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TANZANIA

SATURD AY 23 OCTOBER , 2021

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UN mission head hails Tanzania's acceptance of multilateralism

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations is today commemorating its 76th anniversary, known as UN Day where the UN flag will be raised in the capital to symbolize Tanzania's commitment to multilateralism and partnership worldwide.

A statement released yesterday by the UN Information Centre in Dar es Salaam said the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of UN agencies will participate in the flag-raising ceremony as well as the regional secretariat, foreign embassies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Zanzibar government as well as the military will be represented.

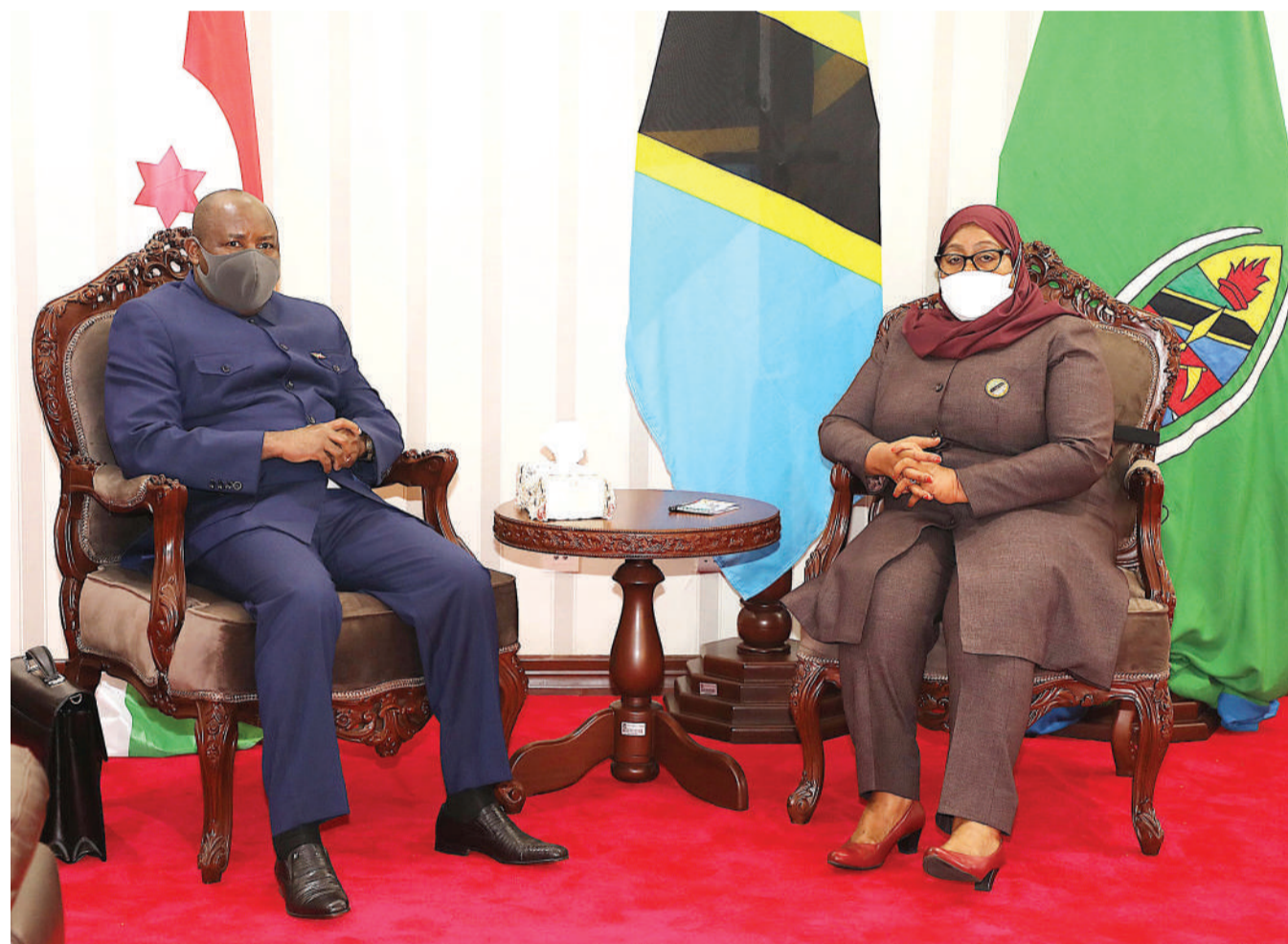
The guest of honour is expected to be the Minister for Defence and National Service, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax. On Thursday next week, as part of the UN Day commemorations, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi will present an award to the winner of a competition among young entrepreneurs who provided the most innovative solution to a specific challenge linked to the blue economy.

The event will be preceded by several other activities including a beach cleanup activity, a school out-reach event and tree planting," a UN advisory said, inviting the media to a conference on Tuesday to share information on activities slated for UN Day in the Isles. UN Day marks the adoption of the United Nations Charter and entering into force on 24th October, 1945. Marking the day is an opportunity to amplify the work that is done by the UN, with the national theme for this year's UN Day slated as 'Building Back with Better Health Systems.'

This theme is in line with key global targets for achieving the sustainable development goal number three, on good health and wellbeing. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries in the world, with the theme being focused on reviewing existing health systems to better respond to pandemics like COVID-19 and other emergencies for a sustainable future, the advisory added.

Samia, Ndayishimiye exploring joint railway section financing

By Getrude Mbago



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with her guest, Burundi President Évariste Ndayishimiye, at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Burundian counterpart, Évariste Ndayishimiye, yesterday discussed plans to jointly mobilize resources to finance a railway line from Uvinza in Kigoma Region to Musongati in the neighbouring country.

Addressing reporters after the meeting between the two leaders at the Chamwino State House, President Samia said a joint team of experts had already conducted an assessment of the project and initial stages of its financing, including loan facilities.

She said that when she visited Burundi back in July the two agreed on a number of things including strengthening bilateral relations and building the Uvinza- Musongati railway. "We also agreed on exchange programmes in the fields of agriculture and livestock, and in educational services mainly in teaching of Kiswahili and French," she said.

Construction of the 260 km railway from Uvinza to Musongati and then to Gitega was a grand move facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services, she said, noting that discussions in the State House yesterday covered several other areas including communications, trade and investment, aside from political matters.

"I have told the President that Tanzania has invested heavily in the National Information Communication Technology Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) and we have allowed 100 gigabytes to be used by our Burundi neighbours, so we urge Burundi residents to also use opportunities that the broadband network offers," she stated.

Tanzania will import fertilizer from Burundi thus as-

Govt skips tax tribunal in settling 360trn/- disputes

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE government has initiated a process of settling outstanding tax disputes between the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and foreign investors out of court as part of efforts to revamp the country's tax regime and improve ease of doing business.

Geoffrey Mwambe, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), told the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) in a city meeting on

Her ambition is to see the emergence of new billionaires in the country. This can be made possible through proactive participation of the private sector in economic activities ...

Thursday that outstanding 360trn/- tax appeals lodged by investors amounts to a whopping "We had many tax cases in the tax tribunal. Their

value was almost ten times our national budget," he stated, expressing gratitude to the Minister for Finance and the TRA Commissioner General for resolving the tax disputes amicably and out of the tribunal.

Many of the concerned investors opening those appeals have already started to pay taxes that they believe are genuine, he elaborated, underlining that this was a good sign.

He said that the Tax Administration Act provides that if an investor intends to lodge com-

A number of refugees are also coming back from various camps, indicating that Burundi is now peaceful

During the meeting, she assured farmers with enough supply of the input for the coming season, she said, noting that a consignment of fertilizer from Burundi is expected to be delivered in the next few days, helping to ease price pressures on the product.

She commended the Burundian President for coming to Tanzania, assuring him full cooperation in the issues they covered, highlighting that the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is going on well. The Dar es Salaam to Morogoro part has now reached 91 percent, the president noted.

The project is being implemented in five phases, the 202km Phase 1 (Dar es Salaam-Morogoro), Phase

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PM affirms 170bn/- plan to widen ICT broadband

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has affirmed the setting aside of 170bn/- for expansion of the national information communication technology broadband backbone (NICTBB) to improve communication services countrywide.

The fiber backbone infrastructure is expected to stimulate economic growth by opening up op-

The Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology should also work with the private sector to increase operational efficiency

portunities for investors and users of local and foreign telecommunications services.

Opening the fifth annual ICT conference in Arusha yesterday, the premier said that expansion of the national broadband will help accessing communication services in every corner of the country and thus contribute to development.

"The allocated funds for the

2021/22 fiscal year will enable the construction of 4,244-kilometers of the communication broadband network, thus reaching 12,563 kilometers countrywide, he said.

The government's goal is to enable telecommunications service providers to use the infrastructure to improve services and facil-

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Govt skips tribunal on tax in settling of 360trn/- disputes

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plaints against tax assessment, the firm has to pay a 33 per cent down payment and thereupon lodge the suit in the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal.

All bank accounts previously attached (by TRA) due to non-compliance of tax payment have been opened, he declared.

Government engagement with investors for greater compliance in tax payment has enabled revenue collection to rise by 12 per cent lately to 18trn/- in the context of the current financial year without using force, meanwhile as effects of the Covid-19 pandemic still persist, he asserted.

"We are now doing very well in the aspect of revenue collection without using force. We need to raise more awareness to ensure that people pay taxes voluntarily," he emphasised.

Insisting that the government is committed to support the development of the private sector to enhance its contribution to national development, the minister asserted that the president wants to see the private sector nourished.

"Her ambition is to see the emergence of new billionaires in the country. This can be made possible through proactive participation of the private sector in economic activities," he elaborated.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan

back in April directed the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to urgently resolve tax wrangles, intoning that the sixth phase government would not tolerate an oppressive tax regime. TRA has to ensure fairness in discharging its functions, she demanded.

She said TRA officials must adopt polite approaches to assessing payable taxes that propel higher collections of revenues without fomenting chaos with investors.

The minister similarly affirmed that the government has commenced payment of Value Added Tax (VAT) refund claims as part of its commitment to support the private sector.

"Through the government's stimulus package, a massive injection of money into the economy is underway, where honouring tax refund claims is part of this commitment. We have paid a lot and we will continue to pay outstanding claims to ensure there is more money in circulation," he stated.

Richard Kayombo, the TRA director for taxpayer services said in an interview last month that the taxman had already paid over 300bn/- to settle outstanding Value Added Tax (VAT) refund arrears.

Starting from July 2021, TRA had paid out 104bn/- with verification continuing on pending claims to ascertain the authenticity of the claims before payment, while new submissions are received every month, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience with the director generals of social security funds from both the Mainland and Zanzibar at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

Samia, Ndayishimiye exploring joint railway section financing

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2 (Morogoro-Makutupora) which has reached 61 percent of construction. Preparations are also ongoing for the 341km Isaka-Mwanza section while the government looks for funds to finance the 294km Makutupora-Tabora section and the 130km Tabora-Isaka section, she explained.

The government has provided a ten-acre plot at the Kwala-Ruvu area in Coast Region for the construction

of a dry port to enable Burundian traders to store their cargo before freight to Burundi, which will reduce handling costs, she remarked.

For his part, President Ndayishimiye assured East Africa and the world that peace has been restored in the country, enabling its people to conduct economic activities freely.

"A number of refugees are also coming back from various camps, indicating that Burundi is now peaceful," he said, noting that Bu-

rundi raised the possibility of starting to import coal from Tanzania so as to revive its iron sub-sector.

He praised President Samia for outstanding leadership and pursuit of development, explaining that he had come to Tanzania to scale up bilateral cooperation. He assured his Tanzanian counterpart of his country's commitment to strengthening existing bilateral cooperation.

Burundi is implementing several strategic projects including renovation and expansion of the port

of Bujumbura and ship building, he said, starting his three-day state visit that will see him visit Zanzibar, holding talks with President Hussein Ali Mwinyi today.

The two leaders laid a foundation stone at Nala near the capital where the Burundian firm Itracom is building a \$180m fertiliser factory.

The two leaders will team again tomorrow for a tour of Dar es Salaam port, SGR construction site and the Kwala dry port, where Burundi was allocated 10 hectares.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shows copies of booklets with guidelines on the registration of information and communications technology professionals shortly after launching it during the Fifth Annual ICT Conference held Arusha city yesterday. Left is information, Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji. Photo: PMO

Tanzania to sell its products via Chinese e-commerce platform

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN-MADE products will now be marketed and sold via an e-commerce platform of China known as JD.com which is one of the most influential marketing sites in the Asian country.

According to a statement from the Tanzanian embassy in China signed by ambassador Mbelwa Kairuki said the move to sell the products on the platform follows an agreement between the embassy and a Chinese based company—Prestige which runs the platform.

Some of the products which has been selected to be marketed and sold through the e-commerce platform include minerals and food products namely cashew-nuts, coffee and tea.

JD.com is China's largest online retailer and its biggest overall retailer. It offers customers the best online shopping experience. The company is a member of the Fortune Global 500.

In the agreements, a Tanzanian company which produces various products which have been added value will be able to sell their

products directly to the Chinese market via the network.

Apart from the opportunity of marketing products from Tanzania, companies who will sell their products via the platform will be exempted from import duty and a 30percent exemption from (VAT) if they use the JD worldwide Cross Border E-commerce.

For his part, Ambassador Kairuki hailed Prestige for the initiative which he said will open the Chinese market.

Ambassador Kairuki said Tanzanian companies who want to

make use of the opportunity should prepare themselves by adding value to their products as well as meeting the standards in packaging according to Chinese custom laws.

JD.com is setting the global standard for online shopping experience, offering a vast selection of products, across every major category (electronics, apparel and home furnishings, FMCG, fresh food, home appliances and others), and delivering them at amazingly fast speeds to provide a truly "one stop" shopping experience for Chinese consumers.

PM affirms 170bn/- plan to widen ICT broadband

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itate internet access in poorly served public offices and private sector establishments.

"The government values efforts of our stakeholders including the development partners in stimulating ICT-based investments," he said, touching on the private sector as the engine of the country's economy, "so we will continue working with them closely to improve the ICT sector."

Technological changes around the world make ICT take centre stage in service provision, so the government decided to invest heavily in the sector and supervise it to ensure that all services provided are in line with the country's ICT Policy of 2016, he stated.

"The government has so far built 8,319 km of national communications broadband. Our goal is to construct up to 15,000km by 2024/2025," he asserted.

ICT infrastructures are the backbone of digital development, so the country needs to increase the number of internet users to more than 80 percent of potential users nationwide from the current 45 percent, delivering quality and affordable services to all users, he stated.

The premier also launched a national guideline for registration of information communications technology (ICT) experts to improve the way the profession is organised, along with facilitating the promotion and elevation of arts, science and general ICT knowledge countrywide.

He instructed the ICT Commission to ensure that it puts in place specific strategies to register ICT professionals so as to achieve the target of enrolling 5,000 professionals by 2025.

"The Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology should also work with the private sector to increase operational efficiency," he urged, noting that the ministry and the

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) need to consider the possibility of working with large companies in the sector to ease the work of building a digital economy.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology said that registering ICT professionals is continuing since 2019 "and the exercise is going well."

She reiterated commitment to developing ICT experts as they are key people in attaining the country's ambitious industrial economy agenda. Recognition of ICT experts was in line with the National ICT Policy 2016 which provided that ICT was central to competitive social and economic transformation.

For a long time experts supervising ICT infrastructure, service and systems had unclear credibility and integrity levels, the minister asserted. Noting that moving towards industrialization in the information age requires exploitation of digital technologies and high-tech systems.

"The registration process shall facilitate promotion and elevation of the arts, science and general knowledge of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Tanzania, and, in particular, to advance and represent the interests as well as the development and professionalism of all those practicing in the ICT industry," she declared.

The government is also planning to construct a centre of excellence for ICT in Dodoma, she asserted, noting the president's affirmations in that regard.

The conference is one of the largest consultative events for ICT industry players in Tanzania, offering a unique platform for capacity building, policy dialogue, business investors' networking, experience and knowledge sharing on global ICT issues and business opportunities, setting out knowledge and skills needed to cope with the dynamic digital ecosystem.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on the commemoration of African Human Rights Day. She is with Raymond Kanegene, an advocacy officer with the centre. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into force on October 21, 1986. This date was thus declared the African Human Rights Day. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

200 paralegals meet in Dodoma to chart better ways to boost legal aid services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OVER 200 paralegals and other stakeholders met in Dodoma to chart better ways on improving legal aid services to the needy people in the next five years.

The two-day meeting brought on board heads of CSOs that dispense legal aid services and paralegals from across Tanzania.

Organised by Legal Services Facility (LSF), the meeting also involves organisations which are the beneficiaries of the Urban Legal Empowerment Grantees project. The well-attended meeting aimed at providing a platform for the exchange of information on program outcomes and extensively discuss the importance and strategic achievement of LSF for the coming years beyond 2021 for all LSF beneficiaries and stakeholders. This comes towards the implementation of the new strategic plan for the next five years LSF which is expected to start in 2022 to 2026.

It is also geared towards promoting operational efficiency, service delivery, citizen participation in legal aid service systems.

It intends to recognize the efforts and efforts of Legal Assistants in the

country directly empowered by the LSF as well as discuss future goals towards the implementation of the new strategic plan for 2022-2026.

Opening the meeting, legal aid service department director in the Zanzibar President's Office, Justice, Constitutional Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance, Hanifa Ramadhan Said described the event as important as it brought together legal aid stakeholders who had been instrumental in promoting justice in the country. "There have been various problems in society that are caused by the suppression of various rights including women and children. Through the LSF program and its stakeholders you have been able to do a great job of helping the community through legal empowerment," said Hanifa.

Government attorney from the ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Justice, Agness Mkwae said: "I believed that evaluation on the implementation of the justice system in Tanzania would go hand in hand with all stakeholders in the legal aid industry to guide each other in complying with legal requirements on the operation of organisations providing legal aid services in Tanzania."

500 delegates expected to attend CSOs meeting in Dodoma today

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 500 delegates are expected to attend the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) week, starting here today until 28th October, 2021 it has been learnt

Among the guests at the annual event whose opening is expected to be officiated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai includes development partners such as representative from Denmark embassy, Mette Bech Pilgaard, Sascha Muller (Switzerland) and Helen Fytche (Canada).

Others dignitaries expected to grace the opening session are Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Antony Mtaka,

District Commissioner, Jabir Shekimeri, City Mayor, Prof Davis Mwamfuye and registrar of CSOs, among others.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Nesia Mahenge, country director, Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International said at least 150 CSOs have confirmed participation at the event, urging stakeholders to turn up in large numbers and attend this year's exhibition.

She said CSO Week will be opened on October 23 at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre, and the exhibition is scheduled for October 23 and 24 at the same venue.

Mahenge added that conference sessions will take place from October 25 to 28 at Royal Village Hotel in the city.

"Residents of Dodoma and other regions are welcome to the CSO exhibition Week, whose theme is 'Civil Society and Development'. Honourable Ndugai and other guests will have an opportunity to see various activities being undertaken by CSOs," she said.

United Nations Association of Tanzania executive director, Reynald Maeda said various events and activities have been lined up during this year's CSO Week.

They include provision of legal assistance at various pavilions and education on Covid-19 vaccination. On October 24 there will be discussions on how CSOs are working with the government to facilitate and expedite socioeconomic development in the country.

He added that CSO Week would also see

the presentation on October 28 of various awards, including in areas such as gender, accountability and people living with disabilities.

The Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, is expected to be the chief guest at the event.

She added that CSOs that excelled during the past year would be recognized and honoured during CSO Week.

Maeda reiterated civil society's commitment to working closely with private sector in various areas, and urged various stakeholders and the general public to attend CSO Week events in large numbers.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) executive

director Francis Kiwanga thanked the government for recognising and appreciating the pivotal role civil society is playing in the country's socio-economic development, adding that the future is promising under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Kiwanga said organisers had worked exhaustively to ensure that members of the public would benefit from the various activities lined up during CSO Week, adding that they recognised the importance of the role of the media in disseminating information from the event.

"One of our key aims is to make sure that the public will be fully informed about CSO Week, and that is why we intend to work closely with the media throughout the event," he said.




VACANCY: SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER – WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT (21 MONTH CONTRACT)

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania in alliance with TRAFFIC, the international wildlife trade monitoring network - has an opening based for an experienced Project Manager to help strengthen law enforcement to combat illegal wildlife trade in Djibouti, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

JOB DESCRIPTION – CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

Based in Arusha, under the supervision of TRAFFIC's East Africa Office Director, and in collaboration with TRAFFIC's project support unit in Cambridge, UK, the Senior Project Manager will manage and coordinate the implementation of the project to be implemented in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti. In Tanzania, the Project Manager will work closely with Tanzania's Police, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and National Prosecution Services. Elsewhere in the region, the Project Manager will work with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Uganda's Wildlife Authority and IGAD, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, based in Djibouti. The Project Manager will oversee and support experienced project coordinators, monitor project budgets and timelines, and ensure compliance with donor guidelines and that all project outputs are produced on time and are of a high quality.

SPECIFIC DUTIES: The main tasks of the Senior Project Manager include, but are not limited to the following:

- Lead the overall management of the project ensuring implementation of all project activities;
- Oversee development of capacity building materials in collaboration with government partners and TRAFFIC offices;
- Supervise the project implementation team, service providers and consultants that work for the project, including developing contracts;
- Provide technical advice and support to the project team and partners;
- Ensure compliance of project implementation and outputs are in line with US Government and TRAFFIC policies and safeguards, including quarterly compilation of donor progress reports;
- Build, support and manage effective working relationships with partners in the project countries;
- Manage the project's finances and support financial admin and reporting;
- Lead communications with the donor including leading donor meetings and providing necessary input and progress reports;
- Represent the project and TRAFFIC at internal and external meetings as required;
- Provide support in the development and submission of related concepts and funding proposals; and
- Undertake any other tasks as required by the Director of TRAFFIC East Africa.

REQUIREMENTS

- A Masters/Ph.D. in a relevant discipline (e.g. wildlife management, environmental or conservation science or environmental law) or related field.
- Minimum of 10 years professional project management experience, including managing staff, project budgets and reporting. Experience managing US government projects is preferred.
- Experience of donor relationship management and reporting is required.
- Demonstrated knowledge of M&E concepts.
- Knowledge and previous working experience in wildlife trade, environmental crime and related law enforcement issues.
- International working experience, such as Kenya, Djibouti and Uganda.
- Experience in facilitating meetings or discussions.
- Knowledge of international nature conservation laws and agreements, particularly CITES would be a distinct benefit.
- Experience developing and delivering training would be advantageous.
- Excellent organizational skills with ability to prioritize, meet deadlines, problem solve and adaptively manage.
- Good interpersonal and leadership skills and ability to work effectively and collaboratively.
- Ability to work independently and show initiative in developing innovative approaches.
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili is required. A working knowledge of French would be an advantage.
- Willingness and ability to travel both within Tanzania and the region frequently.
- Must be eligible to work in Tanzania.

In the subject header, **Senior Project Manager – Wildlife Law Enforcement**, interested applicants are requested to send a cover letter and current CV with full contact details of three to traffictz@traffictz.org by midnight Tanzania time, 5 November 2021. We thank all applicants for their interest in this position but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The interviews will take place virtually or in person at TRAFFIC's office in Arusha, Tanzania.




VACANCY: SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER – 21 MONTH CONTRACT

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania in alliance with TRAFFIC, the international wildlife trade monitoring network - has an opening for an experienced Project Manager who would enjoy overseeing a dynamic portfolio of diverse project activities in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

JOB DESCRIPTION – CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

Based in Arusha, under the supervision of TRAFFIC's East Africa Office Director, the Senior Project Manager will oversee the implementation of activities in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. The Project Manager will supervise and support experienced project coordinators based in Tanzania, work closely with TRAFFIC's research and behaviour change experts in the UK, monitor project budgets and timelines, and ensure compliance with donor guidelines and that all project outputs are produced on time and are of a high quality. In Tanzania, the Project Manager will work closely with agencies such as the National Prosecution Services and Tanzania's Forest Service, while in Kenya and Uganda, the role will involve working with customs and various Port authorities in the region.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

The main tasks of the Senior Project Manager include, but are not limited to the following:

- Lead the overall management of activities under two main projects;
- Supervise experienced TRAFFIC programme personnel, service providers and consultants that work for the project, including developing contracts;
- Provide technical advice to the project implementation teams and partners and support with implementation;
- Ensure compliance of activities implementation and outputs are in line with US Government and TRAFFIC policies and safeguards;
- Be responsible for the timely submission of donor progress reports;
- Manage ongoing effective working relationships with partners in the three project countries;
- Manage the project's finances and support financial admin and reporting;
- Lead communications with the donors including donor meetings;
- Represent the projects and TRAFFIC at internal and external meetings as required; and,
- Undertake any other tasks as required by the Director of TRAFFIC East Africa.

REQUIREMENTS

- A Masters/Ph.D. in a relevant discipline (e.g. wildlife management, environmental or conservation science or environmental law) or related field.
- Minimum of 10 years professional project management experience, including managing staff, project budgets and reporting. Experience managing USAID government projects is preferred.
- Experience of donor relationship management and reporting is required.
- Demonstrated knowledge of M&E concepts.
- Knowledge and previous working experience in wildlife trade, environmental crime and related law enforcement issues.
- International working experience, especially in Kenya and Uganda.
- Experience in facilitating meetings;
- Excellent organizational skills with ability to prioritize, meet deadlines, problem solve and adaptively manage.
- Good interpersonal and leadership skills and ability to work effectively and collaboratively.
- Ability to work independently and show initiative in developing innovative approaches.
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili is required.
- Willingness and ability to travel within Tanzania and the region frequently.
- Must be eligible to work in Tanzania.

In the subject header, **Senior Project Manager**, interested applicants are requested to send a cover letter and current CV with full contact details of three to traffictz@traffictz.org by midnight Tanzania time, 5 November 2021. We thank all applicants for their interest in this position but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The interviews will take place virtually or in person at TRAFFIC's office in Arusha, Tanzania.



Mary Marungi (C), NMB Bank Plc's branch manager for Magomeni in Dar es Salaam, addresses journalists in the city yesterday during the second draw of the bank's save-and-win campaign dubbed 'NMB Bonge la Mpango - 2merudi Tena'. She is with Gaming Board of Tanzania official Pendo Mfuru (R) and NMB customer service officer Neema Kazoviyo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bank commends interventions, policies of Bank of Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

MWALIMU Commercial Bank has commended the various interventions and policies by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in rescuing the country's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, saying Tanzania posted better performance compared to other African countries.

The statement was given in Arusha yesterday by the bank's board of directors' chairperson, Francis Ramadhani when presenting a report to delegates attending the bank's stakeholder's annual general meeting.

He said data from the central bank indicates that Tanzania recorded a 4.7 per cent economic growth and that it is projected to grow by 6 per cent in 2021.

"The inflation rate has continued to be low at 3.5 per cent signalling the presence of conducive business and investment environment," he said.

Ramadhani said in 2020, Mwalimu Commercial Bank entered into contract with three institutions—National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Public Service Social Security

Fund (PSSSF) and the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) who have jointly contributed 25bn/- to the bank's deposits.

He said with the funds, the bank was able to provide loans to a good number of clients whereas a total of 42bn/- was issued.

Mwalimu Commercial Bank Chief Executive Officer, Richard Makungwa said the bank will continue to improve its operation systems as well as creating a good business environment. He said they have also opened branches in Morogoro, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma and Arusha.

"We also introduced the Mwananchi VISA Card to allow our clients to access services at our over 2,000 ATMs across the country and be able to make online payments through the POS-point of sales available at supermarkets and hotels," said Makungwa.

He said the bank plans to come up with an arrangement to enable its customers and shareholders to register for life insurance through Mwalimu Commercial Bank, which is also an insurance agent. He said the move would boost the bank's income, thus facilitate expansion of its services.

The African Union commissioner sees 'huge potential' for trade with Turkey

ISTANBUL

THE African Union's commissioner for economic development, trade, industry, and mining has praised the 'huge potential' for developing relations with Turkey and Africa.

"All we need now is to expand the relations," Albert Muchanga said in the sidelines of the 3rd Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum in Istanbul.

With business-to-business (B2B) meetings, business people will explore ways of gathering to expand the trade, he added.

"We live in an interdependent world, (with) no countries and islands on their own. So it's very, very important that Africa develops relationships with all countries of the world," he said when asked about the increasing interest in the African continent.

Likewise, he said, all countries are very welcome to develop ties with Africa.

Stressing the 'mutual gain' as the basic principle of interdependence, Muchanga said: "when parties meet to collaborate, they have a win-win outcome."

"Then there's potential for deepening and expanding the relations," he added.

The two-day Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum kicked off on Thursday in Istanbul.

Turkey and Africa's bilateral trade volume, which was \$5.4 billion in 2003, reached \$25 billion in 2020, Turkish Trade Minister Mehmet Mus said at a news conference on the first day of the forum organized by Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK) in cooperation with the Turkish Trade

Ministry and African Union Commission.

Around 3,000 African and Turkish businesspeople gathered at the event, Mus stated.

The event will include a ministerial meeting, B2B debates, signing ceremonies, and panel discussions in which several topics such as cooperation in agriculture, pandemic, innovation, and financing will be discussed.

Calling the African Union a "facilitator," Muchanga said a number of African Union member states are attending the Istanbul meeting, with 38 of them led by ministers.

Asked about the bilateral meetings, Muchanga said most of the attendees were "underlining the importance of the relationship between Africa and Turkey."

"They outlined a number of sectors where there's a huge scope for expand-

ing and deepening those relationships," he said, adding that the sectors that they discussed were agriculture, skills development, health, tourism, and air transport among others.

Asked about the possibilities the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement offers for countries like Turkey, he said there are "huge opportunities".

The agreement creates a "market for 1.3 billion people," which means, he said, an investor from Turkey can establish an enterprise or export to Africa "at minimum rates of duty".

Their ultimate goal is to make it "duty-free," Muchanga said, adding: "And that means that you're able to supply at a competitive rate".

"Because it's a much larger market, you have the incentive now to increase your investments, so that you reach out to a

market of 1.3 billion people.

"So the African continental free trade area is a huge market that enhances market access and attracts large-scale investments".

With the agreement, the African Union commissioner said, they foresee the development of regional and continental value chain, export diversification, the growing importance of agricultural processing and manufacturing, and making the African economies more competitive, which will "accelerate the rate of economic growth".

"So this is all going to change the landscape for Africa to grow very fast," he said, referring to a report released by the World Bank last year indicating that the free trade agreement has the potential to lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty.

'Laigwanans' from Ngorongoro disown imposters and refute Lekisongo claims

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

LEADERS representing the Maasai communities in Ngorongoro have disowned a person known as Isaac Lekisongo Ole Meijo who they accused of purporting himself to be a Maasai elder.

"Lekisongo is calling himself a leader of Laigwanans, (chiefs) which is wrong. In Maasai culture we do not have chiefdoms," they said during a press conference in Arusha.

"Furthermore no Laigwanan has the audacity to speak on behalf of other leaders or a different community which they don't belong," explained Laigwanan Metui Ole Shau-do the chairperson of community leaders in Ngorongoro.

The head Laigwanan was speaking on behalf of 25 other community leaders from Ngorongoro, who seem irked by Lekisongo's recent outburst.

A team of eleven Laigwanans, or community advisory elders from Ngorongoro have decided to call a press conference in Arusha to inform the mass on their cultural positions as well as disown Lekisongo, a person who recently made comments about Ngorongoro despite the fact that, he has never been to Ngorongoro area in his entire life.

"Government leaders should be aware of these types of people because they are out to mislead, misinform and cause misunderstandings in the country," added James Ole Moringe a community leader from Ngorongoro Division.

Moringe said Lekisongo who recently turned up at the public rally being addressed by President Samia Suluhu, in Arusha, tried to insinuate that residents of Ngorongoro Division, mapped within the Conservation

Area were ready to vacate from the mixed world heritage site.

"There is nothing like that, it is our ancestry land, we are recognized by the law since colonial days, we are the ones who look after and protect wildlife in the conservation area and have always worked in cooperation with elders, leaders and our government," explained Ngakenya Olenjorio another Laigwanan.

"Lekisongo is not a resident of Ngorongoro, never been there but lives in Arusha, where he is not even a community leader but only supervises initiation ceremonies through Iloshoni sect," added Mbiriya Ole Rinya, another Laigwanan.

The elders have called upon Lekisongo to retract his statements and then apologize to the residents of Ngorongoro as well as asking forgiveness for misleading public before the head of state.



Lekisongo is not a resident of Ngorongoro, never been there but lives in Arusha, where he is not even a community leader but only supervises initiation ceremonies through Iloshoni sect



Small traders who had put up stalls in an unauthorised area beside a Mbezi stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road prepare to relocate yesterday. But they have until the end of the month to move out, as ordered by government authorities in the region. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

HESLB releases second batch of 7,364 first year students loans worth 19.4bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

HIGHER Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) has announced the second batch of 7,364 first year students who have received loans worth 19.4bn/- for the academic year 2021/22 which is set to begin next week.

In a statement yesterday, HESLB Managing Director Abdul-Razaq Badru said the fig-

ure now brings the total number of first year students who have received loans to 45,095 worth 119.3bn/-.

Badru said HESLB has started sending the money to higher learning institutions saying students should access the money via Students Individual Permanent Accounts (SIPA) as they prepare to go for studies.

"The government has given the board

enough money for students. Our aim is to ensure that all students who are eligible to get loans on timely manner," he said.

Badru said the third batch of students who will receive the loans is expected to be announced next week on Monday after the completion of an analysis where students are required to get more details about the matter via SIPA.

"The second batch involves eligible students and the needy, but also those who have fully completed filling in the loan application forms that are available," he said.

At the same time Badru said HESLB has already received the money for the students who have been named in the second batch and will be disbursed into their accounts by the end of the week.

According to Badru, the government has set aside 570bn/- as loans for 160,000 students whereby out of them 70,000 are new beneficiaries and 90,000 are those already in the system after passing their annual examinations.

The board also called upon loan applicants to be patient as the process to arrange the processes are on-going.



The standing of a heavy-duty generator in a pavement near the junction of Dar es Salaam's Livingstone and Mchikichi streets is making life difficult for pedestrians, as witnessed yesterday by Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Zanzibar adheres to all recommended Covid-19 precautions'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government in Zanzibar said yesterday that it is considering all the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended precautions to protect residents as well as visitors from being infected with COVID-19.

Zanzibar's Minister for Construction, Communication and Transport, Rahma Kassim Ali made the statement when briefing journalists on various interventions the government is taking to combat further spread of the disease.

She said one of the measures they are taking is to make sure that all the international visitors who are not vaccinated get the jabs.

According to the minister, the recently 172 tourists who arrived in the Isles on Tuesday aboard Air France observed all the WHO recommended COVID-19 prevention measures including being vaccinated.

"All the tourists arriving in Zanzibar adhere to the experts' recommended prevention measures which includes checking their health status and COVID-19 test," said Rahma noting all the airline companies landing in the Isles are insisted to remind their passengers to take precautions against the disease.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, Zanzibar's Minister for Health, Social Welfare, Elderly, Gender, and Children said all the entrances including the Abeid Amani Karume international airports and the Malindi ports are keenly screening arriv-

ing passengers for the disease and checking whether they have already been vaccinated.

He said Zanzibar prioritizes issuance of COVID vaccines to international passengers to ensure their safety and protect Isle residents from being infected.

Mazrui said it was impressing that all the employees at tourist hotels have been vaccinated, thus assuring visitors of their safety while in Zanzibar.

In July, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the country's COVID-19 vaccination drive and received a jab of Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the Dar es Salaam.

Samia told Tanzanians that the vaccines are safe and she would not take any risk, in a bid to assure the public of the safety of the vaccines.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dorothy Gwajima said plans are afoot to secure other types of COVID-19 vaccines to enable people to make their choices.

On July 24, Tanzania received over 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility.

Early this week, the government said that it has started to distribute the Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine as the first batch of Johnson & Johnson vaccine was running out of stock.

Dr Gwajima said the government has already distributed the Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine to almost all the health facilities in the country, adding some Tanzanians started to receive the new jab on Monday.

'It is important to develop infrastructure in support of SADC regional integration'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s blueprint, the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 highlights the need for development of good infrastructures that will spur economic activity across the region.

Economic transformation of the SADC region requires adequate and functioning infrastructure that will guide the

region towards front-loading industrialisation in the context of evolving technologies.

The RISDP 2020-2030's Pillar II on Infrastructure Development in support of regional integration aims to promote an interconnected, integrated, and quality seamless infrastructure and networks, including cross-border infrastructure, which will be pivotal in facilitating the movement of people, goods, services and knowledge.

In the RISDP 2020-2030, pri-

ority is also placed on ensuring harmonised policies, strategies, and initiatives in support of cross-border infrastructure and services.

Recognising that the requisite regional infrastructure and services hold the key to economic development and regional integration, ensuring affordable access to such infrastructure and services is vital.

RISDP 2020-2030 identifies diversified regional infrastructure and services as fun-

damental for facilitating the movement of goods, services, and skills, as well as the development of regional markets for energy, including renewables, information and communications technology, water and transport.

In its pursuit to industrialise and accelerate regional integration, SADC has prioritised infrastructure development, and a number of infrastructure projects have been, and continue to be implemented in

energy, transport, information communication technologies, meteorology, trans-boundary water resources and tourism (trans-frontier conservation areas).

The targets for infrastructure are set in the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP) approved in 2012 that aims at attaining assimilated, cost-effective, unified and efficient transnational infrastructure networks and services to serve

as the enablers of regional integration and economic development. Some infrastructure projects that have been implemented or are on-going in the SADC region include one-stop border posts at Chirundu Border between Zambia and Zimbabwe; Nakonde-Tunduma Border between United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia; and Kazungula Border between Botswana and Zambia, where the road-rail bridge was commissioned in May 2021.

The Kazungula Bridge and One-Stop Borders between Botswana and Zambia, and at Nakonde-Tunduma, link the port of Durban in South Africa to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania through the North-South Corridor, facilitating seamless and efficient movement of goods and persons, and reduce the cost of doing business, contribute to industrialisation, and enhance trade and SADC regional integration.



Mwalimu Commercial Bank Plc board chairman Francis Ramadhani (5th-L, foreground) and members come together in Arusha city yesterday in marking the bank's fifth anniversary - on the sidelines of their annual general meeting. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania-Zambia railway records double-digit rise in freight traffic

By Special Correspondent

THE Tanzania-Zambia railway (TAZARA) recorded a 19.4 per cent rise in freight traffic in the 2020/2021 financial year ended June 30, 2021, said the TAZARA Authority, the operator, in a statement Thursday.

The statement, issued at the end of the 117th Board of Directors meeting of the operator, with the headquarters in Dar es Salaam, said that the railway saw an improvement of 26.7 per cent in overall revenue earnings in the 2020/2021 financial year, when compared to the previous financial year that ended on June 30, 2020.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, the railway line transported 217,661 metric tonnes of freight, compared to 182,302 metric tonnes transported in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Despite limitations on movement of people globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall passenger traffic transported was 2,760,493 passengers during the 2020/2021 financial year, down 0.66 per cent from the previous financial year when 2,778,708 passengers were transported.

According to the statement, the overall revenue earnings for the 2019/2020 financial year were 24.511 million U.S. dollars.

The Tanzania-Zambia railway line was constructed as a turnkey project between 1970 and 1975 through an interest-free loan from China, with commercial operations starting in July 1976. It covers 1,860 km from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to New Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia.

Education, gender and poverty affect climate change literacy in Africa

By Special Correspondent

CLIMATE change literacy is essential to help Africans understand and effectively respond to climate change and adapt to its catastrophic effects. This is according to Dr Nicholas Simpson, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI).

Dr Simpson's latest research paper titled, "Climate change literacy in Africa," highlights the effects that education, gender and poverty have on climate change literacy on the continent. His research was published in a leading peer-review scientific journal Nature Climate Change on Thursday 7, October 2021.

"We cannot simply react to climate change; the risks are much too severe. Although the majority of Africans are aware of climate change and agree that it should be stopped, too few people understand the severity of its current and future impacts on Africa's economies, food and water security, health, infrastructure, cities,

heritage, and ecosystems," Simpson said.

"Understanding the human influence on climate change, afforded by climate change literacy, will help us move beyond just reacting to climate change to better plan for its immediate risks."

The majority of Africans (71%) are cognisant of climate change and its effects, yet only 51% are confident that their efforts to combat it can (and will) make a marked difference. For Simpson, it's important that Africans fully understand the immediate and long-term effects of climate change and realize that it can (and will) affect every aspect of their lives.

"Anticipating climate change in the decision-making process concerning your livelihoods, careers, and investments will help Africans safeguard their futures," he said.

And climate change literacy can address this - education and awareness will provide Africans with the information they need to make informed decisions on how best to adapt.

"Without climate change literacy and

understanding the human causes of climate change and its potential impact on the world, hundreds of millions of people across Africa will not be able to sufficiently adapt to climate change," he said.

Establishing climate change literacy rates and identifying the primary social and environmental predictors of climate change literacy across the continent was a fundamental step in Simpson's research process. Understanding climate change literacy levels among Africans was particularly important because the results underpinned a thorough and informed response to the crisis.

Because there has never been a multi-country study on climate change literacy in Africa, Simpson and the UCT research team, in partnership with academics at the University of Connecticut in the United States, put shoulder to the wheel and conducted their own analysis of the continent.

They combined public opinion and environmental data and used the Afrobarometer - the largest public opinion

survey in Africa - as their primary source of data. The survey measured climate change literacy on the continent, the perceptions of climate change, as well as socio-demographic factors such as age, gender, education and wealth.

"Working closely with our excellent colleagues at the Climate Systems Analysis Group here at UCT, we integrated this data with measurements of local climate trends and climate-related disasters like floods. As a result, we were able to identify the effects of both social and environmental factors on climate change literacy," Simpson said.

"We could then establish the most holistic picture of the knowledge dimensions of climate change literacy and its determinants across Africa."

The research revealed that the average national climate change literacy rate in Africa currently sits at only 37%. Simpson and his team surveyed 33 African countries, and the results for each country differ vastly. For example, in Mauritius and Uganda climate change literacy hovers at

roughly 66% and 62% respectively. However, in Mozambique and Tunisia results indicate that climate change literacy rates are at 25% and 23% respectively.

On the other hand, when comparing subnational administrative units per country, of the 394 sub-national regions surveyed, 8% recorded climate change literacy levels below 20% and 2% recorded levels higher than 80%. Comparing subnational regions within countries also revealed striking differences. In Nigeria, climate change literacy levels range from 71% in Kwara to 5% in Kano. And in Botswana, climate change literacy levels range from 69% in Lobatse to 66% in Kweneng.

The research also revealed that wealthier Africans who have access to cellphones and computers, and those who live in urban areas, are more climate change literate. Men are also significantly more climate change literate than women, and approximately 11 out of the 15 countries that recorded the largest gender gaps are located in West Africa.

Experts stress need for awareness to contain eyesight complications

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

HEALTH experts have called for more campaigns on frequent medical check-ups after revelation the number of people with eyesight complications has increased to 2.4 million in the country.

Speaking during an event to commemorate the World Sight Day Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima said some of the causes of sight complications can be easily avoided if more awareness can be given.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) shows a huge population with sight complications are in middle income countries including Tanzania.

The minister was speaking in Dodoma during the commemoration of the World Sight Day which went together with the launching of sight health guidelines.

She said out of the number, 1.8 million have short sight problems and 640,000 are completely blind.

"Some of the challenges leading to sight complications can be mitigated through spectacles but more is needed to spread

awareness on the matter," she said.

The minister said data shows only 1.2 million people by 2020 were reached with eye screening services compared to the required number of 12 million. At the same time only 38 per cent of people sought spectacles during the year.

She added that only 200 people conducted eye surgeries out of one million people compared to 2,000 of the same figure as required by WHO.

She noted that diabetes is one of the key causes of sight complications especially if not detected earlier can lead to severe complications.

For his part, the director for Sightsavers, Godwin Kabalika said the challenges of sight have been increasing with global figures showing 2.2 billion have the complications.

Kabalika said out the number one billion, have complications which can be controlled if early detected and the number has been increasing as population is increasing.

He also said to contain the increase; there is need for collective efforts to deal with it including inserting it as a priority in the Universal Health Coverage.



Mwashabani Mkuta, a member of Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Tanzania, donates blood in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the commemoration of World Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day. Attending to her is Dr Juma Said from the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI). The marking of the Day is meant to raise public awareness and understanding about Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus as well as advocating and promoting the rights of persons with these conditions. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Chris Erasmus

South Africa sends SADC team to Eswatini

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has sent a team from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to Eswatini, despite having said his hands are tied in trying to end violence gripping the landlocked kingdom.

As chairman of the SADC Defence, Politics and Security Cooperation committee, Ramaphosa appointed three envoys from South Africa to talk to increasingly isolated King Mswati III.

Three South African MPs under former cabinet minister, Jeff Radebe, are to be sent to

Mbabane with representatives of Botswana and Namibia.

The SADC team will discuss the escalating political standoff between the king and elements opposed to his continued rule, which has seen police and other government forces use live ammunition on protesters. At least 20 have been injured and numerous are said to be missing.

As the team prepared its intervention effort, there was no sign of a letup in the protests or the violent crackdown.

All indications are that the con-

flikt is escalating, with opposition elements in the tightly-controlled kingdom claiming live ammunition is being used, and that people are being abducted by government forces.

The opposition says at least one school has been burnt by police to make the protests appear violent.

Protest leaders accuse the Mswati regime of violence against demonstrators.

By Wednesday night, at least seven people had been killed, about 50 injured and an unknown number missing - apparently arrested,

detailed or dead, according to the Swaziland Solidarity Network.

Efforts to find the missing through reporting to police have drawn no response, indicating that they are dead or detained, opposition leaders say.

As part of the crackdown, the internet has been inoperable for days.

But videos of the protests and efforts to crack down on them, including the school in flames and injured protesters, have managed to get past government restrictions to be broadcast in

South Africa.

Claims are being made of widespread rights abuses but protest leaders say the internet shutdown and the government efforts to silence dissent have meant even they do not know the full extent of the regime's application of detention and military force to shore up the King's weakening position.

Ramaphosa said he expressed appreciation for King Mswati's availability to receive the SADC delegation, which includes South Africa's Deputy Minis-

ter of International Relations Candith Mashego-Dlamini and Ramaphosa's Special Adviser on International relations, Maropene Ramokgopa.

"The envoys will be accompanied by SADC Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi, senior officials of the Secretariat and of the South African government," the president's spokesman said, adding that the envoys would travel to the kingdom this week.

While opposition accounts of the dead and injured have not been independently verified, it is known that protesters suffered injuries when police fired tear gas at a bus that was taking them to a rally in Mbabane.

Peace council calls for accountability in execution of developments projects

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA regional peace council has called on those overseeing implementation of developments projects in the region to refrain from any act of corruption that might delay or stall the projects.

The call was made here by the council's chairperson, Bishop, Dr. Evance Lucas during a special prayer meeting for the government development projects under implementation throughout the nation.

He called on those overseeing the projects to be very patriotic, account for every single cent injected in them for they are for national development. Dr Lucas added that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has managed to convince international monetary organizations to support development projects in Tanzania.

The bishop cited recently release of 1.3 trn/- by international monetary fund (IMF) as a case at hand, stating that all the earmarked projects under this funding will have direct positive impacts on people and the economy at large.

"It is only prudent that those who are charged with the responsibilities to oversee implementation of development project do so with due attentiveness knowing that they are for national development," he said.

The chairperson named some of the projects as construction of 15,000 classrooms in secondary schools and some 3,000 others in primary schools, purchase of 462,795 desks and building of 72 intensive care units (ICU).

Others, he said are purchase of 395 ambulances, building of 116, three in one resi-

dential houses for 348 health workers. The government will also purchase 2,208 beds and bed sheets, 60 fridges for blood storage and others.

He thanked the government for the efforts aimed at improving different sectors, adding that funds have been directed to key areas whose results can be seen.

Last week, Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Ummu Mwalimu said the government plans to build 12,000 classrooms at the cost of 240bn/- in secondary schools in the country in readiness to enroll 1.2m/- new form one students in January next year.

She said the government will construct all the needed classrooms needed for the 2022 form one enrolments, providing room for 600,000 students, completely ending the shortage. "It is for the first time in the history of our country that all students who qualify for form one enrolment report to schools without delay caused by shortage of classrooms," she said.

The minister added that plans are underway to build 3,000 classrooms in some 970 satellite schools at the cost of 60bn/- enabling 135,000 pupils to get classrooms.

Mwalimu said completion of classrooms goes hand in hand with purchase of 45,000 desks to be used by 135,000 pupils in some 143 district councils in Tanzania mainland.

"Construction of new classrooms will help reduce congestion of student, lowering risks of COVID-19 attack and both teachers and students will be in a better teaching and learning environment," stated the minister.



This Akiba section of Dar es Salaam's Bibi Titi Mohamed is flooded with stinking sewage, and the only option for anyone venturing there is to move with extra caution. Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured the scene yesterday.

Govt urged to fast-track formation of juvenile justice system

By Guardian Reporter

THE second East African Community (EAC) Regional Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) conference scheduled for October 27th to 29th, 2021 in Bujumbura, Burundi will provide a platform for stakeholders from a wide range of sectors including the academia, industry, public and private sector to share in-

formation and networking.

This year's event is themed: "The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation in EAC Regional Integration and Socio-Economic Development in the phase of Covid-19 Pandemic." The conference is expected to stimulate the establishment and strengthening of strategic alliances among stakeholders; build collaborations and networks; and harness

partnerships to promote the generation, dissemination and translation of research findings in the region.

Presentations in the conference will be on the sub thematic areas, which are aligned to the regional development strategies and the EAC Vision 2050 including agriculture, food security and rural development, health and wellbeing, natural resources and environ-

ment, infrastructure, energy and industrial development, information and communication technology (ICT), science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

It will feature keynote speeches on topical STI themes, Sectoral presentations and plenary discussions; parallel session presentation and discussion of scientific papers; ministerial roundtable discussion and an ex-

hibition and Trade Fair.

The resolutions of the conference will be published and used to inform region policy and promote the development, management and application of STI for socioeconomic development.

The three-day conference will be held virtually in a hybrid format through face-to-face platforms.



Thomas Senteu (3rd-L), second master of Simanjiro District's Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School, joins some of his Form Four students in environmental cleanliness at Mirerani health centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Africa's top university to bar unvaccinated from campus

CAPE TOWN

THE University of Cape Town will require all staff and students to be vaccinated against Covid-19 from January, its council has said.

Details of the plan are expected in December, making Africa's top-ranking university the first in the country to require proof of vaccination in order to access the campus.

South Africa launched electronic vaccination certificates this month and is debating whether to make inoculation mandatory for certain events.

Only fully jabbed football fans were allowed to attend the match between South Africa and Ghana last week, the first time spectators have attended a sporting event in the republic since the coronavirus pandemic struck early last year.

Cricket has also followed suit. Two major companies—financial services group Sanlam and medical aid provider Discovery have meanwhile asked all staff to be immunised by 2022.

The University of Cape Town Council said it had asked the executive to “develop the operational

details” for approval in December. The decision was partly based on a survey of staff and students in which most respondents supported a mandatory vaccine policy, it said in a statement.

The country worst-hit by coronavirus in Africa was slow to start inoculating its population and is struggling with vaccine hesitancy.

Jabs were opened up to children aged 12 and older on Wednesday in a bid to limit Covid-19 outbreaks in schools.

South Africa aims to vaccinate 40 million people by February, and is about a quarter of the way toward that goal.



The decision was partly based on a survey of staff and students in which most respondents supported a mandatory vaccine policy, it said in a statement.

UN urges leaders in central Africa to work on ending conflicts

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Security Council urged leaders in central Africa's Great Lakes Region to seize the momentum of recent positive political developments to make progress toward ending conflicts and the illegal exploitation of gold and other natural resources in eastern Congo.

A presidential statement adopted by the UN's most powerful body cited diplomatic efforts reinvigorated by the presidents of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi that have resulted in improved bilateral cooperation.

The council also commended efforts by the African Union and regional groups to

support the political process and help solve conflicts in the region.

The Great Lakes Region has been a hotbed of political instability and fighting since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda saw more than 500,000 people, most of them from the country's Tutsi minority, slaughtered by a regime of extremists from its Hutu majority.

After Tutsi rebels led by Paul Kagame, Rwanda's current president, ended the genocide, extremist Hutus fled into neighbouring eastern Congo.

Rwanda, together with neighbour Uganda, twice invaded Congo - in 1994 and 1998.

The second invasion sparked a five-year, six-nation war in Congo that killed some 3 million people. Rwanda and Congo normalized relations in 2007, and 11 countries signed a UN-drafted peace agreement in 2013 to stabilize Congo and not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in the region.

Raychelle Omamo, Kenya's Cabinet secretary for foreign affairs who chaired the council meeting said: “The Great Lakes region is now greater regional and bilateral cooperation, the thawing of tensions, and a movement towards looking at holistic solutions to deal with the challenge of conflict, of poverty and underdevelopment.”

“The linkage between natural resources and conflict remains a key challenge for many of the Great Lakes countries,” she said.

Huang Xia, the UN special envoy for the Great Lakes region, told the council that ministerial consultations and numerous state visits during the past six months have provided a momentum to bilateral relations in the region and a revitalization of cooperation in areas such as security, trade, infrastructure, transport, natural resources and energy.

He said: “The bilateral and regional initiatives show that there is an emergence of a community of joint destiny, aware of the value added of

dialogue and cooperation as the tools for being good neighbours.”

Xia said that despite these accomplishments, continued activity by armed groups remains the main threat to peace and security in the region. He singled out renewed attacks in eastern Congo by the ADF rebel group, which originated in Uganda, and by the Red Tabara rebel group against the airport in Burundi's capital in September.

João Samuel Caholo, executive secretary of the 12-nation International Conference on the Great Lakes region said the region has made progress with regards to peace, stability and devel-

opment.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Martha Pobeey told the council the UN is encouraged by the improvement in bilateral relations between neighbouring countries.

She said national and foreign armed group still operate in eastern Congo and continue to perpetrate deadly attacks against civilians, further deteriorating the already dire humanitarian situation.

“Since the beginning of this year, at least 1,043 civilians have been killed, including 233 women and 52 children,” she said.

US Ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the exploitation of minerals, wildlife and timber by armed

groups, corrupt state officials and criminal networks clearly fuel conflict in eastern Congo and help terrorist groups.

She urged regional governments to manage their natural resources responsibly and demand that the private sector comply with international regulations, and she called for greater cooperation across borders to ensure gold and other minerals are sold legally.

“The Great Lakes region has wealth in natural resources and it has talented personnel to fund these efforts on its own, if state actors work together to ensure legal, productive trade that benefits all of the people of the region,” Thomas-Greenfield said.

Tanzania vows to empower women in variety of sectors

By Guardian Reporter, St Petersburg

TANZANIA vows to continue to empower women in various fields including leadership and women economic empowerment through various women economic development forums.

The remarks were made here by Mwajuma Magwiza, the Director of Gender Development in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on how Tanzania had learned from the Women Conference recently held in Russia.

Mwajuma said Tanzania has learned that women can participate in various sectors and contribute to the sectors and using them for gaining employment as well employing others.

She added that Tanzania encourages women to participate in the industrial development, and the conference has provided new challenges that look into areas where women can participate to gain opportunity for their economic wellbeing and spur development.

She mentioned these areas as including show business and acting, modeling and sports in which women can participate better if there are in place good environment that can bring benefits to themselves and the nation in general.

“In these sectors we must look into which areas have challenges for women in order to assist them to attain international standards,” Mwajuma stressed.

She added that Tanzania has begun and continues to empower women in leadership and economic empowering forums at district and regional level in order to provide them with opportunities in various sectors.

Tanzania participated in the Third Women Conference held in Russia from October 13 - 15, 2021 in which the Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan.



Kahama district commissioner Festo Kiswaga assists Mariam Bunyige of Nyashimbi in Mhongo ward in Kahama District in carrying a bucket of water on Thursday. He was on an inspection tour of a 128.9m/- water project implemented by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency and benefiting more than 4,700 people. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

Shanta Gold reports steady output and exploration success in third quarter

By Special Correspondent

SHANTA Gold Ltd reported steady gold production in the third quarter, during a period when the company continued to intercept high gold grades at its West Kenya project and increased its resource estimate at the New Luika gold mine in Tanzania. “Our outlook remains

positive as we work towards our five-year plan and ambition to become a 100,000+ of gold producer by 2023,” says chief executive Eric Zurrin.

H said: “2021 has proven to be a year of on-going exploration success, and our Q3 performance is no exception,” said chief executive Eric Zurrin. “With new

high-grade resources discovered at both New Luika and West Kenya and a rapidly approaching first production at Singida on target for early 2023, we remain excited about our near and longer-term prospects across our diversified portfolio of assets in East Africa.”

“West Kenya is particularly promising, with a

first indicated resource of 117,600 oz grading 7.04 g/t at a conversion rate of over 100 percent at both the Isulu and Bushiangala deposits announced during the quarter. We remain committed to announcing a total resource estimate in Q1 2022 following 30 -45 percent of the total planned drilling at West Kenya being completed.”

Gold production from New Luika dipped to 14,194 ounces in the third quarter, from 14,201 ounces in the second quarter, at an all-in sustaining cost (AISC) of US\$1,480 an ounce. The mine is currently Shanta's only producing asset.

Shanta, which reduced its full-year guidance in July, retained its annual produc-

tion guidance for 2021 at 60,000-65,000 ounces at an AISC of US\$1,325-1,375 an ounce.

Group EBITDA reduced to US\$2.0m, mainly due to a reduction in gold ounces sold, although prices were also lower. EBITDA excluding expenditure at the West Kenya project and Singida was US\$6.5million.

“Beyond exploration, our robust fundamentals of net cash, low debt, on-going government support and industry-leading safety performance continue to place us in a position of strength. We are proud to confirm that an interim dividend of 0.10 pence per share will be paid this month,” said Zurrin.

Census: Innovation a must to be sure of full coverage

ONCE in a decade the government undertakes one of its largest and challenging exercises - a Population and Housing Census (PHC). It requires mapping the entire country, mobilizing and training a large number of enumerators, conducting a public advocacy campaign, canvassing all households, and compiling, analyzing and disseminating vast amounts of data.

More than just a head count, the census provides a snapshot of Tanzania - how many people are living in the country by age, sex and geographic location - and importantly how they are living, as well as other key socio-economic characteristics. The PHC remains the primary source of data for the government - both at the national and local level - that informs development policies, plans and programmes and determines resource allocation. The data collected also plays a prominent role in providing the demographic surveillance necessary for monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which place the highest priority on leaving no one behind and serving the furthest behind first.

A census is the procedure of systematically calculating, acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population. This term is used mostly in connection with national population and housing censuses; other common censuses include the census of agriculture, and other censuses such as the traditional culture, business, supplies, and traffic censuses. The United Nations defines the essential features of population

and housing censuses as "individual enumeration, universality within a defined territory, simultaneity and defined periodicity", and recommends that population censuses be taken at least every ten years. United Nations recommendations also cover census topics to be collected, official definitions, classifications and other useful information to co-ordinate international practices.[1][2]

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in turn, defines the census of agriculture as "a statistical operation for collecting, processing and disseminating data on the structure of agriculture, covering the whole or a significant part of a country." "In a census of agriculture, data are collected at the holding level.[3]

Census seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues. It was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the day of five billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.

World Population Day enhances awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.

The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society.

Around the world, some 225 million women who want to

Dar es Salaam city yet to make really effective clean-up efforts

THE rate at which vendors have besieged Dar es Salaam's Central Business District has ceased to be funny. At some point we all thought it was a frenzy that would soon die down but the situation on the ground is to the contrary.

Anything and everything from meat to food portions are being sold in central Dar es Salaam in broad daylight with increasing intensity just before and after working hours. Right from Azikiwe Street to Libya Street and from Samora Avenue to Sokoine Drive there is hardly any space that is not occupied by a vendor both on pavements and right in the middle of some roads which have literally been rendered impassable. Indeed this part of Dar es Salaam has become so busy and chaotic it's unbelievable.

What was initially dismissed as "a wild search" for the dollar one month end has become a menace that requires the powers that be to move in and act decisively before the situation gets uglier.

Not that we are against vending. No! not at all. We have lots of respect for people who try their best to make a living out of such decent and presumably sober means. Braving the rain, heat, the cold and the cat and mouse games with the city militia as they fend for their families. Many chief executives, doctors, lawyers have gone through school and colleges with funds raised from such vendors so we never underestimate what these small and seemingly trite businesses can achieve.

This is obviously way better than pick-pocketing, robbery, corruption in all its forms and other strange and even obscene methods through which some people search for money.

However, while we acknowledge the desire by vendors to make a living and their 'aggressive' marketing drive of taking their prod-

ucts and services right to the people, the manner in which this has been done over the past few years creates more chaos than solutions in the economy.

Dar es Salaam's CBD has been turned into a jungle of sorts in a few years. We would not be surprised if someone started selling live goats and road-runners (chickens) along said streets. Imagine donkeys, cows and goats crossing Samora Avenue. Way towards Sokoine Drive with a bag of maize destined to a grinding mill in Samora Avenue!

Indeed while some things are good, it is how they are done and when they are done that determines their positive or negative impact. Selling clothes, shoes, vegetables, groceries etc is well dandy but this should be done at designated places.

Vending needs to be confined to designated areas as what the City fathers have been advocating for over ten years. Vendors and those that police them need to heed these calls. Designated areas with market stalls and factory shells also provide ablation and other facilities critical for healthy trading instead of allowing a health time-bomb to detonate on our watch.

As you know, the majority of Tanzanians have little or no knowledge of the Law, and this weakness has been taken advantage of all and sundry, against - in most cities - street vendors of various goods and services. This has continued to be a nasty thorn in the feet of street vendors, simply due to their ignorance of the law; the City Militia - those ignorant and arrogant Standard 7 leavers who believe in the use of excessive force when arresting these merchants - take advantage of this situation because, first while the street vendors do pay some taxes levied upon them by City authorities, rarely do they receive receipts, and

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Jonathan's defection would be morally reprehensible

By Olu Fasan

THERE is no smoke without a fire, goes the old saying. So, there must be a good reason for the ceaseless speculations that former President Goodluck Jonathan wants to defect to the All Progressives Congress, APC. Last week, Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State publicly urged Jonathan not to join the APC.

Wike won't make that intervention if there's no truth, at least a modicum of truth, in the rumours. Jonathan's utter refusal to quash the speculations by categorically denying them, but rather allowing them to fester and reach a fever pitch, suggests he's either testing the waters or waiting for the coast to clear!

Of course, Jonathan (pictured) has never been obtrusive about his political ambitions. Throughout his political career, from deputy governor and then governor of Bayelsa State to vice president and then president of Nigeria, Jonathan was a product of serendipity, a beneficiary of either godfatherism or circumstances. By seemingly feeding the rumour mill, he may be hoping for a fortuity with the APC ahead of the 2023 general election.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari and his party are on aggressive poaching expeditions in the PDP and have caught some big fishes, with rumours swelling that Governor Udom Emmanuel of Akwa Ibom State might soon take the bait. But, for APC, former President Jonathan is the ultimate target or, as the Brits would say, the real McCoy! Truth is, APC has gone into overdrive to hollow out the PDP by luring Jonathan and other prominent PDP leaders. They bent their rules and made generous offers to turncoats.

Last December, APC's National Executive Committee, NEC, passed a resolution stating that "... new members will enjoy all the benefits and privileges accruable by virtue of their membership of the party", adding: "They will be able to contest elections without any requirement of being members for a number of years or period of time."

So, one could be a member of the PDP this week, decamp to the APC next week and run for the party's presidential or gubernatorial ticket the week after! Surely, whoever the APC has in mind with that resolution, it includes wavering PDP governors and former President Jonathan, who, apparently, would like to run again in 2023!

Here's my take. Whatever his political ambition or motivation, former President Jonathan is morally wrong to allow himself to be linked with defection to APC. I evoke morality because, as Aristotle defines it, moral virtue is a disposition to behave in the right manner, in a manner that's not morally reprehensible.

But what can be more morally



reprehensible than deserting the party that gave you the platform to become deputy governor, governor, vice president and president to join an opposing party for self-interested reasons?

We will come back to that in a minute. First, we must talk about something else that's morally unacceptable: Jonathan's undisguised ambition to become president again! Morally unacceptable? Yes, because Jonathan is a failed leader. His only saving grace was conceding defeat in an election he actually lost, which, perversely, earned him post-defeat 'sainthood'.

Now, I know that ethnicism, sectionalism and partisanship cause selective amnesia in Nigeria, but if this country must make progress, its citizens must learn to hold the leaders to high standards and hold them accountable, in and out of office. Truth be told, as president, Jonathan was as grounded as a balloon, as solid as wind! He surrounded himself with world-class technocrats, but utterly failed to provide leadership and, thus, some of his ministers turned their ministries into personal fiefdoms.

A few years ago, at an international oil and gas conference in London, a top British businessman told a story of his meeting

with Diezani Alison-Madueke, then minister of petroleum resources. He expressed shock that, throughout the meeting, Alison-Madueke talked condescendingly about Jonathan as if she was the president and Jonathan the minister, showing utter lack of deference.

But if Alison-Madueke didn't have as much as a scintilla of respect for Jonathan's position, even in front of a foreigner, how could she be accountable to him in her ministerial role.

The allegations of multi-billion dollar fraud that continues to dog her, if true, are a product of Jonathan's leadership failure.

Then, what about Jonathan's wife? Her crudity put many people off voting for her husband in 2015 because they didn't want her back as Nigeria's First Lady.

In 2019, a federal high court ordered the final forfeiture of \$8.4 million belonging to her, which she claimed were "gifts from friends and well-wishers". Yet, Jonathan pretends as if the court rulings, and the perception they created, have nothing to do with him!

As I said, conceding defeat in 2015 turned Jonathan into a 'hero'. But there's no serious country where he would be regarded as a successful leader,

and no serious country where he stands a chance of returning to power. The fact that he thinks, or some people think, that he can become president again says a lot about Nigeria.

All of which brings us back to the speculations about his impending defection to APC. The real puzzle is how Jonathan, who said he had no shoes as a boy, could contemplate undermining the party, PDP, that gave him a platform to become Nigeria's president, and thus an international figure. Nothing can justify such ingratitude.

After leaving office as South Africa's president in 1999, Nelson Mandela had a very difficult relationship with his successor, Thabo Mbeki, triggering rumours he might resign from the ANC. But in a statement, Mandela said he would remain in ANC on earth, adding: "I will join the nearest branch of the ANC in heaven!"

Few politicians in Nigeria behave like Mandela. Rather, most see political parties as a mere vehicle for gaining power, which they can use and dump opportunistically. If the widespread speculations are true, Jonathan would do exactly that: desert PDP to join APC. For a former president, that would be morally reprehensible, utterly!

Going for master's? Even your bachelor's degree doesn't matter!

YOUR degree doesn't matter! At least not as much as you think it does. For, it takes more than that piece of paper signed by the University Chancellor to prove that you've been there and done that.

So, what does it take, then? That question is answered by another question or two: can you practically show it? What can you bring on the table with a degree or master's certification?

Mr. Ellison, an HR professional and veteran of the HR industry insider, crystallized something I had always felt but wasn't able to put words to -he insists that a degree simply doesn't matter.

In as much as it's true your degree is an important record of your training on the fundamentals and learning how to think critically, it is important to step into lifelong learning as well because learning is a perpetual action not a means to an end. It simply doesn't matter as much as what you have learned since you graduated is tucked away in a drawer 50 KM away. You have to keep tabs and embark on a learning journey, blend into new trends of the worlds' workplace and the future of work.

What if your professional qualifications today might be replaced by a robot in the near future? Will your skills still be relevant?

Your BA isn't as valuable as your recent learning in determining readiness or qualifications for a job. Nevertheless, your MBA doesn't make you a better manager than someone who has helped grow a business and stays current with reading on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Simply, your degree doesn't matter as much as you are a lifelong learner,

a student of life.

This HR personnel summed it up well at a recent career boot camp where he said: "Increasingly, I hear this mantra 'skills not degrees'. It's not skills at the exclusion of degrees. It is just expanding our perspective to go beyond degrees."

He argued that after being degreed, it is important to 'jail-break the degree'. For, the degree just offers a way to demonstrate the learning which actually does matter but not the practical work that is needed to execute and implement what has been studied.

Having started his career in HR and having built and scaled global customer success teams at several fast-growing companies, he has had the opportunity to interview thousands of people. One of his favorite questions as he says has always been, "Why did you go to college, what did you study and how did that lead to where you are today?" A three-part interview question. The questions might catch one off-guard but they are questions that really do matter for the workplace today.

This has nothing to do with the school, the level of degree or even the subject an individual has passed through or is currently pursuing.

Personally, it did matter to me a while ago until the professional world taught me a lesson on skills and not papers. It had never mattered to me that much in the past like today.

Mr Ellison talks about how he finds it interesting to look into the insights of an individual and how has leveraged that foundation to learn and grow through their careers not even with his company but those the individuals will work for in the future as well.



"Oh... I have a degree in Public Relations and because I didn't know what I wanted to do and I have always been interested in running my own business. But after graduating, I..." or "I have a degree in Procurement because I love store management but after graduating I found that I hate being

stuck in Invoices all day so I..." Such replies and analyses are just but a tip of the iceberg and Mr. Ellison explained it so candidly how such sincere discussions reveal true potentials of prospective employees as unique individuals who desire to make ends meet and live their dreams.

Pretty much, the honesty in many of the answers can lead to an interesting discussion. The way candidates connect higher education to their career and lifelong learning is a great indication of what they are bringing to the table. It is an interesting insight into the why of their career. It is almost rare anymore to find someone who went to college and received a degree in the same area as their current profession.

Even if your degree is perfectly aligned with the job you want, the hiring team wants to know what you have been doing since then and what you are willing to share and bring along for the benefit of their company.

The problem is several recruiters are still measuring skill acquisition with how attractive your GPA looks...by your college degree because that's the standard they have had to measure learning.

Well, I am aware that he is not the only HR professional or hiring manager that knows the degree isn't an effective measure of skills and capabilities.

I doubt any effective hiring manager is making offers on a degree alone. But that is all most of us have known. Or it was, anyway.

Imagine if you could demonstrate everything you learned since you graduated. All of the relevant articles, papers, and books you have read that equip you to succeed in your job. Imagine a record of the conferences, webinars and workshops you have attended that have helped you prepare for the job you want.

If you could represent that to your organization, or future employers, wouldn't that be more valuable than saying you have an accounting degree from 5 years ago? Wouldn't you want that HR manager to understand what you have learned since then?

That's meaningful and something that I wish human resource managers would want to hear from us more when carrying through the interview processes.

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Climate change: 1,300 billion Africans causing least but suffering most

MADRID

WHILE Africa reportedly causes just 4 percent of global emissions of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) –an acidic colourless gas with a density about 53% higher than that of dry air, causing climate change–, this vast continent, home to over 1.300 billion inhabitants in 52 countries, bears the heaviest brunt of 80 percent of the climate crisis destructive impacts.

See some of the most outstanding climate crisis negative consequences for Africa, as cited by a major multi-organisation report: The State of the Climate in Africa 2020, elaborated by World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) through the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), UN agencies, and international and regional scientific organisations and released on 19 October 2021:

Climate change contributed to mounting food insecurity, poverty and displacement in Africa last year;

Climate indicators in Africa during 2020 were characterised by continued warming temperatures, accelerating sea-level rise, extreme weather, and climate events - such as floods, landslides and droughts;

Increased weather and climate variability is disrupting lives and economies in the continent;

By 2030, an estimated 118 million extremely poor people on the continent will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat, which will hinder progress towards poverty alleviation and growth;

In sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 3 percent, by 2050. This presents a serious challenge for climate adaptation and resilience actions because not only are physical

conditions getting worse, but also the number of people being affected is increasing;

Changing precipitation patterns, rising temperatures and more extreme weather contributed to mounting food insecurity, poverty and displacement in Africa in 2020, compounding the socio-economic and health crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Another under-reported consequence is the rapid shrinking of the last remaining glaciers in Eastern Africa, which are expected to melt entirely in the near future, signals the threat of imminent and irreversible change to the Earth system.

In fact, only three mountains in Africa are covered by glaciers: the Mount Kenya massif, the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda, and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. "Currently, their retreat rates are higher than the global average, and "total deglaciation" could be possible by the 2040s, WMO warns.

Mount Kenya is expected to be deglaciated a decade sooner, it adds, which will make it one of the first entire mountain ranges to lose glacier cover due to human-induced climate change.

The report underlines a double-edge estimate: the investment in climate adaptation for sub-Saharan Africa would cost between 30 to 50 billion dollars... each year... over the next decade, or roughly two to three per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

By the way, and talking this figure: did you know that the world largest military powers have spent in 2020 around 2,000 billion dollars on killing machines and weapons of mass destruction?

More Facts and Figures:

Temperatures: The 30-year warming trend for 1991-2020 was higher than for the 1961-1990 period in all African sub-regions and signifi-



Increased weather and climate variability is disrupting lives and economies in the continent

cantly higher than the trend for 1931-1960.

Africa has warmed faster than the global average temperature over land and ocean combined. 2020 ranked between the third and eighth warmest year on record for Africa, depending on the dataset used.

Sea level rise: The rates of sea-level rise along the tropical and South Atlantic coasts and Indian Ocean coast are higher than the global mean rate, at approximately 3.6 mm/yr and 4.1 mm/yr, respectively. Sea levels along the Mediterranean coasts are rising at a rate that is approximately 2.9 mm/yr lower than

the global mean.

Glaciers: Their current retreat rates are higher than the global average. If this continues, it will lead to total deglaciation by the 2040s. Mount Kenya is expected to be deglaciated a decade sooner, which will make it one of the first entire mountain ranges to lose glaciers due to human-induced climate change.

Precipitation: Higher-than-normal precipitation - accompanied by flooding - predominated in the Sahel, the Rift Valley, the central Nile catchment and north-eastern Africa, the Kalahari basin and the lower course of

the Congo River.

High impact weather events: There was extensive flooding across many parts of East Africa. Countries reporting loss of life or significant displacement of populations included the Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Nigeria (which also experienced drought in the southern part), Niger, Benin, Togo, Senegal. Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. Many lakes and rivers reached record high levels, including Lake Victoria (in May) and the Niger River at Niamey and the Blue Nile at Khartoum (in September).

Food insecurity: The compounded effects of protracted conflicts, political instability, climate variability, pest outbreaks and economic crises, exacerbated by the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, were the key drivers of a significant increase in food insecurity. A desert locust invasion of historic proportions, which began in 2019, continued to have a major impact in East and the Horn of Africa in 2020.

Food insecurity increases by 5-20 percentage points with each flood or drought in sub-Saharan Africa. Associated deterioration in health and in children's school at-

tendance can worsen longer-term income and gender inequalities. In 2020, there was an almost 40 percent increase in population affected by food insecurity compared with the previous year.

Displacement: An estimated 12 percent of all new population displacements worldwide occurred in the East and Horn of Africa region, with over 1.2 million new disaster-related displacements and almost 500,000 new conflict-related displacements. Floods and storms contributed the most to internal disaster-related displacement, followed by droughts.

The 130th Canton Fair successfully closed

THE 130th Canton Fair came to a close on October 19. Xu Bing, Spokesperson of the Canton Fair and Deputy Director General of China Foreign Trade Centre introduced the overall situation.

Xu said that the CPC Central Committee and the State Council attached great importance to the 130th Canton Fair. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Fair and noted that it made significant contributions over the past 65 years, pointing a way for the Fair in the new journey of the new era. Premier Li Keqiang attended and addressed the opening ceremony. After that, he inspected exhibition halls. Premier Li said that he hoped the Fair could scale new heights in the future, and make more contributions to China's reform and opening up. Party group of the Ministry of Commerce and Guangdong Provincial Party Committee attached great importance, and the interim party committee of the Canton Fair organized a seminar on the evening of October 14 for dedicated studies. Offices of the Canton Fair, trade delegations, chambers of commerce, party committee of China Foreign Trade Centre and exhibitors all participated in studies through various ways such as collective learning, discussions, and exchanges of gains.

All said that facing global changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century, as well as profound transformations of the world economy and trade, the congratulatory letter of President Xi Jinping has extraordinary depth, rich content, and great significance, demonstrating China's resolution to expand opening up and promote free trade.

The encouraging congratulatory letter has injected strong impetus into the 130th Canton Fair amid the pandemic, motivated foreign trade practitioners to overcome difficulties and forge ahead. In the face of new development opportunities, the Canton Fair will follow the direction pointed out by President Xi in the congratulatory letter, accelerate innovative development, further burnish its credentials, and increase its influence and reach.

Xu said that guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, with a philosophy of "Canton Fair, Global Share", the 130th Canton Fair has opened the door wide to global buyers with a new image and attracted much attention, contributing to win-win development. With the care of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, under the leadership of the Ministry of Commerce and People's Government of Guangdong Province, thanks to concerted efforts of all parties, the 130th Canton Fair operated smoothly with more business models and functions. It completed various tasks, achieved the goal of presenting an innovative Fair with numerous highlights in a safe, orderly, and highly efficient way. Moreover, it contributed to advance the high-quality development of trade, global trade and economic recovery, and the building of a new development paradigm.

Xu introduced that the 130th Canton Fair held a grand opening ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony of the 130th session of China Import and Export Fair and the Pearl River International Trade Forum was held on the afternoon of October 14. Vice Premier Hu Chunhua read President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter to the Canton Fair. Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang attended the opening ceremony and made a keynote speech. Peruvian President Pedro Castillo, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Cote d'Ivoire Prime Minister Patrick Achi and Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development Rebeca Grynspan attended the ceremony via video link. About 600 guests attended the opening ceremony offline, including Vice Premier of the State Council Hu Chunhua, Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Party Committee Li Xi, State Councillor and Secretary General of the State Council Xiao Jie, Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Macao SAR He Yicheng, officials of state organs and relevant ministries, leaders of provincial and municipal governments, diplomatic envoys in China, representatives of consulates general in Guangzhou, and representatives of overseas industrial and commercial organizations. Over 100 minister-level officials of relevant countries and regions, heads of international organizations and multinationals attended the ceremony online via video link.

Foreign leaders spoke highly of the online-offline integrated format of the 130th Canton Fair, and its role in promoting international trade and investment cooperation, and facilitating the global economic recovery in the post-pandemic era. They expressed their confidence in China's economic development prospects and said that they will encourage companies from their countries to expand cooperation in China to better share China's development opportunities and inject new energy into the Asia-Pacific region and the global economic recovery. After the opening ceremony, Premier Li inspected exhibition halls. He appreciated the achievements of the Fair over the past 65 years, and hoped that it could scale new heights in advancing opening up, win-win cooperation and sustainable development.

The first Pearl River International Trade Forum was successfully held. The opening ceremony on the afternoon of October 14 was also the main forum of the Pearl River International Trade Forum. The theme of the main forum was "China's New Development Provides New Opportunities for the World", showing the world China's resolution to expand opening up and promote free trade, and sending a message that China would like to share with the world development opportunities, draw a blueprint and achieve better progress together. Three parallel forums held on the afternoon of October 15 were themed "High-Level Opening Up and Trade Innovation", "New Forms and Models of Foreign Trade under the New



Development Paradigm", "International Trade & Cooperation of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area", respectively. More than 40 experts from political, business and academic circles and over 650 attendees engaged in the events. Experts had in-depth discussions on hotspot issues such as how to seize development opportunities, advance trade liberalization, promote international trade cooperation and so on, from perspectives of openness, innovation, and cooperation. Forums provide the Canton Fair's solution with the voice of the Canton Fair being heard. Society well recognized the role of forums and believed that hosting them was a new initiative which enriched the Fair's functions and content and strengthened its role in facilitating the flow of international trade factors, innovative development, and dual circulation.

Remarkable results were achieved in the online-offline integration. Against the backdrop of the spreading pandemic, the 130th Canton Fair was held in an online-offline merged format for the first time. That accelerated its digital transformation and kicked off a new model, new normal, and magnificent scene of a hybrid Canton Fair. The online platform further optimized functions of negotiations, enriched display formats of texts, pictures, videos, 3D, VR, and livestreaming, and enabled suppliers and buyers to connect, make deals, and reach cooperation without the limit of time and space.

Focused on independent R&D and underpinned by technological innovation, more and more Chinese exhibitors build brands and launch new products at the Canton Fair, which has become a new normal. About 26,000 companies at home and abroad participated, uploading over 2.87 million products, an increase of 113,600 compared with the last session.

Among them 898,200 are new products, 112,700 intelligent products, and 248,600 products with independent IPR, up by 59,700, 2,000, and 9,200 respectively compared with the last session, presenting the innovative vitality of "Made in China", "Created in China", Chinese brands, and Chinese technology to global buyers.

The online platform was visited by 32.73 million times accumulatively. Exhibitors livestreamed 43,000 times accumulatively, with over 350,000 people watching online. The offline exhibition area totaled about 400,000 square meters with 7,795 exhibitors participating.

The Canton Fair Complex received 600,000 visits accumulatively. Many exhibitors moved livestreaming rooms to the offline exhibition. The hybrid display model led to in-depth interaction, and improved companies brand image via multiple channels in an all-round way. From the perspective of actual effects, this session fully took the advantage of online-offline integration by providing two channels and two display formats, offering the Canton Fair's solution for hybrid development of large exhibitions.

The integration of domestic and foreign trade facilitated dual circulation. Themed promoting domes-

tic and international circulations, this session took full advantage of domestic and international markets and resources. Driven by domestic and international marketing, global buyers were invited to attend the Fair online and offline, giving companies a leg up in taking orders, expanding markets, and strengthening brands, and contributing to the interconnection of domestic and foreign trade. In terms of domestic circulation, domestic buyers had high enthusiasm with many industry-leading companies and specialized chambers of commerce from department stores, retailing, wholesaling, distribution, e-commerce, supply-chain management, imports and exports and other industries taking part in, including Vanguard, Yonghui Superstores, JD.com, Vipshop, Miniso, NetEase Selected, and Suning.

Dual Circulation Promotion activities were successfully held with significant results, connecting 10 leading sourcing companies such as Vanguard and Miniso with about 110 exhibiting companies from 31 provinces and cities. As for domestic and international circulations, overseas buyers and purchasing agents played an active part despite the pandemic.

18 industrial and commercial organizations including American Chamber of Commerce in South China and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency organized over 500 member companies to attend the offline Fair. 18 famous international companies such as Walmart, Staples, Auchan organized buyers to source at the Fair. An increasing number of buyers from a record-breaking 228 countries and regions registered and attended the online Fair, further diversifying the Fair and advancing its international development.

Progress was achieved in rural vitalization. This session designated a "Rural Vitalization" zone at the offline Fair for the first time. The zone was also set up online, with 883 companies participating online or offline for free. Companies uploaded 39,600 featured products. Exhibitors of this zone said that as an international platform, the Canton Fair enabled them to know the latest market trends, connect with customers, receive orders, and be a part of the dual circulation.

They broadened their international horizons, opened minds, and found the right direction. The hybrid Fair helped them to learn more about new media marketing and train skilled staff for livestream marketing, accelerate digital transformation, and invigorate economic development of formerly poor areas as well as promote the upgrading of featured products and industry.

The effectiveness of trade services was raised. Based on online-offline integration, the 130th Canton Fair strived to provide comprehensive trade services. Targeted matchmaking activities were held to connect 13 foreign trade transformation and upgrading bases in Shiling in Guangdong province, Linhai in Zhejiang province, Jinjiang in Fujian province,

Nantong in Jiangsu province and other places with famous multinational sourcing groups, facilitating local industries and brands to go global. A record-breaking

number of 1,972 products provided by 943 companies competed for the 2021 Canton Fair Product Design Award. 135 products brought by 90 companies won Best of the Best Award, the Gold Award, the Silver Award, and the Bronze Award. The Award further promoted Chinese brands. 43 domestic design organizations from 11 cities participated in the themed display of "Chinese Industry Design Power". The Canton Fair Fashion Week, Latin Night and Sustainable Development Forum, and other activities were also hosted to strengthen the role of design in promoting trade. 116 industry-leading companies from 31 provinces and cities held 170 new product release activities covering 43 exhibition sections of 16 product categories, demonstrating the innovative vitality of Chinese companies. On the basis of online-offline foreign trade supporting services including customs, insurance, logistics, certification, and finance, third-party services such as public overseas warehouses and shipping were introduced for the first time, optimizing trade services. Dual protection of IPR was conducted to ensure innovation-driven development. IPR infringement cases involving 99 companies were received online and offline, and 20 companies were determined as constituting alleged infringement. A series of the Canton Fair Green Space activities were hosted, awarding ten best-designed standard booths and companies the Green Booth Prize, boosting the green development of the Canton Fair.

Safe and secure operation has been ensured. Epidemic prevention and control were top priorities of the 130th Canton Fair. Guangdong province focused highly on epidemic prevention and control, formulated a "1+8+16+23" plan under the guidance of National Health Commission, designed classified emergency response plans, and strengthened prevention and control measures. With measures including pre-registration, division of time periods, and restriction of traffic, this session ensured strict and effective epidemic prevention and control, and achieved "zero cases" and "zero infections". Strict and tight security plans were conceived with no security cases happening. The three-tier mechanism of "coordination by the central government, a dedicated team of MOFCOM, security ensured by local governments" played its role, ensuring that the official website operated smoothly with no cybersecurity cases happening.

Xu Bing stated that the 130th Canton Fair received great attention from media outlets at home and abroad. Nearly 600 Chinese and overseas journalists covered the event with in-depth and heartfelt reports, telling the world the story of the Canton Fair and the special significance of this session as well as spreading the voice of the Canton Fair, thus creating a positive public opinion atmosphere. He looked forward to meeting everyone in the 131st session.

Agencies

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Parents and society strongly reminded to invest in their children's journey of development

By **Getrude Mbago**

PARENTS should uphold a number of important things during their children's early development so as to facilitate proper growth thus enabling them to live happily and reach their potential in life," says principal social officer, Darius Damas from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

According to him, if parents will take time and invest in their children's protection and development, the country will greatly fight the increasing incidents of violence and street children, among others.

He says that for a nation to achieve several of these development goals, having a strong workforce with mental and psycho-social wellbeing is a matter of paramount importance and this can be achieved if all children are well cultured and protected.

He made the call recently in Dar es Salaam on the sidelines of the "6th Psychosocial Support Forum which aimed to discuss new robust measures that will help promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing for children and youth.

Organised by the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI), the forum blended by a main physical forum in Maputo, Mozambique, with satellite forums in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya,

Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and virtual for partners from around the globe.

Damas acknowledged that the number of violence cases especially child abuse were on the increase something which needs combined efforts to ensure that children are protected.

He said a good number of children are currently reported to be exposed to harm where most of the violent actions are being conducted at family level.

"Most of the cases which we come across are children physical violence such as rape and the implementers of the incidents are reported to be family members, neighbours. Parents should strengthen the security of their children while at home, this is a very big challenge, we need to be closer with our children to keep them safe," he said.

Violence against children has revealed a profound impact on core aspects of emotional, behavioural, and physical health as well as social development throughout life and mostly in education settings where child skills are developed.

Reports show that nearly 3 in 10 girls and approximately 1 in 7 boys in Tanzania have experienced violence prior to the age of 18 in school settings.

He said despite strides by the



government and stakeholders to eradicate violence, there are still a number of children in Tanzania who report experiencing violence and abuse with many of them failing to receive immediate support.

He further says Child rights protection needs support from the whole community.

"Violence and abuse to children goes further to affect a child's mental health. Violence incidents against children are on the rise but awareness in the Community is also high," he added.

Damas says that for a child to grow well and become a well-mannered citizen, parents and caregivers should consider a number of things during his/her development.

"We need four important things to consider here, first one is having good or health relations between parents; for a child to grow well and become a good citizen later, parents must ensure that they have good relation, love each other and avoid fighting before their children,

second; a child should have important tools to spur his/her thinking capacity which include games, books, positive music and videos and other related tools," he said.

Other important things is to ensure that parents create a good bond with their children by speaking and discussing with them several things that impact their development.

Judith Kimaro, Dar es Salaam regional social welfare officer reminded parents to always remain vigilant, take closer monitoring of their children so as to protect them from acts of abuse.

Kimaro said that parents have a very big role to ensure that their children remain safe. Moreover, parents and guardians need to have a culture of holding meaningful and social conversation with their children. There is no problem being a friend with your child; however, with limited boundaries. Children are very good informants, parents must create free environ-

ment for information sharing with their children.

According to her, these days some parents have been too busy with their daily activities and forget to take a close eye to their children, something which affects their progress.

"Some of us (parents) are too busy, we sometimes trust people who we do not know and leave our children with them and at the end those people end up abusing our children, this behaviour should come to the end, we should be very careful to where and whom we send out children," she said.

The officer said that child abuse cases are increasing and parents are not fulfilling their responsibilities well, a situation which affect security of children in the country.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has several times recommended that Tanzania should invest more on the 'Fit Family' Scheme in a bid to rescue and create a bright future for the

helpless and abandoned children across the country.

Fit Family scheme is an alternative care arrangement form part and parcel of case management, particularly for children who cannot live with their parents. The reasons for this may include breakdown in family relationships or incidences of abuse, violence or human trafficking.

In 2013, UNICEF in collaboration with the government embarked on a project dubbed "Fit Family Scheme" which started as pilot in Temeke district, Dar es Salaam and then scaled up to reach other regions of Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Kilimanjaro and Mwanza.

Edwick Mapalala, REPSI country director said in efforts aimed to ensure that children in the country and across the continent remain safe and thus reach their potential; the organization in collaboration with other partners is implementing a several programs to strengthen child protection but also stimulate provision of psychosocial and mental health.

Mapalala said for nearly 20 years REPSI has conducted research, developed resources, delivered innovative training so as to further support the provision of required support to children.

She noted that increasingly, studies also show that PSS interventions are an effective protective mechanism against child abuse and violence

Jeanne Ndyetabura, REPSI Tanzania board chair underscored the need for the government and stakeholders to work collaboratively and strengthen psycho-social support in various areas including schools, health centres and at community level so as to protect children and youth.

"We need to train and hire more social workers and stage them in various parts up to the grassroots levels so as to ensure that the public are educated and children are served when they face challenges.

Social and business benefits of sustainable agriculture

By **Special Correspondent**

AGRICULTURAL modernisation is directly related to meteorological intelligence. Throughout history, management in this area has been complicated by unpredictable weather and climatic factors.

Thanks to big data and software that automatically analyses it, we can get the foundation for sustainable agriculture. This type of farming combines environmental safety with economic profitability and efficient use of non-renewable resources.

Conserving water resources, reducing the use of chemicals, developing ecosystem and crop biodiversity are just some of the goals of sustainable agriculture.

Examples include rainwater col-

lection and its further use for soil irrigation and fertilizers from agricultural waste. Another popular method is crop rotation, which helps the soil retain its nutrients. Let's take a closer look at the benefits of sustainable agriculture.

Social and Environmental benefits

At first glance, it is not apparent, but sustainable agriculture contributes to workers' equality and the overall improvement of their situation. Traditional manufacturing assumes a less workable environment, so upgrading it improves the life quality. Additional economic benefits from sustainable agriculture allow for more competitive salaries and facilities for workers.

Besides the social benefits, there are environmental advantages. First of all, the consumption of non-renewable energy sources decreases. Moreover, a crop rotation method helps to reduce the likelihood of the pest and the need for pesticides that contribute to environmental pollution.

Remember that by actively using chemicals, we harm the soil and the entire environment. In particular, we contribute to the emission of nitrogen and methane into the atmosphere. By reducing the emission of these gases, we cause minor damage to the Earth's ozone layer and protect ourselves from harmful radiation. In the long term, we preserve a safe environment and provide a healthy diet for future generations.

Sustaining the agri-food system

We must not forget that the growth of the population entails an excellent need for products. Sustainable agriculture and nutrition, and food waste reduction are important ways

to tackle this problem. Thanks to optimizing food production, we get a reliable food system protected from external damaging factors in the long term. In addition, reducing the use of chemicals and switching to natural methods of cultivating land and plants makes food more nutritious and healthier. Thus, we can reduce the harm not only to nature but also to our health. In the long term, we will also provide quality nutrition for future generations.

Biodiversity in soil
Fertile soil is the foundation of a prosperous agricultural system. Overuse of pesticides and fertilizers and inappropriate planting depletes the land, which degrades the quality of the harvested crop. Conversely, good soil increases its quantity and promotes the growth of plant endurance. We can use the product directly to improve the ground: reuse the plant mass, manure, and crop residues to feed the soil.

Reducing costs
Traditional farming methods use a lot of fos-

sil fuels. Sustainable agriculture significantly reduces or even eliminates this need. In this way, we significantly reduce economic costs, especially if we also consider equipment and transportation costs. Ultimately, using sensors on more modern technology (from seeders to drones) will optimize your farm's production and management costs. Thus, sustainable agriculture does not mean abandoning economic gains in favour of protecting the ecosystem. On the contrary, the wise use of resources allows farmers and companies to reduce costs and increase income.

Polyculture farming

The variety of crops grown is another significant benefit of sustainable agriculture. It promotes nutritional balance and makes the agricultural system more weather-resistant, and maintains soil fertility. And with the combination of the right crop, we optimize the use of resources and, together with food diversity, reduce economic costs.

Ivory poaching has led to evolution of tuskless elephants - study finds

By **Special Correspondent**

IVORY poaching over decades has led to the evolution of tuskless elephants, researchers have found, proving that humans are "literally changing the anatomy" of wild animals.

A previously rare genetic mutation causing tusklessness has become very common in some groups of African elephants after a period in which many were killed for their tusks, according to a study published in the journal Science.

Researchers looked at why female elephants in Gorongosa national park in Mozambique were frequently born without tusks, and found that the animals were in effect genetically engineered by mass poaching for ivory.

Elephants with tusks were highly likely to be hunted during the Mozambican civil war from 1977 to 1992, when 90% of the elephant population was slaughtered by armed forces on both sides to produce ivory that was sold to finance the conflict. Those without

tusks were left alone; leading to an increased likelihood they would breed and pass on the tuskless trait to their offspring.

A couple of generations later, the effects of this are still visible on the group of about 700 elephants that live in the national park. Robert Pringle, of the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton University, which led the study, said it showed the impact of human interference in nature.

He said: "What I think this study shows is that it's more than just numbers. The impacts that people have [is that] we're literally changing the anatomy of animals."

Pringle said Gorongosa national park had always interested researchers, who had suspected historical poaching was what caused this abnormality, though the exact mechanics of the issue were unknown.

He said: "One of the conspicuous features is that a lot of the female elephants don't have tusks and we were getting intrigued by this phenomenon. We realised that al-



though there had been a fair amount written with people observing the fact that elephants were sometimes tuskless, especially in places where there had been a lot of poaching, nobody really understood why. And nor had anybody really quantified or documented the phenomenon and been able to really attribute it to a cause, as opposed to just speculating about the origins."

The team suspected the phenomenon had a genetic cause and the fact it was rarely seen in males sug-

gested it was linked to sex. After sequencing the genomes of tusked and tuskless elephants, the researchers found a genetic difference between the two.

Analysis revealed a pair of candidate genes on the X chromosome, including one with known roles in mammalian tooth development. In humans, these genes are associated with an X-linked dominant syndrome that stalls the growth of lateral incisors.

The suspected mutation on one or more genes ends up protecting female elephants from poaching, but it is fatal to male elephants, which do not develop properly in the womb.

About half of male elephant calves with a tuskless mother will have this genetic abnormality, which means elephant herds where there has been a lot of poaching can end up severely depleted of males. But this problem is reversible over time, Pringle said, as populations have been growing for two decades and more than tripled since the 1990s when they were pushed to the brink of elimination.

"So we actually expect that this syndrome will decrease in frequency in our study population, provided that the conservation picture continues to stay as positive as it has been recently," he said. "There's such a blizzard of depressing news about biodiversity and humans in the environment and I think it's important to emphasise that there are some bright spots in that picture."

Big Brother is watching you – as electronic surveillance dominates lives

UNITED NATIONS

THE British novelist George Orwell's "1984" characterized a dystopian society where people were restricted from independent thought and were victims of constant surveillance.

Published in 1949, it was a prophecy of the future with the underlying theme: "Big Brother is Watching You"

Fast forward to 2021

We are back in "1984" where all our movements are monitored – this time by surveillance cameras planted in New York city streets, expressways, public parks, subways, shopping malls, and parking lots – in violation of personal privacy and civil rights.

According to an article in the New York Times last month, the New York Police Department (NYPD) has continued its mass surveillance – which began following the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 (9/11) on the World Trade Centre in New York city – uninterruptedly.

The Times said New Yorkers simply going about their daily lives routinely encounter post-9/11 digital surveillance tools like facial recognition software, license plate readers or mobile X-ray vans that can see through car doors.

"Surveillance drones hover above mass demonstrations and protesters say they have been questioned by antiterrorism officers after marches".

But the United States is not alone.

Perhaps it is now fast becoming a world-wide phenomenon – as electronic surveillance spreads across Western Europe, Africa, Asia, the

Middle East and Latin America.

According to a new study by the African Digital Rights Network, released October 21, mass surveillance is being carried out by governments in six countries in Africa – Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Sudan – with existing laws failing to protect the legal rights of citizens.

The study, described as the first systematic comparison of surveillance laws in Africa, comes at a time of rising concerns of digital "surveillance creep" as technologies become more sophisticated and more intrusive in our day-to-day lives.

"Many governments have expanded their powers for surveillance and access to personal data during Covid-19," the study notes.

The African Digital Rights Network is a network of 30 activists, analysts and academics from 12 African countries who are focused on the study of digital citizenship, surveillance and disinformation. It is convened by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), a global leading research and policy think tank.

Dr Tony Roberts, Research Fellow at the UK-based IDS, and co-author of the report, says "States do need surveillance powers, to prevent terrorist atrocities, but to be consistent with human rights such powers must only be narrowly-targeted on the most serious crime, used when strictly necessary, and proportionate to need".

He points out that citizens need to be more aware of their privacy rights and of the surveillance activities undertaken by their governments. Legislation can usefully define checks and balances to protect citizens'



Electronic surveillance devices.

rights and provide transparency.

"But civil society needs the capacity to monitor surveillance practice and hold government accountable to the law," he noted.

Asked if state surveillance was also widespread in Western Europe, Dr Roberts told IPS: "Yes, state surveillance of citizens is on the rise in western Europe."

He pointed out that digital technologies have made it much easier and cheaper for states to surveil citizens. It used to take a whole team of people to stake out a target, tap physical phone lines, record, transcribe and analyze the data for a single target.

"Now searches of internet and mobile communications are automated using artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithms".

He said the Cambridge Analytics scandal showed how social media surveillance is used by political parties in the UK and US.

"The Snowden revelations showed how governments in western Europe and the US systematically conduct mass surveillance on citizens. The Pegasus spyware case showed how states are using malware to spy on the French President, opposition leaders, judges, and jour-

nalists," he added.

Meanwhile, the NYPD's Intelligence Division, redesigned in 2002 to confront Al Qaeda operatives, now uses antiterror tactics to fight gang violence and street crime in New York city.

According to the Times, the Police Department has poured resources into expanding its surveillance capabilities. The department's budget for intelligence and counterterrorism has more than quadrupled, spending more than \$3 billion since 2006, and more through funding streams that are difficult to quantify, including federal grants and the secretive Police Foundation, a nonprofit that funnels money and equipment to the department from benefactors and donors.

Current and former police officials say the tools have been effective in thwarting dozens of would-be attacks. And the department has an obligation, they say, to repurpose its counterterrorism tools for everyday crime fighting, the Times said.

Donna Lieberman, the executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, was quoted as saying her organization was already concerned with creepinpolice surveillance in the 1990s; not long before the attacks, the

group had mapped out every camera it could find in the

city. In hindsight, she said, the exercise would prove naïve.

"We made a map, and we had dots – we had pins at that time – where there were cameras. And when we did that, there were a couple of thousands," Lieberman said. "We repeated the survey at some point after 9/11, and there were too many cameras to count."

Meanwhile, the new report also identifies Egypt and Sudan as countries where citizens' rights to privacy were least protected. This is due to a combination of weak legal protections, weak civil society to hold the state to account and increased state or government investment in surveillance technologies.

In contrast, despite the government in South Africa also violating privacy law, the country's strong civil society, independent court and media successfully force the government to improve its surveillance law and practices.

"I used to live in London when it had the highest CCTV density in the world. Now Seoul, Paris and Boston hold that dubious record. And New York is catching up fast"

He said evidence suggests that Black neighbourhoods are more heavily surveilled than White neighbourhoods. The problem becomes worse when facial recognition technology is combined with the CCTV camera and linked to identity databases to conduct pervasive invasive surveillance.

"Privacy is a fundamental right guaranteed in law. All surveillance is a violation of those civil rights."

Unravel the crippled US hegemony

BEIJING,

PHOTOS circulating worldwide of U.S. troops' helter-skelter withdrawal from Kabul in mid-August have laid bare the "crippled hegemony" of the United States.

Such a prophecy was made as early as 2002, nearly 20 years ago, by late Yale University professor Immanuel Wallerstein, who wrote in an article in Foreign Policy magazine that the expansion of the "war on terror," which began as America launched Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan shortly after the 9/11 attacks, would "rapidly diminish the already declining power of the United States in the world." "By any measure, the 'war on terror' was the biggest project of the period of American hegemony that began when the Cold War ended -- a period that has now reached its dusk," Foreign Affairs magazine argued in an article published recently.

HEGEMONISM DOOMED

After two world wars, the United States emerged as the top power, and then dominated the construction of in-

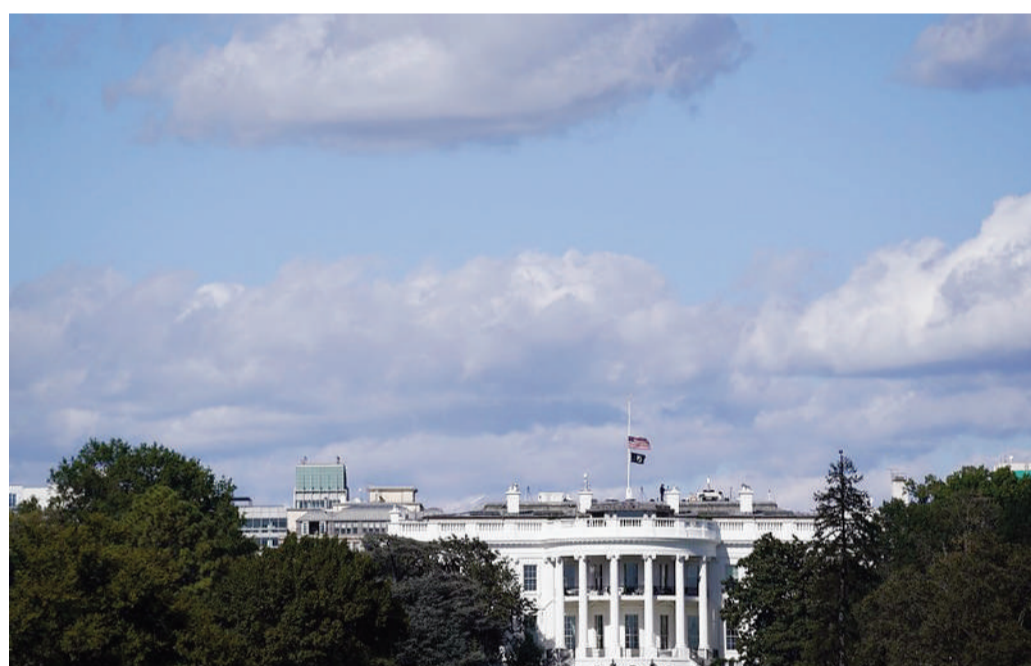
ternational political and economic order to better serve its interests. It often enjoys de-facto control over various international organizations established under its leadership. The United States, motivated by its geostrategic interests, has long been a meddler in other countries' internal affairs and a subverter of their governance, inflicting wars and turmoil in various parts of the world. Following the end of the Cold War, the United States became the sole superpower in the world, seeking to justify its wanton military operations in the name of "humanitarian intervention." Where there are U.S. troops, there is a mess, be it in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya or Syria.

However, the "unipolar moment" that once existed in the wake of the Cold War has already gone. It is now a more multilateral world, where all countries are inextricably interconnected and entitled to develop in their own ways. The United States, once relying upon its technological strength and the dollar hegemony to reap the wealth of the rest of the world, has been caught in strategic anxiety and

become increasingly overbearing. Such egoistic and perverse hegemonism, nevertheless, is doomed to failure, with a debacle in Afghanistan being the best notation. "From the COVID-19 pandemic to global trade rules, from climate change to economic development, the United States is actively frustrating the priorities of most of the world's democracies. In the process, U.S. foreign policy is -- in the name of democracy -- compounding the global crisis of democracy and delegitimizing U.S. power," said an article published by Foreign Affairs in July.

DOMESTIC WOES

The sole superpower has now turned into a "failed state," as U.S. magazine The Atlantic commented. Its decades-long hegemony pales amid rising social unrest, decaying political governance, and clumsy epidemic response, which has been dragged down by spats over such science-based antiviral protocols as mask mandates, self-isolation and social distancing. Like a magnifying glass, the pandemic exposes deep-seated woes in the United States, including an insur-



A U.S. national flag flies at half-staff at the White House commemorating former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Oct. 18, 2021. File photo

mountable wealth gap (the richest one percent of Americans now holding much more wealth than the bottom 50 percent), rampant money politics (lobbying, campaign contributions, the revolving door, and manipulating mainstream media) and systemic racism (police violence against African Americans, hate crimes against Asians, etc.). In such a politi-

cally polarized and highly fragmented society as it is today, American politicians obsessed with votes and partisanship and mired in veto politics of "no for no's sake" have neither the will nor the ability to solve the conundrums fundamentally sapping the American power.

Francis Fukuyama, a senior

follow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, pointed out in an article published in The Economist in August that the long-term sources of American weakness and decline are more domestic than international. In a report released in May, the Pew Research Center compared public trust data from 1958 to

2021, saying that only about one quarter of Americans say they can trust the government in Washington, and distrust of government is particularly acute among younger generations.

HALO DIMMED

A self-proclaimed "shining city upon a hill," the United States has long positioned itself as "greater" and "superior" than other countries. However, the so-called American values it touted are nothing more than an ideological tool to safeguard its global hegemony. The "shining city" has been seeing its halo fading away amid social disparity, political polarization, uncontrollable epidemic and its futile foreign intervention. A Pew Research Center poll released in June showed that only about a third of respondents in France, Spain and Greece viewed the United States as a trustworthy partner, and four in ten in France and Spain thought American democracy worked poorly. Even among Americans themselves, about 62 percent no longer view their country as a "shining city upon a hill," a Yahoo News/YouGov poll in July last year showed.

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BUSINESS



Tamarind fruit.

RECOMMENDATION

Health benefits of tamarind

KIGALI

Tamarind is a leguminous tree bearing edible fruit. The tamarind tree produces brown pod-like fruits with a sweet and tangy taste, and can be eaten raw or cooked.

This fruit is believed to come with many health benefits as well, from boosting immunity to keeping the liver and heart strong. When it comes to nutritional value, tamarind is considered to contain six grams of fibre, 3 grams of protein, and less than 1 gram of fat. This comes with a total of 287 calories. These calories, however, all come from natural sugar that is not considered harmful to one's health, nutritionists say.

Erick Musengimana, a nutritionist at Rwanda Diabetes Association in Kigali, says this particular fruit is known to be rich in magnesium. He says magnesium plays a role in more than 600 body functions, and can help lower blood pressure. It also has anti-inflammatory and antidiabetic effects and contains amino acids, the building blocks of protein.

"Amino acids are known for their role in body growth and tissue repair. Generally, the body can't synthesise them, meaning that people must get them from food, and one of the foods that provide numerous amino acids is tamarind.

"When it comes to weight management, tamarind fruit is known to help maintain or lose weight, when consumed regularly," Musengimana says. He goes on to explain that this is so because tamarind contains fibre with

no fat content.

Musengimana says studies suggest that eating tamarind daily might actually help in weight reduction since it contains flavonoids and polyphenols. In addition to this, tamarind is loaded with hydroxycitric acid, which reduces one's appetite by inhibiting amylase (an enzyme responsible for converting carbohydrates into fat).

When it comes to disease prevention, tamarind is said to have properties that help keep some ailments at bay, due to the rich presence of polyphenolic compounds in the fruit. Eating it can help fight peptic ulcers, which normally appear in the lining of the stomach and small intestine.

Musengimana says tamarind seed extracts are anti-inflammatory in nature, and are even said to stabilise blood sugar levels and reverse the damage of the pancreatic tissue for those suffering from diabetes.

Also, the enzyme alpha-amylase which is proven to reduce blood sugar levels can also be found in tamarind. Studies have established that it can help indigestion. Because of its potassium content, the fruit has the ability to relax abdominal muscles, therefore, used as a remedy for diarrhoea.

While the fruit is used to relieve constipation, the leaves provide treatment for diarrhoea, and the root and bark can be consumed to alleviate abdominal pain. Tamarind also helps in alleviating allergic asthma and cough because of its antihistaminic properties. It's also a rich source of vitamin C and can boost the immune system to prevent cold and cough.

ANGELIC

Ultra athlete tackles world's toughest footrace for charity

DURBAN

South African ultra-marathon runner Nontu Mgbabhi, who previously ran seven marathons across seven continents in seven days, is now taking on the gruelling Marathon des Sables, one of the toughest foot races on the planet.

Mgbabhi, who in 2020 ran and raised R1.7 million, and through sponsors built five classrooms equipped with desks, chairs, blackboards, and uniforms for pupils at the Khiphinkunzi Primary School in Dukuduku Reserve in Mtubatuba that was handed to the pupils in February. Now, she wants to help raise funds to build new toilet facilities and an administration block for the school. She said thus far they raised R720 000 and are short of R380 000 to achieve the target of R1.1 million.

She said: "I have faith as I run in the desert or as I finish the balance will be raised. People are kind and generous, they want to see a better South Africa for all, especially those who are fortunate, I have learned they are blessed because they give. They want to be part of changing lives for a lifetime.

Mgbabhi, a registered



Nontu Mgbabhi on one of her training runs ahead of her 250km charity run.

psychologist and general manager of human resources at Richards Bay Coal Terminal, will now take on the gruelling 250km Marathon des Sables. The multi-stage run takes place in one of the world's most inhospitable environments, the Sahara Desert. Touted as the toughest footrace on earth, it entails running across sand dunes, rocky jebels and white-hot salt plains over six days. The

fourth day covers over 80kms.

What motivates you?

Mgbabhi, who hails from rural Nseleni, said she was subjected to poor education infrastructure and resources, like millions of South African children. "You show up at school because you have to. There's no building that says 'wow', or any motivation to go there other than getting a free meal at school.

To see what education has done for me, the opportunities I've got, to be able to afford to study at tertiary level, it made me realise that, if we invest in education, we can slowly change the tide."

She said that the drop-out rate in rural villages was high. "A child does not get inspired and excited by going to school, because sometimes they will be sitting on the floor, shattered window panes, holes in the floors."

Mgbabhi said there were many amazing academic talents in rural areas that went unharnessed. "My message is that hard work beats talent if talent does not work. I realised that when I went to university - all of my friends went to private schools and only I came from a public school. There is a natural inclination to look down on yourself.

"But I quickly learnt that they are not that smart. They just had opportunities that I didn't. I realised that if I work harder, I can close the gap or even edge in front of them. First year can be very challenging, testing your identity.

"Many people judge you when you come from a rural area and cannot express yourself, but spending sleepless nights in the

library, you start getting distinctions, and then they start asking who you are. Sometimes you have to just have the confidence to show up as you are."

How did you train for this marathon?

Mgbabhi said her training for the ultramarathon entailed running on beach sand. "I think three months leading up to the race, I would run two to three times a week on the beach sand. Prior to that, the focus was doing long distance, because running 250km in six stages with one of the stages 80kms or so, I had to practice by doing some 75km runs so all of that, you want it to be done well before the race so you are not fatigued." She said the entire preparation took about six to eight months. Her biggest challenge during the race would be to "negotiate with my limits and fight the temptation to give up."

Nontu Mgbabhi trained for six to eight months before undertaking a 250km ultra run. "You have to dig deep and persevere and stay true to what you signed up for. You also have to remember you are not alone and the only one feeling what you feeling. For me, that also translates to real life.

HEALTH-TIP

How tackling obesity solves fertility problems in men

NAIROBI

For most couples, the desire to have children usually ranks high in their 'want' list. Having their offspring is often met with joy and happiness and is viewed as achieving a great milestone in the relationship.

But attaining this dream may be an uphill task for some couples struggling with infertility challenges that make it difficult for them to conceive and have babies. This is the case for 40-year-old Ian (not his real name) and his wife that have been struggling to have children for five years.

"It's been a painful journey that would have crushed both of us, had it not been for the strong bond that we have together as a couple. We have tried various treatment options but nothing seems to work. Nevertheless, we have chosen to remain positive and hope for the best. If it happens that will be great. If not, we will move on and maybe adopt in the future," he says.

The battle with infertility can be long, tiring and agonising for those affected, especially if the cause of the problem remains elusive to themselves as well as health experts who many believe should have all the answers.

"This experience has taught us to take life as it is and become patient with ourselves. When you are dealing with a challenge whose cause can't be found, it's frustrating because you can't fix it and you are therefore not also able to find closure. You are basically hanging in there," he says.

Even though it may not be possible to unravel all mysteries behind infertility complications, doctors note that people can be sensitised on some known risk factors such as obesity that are largely preventable.

A new study presented at the Annual European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Conference indicates that the impact of the condition on fertility can start earlier on, during childhood, at the point when the male reproductive hormones or organs are developing. The researchers note that during puberty, there is usually increased activity in different cells in the testes, which are central to the fertility of men.

The cells - known as Leydig and Sertoli - are critical for the production of healthy sperm and several reproductive hormones that are essential for sperm maturation. Research shows that obesity during puberty can alter the proper functioning of these cells between the ages of 12 and 14.

This can result in sperm abnormalities or a low count in adulthood, which are the commonest causes of fertility problems among men. Nevertheless, the new study indicates that despite the alterations, the reproductive function in boys may be improved through weight loss,

which could protect their fertility in adulthood.

Based on the results of the study, even short-term weight loss alterations in reproductive function could be partially reversed in young boys with obesity. This indicates that early management of obesity in childhood could help prevent future fertility problems in men.

And this is an important finding, at a time when childhood obesity cases are considered to be rising in Kenya due to unhealthy diets consumed by children from most middle-class families, coupled with inactivity among children that stay indoors to play computer games, watch television programmes and browse phones for other forms of entertainment.

"These findings underline the need to consider childhood obesity as a factor in future fertility issues. We strongly recommend that early management of childhood obesity is necessary to reverse these impairments, and to help prevent future reproductive problems, as well as lowering the risks of other debilitating diseases," Dr Solène Rérat, the lead author of the study from the Angers University Hospital in France. During the study, the researchers assessed 34 boys, aged between 10 and 18 who were undergoing a twelve-week educational weight loss programme.



An obese man exercising.

From brewery wastewater to spinach - SAB embarks on sustainable farming project

CAPE TOWN

Local beer drinkers will soon be (inadvertently) supporting small scale agriculture. They might not know this when downing a cold one, but some of the wastewater resulting from making the beer will be used to grow spinach.

Called Project Imifino, and based at Ibhayi in the Eastern Cape, the South African Breweries (SAB) backed initiative is aimed at helping local communities grow spinach, while the brewer gets to recycle water at the same time.

Project Imifino, along with Project Eden Water Conservation Park - another SAB initiative involving the construction of an artificial wetland - will develop a commercial 2,000 metre square drip irrigation system to help the local community grow spinach in raised beds.

The crop will use water and nutrients provided by wastewater generated in the brewing process, with no additional water or fertilisers. "Through Project Eden we were able to double our impact to reduce our

internal water consumption, and can now provide a source of food and income to our local community," said Director of Agricultural Development at SAB Josh Hammann.

SAB has pledged to offer a capital investment to set in motion Project Imifino, in partnership with local business TaylorMade Water Solutions (TMWS). "We will be supporting the operation of TMWS for the first 12 months through the construction and commercial establishment phase, and have offered additional technical and business coaching

with the assistance of our Supplier Development Team, after which it will become self-sufficient," said Hammann.

The team involved in the project, led by Rhodes University's Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, used various methods to recover the water from brewery effluent. This includes high-rate algal ponding and constructed wetland technology to recover the water and to harness the nutrient potential locked in the effluent.

"This is the triple helix at its best. SAB is leading the way for the sustainable use of our limited water resources while creating significant and tangible social benefits through the incorporation of the circular economy and water energy and food nexus principles," said CEO of the Water Research Commission, Dhesigen Naidoo.

How it works
The Spinach beds are said to use up about 10% of the water flowing through it, with 90% still available for reuse. Essentially, the spinach crops serve as a kind of treatment plant.

The crops absorb nutrients from the water needed for growth, leaving the remaining water relatively 'clean.'

This 'cleaning' of the water allows the brewery to recover more of it through its water recycling plant, further helping to improve the site's water efficiency. "The beauty of the system is creating a brand-new output (spinach) with no additional water requirement in the catchment, and improving the brewery's water use through improved water quality and reuse potential," according to the beer giant.

OUTSTANDING

Meet Wycliffe Mundopa, winner of the 2021 FNB Art Prize

JOHANNESBURG

Born in Rusape, Zimbabwe Mundopa now lives and works in Harare. Since the age of 15, Mundopa has dedicated his life to painting. From 2005 to 2007, he attended the National Gallery Zimbabwe Visual Arts Studios.

Committed to bearing witness to the lives of the most vulnerable in his community, his works consistently speak to social and political upheavals of life in urban Zimbabwe. In this context, the lives of women in particular frame his practice and social commentary.

"I paint women mainly, not in the literal sense, but as a metaphor reflecting what happens in my society," he explains. The result is imagery that is audacious and unapologetic, bridging vernacular visual metaphor or Harare street slang with classical genre painting compositions of Dutch masters and post-impressionistic verve in line and colour.

"I'm very honoured to win the prize this year, especially because I have exhibited in South Africa for a number of years now. This really solidifies my ties with the country and the many people who support my work here," says Mundopa. As the winner of this year's prize, Mundopa will open his solo exhibition on the 31 October 2021 at Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG).

"It's also important to show in museums and galleries in Africa because most of our work is exhibited abroad. As an artist who's living and working on the continent, I think it's important to have such platforms."

The FNB Art Prize has become one of the most coveted visual art prizes on the African continent ensuring home based recognition for artists on the continent. "With FNB Art

Wycliffe Mundopa's *The Wisdom of Elders Part 1* painting.

Joburg being the first art fair in Africa, it has always been our agenda for the FNB Art Prize to be reflective of the entire scope of the best of the best art that comes from the continent," says Mandla Sibeko, director of FNB Art Joburg.

"It's exciting to see the evolution of the prize as it celebrates various genres and this

year we're celebrating a painter and even more exciting is the fact that he's from Zimbabwe. A lot of focus has been placed on the political unrest with very little being said about the creativity of the Zimbabweans so for us it's important that we keep highlighting the excellence that comes from that region," he adds.

This year's winner was selected by a committee including Ashraf Jamal (a research associate in the Art and Design Research Centre at the University of Johannesburg), Nicole Siegenthaler (fair manager at FNB Art Joburg) and Musha Neluheni (curator of contemporary collections at Johannesburg Art Gallery).

"Wycliffe Mundopa is a vivacious, upbeat, whacky colourist. His vision of Africa is life-affirming. This is evident in his convivial pleasure-loving vision, which twists provocatively into the macabre," says Jamal.

As the 11th FNB Art Prize recipient, Mundopa joins a prestigious list of previous winners since the launch of the prize in 2011. In addition to the solo exhibition, he receives a cash prize. Bonga Sebesho, Head of Sponsorships at FNB adds, "We remain committed to supporting and growing the arts and creative economy in South Africa and the rest of Africa... At FNB we pride ourselves to be the bank of #TheChangeables and believe that art plays a crucial role in how we can contribute to society."

For his first solo exhibition with JAG, Wycliffe Mundopa will present *Zvanyadza* a body of work, dedicated to the memory of his mother. A suite of more than fifteen monumental new canvases, the show elevates and celebrates the drama and exaltation of Zimbabwean women.

In so doing he reflects the fate of all women of Zimbabwe who thrive in the unlivable, who are fierce, beautiful, resilient and courageous enough to claim joy and happiness despite what life and the world serves them.

With photography and photo manipulation overwhelming the field of figuration the value of the painter speaking to a direct lived experience has been deprivatised. Mundopa's lifeblood, his works, are invested in speaking otherwise.

WARNING

Elephants in Mozambique might never develop tusks due to civil war, poaching

MAPUTO

A hefty set of tusks is usually an advantage for elephants, allowing them to dig for water, strip bark for food and joust with other elephants. But during episodes of intense ivory poaching, those big incisors become a liability.

Now researchers have pinpointed how years of civil war and poaching in Mozambique have led to a greater proportion of elephants that will never develop tusks. During the conflict from 1977 to 1992, fighters on both sides slaughtered elephants for ivory to finance war efforts. In the region that's now Gorongosa National Park, around 90 percent of the elephants were killed.

The survivors were likely to share a key characteristic: half the females were naturally tuskless – they simply never developed tusks – while before the war, less than a fifth lacked tusks. Like eye colour in humans, genes are responsible for whether elephants inherit tusks from their parents. Although trustlessness was once rare in African savannah elephants, it's become more common – like a rare eye colour becoming widespread.

After the war, those tuskless surviving females passed on their genes with expected, as well as surprising, results. About half their daughters were tuskless. More perplexing, two-thirds of their offspring were female.

The years of unrest "changed the trajectory of evolution in that population," said evolutionary biologist Shane Campbell-Staton,

based at Princeton University. With colleagues, he set out to understand how the pressure of the ivory trade had tipped the scale of natural selection. Their findings were published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

Researchers in Mozambique, including biologists Dominique Gonçalves and Joyce Poole, observed the national park's roughly 800 elephants over several years to create a catalogue of mothers and offspring. "Female calves stay by their mothers, and so do males up to a certain age," said Poole, who is scientific director and co-founder of the nonprofit ElephantVoices.

Poole had previously seen other cases of elephant populations with a disproportionately large number of tuskless females after intense poaching, including in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. "I've been puzzling over why it's the females who are tuskless for a very long time," said Poole, who is a co-author of the study.

In Gorongosa, the team collected blood samples from seven tusked and 11 tuskless female elephants, then analyzed their DNA for differences. The elephant survey data gave them an idea where to look: Because the tuskless elephants were female, they focused on the X chromosome. (Females have two X chromosomes; males have one X and one Y chromosome.)

They also suspected that the relevant gene was dominant – meaning that a female needs only one altered gene to become tuskless – and that when



Elephants in Mozambique.

passed to male embryos, it may short-circuit their development. "When mothers pass it on, we think the sons likely die early in development, a miscarriage," said Brian Arnold, a co-author and evolutionary biologist at Princeton.

Their genetic analysis revealed two key parts of the elephants' DNA that they think play a role in passing on the trait of tusklessness. The same genes are associated with the development of teeth in other mammals. "They've produced the smoking-gun evidence for genetic changes," said Chris Darimont, a conservation scientist at the University of Victoria in Canada,

who was not involved in the research. The work "helps scientists and the public understand how our society can have a major influence on the evolution of other life forms."

Most people think of evolution as something that proceeds slowly, but humans can hit the accelerator. "When we think about natural selection, we think about it happening over hundreds, or thousands, of years," said Samuel Wasser, a conservation biologist at the University of Washington, who was not involved in the research. "The fact that this dramatic selection for tusklessness happened over 15 years is one of the most

astonishing findings."

Now the scientists are studying what more tuskless elephants means for the species and its savannah environment. Their preliminary analysis of fecal samples suggests the Gorongosa elephants are shifting their diet, without long incisors to peel bark from trees.

"The tuskless females ate mostly grass, whereas the tusked animals ate more legumes and tough woody plants," said Robert Pringle, a co-author and biologist at Princeton University. "These changes will last for at least multiple elephant generations."



Rwandan delegation at YouthConnekt Africa summit 2021 in Accra.

MOBILIZATION

YouthConnekt for 2021: Youth urged to take lead in Africa's transformation

KIGALI

Africa is wealthy in many aspects but its most significant position is its young generation, Rwanda's Minister of Youth and Culture, Rosemary Mbabazi, has said.

Mbabazi was speaking on behalf of President Paul Kagame at the opening of the YouthConnekt Africa summit – the biggest platform that seeks to connect the continent's youth for socio-economic transformation. The event, now in its fourth edition is hosted in Accra, Ghana, where 2,000 out of 17,000 participants have physically convened. The rest joined from across the world via virtual platforms.

"African youth are full of potential, energy, skills, talents, and are well-positioned to take the lead of this continent's transformation," Mbabazi pointed out. "Your generation builds on incredible strikes that the continent has made over the last couple of decades." This year's event is conducted under the theme, "Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the youth for post-Covid Economic and Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) opportunities."

This is the first time the annual gathering – which connects African youth with policy influencers, political leaders, public and private development sector institutions – is taking place outside Kigali. The last edition took place in 2019 before it was suspended in 2020 owing to the Covid-19 restrictions. Mbabazi urged the youth to leverage on regional integration gains made over the past couple of decades.

Regional integration, she said, is stronger today more than ever. "And the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA) is at the pinnacle of our accomplishments because its implementation will reveal the true force that Africa is and has which is youth," she said.

The realisation of 'One Africa' aspired through this agreement, she added, will only be achieved when young people unlock this potential as a generation that is more educated, empowered and connected than the previous generations. A delegation of 30 Rwandan business executives are participating in the summit and are expected to be exposed to business practices and opportunities in Ghana.

The AfCFTA, which is so far ratified by 40 countries, aims at creating the largest free-trade area in the world by reducing all trade costs – eliminating 90 per cent of tariffs – and enabling Africa to integrate further into global supply chains.

However, current custom procedures continue to be a hindrance for countries to benefit from the assistance the AfCFTA can bring in Covid-19 recovery. In addition to the AfCFTA, the youth can leverage regional economic blocs such as the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

WORLD

Queen Elizabeth resting after first night in hospital in years

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth, 95, was expected to spend yesterday resting and undertaking light duties after she spent a night in hospital for the first time in years for what Buckingham Palace termed "preliminary investigations".

The world's oldest and longest-reigning monarch stayed in hospital overnight on Wednesday but returned to her Windsor Castle home to the west of London the following day, with officials saying she was in good spirits and back at work.

The queen, who cancelled an official trip to Northern Ireland on Wednesday, had been told to rest by her medical staff, Buckingham Palace said, but her ailment was not related to COVID-19.

"Following medical advice to rest for a few days, the queen attended hospital on Wednesday afternoon for some preliminary investigations, returning to Windsor Castle at lunchtime today, and remains in good spirits," the palace said late on Thursday.

Aides gave no details on what had

prompted the medical attention, and some royal correspondents said they hoped the official version of events painted the full picture.

"We must hope that we can rely on what the palace is now telling us," said Nicholas Witchell, the BBC's royal correspondent. A royal source said the queen had stayed at the King Edward VII hospital in central London for practical reasons and that her medical team had taken a cautious approach.

Elizabeth, who is queen of 15 other realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand, returned to her desk for work on Thursday afternoon and was undertaking some light duties, the source said.

Elizabeth, who acceded to the throne as Britain was shedding its imperial power, has symbolised stability for generations of British people, building the popularity of the monarchy despite seismic political, social and cultural changes that threatened to make it an anachronism.

A quiet and uncomplaining dedication to duty, even in old age, has earned



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II delivers a speech inside the Siambr (Chamber) during the ceremonial opening of the Sixth Senedd in Cardiff, Wales, Oct 14, 2021. AP

her widespread respect in Britain and abroad, even from republicans who are eager for the monarchy to be abolished.

Billionaires' drinks

Elizabeth spent Tuesday night hosting a drinks reception at Windsor for billionaire business leaders including Bill Gates after Prime Minister Boris Johnson convened a green investment conference ahead of the COP26 climate summit.

Elizabeth, along with her son and heir Prince Charles, 72, and grandson Prince William, 39, greeted guests including US climate envoy John Kerry without masks.

The queen, wearing a teal skirt and jacket with pearls, was photographed beside Johnson, smiling and chatting with business leaders.

The head of state, who next year celebrates 70 years on the throne, is known for her robust health. The last time she is thought to have spent a night in hospital was in 2013 when she was suffering from symptoms of gastroenteritis.

She had a successful surgery to treat an eye cataract in 2018 and a knee operation in 2003, but royal officials are loathe to discuss health issues in general.

Prince Philip, her husband of more

than seven decades, died in April aged 99.

That has not stopped her from carrying out her official engagements, although her age has meant she has handed more duties to Charles and other members of the royal family.

She was this month seen using a walking stick for support in public for the first time, apart from after her knee operation.

Not only has she lost her husband, who she described as her "strength and stay", but her second son Prince Andrew has quit royal duties over his links to US financier Jeffrey Epstein, a registered sex offender who killed himself in a Manhattan jail in 2019. Her grandson Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan have also stepped away from royal duties to move to Los Angeles from where they delivered some barbed attacks on Buckingham Palace.

Elizabeth's next major engagement is at the end of the month when she is due to welcome world leaders at the opening of COP26 in Glasgow. **Agencies**

Majority of countries oppose interference in China's internal affairs in name of human rights

UNITED NATIONS

MORE than 80 countries opposed the interference in China's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights at the Third Committee of the 76th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Thursday.

During the meeting, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, resolutely refuted the unfounded accusations against China which were launched by a few countries, including the United States and France.

He expressed China's firm opposition, and later held a press conference on China's position on human rights issues.

The attempts to smear the human rights situation in China were again defeated, as more than 80 countries agreed with China's position, including Cuba on behalf of 62 countries, Kuwait on behalf of three Gulf states, and many other countries that spoke individually, forming a strong momentum in support of China.

Cuba said in a joint statement that respecting sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states and non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states represent basic norms governing international relations.

The statement stressed that issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet are China's internal affairs that brook no interference by any external forces, and supported China's implementation of "one country, two systems" in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The joint statement also called upon all parties to respect the right of the people of each state to choose independently the path for human rights development in accordance with their national conditions, and treat all human rights with the same emphasis.

It opposed a politicization of human rights, double standards and unfounded allegations against China out of political motivation and based on disinformation.

Kuwait made a joint statement on be-



The United Nations Human Rights Council assembly room. Photo: AFP

half of three Gulf states, stressing the objective, constructive and non-political principle on human rights issues, and calling upon all states to follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

More than 20 other countries made statements in support of China, speaking highly of China's achievements in the development of human rights, and calling upon all countries to uphold multilateralism and solidarity and to promote and protect human rights through dialogue and cooperation.

At the meeting and the press conference, Zhang said that the United States and a few countries have once again abused the Third Committee platform to launch groundless accusations against China, a move which was strongly opposed by China.

Zhang pointed out that China's development path has been chosen by the Chinese people. Those countries are in no position to make a choice for the Chinese people, let alone lecture China.

Zhang said that the accusations by the United States and a few other countries

are totally unfounded. Xinjiang enjoys stability, development and prosperity, and the Chinese people's life is getting better day by day. The Chinese people are satisfied with and proud of such achievements, and those achievements are widely recognized and praised by people around the world.

No matter how many times they are repeated, lies are still lies. Some Western countries may fool themselves, but they cannot fool the world.

Those countries are desperately trying to cover up their own terrible human rights records, Zhang said, noting that the United States conducted a genocide against Native Americans, suppressed its own people to the point they have to yell "I can't breathe," and ignored the deaths of over 700,000 nationals due to the pandemic.

Besides, he added, the United States has stained its reputation with the blood of hundreds of thousands of Muslim civilians in the Middle East and Central Asia. The list of human rights violation by those countries goes on.

Zhang said that human rights issues should not be covered up, and blaming other countries will not deflect from the

misdeeds of perpetrators, but would only reveal their hypocrisy.

Zhang emphasized that the United States and a few other countries, in the name of democracy, have been trying to get rid of those who dare to hold different views. But all their attempts will end in vain; democracy is not a few countries' privilege, but a right enjoyed by people of all countries, he said.

The best democracy, he said, is to let people be the real masters of the country, instead of making them cannon fodder in political manipulation. The world is diverse, so are the approaches to realize democracy; whether a country is democratic or not should be judged by its own people, not some individuals outside the country, he said further.

Tragedies in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya have proven again that military intervention from the outside and so-called democratic transformation entail nothing but harm to those countries affected, and to the ideal of democracy itself, Zhang added.

The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly is the committee that discusses human rights and social development issues. Since 2019, the United States has thrice gathered a group of countries to smear China on human rights issues, attempts which were firmly opposed by the vast majority of countries and have all ended in failure. **Xinhua**

Astra COVID-19 shot found safe for pregnancy, fertility in study

GENEVA

ASTRAZENECA Plc's COVID-19 vaccine has no adverse impact on pregnancy or fertility, according to data from a small group of trial participants who conceived during a study.

The rate of miscarriage was roughly the same between the vaccine and placebo groups, and no still births or neonatal deaths were recorded, according to an analysis of the outcomes published in The Lancet medical journal late Thursday. Fertility was also shown to be unaffected by the vaccine.

The review looked at four trials from the study spanning the UK, Brazil and South Africa.

People who were already pregnant were excluded from taking part. Ninety-three volunteers who became pregnant during the study were included in a fertility analysis - 50 who'd received the vaccine and 43 the placebo. The result showed no impact on fertility from the shot.

In total, 107 pregnancies were assessed for outcomes. Fifteen live births occurred during the analysis - 10 in the vaccine group and 5 in the placebo. Three babies from the vaccinated arm were born prematurely, but all in the late preterm stage between 34 and 37 weeks of gestation.

A lack of clinical data on the impact of the coronavirus vaccines in pregnancy has led to hesitancy among pregnant people to take the shots, despite the increased risk of contracting severe COVID-19 in this population.

"With increasing availability of misinformation, which continues to affect vaccine uptake, these data, along with published data on mRNA vaccines, can provide evidence to support women in making decisions regarding vaccination," said the authors, who are mainly from the vaccine's co-developer, the University of Oxford.

Expectant mothers are often excluded from trials because of safety concerns. Pfizer started one to assess the impact of its vaccine on the pregnant population earlier this year, but the study was delayed by slow enrollment after US government guidance changed, recommending vaccination in pregnancy.



This photo shows a general view of the offices of British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca PLC in Macclesfield, Cheshire on July 21, 2020. AFP

Bennett calls Putin Israeli people's very close and true friend during their encounter

SOCHI

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said before the beginning of his talks with President of Russia Vladimir Putin yesterday that the Russian leader was the Israeli people's very close and true friend.

"I want to tell you on behalf of our country, the whole of our people that we regard you as a very close and true friend of the State of Israel," Bennet (pictured) said, addressing the Russian leader.

The Israeli prime minister specified that he intended to discuss "a large number of issues" at his meeting with the Russian president.

"This refers to the development of our economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. We have large potential and we can substantially boost our trade," the Israeli prime minister said. The Israeli people keeps memory about the feat of the Soviet Army and praises its contribution to the Victory over Nazism, Bennett stressed.

"We remember very well the past, the huge efforts that the Russian people and the Red Army made for the Victory over Nazi Germany during World War Two," the Israeli prime minister said.

Israel is at the final stage of preparations for a "large-scale project to create a new museum in memory of Jewish soldiers who fought in the armies of the allied countries during World War Two," Bennett said.

"We have a million of envoys in Israel who speak Russian. They make a substantial contribution to developing the State of Israel with their culture of work, their mentality and the success that they achieve," Bennett said, referring to Russian-speaking citizens of the Jewish state.

The Israeli prime minister added that he intended to discuss during his meeting with the Russian president "the situation in Syria and the efforts being made to halt the Iran nuclear military programme". **Agencies**



Crop seed company in E China's Shandong province devoted to breeding high-quality seeds to benefit farmers

HOU Yuanjiang, general manager of a crop seed company in east China's Shandong province, still feels an upsurge of emotion when he recalls that Qingfeng No.1, a wheat seed jointly bred by his company and the Agronomy College of Shandong Agricultural University after 11 years' efforts, set off to the outer space with China's manned spacecraft Shenzhou-7 on Sept. 25, 2008.

According to Hou, he watched on TV at home the successful launch of Shenzhou-7 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu province. Qingfeng No. 1 was one of the seeds that were selected to travel in space with the spacecraft.

"Wheat breeding is extraordinarily arduous. It's time-consuming and only has a very small chance of success," said Sun Xuliang, a senior agronomist of the bureau of agriculture and rural affairs of Qingdao, Shandong province.

Since wheat breeding includes such procedures as parental combination, comparative experiment, regional trial, and pilot production, it usually takes more than a decade to eventually select a new variety from tens of thousands of strains, Sun explained, adding that some wheat breeding experts couldn't even develop one new variety during their whole lifetime.

Hou is particularly rigorous in scientific research and seed breeding. Hou's team starts the hybridization for wheat breeding every April, which is followed by investigations and observations. During the harvest season of wheat, Hou would go to wheat field around 5 a.m. almost every morning to check the performance of wheat varieties in such aspects as disease resistance, lodging resistance, and yielding ability.

Thanks to Hou's tenacity, the wheat seed Qingfeng No.1 was proven successful in 2006, marking a historic zero-to-one breakthrough for Hou's company in breeding new varieties.

With the help of agricultural departments in Qingdao, Hou's company has established long-term technical partnership with higher education institutions and scientific research institutes such as Shandong Agricultural University and Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In 2016, Liaolan township, Pingdu city of Shandong, where Hou's company is based, set up Qingfeng work station of academicians and experts to provide guidance on the breeding of new varieties of wheat and peanut and point the direction for breeding on site. The station now has one academician and six experts.

So far, eight of the new wheat varieties of the Qingfeng and Qingnong series developed by Hou's company have been examined and approved by provincial-level authorities, and six new peanut varieties bred by the company have been registered at relevant national authorities.

Hou has combined breeding of superior varieties with demonstration of crop varieties in Qingdao and its surrounding areas, namely promoting the growing of new varieties in breeding bases of superior varieties first, and then further expanding the planting area of these varieties in surrounding areas. In an

effort to breed high-quality seeds, Hou has also established a specialized cooperative for the production and marketing of crop seeds. More than 5,000 local households have become members of the cooperative and joined in the breeding and production of superior varieties.

The cooperative purchases wheat seeds from local farmers and offers them a price which is 0.2 yuan (about \$0.03) higher than that of commercial wheat per kilogram, attracting households in more than 30 villages in the locality to the production of wheat seeds. **People's Daily**

Turkey threatens to expel 10 Western ambassadors

ANKARA

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday threatened to expel the ambassadors of ten western countries over their statement for the release of a detained businessman.

"I told our foreign minister that we cannot afford to host them in our country. Is it your place to teach such a lesson to Turkey?" Erdogan told journalists on the plane during his flight from Africa to Turkey.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned the ambassadors of ten countries, including the United States, Germany and France, over a joint statement calling for the release of jailed activist and businessman Osman Kavala.

The ambassadors said on Monday that "Together, the embassies of Canada, France, Finland, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America believe a just and speedy resolution to his case must be in line with Turkey's international obligations and domestic laws. Noting the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on the matter, we call for Turkey to secure his urgent release."

Kavala was acquitted in 2020 of charges related to nationwide Gezi protests in 2013. But his ruling was overturned and was combined with a probe into a coup attempt in 2016 on the accusation of spying. **Xinhua**

ROK's Moon to attend COP26 climate talks, G20 summit

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korean President Moon Jae-in will travel to Europe next week to attend a Group of 20 summit in Rome and the UN climate conference in Scotland, his office said yesterday.



The nine-day trip, which kicked off on Thursday, will also include talks on Oct 29 in the Vatican with Pope Francis and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Moon's spokeswoman said.

Moon (pictured) will then participate in the two-day gathering of G20 leaders in Rome starting Oct 30, before moving to Glasgow for the COP26 summit set to run from Oct 31 to Nov 12.

He then plans to make a state visit to Hungary where he will take part in a summit with the so-called "Visegrad Four" countries, including Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The ROK is one of the world's most fossil-fuel reliant economies, with coal making up over 41 percent of the country's electricity mix and renewable power just over 6 percent.

Last year, Moon pledged to go carbon neutral by 2050 and unveiled a Green New Deal to create jobs and boost economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. This month he vowed to raise its emissions-reduction goal to 40 percent of 2018 levels by 2030 from the previous 26.3 percent.

In the Vatican, both sides want to discuss ways to promote peace on the Korean peninsula and global issues, Moon's spokeswoman said.

In July, Seoul's intelligence chief said he was working on a possible visit by Pope Francis to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after Moon relayed a verbal invitation from leader Kim Jong-un during his 2018 meeting with the pontiff. **Agencies**

Moscow rejects NATO's allegations of Russia's 'guilt' for deterioration of ties, says envoy

MOSCOW

MOSCOW cannot accept arguments that Russia is to blame for the erosion of ties with NATO, Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Grushko said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel.



"We firmly believe that the people who made this decision, and this decision is bound to be made by consensus in NATO, understand the full responsibility for the damage they have caused.

We do not accept any arguments that would allow them to place the guilt on Russia for the deterioration of relations with the alliance," he emphasized.

According to Grushko, it was no coincidence that NATO decided to "widen the scope of deteriorating" relations with Russia.

"Against the background of NATO's 'successes' in Afghanistan, it became clear that the image of the Russian threat that NATO has been fostering in recent months was somehow losing its appeal and it was necessary to refresh the Russian agenda, and to put it at the center of NATO's efforts.

I think it will be used to continue vilifying Russia and building the concept that NATO is now dealing not only with the Russian threat, but also with the joint Russian-Chinese threat," the high-ranking diplomat said.

On October 6, NATO announced that it would cut the size of the Russian mission with the organization in half from 20 to 10 people, eight diplomats had their accreditation revoked, and two more vacancies were abolished.

The alliance gave the Russian diplomats until the end of October to leave Brussels. On October 18, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that Russia was suspending the work of its permanent mission to NATO as of the beginning of November.

In addition, the activities of the Military Liaison Mission and the NATO Information Office in Moscow will be suspended.

US House votes to hold Trump's former adviser in contempt of Congress

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. House voted on Thursday to refer Steve Bannon, the onetime adviser to former President Donald Trump, to the Justice Department for criminal prosecution, accusing him of contempt of Congress over his refusal to cooperate with the investigation into the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

The resolution was adopted in a largely party-line vote of 229-202, with only nine Republicans joining all Democrats in approving it.

It came two days after the House special committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot unanimously voted to hold Bannon, who defied the committee's subpoena and refused to appear for a deposition, in contempt of Congress.

In the report released Monday recommending that the House hold Bannon in criminal contempt of Congress, the special committee cited Bannon's remarks made on his radio show on Jan. 5 - when he said "all hell is going to break loose tomorrow" -- as evidence that "he had some foreknowledge about extreme events that would occur the next day."

House Republican leadership sent out a statement in the lead-up to Thursday's vote rallying against the contempt resolution, saying Congress has no authority to conduct the Jan. 6 investigation for a legislative purpose, nor does its oversight authority include law enforcement powers.

In her remarks during the floor debate over the resolution, Liz Cheney, vice chairwoman of the special committee, criticized her fellow Republican members who opposed the measure for seeming to "have forgotten the danger of the moment, the assault on the Constitution, the assault on our Congress."

The House vote will set up a referral to the Justice Department, which will have to decide whether Bannon, one of the central figures targeted by the special committee in its probe, should be prosecuted.

With the passage of the recommendation, all eyes are now turning to Attorney General Merrick Garland, who testified on Thursday before the House Judiciary Committee that the Justice Department would review any referral. However, he refused to give any hint on the agency's decision on prosecution.

"The Department of Justice will do what it always does in such circumstances, we'll apply the facts and the law and make a decision, consistent with the principles of prosecution," Garland said when asked by lawmakers about referrals related to the Jan. 6 probe.

Bannon, the former chief strategist of Trump, has told the special committee through his attorney that he won't cooperate with the investigators until the dispute



Steve Bannon

is settled about Trump's invocation of executive privilege to block certain documents sought by the committee.

The select committee has requested a trove of documents and communications within the White House concerning what happened on Jan. 6, when a mob of Trump's supporters raided the Capitol in an attempt to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election.

In defiance of the request, Trump claimed that some of the documents are covered by "presidential communications and deliberative process privileges." He sued the special committee and the National Archives, which is the custodian of those records, after President Biden decided not to grant him the executive privilege in such context.

In a letter to the special committee cited by CNN, Bannon's lawyer said "the executive privileges belong to President Trump" and "we must accept his direction and honor his invocation of executive privilege."

The letter suggested that the courts may ultimately decide whether Bannon should be forced to cooperate with the House investigators.

Cheney said Tuesday night when the special committee was voting on the recommendation that Bannon and Trump's privilege arguments "do appear to reveal one thing."

"They suggest that President Trump was personally involved in the planning and execution of Jan. 6," said Cheney, a Republican who was stripped of her leadership role in the party over her public feud with Trump.

"And we will get to the bottom of that." Contempt of Congress is a crime that can result in the person convicted being fined and sentenced to between one and 12 months in jail, but precedents of such litigations are very rare and proven notoriously difficult to succeed.

Historically, contempt of Congress prosecutions oftentimes ended up being appealed or concluded with the defendant being acquitted. The last time such a case took place was in 1983 against an official in the Ronald Reagan administration. **Xinhua**

Lunar samples brought back by China's Chang'e-5 probe help decode secrets of moon

WHEN did lunar volcanism stop? How did the moon sustain magmatic activity? How much water exists in the interior of the planet? The latest findings released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on Oct. 19 gave answers to such questions.

The CAS, which has been researching a portion of the lunar samples brought back by China's Chang'e-5 probe, dated the youngest basalt on the moon at around 2 billion years in age, extending the lunar volcanism duration by 800 million years from previous findings.

Source regions of late magmatic activities on the moon don't have concentrations of radioactive elements, and water barely exists in the source regions of the lunar mantle, according to CAS researchers. Relevant research results have been published in Chinese academic journal National Science Review and British weekly scientific journal Nature in the past week.

On Dec. 17, 2020, the returner of Chang'e-5 probe landed in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, bringing back 1,731 grams of lunar samples. It marked the first time that China retrieved samples from an extraterrestrial body and represented mankind's first lunar sample return mission in 44 years.

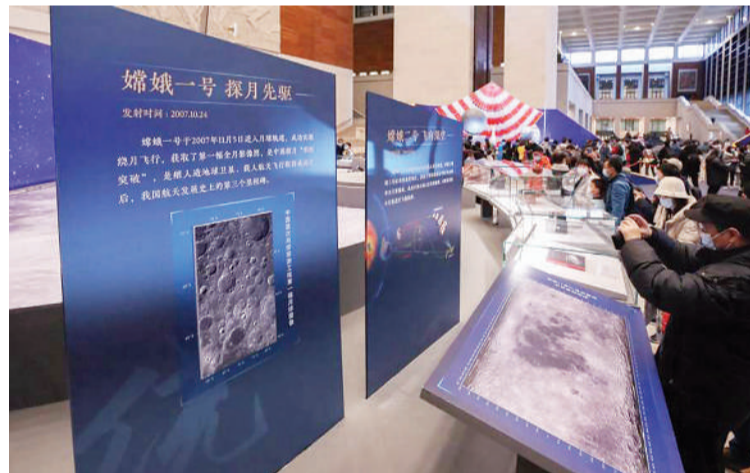
Lunar basalts were formed when lava produced by partial melting of the lunar mantle was brought to the surface of the planet by volcanic eruptions and then crystallized after cooling.

Volcanism is an emblem of the endogenic forces of the moon, and its end means that the planet lacks endogenic forces and dies geologically. Therefore, research into volcanic rocks can help reveal the moon's chemical composition and thermal evolution.

Previous lunar samples and research into lunar meteorites indicated that magmatism on the moon, a symbol of the planet's activity, dates back to at least 2.8 billion and 3 billion years ago, and dark basalts produced by ancient magmatic activities have formed lunar maria.

However, there have always been controversies among scientists over issues including how late igneous activities on the moon were formed and when exactly these activities stopped.

In their latest research, CAS scientists analyzed over 50 minerals rich in uranium (including baddeleyite, perovskite zircon and tranquillityite) of the debris of lunar basalts with a super-high spatial resolution uranium-lead dating technique and concluded that the basalts



Visitors watch exhibits about China's Chang'e-1 and Chang'e-2 lunar missions at the National Museum of China in Beijing, Feb. 28, 2021. File photo

were formed about 2 billion years ago.

It means that magmatism still existed on the moon about 2 billion years ago, 800 million years later than the time determined through study of previous lunar samples.

The accurate chronological data on the basalts of the Chang'e-5 moon samples provides a key foundation for dating curves of statistics for impact craters, and will significantly increase the accuracy of dating statistics for impact craters on the surface of inner solar system planets, according to Li Xianhua, a CAS academician and a research fellow at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics under the CAS.

"We found that the lunar soil retrieved by Chang'e-5 has basically the same features as that brought back by the U.S. Apollo missions. But it seems smaller in terms of particle size, which is 49.8 micrometers on average. The average particle size of flour is 75 micrometers, which means lunar soil is finer than flour," said Li.

CAS researchers also discovered that the lunar basalts studied are rich in iron content but very low in magnesium content, and that they belong to a new type and came from the same magmatic eruption.

Accurate chronological research results showed that lunar basalts collected by the Chang'e-5 probe were formed around 2 billion years ago, nearly 1 billion years later than the previously known ending time of lunar magmatism, raising new questions and providing new research directions concerning causes of young igneous activities

on the moon, pointed out Audrey Bouvier, a professor at the University of Bayreuth in Germany and a world-renowned planetary scientist.

The lunar sample research results published by Chinese scientists have provided evidence that magmatism existed on the moon between 3 and 1 billion years ago, once a gap in the records of volcanic eruptions on the planet, said Yin Qingzhu, a professor at the University of California, Davis, and a well-known researcher in isotope geochemistry and cosmochemistry.

Yin believes the new discovery is of great significance for the calibration of the absolute ages of meteorite craters on the surface of planets in the solar system and further study of the thermal history of the moon.

The CAS is actively pushing ahead international cooperation in lunar sample studies, and has already reached a preliminary consensus with the French National Centre for Scientific Research about joint research into moon samples, said Zhou Qi, vice president of the CAS. **People's Daily**



We found that the lunar soil retrieved by Chang'e-5 has basically the same features as that brought back by the U.S. Apollo missions

Haiti gang leader threatens to kill kidnapped missionaries

PORT-AU-PRINCE

A HAITIAN man identifying himself as the leader of the gang that kidnapped a group of American and Canadian missionaries said in a video posted on YouTube on Thursday that he was willing to kill "these Americans" if he does not get what he needs.

The speaker in the video, dressed in a purple suit, is recognizable as the man known in Haiti by the alias Lamo Sanjou, the leader of the 400 Mawozo gang that authorities say is behind the abduction of the missionaries at the weekend.

The sixteen Americans and one Canadian - including five children - were on a trip organized by the Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries. The missionaries were not present in the video.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm the veracity of the video or when it was made.

"If I don't find what I need, these Americans, I'd rather kill them all, and I'll unload a big gun in the head of each of them," said the man in the video.

Haitian Justice Minister Liszt Quitel told Reuters this week that the kidnappers were demanding US\$1 million per person for the release of the missionaries.

The missionaries' seizure has focused global attention on Haiti's dire kidnapping problem, which has worsened amid economic and political crises in the Caribbean nation that have led to spiraling violence. The video includes footage of what appear to be five dead men laying in coffins, who the man described as "fallen soldiers," blaming their deaths on police chief Leon Charles.

"Leon Charles made me cry, gentlemen. When it was my turn, I cried my eyes out, and when I make you cry, I will make you cry tears of blood," he said.

Haitian media outlet Le Nouvelliste on Thursday said that Charles had presented his resignation. A Haitian police spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The White House said on Thursday it would do all it could to help the missionaries. "We will do everything that we can to help resolve the situation," said White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre. A senior State Department official told reporters that the video was legitimate.

"If you are a kidnapper, your job is to say those kind of things," the official said. "We need to work with our Haitian law enforcement partners and the families and the institutions to try and move this process forward to a safe resolution."

KIDNAPPING EPIDEMIC

Christian Aid Ministries said it was aware of the video but would not comment until the hostage negotiators determined that any such remarks would not jeopardize the well-being of the group.

The 400 Mawozo began as small-time local thieves and rose to become one of Haiti's most feared gangs, controlling a swathe of countryside east of the capital Port-au-Prince, according to security experts.



Milutin Sredojevic, alias 'Micho'.

Former Yanga coach Sredojevic disputes sexual assault verdict

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

FORMER Yanga and Orlando Pirates head coach Milutin Sredojevic has refuted his sexual assault charges after he was convicted by the Gqeberha Regional Court in South Africa early this week.

The Serbian tactician has made it known that he plans to appeal his conviction as he stated that it is a "well-orchestrated plot" against him after he was found guilty of two counts of sexual assault and handed a suspended jail term.

The man, nicknamed Micho, was then sentenced to three years imprisonment, which is suspended for five years, but he has since issued the following statement on his sentencing confirming his intention to appeal the court's decision.

"I issue this statement to categorically dismiss and dispel the mischievous reports alleging my arrest in South Africa."

"These reports are premised on a well-orchestrated plot of some devious and malicious faceless people hell-bent at tarnishing my name and using all means to set me up and cause humiliation to my image," a statement read on Wednesday.

"Let it be known factually that upon my appearance in court for a case that was brought through character assassination to my name, I subjected myself to the South African justice system solely because I am a law-abiding person who fully cooperated with authorities from the very beginning even while I knew that I was simply being a target."

"I knew then that I was innocent on the allegations whose intention was to cast judgment upon my character, and I reiterate my innocence even today. My belief in the justice system of South Africa has not been tainted nor has it

got shaken," Sredojevic pointed out.

"I have lived in Africa and have respected, upheld, and mostly embraced it as part of me and South Africa is part of that Africa that warmly lives in me as I regard myself as a citizen of this beautiful continent."

"Even as the court issued a suspended sentence on the charges that were put on me, for me it was only fitting to put an application for the leave to appeal the judgment which I believe was erroneously arrived at."

"I did not doubt in my mind that the application is granted will restore and reawaken my strong held view that the criminal justice system of South Africa is objective and sober."

"My decision to take the matter on appeal is in total agreement with the Magistrate as she said, 'Another Court May arrive at a different conclusion', which is why my pursuit of justice cannot let the perpetuation of injustice against me go unchallenged."

"There are criminals who daily commit heinous and gruesome crimes to whom state resource ought to be meaningfully used to bring them to book and not make a mockery of it by aiming at innocent people."

"I wish to thank millions of my supporters and many people of South Africa, Uganda, Sudan, Egypt, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, and almost all other African countries who have given me support and held my hand and encouraged me in the most trying time facing a difficult phase."

"With your love and encouragement, I wake to see another day knowing that the South Africa I cherish will never be denied by this as there are great memories that I have made in the country and its people have embraced me as one of their own. 'Respectfully yours Coach Micho.'"

Jwaneng Galaxy wary of Simba SC fans ahead CAF Champions League fixture

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

BOTSWANA'S Jwaneng Galaxy fans have expressed fear that Simba SC fans will offer the outfit an added advantage when the clubs meet in 2021/22 CAF Champions League's second preliminary round return leg, scheduled for Sunday in Dar es Salaam.

Many of them fear Simba SC will permit 60,000 fans at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and convincingly defeat the visitors.

Simba commanded a 2-0 win over the Botswana champions in the showpiece's second preliminary round first leg, which took place in Botswana.

However, the visitors' Coach Morena Ramoreboli has heard the fans' concern and proudly replied that they are not afraid of anything as they are not playing against the fans but they will confront 11 players.

"We had to make quick changes as the players got used to the game and changed the result, but it failed."

"This weekend we are going with a different strategy abroad," he said.

"The challenge of 60,000 fans will not stop us from making plans. We are going to play with confidence



Simba SC players jubilate when the club's midfielder, Tadeo Lwanga, scored in a 2021/22 CAF Champions League second preliminary round first leg clash against Jwaneng Galaxy, which was held in Gaborone on October 18. PHOTO: SIMBA SC

and great effort. If we go with the fear of the fans we will not succeed."

"We are not going there to worry about the affairs of their fans, we will fight."

Simba SC has no record of losing a crucial game of the tournament recently at the stadium again if they have won by a large number of goals away.

Simba SC coach, Didier Gomes, has revealed that in the first match they were forced to go to look for points, and then Dar es Salaam is where they will show their skills.

CAF Champions League is an annual con-

tinental club football competition run by the CAF. The top club sides from Africa's football leagues are invited to participate in this competition.

Due to sponsorship reasons, the official name is TotalEnergies CAF Champions League.

The winner of the tournament earns a berth for the FIFA Club World Cup, a tournament contested between the champion clubs from all six continental confederations, and also faces the winner of the CAF Confederation Cup in the following season's CAF Super Cup.

Al Ahly is the most suc-

cessful club in the competition's history, having won the tournament ten times.

Egyptian clubs have accumulated the highest number of victories, winning the title 16 times.

In 1997 the CAF Champions League replaced the previous pan-African competition, the African Cup of Champions Clubs, which had run from 1964-1996.

The competition is open to the winners of all CAF-affiliated national leagues, as well as the holder of the competition from the previous season.

From the 2004 competition, the runner-up

of the league of the 12 highest-ranked countries also entered the tournament creating a 64-team field.

This was in response to the merging of the CAF Cup, the secondary pan-African club competition where the league runners-up would previously play, with the CAF Cup Winners' Cup to create the CAF Confederation Cup.

The 12 countries would be ranked on the performance of their clubs in the previous 5 years.

The Champions League operates as a knockout competition, with a final group stage, with each tie (including the final) played over two legs - home and away.

There are 2 knockout stages, the preliminary stage and the first round (32 teams).

The 16 teams knocked out of the first round are entered into the CAF Confederation Cup to play against the final 16 teams in that competition.

After the first round, the last 16 teams are split into four groups of four.

The winner and runner-up in these groups are sent to play in a quarter-final and the possibility to play semi-finals, in chase of victory, for the chance of contesting the final.

Cosota warns people against selling Ali Kiba's album illegally

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE Copyright Society of Tanzania (Cosota) has issued a warning to those who illegally sell Ali Saleh Kiba's album, titled 'The Only One King', released recently.

The artist, alias 'Ali Kiba', is one of the well-known new genre musicians in Tanzania and the rest of the continent.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Cosota CEO and Supervisor, Doreen Sinare, said those arrested for selling the album would either face 20m/- in fine or five years in prison.

"Recently the owner of the Kings Music label and music artist, Ali Kiba, announced the availability of his album, titled 'The Only One King', on various online platforms to distribute music."

"There have been people who duplicate and sell it on the streets without any agreement with him, this is an offense," Doreen disclosed.

The official stated: "The Copyright Act No. 7 of 1999 stipulates that distributing the work of any artist without his or her consent is a legal offense and punishable by a fine, not less than 20m/- or



Ali Kiba

imprisonment of three to five years or all together."

Ali Kiba's album, made up of 16 songs, hit the market last Friday. The album's songs feature more than 10 artists from Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Ghana.

Among the songs in the album include 'Amour', 'Let Me', 'Tamba', 'Sitaki Tena', 'Washa', 'Bwana Mdogo', 'Niteke', 'Oya Oya', 'Utu', 'Jealous', 'Habiby', 'Gimme Dat', 'Ndombolo', 'Happy'.

This is his third album after 'Cinderella' (2007) and 'Ali K4Real' (2009).

Ali Kiba is a Tanzanian singer,

songwriter, and footballer. He is the owner of Kings Music label.

He released his album 'Cinderella' which broke the record as the best-selling album in East African countries including Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

He is best known for his hit songs 'Mwana', 'Aje', 'Chekecha Cheketua', 'Cinderella', 'Nakshi Mrembo', 'Usinise', 'Dushelole', 'Single Boy' with popular female artist Judith Wambura 'Lady Jaydee', 'Mapenzi Yana Run Dunia' and 'Macmuga'.

He also collaborated with US musician, R. Kelly, and other African musicians on the 'The One8' project. In 2017 he became the director of Rockstar4000.

Following his return after a silence of three years, he released the singles, 'Mwana' and 'Chekecha'.

He won six awards at the 2015 Tanzania Music Awards and broke the record on Mki-to.com for the most downloaded song of 2015.

The musician's debut album and hit single 'Cinderella' became the biggest selling record in East Africa in 2008 and

his second album 'Ali K 4 Real' was released in 2009 with the mega-hits 'Nakshi Mrembo', 'Nichuum' and 'Usinise'.

He was later endorsed by the mobile telephone brand Airtel Africa alongside the Billboard Most Influential Global R&B Artist of the past 25 years, American recording artist, R. Kelly.

Seven of Africa's other megastar artists, Fally Ipupa (DRC/France), 2Face Idibia (Nigeria), Amani (Kenya), Movaizhaleine (Gabon), 4X4 (Ghana), Navio (Uganda), JK (Zambia) as well made the endorsement list.

Ali Kiba has been nominated for 'Best International Act' for Black Entertainment Film, Fashion, Television, and Arts Awards in 2009, Best East African Artist for African Music Awards in 2009, Winner of Best Zouk/ Rhumba Song at the Kili Music Awards in 2012.

He was nominated for Best Tanzanian Music Writer, Best Male Artists, and Best Collaborating song with 'Lady Jaydee' for Kili Music Awards in 2013.

On 20 May 2016, he signed a deal with Sony Music Entertainment. He later left Sony in 2021 after working with them for five years.

Runners exempted from Zanzibar Blue Economy Half Marathon's participation fee

By Guardian Reporter

The Organizing Committee of the Zanzibar Blue Economy Half Marathon yesterday announced the cancellation of the fee of 20000/- for athletes for participating in the race.

The decision was reached after the bank KCB Tanzania Ltd confirmed to sponsor a 10km race, which is one of the events.

KCB Bank Tanzania Limited has sponsored the race for 20m/- prompting the Organizing Committee to cancel the participation fee to allow more

athletes to participate in the race which is specifically for the first anniversary of Zanzibar's eighth term President, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, since coming to power.

Zanzibar Blue Economy Half Marathon 2021 Organizing Committee's Chairman Abdallah Idrissa Majura said the main reason for setting an entry fee of 20,000/- per participant was to collect 19m/- that would help cover the costs of hosting the race.

"On behalf of the ZBEHM2021 committee, we are very grateful to KCB Tanzania Limited for providing us with this sponsorship

of 20m/- after receiving this money our committee sees no reason to set up participation fees for athletes" Majura revealed.

Majura said after doing away with the participation fee, athletes are required to register to get race numbers that do not require any payment.

Regarding athletes from Dar es Salaam and other regions of Mainland Tanzania, he said the registration center would be in the Mlimani City area.

The Organizing Committee Chairman said that in addition to the athletes who will register and

get race numbers, anyone who registers for the 10 kilometers race will be presented with a medal which will be for the benefit of the memorial.

"Our medals are very high quality, we have spent 8m/- to make them in South Africa, the medals are unique, our committee believes anyone, who is lucky enough to get them, will enjoy them," Majura revealed.

Majura requested the athletes who will be competing in the 21km and 10km races to register as the medals allocated for the 10km race are so far 400, and 550

medals have been set aside for the 21km runners.

The first winner of the men's and women's 10km race will win 800,000/- apiece, the second-placed competitor for men and women will win 500,000/- apiece whereas the third-placed winner will get 350,000/- and medals.

In addition, the KCB Tanzania Limited has sponsored short races of 100m and 200m for men and women who will stand in front of President Mwinyi at Amaan Stadium while waiting for the 21m and 10km races to return to the field.

The bank has also sponsored the 100m race for retired athletes and fishermen who will run in front of the President. Retired athletes for men and women will be rewarded with the cash prize, Majura stated.

He said the purpose of distributing the prizes to the runners who will perform well was to benefit people even if it was little amount rather than accumulating a lot of money for one person and leaving many participants as mere witnesses.

Barcelona, Real Madrid combine present and future in Clásico of fallen giants

MADRID

BARCELONA'S players met for dinner in a Catalan restaurant late on Wednesday night to celebrate Ansu Fati's new contract and to bond ahead of tomorrow's Clásico against Real Madrid.

The 18-year-old Fati committing himself for another six years carried special significance for Barcelona.

Despite all the problems they face, one of the most exciting talents in the world had pledged his future, raising hopes he can be the leader of a new generation for many years to come.

More immediately, there was the desire for camaraderie ahead of the visit of Real Madrid at Camp Nou.

It will be a chance for Barca to regain lost ground in La Liga and to round off an encouraging week that has already seen them beat Valencia and scrape a much-needed Champions League win over Dynamo Kiev.

Those two intertwining threads - navigating the present while nurturing the future - feel like the defining feature of this Clásico, a meeting of two historic clubs, each of them trying to strategise, fix and rebuild while simultaneously flapping their arms just to keep heads above water.

Last summer, in the same restaurant, Barcelona president Joan Laporta met Ronald Koeman to discuss the season ahead.

Laporta told Koeman he needed two weeks to assess his position as coach, which was taken to mean he would try to find a successor. But nobody could be found, or at least persuaded, and consequently an awkward, unhappy marriage has continued.

Across from Koeman on Sunday will be Carlo Ancelotti whose appointment by Real Madrid in the summer came as a surprise.

Ancelotti's predecessor, Zinedine Zidane, had been fiercely loyal to the club's hugely successful, but older, generation of players and the expectation was Madrid would plump for a coach with a grander vision, one that was prepared to facilitate change.

Instead, Real Madrid president Florentino Perez turned to Ancelotti, who had already managed the club between 2013 and 2015.

That is not to say Ancelotti and Koeman have not embraced youth. Koeman can take credit for promoting several of the players Barcelona are most excited about including Pedri, Gavi, Nico Gonzalez, Ronald Araujo and Sergino Dest.

Ancelotti has put faith in Miguel Gutierrez at left-back and Eduardo Camavinga in midfield. The 21-year-old Vinicius Junior made his Real Madrid debut in 2018 but under Ancelotti is in the form of his fledgling career.

Gavi might not have been given his chance had Barcelona been able to grant Koeman his wish to sign Georginio Wijnaldum, who chose Paris Saint-Germain. Miguel has seen his route to the Madrid starting line-up shortened by an injury to Ferland Mendy.

There also remains a loyalty to the old guard, a justifiable belief that Gerard Pique at 34 is still Barcelona's most important defender or that Luka Modric at 36 is still Madrid's finest midfield playmaker.

The result tomorrow will be two sides made up of separate generations. The 17-year-old Gavi may play alongside the 33-year-old Sergio Busquets or the 20-year-old Rodrygo in support of the 33-year-old Karim Benzema.

With Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo gone, La Liga is trying to harness the image of Spanish football as the world's new talent factory and the Clásico - its most marketable fixture - as a window into the future.

On Twitter, La Liga's official account asked on Thursday: "Which teenage star are you most excited to watch in #ElClásico?"

And yet there is a conflict there too, with Real Madrid and Barcelona still officially attached to the European Super League, a project based not on encouraging local talent but pocketing financial rewards and attracting bigger television audiences.

Barcelona brand their squad the 'Dream Teen' online but Laporta believes the quickest route to financial stability is not Fati or Gavi but a closed-off league, with more games against Liverpool, Manchester United and PSG.

It means whoever wins the Clásico on Sunday will, for a few days, own the narrative, take confidence and momentum, and perhaps plunge their opponents into a period of crisis and doubt.

But beneath the scrap for points and position and power is a deeper duel, a fight for relevance again and reassurance that better days lie ahead.

AFP

Can anyone stop Bayern Munich? Dissecting their red-hot season so far

By Bill Connelly, ESPN Staff Writer

IT was fair to assume that even if the combination of Bayern Munich and young, new manager Julian Nagelsmann were to work out brilliantly over time, there might be a breaking-in period at the start.

Even while winning a ninth consecutive Bundesliga title, Bayern's defensive balance had fallen a bit out of whack in 2020-21, which had contributed to earlier-than-expected exits in both the Champions League and DFB-Pokal. The defensive personnel itself changed pretty significantly with the departures of stalwarts David Alaba (Real Madrid) and Jerome Boateng (Lyon).

Throw in Nagelsmann's increasing appreciation for a three-at-the-back structure while at RB Leipzig -- not something Bayern are accustomed to using -- and some shaky preseason friendly results, and it was easy to figure that the nine-time defending Bundesliga champion might not be in fifth gear from the start of the 2021-22 season.

Technically, they weren't. Ten minutes into the new campaign, Alassane Plea scored on a perfect counterattack to give Borussia Monchengladbach a 1-0 lead over die Roten.

Since then? Fifth gear all the way. Sixth, maybe.

Bayern salvaged a draw against Gladbach, and aside from a pretty fluky loss to Eintracht Frankfurt -- they generated 2.4 xG to Eintracht's 0.6 and outshot die Adler by 20-5 -- they have outscored six other Bundesliga opponents by a 27-5 margin. They beat Borussia Dortmund 3-1 in the DFL-Supercup.

They obliterated their first three Champions League opponents (Barcelona, Dynamo Kyiv and Benfica) by a combined 12-0. They ran circles around poor fifth-division Bremer SV, 12-0, in their first-round DFB-Pokal encounter.

In a battle of the top two teams in the Bundesliga table last Sunday, they took the lead over Bayer Leverkusen in the fourth minute, then scored four more by halftime in a 5-1 cruise. Refocused after the international break and frustrated by the loss to Eintracht, Bayern counter-pressed Leverkusen into oblivion.

Looking specifically at Bundesliga play, Bayern's improvement thus far has been comprehensive, which is a pretty amazing thing to say about a team that has won every league title since 2013 and won last year's race by 13 points.

- Goals per match: 3.6 (up from 2.9 last season)
- Goals allowed: 1.0 (down from 1.3)
- xG per match: 3.2 (up from 2.4)
- xG per shot: 0.17 (up from 0.14)
- xG allowed per match: 0.9 (down



Nagelsmann is still refining his Bayern squad and working on embedding his tactical ideas, but the early returns are very promising. (Agencies)

- from 1.3)
- xG allowed per shot: 0.11 (down from 0.13)
- Set piece goals per match: 0.75 (up from 0.29)
- Set piece goals allowed: 0.13 (down from 0.32)

Granted, they're only about a quarter of the way through the season and have played only one team from the current top six in the table thus far. But they kept Borussia Dortmund at bay in the Supercup, and they stomped an RB Leipzig team that has been their stiffest competition over the past couple of seasons.

Bayern are possessing the ball more, advancing it far more via carry and winning 55% of their ground duels (up from 52%). They are generating more shot quantity and quality and allowing less of both. They appear to have shored up last season's defensive vulnerabilities without in any way stunting their offensive explosiveness.

It's truly a sight to behold.

*What has Nagelsmann actually changed?

The 34-year old Nagelsmann is already in his sixth season as a Bundesliga manager. Trained in the ways of modern German football -- attacking, counter-pressing, attacking and counter-pressing -- he led Hoffenheim to more than 1.5 points per game in all competitions in 2½ seasons there, before honing his approach a bit at RB Leipzig starting in 2019-20. His Red Bulls could possess the ball with the best of them, but they became a little more pragmatic and defensive over time. They had a few gears.

It worked brilliantly. RBL finished third in the Bundesliga in 2019-20 and took down Tottenham Hotspur and Atletico Madrid on the way to the Champions League semifinals; in 2020-21, they rose to second in the Bundesliga and topped Manchester United to advance to the Champions League knockout rounds once more. The success earned Nagelsmann

the keys to Germany's biggest club last summer when Hansi Flick left to take over the German national team, and he brought star defender Dayot Upamecano and midfielder Marcel Sabitzer with him from Leipzig.

For all the change on the sideline and in the back of the Bayern lineup, the German champs have enjoyed massive continuity in attack, the area of the game in which they are consistently the best in Europe. Robert Lewandowski continues to lead the way up front (with Eric Choupo-Moting still his ace backup), and all primary wingers and attacking midfielders -- Thomas Muller, Serge Gnabry, Kingsley Coman, Leroy Sane, Jamal Musiala -- were with the team last season. For that matter, the midfield duo of Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka also remains in place, albeit with reinforcement from Sabitzer.

Still, those responsible for the buildup in attack have changed almost completely. With Alaba and Boateng gone and right-back Benjamin Pavard limited significantly by injury -- he's recorded just 123 minutes in league play -- Nagelsmann has leaned heavily on some combination of Upamecano and defensive holdovers Lucas Hernandez and Niklas Sule. They're each averaging more than 90 touches per 90 minutes (Alaba and Boateng averaged 87 and 85, respectively), and Upamecano and Hernandez are both averaging more than 83 pass attempts as well.

With two of these three serving as the back line of the buildup, a right-back like Josip Stanisic or Pavard can fold in to create a three-man midfield with lots of passing options. If Sule is playing right-back, he can serve as the third-man in a three-at-the-back structure in attack. Left-back Alphonso Davies, meanwhile, almost becomes a left-winger in this system: his overall touches and pass attempts are down, but he's gone from 0.9 chances created per 90 to 1.6 and from 0.14 expected goals and assists per 90 to 0.32.

In short, Nagelsmann has crafted a way to field Bayern's customary 4-2-3-1 structure in defense while turning it into almost a 3-2-5 in attack. Bayern have sacrificed width, particularly on the right -- their average possession has shrunk from 34.9 meters (third in the league) to 33.3 (13th), and their average pass distance has gone down as well -- in the name of numerical superiority in midfield. It's creating both safety and passing options in buildup, and it's increasing the number of players near the ball, which improves their counter-pressing ability and snuffs out counter-attacks before they start.

Under Nagelsmann, Sane has moved back to the left -- left-center, really -- and has thrived. He's scored twice and created 19 chances -- more than half of his 2020-21 total -- in Bundesliga play, and he's got three goals and three assists in three Champions League matches. His nasty, curving free-kick against Benfica in the 70th minute on Wednesday broke a scoreless draw and ignited a late four-goal Bayern binge.

Considering no one's production has really gone down, Sane's production is essentially a bonus. In all competitions, Lewandowski still has 14 goals and 17 chances created in 11 matches -- it was considered a "drought" when he didn't score in two straight matches, the horror -- while Muller has four and 29, respectively. Gnabry, moving in from the right as opponents get preoccupied with the pieces on the left, has also scored six goals.

*The Sane-ssaince

Look at the pass network above again and find No. 10. That's Sane, the former Manchester City left-winger who came to Bayern last season and played mostly as an inverted winger coming in from the right.

After recording double-digit goals and assists (and averaging 49 chances created per

371 minutes, while Choupo-Moting has seven goals in 194 fill-in minutes. Coman, the hero of the 2020 Champions League final, has been battling injury and only played 158 minutes, but it hasn't mattered.

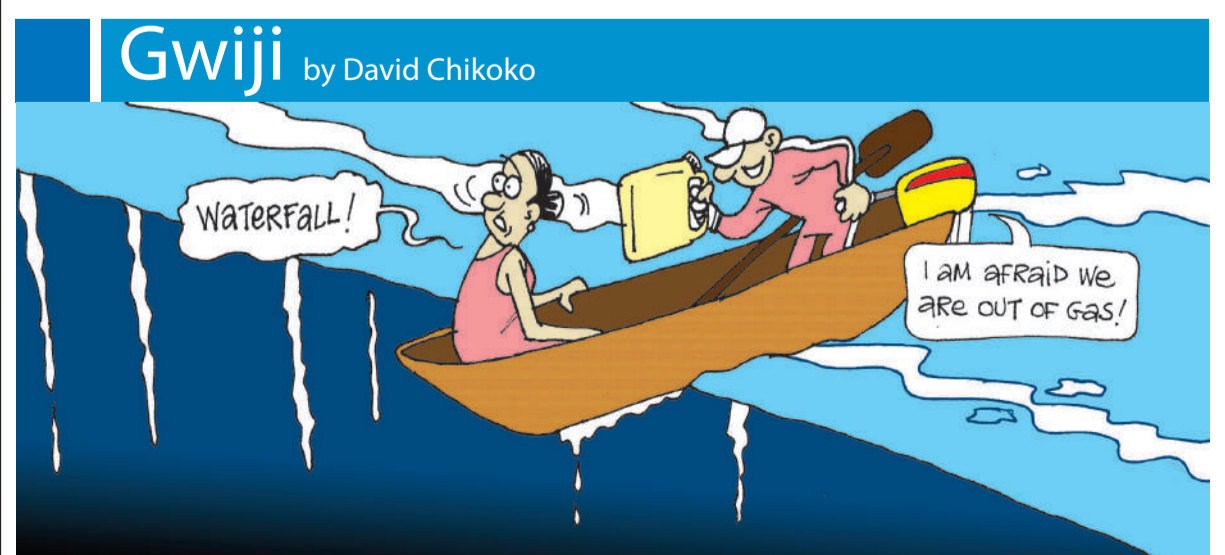
*There might still be vulnerability in the back

When Bayern are counter-pressing and dominating like they did against Bayer Leverkusen, it's hard to imagine them dropping many points. But theoretically, you can't always play with that level of intensity, and under more normal circumstances, there's a chance that defensive issues could pop up.

The buildup has been great for creating scoring chances, but opponents have started 7.9 possessions per 90 in the attacking third, ninth in the league, and up from 6.2 last season. It hasn't produced any goals yet, but regression to the mean could strike in that regard, especially considering that 25% of opponents' shots are attempted with zero or one defender between the shot and goal. Only leaky Borussia Dortmund has allowed a higher percentage, while only Mainz and Wolfsburg have offered opponents a lower percentage of shots under moderate to high pressure than Bayern's 62.5%.

Offering clean looks at the goal in an offense-friendly league is a recipe for a surprise loss or two, but it would be a shock if they didn't win their 10th straight Bundesliga crown. FiveThirtyEight's SPI ratings give them an 86% chance, which is ridiculously high for this early in the season. But in a crowded Champions League field that features not only last year's finalists (Manchester City and Chelsea), but also the deadly-in-moments PSG and potent attacking teams like Liverpool and Ajax, clean looks would almost certainly backfire.

The remodeled defense will forever be this team's weakest link considering the attacking talent in question, and just because it hasn't backfired on Bayern yet doesn't mean it won't. Still, this team has looked like the best in Europe over the past month or so. If you cannot convert the chances they give you, they will overwhelm you just as they did when they won the Champions League in 2020.



SPORT

Can anyone stop Bayern Munich? Dissecting their red-hot season so far

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Namibia brush past Ireland to storm into Super 12s

SHARJAH

GERHARD Erasmus' anchoring half-century and David Wiese's whirlwind 28* off 14 balls steered Namibia into the Super 12s of the 2021 T20 World Cup.

This eight-wicket win over Ireland also meant Namibia has booked its spot in next year's edition as well, which will be played in Australia.

Batting first in a virtual knockout, Paul Stirling and Kevin O'Brien laid the foundation by adding 62 in 7.2 overs but the incoming batters failed to capitalize on that.

Ireland was 55 for 0 at the end of the powerplay but could score only 70 in the next 14 overs. Apart from their top three, no one else reached the double figures.

Given the sluggish nature of the Sharjah pitch, a target of 126 wasn't an easy one, especially with Namibia playing a batter short.

They could manage only 27 for 1 in the powerplay and needed 49 off 36 balls at one point. Wiese then smashed back-to-back sixes off Craig Young in the 15th over to bring the asking rate down.

With 19 required off 17 balls, Erasmus, who had hit only two fours in his first 44 balls, skipped down the track to Simi Singh to launch him for a straight six.

That all but sealed the game for Namibia. When Wiese hit the winning boundary, there were still nine balls left in the game.

It took Stirling and O'Brien a couple of overs to get used to the pace and bounce of the pitch but once they did that, boundaries came frequently. Stirling was the more aggressive of the two but he gained better rewards when he focused on timing and placement than power.

In the third over of the innings, he punched JJ Smit over long-on for a six before hitting three fours off left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz in the next over.

O'Brien, who was 9 off 12 balls at one stage, took a leaf out of Stirling's book and struck two fours off Jan Frylinck in the sixth over to bring up the fifty stand.

Stirling and O'Brien now have 13 stands of 50 or more in T20s, the most by any pair.

Scholtz eventually ended the opening stand when Stirling holed out too long-on for a 24-ball 38. In the next over, O'Brien (25 off 24) picked out a deep square leg off Frylinck to leave the side 67 for 2.

As was the case during IPL 2021, scoring runs became difficult once the ball softened and the field spread out. The first six overs of Ireland's innings featured seven fours and a six; the next six had just one four.

Andy Balbirnie struggled for timing on a slowing track. He was on 5 when Aleem Dar denied an lbw appeal off Pikky Ya France. Namibia chose not to review it but replays showed Balbirnie was lucky to survive.

The reprieve, however, didn't hurt Namibia much. Their seamers kept peppering the good length in the line of the stumps and kept Ireland batters quiet.

Wiese put Gareth Delany out of his misery by casting him with a slower ball in the 15th over. Two overs later, Frylinck dismissed Balbirnie and Curtis Campher to jolt Ireland further as the innings petered out.

In IPL 2021, nine out of ten games in Sharjah were won by the team that scored more runs in the powerplay.

That should have been the extra incentive for Namibia to go hard in the first six overs. But even with the Ireland seamers missing their lines and lengths now and then, Craig Williams and Zane Green failed to take advantage of the field restrictions.

When Campher started the sixth over, Namibia was 25 for 0. The first ball of the over was right in the slot for Williams, who tried to go over mid-on but couldn't get the desired elevation.

AGENCIES

Twiga Stars out to stun Namibia in 2022 Women's AFCON qualifiers game



Twiga Stars' footballers participate in training in Soweto, South Africa two days back to shape up for 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers' first round's rematch against Namibia, slated for Saturday. PHOTO: TFF

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA senior national women football team 'Twiga Stars' has a tough mountain to climb in its effort to qualify for the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (AWCON) qualifiers second round, considering the side will come up against Namibia in the first round's rematch in South Africa this afternoon.

Namibia women team, against all odds, commanded a 2-1 win over Twiga Stars when the teams met in the first round's first leg clash which took place in Dar es Salaam mid this week.

Twiga Stars therefore will need to post either two or more goals against Namibia, whilst seeing to it they do not concede, to make certain their qualification for the next round.

Namibia will equally hope to seal the deal when they host Tanzania's Twiga Stars in the return leg of their 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers at the Dobsonville Stadium in Soweto on Saturday (kick-off 15h00).

Namibia lead 2-1 from the first leg played in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday after a brace from their star player, Zenatha Coleman, and now know that even a 1-0 defeat will see them advance on the away goals rule.

Tanzanian ladies are certainly no pushovers given they showed their quality in winning the recent COSAFA Women's Championship that was staged in Nelson Mandela Bay and will be desperate to turn the tables.

But Namibia women squad, alias the Brave Gladiators, certainly have an ace up their sleeve in Spain-based Zenatha Coleman, who showed once again why she is one of the leading players on the continent.

The COSAFA Women's Championship might not have had the desired outcome in the end for coach Woody Jacobs' Namibia ladies as they took four points from their three pool games, but clearly, it was excellent preparation for the Afcon qualifiers. Tanzania very rarely loses on their

patch in official internationals and had not done so since 2015, which shows the enormity of Namibia's feat.

But Jacobs will know too that the tie is far from over and his side will have to show the same intensity and fight this weekend.

Whoever does advance will face another massive challenge in the final round of qualifying with either Malawi or Zambia in wait.

The first leg of that tie finished 1-1 with the return set to be played in Lusaka on Tuesday - a long wait to find out their opponents.

Twiga Stars coach Bakari Shime was confident his side could advance past either, having met both in the recent COSAFA tournament.

"If we eliminate Namibia, we will face either Malawi or Zambia, with whom we played in the just-ended COSAFA Women's Championship. We eliminated Zambia in the semifinal through penalties, and later won 1-0 against Malawi in the final," he said.

But that is a long way off, for now, the most important thing for the Twiga Stars is to try and turn around their tie with the Namibians.

The match is being played in neutral South Africa with Namibia not having a suitable venue with which to host the fixture.

The qualifiers for the Nations Cup have added significance for all teams as the finals competition will serve as the preliminaries for the 2023 Women's FIFA World Cup to be staged in Australia and New Zealand.

The top four teams in the African competition will book their place in the expanded 32-team global finals, while the sides that end fifth and sixth will play in inter-continental qualifiers that could see Africa have as many as six representatives.

It is all part of FIFA's commitment to growing the women's game, but the path to the World Cup will end for one of Namibia and Tanzania on Saturday.

Azam FC confronts Pyramids FC in crunch CAF Confederation Cup clash

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's Azam FC has an arduous task in its quest for securing progression to this season's CAF Confederation Cup playoffs, given the squad takes on Egypt's Pyramids FC in the showpiece's second preliminary round's rematch in Cairo this evening.

The visitors have to come out victorious over the well-drilled Egyptian side, given the two clubs settled for a 0-0 draw in the stage's first tie played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

The Tanzanian side is to bank on newly signed attackers, Zambian Rodgers Kola and Congolese Idris Mbombo, to get the better of Pyramids FC.

Mbombo could have scored a crucial goal for Azam FC in the first leg clash, in which his effort from close range was cleared by Pyramids keeper.

Azam FC, in the tournament previous round, saw off Somalia outfit, Horseed FC, beating the latter in both first and return legs.

The first leg tie, played at the Azam Complex on September 11, had Azam FC notching a 1-0 victory over Horseed FC, midfielder Ismail Aziz scored the lone goal in the first period.



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

The rematch, which took place at the same venue on September 18, witnessed the Tanzanian team sailing through to the second preliminary round with a 3-1 win to record a 4-1 aggregate win.

The Egyptian club is eager to enjoy a tremendous campaign in the second-tier of the continental tournaments at club level this season, having crashed out of the last four in the 2020/21 showpiece.

This season's CAF Confederation Cup is officially 2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup for sponsorship reasons.

The showpiece is the 18th edition of Africa's secondary club football tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF), under the current CAF Confederation Cup title after the merger of the CAF Cup and African Cup Winners' Cup.

The winners of the 2020/21

CAF Confederation Cup got the right to play against the winners of the 2021/22 CAF Champions League in the 2022/23 CAF Super Cup.

Morocco's Raja Casablanca was the previous winner of the 2020/21 CAF Confederation Cup, beating JS Kabylie of Algeria in the final.

The domestic cup winners from all 55 CAF member associations are eligible to participate in the showdown.

The third-placed club in the domestic league of the top 12 placed CAF member associations also qualify.

The competition is played into two phases A and B. In Phase A the matches of the Preliminary and the 1/32th rounds are played according to the knock-out system with ties broken via the away goals rule.

The 16 teams eliminated from the 1/16th finals of the CAF Champions League will automatically qualify to play the

additional 1/16th finals round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

In Phase B the 16 teams which will qualify for the group matches from the additional 1/16th finals will be divided into four groups of four each.

Each team shall play six matches against the other three opponents one match home and one match away and points granted upon the 3-1-0 system.

The group winners and runners-up qualify to knock-out rounds which shall be played in two matches, home and away in three rounds (quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the finals).

In case of equality in the number of goals scored during the two matches, the team scoring the greatest number of away goals will be declared the winner.

If the number of goals scored on the away matches is equal, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

