports China's fight against the novel coronavirus epidemic and is willing to send experts to China and offer assistance in various other forms.

He said the fact that China completed building special hospitals for novel coronavirus pa-

tients in an incredibly short time is impressive, and shows China's outstanding organizational and response capabilities.

The U.S. president said he is confident that under Xi's leadership, the Chinese people will undoubtedly win the battle against the outbreak.

The United States has confidence in China's economic growth, he said, adding that Washington will calmly look at and respond to the epidemic, and is willing to maintain communication and cooperation with China through bilateral and WHO channels.

Recalling that China and the United States signed the phase-one economic and trade agreement not long ago, Xi stressed that it is good for China, for the United States and for world peace and prosperity that the two countries reached such a deal.

The progress, he said, fully demonstrates that despite their differences, the two countries can always find solutions acceptable to both through dialogue and consultation as long as they uphold the spirit of equality and mutual respect.

Xi expressed the hope that the United States will work with China to move towards each other, seriously implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, adhere to the basic principle of coordination, cooperation and stability, and advance bilateral ties on the right track in the new year.

Trump said the United States is willing to work with China to carry out the agreement and push forward bilateral relations. The two heads of state also agreed to keep close contact through various ways.

Xinhua

Shanghai citizens volunteer in mask production to combat coronavirus outbreak

27-year-old Zhou Wenjia, hearing-impaired, has been on the go all day to enroll volunteers for a mask production firm located in Songjiang district of Shanghai. Amid the coronavirus outbreak, face masks have emerged as a basic necessity among the public.

As many of the workers returned to their native hometown to spend the Spring Festival break, some mask producers, which had to start production before the holiday ended, are struggling to meet the demands. Samaritan of Shanghai decided to fill this void and joined as volunteers at the production line.

"About 100 people would like to add me on WeChat every day, hoping to get enrolled as volunteers. People really want to help," Zhou Wenjia told the Global Times.

"Through this, I can feel that people are all united to do what they can to win this battle against the coronavirus epidemic. No matter how hard it is, it's worth it," Zhou Wenjia said.

She works for a Shanghai-based charitable organization, Symphony Charity & Social Development Center (SCSD), which plans to arrange 20 volunteers to join the night shift in the factory starting from January 29 to February 8.

Zhou Rong, deputy director of SCSD told Global Times a total of 120 volunteers have joined the production as of Monday.

Aged from 18 to 60 years old, these volunteers come from different walks of life, including white-collar workers, veterans, and housewives, university students, and retirees. According to Zhou, the only prerequisite is all the applicants should be in good health and shouldn't have been out of the city in the last 14 days.



On January 27, 2020, in Shanghai, citizens lined up to buy masks in a pharmacy in Pudong New Area.

The shift is from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am, during which their primary tasks include running quality checks, counting and then packing them in carton boxes.

Wang Wenkang, 44, a salesperson at a chemical industry, is one of the volunteers. "The first night shift made me realize how hard the workers in the production line work," Wang told the Global Times. "But my passion alleviated the work fatigue."

"During this crucial time, everybody, from the government to individuals, is doing his bit to fight the epidemic, I have to do something," he said.

According to Wang, volunteers have to pass temperature screenings before they are let into the factory. They are only allowed to work on the line after completing basic training, wearing protective suits, and going through disinfection.

Zhou Rong told Global Times

20 volunteers can produce around 300,000 masks per night. Considering that volunteers are doing the work without payment, SCSD bought commercial insurance for them. Moreover, their 12-hour charity service will be formally recognized by the city's official volunteer association, Shanghai Volunteer.

Shanghai Shenghui Plastic Package in the Fengxian district of Shanghai manufactures N95 masks for an international brand. It resumed production on January 25, the first day of Chinese Lunar New Year.

Volunteers started joining from January 27 onwards, Lu Lili, an HR official at the company told the Global Times. From January 27 to 29, the company has welcomed 30 to 50 volunteers every day, Lu said. Working in shifts from 8 am to 4:30 pm, they are mainly assigned to packaging.

Most of their volunteers are

management professionals at the Shanghai Hangzhou Bay Economic and Technological Development Co., Ltd. Besides, professionals from other companies also joined the workforce.

Qian Li, a department head at the company told the Global Times her company dispatched about 120 people to the factory to help on the production line for free.

"Working on the production line is really a physical challenge to our office workers," Qian said, adding that she and two other volunteers could only handle nine boxes of masks in one morning shift. But she was proud that they can contribute something during this nationwide combat against coronavirus epidemic.

"In order not to increase the burden on the company, our volunteers left the factory as soon as we finished our work," Qian said.

According to Lu, the company could only make 40,000 to 50,000 masks every day at the very beginning. However, as more people joined in, its current daily production capacity has reached above 100,000.

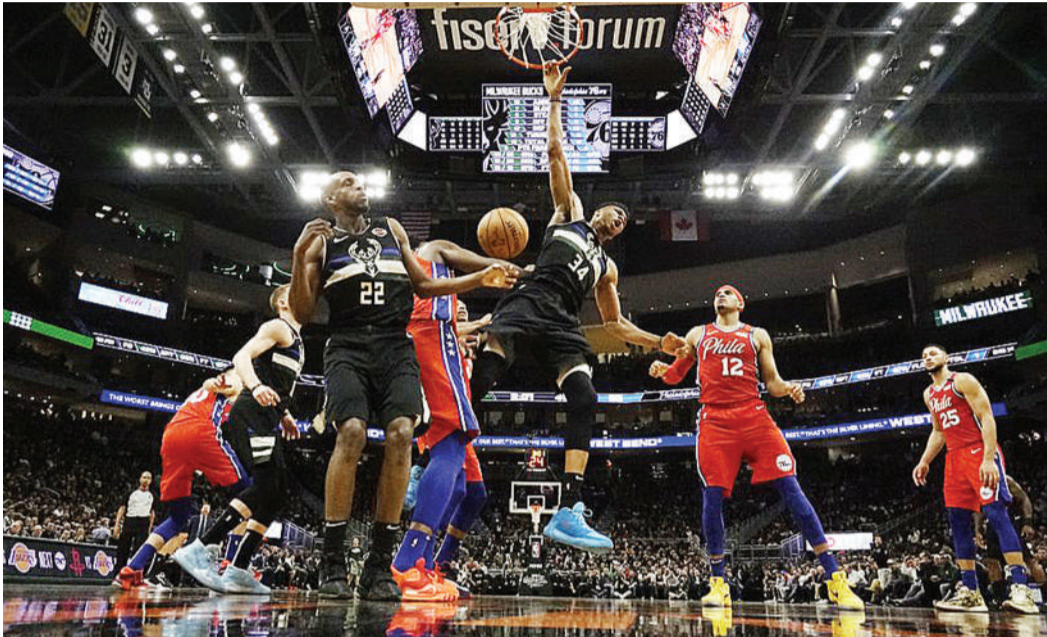
Lu said the company offered a certain amount of payment to some volunteers to express their gratitude, but some refused to accept it.

Currently, domestic mask producers have resumed 60 percent of its production capacity, Cao Xuejun, a senior official at the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said at a press conference Sunday, February 2. The total output topped 10 million pieces daily. China is also seeking for imports to meet the surging demand in the face of the ongoing epidemic.

Global Times

SPORT

Covington has clutch debut, Rockets outlast Lakers 121-111



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts as he dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, in Milwaukee. The Bucks won 112-101. (AP Photo)

LOS ANGELES

NBODY taller than 6-foot-6 was in Houston's starting lineup, and a heavily bearded guard lost the opening tip. Nobody bigger than 6-foot-7 Robert Covington played for the Rockets in a game between division leaders at Staples Center.

Because Russell Westbrook went wild and Covington came up big late in his debut, the Rockets' first experiment in extremely small ball was a large success – and the hulking Los Angeles Lakers came up short.

Westbrook scored 41 points and Covington hit two clutch late 3-pointers while getting 14 points and eight rebounds, leading Houston to a 121-111 win over Los Angeles on Thursday night.

James Harden managed just 14 points, but Westbrook picked up the scoring slack before Covington had several big moments down the stretch. The final surge sent the Rockets to a major road win in their first attempt at playing without a center in coach Mike D'Antoni's latest brainstorm.

"Every time you try something different, these guys have got to believe in it," D'Antoni said. "And this helps a lot, because if you

come in here and get spanked and they're all little, it's like, 'Oh, maybe we can't do this.' So they're fired up to keep trying. It's just one game, but the confidence is good."

Anthony Davis and the Lakers capitalized inside on the Rockets' diminutive defenders, but Houston still rallied from a late four-point deficit and ended the game on a 19-5 surge highlighted by two of Covington's four 3-pointers. The veteran was acquired from Minnesota on Wednesday in a four-team trade, and he tried to adjust quickly to being the tallest player on the floor for his new squad.

"Means a lot, just being able to come in and make a major impact," Covington said. "It just shows that my coaches and my teammates believe in me."

Davis had 32 points and 13 rebounds, and LeBron James had 18 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds in a meeting of first-place teams with sharply contrasting approaches. The Lakers didn't blame the loss on the Rockets' unusual lineup, but instead on their lack of execution in several key stretches.

Embiid was 1 for 10 from the field and had four points, while Harris led the Sixers with 12 points. AP

For once, 'Bongozozo' is an authentic tourism ambassador for Tanzania

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENENZA

TANZANIA has a new tourism ambassador abroad after the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Dr Hamisi Kigwangala, appointed Nick Reynald, a citizen of the United Kingdom popularly known as 'Bongozozo' tourism ambassador for Tanzania in the UK.

The local itinerary of the UK friend of Tanzania amply fits the profile of such a post, as it is honorific and it ought to be in tandem with what an individual is doing on a daily basis. And 'Bongozozo' is never done thinking about Tanzania, travelling here, joining up with Taifa Stars.

Handing the letter of recognition for the title, TTB Marketing Manager Geoffrey Meena said Reynald who was born in Zimbabwe but lived in Tanzania for 18 years from 1998 will be a good tourism ambassador.

He is definitely conversant with the country's tourist areas, but more significantly he has a passion about Tanzania as a second or third home. His birth place is Zimbabwe, his adopted state of living as a professional has definitely been Tanzania, but then of course he is a UK citizen, so ultimately that surely is his proper home.

Meena said Reynald became popular for his affinity with this country in many fields, especially for being an ardent Taifa Stars fan and of fits current captain Mbwana Samatta, lately turning out for Aston Villa, in the England Premier League.

After the new appointment, he visited Parliament grounds in Dodoma where there were jovial scenes with MPs, and pundits were at work describing his affinities with Tanzania and what to expect of his new role. Some of what they said is somewhat obvious: he can't seek citizenship as it isn't dual with our laws, and all of us need to be assured of protection in life.

The soccer pundit who still looks youthful despite his nearly 20 years in Tanzania contributed in his twitter page when Samatta made his first appearance for his new club and scored. Obviously he had taken notice when the player became the first Tanzanian footballer to have scored in the UEFA Champions



Nick Reynald, aka 'Bongozozo'.

League in a return tie with Red Bull Salzburg, or earlier having a hat trick in the Europa League, when playing Brondby FC.

It is a sort of coincidence that just as Tanzania gets its first truly international level player, there is another rather international citizen to take note of the same - to wit, far and wide.

Plenty has been said about 'Bongozozo' being attracted to local soccer and travelling with Taifa Stars in various competitions including the AFCN finals last year in Egypt. This puts him in a unique position to talk about the team, as one among items he can talk with youths and some adults in places he visits from time to time, including his own country, UK.

This is a good vantage point for him to be able to represent the country where it needs a visitor, a man of goodwill to help its case to attract visitors to this place.

Indeed his own example would be somewhat reassur-

ing not just for casual tourists for often they don't need excessive assurances, as all that is taken care of in packages by travel agents, etc. There is another sphere of tourism which isn't being touted but he could very well help in that regard, what could be described as 'investment tourism.'

Here one needs assurances as to hospitality, attitudes at higher levels of regulatory agencies and possible changes in that regard - issues for which personal testimony counts, as often investors don't get what they want from brochures, websites.

The manager said that TTB was working to enhance the number of tourists from the UK, an effort that rhymes well with UK efforts to develop better trade and investment ties with African countries after leaving the European Union. 'Bongozozo' may be well aware of that as well, and it could widen the breadth of who he meets as an envoy.

In a way it isn't hard to connect the tourism and invest-

ment messages, though officially it is the country's foreign envoys who are tasked with attracting investors. Still, if personal testimony is helpful to garner more tourists to visit the country, quite a few of them could also have an extra bit of exploration they are making when coming this way as tourists.

It is the idea that they may also be potential investors, and personal testimony is even more important here than in hurried tourist visits covered by a travel agency package.

In his remarks, the new envoy appeared to know the beat his new task covers pretty well, in declaring that he will try to be a good ambassador in the UK. He will be advertising all that is good about Tanzania all over the world through his social networks in order to spur more tourists to visit Tanzania.

The key message that Tanzania is hospitable to people like himself speaks volumes, and will help to reassure those who still had doubts, in thinking of Zimbabwe, etc.

Kirk Douglas rose from poverty to become a king of Hollywood - 2

NEW YORK

CRITIC David Thomson dubbed Douglas "the manic-depressive among Hollywood stars, one minute bearing down on plot, dialogue and actresses with the gleeful appetite of a man just freed from Siberia, at other times writhing not just in agony but mutilation and a convincingly horrible death."

While filming "Lust for Life," he was so caught up in Vincent van Gogh he feared becoming suicidal himself.

Douglas recounted in his memoir that John Wayne yelled at him for playing "a part like that."

"We got to play strong, tough characters. Not those weak queers," Wayne said.

Responded Douglas: Hey, John, I'm an actor. I like to play interesting roles. It's all make-believe, John. It isn't real. You're not really John Wayne, you know.

Issur Danielovitch was born in 1916 to an impoverished Jewish family in Amsterdam, New York. His name evolved over time. He called himself Isidore Demsky until he graduated from St. Lawrence University. He took the name Kirk Douglas as he worked his way through the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, choosing "Douglas" because he wanted his last name still to begin with "D" and "Kirk" because he liked the hard, jagged sound of the "K."

Douglas was a performer as early as kindergarten, when he recited a poem about the red robin of spring. He was a star in high school, and in college he wrestled and built the physique that was showcased in many of his movies. He was determined, hitchhiking to St. Lawrence and convincing the dean to approve a student loan. And he was tough. One of his



Kirk Douglas

strongest childhood memories was of flinging a spoonful of hot tea into the face of his intimidating father.

"I have never done anything as brave in any movie," he later wrote.

Beginning in 1941, Douglas won a series of small roles on Broadway, served briefly in the Navy and received a key Hollywood break when an old friend from New York, Lauren Bacall, recommended he play opposite Barbara Stanwyck in "The Strange Love of Martha Ivers."

He gained further attention as a tough guy in the classic 1947 film noir "Out of the Past," although a more typical role was as a school teacher

in Mankiewicz's Oscar-winning "A Letter to Three Wives." His real breakthrough came as an unscrupulous boxer in 1949's "Champion," a low-budget film produced by a then-little known Stanley Kramer that his agents disparaged.

"With dire warnings about my career and my future, they gave up on me, writing me off as just another crazy New York actor who didn't know what he was doing," Douglas recalled in his memoir "The Ragman's Son," published in 1988.

He had long desired creative control and "Champion" was followed by a run of successes that gave him

the clout to form Bryna Productions (named after his mother) in 1955, and a second company later. Many of his movies, such as Kubrick's "Paths of Glory," "The Vikings," "Spartacus" and "Seven Days in May," were produced by his companies. Other highlights included the acclaimed crime drama "Detective Story" and the Oscar-winning adaptation of Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

Douglas very much lived like a movie star, or even a king, in the pre-#MeToo era. Marriage and other commitments didn't keep him from being romantically linked with many of his female co-stars, among them Gene Tierney, Patricia Neal and Marlene Dietrich. He would recall playing Ann Southern's husband in "A Letter to Three Wives" and how he and the actress "rehearsed the relationship offstage."

Speaking to The Associated Press about Douglas in December 2016, less than a year before the #MeToo movement caught on, the actress and dancer Neile Adams lightheartedly said of her friend, "You could not sit beside him without his hand crawling up your leg."

His first marriage, to Diana Dill, ended in 1951. Three years later, he married Anne Buydens, whom he met in Paris while he was filming "Act of Love" (and eagerly pursuing a young Italian actress) and she was a publicist.

He would later owe his very life to Anne, to whom he was married more than 60 years despite acknowledged tension over his infidelities.

In 1958, the film producer Michael Todd, then the husband of Elizabeth Taylor, offered the actor a ride on his private jet. Douglas' wife insisted that he not go, worrying about a private plane, and he eventually gave in. The

plane crashed, killing all on board.

Douglas had two children with each of his wives and all went into show business, against their father's advice. Besides Michael, they are Joel and Peter, both producers, and Eric, an actor with several film credits who died of a drug overdose in 2004.

Later generations came to know Michael well. Michael Douglas not only thrived in Hollywood, but beat his dad to the Oscars with a project his father had first desired. Kirk Douglas tried for years to make a film out of Ken Kesey's cult novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." In the 1970s, he gave up and let Michael have a try.

The younger Douglas produced a classic that starred Jack Nicholson as rebel Randle Patrick McMurphy (the role Kirk Douglas wanted to play) and dominated the Oscars, winning for best picture, director, actor, actress and screenplay.

"My father has played up his disappointment with that pretty good," Michael Douglas later told Vanity Fair. "I have to remind him, I shared part of my producing back-end (credit) with him, so he ended up making more money off that movie than he had in any other picture."

"And I would gladly give back every cent, if I could have played that role," the elder Douglas replied.

When his movie career faded, Douglas turned to other media. In the 1970s and 1980s, he did several notable television films, including "Victory at Entebbe" and "Amos." His film credits in the '70s and '80s included De Palma's "The Fury" and a comedy, "Tough Guys," that co-starred Burt Lancaster, his longtime friend who previously appeared with Douglas in "Seven Days in May," "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" and other movies.

A stroke in 1996 seemed to end his film career, but Douglas returned three years later with "Diamonds," which he made after struggling to overcome speech problems.

"I thought I would never make another movie unless silent movies came back," he joked.

He would say he became more reflective in his 70s, especially after a 1991 helicopter crash that killed two other passengers, and began a prolific writing career. His books included "The Ragman's Son," the novels "Dance With the Devil" and "The Gift" and a short work on the making of "Spartacus."

Douglas also was one of Hollywood's leading philanthropists. The Douglas Foundation, which he and Anne Douglas co-founded, has donated millions to a wide range of institutions, from the Children's Hospital Los Angeles to the Motion Picture & Television Fund. In 2015, the foundation endowed the Kirk Douglas Fellowship – a full-tuition, 2-year scholarship – at the American Film Institute.

In 2003, Douglas teamed with son Michael; Cameron Douglas, Michael's 24-year-old son; and ex-wife Diana Douglas, Michael's mother, for "It Runs in the Family," a comic drama with a few digs worked in about the elder Douglas' parenting.

In March 2009, he appeared in a one-man show, "Before I Forget," recounting his life and famous friends. The four-night show in the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City was sold out.

"You know, I never wanted to be a movie actor," Douglas told the AP in 2009. "My goal in life was to be a star on the stage. Now I know how to do it. Build your own theater."

Real, Barca same-day Copa losses first in 65 years

MADRID

REAL Madrid and Barcelona were ousted from the Copa del Rey quarterfinals on Thursday, the first time in nearly 65 years that the La Liga giants were eliminated from the tournament on the same day.

Real Sociedad ended Real Madrid's 21-game unbeaten run by winning 4-3 at the Bernabeu, while Barcelona were sent crashing out thanks to hosts Athletic Bilbao on a stoppage time header.

According to ESPN Stats & Information, the last time the two Spanish traditional powers were bounced from the competition on the same day was May 29th, 1955, when Real Madrid lost to Sevilla and Barcelona were eliminated by Athletic Club in the semifinals.

With Real and Barcelona out of this year's competition, Basque clubs Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao will join fellow La Liga counterparts Granada and second division side Mirandes in the final four.

The last Copa del Rey semifinals without Real Madrid and Barcelona occurred in 2009-10.

Barcelona have lifted the Copa a record 30 times, while Real Madrid have won it 19 times. Athletic Bilbao have 23 titles but have not won since the 1983-84 season.

Barcelona coach Quique Setien said he was hurt by the elimination but was pleased with his side's performance.

"Today everything went well apart from the result," he said. "We took a step forward in our play and I'm pleased with many things we did, I'm not only looking at the result."

On Real Madrid's loss, manager Zinedine Zidane said: "It's a bad feeling because we lost at home. We started badly. We tried until the end and the second half was much better ... the opponent played well. We were bad in the first half with our press, then we made defensive mistakes."

Meanwhile, Barcelona defender Jordi Alba joined captain Lionel Messi in criticising the club's sporting director Eric Abidal after the team were knocked out of the Copa del Rey with a 1-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Thursday.

The quarterfinal loss was the latest blow in a dark week for Barca after winger Ousmane Dembele suffered a serious injury and Messi caused a stir by hitting back at Abidal for appearing to blame the players for last month's sacking of coach Ernesto Valverde.

Abidal, a former teammate of Messi and Alba, had told newspaper Sport that he felt some Barca players were not working hard enough under Valverde, which led to him advising club president Josep Maria Bartomeu to sack the coach.

Quique Setien was chosen as Valverde's successor but has lost twice in six games in charge of the Spanish champions.

"This club gets enough s--- thrown at it from the outside so we shouldn't be throwing s--- at ourselves," Alba told reporters.

"Abidal was a player, he is loved by the fans and that's why he should know what it's like inside the dressing room and how players feel."

Barca have won the Cup a record 30 times and reached the last six finals but were left reflecting on their earliest exit in a decade after Inaki Williams scored the only goal deep in added time.

Alba said the team had played well and proved they were not affected by the events of the past week.

"We showed that we are a team and that's what we need to keep on doing," he added.

"I think we put in a great performance, one of the best of the season. It's a real shame we conceded the goal so late but that's what football is like. I'm very proud of the team because of how well we played."

Barca defender Gerard Pique also said the team needed to move on from the club's internal struggles.

"Everyone knows what they have done well and what they have not and now we must keep working. We need to stop biting our nose to spite our face because that won't help us," he said.

"We built this club on victories and we must do that again. We are working towards doing that, we are playing better, we're adapting to the ideas of the coach and the dressing room is as united as ever."

(Agencies)

Ibrahimovic return adds spice to Milan derby

MILAN

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic's return to AC Milan will add spice to the city derby against Inter Milan on Sunday with the Swede looking to thwart Antonio Conte's side from keeping pace with Serie A leaders Juventus.

Ibrahimovic played his first Milan derby as an Inter player 13 years ago, while his last was for rivals AC Milan in May 2012, when he scored a double in a 4-2 defeat.

Ibrahimovic was the top scorer that season with 28 goals but Milan lost the Serie A title to Conte's Juventus, the first in the Turin giants' current run of eight league crowns.

The 38-year-old's return to Milan -- whom he helped to their last Serie A title in 2011 -- has proved a boost with his side now eighth, seven points adrift of the Champions League berths.

Milan were on a three-match winning run with Ibrahimovic on the pitch but were held 1-1 by Hellas Verona last weekend when the Swede was sidelined by the flu.

AC Milan director Zvonimir Boban praised Ibrahimovic's impact, insisting the Swede was pushing to be ready for "a unique derby".

Ibrahimovic meanwhile posted on Twitter a video of himself roaring, with the caption: "Lions don't sound like humans."

Stefano Pioli's Milan come up against an Inter who have been transformed since Conte's arrival last June. They are just three points behind Juventus, who travel to Verona.

Milan lost the reverse fixture 2-0 in September under Marco Giampolo, who was sacked after just

seven games.

Last summer Inter signed Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez, the latter on loan, from Manchester United.

Conte again raided the Premier League during the winter break, bringing in Christian Eriksen, Ashley Young and Victor Moses.

"He'll be more used to this type of game, I'm just starting," said former Tottenham midfielder Eriksen of Ibrahimovic, adding he was relishing his first 'Derby della Madonnina'.

"I've seen it on TV in the past but playing now will be very different," the Dane told Gazzetta Dello Sport.

"Compared to London, I expect a different atmosphere, here the whole stadium sings, there will be so much noise, it will be beautiful."

- Ronaldo in Verona -

Juventus travel to Verona on Saturday with Cristiano Ronaldo bidding to extend his scoring streak to 10 consecutive league games, to keep pace with Lazio's Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile's 25 goals.

Verona are on a seven-game unbeaten run and held in-form Lazio to a goalless draw in Rome midweek.

Simone Inzaghi's Lazio are just one point behind Inter Milan in third and will be targeting a record 18th successive match unbeaten.

Torino host Sampdoria under new coach Moreno Longo after Walter Mazzarri was sacked following three consecutive defeats, in which they conceded 13 goals.

Struggling Brescia also switched coaches with Diego Lopez replacing Eugenio Corini.

AFP

If Pogba leaves Man U, Old Trafford chiefs must shoulder the blame

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

PAUL Pogba is approaching the end of his second spell at Manchester United, but it has reached the stage where nobody is even noticing that the clock is ticking down to his inevitable departure in the summer.

There will be recriminations and accusations from all sides when he heads through the exit door, but United will be fooling themselves if they believe that the blame for Pogba's failure to live up to the hype at Old Trafford is solely down to the 26-year-old.

Pogba's time at United since returning to the club from Juventus in August 2016 has been a tale of underachievement and mismanagement, and each party has been badly let down by the other. But after a season that has seen him make just eight first-team appearances due to injury, Pogba's United career is fizzling out into nothingness.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will take his United squad to Marbella on Friday for a short training camp during the Premier League's first midseason break, but Pogba won't be on the trip. Six weeks after saying that Pogba would be out for "three or four weeks" due to a minor ankle operation, Solskjaer has chosen not to include the midfielder in his squad in Spain because he has been deemed not ready to train with the rest of the team.

It has almost reached the stage where questions are no longer asked about Pogba's fitness because the vague responses have proved to offer nothing in terms of clarifying exactly when he will be ready to pull on a United shirt again.

Sources have told ESPN that nobody of any consequence at United expects the France international to



Paul Pogba's world-record move to Manchester United was not the catalyst for success it was hoped to be. (Agencies)

be at Old Trafford next season. Pogba's teammates believe he will leave the club, while senior figures no longer go through the motions of insisting that the player will still be part of the squad for the 2020-21 campaign.

The fact that he is missing the trip to Spain is another indication that we are now in the endgame of Pogba's second spell at United. Had he been regarded as a key figure in Solskjaer's plans, he would have been taken to Spain to work on his fitness with the rest of the squad rather than being left to his own devices elsewhere.

As recently as Wednesday, Pogba -- ranked No. 6 among the world's top midfielders in ESPN's FC 100 -- was posting videos on his Instagram story of Adidas billboards bearing his image on the side of a road in the Middle East. During his lengthy spells on the sidelines this season, we have grown accustomed to Pogba being anywhere but Manchester, sharing video from Dubai, Miami or

France.

All of this has been done with United's blessing, with sources telling ESPN that Pogba has been allowed to travel the globe during his rehabilitation. He has, United insist, been sticking to his fitness programme, but it's just a shame that he never seems to be close enough to a return to action to be able to show himself putting in the hard yards at the club's Carrington training centre.

United have indulged Pogba by allowing him to embark on his globe-trotting fitness programme, but perhaps that is because they have let him down so much since re-signing him four years ago that it is a vain attempt to repay him for the failure to deliver on the vision that was sold to him by the club.

Back then, Pogba followed Jose Mourinho and Zlatan Ibrahimovic to Old Trafford because United wanted to reclaim their place at the summit of English and European football.

Mbappe and Tuchel's feud threatens PSG's quest for the Champions League

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

WAS it for the cameras or was it genuine?

On Tuesday night, just after half-time as the Paris Saint-Germain players were about to return to the pitch for the second half at Nantes, Thomas Tuchel grabbed Kylian Mbappe by the waist and whispered some tactical instructions in his ear, then patted him on the back in encouragement. The German manager knew very well that the cameras were there, watching. He knew because before, during and after PSG's 2-1 win at Nantes, all eyes were on Tuchel and his superstar No. 7.

Three days after the 5-0 win over Montpellier at the Parc des Princes where, unhappy to be taken off after 69 minutes, Mbappe clashed with his coach, all eyes were on the pair, with fans and pundits looking to glean any little detail in their relationship at the Stade de la Beaujoire.

Tuchel gave his version of events on Saturday when he said: "I am the manager. It is me who decides who comes off and comes on. Kylian is very clever, he knows what he has done. He doesn't like to be subbed off, no player likes it. It doesn't give a good image but we are not the only club where it happens." Later, he added: "We play football, not tennis. We have to respect everyone."

Of course, the tension has eased a bit between them since the weekend, as we saw on Tuesday. Their clear-the-air discussion on Sunday at the training ground, according to sources, probably helped a lot. It's important to note that Mbappe didn't apologise to Tuchel in private or in front of the squad, but did admit that he may have overreacted. Tuchel explained that he took his striker off to give Edinson Cavani some game time and also to give Mbappe a rest, a fair justification. Nevertheless, there's clearly an issue there, and it's not the first time the two have clashed.

Mbappe -- who is ranked No. 3 among the world's top forwards in ESPN's FC 100 -- was dropped from the starting XI last season for Le Classique in Marseille. He wasn't happy to be on the bench for a Champions League group game at Club Brugge earlier this season either, making his



Kylian Mbappe

Thomas Tuchel

yet he doesn't sense the same message coming from the manager. The former Monaco prodigy, for example, feels that Didier Deschamps gets him and knows how to handle him. Not so much Tuchel.

At a time when PSG are trying to reinstate the importance of the institution over player power inside the dressing room, this is a watershed moment. Leonardo is back at the club as sporting director to bring the authority back at the highest level. We saw his resolve when he stood firm in the Cavani transfer saga with Atletico Madrid, though the club has to be careful with Mbappe.

PSG have already offered Mbappe a new deal to remain at the club, with his existing contract ending in 2022, and the new one reportedly would make him one of the top earners in world football. His camp will make a decision once the domestic season is over, and the club is quietly optimistic. However, you can't help but think that the feuds between Mbappe and Tuchel could have an impact on the striker's thinking in the coming months.

Some in France think that things could reach a point where the pair can't continue together at the same club and that PSG would have to choose one or the other. In that case, it's pretty easy to think whom they might keep. It's perhaps far-fetched to think this feud gets to that kind of ultimatum, but this tension is certainly not good for the club and it doesn't reflect well on anyone.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mourinho admits 'best team lost' as Son sends Spurs into FA Cup fifth round

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Boxing coach Zacks Mwaseba (L) trains professional Super Middleweight boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, in Morogoro mid this week. Jaylaan will trade jabs with Dar es Salaam's Kanda Kabongo in the division's non-title bout, which will take place at CCM Mwinjuma Hall at Mwananyamala in the city today. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Morogoro boxer eager for win in bout

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO's professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, has disclosed he is determined to register victory over his Dar es Salaam counterpart, Kanda Kabongo, in a non-title fight involving the two boxers, slated for today in the city.

The Morogoro boxer, in an interview which took place at his training area at Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s hall in Morogoro town mid this week, pointed out victory in today's fight will help him land an opportunity to participate in a title fight.

Jaylaan's coach, Zacks Mwaseba, said it is right time for his boxer to feature in title fights outside Morogoro with the aim of getting exposure.

Mwaseba pointed out his boxer has taken part in seven fights in the region in the past few years and has notched victory in five bouts.

"Jaylaan lost two bouts by points, he suffered defeat to Abdallah Bebetu in a bout which took place at DDC Hall in region and later lost to Nasibu Msafiri in a fight which took place at Terminal Pub in Morogoro town," he noted.

"He registered victory over domestic boxers, Tino Msubi, Shaban Kidede, Abdallah Jang'olo, Tino Michael and Abdallah Abdallah."

Six supporting bouts are expected to precede the fight between Kabongo and Jaylaan, which will be the main bout.

In some of the supporting bouts, Japhet Kaseba will trade punches with Mbaruk Heri, Kulwa Bushiri will face Hussein Gobbos.

In the day's other fights, Chidi Mbishi will face Sadik Nuru, Mwinyi Mzengera will take the ring to trade jabs with Ramadhan Chisora.

Iddi Kasopa will come up against Mohammed Alqaeda, and the fight involving female boxers will see Jazien trade jabs with Jessica.

Today's fight will as well be an opportunity for Kabongo to prove he still has what it takes to excel at the top level of the sport in the country.

Kabongo lost his past two bouts against Dar es Salaam boxers, which also took place in the city, with both being non-title fights.

He succumbed to unanimous decision defeat to Mada Maugo in a fight, which took place at Kinesi Stadium in April, 2018.

Kabongo later on suffered defeat to Hussein Itaba in a fight, which took place at the same venue in December the same year.

The experienced boxer has featured in 11 bouts, posting victory in five and losing four.



Dar es Salaam swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkomveka (L), issues instructions to one of domestic Para swimmers during a training session at Nordic School in the city recently. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

Dar set to field Paralympic swimmers in World Series

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has disclosed it targets to end two Para swimmers to the coming World Swimming Series, which will start with an event to be hosted by Singapore.

Tuma Dandi, TPC secretary general, said the World Swimming Series are aimed at preparing swimmers ahead of the Tokyo Paralympics and the first series will be held in Singapore from May 1-3.

He said other series will be in Melbourne, Australia from February 14 -16, Ligano Sabbadoro (Italy) from February 27-March 1 and Sao Paulo, Brazil from March 26-28.

Other series will take place in Sheffield, United Kingdom (UK)

from April 9-12, Indianapolis, USA, from April 16-18 and Berlin, Germany from June 18 - 21.

Dandi said TPC plans to send two Para swimmers to the Singapore event.

"Up to know we are sure of sending one Para swimmer to the Singapore event, one of our swimmer was supposed to attend the Australia event but due to other circumstances he will not attend the event," he added.

"TPC has written the World Para Swimming Association to allow us to send two swimmers to the Singapore event."

He further said if the World Para Swimming Association will give a nod to the country to send two swimmers to the Singapore event, the two local para swimmers will head to Singapore

on April 27 for classification.

The TPC official said classification is necessary for all Para swimmers. He disclosed there are 14 classes of classification, one to 10 is for those who are disabled, 11 to 13 for either the blind or visually impaired while class 14 is for those with mental disorders.

"Currently, the country has only one Para swimmer who is classified, namely Gerald Sokolo, so, if we will succeed to convince the World Para Swimming Association to allow two locals to compete at the Singapore series, the country will have three classified Para swimmers," he said.

He also said the World Swimming Series will give Para swimming fans the opportunity to start following the amazing athletes they will watch at the 2020 Paralympics.

T20 World Cup could take women's game to another level- India's Kaur

MELBOURNE

The upcoming Twenty20 World Cup in Australia has the potential to revolutionize the women's game as teams are making bigger totals than they have in past, as overall standards rise, according to India captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

Kaur pointed to the transformation of her own team who are currently playing a tri-series in Australia also involving England to trace the overall growth of women's cricket.

"It wasn't so long ago that a par score in T20 cricket was 120 or 130," Kaur wrote in her column on the International Cricket Council (ICC) website.

"Now, that's not enough. Teams are looking much more confident and trying to get bigger scores on the board.

"It's that change in mindset that means performances are getting better across the board and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 has the potential to revolutionize the game..."

India will be banking heavily on Kaur, their batting mainstay, to reach the March 8 final but the 30-year-old said the onus will also be on their spinners to take them deep into the tournament.

"Our strength is spin. We're always looking to find a way to integrate spinners into our team and even now, we're assessing our plans and how we can exploit that strength."

Kaur believes India will be better prepared for the World Cup than many other teams by virtue of playing the ongoing tri-series. It will also help India to find the right combination for their World Cup campaign in Australia.

"One thing is for sure - we won't be afraid to give chances to newcomers," she said.

"We have to find out what our best team is and those games will give us a chance to decide that before the World Cup."

India will meet defending champions Australia in Sydney on Feb. 21 in the first match of the 10-team tournament.

The ICC is hoping the March 8 final in Melbourne will set a new record for attendance at a women's sporting event.

REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko

