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Ruvuma coal earns govt 400bn/-



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Invest in value addition, fishermen told



National Pg 5

Elephant invasion in Mwanga



National Pg 7

Zanzibar to restore hand washing tradition



Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu (L) swears in Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi as Zanzibar President, succeeding Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, at a ceremony held at Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium yesterday. More photos on Page 4. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Dr Mwinyi wants new unity govt

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi was sworn into office at a colourful ceremony here yesterday, vowing to form a new Government of National Unity (GNU) as per the current Zanzibar Constitution.

Political watchers grasped his declaration to mean that he will ask the ACT-Wazalendo chairman and its erstwhile Isles presidential candidate, Seif Sharif Hamad to become the First Vice-President.

The newly elected Zanzibar president said he would lead a government that would stand by principles of justice, equality and accountability, making the remarks shortly after taking the oath of office administered by Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu at a colourful ceremony at Amaan Stadium.

The ceremony was attended by Union Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, where Dr Mwinyi, the former Union Defence Minister, becomes the eighth president of Zanzibar, with opposition leader Maalim Seif boycotting the ceremony.

"I will form a government on principles of holding up justice, accountability and equality, and I will lead without discriminating anyone regardless of their places of origin, political affiliation and religion. I will ensure justice to all people," he declared.

He said he would continue from where his predecessor, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein left and praised his dignified leadership during his ten years in office.

President Mwinyi vowed to work with the people of Zanzibar in pushing up Isles development and the maintenance of peace and national unity in order to bring about an economic revolution in Zanzibar.

"I intend to form a hard working government that will be accountable to the people of Zanzibar and will pick leaders who will stand by ethics in order to push for quick development for the people of Zanzibar," he told the gathering.

He said he intends to outline his government's policy roadmap when he unveils his cabinet, but stressed the need to form a government based on

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Dodoma abuzz with JPM oath event, rush for hotel bookings

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PREPARATIONS for the swearing in of president-elect Dr John Magufuli (pictured) are in top gear as Dodoma regional officials were day-long yesterday busy on final touches to ensure that the event goes smoothly.

A spot check by The Guardian witnessed the dilapidated Jamhuri Stadium where the inauguration will be held on Thursday undergoing intense renovation work.

Major dusty roads leading to the stadium were being upgraded to tarmac level to ensure that local and foreign guests have a good ride

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Police arrest Chadema leaders before protests

■ CUF to avoid any electoral activity before new constitution, polls commission

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe and other party officials have been arrested ahead of a planned countrywide peaceful protest general election results, which they claim was fraudulent, demanding a fresh vote.

Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone commander Lazaro Mambosasa confirmed to have detained Mbowe, former Arusha MP Godbless Lema and other senior party officials.

I ask you, with your religious beliefs to fast and pray. Let the God be the judge

He said they were arrested on Sunday for questioning in regard to their directives to party followers that they should take to the streets to contest the outcome of last week's General Election.

The arrest came a day before the protest called by leaders of two leading opposition parties—Chadema and ACT Wazalendo - to contest results of the October 28th presidential elections in which incumbent Dr John Magufuli was declared to have bagged a whopping 84 percent of the votes against his main challenger Tundu Lissu, whose tally was given as 13 percent.

Key opposition leaders also demanded the

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NEC starts getting parties' Special Seats nominations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has started receiving names from political parties nominating members for Special Seats in the National Assembly.

NEC Executive Director Dr Wilson Mahera (pictured) said here yesterday that only political parties that collected five per cent of parliamentary seats qualify to have special seats representation, noting that it is on record



that two women ran for president and five others for vice president.

A total of 15 political parties fielded candidates for the presidency in this year's election, where voters in 80,155 polling stations across the country cast ballots for the president, members of Parliament and ward councillors on Wednesday.

The voter turnout reached 50.7 per cent of more than 29m voters, with returning officers declaring over 260,000 votes invalid.

The director similarly said that NEC was closing its work while it still has around 63bn/- on its balance, which shall not have to be spent as the exercise folds up.

Announcing the presidential election results within 24 hours of the voting was the

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Govt heeds CAG's counsel, launches database to track recommendations

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has come up with a new system dubbed "Database for tracking audit recommendations (GARI-ITS)" so as to closely monitor the implementation of the recommendations and issues raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

Speaking during the launch of the system yesterday here, director of privatization, monitoring and evaluation from the office of the Treasury Registrar, Mohamed Nyasama said that the move is aimed to fight mismanagement of public funds.

Nyasama who represented the Treasury Registrar, Athumani Mbutuka said the system will enable the government to closely monitor how public entities implement issues raised by CAG office in its annual auditing reports.

The launch went along with the training on how to operate it provided to internal auditors and other officials from various public institutions and corporations.

He said the system is expected to strengthen internal systems for effective management of public funds in government agencies, institutions and public entities.

"Our office found that there was a very huge number of issues raised by the CAG being not implemented, we found that our public institutions were not taking the directives issued by the Standing Committees of the Parliament seriously," Nyasama asserted.

He wanted heads of institutions and departments to strengthen supervision of public funds by controlling proper use of resources.

Earlier, Magdalena Kirumba, chief internal auditor at the office of the Treasury Registrar said that the system will improve efficiency and enable public entities to submit their quarterly and annual auditing reports on time.

"We aim to capacitate 472 internal auditors from public institutions and 236 from public corporations on how to operate the system for best results," she said.

Almost every year, the CAG report has been revealing gross misconduct in public institutions despite various strides taken by the government to control embezzlements and fraud.



Our office found that there was a very huge number of issues raised by the CAG being not implemented, we found that our public institutions were not taking the directives issued by the Standing Committees of the Parliament seriously



Civic United Front (CUF) national Chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (R), who was also the opposition party's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in the just-ended General Election, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He declared they will only participate in future elections if there is "an independent national electoral commission". With him are CUF Secretary General Haroub Shamis (L) and Vice Chairman Mussa Haji Kombo, made an unsuccessful bid for the Zanzibar Presidency. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

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accountability, fighting corruption and quicken Zanzibar's development.

Earlier, Dr Mwinyi conveyed greetings from the Union president-elect, Dr John Magufuli, saying he wished the people of Zanzibar well and hailed them for conducting the election peacefully, coming out in large numbers to witness the swearing in of their new president.

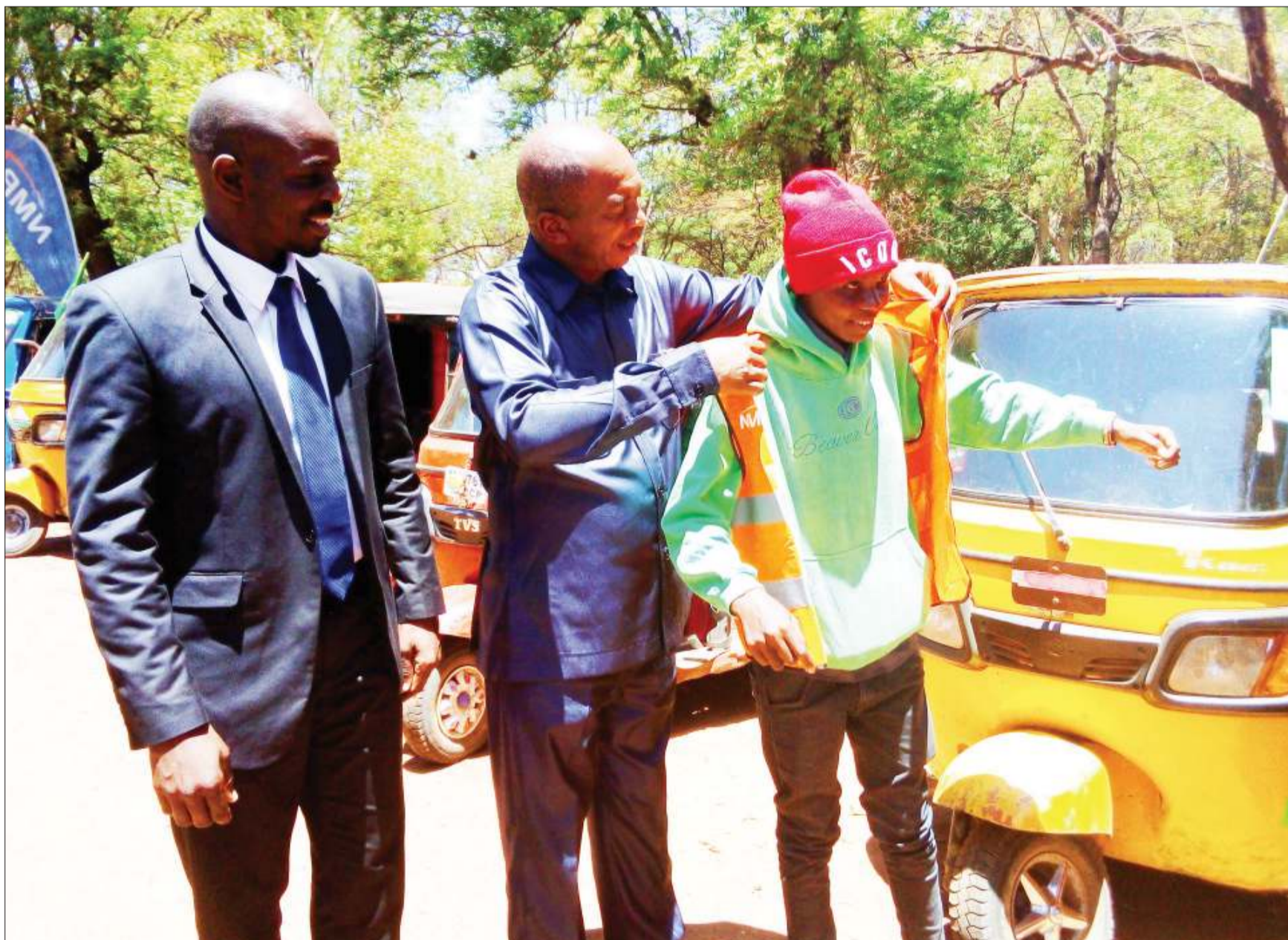
Dr Mwinyi wants new unity govt

Other leaders who attended Dr Hussein Mwinyi's swearing ceremony included the outgoing Second Vice President, Ambassador Seid Ali Iddi, second phase Union President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume and fourth phase Union President Jakaya Kikwete.

Others in attendance were fourth phase Union Vice President Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, former Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha and representatives of former liberation movements and other friendly political parties in the region, with delegates from Zimbabwe, Namibia, China, Uganda, DRC Congo,

South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya and other diplomatic missions.

The Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced Dr Mwinyi as having scored a resounding victory on Thursday with 76.27 percent of valid votes, while perennial loser Seif Sharif Hamad was declared to have obtained 19.8 percent of ballots cast.



Manyara regional commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti (C) helps a Bajaj taxi operator put on a reflective jacket after a meeting with transportation stakeholders held in Babati at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Dodoma abuzz with JPM oath event, rush for hotel bookings

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to that event and back, with the event expected to be beamed live in local and international channels.

Government spokesman Dr Hassan Abbasi said the event will be attended to by leading members of community groups and public organizations, members of the diplomatic corps and other invited guests.

Lodges and hotel operators were chafing under booking orders from event organizers far and near, where

operators said they expect to do best business as the event is being done for the first time in the political and administrative capital.

Dr Magufuli swept the polls in a landslide win, securing his second term with an unassailable 84.4 per cent of votes in final results announced by the National Electoral Commission (NEC). The winner garnered 12,516,252 votes out of 14,830,195 valid votes cast.

Tundu Lissu (Chadema) came a distant second with 1,933,271 votes or 13 per cent of all valid votes, while former

Foreign Minister Bernard Membe in a disputed ACT-Wazalendo ticket polled 81,129 votes or 0.5 per cent.

Speaking briefly after being awarded the NEC certificate of results, the president said things will never be the same for him as he has to deliver promises in response to the trust that people showed in him.

He appealed to Tanzanians to put the country forward without considering party differences, and work together to help bring desired development, underlining that elections are gone and

people have to move ahead.

Dr Magufuli reminded the gathering that being his last term in office he would do everything possible to bring about needed development as Tanzanians need solutions to problems facing them.

"I thank you people for this landslide win in the history of multiparty elections in our country and I pray that God help me fulfill the needs of Tanzanians who have shown great trust and faith in me," he declared.

Police arrest Chadema leaders before protests

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disbanding of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) and the creation of an independent electoral commissions to oversee a repeat of the general election.

"An election is about carrying out the wishes of the people; what happened was not an election, the whole exercise was characterized with a series of irregularities," said Zitto Kabwe, leader of ACT-Wazalendo.

Liberatus Sabas, the director of operations and training at police headquarters, has warned the public against taking part in unlawful protests.

He said opposition parties were supposed to respect the country's laws and make sure they follow all the required steps, including requesting a permit from relevant authorities. "We will not allow them to disrupt the country's prevailing peace," he stated.

Civic United Front (CUF) chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba said that his party will not participate in any election until a free electoral commission is formed.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam, he said from now on, the CUF will concentrate on efforts to get a new electoral commission, thus

avoiding any kind of electoral activity in the country.

"Our job now will be pushing the completion and implementation of the new constitution that aims at the formation of a free and independent electoral commission," he specified, asking the public to pray so that there is divine punishment for those who played foul in the general election.

"I ask you, with your religious beliefs to fast and pray. Let the God be the judge," he said.

CUF will also hold talks with the international community to see how they can help to reinstall democracy in the country, the former presidential economic adviser underlined.



I ask you, with your religious beliefs to fast and pray. Let the God be the judge

NEC starts getting parties' Special Seats nominations

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clinker, the final event in the polls run, counting, tallying and broadcasting of results, he stated on Sunday.

He was speaking at an event to present the certificate of victory to president-elect, Dr John Magufuli at the NEC head offices, asserting that improved infrastructure and locally developed reporting software helped speed up vote tallying.

The NEC chairman, retired Judge Semistocles Kajage lauded the work by government departments and agencies, which worked hand in hand with the commission to organise and hold peaceful elections.

Judge Kajage said that the 2020 General Election was principally funded from budgetary resources, which enabled the current constitution, rules and regulations to take precedence over other demands.

He praised political parties for peaceful campaigns and conduct during voting. "To conclude the 2020 general election process, NEC today awards the certificate of the presidential seat to Dr John Magufuli," he declared, handing in the all-important symbol of his being elected, issuing separate certificates to the president-elect and the vice president-elect, Samia Suluhu Hassan.



Angellah Kairuki (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), presents documents on the Tanzania Investment Centre to TPB Bank PLC acting CEO Moses Manyatta after talks they held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Ruvuma Region coal earns govt 400bn/- in three years

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE coal mined in Ruvuma Region has earned the country more than 400bn/- and created more than 700 jobs between August 2017 and October this year.

Ruvuma regional commissioner Christina Mndeme said the earning was from the sale of more than 3.3 tonnes of coal sold during the period.

She said coal mining was conducted in Songea, Mbinga and Nyasa districts and that the region holds a huge trove of the mineral according to research done by three big mining companies.

"According to the research that is still ongoing, Ruvuma Region has coal reserves of up to 457 million tonnes that can take 718 years before its exhaustion," said Mndeme.

She said in the 2019/20 more than 636,000 tonnes of coal was mined in

the region and sold both inside and outside the country.

She said the region was bestowed with various other minerals including gems and gold mined in abundance in Tunduru, Songea, Mbinga and Nyasa districts.

She said beginning May 2019 Ruvuma Region opened mineral markets in Songea and Tunduru districts whereas so far more than one million grammes of these minerals valued at more than 7.7bn/- were sold through the markets and employed more than 1,000 people.

"According to the research that is still ongoing, Ruvuma Region has coal reserves of up to 457 million tonnes that can take 718 years before its exhaustion"

Mobs destroy vehicles, disowning poll victors

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

AN angry mob seemingly unsatisfied with Wednesday's election results has destroyed public properties including police vehicles in Lindi Region.

Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi told journalists yesterday that authorities are yet to assess the value of the damage caused.

The mob made up of local residents is said to have gone on rampage echoing declarations by some erstwhile presidential candidates that the polling exercise was fraught with vote rigging, restriction of political parties' agents from accessing polling stations and the presence of fake polling stations.

They also cited delays in announcing election results, declaring that voters in the area did not vote for the Lindi Urban MP elect, Mohamed Kuchauka of CCM. He joined CCM from the Civic United Front (CUF) in 2018.

Sympathisers with the marauders say some people had more than one voter ID, which is contrary to poll regulations attested to by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

RC Zambi said that seven vehicles were set on fire, among them two police vehicles, while nine public buildings were set ablaze in five districts—Liwale, Nachingwea, Kilwa, Lindi and Mtama.

Other than the police, one torched public vehicle belonged to the Ministry of Health (Vaccination Department) which was hired to facilitate transportation of people and election equipment, he said.

"They damaged two houses and three vehicles, properties of the MP elect," stated the RC, noting that a dispensary belonging to elected Liwale ward councillor, Omary Mkooyage was also torched.

In Nachingwea District, another mob destroyed three vehicles and house belonging to the ward councillors, Ahmed Makoroganya and torched a police vehicle. The police managed to stop a fire at the Nachingwe district court, the RC noted.

In Mtama District, the residents set on fire two buildings, including a temporary office used by District Executive Director (DED), Samweli Waryoba and Mtene ward office, property of the ward executive officer, he said.

The police force is holding a number of people in connection with the incidences, where the suspects are being interrogated and will be arraigned in court upon completion of investigations, he stated.

Lindi District Commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga said that angry people torched various government buildings and those belonging to individuals.

The office of the Mtama District Executive Director was set on fire, as well as the office of the Rondo Ward Executive Officer (WEO), he said, noting that some of the suspects were arrested and put on interrogation.

He remarked that authorities are combing the area for a young man claimed to have grabbed one of three ballot boxes at a polling centre in Madangwa Ward, Lindi District, elaborating that the ballot box had 32 casted votes, and the young man was on motorcycle.

"We're still hunting for him. He will be arrested in no time and referred to a court of law. We already have his personal details and I assure you he will soon be apprehended," he asserted.

It is said the fugitive arrived at the polling centre to vote and after casting his ballot he grabbed one box (for councillors) and rushed with it to his parked motorcycle and fled.

Last Friday, NEC announced President John Magufuli as having won the poll after garnering 84 percent of the votes, while his main opponent, Tundu Lissu obtained 13.04 per cent. Out of 256 parliamentary seats, ACT-Wazalendo won four seats, CUF three seats and CHADEMA one seat.



We're still hunting for him. He will be arrested in no time and referred to a court of law. We already have his personal details and I assure you he will soon be apprehended



PONGEZI



UONGOZI NA WAFANYAKAZI WA KAMPUNI ZA IPP WANAUNGANA NA WATANZANIA WOTE KUM-PONGEZA MHESHIMIWA DK. HUSSEIN MWINYI KWA KUCHAGULIWA KUWA RAIS WA AWAMU YA NANE WA SERIKALI YA MAPINDUZI YA ZANZIBAR NA MWENYEKITI WA BARAZA LA MAPINDUZI.

HONGERA SANA.

Memorable moments after Dr Mwinyi assumes power as Zanzibar President



FATHER FETES SON: Former President Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi congratulates Dr Hussein Mwinyi at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar yesterday shortly after the son, until recently Tanzania's Defence and National Service minister, was sworn in as Zanzibar President



Newly installed Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi and his wife, Mariam Mwinyi, hug.



The newly installed Zanzibar President inspects a parade members of the armed forces mounted for him by at Amani Stadium.



Vice President-elect Samia Suluhu Hassan congratulates the newly installed Zanzibar President.



Former Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume congratulates President Dr Hussein Mwinyi, as former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete looks on.



The newly installed Zanzibar President exchanges greetings with former Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha.



President Dr Hussein Mwinyi and Tanzanian Vice President-elect Samia Suluhu Hassan follow events at Amaan Stadium after the swearing-in ceremony. All Photos: Zanzibar State House



Zanzibar residents in jubilant mood at Dr Hussein Mwinyi's swearing-in ceremony. All Photos: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Kyela's oil palm growers readied to receive seeds of better quality

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE Ministry of Agriculture has given instructions to Kyela District Council in Mbeya Region to prepare farmers to receive modern oil palm seeds for planting in their farms.

The instructions were given here yesterday by the Ministry's Director of Crops Nyasebwa Chimagu during his visit to follow up the cultivation of strategic crops including oil palm.

Chimagu said the government has a huge strategy to enhance oil palm production to make the country self-sufficient in edible oil.

He said Kyela District is among areas capable for producing oil palm in big quantities but farmers therein are yet to benefit from the crop due to old farming practices and poor quality seeds.

"The government, through its Agriculture Ministry has begun mobilizing modern oil palm growing in Kyela District to make the country self-sufficient in edible oil. Hence we intend to provide farmers with modern quality oil palm seeds, hence it is your

responsibility as a district council to prepare farmers to plant the seeds in their farms," said Chimagu.

He said as of now quality oil palm seeds were being produced in Kigoma Region and already they were being distributed in oil palm growing areas including Kyela District.

He further said the government, through its Agricultural seeds Agency (ASA) has established a farm for quality oil palm seeds in Mbozi District that will assist in the availability of the seeds for Kyela farmers.

In addition to these efforts, kyela District Council authorities in collaboration with the Naliende Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Naliende) in Mtwara Region has also established an oil palm seed farm at Kikusyabi village in Kyela District to help Kyela oil palm farmers get quality seeds.

Kenneth Nzilan, Kyela District Agriculture Officer said they have already prepared a 13-acre farm in Makwale Ward that would be used as a study farm for oil palm and cocoa farmers.



It's watermelons for sale in Dodoma city, coming in especially handy in quenching thirst during the current hot weather. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Invest in value addition, farmers and fishermen in Lake Zone told

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FARMERS and fishermen in the Lake Zone regions have been told to increase investments focus on value addition for them to win local and international markets.

Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) Lake Zone manager Mike Granta made the advice when speaking with this paper here yesterday.

According to Granta, the bank is ready

to support farmers and fishermen who would venture into value addition of their products.

"As bank, we believe that by producing quality products, the farmers will be able to win national and international markets," he said adding that the agrobank has also been facilitating reliable markets to the farmers' produce and thus stimulate development.

According to him, to support modern farming, the bank has dished out

40bn/- to various Cooperative Unions in Kagera Region, an amount which has benefited hundreds of farmers.

"The funds aimed to support the unions to purchase crops from farmers and thus assure them with a reliable market of their products," he said.

Granta said that previously, traders were purchasing the farm produce at low price but through the current cooperation between TADB and the Cooperative Unions, farmers have

started to reap big from the sector.

"Farmers can now cultivate and sell their produce outside the country, we have supported them to ensure that they embark on modern farming to produce quality produce, we have witnessed coffee farmers selling a lot of coffee in foreign markets," he added.

He said that the bank has also issued 50 tractors in loan to several farmers in the Lake Zone.

"We have witnessed cotton prices

increasing from the previous 814/- to 900, we have also facilitated the revival of some cotton processing factories, TADB will continue investing our efforts to ensure that more farmers benefit from the bank's support," he added.

Grant further underscored the need for increased investment in irrigation schemes so as to enable farmers practice agriculture throughout the year.

On the fisheries sector, the bank's manager said they have also dished out millions of shillings in soft loans to support fishers purchase modern equipment and thus improve their activities.

He said that the bank is pioneered to bring major changes in the agriculture and fisheries sector by capacitating and supporting fishers and farmers with modern equipment to improve their activities.



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An official with the Community Health Insurance Fund (R) briefs visitors in Dodoma yesterday on the insurance scheme, which is meant to make healthcare more affordable and available to rural areas and the informal sector across Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Elephants invasion pushes school to adjust timetable

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanga

ONE day after a secondary school teacher in Mwanga District was killed by a stray elephants, the school management has changed time for students to start their classes.

On Sunday a herd of elephants killed a teacher—Rodgers Wilson at Kwangu Secondary School in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region.

School headmaster David Mwingira said yesterday here that the move to change the schedule came following the sporadic invasion of the large mammals in the area.

The threat of elephant invasion has forced us to review our timetable. We've resolved to start teaching sessions later than before for the safety of students and teaching staff, he said.

"There are students who come to school late than usual in the fear of elephants, which in the morning still roam around the village," headmaster said, adding that the school management provided education on how they can be free from fear of elephants.

"After the death of our colleague, students developed fear and this has a negative impact on their education. So, we've informed them on what to do so that they become free from the threat."

Commander of anti-poaching unit in northern zone, Emanuel Nnko confirmed the increasing number of elephants in the area, which is one of the wildlife corridors.

"We're working hard to chase them away, but the problem is big," Nnko

said, urging residents in the affected areas to provide support to wildlife officers.

Kwako Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Dadi Khamis said that elephants' invasion has been a chronic challenge in the area despite various strides done by the responsible authorities to fight the vice.

"I have been reporting to the relevant authorities however the animals invade our areas but the problem has been here for years, this calls for coordinated and more innovative ways to fight these regular invasions," he said.

According to him, there is a need for the authorities to change fighting techniques because the elephants seem to have been used to the methods like explosions and noises and they no longer fear them.



Maendeleo Bank Plc is inviting applications from qualified and experienced candidates to fill the vacant position of Head of Internal Audit at its Head Office. The Bank seeks to recruit highly competent, self-motivated and professional individual to manage internal audit functions.

Job Summary:

Responsible for evaluating and contributing to the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes for the bank and operating independently of other departments. This position reports to the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Directors, administers the Audit Policies and Procedures, and coordinates the activities of the bank's external auditors, BoT Examiners as well as other assurance providers.

Key Accountabilities:

1. Independently carry out annual risk assessment process and develop a risk based internal audit plan
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3. Develop and implement internal auditing policies, procedures and programs.
4. Survey functions and activities in assigned areas to determine the nature of operations and adequacy of the system of control to achieve the established objectives.
5. Supervise or conduct independent audits of bank records and activities and prepare varied analyses of departments and branches.
6. Investigate and determine causes of irregularities, fraud and errors.
7. Supervise, conduct and report on the testing and adequacy of the bank's internal controls and recommend corrective action and suggest improvement.
8. Advise Top Management and the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors on audit and internal controls.
9. Ensure audits are carried out in line with International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing as issued from time to time by the Institute of Internal Auditors as well as those issued by Information Systems Audit and Controls Association (ISACA).
10. Lead teams working under his/her supervision ensuring work is completed to the required standard and within timelines provided.
11. Perform special reports, projects, analysis etc as may be requested by the Board of Directors or Managing Director.

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Mode of Application:

Applications addressed to the Managing Director, P. O. Box 216, Dar es Salaam enclosing detailed curriculum vitae, full contacts (address and telephone numbers) and three referees should be sent latest by 15th November 2020 at or before 17.00 hours or through E-mail hr@maendeleobank.co.tz

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3rd November, 2020

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk fuel storage facility with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd has set aside funds to meet the cost for proposed tank refurbishments in order to improve tank's efficiency and comply with statutory requirements. Tank refurbishment requires Inspection by Qualified API/EEUMA Tank Inspectors who identify the scope of repair works
3. TIPER now invites via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) now invites Proposals from Eligible, Qualified and Experienced API/EEUMA Certified Tank Inspection firms or Firms with employees holding API/EEUMA Certification for the Provision of API/EEUMA Tanks Inspection and Non-Destructive Tests.
4. You are hereby invited to submit your priced tenders for **Provision of Tanks Inspection and Non-Destructive Tests** as described in the Schedule of Quantities and Prices.
5. All Bids in properly filled in and hardcopies enclosed in plain envelopes marked **Tender No: TP/11/2020/NCB/W/011 for Provision of API Tanks Inspection and Non-Destructive Tests**. All bid documents must be addressed and delivered to **Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam**. The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be at 10.30 a.m. local time local time on **20th November 2020**.
6. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English available in softcopy can be obtained at Procurement Office, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), Kigamboni Depot Site, Plot 1, Kigamboni Industrial Area.
7. Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz or may obtain a hard copy of tender document at **TIPER PROCUREMENT OFFICE** on Mondays to **Fridays at 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs**. Bidders **MUST** send an **Application letter by email and attach API/EEUMA Certificate**.
8. All tenders in one original and copy respectively are enclosed in a single envelop must be addressed and delivered to the Tender Committee Secretary, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam. Electronic copies should be submitted in a flash drive sealed in the "COPY" envelope.
9. Bidders **are strongly advised** to attend pre-bid meeting and visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **10th November 2020** from 10:30hrs to 11:30hrs.
10. During the site visit all Tenderers will be required to come with their own PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes as a minimum: **steel toe safety boots, cotton overcoat or overall and hard hat (workers helmet)**. **Tenderers without the PPE's and those with static reflective vests will not be allowed onto the site.**
11. Late Tenders, portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
12. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

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Rabies-infected dog has 100 pct chance of dying, says expert

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

RABIES is mentioned as a dangerous disease to dogs with a 100 per cent chance of death within seven days, the same with the human being if he is not quickly referred to the hospital for treatment.

The remarks were given here yesterday by a senior Veterinary Officer from Babati District Council Dr Godfrey Kayombo during an interview with this paper about infectious diseases.

Dr Kayombo said rabies adversely affects hot-blooded mammals, adding that symptoms of rabies include a normally quiet dog immediately becoming fierce with saliva coming out of the mouth and trying to bite whoever passes near.

He said other symptoms include dog's over reaction to flies' humming noises and failure to eat and drink.

"A dog cannot die alone, it has the

habit of transferring the disease to a human being when its saliva contacts the human body from its bite, the virus enters the wound," said Dr Kayombo.

The veterinary expert said when a human is bitten by a dog, he should wash the area bitten with running water and soap and to immediately go to the hospital for treatment.

He said September 8 of each year is the World rabies Day commemorated worldwide, adding that rabies is caused by hyena's eating habits - and when a dog consumes its leftovers also contacts the disease.

He said hyenas also get infected with rabies and it is not normal for a hyena to chase a human being, and if it does then it must have been affected with rabies.

He called on dog keepers to vaccinate their animals against rabies at least once a year at a cost of between 2,500/- to 3,500/- only.



Small-time tanzanite miner Zephania Mungaya of Mirerani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, airs his views at a meeting held at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

1,000 small traders heed govt's call to acquire proper entrepreneurial skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 1,000 small entrepreneurs in Arusha city have responded to the government's call to acquire expertise for creativity to add value for their products through packaging of their products in order to capture both internal and external markets.

Arusha District Commissioner Kenon Kihongosi said in order for that to materialise he has organised a joint exhibition to assist entrepreneurs to improve their products and learn various skills on how better to produce goods.

He said the exhibition that aims to train entrepreneurs how to make soap,

body cream and clothes dyeing would enable them to improve the quality of their products as well as manufacturing new products.

"Many entrepreneurs have shown great interest in the proposed exhibition despite the fact that it is the first of its kind in this city. We want to ensure the plan becomes sustainable," Kihongosi said.

He said basically, the idea was to add value to the businesses they were conducting to attract more customers.

He further said the aim of the government was to assure entrepreneurs of its continued assistance by providing them with appropriate instructions.

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Health has said it was looking for a possibility to restore the tradition of people washing their hands before seeking services at health centres and at all public institutions as a way to protect themselves against infectious diseases including Covid-19 and diarrhoea.

Harusi Said Suleiman, the deputy Health Minister told reporters here at the weekend that the restoration of hand washing would be enforced at all government hospitals.

She said the requirement will also involve other staff of the ministry as the issue of hygiene is for everyone.

Z'bar health ministry plans to restore hand washing tradition

She said as for now the ministry's experts were seeking ways on how to educate people on the importance of washing hands before entering hospital buildings including government offices.

She said this was possible since many offices have health officials and therefore it would be easy to implement the requirement, as it was during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Fadhil Mohamed Abdalla, the ministry's Director of Prevention and Health Education said restoring the hand washing tradition was one way, the other being the community to change their habits.

He stressed on the need for boiling water for drinking as water that is not boiled carry bacteria that can cause diarrhoea.

Recently, speaking at the apex

of World Washing Day marked in Pemba, a WHO representative Vendelin Tarmo Simano said one way in fighting against infectious diseases was for the community to use water very carefully.

"When we befriend the water and use it in accordance to guidelines of health experts, there is great possibility to protect ourselves against various infectious diseases," he said.



ROADS FUND BOARD

Congratulatory Message




Roads Fund Board, Management and its staff would like to convey their sincere congratulation to Hon. Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli – President Elect of United Republic of Tanzania and Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan – Vice President elect of United Republic of Tanzania – for the landslide victory in the General Election on 28 Octoba, 2020.

The landslide victory is evidence of trust that Tanzanians have in you in bringing dramatic development and transformation that they have been aspiring for long time.

The Board, Management and staff commit to work diligently and professionally in order to ensure the roads network is preserved and adequately maintained for the network to provide required contribution to stimulate social and economic development.

*May God bless Tanzania;
May God bless Hon. Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli;
May God bless Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan.*

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Dkt. John Pombe Magufuli Mama Samia Hassan Suluhu

SIDO Board of Directors, Management and all staff are congratulating the President Hon. John Pombe Magufuli and Vice President Hon. Mama Samia Hassan Suluhu for being re-elected to lead our Country for another five years (2020-2025)



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Whichever way the wind blows, US polls are of interest to Africa

TODAY is a pulsating moment the world over, with millions upon millions of people anxiously waiting to hear who will win the US presidency. It's a predictably epic race between incumbent Republican President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden.

At the end of the campaign period, leading broadcasting channels were agreed that most countries around the world wish for the victory of the Democratic Party candidate, and it appears a US majority does as well.

A Trump win would be surprise, surprise, but not all observers are agreed that the US would be a better place with the change.

One major problem that concerns Africans more or less specifically, if not acutely, is the US movement against police brutality, known as 'Black Lives Matter'.

This has been echoed around Europe in particular, with soccer teams doing the one-knee bending at the restart of the Champions League season.

Still, there are limitations to that movement in Africa itself as it is far too divided about the issue to have actually echoed those gestures, and at one point a South African rugby team refused to be drawn into the knee bending gesture on an international outing. With the sort of racial cleavages gripping that country, it was perhaps understandable.

There is another reason Africans can't take up that movement with serenity, as civil wars still rage in many parts of Africa, and human life doesn't hold the respect it deserves in conflict-ridden countries.

In fact, before countries fall into civil wars, there are those who foment discords and divisions with all the energy they can muster, and obtain support from those expecting to

make some sort of gain in case the demagogues access power.

And when nations conduct themselves faithfully, fate leaves them to their guises; in the suffering that follows, faith is rediscovered, curing unjust outlooks among nations.

Problems that arise in distant parts of the world become part of issues in US elections because there is a tendency not just of the US being a world 'security guard' but of raising hopes around the world that the US will help to correct errors, including oppression, in many countries.

Habit is a problem in this regard. In Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America there is nothing as selling among activists traditionally as bashing the United States. Yet when such countries (or their next of kin) suffer oppression, there is seldom any state around the world they can lay hopes upon but the US.

There are international institutions of great significance for Africa with which the US has no great affinity - like the International Criminal Court (ICC) based in The Hague.

The current chief prosecutor of that court, Fatou Bensouda, is under sanctions imposed by the Trump administration for wishing to open investigations into the conduct of US troops in Afghanistan for possible crimes against humanity.

Africans, looking at these contentions, will say the US is an imperialistic power with no respect for international bodies.

Yet the facts lie elsewhere, that the ICC operates in a world environment whose protector is the US in the sense that, without US power at the ready, the world rapidly falls into anarchy.

The US is a country where the president can be impeached in the legislature, and all of the US and the rest of world watches on TV. It may not mean much elsewhere, but it constitutes interesting scenarios.

Talking of debts: What of the one CCM owes Chairman Magufuli?

PRESIDENT Dr John Magufuli, who for the moment is also president-elect until he takes the oath of office on Thursday for his second and final term, has declared his utmost recognition of the debt that he owes the people of this country for the faith shown in him.

Admittedly, the faith was shown less by the numbers of voters than the supporters of opposition parties who either voted for him or abstained, knowing perfectly well who was sure of winning, indeed. Accordingly, he has vowed to deliver on the trust so emphatically demonstrated.

There are two speeches that the president will soon make that will give proper direction of his new term: first when he takes oath of office and, more significantly, when he inaugurates the new legislature.

The coming National Assembly (Parliament) faces a problem of how to use the one-party set-up to bring up fruitful results, and prepare the way if not for a repeat of the recent poll at least to withstand scrutiny up to that point, and criticism could easily come back in force. It is a matter of taking things easy in the belief that the opposition is all but dead and buried.

CCM owes a massive debt of gratitude to Dr Magufuli for the restoration of the 'Grand Old Party' to a position of commanding public respect as to what is going on inside the corridors of

power.

This has not been the case since 1995, and it isn't coercion that explains it as when people are angry with those in power the state can't survive by the threat of the use of force.

As those in public office are all humans, the higher authorities will have to remind them that lacking any effective opposition doesn't mean limitless ability to be satisfied, and that things can change if care is not taken.

So, the virtual one-party situation must be put to good use, and most watchers are confident that so long as the president is in office, his major governance precepts will be kept.

In part, that would mean that drug traffickers won't find it easy to set up shop once again - and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Some think that for this or any reason, the country's Constitution be changed so that the president stays on after his term lapses. However, Dr Magufuli has declared time and again that he will have none of it.

Thus, CCM has a huge debt to the president for his having played a decisive role in resurrecting its dignity and ought to check the off-emerging divergent ambitions within its ranks.

There will be disputes, all right, but so long as the party's conduct remains positive, the public will retain confidence in party Father of the Nation Mwalimu J K Nyerere was instrumental in breathing life into.



Am I a hypochondriac - or is this the new, poorly understood coronavirus?

By Robert Roy Britt

PETER Gulick hasn't been feeling 100 per cent for quite some time. "I've got congestion," he says in a phone interview, adding: "I'm clearing my throat a lot. I'm bringing up phlegm. I have a cough, but the cough is very infrequent."

Dr Gulick, a practising oncologist and infectious-disease specialist at Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, knows enough not to worry about his symptoms.

He does not have the key symptoms of Covid-19: "I don't have fever. I don't feel short of breath," he says. More likely than not, he says, it's probably a minor cold, or simply a respiratory reaction to rapidly changing temperatures this time of year.

Gulick is careful to note that there have been reports of people having flu-like symptoms that turn out to involve coronavirus infections. And while a runny nose alone is unlikely to be a sign of Covid-19, it's too early to rule the possibility out entirely.

In fact, while children tend to have milder Covid-19 symptoms than adults, early data suggest that children may experience fever, a runny nose and a cough, according to Harvard Medical School. The only way to know for sure is through testing.

So Gulick understands why people may be afraid of their own sniffles these days. Still, a tickle in your throat "is nothing to panic about," he says, adding: "You've got to look at this whole picture, not just one symptom and then panic."

There's nothing like a pandemic from a new and poorly understood virus to bring out the hypochondriac in all of us. It's normal and natural, psychologists say.

Stalked by lions

We humans are prone to irrational fear of things that are very unlikely to cause our demise, be it sharks, snakes, airplanes or disease. The innate tendency to fear the unknown helps keep us alive. It can also cause unproductive anxiety, though.

"This comes down to very basic human behaviours around survival and is related to the way we evolved over time," explains Jed Magen, a psychiatrist and associate professor at Michigan State University.

Magen elaborates: "As we were developing from earlier human species, being alert for dangers in the environment had survival value.



If there is a rustle in the tall grass, it probably is just the wind, but if you don't get very alert and perhaps run when that happens, if it is really a lion, you might die."

That fact of life for ancestral eons has left us alert to any danger, especially new and unfamiliar threats like coronavirus.

The challenge, Magen tells Elemental, is to not exaggerate danger signs. Excessive anxiety about a rustle in the grass worked well back in the day, but it's less useful with a virus that you can't see and a disease can't do much about.

"So it is not surprising that many people would, like someone who has hypochondria, over-interpret signs and feel like they may have a disease, in this case Covid-19," Magen says.

Soothed by science

A typical cold often starts with a sore throat, followed by sneezing, congestion and a runny nose. Unless it worsens notably, it usually stays in the upper respiratory system. Influenza will often begin with body aches and chills, a fever, then often a headache and sometimes a cough, and in some cases cold-like symptoms, too.

Covid-19 often causes few symptoms. Some people get infected, and spread the disease, without even realising that they are sick. But in moderate to severe cases, there are three common symptoms that usually show up in a typical progression.

"The fever is there, then the cough, then the shortness of breath," Gulick says. Other symptoms, including muscle aches and pains, are less common with Covid-19, even rare, and may or may not occur even in severe cases.

Gastrointestinal issues like vomiting

or diarrhoea are also uncommon, except in cases where the disease progresses to a severe stage.

"Covid-19 tends to get more into the lungs" than a cold or flu, Gulick explains. The immune system reacts, causing inflammation of lung tissue that forces the coughing. "And then the shortness of breath is what really starts to indicate you've got something serious going on," he notes.

Anyone who has a fever right now should take it very seriously. Whether it's a sign of influenza or Covid-19 or something else, it potentially indicates some infectious disease that you don't want to share, and which you want to, at the very least, monitor closely and consult a health-care provider about.

Meanwhile, the stress of our utterly upended lives right now could, on its own, cause general fatigue, malaise or even some tightness in the chest.

"Tightness of the chest, the kind of thing you would expect with stress, is not a characteristic symptom" of Covid-19, says Barry Bloom, PhD, an immunologist and infectious-disease expert at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The breathing difficulty brought on by a coronavirus infection is a distinct feeling of not being able to get enough air in, Bloom says.

The hypochondriac in all of us

Hypochondriasis, what we typically call hypochondria, can be a serious illness, in which case it consists of "a preoccupation with the idea of being ill and spending so much of your time and effort looking for a diagnosis and treatment that you can't function normally," explains Dr Steven Dubovsky. He is chair of the department of psychiatry in the Jacobs

School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo, the US.

"In more minor forms, hypochondriacal preoccupations are common in all of us when we feel stressed," Dubovsky says, adding: "Everyone, if they don't feel well or they're under stress, becomes a little self-preoccupied and starts worrying about their health."

Especially now, with the barrage of news about outbreaks and deaths around the globe. "When you feel like you're in danger, or you're stressed or anxious, you're going to naturally be more aware of minor bodily dysfunction that happens to us all the time," Dubovsky adds.

Part of the problem is that we're suckers for anecdotes. Scientists have established that the risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19 goes up with age. But if you heard the news that a baby and a teen died of Covid-19 in China, you might then generalise to the notion that babies get the coronavirus.

"No. One baby was reported who had it, out of thousands and thousands of people who have this illness," Dubovsky says.

Dubovsky's first piece of advice to anyone struggling with anxiety or worried about how they feel physically right now: "Shut off the 24-hour news." Then step back and seek some perspective.

Dubovsky thinks back to this time last year. Lots of people didn't feel good. Some had a fever. Some had a cough or sniffles. Then, as now, it was cold and flu season, with allergy season emerging.

"Everybody was sick with something," he says, adding that people just didn't pay attention to it because they hadn't been told to fear something new, mysterious, and deadly.

For peace of mind, and for physical well-being, it's crucial to take the precautions health experts are encouraging, from social distancing to proper hand-washing, Dubovsky says.

"If you have body aches or chills, take your temperature, as those can be a sign of fever," Gulick suggests. He stresses awareness over panic, and the need for more and faster testing for Covid-19. People should not ignore symptoms that are unlikely to indicate the disease, he says, "but they don't have to panic and think the end of the world is here because they've got diarrhea or nausea."

• *A report by Elemental, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist.*

Freedom of expression an avenue to overcome girls' sexual pressures

BY GAUDENSIA MNGUMI

YOUTHS of today particularly girls don't exactly have the courage to say no to a guy who pressures her for sex. Why is it so? Probably the community doesn't give room for women to express themselves and have freedom of expression when it comes to issues that involve men and women.

That is the vivid answer from Prudence Eliakimu, first year diploma student at the Kilimanjaro Technology and Management Institute based in Dar es Salaam.

She was asked what freedom of expression and the right to hold opinion entails, she said it is not a political matter for instance is deciding on relationships.

"I agree, freedom of expression is not only a political matter; it is an important tool in communities, as well as for the girls. We need that device when it comes to sexual pressures that have made most of us to succumb to forced marriages, teen or early pregnancies, illegal abortions, personal guilt, STIs, drugs and alcoholism," observes Prudence, IT student.

"If we don't teach and impart our girls with proper skills particularly on how to talk and say 'no, yes or I can't' they might end up in dating men thinking that it is love, without knowing that there is no true love, affection and dating without maturity."

Gaudensia Augustine (accounting) and Alice Holela (hotelier) from the same college, note that as girls lack the ability to express themselves and share their opinions when a man tells them I love you so much, many times they can't respond that you don't love me, rather you want sex and sex is not love.

"And, if you love me, you must care that I am a young girl, standard six, how come you pressure me for sex?" note Alice.

"If you are empowered and you know how to express yourself, if a man tells you that I want you. A serious and bold young girl will easily tell him you don't want me you want it or my body," she adds.

She feels that because men are free and have ability to express their opinions

they will continue to tell girls everybody is doing it why are you afraid

"A serious girl like me with energy, who has the freedom of expression and right to hold her opinion, I will straightforwardly say I am not like everyone else; go away stupid....," she elaborates.

Recent data from the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicates that Shinyanga region is leading in early pregnancies by 59 pc rate, Tabora follows closely in second position with 58 pc while Mara is third with 55 pc whereas Dodoma comes fourth with 51 pc

Other regions where girls are victims of early pregnancies are Lindi (48 pc), Mbeya (45 pc), Singida (42 pc), Rukwa (40pc), Ruvuma (39pc), Tanga (29pc), Arusha (27pc) Kilimanjaro (27pc), Kigoma (20pc), Dar (19pc) and Iringa (8.0pc).

People experience the world from discussion with others -girls and young boys can't determine what is right or wrong if people living with them aren't talking, showing facts about positive and negative encounters in their lives, says Gladness Munuo, Crisis Resolving Centre (CRC) coordinator.

CRC is a Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) affiliate

Kids in the society need to learn from experiences of others, because becoming moral girls and boys requires an understanding of and an assent to clear values. That is why we need to learn, listen, talk to people who have been challenged and experienced issues like teen sex, early pregnancies, illegal abortions, STIs, guilt feelings and lessons learnt from such challenging experiences, Munuo observes.

Teens need living experiences - people that can talk to them whether in schools, in church or on any occasion. It is essential to hear someone reading testimonies or stories by others that epitomize the realities, and in that way they can learn morals, honesty, faithfulness, values and empathy and eventually develop positive attitudes and habits in their lives.

By building up a culture of freedom of expression and discussions of vari-



If girls are empowered with skills – self-respect and control, freedom of expression, morals and good manners they can't easily succumb to sexual business, drugs and alcoholism. FILE PHOTO.

ous issues among youths and young learners about morals, values, self-respect and control, being responsible, faithfulness, worthiness and trust I believe can change the lives of our young people particularly girls, and make them generate positive attitudes in their endeavors, stresses Munuo.

"Higher self-esteem, self-control and respect can be instilled in one's mind through self-expression, talking and hearing others' experiences, which teens can learn. It can be a good way of creating and guaranteeing healthy behaviour and good character," the CRC coordinator further not-

ed.

Girls can talk and express themselves on how they spend their holidays, and we can teach the young learners how to use their holiday time in better ways. It should not be about going to disco, films and visiting relatives in cities or in the villages.

It is easier to help youths change their bad ways of life if they can be taught to express themselves -talk about themselves, listen, sharing experiences and challenges which their colleagues have gone through in their younger days.

The CRC official mentions teen sex, alcohol, drugs and tobacco

as young people predators, that is why she sees that giving such opportunities to those who have suffered, being burdened or stressed by such predators to talk and have their stories shared with their colleagues or students, and the community will in a way change youths' attitudes.

"I feel that it is possible for those who have encountered, seen, heard and met with the challenged colleagues will always say no to teen sex, drugs, tobacco and alcohol."

In that way they will develop a positive approach, for example those in school probably will say why don't we go to the library, do

sports, go to church or anywhere instead of hunting drugs, alcohol, films, etc. It can be a good way of not doing 'bad things' or allowing themselves to be compromised with danger in their lives, she stated.

"If we don't allow our people to express their views, talk, as well as we elders write about our bodies, lives, challenges, happiness and sorrows we can't help our kids to live a better life in this risky and cursed world because their idols have been watching movies, chatting- WhatsApp, tweets, Facebook, television movies and much more. They feel like having sex and enjoy the amusement," she emphasized.

"We need to hear living voices from boys and girls, not from television and radios, to tell our young people the fact that in teen sex, promiscuous life, drugs, alcohol and tobacco there are incurable viral diseases, herpes, early pregnancies and illegal abortions."

Such terrible encounters will help them avoid deviating, and enjoy better and happy lives in schools, colleges and the community as well, she added.

How to navigate the long and complicated US vote count

By J Brooks Spector

If you read this article on Monday, there will only be one day to go before the campaign for the presidency in the US (plus hundreds and hundreds of other elected positions all across the country) will finally, finally be over. Finally. Much of that energy, time, money, campaign advertisements blanketing the broadcast and electronic media and elsewhere, the emotional investment, anger and frustration will now, increasingly, be in the rearview mirror. Attention will be focused tightly on the counting – and possible recounting – and the charges, countercharges and legal wrangling over the balloting will then be centre stage.

The modern myth in American politics has been that the country obediently lines up on election day from Dixville Notch, New Hampshire in the first minutes of the big day, until the last voter in distant islands off Alaska and the furthest reaches of Hawaii to have their respective says. With that accomplished, the people in the various polling stations and election headquarters, state by state, count all those votes, checking the totals from the electronic machines and double-checking the hand-marked ballots. Each state is different and the tension rises hour by hour.

Once this is completed, the totals are relayed to news media where the television networks methodically "call" a state for a candidate, marking their respective big boards for candidate A or B and offering spot reports on many of the other races as well. Typically, viewers get to wrap their minds around the name of the presidential winner around midnight at the latest. (Having said that, I can still recall watching the final calls and conclusion of the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon election early in the morning the next day when the voting in key states – California and Illinois – were finally settled.)

But, contrary to President Trump in some of his final campaign harangues this past week, there is actually no law requiring announcement of a winner

by the end of election day. The electoral system, in all its complexities, has had absentee voting at least since the time of the Civil War in the middle of the 19th century. Even now, some ballots from military personnel have arrived in their respective states after the end of election day, or remained uncounted until late in the counting, or have, sometimes, been challenged over picayune problems with signatures.

By this point, even a day before the actual election day, somewhere north of 100 million people will have already cast their votes. In some states, more people will have voted by then than the total of those who voted in those states in the 2016 election. For those initial aggregate figures, states have supplied the numbers of registered Democrats and Republicans who have elected to vote via those channels (although not, obviously, who they voted for). On those readouts, it is apparent that the Democrats have been drawing some real hope for a very different result than four years ago.

Now, marry that Democratic vision with what may well be the final round of polling from the swing states. In this, The New York Times reported on Sunday, "Joseph R. Biden Jr. holds a clear advantage over President Trump across four of the most important presidential swing states, a new poll shows, bolstered by the support of voters who did not participate in the 2016 election and who now appear to be turning out in large numbers to cast their ballots, mainly for the Democrat.

"Mr. Biden, the former vice president, is ahead of Mr. Trump in the Northern battlegrounds of Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, as well as in the Sun Belt states of Florida and Arizona, according to a poll of likely voters conducted by The New York Times and Siena College. His strength is most pronounced in Wisconsin, where he has an outright majority of the vote and leads Mr. Trump by 11 points, 52 percent to 41 percent." Eventually, we shall find out if these figures hold.

Pennsylvania doesn't start counting ballots until its polls close, and the Su-

preme Court has ruled that mail-in ballots postmarked by election day will still be counted if they are received up to three days after election day (in part to assure the ballots from military personnel are counted). Bottom line? Don't expect Pennsylvania's results to be conclusive by the day after election day.

But, most readers can also probably remember the seemingly unending recounting and legal gymnastics over who won a disputed vote total from the crucial swing state of Florida.

This year almost promises to be in competition with the disputed election of 1876.

So what's an observer to do now? Well, this observer has laid in a good stock of espresso ground coffee, precooked soups for quick nourishment, fruit, various cheeses and packages of crackers, and other reasonably healthy, quick snack meals. The plan is to get a decent night's sleep, starting early on Tuesday evening, and get up at around four or five in the morning to immerse myself in the actual reporting of actual voting. Figure it this way. Polls in the eastern states, up to those in Central Standard Time, will probably start reporting results around 8pm Washington time, or 3am here in South Africa. By the time we eat breakfast here, actual trends may well be identifiable.

And as for trends? Given the way the states will report, we shall be watching closely as results from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania are posted. Florida is closely split, and if the incumbent president loses there, his reelection aspirations will be in big trouble.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania voted for Trump in 2016 by a narrow margin and so, for Democrats, turnout will be crucial. Biden doing well in the state's two big cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh is a given; and, per polling, the former vice president is doing increasingly well with more affluent suburban voters. But it is still a big state with millions of people living in small towns and rural areas throughout its central and northern parts.

UN TANZANIA REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS (Construction of Hospitals, Schools, WASH facilities, etc.)

As a part of UN Country Programme support to the government of Tanzania, various UN agencies based on Tanzania will be constructing various hospital buildings, clinical wards, blood centres, WASH facilities, school building blocks and other administrative building blocks in different parts of the country.

UN Tanzania is developing a roster of pre-qualified contractors who will be invited to participate in the competitive tendering process for the construction of the above-mentioned facilities.

Interested construction companies are hereby invited to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) by submitting the requisite summarized documentation to support the Pre-qualification Eligibility criteria below:

- Detailed company profile including evidence and year of registration as legal entity and authorization/permit to perform such work in the main land Tanzania and Zanzibar.
- Registered professional building construction company with a minimum of 5 years' experience in the related area.
- Prove that it is tax compliant and holds valid VAT registration certificate
- Provide audited financial company accounts for two successive years.
- Provide at least two references of customers providing similar services (name and contact numbers)

For the detailed instructions including the EOI form are available on the following UNGM web portal:

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/XXXXXXX>

The EOI along with other mandatory documents should be submitted by 23.59 hrs (Tanzania time) on, Monday, 9 November 2020.

Global survey shows worrying signs of Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy

IT has been nine months since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a “public health emergency of international concern”. Since then, more than 44 million cases have been recorded and over one million lives lost. Economic costs measure in trillions of dollars. Global recovery will take years.

A safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be developed in record time and may be approved for production, distribution and acceptance some time in 2021. Public health experts say that at least 70% of any community must get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine to achieve an acceptable level of immunity to protect its members.

We recently surveyed 13,426 people in 19 countries. We included two of Africa's most populous and visible nations, Nigeria and South Africa, which are among the most affected by COVID-19 on the continent.

Overall, we found that 71.5% of participants said they would take a “proven safe and effective vaccine” while 14% would refuse it outright. An additional 14% said they would hesitate to take the vaccine.

But that average figure is deceptive. It was raised by favourable responses from two Asian countries that also recorded very high trust in government health recommendations. More than 80% of Chinese respondents and 75% of South Koreans said they would accept a vaccine. South Africans came closer than any other country to the 70% standard, at almost 65%. But only 46.3% of Nigerians said they would do so. This is slightly higher than the results we found in Spain, Sweden, Poland, Brazil and Ecuador.

Hesitancy

These vaccine hesitant people are not necessarily vaccine opponents. A large number of them consistently

vaccinate their children against numerous childhood diseases. However, it must be noted that the increasingly well-coordinated global anti-vaccine movement has repurposed itself to challenge the very reality of COVID-19 as well as the usefulness of a new vaccine to prevent it. They have leveraged social media platforms to promote these doubts.

We also tried to determine how much trust people would have in a COVID-19 vaccine if their employer recommended it. Just more than three in five (61.4%) of all our respondents said they would do so. The numbers dropped to less than half of South Africans (46%) and Nigerians (44%).

Our data confirms a troubling trend towards vaccine hesitancy that has been found in other global and national studies. Professor Heidi Larson, a co-author of our paper, and her team at the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine recently reported on trends in vaccine confidence observed across 149 countries between 2015 and 2019. They found that political instability and religious extremism were critical factors in declining vaccine confidence in many of these countries.

Recent political unrest in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country with over 200 million people, does not bode well for a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign there. Only South Africa and Ethiopia have recorded more COVID-19 cases on the continent.

Many public health workers also recall a massive boycott against polio vaccination in northern Nigeria. It was caused by a single rumour, and not an adverse event. This boycott led to the years of more polio infections and deaths in Nigeria, and delayed polio eradication from the continent as a whole.

So what must be done to get on track for a successful African vaccina-



tion programme against COVID-19?

Moving forward

As scientists, we should help health leaders to prepare now with education and dialogue to set appropriate expectations for when a coronavirus vaccine may be available. We need to build vaccine literacy with effective communication and community engagement for acceptance country by country, village by village, taking into account community-specific issues, concerns or misconceptions and working

with local religious and civil leaders and influencers.

We also need to help people become more fluent about vaccinations: Are they safe? Will they protect me and my family? Do I need to be vaccinated to be able to work? Will everyone be able to get it? Will vaccination sterilise me or my kids? And we must be realistic that none of this information and advocacy will truly convince people to accept COVID-19 vaccination, or any other, in the absence of genuine societal trust. Without mutual trust, we may not be able to rebuild economies and return to anything approaching

“normal” life.

It would be tragic if we developed, made and distributed safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and people refused to take them, when health infrastructure and equipment levels cannot stem the pandemic.

Agencies

Donald Trump: Four years, 25,000 lies later

By J Brooks Spector

WHEN a failed real estate developer and pitchman-for-hire, Donald Trump, became America's president four years ago, even though his opponent actually received almost three million more votes, it was partly due to the peculiarities of the nation's electoral system. Nevertheless, many voters had indeed embraced his “tell it like it is”, “I will drain the swamp in Washington”, and “I alone can fix it” style as the cleansing fire that would eliminate the bewildering complexities coming from the mouths of political professionals and established experts. Americans should have known better.

In the face of disruptive international economic challenges and job migration abroad, for many the Trump message seemed a breath of fresh air. What they did not realise at first was that embracing the heady but chaotic populist mixture that is Donald Trump also came with serious consequences and real costs. Americans should have learned this very quickly.

Everyone knew Trump understood very little about guiding a government, and that he actually saw the government he was leading as an enemy to be subdued and bent to his partisan and personal purposes. The nation's media, save for a favoured few outlets, were worse, as he labelled them collectively as “the enemy of the people”.

Regardless of topic, the president aimed for an alchemy that could turn black into white and prevarications and falsehoods into national policy. Americans should have known better than to believe a single word of his.

The citizens of the planet's leading superpower now stand poised to dispatch Donald Trump back to his gilded gold apartment or beachfront club, after his four-year trail of destruction, one that has been uniquely disastrous and dangerous.

His policies have consistently been at odds with the nation's interests, but nearly perfectly aligned to his personal political and financial benefit. Even hosting international leaders on their visits has become a conduit to enrich otherwise ailing Trump family businesses. His Florida club even charged the government an astounding R50 for each glass of water consumed during Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's US visit. And that has been just a drop in the bucket of a torrent of money that has flowed into Trump

coffers from conferences visits and events at Trump-owned properties, by those eager to plead their cases with the administration. Americans should have known better, based on his entire business career, but they did not.

From the very first days, a pattern of misstatements, falsifications and outright lies was set in motion. Unable to accept that Barack Obama's inauguration had attracted more people than his, he insisted his press secretary Sean Spicer lie to the world (complete with altered photographs), saying Trump's crowd was actually bigger. This first sin led senior staffer Kellyanne Conway to christen such blatant falsehoods as “alternative facts”.

Subsequently, there have been farces such as a presidential sharpie pen-altered weather map showing Alabama in the path of a hurricane even as it was hitting Florida. But then there have also been the president's consistent stream of misstatements regarding the country's economic circumstances and wild claims of his administration's bogus successes.

Enemies of democracy and freedom of expression all over the world have been emboldened, America's friends and supporters alienated or confounded, and its democratic traditions and ideals corrupted from such behaviour.

And then, addressing the pre-eminent crisis confronting the nation now, there have been the consistent lies and bizarre statements about the Covid-19 pandemic. There was his recommendation about injecting household bleach to fight the disease, and there was his touting of non-certified, powerful medicines with serious side effects as an unproven cure. By then, Americans certainly should have known better.

But there have also been epic lies such as that the disease would soon burn itself out after just a few cases; that the nation's public health experts were trying to panic everyone with dire forecasts in the fake media; and even the White House's most recent bizarre announcement, claiming, as yet another Trump success, his administration's “Highlights include: ENDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.” (All caps in the original)

Trump ended up being only the third president in US history to be impeached, for trying to use his country's aid to Ukraine for his own electoral benefit. Americans should have known much better than to believe his claims that it was a “perfect call”.



By now, there have been at least 25,000 such blatant falsehoods. The Washington Post's factchecking team explained: “As President Trump entered the final stretch of the election season, he began making more than 50 false or misleading claims a day. It's only gotten worse – so much so that the Fact Checker team cannot keep up.

“As of Aug. 27, the tally in our database that tracks every errant claim by the president stood at 22,247 claims in 1,316 days... Just in the first 27 days of August, the president made 1,506 false or misleading claims, or 56 a day. Some days were extraordinary: 189 claims (a record) on Aug. 11, 147 claims on Aug. 17, 113 claims on Aug. 20 ...” Of course, there have been many days since 27 August. By now, the overworked fact checkers have been unable to stay even with the flood of falsehoods (now standing at about 25,000 by most measures) from the president since his inauguration. They even had to establish a new category, a “Bottomless Pinocchio”, to classify the lies he most widely (and wildly) repeated. So far Trump has collected 48 of those coveted lying trophies.

But beyond the deliberate confusion and lying about policy disasters, there has been the deeper cost of having a leader who lies and distorts things big and small without regard to the truth, until the very concept of

reality has been defiled; with the nation now led by a leader who cannot tell the difference between a fairy tale and truth.

Enemies of democracy and freedom of expression all over the world have been emboldened, America's friends and supporters alienated or confounded, and its democratic traditions and ideals corrupted from such behaviour.

In erasing the difference between truth and falsehood, Donald Trump has gone a far way towards warping the fabric of American civil and political discourse. In its place, an American president has offered a world where lies, distortions, and casual calumnies are the new currency, and citizens' cynicism of their government is ever more deeply engrained. Politicians are emboldened to lie with him – if they believe it gives them even marginal political advantage.

Simultaneously, he has continued to run his private businesses such that lobbyists, interest groups, foreign actors, and others “pay to play” in their dealings with the government, in what has in effect become a sale of secular political indulgences.

Running in tandem with his casual disregard for truth, the president has repeatedly drawn upon and encouraged the fever swamp of the worst of the racist, anti-Semitic, white supremacist conspiracy theo-

rists, making them part of the regular currency of political life. Longstanding public norms against a president giving succour to such bizarre, dangerous theories have been trampled, normalising violence by such people.

Instead of tackling them, this president has continually chosen to fan such flames, rather than douse them. By now, Americans should know better.

From those dangerous falsehoods about how the nation must deal with Covid-19, to outright lies about bringing millions of manufacturing jobs back to the Rust Belt, persistent false-

hoods about taxes and tariffs, and flogging base rumours about his opponents' personal lives and families for political gain; this president of the United States has been shameless in trafficking ugly, deceitful statements as if they were perfectly normal barbershop chat. In doing so, he has followed the playbook of long-gone dictators who have understood that a drumbeat of repetition for such lies can turn them into beliefs for many. Now, in the final days before the election, Trump's White House increasingly resembles the last days of the Berlin bunker in 1945. As war was crashing to its conclusion, Adolf Hitler was issuing orders to cowering subordinates to deploy nonexistent military units and wonder weapons.

But of course such behaviour has been a feature of Donald Trump's career since the beginning. (A small but telling example was his adding 10 storeys to his descriptions of the height of one of his buildings to inflate its value for investors and potential tenants.) And, of course, his political career also began with a big lie about Barack Obama's place of birth – and thus his lack of legitimacy as president. **AGENCIES**

AUC Commissioner highlights strategies for empowering women in African energy sector

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Dr Amani Abou-Zeid has highlighted strategies for empowering women in the continental energy sector.

Dr Abou-Zeid made the remarks when speaking at the Energy Regulators Association of East Africa's Webinar on "Empowering Women in the Energy Sector of Africa", aiming at discussing gender gaps within the African energy sector and exploring opportunities and strategies to integrate and empower women within the energy sector value chain.

The Webinar brought together women energy leaders and experts in the African energy sector to discuss various issues aimed at charting a way forward to accelerate the involvement of women in various components of the energy access agenda including energy infrastructure expansion, electricity generation, harmonisation of regulatory frameworks, energy resources exploration and cross-border energy trade.

High-level speakers during the Webinar presented various strategies and initiatives aspiring to creating and enhancing economic and employment opportunities for women within the African energy value chain.

The Webinar also highlighted gender-sensitive approaches to overcome the barriers to women entering the energy sector.

Dr Abou-Zeid noted that the African energy system provides ample opportunities for women to lead and participate in the energy value chain.

She remarked: "Empowering women along the energy value chain in Africa will significantly enhance income generating opportunities for women, reduce poverty, enhance food security as well as promote the social and political status of women".

"There is strong evidence that women are increasingly participating in energy development

and businesses in African countries. However, we need to recognise that much more could be done to enhance the participation and increase the role of women in the energy sector at all levels. In addition to ensuring the participation of women in energy businesses and leadership positions in the energy sector, we should also deliberate on how to use the energy resources to uplift the lives of women, especially in the rural areas," Dr Abou-Zeid added.

The AU Commissioner also highlighted several barriers to effective participation of women in the African energy sector including cultural bias and ste-

reotypes, exclusion of women in skills development and capacity building activities as well as low levels of opportunities for women to access energy for business expansion. She underlined various strategies to address these barriers including education and capacity building of women in energy technologies, making energy businesses and work environment attractive to women, and ensuring the implementation of measures and policies that give equal opportunities to women in terms of incentives and doing business, which will be crucial to stimulating business growth and economic empowerment.

Dr Abou-Zeid underscored the work performed by the Infrastructure and Energy Department of the AU Commission (AUC) to mainstream gender into the development of the Second Phase of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA PAP2), by including gender-sensitive procurement actions as one of the projects selection criteria, which will prioritize projects that support participation of women in the supply side of regional infrastructure projects including the energy sector.

Commissioner Abou-Zeid also talked about the African Network of Women in Infrastructure (ANWIN), which is another initiative

lead by the AUC and a high-level advocacy platform to promote gender in infrastructure. She mentioned that guidelines on Gender-Responsive Infrastructure Development (GRID), have been developed to provide practical guidance to a wide range of stakeholders (Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), private sector and civil society) in including gender during the infrastructure project planning, design, financing and implementation phases.

The outcomes of the Webinar will be used to strengthen women empowerment initiatives at the continental, regional and national levels.

Largest data centre for East Africa to be sun-powered

By Special Correspondent

METTLE Solar and Distributed Power (DPA) have announced a joint investment into a solar power plant to power the largest data centre in East Africa, located in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mettle, a Gridworks investee company, and DPA have invested in EADC Asset Co, a company specifically set up to own and operate a 1MW solar plant that will power Liquid Telecom's East Africa Data Centre (EADC) in Nairobi.

The solar power plant will provide clean, low-cost and reliable energy to EADC, reducing their reliance on expensive and polluting diesel generation. EADC enables cloud service providers, carriers and business to host their critical data, cloud-based services, applications and back-end systems in Africa. This comes at a time when data privacy and data residency are becoming increasingly important around the globe.

Gridworks CEO Simon Hodson: "Data centres play a significant part in boosting the digital infrastructure that is vital for improving internet access across Africa. However, they can be very energy-intensive, so it's important that they can use green, low cost and reliable power. I'm proud that our investee company Mettle Solar, is investing in the energy infrastructure needed to run one of Africa's fastest-growing data centres."

CDC Group, the UK's development finance institution, which owns and backs Gridworks, also provided debt funding to the project through a facility made available to Mettle Solar via CDC Group's Resource Efficiency Facility. CDC is also a key shareholder in Liquid Telecom - this \$40 million equity investment in Liquid Telecom - Africa's largest independent fibre, data centre and cloud technology provider, is their second investment in the

company, following a \$180 million equity investment in 2018.

This additional investment will support Liquid Telecom's plan to further expand its pan-African data centre operation business, Africa Data Centres and consolidate its position as the leading data centre operator on the continent.

CDC Group estimated that less than 20% of potential telecommunications enterprise demand is being served in Africa, with London having three times more cloud computing power available than the entire African continent.

Liquid Telecom's development of data centres should boost economic activity by reducing IT-related costs for companies. Increased local capacity should spur innovation by offering affordable data storage and software-as-a-service applications to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Additionally, the company's cloud-based services should help spur the growth of Africa's tech start-up ecosystems while also supporting the needs of established companies across the continent. All of this potential economic growth would contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

DPA Africa CEO Norman Moyo: "We are excited to have a DFI-backed company like Mettle as a co-investor alongside DPA. With sub-Saharan Africa experiencing major power cuts, business in Africa are increasingly interested in affordable and reliable energy."

We also believe energy to be a fundamental pillar in supporting Africa's economic development, and this unique partnership is an important building block towards realising our vision of a digitally connected future that leaves no African behind."



Public health expert warns against ageism

By Special Correspondent

A PUBLIC health expert has called for the need for public education and awareness on ageing as a natural process.

Director of Non Communicable Diseases and Healthy Ageing at the African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), Dr David Okello warned against what he describes as ageism - or the discrimination of senior citizens based on their age.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), ageism is an everyday challenge, for the older generation which leads to harmful effects.

A 2017 study, supported by WHO and published in the Lancet Global Health, found that almost 16% of people aged 60 years and older were subjected to either psychological abuse, financial abuse and neglect among other forms of cruelty.

The research draws on available studies in 28 countries from different regions, including 12 low- and middle-income countries.

While making a virtual presentation on "Ageing Societies; Implications for Uganda" to the Rotary Club of Kampala, Dr Okello observed that with society in transition, the social support system is weak, if existing at all.

"There is mass movement from the rural areas to the cities. The traditional care and support by the family and community that was common place in the past is no more. In many of our communities, old people are increasingly left to fend for themselves. Hospitals and other healthcare institutions do not have dedicated programs for older persons," explained Dr Okello.

He noted that it was important to promote behavior of better ageing, in order to address possible challenges that



could affect the future senior citizens.

"Ageing is a natural process and part of life, with clear pathways from the womb to the tomb. What we do earlier affects us later in life. The relatively young population in Uganda should be encouraged to start now to plan for later years in life," remarked Dr Okello.

Old age is defined by WHO as a person who is over 60 years of age.

Global projections by the WHO show that the world is ageing. Almost 700 million people are now over 60, and by 2050, the number of people aged 60 and over will double to reach 2 billion globally, with the vast majority of older people living in low- and middle-income countries.

Dr Okello noted that population ageing constitutes one of the most significant demographic transformations of the 21st century.

In Uganda, life expectancy in 2020 is estimated at 64 years. The cohort of the current predominantly young people is predicted to grow and be-

come older persons with rapid population ageing.

He thus urged the Rotary Club to play a role to advocate and champion service support for the ageing population and to fight ageism.

"Social support system is needed. Older persons are prone to loneliness and isolation due to reduction of friends and social circles. There is reduced independence, physical activity and resource availability. We need a mindset change to have more acceptance towards the elderly.

The government also needs to design public policies and legislation that address the needs of older persons, Dr Okello observed further.

He acknowledged that although the government provides a stipend for senior citizens aged 80 years and above, the money was too little.

The good news is that older persons are increasingly gaining national recognition.

The National Policy for Older Persons (2009) provides for the establishment of a National Council for Older Persons to coordinate various

stakeholders involved in the implementation of programmes for older persons.

There is also a plan to have a special representation for older persons in the Parliament of Uganda.

From a medical perspective, Dr Okello explained that waning body immunity combines with other effects of ageing to make older people more vulnerable to both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Health problems of the older persons include: impaired vision, impaired hearing, chronic pain, high blood pressure, cognitive impairment, depression, muscular-skeletal degenerative illnesses and disability. Older persons are also more susceptible to disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Many sufferers of mental illness are unaware of the condition - expert in psychology

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based psychologist said many people suffering from mental illness do not know so and even when they discern symptoms thereof they do not go to hospital for treatment.

Dr Isaac Lema from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) said that among things contributing to mental illnesses include life's hardships, despair, depression and bad intentions to others.

The remarks were given by who said among health challenge facing human being was depression.

He was speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend at a special training seminar for people suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

"If you have depression, symptoms that may arise include loss of eating appetite and sexual desire, avoiding mixing with other people, have suicide tendencies, exhaustion, lack of sleep and failure to do daily one's chores," he said.

Dr Lema mentioned other symptoms as sustained dependency, failure to make decisions, clumsiness, guilty consciousness and body pains that cannot be medically diagnosed.

Dr Lema said many people find themselves in these situations but do not go to hospital for treatment as a result their conditions deteriorate, becoming more aggressive, mental illness and even urge to commit suicide.

Prof Andrew Swai, Chairman of Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDA) said one of the way to avoid depression was to try to share one's problems with others.

He said sometimes depression is caused by listening to gossips from other people and advised that the best way to tackle the problems is to ignore the gossips.

He said the main thing was for one to accept world problems and tackle them in various ways including seeking for counselling.

'You are no longer my mother': How the election is dividing American families

LOS ANGELES

WHEN lifelong Democrat Mayra Gomez told her 21-year-old son five months ago that she was voting for Donald Trump in Tuesday's presidential election, he cut her out of his life.

"He specifically told me, 'You are no longer my mother, because you are voting for Trump,'" Gomez, 41, a personal care worker in Milwaukee, told Reuters. Their last conversation was so bitter that she is not sure they can reconcile, even if Trump loses his reelection bid.

"The damage is done. In people's minds, Trump is a monster. It's sad. There are people not talking to me anymore, and I'm not sure that will change," said Gomez, who is a fan of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigrants and handling of the economy.

Gomez is not alone in thinking the bitter splits within families and among friends over Trump's tumultuous presidency will be difficult, if not impossible, to repair, even after he leaves office.

In interviews with 10 voters - five Trump supporters and five backing Democratic candidate Joe Biden - few could see the wrecked personal relationships caused by Trump's tenure fully healing, and most believed them destroyed forever.

Throughout his nearly four-year norm-smashing presidency Trump has stirred strong emotions among both supporters and opponents. Many of his backers admire his moves to overhaul immigration, his appointment of conservative judges, his willingness to throw convention to the wind and his harsh rhetoric, which they call straight talk.

Democrats and other critics see the former real estate developer and reality show personality as a threat to American democracy, a serial liar and a racist who mismanaged the novel coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 people in the United States so far. Trump dismisses those characterizations as "fake news."

Now, with Trump trailing Biden in opinion polls, people are beginning to ask whether the fractures caused by one of the most polarizing presidencies in U.S. history could be healed if Trump loses the election.

"Unfortunately, I don't think national healing is as easy as changing the president," said Jaime Saal, a psychotherapist at the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

"It takes time and it takes effort, and it takes both parties - no pun intended - being willing to let go and move forward," she said.

Saal said tensions in people's personal relationships have spiked given the political, health and social dynamics facing the United States. Most often she sees clients who have political rifts with siblings, parents or in-laws, as opposed to spouses.

NEIGHBOUR VS NEIGHBOR

Trump's election in 2016 divided families, tore up friendships and turned neighbor against neighbor. Many have turned to Facebook and Twitter to deliver no-holds-barred posts bashing both Trump and his many critics, while the president's own free-wheeling tweets have also inflamed tensions.

A September report by the non-partisan Pew Research Center found that nearly 80% of Trump and Biden supporters said they had few or no friends who supported the other candidate.

A study by the Gallup polling organization in January found that Trump's third year in office set a new record for party polarization. While 89% of Republicans approved of Trump's performance in office in 2019, only 7% of Democrats thought he was doing a good job.

Gayle McCormick, 77, who separated from her husband William, 81, after he voted for Trump in 2016, said, "I think the legacy of Trump is going to take a long time to recover from."

The two still spend time together, although she is now based in Vancouver, he in Alaska. Two of her grandchildren no longer speak to her because of her support for Democrat Hillary Clinton



Bonnie Coughlin wears a protective mask at her home in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, U.S., October 26, 2020. REUTERS

four years ago. She has also become estranged from other relatives and friends who are Trump supporters.

She is not sure those rifts with friends and family will ever mend, because each believes the other to have a totally alien value system.

Democratic voter Rosanna Guadagno, 49, said her brother disowned her after she refused to support Trump four years ago. Last year her mother suffered a stroke, but her brother - who lived in the same California city as her mother - did not let her know when their mother died six months later. She was told the news after three days in an email from her sister-in-law.

"I was excluded from everything that had to do with her death, and it was devastating," said Guadagno, a social psychologist who works at Stanford University, California.

Whoever wins the election, Guadagno is pessimistic that she can reconcile with her brother, although she says she still loves him.

UNCERTAIN POST-TRUMP WORLD

Sarah Guth, 39, a Spanish interpreter from Denver, Colorado, said she has cut several Trump-supporting friends out of her life. She could not reconcile herself to their support for issues such as separating immigrant children from parents at the southern border, or for Trump himself after

he was caught on tape bragging about groping women.

She also stopped talking to her Trump-voting father for several months after the 2016 election. The two now do speak, but avoid politics.

Guth says some of her friends cannot accept her support for a candidate - Joe Biden - who is pro-choice on the question of abortion.

"We had such fundamental disagreements about such basic stuff. It showed both sides that we really don't have anything in common. I don't believe that will change in the post-Trump era."

Fervent Trump supporter Dave Wallace, 65, a retired oil industry sales manager in West Chester, Pennsylvania, is more optimistic about feuding families in a post-Trump world.

Wallace says his support for Trump has caused tensions with his son and daughter-in-law.

"The hatred for Trump among Democrats, it's just amazing to me," Wallace said. "I think it's just Trump, the way he makes people feel. I do think the angst will decrease when we're back to a normal politician who doesn't piss people off."

Jay J. Van Bavel, a professor of psychology and neural science at New York University, said this "political sectarianism" has become not only tribal, but moral.

Anxiety, pandemic prelude US Election Day as presidential candidates make final push

WASHINGTON

AS the Election Day is around the corner amid anxiety over its implications, U.S. presidential candidates are making final pitches to voters before ending a campaign season that has been largely reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sitting President Donald Trump, also Republican presidential nominee, held rallies in five states in a campaign blitz on Sunday, while his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, spent the day in Pennsylvania, a critical battleground state where polls showed the former U.S. vice president leading the incumbent.

TIGHT RACE

The race between Trump and Biden is also tight in other battlegrounds, including Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Arizona. According to the RealClearPolitics polling average, Biden leads Trump only by 3.2 percentage points in these five states plus Pennsylvania.

Darrell West, vice president and director of Governance Studies at Washington, D.C.-based think tank Brookings Institution, told Xinhua that the battlegrounds will likely "determine the winner."

Nationally, Biden's support stands at 52 percent to Trump's 42 percent among registered voters, according to the final NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released on Sunday. "This is the 11th survey we've done in 2020, and so little has changed," Democratic pollster Peter Hart told NBC News. Republican pollster Bill McInturff of Public Opinion Strategies, who conducted the survey with Hart, cautioned that Trump has the ability to outperform on Election Day.

"This is the most competitive election I could imagine if you're down 10 points nationally," said McInturff.

Speaking to a rally in Dubuque, Iowa on Sunday, Trump said he likes "Election Day, and most of you do too," while predicting that a "red wave" would occur, as Republicans supporters are more likely to vote in person on that day, while more Democratic voters have cast their ballots early, with a majority using mail-in voting.

Trump has told confidants that he will declare victory on Tuesday night if it looks like he's "ahead," according to U.S. news website Axios, citing three sources familiar with his private comments.

His team is also reportedly preparing to claim that mail-in ballots counted after Nov. 3 - a count expected to favor Democrats - are evidence of election fraud, which has been repeatedly refuted by election experts and legal pundits.

During a campaign stop in North Carolina later on Sunday, Trump called the Axios story "false" but said that he believes it is "a terrible thing" ballots are being counted after Election Day, vowing to launch legal battles when the election is over. Speaking to reporters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Biden also weighed in on the report, saying that "my response is, the president is not going to steal this election."

West said he thinks disputes over mail-in ballots "could be decisive" if the race is close. "But if Biden wins big, the legal challenges won't matter and that controversy will fade away," he said.

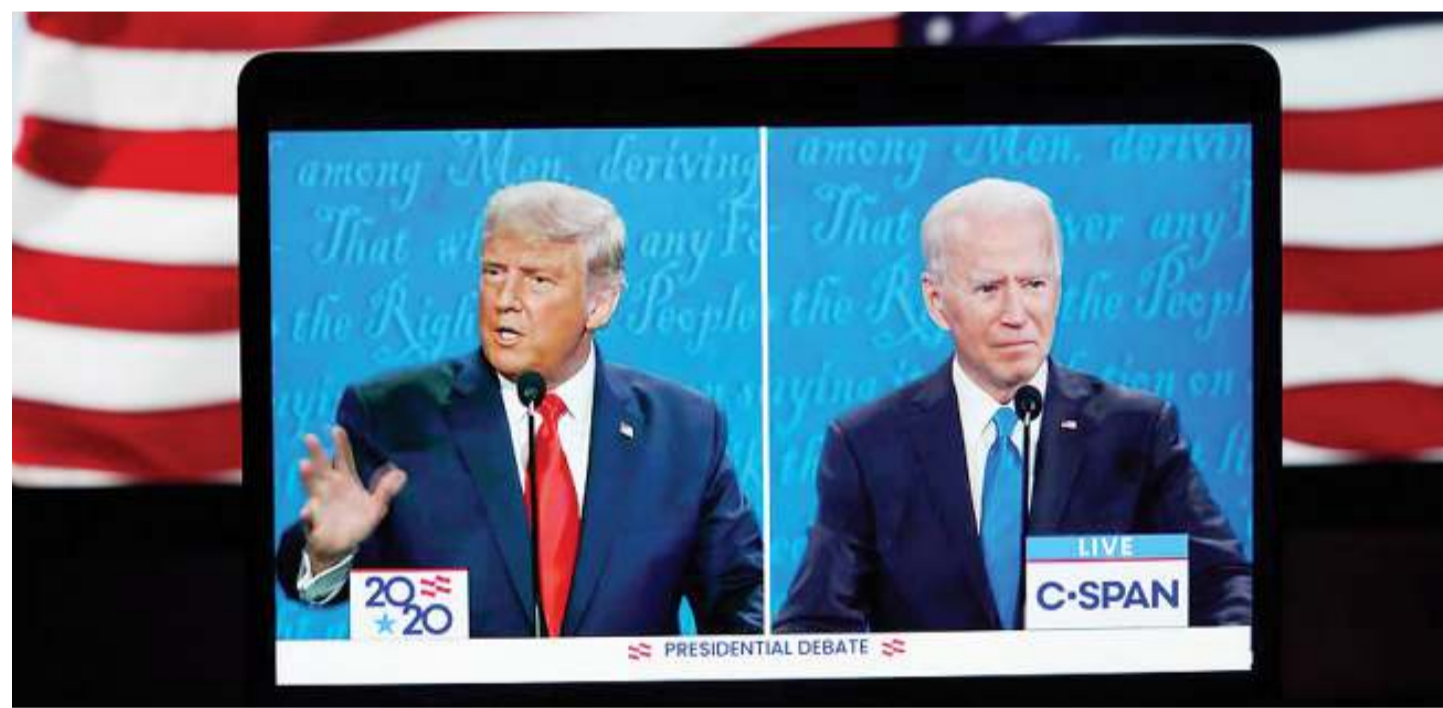


Photo taken in Arlington, Virginia, the United States on Oct. 22, 2020 shows C-SPAN live stream of U.S. President Donald Trump (L) and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden attending their final debate in the 2020 presidential race. (Xinhua)

Besides the presidential race, Election Day will also see all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate in play. Thirteen state and territorial governorships, as well as numerous other state and local elections, will also be contested.

UNCERTAINTY, ANXIETY

Due to the high volume of mail-in ballots this year, many states are not likely to finish counting them by the end of Election Day, as the ballots generally require more time to process than those cast in person. Election officials have said the country should be prepared not to know who won the White House that night.

Likely to make the situation even more complicated, some states, including Pennsylvania, where Trump stunned then-Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton by a margin of less than one percentage point in 2016, extended the deadline for mail-in ballots until after Nov. 3.

"We're sure it will take more time than it used to," Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf said Thursday. "We probably won't know results on election night."

Meanwhile, Americans are increasingly worried about what will happen at the fin-

ish line of the upcoming election, according to a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll published on Oct. 28.

Three of 4 voters express concerns about the possibility of violence on Election Day. Only 1 in 4 say they are "very confident" that the country will have a peaceful transfer of power if Biden defeats Trump. Despite hesitation to make the commitment for weeks, Trump said in October that he would accept a peaceful transfer of power.

Many U.S. cities, including Washington, D.C., Chicago, Seattle, and Portland, have been on high alert for election-related violence, looting, and vandalism, drawing from the lesson of this summer when protests erupted across the country following the death of African American man George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In downtown Washington, D.C., doors and windows of hotels, office buildings, coffee shops, and restaurants, just blocks away from the White House, have been boarded up.

D.C. Metro Police Chief Peter Newsham revealed on Thursday that there were no "credible threats right now of violence," but said a number of groups had applied for permits to conduct large demonstrations and

the entire police department would be working on Election Day.

COVID-19 SURGING

The elections will come as the COVID-19 pandemic is surging in the United States. The novel coronavirus disease, as of Sunday, has infected more than 9.1 million people and killed nearly 231,000 in the country. Both numbers are highest in the world.

Trying to make sure people can vote safely, precautions have been put in place at polling stations across the country.

"We'll be wiping down each machine between each individual use. We'll be wiping down other equipment, pens, tables, everything," Washington, D.C. Board of Elections spokesperson Nick Jacobs said before in-person early voting started in the U.S. capital on Oct. 27. "We'll be enforcing social distancing, and you must wear a mask to enter a vote center. We will have masks available if you forget."

The pandemic has also drastically changed this year's campaigns. During the first months of the outbreak,

"Because Trump has been one of the most polarizing figures in American history around core values and issues, people are unwilling to compromise and that is not something you can make go away," Van Bavel said.

Jacquelyn Hammond, 47, a bartender in Asheville, North Carolina, no longer speaks to her Trump-supporting mother Carol, and is also discouraging her son from speaking to her.

She said she would like to heal the relationship, but believes that will be difficult, even if Trump loses the election.

"Trump is like the catalyst of an earthquake that just divided two continents of thought. Once the Earth divides like that, there's no going back. This is a marked time in our history where people had to jump from one side to the other. And depending on what side you choose, that is going to be the trajectory for the rest of your life," she said.

Hammond said she first realized her relationship with her mother was in trouble shortly after the 2016 election when she defended Clinton while driving with her mother.

"She stopped the car and told me not to disrespect her politics. And if I don't want to respect her politics, I can get out of the car."

Bonnie Coughlin, 65, has voted mostly Republican all her life, except in 2016 when she backed a third party candidate. This time she is all in for Biden, even holding a small rally for him on the side of a highway near Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania.

Raised in a Republican, religiously conservative family in Missouri, she says her relationships with her sister, father and some cousins - all ardent Trump supporters - have soured.

Coughlin says she still loves them, but "I look at them differently. It's because they have willingly embraced someone who is so heartless and just shows no empathy to anyone in any circumstances."

She added: "And if Biden wins, I don't think they will go quietly into the night and accept it."

Agencies

both presidential candidates put on hold in-person activities. But Trump returned to the campaign trail in June despite concern from health experts and local officials, while Biden has stuck to virtual and small-scale events. The president caught COVID-19 in October but has recovered.

Most of Americans disapprove of Trump Administration's handling of the pandemic, according to polls, which has put a drag on his reelection bid and has been targeted by Biden, who has promised to roll out a national strategy for testing, mandate mask wearing in federal buildings and interstate transportation, close personal protective equipment gap, and make safe and effective vaccines free to everyone.

"We are going to beat this virus. We are going to get it under control. And the first step to beating this virus is to beat Donald Trump," Biden said on Sunday. Trump, for his part, has fiercely defended his response to the pandemic and repeatedly claimed the United States is "rounding the corner."

In addition to COVID-19, economy, healthcare, race relations, Supreme Court, climate change, immigration, national security, and leadership are among top concerns for American voters.

On some of these issues, Trump and Biden have presented sharply different visions and plans, a reflection of deep political and social divisions in the country.

Summer Brown, a Democratic volunteer at an early-voting station in Charlottesville, Virginia, told Xinhua that she thinks Biden is a calm, competent, and experienced leader who can "bring the country together."

Mason Pickett, who often holds signs with words criticizing what he said are leftist agenda near the campus of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, said that he does not vote for Trump's personality but loves his "law and order message" and that he supports the president's tough stance on border security.

Xinhua



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Treasury digitises monitoring of audit query responses

By Smart Money Reporter, Arusha

IN a bid to ensure that audit queries by mostly raised by Controller and Auditor General to various government agencies, institutions and parastatals are responded to timely, Treasury Registrar's office has digitized the system for easy monitoring.

Speaking during the launch of a training of internal auditors who will handle the system, Government Audit Recommendations Implementation's Information Technology System (GARI-ITS), Treasury Registrar, Athumani Mbutuka said the digital system will help curb loss

of taxpayers' money as it is more efficient.

In a speech read on his behalf by Director of Privatization, Monitoring and Evaluation at Office of Treasury Registrar, Mohamed Nyasama, Mbutuka said that the training which will involve internal auditors from state agencies, regulatory bodies and parastatals will be hosted by Arusha School of Accountancy.

"This system will also help the government through Treasury Registrar monitor and efficiently follow up on audit queries raised by the CAG and other external auditors of the government," he said while emphasising that the GARI-ITS system will also



Treasury Registrar Athuman Mbutuka speaks at a past event.

Treasury stop embezzlement of resources by its agencies, departments and parastatals.

"My office established that there were many queries raised by both internal and external auditors (CAG) but also directives issued by parliamentary committees hence decision to invest in the digital system," the Treasury Registrar added.

Mbutuka challenged public institutions and parastatal senior management officials to be disciplined in handling public money saying Treasury will not allow mismanagement of resources by dishonest individuals.

"This investment is aimed at stopping loss of government revenue by means of mismanagement," he pointed out while stressing that Treasury expects speedy handling of audit queries

that will result into improved management of state resources.

Earlier, Head of Internal Audit at OTR, Magdalena Kirumba said all public internal auditors are ready to utilise the digital system which will ease their workload and improve efficiency. "This is an important and necessary investment which will also help Treasury boost revenue through efficiency," Kirumba said.

She pointed out that the system will enable public institutions and parastatals submit annual audited reports on time hence boosting real time monitoring of audit queries many of which expose loss of public money. Some 472 internal auditors from 236 public institutions will undergo the training to equip them with skills to utilise the digital system.

Crown Paints writes off Sh653m invested in Uganda and TZ units

NAIROBI

CROWN Paints has written off a total of Sh653 million it had invested in its subsidiaries in Uganda and Tanzania, which are in losses, according to its annual report for the year ended December 2019.

This is the latest impairment for the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm, which in 2018 converted loans amounting to Sh908 million it had provided to its subsidiaries into equity. "During the year ended December 31, 2019, a provision of Sh653 million was made, being impairment in subsidiaries," the company says in the report. The move saw the value of its investment in the subsidiaries drop to Sh1.1 billion in the review period from Sh1.7 billion a year earlier.

The company wrote off Sh278.1 million in Regal Paints Uganda and

Sh374.9 million in Crown Paints Tanzania. The value of Crown Paints Rwanda increased and there was no impairment in the subsidiary. The company says the impairment is based on the invested amounts and likelihood that the same can be recouped from the subsidiaries' future cash flows.

Before the write-off, the investment in the subsidiaries represented about a third of Crown Paints' total assets. The three subsidiaries have made cumulative losses of more than Sh1 billion. "Regal Paints Uganda Limited, Crown Paints Rwanda Limited and Crown Paints Tanzania Limited have a history of losses," the company says in the report.

"Further, the subsidiaries rely on the parent company for the provision of working capital and their ability to continue as a going concern depends on the continued sup-

port they receive from the parent company."

The paints manufacturer is seeking to raise Sh711.8 million through a rights issue to reduce its debt load and turn around the fortunes of the subsidiaries. The company plans to invite outside investors to take up stakes in the cash call without first making an offer to all the existing shareholders.

"The rights issue will specifically enable the company to... secure its balance sheet strength to give it a competitive advantage in competitive market conditions," the company said in a notice. "Allow the company to invest in its subsidiaries which have hitherto made losses to retain financial flexibility in line with its long-term strategy." Crown added that it would also use part of the funds to manufacture new products such as alcohol-based sanitisers.



Crown Paints chief executive Rakesh Rao.

Global travel restrictions mean 174m travel and tourism jobs are at risk

GENEVA

A "STAGGERING" 174 million travel and tourism jobs could be lost worldwide this year if current global travel restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 continue, the World Travel & Tourism Council said on Friday.

Prolonged travel barriers could also eliminate \$4.7 trillion of the sector's contribution to gross domestic product, equivalent to a 53-per-cent loss when compared to 2019. However, if current barriers to travel are replaced with effective testing programmes, 31 million jobs could be saved by the end of 2020 - more than 500,000 jobs a day between now and December 31, the travel body said.

"Our latest data reveals the gravity of the long-term negative impact facing the global travel and tourism sector, if we don't work together to resume international travel immediately," said Gloria Guevara, WTTC president and chief executive.

"The sector's recovery will be delayed even further, with more jobs lost, unless quarantines are replaced with rapid, cost-effective testing at airports on departure, and air corridors. The longer we wait, the more the ailing travel and tourism sector faces total collapse."

The 174 million figure is a downwards revision from June data which expected 197 million job losses by the end of the year. WTTC said the positive gains have been driven by the return of domestic air travel in China, which has seen a positive recovery thanks to comprehensive testing and contract tracing programmes.

However, Ms Guevara said that as travel restrictions remained in place over the summer months, more jobs were placed under threat once again, which is why "international coordinated action" is now needed. Airlines must cut more jobs to reduce costs as travel demand remains muted in the wake of Covid-19, the International Air Transport Association



Gloria Guevara, WTTC president and chief executive.

tion, an industry body representing 280 airlines, said on Tuesday.

The same day, the airports body ACI Europe said an estimated 193 European hubs face going bust as a result of the pandemic. The airports, which provide 277,000 jobs and generate €12.4bn (\$14.5bn) in collective annual revenue, are considered "at-risk airports," with the threat of mass closures posing a significant threat to Europe's air transport system.

Meanwhile, Heathrow lost its position as Europe's busiest airport this week for the first time to Paris Charles de Gaulle, as the hub's chief executive John Holland-Kaye blamed the UK gov-

ernment for not bringing in an airport testing regime to help kick-start travel, allowing other rivals to reopen faster.

Prior to the pandemic, travel and tourism was responsible for one in 10 jobs or 330 million in total around the world, making a 10.3-per-cent contribution to global GDP and generating one in four of all new jobs, according to WTTC's 2020 Economic Impact Report.

Earlier this month, the WTTC proposed a plan to restart international travel and tourism and restore 100 million jobs globally. The plan was presented during the meeting of G20 tourism ministers, 45 company chief executives and members of WTTC.

Eliminating quarantines and other travel barriers through an international testing regime, combined with rigorous health and safety checks, could help the industry adapt to Covid-19 while also minimising the spread of coronavirus, it said.

AngloGold doubles dividend payout ratio as rally boosts cash

LONDON

ANGLOGOLD Ashanti will double its dividend payout ratio after gold prices surged this year and the company's borrowings fell to the lowest in nearly a decade.

AngloGold will now return 20% of free-cash flow before growth capital to shareholders, up from 10%, the world's third-largest gold producer said in a statement on Monday. The payout frequency has also been doubled to twice a year.

AngloGold's free-cash flow in the three-months through September rose nearly fourfold to \$339 million after gold prices jumped and capital spending declined. Adjusted net debt fell 47% from a year earlier to the lowest level since 2011.

AngloGold, which operates in Africa, Australia and the Americas, has spent the past few years seeking to exit smaller and higher-cost assets to focus on its most-profitable mines. The company is searching for a new chief executive officer after Kelvin Dushnisky announced his departure in July.

"Doubling our dividend payout ratio demonstrates confidence in our ability to both improve direct returns to shareholders and to self-fund our growth projects and sustaining capital requirements," interim CEO Christine Ramon said in a statement. AngloGold maintained its most recent production forecast of between 3.03 million ounces and 3.10 million ounces this year.

Doubling our dividend payout ratio demonstrates confidence in our ability to both improve direct returns to shareholders and to self-fund our growth projects and sustaining capital

Absa Bank targets SMEs with new loan scheme



Absa Bank's Ohio Branch Manager, Ally Janja (L) has a word with small and medium size enterprise owners and managers at a sensitization forum the bank organised in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of Absa.

By Francis Kajubi

ENTREPRENEURS seeking to grow their businesses will have access to affordable loans which will be launched by Absa Bank Tanzania Limited later this year.

Absa Bank Tanzania's Relations Manager, Farida Kamala said in Dar es Salaam last week that the bank is finalizing the process of initiating the new product to serve Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) with loans.

Kamala revealed the plan at a special workshop that brought together the bank's clients most of them being SMEs with turnovers ranging between 20m/- and 100m/- aimed to sensitize them on critical issues related to financial management so as to grow into big businesses.

The sensitization workshop which was organised jointly with Deloitte, was also at-

tended by auditors, tax and finance experts who made presentations to equip SMEs with critical issues they should consider to grow their businesses.

"There was a delay for the bank to come up with products targeting SMEs due to a cross section of shortcomings. We are finalizing arrangements of the loan scheme for SMEs at least starting with those who manage a turnover of 50m/- annually. One need to bank with us for at least six months to qualify for the loans issued through this scheme" she explained.

About 200 SMEs were brought together at meeting which also equipped them with knowledge and expert counselling on taxation, auditing, business planning, financial reporting and real time performance insights.

"Most of SMEs being start-ups or family businesses fail because of credit risk expenditure and lack of knowledge to manage limited revenue growth, maintaining business continuity and succession arrangements," Kamala affirmed.

A Senior Manager for Taxation at Deloitte, Festo Bartholomew advised SME owners and managers the importance of preparing and keeping accounting records of their businesses. Bartholomew said that most SMEs collapse due to delays in tax

payment hence creating accrued charges and penalties.

"One of the key facts to make your business grow big is filling provisional and income tax returns of every quarter even those of minor expenses related to the referred business. SMEs must build the culture of tax planning to determine your effective tax rate margin," he advised.

He also urged them to consult experts when needed in order to protect their businesses and avoid getting in trouble with regulators who include Tanzania Revenue Authority hence escaping from unnecessary penalties.

Rwanda invests Rwf15 billion in pig, poultry farming



A poultry farm in Bugesera District.

KIGALI

PIG and poultry yields are expected to increase thanks to fresh interventions aimed at reducing the prices of animal feeds and improve the quality of breeds. The country is banking on a Rwf15-billion project, which was launched recently by Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Small Livestock Markets (PRISM), to develop the livestock value chain.

The 5-year project also seeks to attract private investments in the industry to reduce imports of eggs and meat. Funded by Enabel - a Belgian Development Agency - the project is implemented in partnership with the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB).

Solange Uwituzwe, the Deputy Director-General of Animal Research and Tech-

nology Transfer at RAB, told The New Times that by 2023 they target to have 12,000 poultry and pig farmers and at least 9000 soybeans and maize producers.

"The two main challenges that we expect to resolve are the shortage of animal feeds and poor breeds," she observed. Dirk Deprez, Resident Representative of Enabel in Rwanda, said the programme seeks to stimulate economic growth and respond to the changing consumer needs of the Rwandan society.

Jean Claude Shirimpumu, a pig farmer and chairperson of the Rwanda Pig Farmers' Association hopes that the project will help farmers get quality breeds and have access to affordable feeds. Expensive maize and wheat, which are key raw materials in the production of animal feeds, remain a major challenge for farmers, he explained.

"There is competition between humans and

animals for such cereals. The expensive animal feed is a recurrent problem," he said. In addition, Shirimpumu appealed for an improved breeding and artificial insemination centre for pigs to reduce imports.

"We do not have a breeding centre that is able to manage semen so that farmers are able to get artificial insemination services to improve the genetics of their pigs for increased productivity," he said. Another issue, he said, is the lack of modern pig slaughterhouses in the country.

According to statistics from RAB, Rwanda has a population of 5.3 million chickens and 1.38 million pigs.

The country produces an estimated 9,000 tonnes of eggs, 37,300 tonnes of chicken meat, and 23,000 tonnes of pork per year as of 2019. The Rwanda livestock master plan targets to more than double that pig meat production from to 67,076 tonnes by 2022.

indaHash talks of global partnership with TikTok

JOHANNESBURG

INDAHASH has announced a new global partnership with the fastest growing social media platform TikTok.

This partnership will enable indaHash to offer agencies and clients unprecedented opportunities to collaborate with TikTok creators from South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world. indaHash is already a Facebook partner with API access and integration into the platform, which enables advertisers to view first party influencer and audience data. Adding TikTok as a global partner further strengthens their position as one of the premier influencer marketing platforms in the world.

The level of audience data from TikTok creators, which indaHash has now access to and provides to advertisers, is one of the most comprehensive on the market. Giving advertisers the ability to understand the audience composition of TikTok creators is invaluable if influencer marketing is to be approached strategically.

"We are excited to partner with TikTok as it's such an exciting social media platform for both advertisers and content creators. We have been conducting campaigns on TikTok before the partnership was concluded, but now we can really take it to the next level," says Federico Dedeu, Vice President Middle East and Africa at indaHash. "Having direct access to internal resources at TikTok has provided us with much deeper knowledge about the platform, best practices and intricacies. We look forward to sharing this new found knowledge with our clients and helping them achieve extremely successful campaigns with TikTok creators world wide."

The benefits of this new partnership include: tighter integration and workings with content creators and the platform; specialised and focused workshops for advertisers; opportunity to commercialise the platform; insights into new offerings and trends; and direct access to TikTok resources and knowledge base



Federico Dedeu, Vice President Middle East and Africa at indaHash.

Ethiopia confirms entry of two telecommunications operators

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Communications Authority has announced that two new international telecommunications operators will enter the local market by April 2021.

Addressing the media on the progress of the country's telecommunications reforms programme, the Authority's director-general Balcha Reba said the "official disclosure" of the two ventures and qualified bidders "will begin within November 2020."

Twelve companies, including the Global Partnership for Ethiopia (a consortium of telecommunications operators made up of Safaricom, Vodacom and Vodafone), along with Etisalat, MTN, Saudi Telecom Company and Liquid Telecom are all reported to have submitted their expression of interest to enter the market.

In addition to being well-qualified and internationally proven operators, Reba said, "financial and technical requirements are crucial alongside other equally important issues like security." The Ethiopian government is expected to raise US\$1-billion in revenue from the two 15-year licences.

The government said it will also offer a minority stake (40%) in monopoly operator Ethio Telecom, and that the bidding process will be open to foreign companies. It has also undertaken to make 5% shares in the company available for purchase by Ethiopians.

According to officials, partially privatising Ethio Telecom and allowing two foreign operators to enter the market will improve network quality and speed, and that improved digital infrastructure will also create jobs. A senior government official recently told ITWeb Africa that the government will expect the winning companies to start operations initially using Ethio Telecom's infrastructure to run their networks.

Reba added that the reforms programme is focused on boosting digital development, building a global standardised telecom industry, enhancing financial capacity of the sector and increasing accessibility within telecommunications.

CRDB Bank touts Nia Moja Account for security of vicoba saving groups

RECENTLY, CRDB Bank Plc launched an end of year savings mobilization campaign dubbed, 'Jipe Tano.' One of the products being promoted by the campaign is 'Nia Moja' Account aimed at savings groups as explained in this interview by Smart Money reporter who talked to the bank's Head of Consumer Banking, STEPHEN ADILI, excerpts:

What is Nia Moja Account?

This is an account designed for formal and informal community groups to create a safe and easy way for collection and management of group funds. This account is important to any community-based group, such as Village Community Banks (Vicoba); Village Savings and Loans Association; Community Based Savings Groups, savings and internal lending community and Family and social groups, among many others.

Is this account new?

No, Nia Moja Account has been around for some time and has so far close to 10,000 group members and through this 'Jipe Tano' campaign we aim to double or even triple the numbers.

And when will the campaign end and what is on offer?

The 'Jipe Tano' campaign will end in December and some 100m/- has been set aside by the bank to give cash prizes to individuals or groups that deposit cash in their CRDB accounts. So far we have seen more than 1,000 winners of various cash awards starting 5,000/- daily.

Going back to Nia Moja Account, does a group need formal registration to open this?

No, not all groups need to be registered. The registration requirements for both formal and informal groups are group /association certificate of registration or introductory letter from relevant authority such as employer or government official.

What would a group need to have in order to open this account?

A group needs the following: At least three minimum number of members with no restrictions on the maximum number. This account is open to registered and non-registered groups and members including signatories are not required to be CRDB account holders. The group needs a resolution



or minutes of members' meeting authorizing the opening of the account and operating mandates with at least three signatories.

Any other documentation needed?

Of course it will need group or association certificate of registration; an introductory letter from relevant authority such as employer or government official; the group's constitution; signatories' acceptable identification including National ID, passport, voter's registration card, driver's license, Zanzibar National ID but also local authorities letters plus two passport size photos of signatories who must be not less than 18 years.

Can a group open Nia Moja Account using any currency?

No, the currency available is Tanzanian shillings only.

Does a group need to bring any cash during account opening?

Yes, the minimum of 20,000/- is required as deposit, however, a group can deposit more than this minimum amount during account opening

Can a Nia Moja group get debit card?

No, this type of group does not get a debit card, however its members with individual accounts are eligible for debit card if it is one of the features of the respective individual account.

What about a cheque book?

Yes, Nia Moja Account group can request for cheque book facility which will be charged as per the approved CRDB tariff guide.

What about its members, can they request cheque book for personal use?

Yes, group member can request cheque book through their CRDB individual account if chequebook is one of the account features.

Can the group have access to SIMBanking?

No, Nia Moja accounts don't have SIMBanking facility, however, members can make their contribution to the account via SimBanking if only they have access to the facility.

Does Nia Moja Account offer interest?

Yes it does offer interest that is subject to review from time to time.

How can members deposit funds into their group account?

Members can deposit funds through different channels such as CRDB Agents, SimBanking, CRDB branches, incoming transfer from other banks and/or mobile money networks.

Can the Nia Moja group get loans from CRDB?

No, currently there is no loan facility for such groups however existing members who are CRDB customers and meet requirements for the respective loan facility can get loans.

Do such account holder groups get bank statements showing their transactions?

Of course, Nia Moja group signatories (on behalf of other members) can request for statements, showing activities during the requested period. This however does not apply to other group members who are not signatories.

Does Nia Moja Account has operational fees?

No, it doesn't any operational fees for any duration such as monthly or withdrawal fees.

Is there any transactional limits?

No, Nia Moja does not have transactional limits.

Is it possible for the group to change signatories and what is needed to do so?

Yes, groups can change signatories but in order to do so, existing signatories need to visit our branch with members resolution or minutes showing change of operating mandate; two passport size photo of the new signatories with officially acceptable IDs as stated earlier.

Can group members set up standing instructions?

Yes, group members can set up standing instruction (free) from their CRDB personal accounts to their group account.

What about a group member setting up standing instruction from another bank to their group accounts?

Yes, members can set up standing instruction from other banks, but the standing instruction will be set up by the other bank not CRDB.

One year in, Lagarde stamping her style on crisis-fighting ECB

FRANKFURT

Charming Germans

"I'M GOING to be myself, and therefore probably different," Christine Lagarde declared in a defining monologue at her first press conference as European Central Bank president in late 2019.

That moment, signalling her intention to put a personal stamp on the institution's communication, has been matched by a distinctive approach since taking office on November 1 last year. It's very much a break with the past, even considering the extraordinary events of the coronavirus crisis that have dominated her reign.

The new style, in keeping with Lagarde's stated aim to build a "bridge with the public," often means more frequent remarks by the president and Executive Board than under her predecessor, Mario Draghi. That brings with it the advantage of more engagement and openness, but also the risk that mixed or unscripted messages can roil markets.

A major test of her communication approach was met last week with a decisive and clear message that was widely praised by investors. It was helped by the Governing Council's unanimity in the view that Europe will need more stimulus to deal with the recession likely to accompany the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

At times, "it has been difficult to tell who to listen to, whereas with Draghi it was clear," said Carsten Brzeski, an economist at ING Germany. Nevertheless Lagarde is now "accepting what's required of an ECB president in terms of communication."

Speaking schedule

In the seven weeks between the September and October policy meetings, the six-member board racked up more than 60 public appearances via online conferences, blogs and interviews on a wide range of topics.

The president herself has been prolific with media. The ECB's website lists 14 interviews by Lagarde in the last 12 months. That compares to a single one in the final year of her predecessor, who rarely spoke to individual news outlets.

Some of the board's frenzy of utterances might be explained by the ECB's state of alert giving officials plenty to talk about. Working via video rather than attending events has also made it far easier to accept invitations coming their way.

Nevertheless, the ECB's multi-channel, all-hours approach to broadcasting its views has been remarkable. Lagarde even managed almost to upstage herself on October 19 when she spoke at a French event and released a pre-recorded statement at a separate conference within the span of a few minutes.

More communication can reinforce public engagement and repair what Lagarde sees as a lack of understanding of the ECB. That's part of the institution's strategy review, which has given civil-society organisations an opportunity to voice concerns. She has also spent time charming Germans miffed at poor returns caused by negative interest rates.

"If you're only talking to the markets, which was the ECB's *modus operandi* before, you're not reaching the general public," said Nick Kounis, an economist at ABN Amro in Amsterdam. "Lagarde is trying to change that. But if you're talking to two different groups, you need to be thinking carefully about who you're talking to and when." That tension between balancing plain speaking with communicating to investors was a lesson she learned the hard way. In March, when Lagarde seemed to suggest the ECB didn't see its role as backstopping the integrity of the euro, investors dumped Italian bonds.

More frequent messaging by multiple board officials has also made it harder assess ECB policy, according to ING's Brzeski. He says the advantage of the Draghi era was that following what the president and his chief economist at the time Peter Praet had to say was enough to form a view.

Kitchen cabinet

But criticisms levelled at the former chief charged that he took decisions in a small circle rather than building a wider consensus. Draghi bequeathed a strongly divided Governing Council, which comprises the board and the 19 national central-bank governors.

That legacy has already forced Lagarde to speak less openly on policy unless colleagues have been consulted. While that has helped re-establish the notion that disagreements should stay behind closed doors, rifts are almost certain to re-emerge, for instance on exactly how the ECB should expand stimulus in December.

How the question of Governing Council unity develops will be a key challenge next year for the ECB's incoming communications chief, Wolfgang Proissl. The result for now is that Lagarde has established herself as the ECB's public figurehead who is central to projecting the image of her institution, but is less recognised as the key communicator of its messaging.

"She's not really the one that shows the force in terms of where the ECB's headed, so you have to pay more attention to the other ones as well," said Jan von Gerich, chief strategist at Nordea Bank ABP. "Time will tell how the Lagarde approach will do. From a market perspective, the Draghi way was more clearer and more efficient."



Christine Lagarde during a live stream video of the central bank's virtual rate decision news conference on October 29.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Libya seeks to ramp up oil output to 1.3 million barrels by early 2021

TRIPOLI

LIBYA, an Opec+ member and home to Africa's largest crude reserves, is accelerating its oil production with plans to increase output to 1.3 million barrels per day by early 2021, as a truce to a civil war holds, according to the chairman of the country's state energy firm.

Daily crude output has reached 800,000 barrels and Libya will ramp up output to 1.3 million bpd by the beginning of 2021, Mustafa Sanalla, the chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) told Bloomberg.

The North African country's production dwindled to less than 100,000 bpd in early September from about 1 million bpd last year due to a civil war.

The country turned a page following an agreement struck in Geneva last month, which paved the way for the resumption of oil production in different fields including the country's biggest oil field Sharara and the eastern Waha oil field.

Rival sides are set to meet next month in Tunisia to appoint a unity government that will prepare elections.

The NOC plans to increase Libya's output to 1.6 million barrels daily, around the same level as before the 2011 uprising that ousted former dictator Muammar al Qaddafi, by the end of next year, Mr Sanalla said.

The increase in output will depend on the NOC getting enough money from the government to repair damaged and neglected infrastructure, he added.

The return of Libyan crude is expected to put downward pressure on oil prices, which are already trading lower as a result of concerns related to lower energy demand and higher inventories because of a resurgence in coronavirus infections globally.

Brent, the international benchmark for crude, was down 3.27 per cent, to trade at \$36.70 per barrel at 9:24am UAE time on Monday. West Texas Intermediate, the key gauge for US oil, was down 3.69 per cent at \$34.47 per barrel.

"The phoenix-like bounce back in Libyan crude production, which comes at an inconvenient time with rising Covid-19 cases in Europe and the US, is rattling oil markets and threatening to disrupt the delicate rebalancing in fundamentals,"

Ehsan Khoman, director, head of MENA research and strategy at MUFG Bank, said. Investors are also closely watching developments in the US presidential elections this week.

"Once the dust settles surrounding the US elections this week, investor attention will turn to the Opec+ meeting at the end of this month, and whether the resurgence of Libyan oil output back to similar levels last witnessed in 2012-13, alongside the renewed mobility restrictions across Europe, will propel the group to delay the next phase of its tapering of production cuts due to commence in January," Mr Khoman added.

Opec+, the producer alliance led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, agreed to historic curbs of 9.7 million bpd between May and July, after the pandemic-induced mobility restrictions forced energy demand to plummet to record lows.

The group plans to taper cuts and has been holding back 7.7 million bpd from August to help balance demand and supply. Production is set to increase again in January as part of the gradual easing of supply curbs.

Tycoon joins Kakuzi board in shake-up over rights dispute

NAIROBI

KAKUZI #ticker:KUKZ has appointed its second-largest shareholder, John Kibunga Kimani, as director in a board shakeup that follows allegations of human rights abuses including rape and violence at the agriculture firm.

Dr Kimani, who was raised in Kakuzi's farms as a squatter, had previously failed in attempts to get a board seat at the food producer despite owning a 32.2 per cent stake in the company worth Sh2.3 billion.

The changes come after law firm Leigh Day said in October that 79 Kenyans had launched a

legal claim in the High Court in London against Camellia Plc for alleged human rights abuses by security guards employed by Kakuzi, its Kenyan subsidiary.

This prompted Camellia, which bought a 50.7 per cent stake in Kakuzi in the 1990s, to promise reforms in the wake of the allegations that forced firms like British retailer Tesco to suspend supplies including avocados to macadamia nuts from the Nairobi bourse listed company.

Under the changes, former Safaricom chairman, Nicholas Ng'ang'a, has been elevated to chair of Kakuzi, replacing Graham Mclean, managing director for Agriculture at Camellia

Plc and former CEO of the Kenya food firm. Mr Mclean will remain a director at Kakuzi in changes aimed at giving locals a wide role in the running of the firm.

Dr Kimani, for instance, has strong credibility among the community in Murang'a County given his squatter background and his philanthropic efforts, including funding education of poor students.

"Given the current challenging circumstances facing the company, I look forward to being a team player as the board reimagines a Kakuzi that is not only sustainably profitable but also a Kakuzi that equitably serves the interest of all its

shareholders and that is sensitive to some of the challenges facing its host community," Dr Kimani said in a statement.

Dr Kimani has worked on many agricultural projects in the country among them the planning of Tana and Athi River basins.

The allegations facing Kakuzi, dating from 2009 to January this year, cover rapes, attacks on local villagers and a man being beaten to death, among claims. Kakuzi, which also produces tea, pineapples and rears livestock on its vast estates in central Kenya, asked the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the allegations of criminality.

Mr Ng'ang'a said the board changes are part of efforts to ensure that the company's policies and human rights processes evolve to accommodate feedback from employees, communities and other stakeholders.

Kakuzi has also created a new board committee to focus on human rights issues and will comprise distinguished individuals drawn from the local and international human rights sector. The company's alternative dispute resolution process is also being scaled up to address the community's grievances quickly and ensure action is taken to deal with employees who flout the company's ethical standards.

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: With Joe Biden bets and Trump hedges, investors prepare for US Election Day

NEW YORK

FOUR years after Donald Trump's surprise presidential victory roiled markets, investors are prepared for short-term trading turmoil and major long-term policy shifts, on the eve of today's U.S. election.

Investors could confront dramatically different paths for the country on taxes, government spending, trade and regulation depending on who wins the White House, the Republican Trump or Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden.

Biden is ahead in national opinion polls, but races are tight in battleground states that could tip the election to Trump. And perhaps the outcome most likely to shake markets - at least in the near term - is no immediate outcome at all.

"At this point, markets fear a contested election," said Kristina Hooper, chief global market strategist at Invesco. "Anything other than a contested election, a decisive victory in particular, would be good news for stocks."

For weeks, market moves have indicated investors are betting on a "Blue Wave" by which Biden becomes president and Democrats capture the U.S. Senate and retain a majority in the House of Representatives to gain full

control of Congress.

That includes a steeper yield curve and weaker dollar on expectation of a fiscal stimulus package and gains for industries expected to benefit under Biden such as green energy and solar stocks.

"If the Senate goes 'blue', I think rates move up and that will help the financial services sector tremendously," said Peter Bortel, general partner at Bortel Investment Management. "My investments are long-term and I think we benefit from that scenario."

Over a two-month period that ended on Wednesday, a "Biden basket" of stocks created by JPMorgan gained 4.5% versus a 16% drop for a "Trump basket."

But in the run-up to the vote, analysts have pointed to concern about over-confidence in a Biden win, and are mindful of the violent asset-price swings in 2016 when investors were expecting a Hillary Clinton victory.

Stocks saw big moves last week as investors pointed to uncertainty about the election outcome, as well as concerns about the lack of a stimulus deal and mounting coronavirus cases.

Hedge funds have been shaving off some risks, according to Oct. 21 research by Lyxor Asset Management, with U.S. long/short equity strategies "cautiously positioning" on a Demo-



US President Donald Trump (L) and Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden

cratic win.

Shawn Kravetz, chief investment officer of Esplanade Capital, said his hedge fund has bet on solar stocks but also has "some thoughtful and creative hedges in place" so he is not taking "undue risk."

"It's not the time to be a cowboy," Kravetz said.

BIGGEST FEAR

The biggest fear for markets is for Wednesday to arrive with the election still in doubt and the vote too close or contested.

Lacking a clear result, investors would likely flock to safe-haven assets, such as gold and U.S. Treasuries as well as perhaps the Japanese yen and U.S. dollar, Invesco's Hooper said.

An unclear result - or indeed a result with split party control, for example Biden winning and the Senate staying Republican - would also throw more doubt on prospects for a fiscal relief package.

A Democratic sweep is seen as the surest path to arrive with the election still in doubt and the vote too close or contested. The biggest fear for markets is for Wednesday to arrive with the election still in doubt and the vote too close or contested. The biggest fear for markets is for Wednesday to arrive with the election still in doubt and the vote too close or contested.

"With a Blue Wave, you are going to see a much larger fiscal stimulus package," said Anthony Saglimbene, global market strategist at Ameriprise Financial.

Beyond any near-term market boost, however, a Democratic sweep poses concerns for

stock investors. Those include the prospect of a potential corporate tax rate hike to 28% from 21% which could crimp company profits as well as herald a tougher regulatory environment.

A Biden win could also be negative for the dollar, if his administration brings a calmer tone to negotiations with China and other trade partners which boosts growth prospects for other countries.

On the flip side, a "status quo" result with Trump winning and Democrats running the House, would have investors weighing the likelihood of a more modest fiscal package against relief that tax increases were unlikely.

A bigger surprise for investors could come in a "Red Wave" by which Republicans win the presidency and all of Congress, viewed as a low-probability event but which would likely lead to an unwinding of the so-called Biden trades and a move back to sectors seen benefiting from Trump.

JPMorgan last week called an "orderly" Trump victory the most favorable outcome for equities.

To be sure, since the 2016 election of Trump, who ushered in corporate tax cuts that supported equities and imposed trade tariffs that led to volatility, the U.S. stock market has gained about 53% and hit new highs.

At the end of the day, investors just want some certainty.

"Markets will have to figure out what will change in the next Congress and in the next administration," said Paul Christopher, head of global market strategy at the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Agencies

China: US has no right to pose as 'human rights preacher'

BEIJING

THE United States has neither the qualifications nor the right to pose as a "human rights preacher," nor should it become a spreader of political viruses and a disseminator of false information, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a press briefing in response to the US State Department accusing China of violating human rights in areas related to Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and

religious freedom.

"To view and discuss human rights issues, one should have a comprehensive and objective understanding of the human rights situation of a country or region," Wang (pictured) said.

The Chinese government adheres to the people-centered concept of human rights, Wang said, adding that China has built up the world's largest systems of education, social security, medical care and democracy at the grassroots level.

Chinese citizens' freedom of



speech, religious belief and the rights of ethnic minorities to participate in the administration of state affairs are guaranteed in ac-

cordance with the law.

"China is firmly opposed to the United States turning a blind eye to the above basic facts and its own serious human rights violations, while wantonly slandering and smearing China's human rights situation," Wang said.

The United States has been plagued by scandals such as racial discrimination, police brutality and mistreatment of prisoners. It has resorted to intimidation and sanctions against other countries and waged war, causing hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian

casualties, the displacement of millions of refugees and shortages of food and medicine for tens of millions of people, Wang said.

"The United States says one thing and does another, which fully exposes the duplicitous nature of its human rights claims and its genuine interference in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of protecting human rights," said the spokesperson.

The US side should reflect on its actions and effectively correct its own human rights problems, he added.

Xinhua

Gunmen storm Kabul University in 2nd deadly attack on students

KABUL

GUNMEN stormed Kabul University, killing students in their classrooms and firing on others as they fled yesterday, in the second attack on an educational institution in the city in just over a week, officials and witnesses said.

The three attackers killed at least 19 people including stu-

dents before Afghan security forces shot the gunmen dead, authorities said.

Photos shared by a senior government official showed students lying dead in classrooms, some next to their books. One student appeared to have been shot as they were climbing out of a window.

"They were shooting at every

student they saw ... they even shot at the students who were running away," witness Fathullah Moradi told Reuters.

The Taliban said their fighters were not involved in the assault. No other group immediately claimed responsibility.

Nineteen people were killed and 22 wounded before the security services ended the assault,

interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said.

"This is the second attack on educational institutions in Kabul ... Afghan children & youth need to feel safe going to school," NATO Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan Stefano Pontecorvo said in a statement.

A suicide bomber killed 24 people including teenage students at

an education centre in Kabul on Oct 24. Islamic State claimed responsibility for that attack, without providing evidence.

Violence has plagued Afghanistan while government and Taliban negotiators have been meeting in Qatar to try to broker a peace deal and as the United States brings home its troops.

Agencies

WTO leadership race hits hurdle as Geneva lockdown returns

By Bloomberg

THE World Trade Organization's effort to select a new leader next week could be delayed for at least another month because of the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Switzerland.

On Sunday Geneva's cantonal authorities announced strict new lockdown measures amid a surge in infections and hospitalizations in the Swiss city. From Nov 2 until Nov 29, the area will prohibit public and private events of more than five people.

The development could further disrupt the WTO's ability to confirm Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the first African and first woman to lead the organization in its 25-year history.

While some in-person meetings may become virtual, senior WTO officials are discussing whether to postpone their plan to make a formal decision on Okonjo-Iweala's appointment at a general council meeting currently scheduled for Nov 9 at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva.

WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell did not immediately respond to Bloomberg's requests for comment.

The potential delay of next week's meeting is neither the only nor the greatest hurdle to Okonjo-Iweala's appointment to be director-general.

On Oct 28 the Trump administration said it would oppose her bid because the US preferred South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee for the job. Yoo has refused to withdraw from the race and has not responded to Bloomberg's multiple requests for comment.

'Broad Support'

The US unilaterally opposed Okonjo-Iweala despite the fact that the WTO selection committee determined she "clearly carried the largest support by members" and "clearly enjoyed broad support from members from all levels of development and from all geographic regions."

The US move has disrupted the leadership race because all WTO decisions are made by a consensus of its 164 members, which means a single country -- in this case the US -- can oppose a decision for any reason.

The office of US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has provided little clarity as to why he opposes Okonjo-Iweala and what the administration's ultimate goal is in blocking her appointment.

A spokesman for the US mission in Geneva did not provide a comment.

Whatever the Trump administration's motives are, the WTO leadership race now hinges on the outcome of Tuesday's US presidential election.

Some trade officials argue that if Trump loses the election, as many polls are indicating, the WTO's selection process should wait until after Joe Biden is inaugurated.

Some trade delegates told Bloomberg they would find a more constructive partner in Biden whose advisers have advocated for greater engagement with US allies and to strengthen multilateral institutions like the WTO.

Ugandan President Museveni cleared to run for fifth term

KAMPALA



UGANDA'S electoral body yesterday started to nominate presidential candidates for 2021 general elections.

Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama, chairperson of the Electoral Commission, said ten aspiring candidates have been verified and cleared for nominations in the two-day nomination exercise held at Kyambogo University Cricket grounds, about nine kilometers east of the capital Kampala.

He said five candidates, including incumbent President Yoweri Museveni, former Security Minister Henry Tumukunde, former army commander Mugisha Muntu, John Katumba and Nancy Linda Kalembwe, have been nominated on Monday. Five other candidates will be nominated today.

"I declare Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhabwe Museveni, a duly nominated presidential candidate for the 2021 general election," said the Electoral Commission chair.

The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party in July declared Museveni, who has been in power for over 30 years, as the party's presidential candidate and national chairman for the next five years.

According to a previous law in the east African country, people over the age of 75 were not allowed to run for the presidency.

Legislators in 2017 voted to remove the age limit of 75, paving way for Museveni, who is now 76 to run for the presidency in the 2021 polls.

Byabakama also said any presidential candidate who tests positive for COVID-19 will be nominated in absentia.

Xinhua

Chinese economy boasts essential advantages, resilience, vitality

Chinese economy has continued its sound momentum of steady recovery, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on October 19.

China's economic growth of the first three quarters shifted from negative to positive, with its GDP increasing 0.7 percent year on year.

Meanwhile, the country's economy expanded 4.9 percent year on year in the third quarter.

Against the backdrop of the global COVID-19 outbreak and world economic downturn, the hard-won economic performance of China seems particu-

larly remarkable.

A series of economic indicators suggest that "shifting from negative to positive" is a common trend in various aspects of the economy.

China's total retail sales of consumer goods in the third quarter grew by 0.9 percent, standing as the first positive quarterly growth of the field in 2020.

In the first three quarters, fixed-asset investment across the country (excluding rural households) saw this year's first positive growth of 0.8 percent from the same period last year.

During the period, the total value of imports and exports of

goods increased by 0.7 percent year on year, shifting from negative to positive for the first time this year.

These economic data and V-shaped curves indicate that various economic indicators of the Chinese economy are improving rapidly.

China is about to show the world that its economy is pulling further out of the chasm created by the coronavirus, Bloomberg observed.

China will be the only major economy in the world to show positive growth this year, according to the latest World Economic Outlook released by the

International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The economic data about the third quarter have shown the essential advantages, resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy and enhanced various parties' confidence in the economy.

While the aggregate indicators of China's economy continuously improve, its economic structure has been further optimized, demonstrating potential for growth in the long run.

In the first three quarters, the value added of China's high-tech manufacturing and equipment manufacturing grew by 5.9 percent and 4.7 percent year on

year respectively.

Meanwhile, the country's output of industrial robots and integrated circuits rose by 18.2 percent and 14.7 percent year on year, respectively.

Service sector in China realized steady recovery, while modern service industries also gathered momentum during the period.

The value added of the modern service industries of information transmission, software and information technology services as well as financial services grew by 15.9 percent and 7.0 percent respectively.

Online sales and digital econ-

omy burst with vitality in China.

In the first three quarters, the country's online retail sales registered a year-on-year growth of 9.7 percent, 2.4 percentage points faster than that of the first half of this year.

The epidemic hasn't changed the overall trend in China's transformation of growth model, structural improvement, and shift to new growth drivers. Improvement in economic structure can provide sustained support for medium- and long-term economic recovery and high-quality development.

The real quality of a country's economic development is better

demonstrated by the country's response to major impacts.

The recovery of China's GDP and the country's economic structural improvement have both exhibited the economy's strong resilience and potential for growth in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the first country in the world to effectively contain the spread of the epidemic, China has not only protected the lives of its people to the greatest extent, but laid a foundation for steady economic recovery.

People's Daily

UK's Farage tries to harness lockdown anger to take on PM Johnson

LONDON

NIGEL Farage, the British politician who helped force a Brexit referendum and successfully campaigned to leave the European Union, will fight Prime Minister Boris Johnson's COVID-19 lockdown by recasting his small Brexit Party as Reform UK.

Cast by his supporters as the godfather of Brexit, Farage said Johnson had terrified the United Kingdom into submission over COVID-19 and squandered vast amounts of taxpayers' money while holding out hopes of a "miraculous" vaccine.

"The single most pressing issue is the government's woeful response to coronavirus," Farage and Brexit Party chairman Richard Tice said in a joint article in The Daily Telegraph.

"Ministers have lost touch with a nation divided between the terrified and the furious. The debate over how to respond to COVID is becoming even more toxic than that over Brexit."

Johnson on Saturday ordered England back into a national lockdown from Thursday morning after the United Kingdom passed the milestone of one million COVID-19 cases and a second wave of infections threatened to overwhelm the health service.

The United Kingdom, which has the biggest official death toll in Europe from COVID-19, is grappling with more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases a day and scientists have warned the "worst case" scenario of 80,000 dead could be exceeded.

Farage, a former commodities trader, has transformed British politics over the past decade by poaching Conservative voters to force a succession of prime ministers toward ever tougher positions on Europe.

Trump ally

Farage, whom US President Donald Trump calls a friend, has spoken alongside the president in the election campaign.

He said lockdowns don't work.

Instead, Farage proposed targeting those most at risk, like the sick and the elderly, but said ordinary people should not be criminalized for trying to live normal lives such as meeting family for Christmas.

"The rest of the population should, with good hygiene measures and a dose of common sense, get on with life. This way we build immunity in the population," he said.

The perceived electoral threat to the Conservatives from the United Kingdom Independence Party which Farage formerly led was one of the main reasons then-prime minister David Cameron decided in 2013 to promote the Brexit referendum.



leader of the Brexit Party Nigel Farage

Shunned by the British political establishment, Farage, backed by Eurosceptic financiers, helped sell

Brexit to millions of voters in England and Wales who felt ignored by the mainstream Conservative and Labour parties.

The party will be recast as Reform UK - a nod to his view that the country is in urgent need of fundamental reform.

Agencies

Snowden expectant father, baby to get Russian citizenship, says lawyer

MOSCOW

FORMER National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden, who has obtained an open-ended Russian residency permit, is going to be a father soon, his lawyer Anatoly Kucherena told TASS on Thursday.

The baby will have citizenship of the Russian Federation, Kucherena affirmed. "They [Snowden and his wife Lindsay Mills - TASS] are expecting their child soon. The citizenship will be that of the place of birth," he added, saying that the child is due at the end of the year.

Snowden has not expressed a wish to obtain Russian citizenship for now, his attorney said. "We have not discussed this issue so far.

As soon as he makes the decision, he will divulge this on his own," the lawyer noted. In October 2014, American acrobat and blogger Lindsay Mills left the US for Moscow to join fugitive whistleblower Edward Snowden. They got married in 2017.

In 2013, Snowden leaked information about electronic surveillance methods being used by US intelligence services, including illegally eavesdropping on foreign leaders' conversations.

Fleeing punitive consequences from US federal authorities, Snowden sent requests for asylum to some countries, including Russia.

On August 1, 2014, he obtained a temporary Russian residence permit. Back in the United States, Snowden is facing two counts of violating the Espionage Act, and he risks up to ten years in prison on each count.

American officials have repeatedly said that they regard Snowden as a traitor and have no intention of absolving him, because he caused serious harm to the US national security.

Agencies

Iran lawmakers raise stakes in tussle with US on election eve

By Bloomberg

IRANIAN lawmakers raised the stakes in the country's nuclear tussle with the US ahead of today's election.

Parliament voted to urgently consider legislation that would end wide-ranging inspections by international atomic monitors if US oil and banking sanctions aren't lifted

within three months of the bill's approval.

The proposals would also revive the core of the reactor at the Arak plant mothballed under the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, and increase Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 20 percent, which could then be purified to weapons-grade material at short notice.

The move on the eve of voting in the US suggests Iran will attempt to force the pace of negotiations if Democrat challenger Joe Biden, who's ahead in the polls, wins the White House.

President Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 accord two years ago and has since imposed sweeping sanctions on Iran's economy to try to force it to accept a tougher deal

that also limits Tehran's missile program and ambitions in the Middle East.

The legislation aims to "reverse the pressure of sanctions on Iran and use the capacities of the nuclear industry as leverage against Western countries to live up to their commitments under the nuclear deal," said Abolfazl Amouei, spokesman for parliament's national security commission, according to the legislature's news service, ICANA.

Under the multiparty pact struck five years ago, Iran signed up to the Additional Protocol, which allows United Nations inspectors more intrusive access to nuclear sites.

Iran stopped abiding by some of the nuclear deal's enrichment constraints in response to the US sanctions.

Agencies

JD.com explores ways to lift villagers out of poverty with technologies

CHINA'S e-commerce giant JD.com intends to roll out a program to empower rural areas in the next three years. By funneling high-quality resources to these areas, the company aims to facilitate a growth of one trillion yuan (about \$149.9 billion) output value in rural areas.

JD.com has helped sell more than three million kinds of products from poverty-stricken areas from the beginning of 2016 to Sept. 30, 2020, data suggest.

During the period, the company helped realize over 100 billion yuan worth of sales for poverty alleviation, which has directly driven income growth for more than one million registered poor households.

In the past five years, the transaction volume of agricultural products sold via e-commerce platform of JD.com exceeded 500 billion yuan.

Wang Aihua, a once poverty-stricken resident in Wangxianlan village, Wuyi county, north China's Hebei province, embarked upon a road toward better life in 2016 when he received 100 baby chicks under an innovative e-commerce poverty-alleviation project of JD.com.

"After submitting the application for the project, what we need to do is only to raise the chicks, as all the other things are taken care of by a special group of young people," said Wang.

These young people Wang mentioned are staff members of JD Fresh, the fresh food arm of JD.com.



Photo shows free-range chickens raised by poor residents under a poverty alleviation project of JD.com. File Photo

According to Wang, these people helped poor households apply for an interest-free loan of 4,500 yuan each as a special fund for raising chickens from a financial service platform of JD.com.

After the loans were granted to poor villagers, the cooperative of the village purchased baby chicks and poultry supplies for them, Wang said, adding that when the chickens grow up, the company collect them and then pays poor residents cash dividends according to the results of their respective efforts.

In a free-range chicken raising base in Baodian village, Wuyi county, an intelligent monitoring system is applied to keep the environment of the base under surveillance 24 hours a day.

Each of the chickens wears a special "bracelet" with a built-in quality tracing system and an anti-counter-

feiting QR code. People can immediately get the unique identification information about a chicken by scanning its QR code, thus tracing back its origin. "The chicks don't grow fast, yet they could be sold at a good price," said Wang, adding that many of the chickens can be sold to major cities.

The first 100 chicks helped Wang's family earn 3,000 yuan in 2016. So far, the family has already shaken off poverty and is marching toward a richer life.

If developing industries is considered the guarantee of poverty alleviation, then facilitating employment is a more direct way of helping villagers become better off.

Located in the Taihang Mountains, Pingshitou village, Fuping county, Hebei province, used to be isolated from the outside world. Rugged mountain roads in the village had hindered the place from

development and prosperity.

In 2017, staff workers at JD.com encouraged residents in Pingshitou village to raise pigeons.

After receiving systematic training, poor households with people who have the ability to work have been allowed to raise pigeons in their own yards once their yards meet the standards after renovation.

For poor households without people who can work, the cooperative in the village helps them raise pigeons in a unified manner.

Meanwhile, professionals and technicians sent by the company and local government have also preaching knowledge about the business and provided training for local people at a regular basis.

These efforts have attracted more and more residents to the industry. Villagers working on pigeon farms or the cooperative could now earn over 3,000 yuan per month.

By encouraging rural residents to keep chickens, pigeons, ducks and fish, JD.com has built its own brand for poverty alleviation and thus improved the value of products in poor areas, according to an executive with JD Fresh.

While promoting such a poverty alleviation model in more areas, the company has not only got poverty-stricken residents to actively participate in the project, but provided green, pollution-free and high-quality products for consumers, realizing win-win results for poor households, consumers and companies involved.

People's Daily

Putin submits bill on formation of Federation Council to State Duma

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has submitted to the State Duma (the lower house of Russia's parliament) a bill on forming the Federation Council (the upper house), which envisages a presidential prerogative to appoint lifelong senators and introduces a procedure for ex-Russian presidents to receive the status, the State Duma posted the information in its digital base on Saturday.

"Today, the president submitted another package of bills to the State Duma with the aim to implement to amended provisions of the constitution," Chairman of the Committee on State Building and Legislation Pavel Krashenninikov said.

According to the member of parliament, "a new edition of the law on the procedure of formation of the Federation Council has been drafted along with amendments to the Law "On the Status of a Member of the Federation Council and the Status of a Deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation."

The press service of the Committee on State Building and Legislation said that besides representatives from the legislative and executive branches of power of a subject of the Russian Federation, former Russian presidents are to enter the Federation Council, becoming lifelong senators, along with "no



more than 30 representatives of the Russian Federation, who are appointed by president, and of whom no more than seven may be appointed for life."

Appointment procedure

The bill says that senators - representatives of the Russian Federation - are appointed for six years or for life by presidential decrees. The head of state can appoint no more than seven lifetime senators. The appointment of senators is a presidential prerogative, but not a duty, so the president can use it at any time.

Under the Russian Constitution, the citizens with outstanding merits in their state and public services to the country could be appointed lifetime members of the Federation Council. The submitted bill contains the same provision.

The requirements for former presidents are envisaged in a separate clause. A Russian

president, who has ended their tenure after a presidential term has expired or in advance, will acquire the status of a senator since the moment of sending an application, with all the required documents attached, to the Federation Council.

The application may be submitted once within three months after the president leaves office. Along with this, the president whose tenure has ended before the given bill is adopted may file this application within three months since the day the law enters into force.

Requirements

Under the bill, a citizen of the Russian Federation aged over 30 with an impeccable reputation, who permanently resides in Russia, who has no citizenship of a foreign state or residence permit or any other document substantiating their right to permanent residence in a foreign state can become a member of the Federation Council.

To vigorously carry forward the great spirit of the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea

THIS year marks the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) army entering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to help in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea.

When the timeframes of China's two centenary goals converge, to review the immortal historic contributions of the CPV, pay tribute to the CPV soldiers who wrote a splendid chapter to protect their country and set a glorious example of "the weak vanquishing the strong" in the history of human warfare, and vigorously foster the great spirit demonstrated by the CPV army in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and

Aid Korea, is of huge significance for encouraging and mobilizing the Party, the military and the people to brave thorny paths and forge ahead in the new era.

"The victory in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea was a victory of justice, a victory of peace and a victory of the people," Chinese President Xi Jinping said recently.

The war, which happened 70 years ago, was forced upon the Chinese people by invading imperialism. After the U.S. repeatedly ignored the warning from the Chinese government, brazenly started the war against Korea and even attacked the territory of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the

Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government resolutely made the historic decision to resist the aggression of the U.S., aid Korea and protect its homeland, shouldering the historic mission of safeguarding peace with indomitable courage.

It was the first large regional war with international influence after the World War II. Holding high the banner of justice, the heroic CPV soldiers gallantly fought side by side with the DPRK people and army and won a great victory after two years and nine months on the battle grounds. It was a war of justice to safeguard peace and resist aggression. It carried forward the revolutionary spirit of the CPC and the army, further

tested the army with cruel combats, reinforced the prestige of the PRC and the army, and created a military miracle that astonished the world.

The War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea was a magnificent song of triumph that fully demonstrated the firm resolution and powerful strength of the Chinese nation to defy brutal forces and safeguard world peace. It greatly improved China's status in the international society, encouraged the just cause of the oppressed nations and peoples around the world to pursue national independence and liberation, and made huge contribution to world peace and human progress.

Drawing experiences from history

helps shaping a better future. Since the victory of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, enormous changes have happened in China. The CPC, leading the Chinese people of all ethnic groups with perseverance and strenuous efforts, has created remarkable development achievements and successfully built a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At present, the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and the country is also about to complete poverty alleviation and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, embracing a prosperous future for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The world is going through unprec-

edented changes unseen in a century, and China is in a critical period for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The CPC is uniting the Chinese people and leading them to carry out great struggles with many new historical features. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the CPV entering the DPRK to fight in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea calls on the country to review history and plan the future with developmental and long-term thinking, better draw experiences from history, and gather powerful strength for realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

People's Daily

SPORT



In this Nov. 3, 2011 file photo, U.S. actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive for the European premiere of their film, "The Rum Diary," in London. Britain's High Court has ruled against Johnny Depp in his libel action against the owner of the Sun tabloid over allegations that he was a "wife beater." In a ruling Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, Justice Andrew Nicol said Depp has "not succeeded in his action for libel." Though Nicol said Depp had "proved the necessary elements of his cause of action in libel," the defendants had shown that "what they published in the meaning which I have held the words to bear was substantially true." (AP Photo)

British court rules against Johnny Depp in libel case

LONDON

A BRITISH court ruled Monday against Johnny Depp in his libel case against the owner of the Sun tabloid newspaper, which labelled him a "wife beater."

Justice Andrew Nicol said that the defendants had proved that what they published was "substantially true" during a high-profile trial in London over the summer that included lurid – and irreconcilable – accounts from Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard in which accused the other of abuse. Depp's lawyers said they would appeal the decision.

"I have found that the great majority of alleged assaults of Ms. Heard by Mr. Depp have been proved to the civil standard," Nicol wrote in his ruling.

Depp sued News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that accused him of assaulting fellow actor Heard. For now, the ruling represents a big blow to Depp's reputation and to his finances that could seriously damage his lucrative movie career.

A lawyer for Depp, 57, described the decision as "perverse as it is bewildering." "The judgment is so flawed that it would be ridiculous for Mr. Depp not to appeal this decision," Jenny Afia said in a statement.

An attorney for Heard, meanwhile, said the verdict was "not a surprise" for anyone who followed the trial.

The Sun called the decision a "stunning victory for press freedom" and said that it had stood up and campaigned for victims of domestic abuse for more than 20 years.

"Domestic abuse victims must never be silenced, and we thank the Judge for his careful consideration and thank Amber Heard for her courage in giving evidence to the court," a spokesperson for the tabloid said in a statement.

At the heart of the Sun's characterization of Depp as a "wife-beater" were allegations it printed that the actor had assaulted Heard 14 times in locations around the world, including a "three-day hostage situation" that Heard said took place in Australia while Depp was filming a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Heard, 34, said the abuse was fueled by Depp's drug and alcohol use and that he could turn into "the monster" when under the influence. She alleged that at various times between 2013 and 2016 he hit, slapped and shoved her, pulled her hair and threw bottles at her.

Depp acknowledged in court taking marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and magic

mushrooms, and became addicted to opioid painkillers. But added: "I am certainly not a violent person, especially with women."

The judge found that 12 episodes of domestic violence had occurred and dismissed charges made by Depp's legal team that Heard had "constructed a hoax."

"I do not accept this characterization of Ms. Heard," the judge wrote, adding that he accepted her evidence that the allegations she made against one of the world's most popular actors have "had a negative effect on her career as an actor and activist."

Depp is also suing Heard for \$50 million in Virginia over a Washington Post op-ed essay that she wrote about domestic violence. The essay talks about her experience being abused but does not name Depp. The trial is due to be held next year.

"Very soon, we will be presenting even more voluminous evidence in the U.S.," said Elaine Charlson Bredehoff, Heard's attorney in the U.S.

Afia, representing Depp, said that "we hope that in contrast to this case, the ongoing libel proceedings in America are equitable, with both parties providing full disclosure rather than one side strategically cherry picking what evidence can and cannot be relied upon."

Depp and Heard met on the set of 2011 comedy "The Rum Diary" and married in Los Angeles in 2015. They separated the following year and divorced in 2017.

Heard chronicled acts of violence from early on in their relationship. Depp branded the allegations "sick" and a "hoax" and claimed Heard was the aggressor during their relationship. He said that Heard hit him, even severing the tip of his finger with a thrown vodka bottle during an altercation in Australia during filming of a "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie.

Heard insisted she was telling the truth and said she had spoken out reluctantly.

"What woman has ever benefited from being a victim of domestic violence?" she asked in court.

Lisa King, director of communications and external relations at the charity Refuge, which provides support for victims of domestic violence, expressed hope that the ruling sends "a very powerful message" that every single survivor of domestic abuse "should be listened to and should be heard."

Mark Stephens, a media lawyer at the law firm Howard Kennedy, called the decision "absolutely devastating" for Depp.

"Johnny Depp is only going to be able to rehabilitate himself if he accepts this judgment," he added.

SPORTS

Go Twiga Stars go!

By Correspondent Lloyd Ellipokea

THE fact that the Twiga Stars are slated to vie for top honours alongside other contesting teams in the COSAFA Women's Championship this week is a wholly positive development for African women's football and of course national women's football here on our home patch.

Indeed, for the Twiga Stars, it affords them an invaluable opportunity to test their mettle against unfamiliar and in a few cases, redoubtable opposition, which can only be a good development for our national women's team.

To borrow from Latin, South Africa's Banyana Banyana are the locus classicus of a veritable juggernaut of continental women's football.

Accustomed to feasting at the high table of African women's football alongside other bigwigs like most notably Nigeria, for example, the Banyana Banyana have over the years carved out a reputation for being one of the continent's foremost women's teams, which is an unimpeachable fact.

Now, having clearly established that the Banyana Banyana will pose a potent threat during the forthcoming COSAFA Women's Championship, let us return to our heroines, the Twiga Stars, who are under scrutiny here.

Indeed, in a bid to give an impeccable account of themselves, our Twiga Stars will need to be battle-hardened and sufficiently prepared for the weighty task at hand.

It is also hoped that the exposure of our heroines to varied and top notch South African opposition will help the growth of the Twiga Stars into an even better team.

Still maintaining the thrust of this commentary, which is about the 'People's Game', it is now an opportune moment for us all to ponder on the Mother of all derbies to wit: the anticipated gladiatorial duel between Simba SC versus Yanga, which is



Tanzania's national women football team 'Twiga Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for this year's Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) Women's Championship, which takes place South Africa this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

looming large on the horizon.

Indeed, come this Saturday, the two old foes will cross paths in the latest installment of their riveting decades-old rivalry, a rivalry which has held the nation captive for ages.

Granted, it has to be admitted that there are also other popular city derbies which routinely enliven the continental football landscape season-in, season-out.

These include the renowned duel in Accra, Ghana between Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak, the pulse-racing clash in Cairo between two staunch foes Zamalek and Al Ahly and the Soweto derby in Johannesburg, South Africa between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates among others.

Nevertheless, despite that, this writer boldly holds that any meeting between Simba SC versus Yanga is an experience like no other.

Indeed, when the match famously christened the 'Kariakoo Derby' is in progress, life across vast swathes of Dar es Salaam is brought nearly to a standstill.

The only discernible sounds which puncture this silent calm are the tell-tale excited voices of commentators providing a blow-by-blow account of affairs unfolding on the pitch via radio and television. Quite indisputably, it is truly the stuff of high drama.

As we head ever-so-closer towards D-Day, it should be noted here that Yanga recently acquired a brand new head coach in the Burundian tactician Cedric Kaze.

And, bearing in mind that Simba are the defending league champions, a fact which must make the Yanga faithful absolutely exasperated, it will be mightily interesting to see how the unknown quantity in coaching terms Cedric Kaze handles the almost suffocating pressure which perpetually accompanies the 'Kariakoo Derby'.

Yanga coach laments tight VPL schedule



Yanga's head coach, Cedric Kaze.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach, Cedric Kaze, has said that none of his players can play four matches in 12 days in the ongoing Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

The tournament's tight schedule, according to him, forces him to change his squad from time to time.

Kaze, who has signed a two-year deal with Yanga, has led the outfit to win three matches in the league and post nine points.

He started taking charge in Yanga's 1-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, he later helped his side edge Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC 2-1 at

CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza last week.

The Burundian gaffer thereafter helped Yanga cruise to 1-0 victory over Biashara United at Karume Stadium in Mara last Saturday.

Kaze said: "I have a lot of tough matches that the players have to fight for and work hard to win but no one can play all four games in a row in the squad at this time of the quest."

"What I do is see to it that every player plays and I make changes to my team with a view to seeing to it that they can be fit for the upcoming matches."

"The biggest thing I'm happy with is that everyone shows his potential on the pitch and does what I tell him."

Yanga are placed second in the domestic top flight standing with 22 points having played eight matches.

They have won seven matches and forced a draw in one, managing a 1-1 draw with Tanzania Prisons in what was as well the former's league opener.

Yanga have also managed to set a record as an outfit which has conceded fewer goals in eight rounds of this season's VPL, they have conceded two goals.

The record domestic top flight champions moreover have a peculiar record in that Ghanaian defender, Lamine Moro, is one of two top scorers in the club after the eight games.

Moro has scored two goals. His compatriot, Michael Sarpong, has too

scored two goals for the team.

Yanga are level with the VPL leaders Azam FC on points but the two outfits are separated by number of goals scored and conceded.

Azam FC has scored 15 goals and conceded four goals, Yanga have scored 11 goals and conceded two goals.

Biashara United are placed fourth in the VPL table with 16 points, tying Simba SC, which occupies third position, on points.

Simba boast of a better goal difference, they have scored 19 goals and conceded four goals whilst Biashara United have scored five goals and shipped in eight goals.

“

I have found that the great majority of alleged assaults of Ms. Heard by Mr. Depp have been proved to the civil standard

Pogba: My 'stupid mistake' to blame for defeat

LONDON

PAUL Pogba has said that his "stupid mistake" was the reason for Manchester United's 1-0 defeat against Arsenal at Old Trafford – a loss which saw the club record their worst start to a season at home for 48 years.

Pogba's second-half foul on Arsenal wing-back Hector Bellerin resulted in referee Mike Dean awarding a penalty from which Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored to seal the Gunners' first win at Old Trafford since September 2006.

The defeat was United's third in four Premier League home games – they drew 0-0 with Chelsea in the other – and leaves the team sitting in 15th position.

And France international Pogba said that his error was the key factor in United's latest Old Trafford setback.

"I felt like I touched him [Bellerin] a bit, I knew I was in the box," Pogba told BBC Match of the Day. "I shouldn't have given a penalty

away like that.

"Maybe I was a bit out of breath, it made me do this stupid mistake.

"We know it's a poor performance. Myself, I cannot give a foul away like this, I thought I would touch the ball but I didn't. [It] cost us the goal today with the penalty."

Despite his latest mistake – it was the third time that Pogba has conceded a penalty in United's last five games at Old Trafford – the former Juventus midfielder said that United's team display must be better.

"Like I say, details," he added. "We have to do better, the team, myself, it starts with me. I will learn from that, I'm not the best defensively in the box, I can work on that.

"We also need to do more with the ball creating chances.

"We didn't expect to be man for man, but after this we can adapt, we have to find a solution but we didn't.

"That's why we weren't dangerous with the ball. But like I say, the team performance needs to be a lot better."

(Agencies)

Ex-Barca boss Setien: Messi 'difficult' to coach

BARCELONA

FORMER Barcelona coach Quique Setien has said that it was "difficult to manage" Lionel Messi during his short and unsuccessful spell at the club.

Setien took charge of Barca in January but was sacked in August following the team's 8-2 defeat by Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

Before that humiliation, Messi publicly called Barca "weak" and "inconsistent" with Real Madrid having already won La Liga.

"It's true that there are players that are not easy to manage, among them, Leo [Messi]," Setien told El Pais newspaper. "It's difficult when someone is accustomed to winning.

"And when inside him, it generates an anxiety when you don't achieve that [win], it harms you. The demand that exists today in football is brutal, it has saturated him and others that need to permanently win.

"We also have to take into account that he is the best footballer of all time. How am I going to change him? If there [at Barca] they have accepted him for who he is for many years and they haven't changed him."

He added: "There's another facet beyond just the player and it's more difficult to manage. Much more difficult. It's something inherent in many athletes that can be seen in the Michael Jordan

documentary ["The Last Dance"]. You see things you don't expect.

"He [Messi] is very reserved and only shows you the things that he wants you to see. He doesn't speak much."

In August, Messi announced his wish to leave Barca but the Argentina international made a U-turn when the Catalan giants demanded his €700 million buyout clause, with Messi tied to the club until June 2021.

"There are millions of people that think that Messi, or any other player, is more important than the club or the coach," Setien added.

"This player [Messi], like others around him, have been winning titles for 14 years, winning everything.

"After my departure, one thing that is clear to me is that at certain times I should have taken other decisions but there's something above you: the club and the fans. They are above a president, a player, a coach. You owe the respect to them [fans] and you have to do what is most convenient for the club."

Despite everything, Setien does not regret his time at Camp Nou.

"The experience at Barcelona has been extraordinary," he said. "I've had the opportunity to experience something unique. I told the players that I had never been in a changing room like that one, that I was with the best players in the world."

(Agencies)

Joshua Kimmich, the 'phenomenal' driving force at Bayern Munich

BERLIN

WITH Bastian Schweinsteiger as his role model, Joshua Kimmich is following in his idol's footsteps at Bayern Munich by becoming the driving force of the European champions.

Kimmich will be at the heart of Bayern's midfield on Tuesday when they make the trip over the Alps to face Red Bull Salzburg in the Champions League.

Kimmich has evolved from a right-back into an uncompromising defensive midfielder, whose full-blooded challenges often win back possession to counter-attack.

On Saturday, in typical fashion, Kimmich robbed Cologne midfielder Ellyes Skhiri of the ball with expert timing and then launched the break which resulted in a Serge Gnabry goal as Bayern earned a 2-1 win and moved top of the Bundesliga.

After Bayern conceded an equaliser at Lokomotiv Moscow last Tuesday, it was Kimmich who stepped up and hit the second-half winner from outside the area.

The 2-1 victory in Moscow preserved Bayern's 13-match winning streak in the Champions League and for head coach Hansi Flick, Kimmich sums up Bayern's fighting spirit.

"His mentality is very special. He is well on his way to being one of the players that shape this club," said Flick after Kimmich scored the winner in September's German Super Cup triumph over Dortmund.

The 25-year-old recently became a father for the second time.

He has grown into a household name in Germany – confirmed when Berlin's Madame Tussauds announced in June that it was statue of Kimmich will feature in their football section next year.

He has the innocent looks of a choirboy, yet Kimmich can frequently be seen barking orders at his Bayern teammates.

- 'Qualities to be anything' -

His competitive nature makes Flick think twice about resting Kimmich despite Bayern's dense fixture list.

"I have to expect he'll be angry," Flick admitted. "He always wants to be on the pitch."

Flick is not the only top-level coach to marvel at Kimmich.

Both Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho have waxed lyrical about the German international.

Tottenham boss Mourinho believes Kimmich has the talent to play in any position.

"I see him as a top right-back, left-back, centre-back, No.6, No.8, No.10... he has qualities to be anything," Mourinho told broadcaster DAZN.

"He's intelligent and understands what he has to do here and what he has to do there. I think he's phenomenal."

Kimmich, a product of Stuttgart's academy, thought his agent was joking when Bayern enquired about signing him from his former club Leipzig in 2015.

(Agencies)

No home comforts for Man Utd in Arsenal defeat, Bale send Spurs second

LONDON

PIERRE-EMERICK Aubameyang condemned Manchester United to fresh misery at Old Trafford as his penalty clinched a 1-0 win for Arsenal, while Gareth Bale was the match winner with his first goal since returning to Tottenham in a 2-1 win over Brighton on Sunday.

Aubameyang ended a five-game goal drought in the league when he stepped up to convert a 69th-minute spot-kick after Paul Pogba fouled Hector Bellerin.

The Arsenal captain's first league goal since the opening weekend of the season gave the Gunners their first league win at Old Trafford since 2006.

United have now failed to win any of their four home league games this season, with the three defeats including a humiliating 6-1 rout against Tottenham.

It is the Red Devils' worst start to a home league campaign since 1972-73, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team languishing just six points above the relegation zone in 15th place.

After an encouraging end to last season when they secured a top-four finish, United have had an inconsistent start to the new campaign, with the highs of Champions League wins over Paris Saint-Germain and RB Leipzig cancelled out by a series of poor league performances.

"We weren't at the races. We were too sloppy and too many passes went astray," Solskjaer said.

"Home and away form is out the window with no fans in the stadium. You can't look at that. It doesn't really mean too much. But we need to get points on the board."

Arsenal moved up to ninth, just a point off third, thanks to their first win away at a 'big six' rival in 30 attempts.

Mikel Arteta's men were deserved winners, having dominated for long periods and hit the bar through William in the first half.

"I'm delighted because we played with a lot of courage and big personality," Arteta said.

"Every striker needs goals and in these moments we have to create more for Auba. He has scored the crucial goal and it is going to lift his confidence."

Bale rescues Spurs

Spurs moved up to second as Bale came off the



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scores their goal during their English Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, Britain on Sunday. Reuters

bench to break Brighton's resolve in a controversial clash at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

Harry Kane's early penalty put Jose Mourinho's men in front before the visitors were denied a spot-kick for a pull on Leandro Trossard by Matt Doherty.

Brighton's bright display got the slice of luck they needed to level 11 minutes into the second-half when referee Graham Scott allowed Tariq Lamptey's equaliser to stand after what appeared a clear foul on Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in the build-up, despite reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor.

Bale got Spurs and Scott off the hook, though, when he powered home a header 17 minutes from time.

"It's a great feeling," said Bale. "I just

want to come on and make an impact for the team. "I haven't played a lot of football. It's taken time, I'm being patient and working hard when I get chances."

Everton spurned the chance to go back top of the table on goal difference as they were beaten 2-1 at Newcastle.

Carlo Ancelotti's side succumbed to a limp defeat as Callum Wilson scored twice in the second half before Dominic Calvert-Lewin's late reply.

It was a difficult day for Ancelotti, who dropped England number one Jordan Pickford in favour of Robin Olsen after a turbulent start to the season.

Southampton are up to fourth as James Ward-Prowse celebrated his 26th birthday by scoring two fine free-kicks in a 4-3 win against Aston Villa.

Ralph Hasenhuttl's side lost their first two matches this term, but they have bounced back impressively to win four of their last five games.

Another Ward-Prowse free-kick created the opener, scored by Jannik Vestergaard to open the floodgates.

Ward-Prowse curled a stunning free-kick past Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez from 25 yards in the 33rd minute, then netted another majestic free-kick on the stroke of half-time.

Danny Ings bagged Southampton's fourth, but later had to be replaced with a worrying looking knee injury.

Tyrone Mings and Jack Grealish pulled goals back for Villa, who slip to seventh.

AFF

Arteta has Arsenal on course to return to former glories before United

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

PAUL Pogba walked off the pitch alone after once again playing a central role in Manchester United's downfall. The France international midfielder's needless foul on Hector Bellerin on 68 minutes resulted in the penalty from which Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored to seal Arsenal's first league victory at Old Trafford since 2006.

Pogba, who has always lacked defensive qualities, conceded another penalty in the 6-1 home defeat against Tottenham last month when a similarly thoughtless challenge on Ben Davies led to a penalty for the opposition.

This is the problem with Pogba. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer can only rely on the £89 million player to let him down, so it raises the question as to why the United manager continues to trust him with a place in the team. United's defeat against Arsenal is not a Pogba story, but he does embody the reason Solskjaer is still going around in circles after 100 games in charge and why Gunners boss Mikel Arteta is instead driving his team forward in more convincing fashion.

When Arteta took charge at the Emirates last December, he inherited a talented, but unreliable, midfielder in Mesut Ozil. Less than a year into the job, Arteta has cast Ozil into the wilderness and built a plan without the German. That decision emphasises the certainty and conviction of the Spaniard and it is now showing through in his team.

As for Solskjaer, nobody quite knows where United are heading, and Pogba sums up how the team are drifting towards the doldrums.

Yes, they have beaten Paris Saint-Germain and RB Leipzig in the Champions League this season, but United now lie 15th in the Premier League, with seven points from six games, and have failed to win any of their first four home league games for the first time since the 1972-73 season.

The Solskjaer cheerleaders can celebrate the Champions League wins all they like, but the club's bread and butter is the Premier League. United are already nine points behind leaders Liverpool, so forget about the title for another year.

Not so long ago, United versus Arsenal was the game that mattered in the Premier League. Between 1996 and 2004, the two teams won nine titles between them in nine seasons. Those days are long gone – Arsenal haven't won the title since 2004, United since 2013 – but they are such big clubs that they should both be much closer to the top than they are right now.

But despite having been at Arsenal for less than half the time that Solskjaer has been at United, Arteta clearly has his team on the route to recovery by imposing a coherent plan, which includes signing players to solve clear problems. This was the first time since a victory at Manchester City in January 2015 – a run of 29 games – that Arsenal have won away at a so-called Big Six opponent, and the win had Arteta's fingerprints all over it.

Two of his big summer signings – defender Gabriel and midfielder Thomas Partey – were crucial



Mikel Arteta

figures in this win. Gabriel, with his aggression and organisation skills, ensured a solid back line for Arsenal and he also kept Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood quiet. And Partey dominated the midfield, albeit against a United side that struggled to make its diamond formation work.

Until Arteta arrived to replace the sacked Unai Emery 11 months ago, Arsenal's problems at the back and in midfield had become an embarrassment, problems that Emery and Wenger had somehow failed to address. But Arteta has dealt with both already and his strategic summer recruitment has been key to that.

In contrast, Solskjaer and United have

once again paid the price for a shambolic summer window. Netherlands midfielder Donny van de Beek, the £40m buy from Ajax, has yet to start a league game, but with Pogba and Bruno Fernandes already playing in his favoured position, why sign him in the first place? United needed a commanding centre-half and defensive midfielder, just like Arsenal did, but they failed to address either issue.

Arteta got what he wanted and needed, but Solskjaer ended up with a midfielder he hadn't targeted and two gaping holes left unfulfilled.

But it isn't all about signings either. Tactically, Solskjaer was taken back to school by Arteta, who used wing-backs

Bellerin and Kieran Tierney out wide to take advantage of the lack of width caused by United's diamond formation. The pair caused havoc all afternoon – the contrast of United full-backs Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka was striking – and Solskjaer sat on his hands as United were crying out for a change of approach.

But Solskjaer has never shown much certainty or direction as United manager, so it is little surprise that his team plays in the same fashion. Arteta, meanwhile, has Arsenal playing in his image in a positive manner, and his team is looking good.

These two clubs will eventually get it right again, but the smart money would

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

No home comforts for Man Utd in Arsenal defeat, Bale send Spurs second

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kurasini Heat Club's Amin Mkosa pictured with this year's National Basketball League (NBL) trophy won by his club during the team's celebration at the Kurasini basketball court in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KURASINI HEAT BASKETBALL CLUB

TPLB says satisfied by Premier League

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has disclosed it is satisfied with the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League, adding there is an exciting competitiveness in the top flight.

The TPLB also noted that complaints on the league's venues' standard have overall been quite minimal.

Almasi Kasongo, TPLB Chief Executive Officer, stated the league's governing body has witnessed a competitive competition, which has seen clubs which prepared well post wins in their games.

He pointed out competent sides have posting victory in games regardless of the clashes' venues' location.

He noted: "We are satisfied with the league's progress. It has been different from the previous competitions."

"You might today find an outfit which has prepared well come out victorious even in an away fixture. There is a high level of competitiveness, there is little difference between outfits, when it comes to competence."

"We have this time around been serious when it comes to renovation of venues."

Kasongo said the TPLB has, this season, taken the venues' renovation seriously, this season, noting venues, which had for years not been in good condition, have this time been renovated.

"Most of the venues are lately in use because we insisted in renovation of the venues and we will continue monitoring the issue," he disclosed.

Seventy nine matches have already taken place in the VPL, there are 62 wins and 17 fixtures have ended in draw.

The league has had 140 goals scored, there has been victory in 37 home games, there have also been victory in 25 away duels.



Namungo FC forward, Abeid Athuman (L), negotiates his way past Coastal Union fullback, Hance Masoud, when the teams met in this season's Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Lindi recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF



Lions Cricket Club's players in group picture with their families shortly after completion of the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B final against Patel Brotherhood outfit, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Lions Cricket Club notched one-wicket victory over Patel Brotherhood to win the silverware. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Lions Cricket Club lifts 2020 Kazim Nasser Division B League trophy

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club has clinched the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B trophy, notching a hard-fought one-wicket victory over Patel Brotherhood side in a thrilling final, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

It is the first piece of silverware Lions Cricket Club has now lifted this season, offering timely motivation to the squad as it seeks to excel in club competitions at the regional level in the 2021 season.

Patel Brotherhood team were skittled for 127 runs in 26.5 overs once they were presented with the chance to start batting at Annadil Burhani oval.

Their pursuit of an imposing total was dealt a blow early on as the team's opening batsman, Chetan Patel, was sent back to the pavilion with two runs to his name.

Fellow opener, Mauleshkumar Patel, withstood Lions Club's pressure for six overs, executing good knocks and notching 20 runs which included two fours. They were then pegged back with an early exit of Riteshkumar Tailor, who was slotted in at number three, as he could only score five runs.

Lions Cricket Club's Hasham Ahmed foiled Mauleshkumar's

efforts to extend his stay at the crease, as the former outwitted the Patel Brotherhood batsman with a skilful delivery.

Lions Cricket Club's Abubakar Selemani made no mistake, going for a catch to send Mauleshkumar to the pavilion.

Pinalkumar Patel, Harsh Patel and Dhavalkumar Patel gave their all at the crease in an effort to see to it that Patel Brotherhood are in control of the innings, ending their spell with double digit scores.

Pinalkumar was eventually the club's top run getter with his 30 runs, which included three fours, Dhavalkumar scored 24 runs which included a four.

Harsh recorded 21 runs, which consisted of a four. The rest of the team's batsmen were less impressive at the crease, exiting in quick succession, and that frustrated their efforts to set up challenging target for Lions Cricket Club.

Lions Cricket Club's Imran Khan and Ahmed had impressive bowling showing, ending their spells with three wickets apiece. Khan gave away 25 runs in 5.5 overs, posting an economy rate of 4.29, Ahmed leaked 34 runs in five overs.

Selemani and Abdulsamad Ahmed compounded woes for Patel Brotherhood side, given they took two wickets apiece.

Selemani gave away 23 runs

in his six-over spell, Ahmed conceded 18 runs in five overs.

Lions Cricket Club then chased Patel Brotherhood squad's score with plenty of zeal, dropping nine wickets in 26.5 overs.

They were forced to dig deep and tame Patel Brotherhood, who put spirited displays during their turn with the ball.

Opener Qaiser Awan's 35 runs had the squad make its plan to get down to successful chase known, the muscular batsman notched six boundaries in his spell. Fellow opener Abdulsamad Ahmed too put good knocks to show, posting 21 runs which consisted of three boundaries.

Youthful batsman Rijali Fentu boosted the chase with his 26 runs, clearing the boundary once. The team's chase was pegged back with three quick dismissals, youthful batsman Ramadhani Mbunde later saw to it the side's quest for successful chase hardly wanes, nailing 11 runs. They had to yet more scare, given Imran Khan and Selemani had brief spells.

Skipper and Hasham made certain of the side's victory, scoring six runs not out and one run not out respectively.

Patel Brotherhood side's Chetan and Dhavalkumar put a spirited fightback, ending their spells with five wickets and four

wickets respectively, which however failed to weaken Lions Cricket Club's resolve.

Patel Brotherhood team had qualified for the KNML third tier final after commanding 46-run victory over Estim team in the last four clash.

Lions Cricket Club made it to the showdown's final in an equally impressive fashion, cruising to a resounding eight-wicket victory over K&P Construction team in the semi-final. A delighted Lions Cricket Club's Chairman, Atif Salim, speaking after the final, disclosed: "It has been a roller coaster journey for our club which was formed by a group of 13 friends coming together to play indoor cricket."

"Winning a trophy this year after a three-year wait has, to us, been the most pleasing thing."

"Our club faced setbacks last year with many of our A-listed players leaving the club. That called for new recruitments and all thanks to Almighty that we only grew bigger in numbers and now we have a youth team in place."

"It was a nail biting finale and I think a big credit goes to Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) for the support they have shown to the clubs this year along with the organising DC team."

Mkosa targets treble triumph with Kurasini Heat hoops side

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER putting a wonderful show for Kurasini Heat outfit in this season's National Basketball League (NBL), the club's lethal point guard Amin Mkosa now wants to stamp his outstanding form of brilliance in the CRDB Bank Taifa Cup tournament to be staged in Dar es Salaam later this month.

Mkosa played a big role in Kurasini Heat's victory in both the Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League and the national tournament, NBL. The CRDB Bank Taifa Cup competition is organized by Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) and will be held in Dar es Salaam from November 12-21.

Mkosa said that after helping his side win both the NBL and RBA tournaments, he wants to post treble triumph by winning the Taifa Cup. He will play for Temeke team in the coming showdown. Dar es Salaam will be represented by three squads, Temeke, Kinondoni and Ilala in the tournament.

The selection of players set to participate in the tournament will base on the teams that took part in RBA League from the three districts. Mkosa, who plays for Kurasini Heat after his Malawian outfit, Brave Hearts, had allowed him to temporarily play in Tanzania, said it was not easy for the Dar es Salaam outfit to win both NBL and RBA League titles.

He noted: "To be honest, it wasn't that easy, both leagues were very competitive, in general there were over 28 foreign players in different teams this time around."

"As you know Tanzania is among either a few or maybe the only country in Africa that had its basketball season proceeding after many other countries had halted sports activities due to coronavirus pandemic," he said. He said that the presence of foreign players in the RBA League strengthened the teams and made the league highly competitive. He said the aspect is good for the development of the game.

He said that RBA League format for knockout stages, best of three games in quarterfinals and semi-finals and best of five games in final, added dimension to the beauty of the league.

"At RBA League I can tell all eight quarterfinalists had equal chance to win the title, they were all very strong, maybe a few factors made the difference," he explained. Mkosa said the RBA League's final pitting Kurasini Heat against rivals, National Service (JKT), was a hotly contested event. "We had to be ready and fight, JKT beat us in the first game. Had it been played as a one-off final, they could have been crowned champions, but they were not as we had four games ahead to amend our mistake," he stated.

"We did respond very well, we went on to win three consecutive games to seal a 3-1 series win and won title," he recalled.

Mkosa, who emerged as the NBL's Most Valuable Player (MVP), insisted the presence of top players from around Africa had a big impact in both leagues.

The point guard, who had also played for Power Basketball Club of Uganda, did well in the country by helping his team win two trophies. He added that Kurasini Heat had to face a similar challenge in NBL, given results were too close before sealing a win over Oilers Club to be crowned champions. Kurasini Heat secured their second title of the season as they won the NBL by beating Oilers 76-59 in a thrilling final at Don Bosco courts, Upanga, in Dar es Salaam.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msasi Kilaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Koli Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00
NIRVANA
Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrika RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM