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Dubai Cares to fund libraries



Village in shock after student's rape, killing

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

RESIDENTS of Mkolye ward in Sikonge District, Tabora Region, are in shock after a Form Four student who went missing was found dead at the weekend.

Local authorities here said that the lifeless body of Mwajuma Nasibu Mtunda (17), who was a student at Mkolye Secondary School, was found dumped in a bush with indications that she was raped.

Confirming the incident, acting village executive officer Elineus Nchimbi said the incident occurred at the weekend at Kitimbasha. "I was informed by the village chair

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Youth of 26 remanded over post on JPM health

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

POLICE in Iringa Region are holding a farmer from Kibengu village in Mufindi District for allegedly publishing unsubstantiated information on the health of President John Magufuli.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, Deputy Regional Police Commander Rienda Millanzi named the suspect as Augustino Kiliwa (26) who is accused of publishing an unconfirmed report on his Facebook page.

The officer charged that the suspect published the information on Thursday March 11th, contrary to Section 14 of the Cybercrimes Act, 2015.

"His message created shock and distress to the public," said the officer, noting that the suspect was arrested on the afternoon of Saturday March 13th at Kibengu village by the special task force dealing with cybercrimes.

Commander Milanzi asserted that Kiliwa will be arraigned on cybercrime charges as soon as police complete investigation on the matter.

He said the force will continue taking stringent legal measures against anyone publishing false reports on social media.

However, police warned Tanzanians to avoid publishing and circulating through social media unconfirmed reports because by so doing they are violating the Cybercrime Act, 2015.

Speaking in Njombe Region after Friday prayers, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa asked Tanzanians to remain calm, saying the Head of State was healthy and faring well with his daily activities.

The premier dismissed claims from social and international media that have gone viral most of the week that President Magufuli was ailing and has been flown to a neighbouring country for specialized treatment.

Majaliwa said he had spoken with Magufuli by phone, assuring Tanzanians that he is well.

In contrast, Chadema secretary general John Mnyika addressed a press conference on Thursday saying the opposition political party was concerned with the health and whereabouts of the president, who was last seen in public on February 27.



Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee members and Works ministry officials aboard a recently rehabilitated Tanzania Railways Corporation locomotive during a tour of TRC's workshop in Morogoro municipality at the weekend. Photo courtesy of National Assembly.

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VP to grace regional investment conclave

By Correspondent Paskal Mbunga, Tanga

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan (pictured) is today scheduled to start a four-day official tour of Tanga Region, where she will grace a regional investment forum on Wednesday.

The forum is expected to bring together local and foreign investors, being held as part of efforts to reclaim the lost glory of Tanga as a port and industrial city.

Regional Commissioner Martine Shigella told reporters here that the VP will be received at Mkata in Coast Region at around 8 a.m. where she is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Handeni District Council headquarters and then proceed

to Michungwani to inspect an orange processing plant before heading to Korogwe.

The second leg of her visit will take the VP to Muheza and Pangani districts where she will inspect various development projects undertaken by the government and district authorities, the RC noted.

On Wednesday, the Vice President will be touring several development projects in the city before opening a big investment forum expected to be attended by local and international investors with projects destined for Tanga Region.

The RC said VP Samia is expected to chair the investment meeting, touting the city as



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'Prison labour not for hiring'

There are reliable reports that inmates were being used to perform private chores including construction of houses of private individuals or work at private farms.

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

PRISON chiefs who are used to deploying inmates for paid labour on private establishments as part of income generating and self-reliance drives will frown on have to look for other alternatives henceforth.

The government yesterday issued a directive banning the practice, even as some penal in-

stitutions had taken it up, deploying the labour to nation-building undertakings and as workforce for hire by private institutions and individuals.

The prohibition order also aired warnings for traffic police officers taking bribes was issued here yesterday by Home Affairs Deputy Minister Khamis Hamza Chillo at a sitting that brought together top officials of the Police,

Fire Brigade and Rescue Services, Prisons, Immigration and the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

Chillo said inmates' labour is governed by specific work procedures, thus heads of prison must abide by these procedures. Doing something else would be in violation of some of the laws, he stated.

"There are reliable reports

that inmates were being used to perform private chores including construction of houses of private individuals or work at private farms. I must praise the Prisons Commissioner General, Suleiman Mzee that he has started taking concrete steps to ensure the Prisons Department returns to its

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Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo pictured in Singida municipality yesterday having an audience with officers from various departments falling under his ministry. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

Village in shock after student's rape, killing

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man, Masulunzu Igoma on the missing student. We immediately started searching for her and found her body dumped in a bush at Kitimbasha area," said Nchimbi, affirming that the deceased was raped before being killed.

He said the killers had attacked Mwajuma with a sharp object causing injuries on her head.

Following the incident, the village leadership is convening a meeting to discuss security matters as well as coming up with strategies to eliminate such crimes, with plans to build a dormitory for girls at the ward secondary schools top of the agenda.

"We can save the lives of our girls if enable them to stay at the school," he said.

The father of the deceased, Nassibu Swedi Mtunda said her daughter went to school on Friday, but she never came back so

the family decided to report the matter to the village authorities.

"My daughter has been cruelty killed; I call upon the government to enhance security and conduct investigation for the culprits to be arrested and arraigned," he appealed.

Regional Police Commander Safia Jongo said the late Mwajuma was hit by a sharp object on her head, similarly noting that the deceased student was apparently seeing a village man whose name could not be established. The man was accusing the student of having an affair with another man, and had proceeded to kill her.

"Shortly after committing the murder, the suspect disappeared to an unknown destination," said the RPC, vowing that the police are following his trail.

Residents should collaborate with the police by providing information on his whereabouts, she added.

VP to grace regional investment conclave

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an investment hub due to its central location on the East African coastline.

The regional government's commitment stems from the fact that Tanga has all the potentials for investment—favorable climate, natural resources like arable land, and a fairly educated workforce, he said.

VP Samia is to windup her Tanga regional tour by visiting

Mkinga and Handeni districts on Thursday March 19th, with the tour being the first such visit since the polls were held late October last year.

With the port of Tanga and the construction of the \$3.5 billion East African Crude Oil Pipeline (Eacop) scheduled to start this month, Tanga is expected to be a busy hub with various investments coming onshore in the near future, the RC underlined.

'Prison labour not for hiring'

FROM PAGE 1

original principles," he specified. The deputy minister dwelt on acts of bribery among the traffic police officers, delays in investigating cases brought to court, challenges facing NIDA issuance of IDs and delay

by firefighters to reach fire incident sites.

"Even with the good work you perform, we must sit down together to assess ourselves to see how to provide better services to the people. It is prohibited for any traffic of-

ficer to take bribes; you settle issues with motor vehicle drivers without invoking the laws. In some cases we deliberately conceive trumped up charges to make them appear as offenders.

"If they have committed any of-

fence take legal steps against them. The habit of piling up criminal suspects at police stations on the pretext of uncompleted investigations must stop; if the offences are bailable, just give them bail," he added.

'Greener agriculture is win for farmers, food companies and the environment'

By Juliana Jaramillo

Making farming climate-smart and focused on more than just yields has economic, environment and social payoffs. Conventional farming is one of the world's greatest drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss, and we're running out of time to reverse its adverse effects. But there is good news too: the largest study ever done on sustainable farming supports the idea that regenerative agriculture could be the answer to turning it all around.

The study found that enhancing biodiversity on farms does not compromise yields, contrary to the long-standing belief held by many across the agricultural industry.

This finding has huge implications for agriculture as we know it. Over the course of the 20th century, we've witnessed dramatic increases in agricultural output. While this so-called "green revolution" lived up to its promise to enhance food security and production in some parts of the world, it has also taken

a huge toll on our planet. With agriculture claiming half of the world's habitable land, around one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction. Conventional farming methods like the over-application of synthetic fertilizer and pesticides and relentless tilling have set off another chain of negative effects, including extreme water and soil pollution (an estimated 25% of arable soils worldwide are degraded).

As if that weren't enough, agriculture also accounts for 24% of all human-made greenhouse emissions.

The bottom line is our farming system urgently needs an overhaul. But what if our global farming system, when reimagined, could not just reduce harm to the health of the Earth but also improve it, all while feeding a growing population and creating better livelihoods for farmers along the way?

Enter regenerative agriculture: a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food production. It uses specific agricultural practices like increasing plant diversity and inte-

grated pest and weed management to improve crop quality and output as well as the land and ecosystems where the crops are grown. A farmer moving to regenerative practices might start by planting specific types of trees or shrubs alongside or in-between crops.

This agroforestry technique can increase carbon sequestration while conserving biodiversity and increasing soil fertility and health. This leads to crops that are more resistant to pests and diseases, which promotes stronger yields and eventually decreases the need for external inputs like pesticides.

This is hardly a novel concept. Traditional farmers and Indigenous peoples have been developing and practicing forms of cultivation similar to regenerative agriculture for eons.

Take the farming model of the Aztecs called "chinampas", for example, which has been used to sustainably grow food with high production rates through a system of floating islands.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati addresses residents of Makomero village yesterday as he sought to resolve a dispute between farmers and herders over the use of Wembere valley in Igunga District. Photo: Correspondent Tiganya Vincent

Can free phones close the digital gender divide?

By Catherine Hight, Nisha Singh and Arisha Salman

The gender gap in mobile phone ownership is well-documented. For years now, the financial inclusion community has been trying to get phones into the hands of more women at the last mile – spurred on by mounting evidence that mobile money can increase women's financial resilience, expand their economic opportunities and improve their intra-household bargaining power.

While these efforts have undeniably increased women's access to phones, it's less clear to what extent the beneficiaries of these programs are using phones to improve their lives.

A common approach to improving women's access to mobile phones has been to give phones away. When we asked the FinEquity women's financial inclusion community about the initiatives they were seeing around the world, we learned of several examples.

For instance, the state of Chhattisgarh in India has been building cell phone towers in rural areas and distributing Reliance Jio and Micromax smartphones for free. Its goal is to have "a smartphone for one woman in every household."

The program and government's endorsement of the phones has contributed to greater acceptability of young women using mobile phones. The financial services pro-

vider Opportunity International Savings & Loans Limited (OISL) is taking a similar approach in Ghana. The company offers savings and loan products to hundreds of thousands of low-income clients, including women farmers.

Convinced that phones will help these women to boost their productivity and income, OISL trained women and their spouses in digital financial literacy and gender awareness and then gave them free smartphones.

OISL also provided training-of-trainers support for select women in the community (including mobile agents) to ensure ongoing support for phone users. This is a short-term solution for the company, which is looking into another longer-term approach

to increasing women's phone ownership: helping clients to finance smartphones.

Though smartphone financing is less common than simply giving phones away, GSMA has documented similar initiatives in countries like India, Kenya and Rwanda.

In India, Reliance Jio has offered 4G-enabled phones for a \$25 deposit, which comes down to less than \$10 with subsidies or when purchased with large, low-cost data plans.

In another case, SIA worked with the Foundation for a Smoke Free World, to distribute \$11 phones on a three-month payment plan with two agricultural organizations and a mobile network operator in Malawi.

Regardless of whether they're given away, financed

or bundled with other life-enhancing services such as agricultural or health information, phones only matter if women actually use them to meet their goals.

This doesn't always happen. In Chhattisgarh, for example, the limited evidence to date suggests that although women are making calls and using WhatsApp, overall usage of the phones is limited.

Phone recipients complained of poor battery life, apps that crashed, insufficient monthly data provision (of 3GB) under the lowest available monthly bundle of Rs 75 (less than \$1).

As these complaints illustrate (and as a soon-to-be-released GSMA and Busara study in Kenya details), there are many reasons why women

may not use their free phones. Some have to do with the quality of the handsets.

Low-quality imported models often purchased for \$30 or less, such as those given away in Chhattisgarh, are not necessarily user-intuitive or suited for harsh rural conditions.

And although the phone itself may be free, there are costs of phone ownership that women may not be willing or able to cover, such as data and electricity. In some instances, the use cases for the phones aren't compelling or encouraging enough for women to learn how to use them.

Additionally, digital literacy is a barrier for many women. In both India and Ghana, GSMA tells us it found low digital skills and lack of confidence – the fear that they

would do something wrong – discouraged many women from using phones.

Underlying issues like digital literacy are gendered social norms that affect how women interact with technology. In some cases, norms may convince women that technology isn't for them.

As we wrote in our last blog post about social norms, "While there is often an assumption that the gender divide will disappear on its own as digital technologies become more widely available in the market, the reality is that men and women engage differently with digital services – including digital financial services (DFS) – because of, among other factors, gendered social norms that don't change nearly as fast as technology."



NMB Bank Plc staff as well as teachers and pupils of Songea District's Mshangano Kati Primary all in jubilant mood moments after the bank presented to the school 80 desks at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Crocodile strikes, kills man in Songwe Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

A 28-year-old man Joseph Masunga of Tete village in Songwe District, Songwe Region, has been killed by a crocodile after being attacked in flood waters in the area, authorities said yesterday. The man died soon after being admitted at the nearby hospital in the district.

The incident happened yesterday when the deceased was returning home, and as he was crossing the flood waters he was attacked by the reptile, even though people around managed to set him free the deceased from the beast's mouth.

Kayuni Emanuel, resident of Kanga Ward said they were now living in fear following flooding of Lake Rukwa the situation that has seen crocodiles and hippos invading human settlements.

He said the crocs from deep water swim to shallow waters along the main road, the situation that has been terrorising them.

Songwe District Executive Director Abraham Sambila said after the water from Lake Rukwa bust its banks into Mbalizi - Mkwajuni main road, residents of the area have been living in great fear.

He said the victim was attacked by a crocodile but people around tried to rescue him whilst in the beast's mouth, but later died on his way to hospital.

He cautioned residents in the area to be careful with

the beasts which invade the villages following flooding of Lake Rukwa.

Sambila said flood waters had also affected people's economic activities, apart from severing road communication in ten wards - Kanga Kanga, Mbuyuni, Galula, Ifenkenya, Totoe, Magamba, Chang'ombe, Manda, Namkukwe and Mpona.

Songwe Regional Police Commander George Kyan-do confirmed the death Joseph Masunga after being attacked by a crocodile, and called on the residents of the area to be careful as they walk near flood waters.



Songwe District Executive Director Abraham Sambila said after the water from Lake Rukwa bust its banks into Mbalizi - Mkwajuni main road, residents of the area have been living in great fear

Dr Mwinyi calls for proper care of Z'bar flood victims

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has called on all residents of Tumbe in Pemba and Nungwi in Unguja who will be provided with houses built for them after their former houses were destroyed by rains to care for them.

President Mwinyi said the houses will soon be inaugurated for use by the people intended.

Dr Mwinyi was speaking at the weekend at Tumbe in Pemba's Micheweni District, Pemba North Region after inspecting five of the houses that would be occupied by 30 families.

He thanked residents of Tumbe for being ready to cooperate with their government, saying all challenges regarding the houses were being worked upon to ensure they were completed in time.

"We are informed that if the problem is the availability of water, this will soon be solved, as well as funds for compensation that would be finalized within two weeks," he said.

Meanwhile Dr Mwinyi thanked sponsors who built the houses - Red Crescent from UAE for the work done, in ensuring the houses were provided with basic social services including a modern health centre, a school, mosque and shops.

In regard to peace and tranquility, Dr Mwinyi called on Zanzibaris to continue with the maintenance of peace and tranquility and solidarity as the aim of government of national unity was to unite all Zanzibaris and to eradicate uncalled for conflicts in the society.

He said what remained for the government is to push up for development following the existing state of peace and tranquility, as the country still many social services, especially in rural areas including water, health, roads and education, and pledged that all these would be made available to them.

Minister of State in the Second Vice President Office (Policy, Coordination and House Affairs) Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed said apart from the 15 houses that would accommodate 30 families, there are also a modern health centre, 15 shops, a mosque to accommodate 350 worshippers and a school with nine classrooms.

He said the houses were build following heavy rains in 2017 that displaced over 6,500 families in both Unguja and Pemba, but people from the Red Crescent came and with government cooperation they built houses to assist the victims.

He said there were so many victims, but it was decided that houses for 385 families had to be demolished as they were cited in dangerous locations.

In regard to compensation, the Minister said already they have paid out 16m/- and another 11m/- would be paid in the following week.

Kilombero Sugar planning 584bn/- factory expansion

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

KILOMBERO Sugar factory in Morogoro Region expects to spend more than 584bn/- for the factory expansion, the work of which would begin May this year and would take two years and three months to complete.

The factory that has been providing economic benefits to small sugar cane farmers has of now 66,000 such farmers enabling the factory to produce between 550,000 to 600,000 tonnes of sugar per year.

In 2018/2019 season alone the factory produced 629,000 tonnes valued at 65bn/-.

Speaking during the visit at the factory at the weekend by Tanzania Investment Centre's (TIC) Managing Director Dr Maduhu Kazi, the Kilombero Sugar Company managing Director Guy Williams said the aim for the expansion was to increase the country's sugar production.

TPB BANK MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF RATES AND CHARGES

TYPE OF CHARGE	TRANSACTION / ITEM	CHARGES
Minimum Opening Balance	Quick Account	20,000
	Salary Account	FREE
	Platinum Account	15,000
	Call Account	100,000
	Minor Account	20,000
	Scout Minor	10,000
	Scout	30,000
	WADU	20,000
	YANGA VIP Card	1,200,000
	YANGA Member Card	25,000
Bank Statement	Group Account	FREE
		Within a month it is FREE and more than a month is 1000 per document
Monthly Maintenance Fee	Savings Account	1,500
	Platinum Account	1,500
	WADU Account	FREE
	Call Account	6,500
	Minor Account	FREE
Dormant Accounts Fee	1 year to 5 years	1,300
	6 years to 10 years	5,000
	11 years to 15 years	10,000
Activation of Dormant Account		FREE
ATM Charges	ATM Balance Enquiry- All cards	300
	Mini statement	300
	Cash Withdraw on TPB ATMs	1,300
	Cash Withdraw on other UMOJA SWITCH ATM	1,300
	Balance Enquiry	150
POS Branches	Mini statement	150
	Deposit	FREE
	Transfer	650
	POS Withdraw	2,000
	Balance Enquiry	100
POS Agents	Mini statement	200
	Deposit	FREE
	Transfer	650
	POS Withdraw	see Tiered Fees 1
	Balance Enquiry	300
Mobile Banking	Mini statement	300
	Full Statement	400
	Pin Change	FREE
	Notification Alert	250
	Account Transfer	FREE
Closely Account	Mobile Agent Deposit	200
	Mobile Agent Withdraw	see Tiered Fees 2
	Mobile Money to Bank Deposit	FREE
FDR Min. Opening Balance		13,000
ATM Issuance and Replacement Fee	Popote Card	15,000
	Yanga Member card	20,000

TYPE OF CHARGE	TRANSACTION / ITEM	CHARGES
Normal Card	Pin Re-issue	FREE
	Collection of ATM card at Non Domicile Branch	6,500
	Unlocated and destroyed ATM card	6,500
	First ID card (Local and Foreign Currency)	4,000
	Replacement Of ID card	2,600
	Teller withdraw upto 10,000,000	2,600
	Teller withdraw from 10,000,001 to 50,000,000	5,000
	Teller withdraw from 50,000,001 to 100,000,000	15,000
	Teller withdraw above 100,000,001	30,000
	Cheques Clearing Fee	3,000
Cheques Fees	Special Clearance	50,000
	Dishonoured Cheque	35,000
	TISS Inwards	FREE
Standing Order	TISS- Outward	10,000
	Within the Bank	1,300
	To other Banks	13,000
POS Withdraw	POS Withdraw	Tiered 1
	0-10,000	800
	10,000.01-20,000	1,250
	20,000.01-50,000	1,500
	50,000.01-100,000	2,250
	100,000.01-200,000	2,750
	200,000.01-300,000	4,200
	300,000.01-400,000	5,500
	400,000.01-500,000	6,000
	500,000.01-700,000	6,500
700,000.01-1,000,000	7,500	
Tiered 2	TPB Mobile Transfer Fee	Tiered 1
	500-10,000	850
	10,000.01-50,000	1,200
	50,000.01-100,000	1,500
	100,000.01-250,000	2,800
	250,000.01-500,000	4,600
	500,000.01 - 750,000	7,500
	750,000.01 - 1,000,000	10,000

RATES AND CHARGES FOR USD ACCOUNT		
Maintenance Fee	Savings Account	1
	Call Account	5
Deposit Fee	Non Account Holder	Free
Opening Balance		50
Account closure fee		10
Bank Statements	Balance Enquiry- Banking Hall	Free
	Confirmation letter	Free
Withdraw Fees	Below 50	1
	51-1,000	2.5
	1,001-2,250	5
	2,251-5,000	15
	Above 5,000	0.25%
Cheque	Any amount	1.3 USD (TZS Equivalent)
	Special Clearance	45
	Unpaid cheque-Refer to Drawer	10
	Special Payment	20
Dormant	Dormant Account Fee	5
	Re-Activation	Free
TISS		10

LENDING INTEREST RATES AND OTHER CHARGES

1. FEES ON CONSUMER LOANS			2. FEES ON WASTAAFU LOANS		
S/N	CATEGORY	INTEREST RATE/ CHARGE RATE	S/N	CATEGORY	INTEREST RATE/ CHARGE RATE
1.	Consumer Loan Administration Fee	1.5% of the Approved Loan. Minimum TZS. 10,000/=	2.	Loan Application Fee	TZS. 10,000/=
			3.	Loan Administration Fee	1.5% Minimum TZS. 10,000/= Maximum TZS. 100,000/=
3. OTHER CHARGES ON INDIVIDUAL MICRO CREDIT			4. INTEREST RATES AND OTHER CHARGES ON BUSINESS LOANS		
S/N	CATEGORY	INTEREST RATE/ CHARGE RATE	S/N	CATEGORY	INTEREST RATE/ CHARGE RATE
1.	MIC Loan Application Fee	TZS. 20,000/=	1.	Loan Application Fees for Business and Personal Loans	TZS. 30,000/=
2.	MIC Loan Processing/Administration Fee	1.5% Minimum TZS. 50,000/=	2.	Loan Administration Fee - Business and Personal loans	1.5% of the Approved Amount

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Muhimbili National Hospital workers pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday waiting for their turn to be screened for kidney diseases as part of the commemoration of World Kidney Day (March 11). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Help people to write good project proposals for loans, bank advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpanda

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has been advised to help loan seekers who want to invest in agriculture write good project proposals that will be acceptable to banks and other financial institutions.

The advice was given here by the Minister of State in the President's Office, Prof Kitila Mkumbo. The minister is here after inauguration of the Katavi Regional Investment Guide.

The minister said TADB is well-placed to increase investments in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors not only by giving loans to applicant but by helping prospective investors write good project proposals that will help them secure loans from other banks and financial institutions.

He said if many investment aspirants will secure money from many and different sources and invest the money in the three sectors the nation will benefit greatly. "We are implementing an industrialization agenda. We should think of empowering prospective investors by

way of helping them write good project proposals that have appeal to lending institutions," the minister advised.

Prof Mkumbo said the agriculture sector is the basis of advancement of local industries, explaining that raw materials that produced by the sector determine the nature and number of industries the nation can have and their sustenance.

He called on Tanzanians to shed investment fear because of having small capital. He said investment aspirants should visit TADB offices in their areas for guidance on securing loans.

TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said bank will work seriously on the minister's proposal in order to secure funds from different lenders and invest the money in the three sectors.

He said TADB cooperates with the CRDB Bank, NMB, Stanbic Bank and other financial institutions in providing loans to right applicants who want to invest in agriculture, adding that it is therefore wise to work on the minister's appeal in order to get money to further promote the sector.

Food systems account for over one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions - UN

By Guardian Correspondent

MORE than one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity can be attributed to the way we produce, process and package food, a UN-backed study published on Tuesday has revealed.

Food system emissions were estimated at 18 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2015, or 34 per cent, though down from 44 per cent in 1990, indicating gradual decline even as these emissions kept increasing.

The report was co-authored

by Francesco Tubiello, a senior statistician and climate change specialist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with researchers at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy.

It presents a database, known as EDGAR FOOD, which can be used to assess how changes in consumer behaviour or technology, may impact food system-derived greenhouse gas emissions.

EDGAR FOOD incorporates key land-use data for over 245 countries that has been compiled by FAO. The information

goes back to 1990 and spans multiple sectors, which will enable tracking of ongoing and future trends.

The report highlights how global food systems are becoming more energy intensive, reflecting trends in retail, packaging, transport and processing, whose emissions are growing rapidly in some developing countries.

Roughly two-thirds of food system emissions come from agriculture, land use and changes in land use. The figure is higher for developing countries, but is also declining significantly as deforestation

decreases and food processing, refrigeration and other "downstream activities" increase.

In terms of the share of all 'anthropogenic' emissions, caused by human activity, food systems in industrial nations are broadly stable at around 24 per cent. In developing countries, the share has decreased from 68 per cent in 1990 to 39 per cent in 2015, partly due to very high increases in non-food emissions.

China, Indonesia, the United States of America, Brazil, the European Union and India

are the top emitters.

Production processes, which include inputs such as fertilizers, are the leading contributor to overall food-system emissions, or 39 per cent of the total. Land use accounts for 38 per cent and distribution contributes 29 per cent, which is expected to continue growing.

Methane from livestock raising and rice cultivation accounts for 35 per cent of food system greenhouse gas emissions and is broadly the same in both developed and developing countries.

Meanwhile in industrial-

ized countries, emissions from fluorinated greenhouse gases, used in refrigeration, for example, have had a "turbocharged effect on global warming", according to the authors.

They said refrigeration is responsible for nearly half of the energy consumption by the retail and supermarket sector, whose emissions have grown more than fourfold in Europe since 1990. Globally, the figure is around five percent of global food-system emissions, but is expected to increase.

Packaging also accounts for a similar share of the emis-

sions, or some 5.4 per cent, which is more than transportation or other supply-chain factors.

Towards sustainable food systems

The authors believe the EDGAR FOOD database will assist towards developing effective mitigation and transformational pathways to sustainable food systems.

It will also provide greater understanding and estimate of the climate effects of food production, distribution and consumption, ahead of the landmark UN Food Systems Summit later this year.

SIDO saluted for providing entrepreneurship skills to nation's youth from poor households

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Stephen Ndaki has praised Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in the region and Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) for organizing for one-month training for small entrepreneurs from poor households that are being assisted by TASAF aimed at empowering them in various economic activities.

The praise was conveyed by the region's assistant RAS (Administration) Ahmed Namohi during the closing of the training seminar on food processing, cloth dyeing, and soap making that was provided to the youth from poor households in region and conducted by SIDO under TEA's sponsorship through Skills Development Fund (SDF).

Ndaki said the Phase V Government has been stressing on the need to give priority in constructing small industries, hence the training was in support of Phase V Government efforts.

He said many issues were discussed during the training on various skills in making peanut butter, baking bread and cakes, flour making from various cereals and roots and soap making.

He called all seminar participants to use the knowledge gained to unfreeze themselves economically and should teach the skills to others who have not received such skills.

Ndaki instructed SIDO in Ruvuma Region to frequently make follow up on the seminar graduates in order to enhance the skills already gained.

Earlier, while welcoming the official guest, SIDO Ruvuma Region Acting Manager Oswald Mfaeka who was also SIDO's Accountant said in implementing its responsibilities, SIDO has provided entrepreneur skills to 33 youth - 12 women and 21 men who hail from some poor households that are TASAF members from Tunduru, Songea, Madaba and Namtumbo districts.



Moshi Urban legislator Priscus Tarimo (R) has a quick word with staff at Shirimatunda health centre, which he toured at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Ikungi women benefit from special training in vegetable, fruit farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

WOMEN in Ikungi District, Singida Region have benefited from special training on vegetable, fruit production and value addition which was meant to support the group to transform their farming for improved livelihood.

The training was organised by the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) in collaboration with UN Women and the Ikungi District Council.

Speaking during the commemoration of the International Women Day (IWD), TAHA programs coordinator Elianhea Shang'a said the implementation of the training project has transformed lives of several women in the district.

TAHA Project Manager, Elianhea Shang'a said that the project which is being implemented jointly by UN Women, TAHA and Ikungi District Council, is focused on economic empowerment of women through vegetable and fruit farming as well as providing business enabling environment to enable them operate smoothly.

He said TAHA with its headquarters in Arusha, is committed to the growth, promotion, and continued development of the horticulture industry in Tanzania, which includes flowers, fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs and horticultural seeds.

It is a catalyst promoting Public-Private-Partnership thereby providing a platform for industry networking, and partnership at both the local and in-

ternational levels.

"The project has transformed the mindsets and lives of section women in Ikungi and other parts of the Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

We will continue working closely with the government and our partners to address the challenges affecting horticultural businesses in Tanzania, thereby creating the enabling environment necessary to promote industry growth and sustainability," he said. Ikungi District Executive Director (DED) Justice Kijazi commended TAHA and UN Women for a successful implementation of the project calling on women to make good use of the skills acquired and grab all the opportunities to boost their economic growth.

"As we celebrate this day, we are essentially reflecting on a woman's life. Thank you for coming to us and sowing precious seeds for our people," he said. He said: "This training has opened the eyes and minds of our mothers and sisters. It will enable them to engage in high-level entrepreneurship, make good use of the money they earn and thus transform Ikungi economically."

Mariam Rashid, one of the project's beneficiaries hailed TAHA and UN Women for capacitating them with essential skills and knowledge which are going to help them improve their farming activities, add more innovations and thus produce quality products to compete in the national and international markets.



Hiza Kiluwasha (C), manager of the northern zone of the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania, pictured in Arusha at the weekend presenting 17 tonnes of wheat seeds to Moloiwet Sane (R), chairman of Arusha Region's Monduli Juu Farmers Association. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

UNICA: There are many wonders from AI, other science, technology and innovations for Africa

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA could expand its economy by a staggering \$1.5 trillion dollars, by capturing just 10% of the speedily growing artificial intelligence (AI) market, set to reach \$15.7 trillion by 2030.

Vera Songwe, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), made the argument over the weekend.

She was addressing several ministers and other participants at the third Africa Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (ARSTI2021), through the Director of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Development Division of ECA, Jean Paul Adam.

"AI growth can help in creating additional high value and decent jobs, diminish poverty, increase the productivity of firms, preserve the environment and foster better living conditions," she added.

"Research has shown that AI has the potential to solve some of the most pressing challenges facing Africa and drive sustainable development in agriculture, health, infrastructure, financial and public services and climate change," Songwe maintained.

ECA's Executive Secretary said the Republic of Congo, which is hosting the Forum in situ in Brazzaville and online, finds itself in a special subregion, blessed with natural capital, such as huge forests. However, these forests have been disproportionately depleted, in comparison to those of other parts of the world, partly due to climate change. Artificial intelligence, she argued, could enhance already existing technologies which have been used to tackle COVID-19, to solve such climate change prob-

lems.

The imminent creation of an African Artificial Intelligence Research Centre in Brazzaville, Congo, with support from ECA, could give momentum to this new movement in Africa.

Léon Juste Ibombo, Congo's Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy, praised ECA for its background work towards establishing the Centre, which, he said, "demonstrates Africa is innovative and uninhibited."

The Centre is being designed to improve the current landscape of Artificial Intelligence research in Congo and in Africa in general, to orient the use of AI to foster economic and social development, while promoting close collaboration between academia and the industrial sector in AI and robotics across Africa.

According to Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, it is such investments and strong partnerships for capacity building in science, technology and innovation which would accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

"Innovation cannot be decreed; it is planned and designed!" enthused Arlette Soudan-Nonault, Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Congo.

"Africa therefore has no excuse to be absent from the big rendezvous of innovation, which defines the 21st century," she warned, adding that university dons, economists and industrialists must come together to lead today's learners into this exciting world.

In such a world, "the STI that we teach will determine what our continent will become," ech-

oed - Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe.

"Our industry must emerge from our classrooms and laboratories," supported by the correct educational system design and framework which no longer teaches students about "where they get things but how to make things," he insisted, as he cited his country's 'Education 5.0' philosophy. The philosophy is sequenced on (i) teaching, (ii) research, (iii) community outreach, (iv) innovation and (v) industrialisation.

It is therefore up to Africa to take up this challenge of rapidly improving investments and attention to STIs, hinged upon its endowments in nature and biodiversity - "our surest guarantee" - said Parfait Aimé Coussoud Mavoungou, Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of Congo, and incoming Chair of the Forum.

ARSTI2021 features several debates and breakout sessions to follow-up and review of progress made since the first two sessions of 2109 and 2020.

It has also featured an innovation bootcamp for young Africans, both in person in Brazzaville and connecting from across the continent and affording them an opportunity to develop projects using skills they have learnt in relation to robotics and AI, as well as access to 3D printing technologies.

By the time the Forum rounds off on Friday, it would have identified potential mechanisms and measures that African countries could deploy to leverage STIs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Tea sector investors request govt to spruce up roads in the estates

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

INVESTORS in the country's tea sector have appealed to the government through Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to make improvements to the road infrastructures to ease the transportation of raw tea leaves to the factories for processing.

Kibena Tea Factory Manager owned by DL Group Company Ltd, Mohamed Kasila said bad road condition has been a great obstacle that increases their production cost.

"We appeal to the government to construct friendly road infrastructures for the transportation of the tea crop and farm inputs, as this will strengthen the tea sector in both production and income in general," he said.

He said many roads leading to tea plantations were in poor condition, the situation that cause drop in tea production and farmers fail to reach the markets for their crop.

"When picked from the farm, tea is supposed to quickly reach to the factory ready

for processing, and any delay due to poor roads cause huge losses to farmers," he added.

He said tea farmers benefit from their labour is when their crop reaches the factories in time, otherwise it becomes a loss to the farmer as well as the government from dwindling revenues from the tea sector.

He said his company was in the process of paying farmers all their money in order to continue the existing cooperation between farmers and the factory as well as the surrounding communities.

An agricultural officer from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), Ashura Akimu said TADB was well mobilized to ensure it empowers tea farmers to produce adequate raw materials needed by the factories.

"TADB says it will provide loans for purchase of tractors and tea processing equipment to farmers to develop the tea sector to enable it contribute significantly to the national income," she said.



Sightsavers

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Title: Project Coordinator

Location: Singida, Tanzania

Contract: 2 year Fixed Term Contract

Salary: Local Terms and Conditions apply

Sightsavers Tanzanian Country Office is seeking an experienced Project Coordinator to provide valuable leadership and operational oversight for the implementation of the Child Blindness (MTOTO Angaza) Project, this is a USAID funded project focusing on improving the availability and accessibility of quality eye health services for children, in and out of schools in Manyoni, Iramba, Ikungi and Singida Rural districts of Singida Region.

As the Project Coordinator you will lead the planning and implementation of the MTOTO Angaza (Child Blindness Eye Health project) activities in collaboration with the regional and district eye health coordinators and project-based partners. You will provide timely support and work with the Singida Regional authority, and other project partners, and that partners are reflecting programme quality and adhering to Sightsavers and donor reporting standards.

The Project Coordinator will ensure that the project is embracing the Theory of Change and aligns with government health services and environmental guidelines, that there is a gender sensitive lens and work towards gender equity during the undertakings of the activities, and ensure that we are appropriately accountable to the regional AND district local governments of the FOUR targeted districts and comply with the donor and government requirements as deemed necessary.

Further duties of the Project Coordinator include.

- Developing and maintaining an effective partnership with all implementing partners (Regional and local authorities)
- Ensuring that project partners are supported to deliver high quality project outputs on a timely basis.
- Organizing quarterly and annual review meetings/workshops to coordinate project implementing partners and encouraging networking and collaboration amongst implementing partners.
- Assessing performance against agreed project objectives, indicators, and standards/ approaches.
- Identifying research opportunities and documenting lessons learned from monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment and dissemination findings.
- Ensuring accurate, sufficient, and timely flow of information and progress reports (narrative and financial) to the country office.
- Developing annual operational plans and managing the budget allocated to the project ensuring that agreed results are delivered in time and within the budget available.
- Ensuring that partners submit timely funding requests and financial returns.
- Participate in all PR activities within Tanzania.

As the successful candidate you will possess a Degree (or equivalent) in a related field, have a background in managing social development related projects and experience of health and social programming in partnership with government. You will also have skills and experience in all aspects of project management in donor supported initiatives, have an understanding of working with Regional and District Health Management Teams and will have previously worked with projects managed through partners. Experience in USAID donor funded projects will be an added advantage.

The above details are not an exhaustive list of principle accountabilities or requirements, for the complete list please read the full Job Description of this position.

Closing date: 28 March 2021

How to apply

To apply, and for further details about the role, please download an application pack from <http://www.sightsavers.org/vacancies> - CV's and Cover letters will not be considered in the application process.

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We are truly committed to creating an inclusive culture which values and recognises diversity as something that will only ever make an organisation better. We encourage anyone to apply who possesses the qualities and behaviours outlined or who believes they have the propensity to learn them fast. You will be joining an inclusive and supportive team who welcome people from all backgrounds

Sightsavers does not accept unsolicited CVs from external recruitment agencies nor accept the fees associated with them.

Consumers in Kenya to pay more for fuel as petrol, diesel prices rise again

By Special Correspondent

Consumers in Kenya will pay more for fuel from March 15 to April, following an increase in the prices of super petrol, diesel and kerosene

The prices of super petrol, diesel and kerosene have all increased significantly in the latest review by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra).

In a statement yesterday, the Epra's acting director-general Daniel Bargarora said the costs of a litre of super petrol, diesel and kerosene rose by Sh7.63, Sh5.75, and Sh5.41 per litre, respectively.

The new prices took effect today and will remain until the next review on April 14.

In Nairobi, a litre of petrol will retail at Sh122.81, diesel at Sh107.66, and Kerosene at Sh97.85.

In Mombasa, the three products will cost Sh120.41, Sh105.27, and Sh95.46, respectively, while in Kisumu, motorists will pay Sh123.36, Sh108.46, and Sh98.68, respectively.

In Nakuru, motorists will pay Sh122.44 for a litre of super petrol, Sh107.55 for diesel and Sh97.76 for kerosene.

In Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, that amount of su-

per petrol will cost Sh123.36, diesel Sh108.46 and kerosene Sh98.68.

According to Epra, the price increases are a consequence of an increase in the average landed costs of fuel products.

The cost of imported super petrol rose from \$391.24 per cubic metre in January to \$449.82 in February.

The cost of diesel increased by \$12.29 per cent, from \$377.55 per cubic metre to \$423.95, while that of Kerosene increased by \$13.26, from \$347.19 per cubic metre to \$393.23.

"Over the same period, the mean monthly US dollar to Kenya shilling exchange rate appreciated by 0.20 per cent, from Sh109.89 per dollar in January, to Sh109.67 per dollar in February," the regulator said.



According to Epra, the price increases are a consequence of an increase in the average landed costs of fuel products

What of early marriages and International Women's Day?

By Yushau A. Shuaib

ADVOCACY for early marriage, rather than child marriage, hinges on promotion of reciprocal love, alongside mutual respect and understanding.

I insisted that early marriage, as distinct from child marriage, should be tolerated and encouraged in society. Since marriage is a union of two people who have met certain conditions set up by different cultures, customs, religions and legislation, then it should naturally lead to a legal and legitimate companionship.

In preparation for the 2021 edition of the International Women's Day, Hawwah Jiddare, a vocal feminist from Northern Nigeria and Chevening Scholar requested if I could recommend any person to discuss the rampant cases of early marriage in Arewa, Northern Nigeria.

I told her that not only in Northern Nigeria but also across Africa, a lot of educated people and political leaders are products of early marriages. I added that beyond the hysteria and negative denotations around early marriage, many of these experiences could be narrated from proper and more positive perspectives.

In her response, Hawwah who runs "Sheroes", a publishing platform for women's empowerment, advocacy

and documentation, requested my participation as one of the panellists.

"As a journalist, writer, author and Public Relations practitioner, your role is to give us an objective rationale behind a situation where 59% of girls are married before the age of 18 in Northern Nigeria, even though it does not guarantee them having an education..." she added.

While mulling over my proposed participation in the webinar, whose agenda pertaining to the theme of the discussion was not immediately clear to me, Hawwah added that "What is the rationale behind such beliefs and actions in the North?"

I suspected that she asked the question as a way of goading me and inciting my interest in the discussion. It was a fairly emotional issue for me, not only because of some of the misconceptions that have come to be attributed to the issue of early marriage but also because I am a product of parents who married early. Yet, the experience of my family has been nowhere near the predominantly negative narrative being peddled around. I can say the same for a number of families I know. My father evolved to become a distinguished scholar and academic, who is now retired, while my mother is a trader, who is now a remarkable matriarch of our family.



Paul Bankiye, councillor for Mnadani ward in Dodoma city, has a word with Ndachi residents at the weekend moments after the calling off of a meeting that was to have been addressed by the city director, chiefly on complaints relating to land surveying and the issuance of building permits. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Jewellery design competition to celebrate the resilience of African women in mining

By Special Correspondent

THE Association of Women in Mining Africa (AWIMA) announced the winning design of its inaugural AWIMA 'Jewellery Design Competition'.

The contest, a component of the AWIMA jewellery project supported by the extractives global programmatic support (EGPS) trust fund, provides a one-of-a-kind platform for celebrating the resilience of African women

in mining while using innovative ideas to partner with African women designers and jewelers.

"Women in Africa are dominant consumers of jewellery and powerful players in the jewellery value chain. However, there are many challenges that discourage or limit their participation. We are excited to create a platform to illustrate the excellence of our continents' creativity in jewellery making and celebrate

the brilliantly gifted women involved"

The winning design, "Lady Aya" was made by Ngone Sagne, a Senegalese Jeweller. Ms Sagne's design was not only the unanimous selection of the panel of judges, it also received the majority of the 1500 votes from the public to win the "People's Choice Award".

The winner was selected from a highly compelling pool of seventy submissions

from around the continent. The submissions were judged based on originality and ability to eloquently capture the spirit and essence of both the competition theme "A Symbol of solidarity that unifies and honors Women in mining in Africa" and AWIMA's mandate of promoting women led supply chains in the mining, gem and jewellery industries.

"Lady Aya in all her glory completely embodies the African woman in the jewel-

lery and mining ecosystem" said Lotanna Amina Egwuatu, Creative Director of Mina Stones and one of the judges of the competition.

The winning design will be produced using responsibly sourced African gemstones and metals, mined, designed and produced by African women.

It will be sold locally and internationally. The winner will have the unique opportunity to work with AWIMA to over-

see the production of their design.

"I am honoured that my "Lady Aya" design was selected for the AWIMA Jewellery design competition. This competition gave me the opportunity to stay in touch with my motherland by sharing my creativity as an African female jewellery designer living in the diaspora. It is a privilege to contribute to the great work being done to celebrate the resilience and

courage of women in mining in Africa" Ngone Sagne.

The AWIMA Jewellery Project, carried out in partnership with Levin Sources, is part of EGPS' emergency response for artisanal and small-scale mining communities impacted by COVID-19. This response provides short-term and medium-term assistance to international, regional, national and local organizations engaged in artisanal and small-scale mining.

Dubai Cares to fund libraries, children's education in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

NEW libraries will be built in Tanzania and Rwanda as part of a partnership between Dubai Cares and the African Publishing Innovation Fund.

The projects are a result of a grant programme launched by both organisations that will be implemented by the International Publishers Association (IPA), led by president Sheikhha Bodour Al Qasimi, with the assistance of NGOs on the ground.

The grants programme, funded through a four-year commitment of \$800,000 from Dubai Cares, is in response to the global pandemic which disrupted the education of an estimated 250 million children across Africa.

Sheikhha Bodour said the effect was particularly felt in poor and rural communities across the continent.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has set back the education of millions of learners around the world, but its effects are acutest where the infrastructure cannot support the connectivity required for distance learning," she said.

"Having received far more applications than we could have imagined, we are all very excited to have found five projects that we believe will deliver significant benefits for a great number of children and young people."

Here are the approved projects include Makeshift libraries in Tanzania which is expected to transform 3 shipping containers into libraries in rural Dunga, kids can enjoy reading, young learners can study, and adults can read and learn new skills.

It also include e-learning in Kenya with 'eKitabu' that will work with publishers to enrich the remote learning of more than 9m students + teachers with accessible digital learning materials as well as training librarians in Rwanda, whereby 270 librarians will be trained in 8 community libraries on use of tech to boost reading culture in remote communities and provide digitally accessible books in Kinyarwanda to keep 1.6m kids reading.

It will also include closing the digital gap in Ghana and a new library led by one of Zimbabwe's finest poets



Having received far more applications than we could have imagined, we are all very excited to have found five projects that we believe will



Chichi Banda (3rd-L), TPB Bank Plc's acting corporate affairs senior manager, pictured in Njombe municipality at the weekend presenting 60 corrugated iron roofing sheets to Kambarage Primary School head teacher Jane Ng'umbi for use by the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CRS comes up with 'Fundu Bora App' to support environmental cleanliness

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

CATHOLIC Relief Services Tanzania (CRS) in collaboration with Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) through its research and renovation centre has managed to come up with a digital App dubbed "Fundu Bora App" that aims to bring together technicians, and sellers of various equipment to the people as part of supporting government efforts to mobilise the construction of clean toilets and ensuring environmental cleanliness.

The App is the implementation of three-year project on environmental cleanliness by CRS in collaboration with Mbarali, Chunya, Mbeya, Momba and Mbozi districts in Mbeya and Songwe regions.

Speaking at the weekend at the launch of the 'Fundu Bora App' CRS technical consultant Eng. Godfrey Mpangala, said the App brings together technicians from three groups - technicians, building equipment distributors and consumers.

He said the aim to introduce the application was to con-

front existing obstacles in the environmental cleanliness sector through the national campaign on environmental cleanliness.

Mpangala said the environmental cleanliness campaign coordinated by CRS helped the mobilization on construction of better toilets in Chunya, Mbarali and Mbeya districts but the problem was on how other people can obtain technicians to build the toilets who were trained by CRS, hence they decided to come up with the App.

He said the project's goal was to reach all districts in

Mbeya and Songwe regions as part of the environmental cleanliness campaign.

CRS Water and Environmental Cleanliness Manager, Eng. Ephraim Tonya said the App will simplify getting better toilets after accessing to qualified technicians.

"We have collaborated with the Health department, and we continue mobilizing for better toilets and that the App will assist the government aim to ensure every household has a toilet as needed, said Eng. Tonya.



The foreman (in cap) overseeing the construction of the proposed Gender Centre of the Zanzibar chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) briefs the association's members at the site of the project – at Tunguu – at the weekend. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Cassava breeder awarded Cornell varsity's Africa Fund Fellowship

By John Bakum

CASSAVA researcher Moshood Agba Bakare has been awarded the Africa Fund Fellowship from Cornell University. The fellowship covers full tuition at Cornell's Graduate School along with a nine-month stipend and benefits.

Bakare, a native of Nigeria, is a Ph.D. student in the field of plant breeding and genetics, with a minor in statistics, and a member of the Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project which is housed in the Department of Global Development within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Bakare is advised by Jean-Luc Jannink, research geneticist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service and adjunct faculty at Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Science. Two men look at a cassava plant in a field. Moshood Agba Bakara samples cassava plants at a research trial in Nigeria.

Cassava is an important crop for smallholder farmers in Nigeria and improved cassava varieties play a large role in enhancing Nigeria's food security. Bakare's research is helping to determine if cassava breeding programs can be improved

by targeting specific agro-ecological zones, as opposed to breeding varieties designed for broad adaptation across all of Nigeria.

"I am thrilled and honored to be the recipient of the Africa Fund Fellowship from Cornell University. This award will not only support me in my research field work but also motivate me to apply various skills and knowledge acquired in the course of my studying towards optimization of available resources in cassava breeding program in Nigeria. I am deeply appreciative of Cornell University for considering me worthy of this award," said Bakare.

Bakare came to Cornell from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, a flagship international agricultural research center and partner organization in the Next Generation Cassava Breeding Project.

"Moshood has diligently expanded his skill set since arriving at Cornell," said Jannink. "Combined with his willingness to develop new analyses rather than hew to approaches he is familiar with bodes well for his future as a lead researcher back in Nigeria, where he is dedicated to crop improvement for economic development."

Strengthening food systems must be at centre of Africa's COVID-19 recovery, says AfDB

By Guardian Reporter

STRENGTHENING food systems must be an integral part of efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to build resilience in Africa, said African Development Bank Director General for Southern Africa, Leila Mokaddem.

Hunger is a greater threat to many Africans than the COVID-19 crisis, Mokaddem said in a session on sustainable food systems at the Southern Africa Impact Forum on 9 March.

"Africa must now urgently strengthen its food systems as an integral part of efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to build resilience," she said.

University of Pretoria vice-chancellor Tawana Kupe noted, "when they function well, food systems have the power to bring us together as families, communities and nations. But too many of the world's food systems are fragile and vulnerable to collapse."

Mokaddem outlined four areas in which the Bank is

working in partnerships to drive the food sector's transformation: sustainably intensify the production of safe and nutritious food to meet demand; careful management of land, soils, and water; increasing the contribution of local food producers and suppliers and reduction of post-harvest losses; and harnessing digital technologies to develop and drive food systems transformation.

"The African Development Bank is championing the Technologies for African

Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), a major continent-wide initiative designed to boost agricultural productivity across the continent by rapidly delivering proven technologies to millions of farmers," she added.

Other initiatives that underscore the Bank's leadership role in the sector are its financing of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones to concentrate agro-processing activities within areas of high agricultural potential, as well as the promotion of climate-smart agriculture.

Removing barriers to agricultural development could spur a jump in Africa's agricultural output from an annual \$280 billion to \$1 trillion by 2030, Mokaddem said at the virtual event, where she represented Bank President Akinwumi A. Adesina.

"AfDB is committed, in partnership with key stakeholders to supporting agricultural transformation and calls on governments, Multilateral Development Banks and other development partners to support a technology development and de-

livery mechanism required to achieve the transformation of African agriculture," Mokaddem said.

The session included a break-out session for a series of dialogues that are part of the United Nations' Food Systems Summit that is expected to be held in September or October 2021. Introducing the discussions, The World Health Organization's Special Envoy for COVID-19, David Nabarro, said: "We are seeking to transform food systems so they can be more sustainable and equitable,

and it's a transformation that will contribute to all of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and absolutely key to dealing with the other major crises in our world at this time."

The Southern Africa Impact Forum on sustainable development, held March 9-10, is hosted by Times Higher Education and the University of Pretoria. Participants included academics and representatives of the private sector, civil society and international agencies.



Josephine Mushi (R), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's M-Pesa digital channels and online payments manager, receives two Tanzania Digital Awards from Serengeti Bytes operation officer Michael Mallya at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The firm won the awards through its M-Pesa App and "Yajayo Yanafurahisha" promotion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Countries gear up to kick all forms of polio out of Africa, once and for all

By Special Correspondent

TO rapidly and sustainably stop outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in African countries, a modified vaccine, known as novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) is now being rolled out.

Last year, on 25 August 2020, Africa made history with the African Region Certification Commission for Polio Eradication independently certifying that the Region was free of wild poliovirus. This is the second disease to be kicked out of Africa after smallpox more than 40 years ago.

This achievement is remarkable, considering that in the 1990s wild poliovirus paralysed more than 75,000 African children every single year - a situation that prompted Nelson Mandela in 1996, joined by Rotary International and other partners, to issue a stark call to action: Kick Polio Out of Africa!

All strains of wild poliovirus have now been interrupted in the continent. The last case of wild poliovirus was in August 2016.

However, this tremendous progress remains an unfinished success story. Although Africa is free of wild poliovirus, countries continue to be affected by another form of the virus, known as circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). Such strains are rare, but can occur in under-immunized communities with limited access to safe water and sanitation.

Populations that are adequately immunized are protected from both wild and vaccine-derived strains of poliovirus. However, because of gaps in immunization coverage across Africa, 20 countries have been affected by cVDPV2 outbreaks since 2018.

Now, intensified efforts are being launched

to finish polio once and for all, to ensure no child in Africa will ever be paralysed by any strain of this virus.

The novel OPV2 vaccine has been in development since 2011, and in November 2020, WHO's Prequalification Team issued an emer-

gency use listing (EUL) recommendation enabling initial roll-out in countries affected by cVDPV2 outbreaks. Soon after the issuance of the EUL, the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, advocated to countries to use this additional tool to stop all forms of polio in Africa.

For nOPV2 to be deployed and used under the EUL, special readiness requirements and criteria need to be met. The Polio Rapid Response Team at WHO's Regional Office for Africa, in close coordination with other Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, has been working intensely with countries and partners across the continent to respond to out-

breaks of cVDPV2 and prepare for the roll out of nOPV2.

As countries in the Region gear up to roll out this new tool for outbreak response, with WHO's support they are developing supply, demand and deployment plans; ensuring expedited pathways for national regulatory approvals; enhancing surveillance and laboratory capacity; investing in meeting cold-chain capacity and vaccine management requirements; ensuring vaccine safety monitoring and follow-up mechanisms are in place; and developing communication plans and engaging communities to enhance understanding of the vaccine and risks posed by cVDPV2.

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Requirements:

- Experienced in International Development in Consulting firms or other organizations, with strong writing skills in English is needed.
- Committed and enthusiastic to work in a diverse and young environment: flexible and proactive in the role – you do what it takes to get the job done.
- Proactive and able to multi-task between business development, operational management, and delivery with ease.
- An experienced leader and manager who has a collaborative style and fosters positive team dynamics.
- A matrix manager and an initiative taker - comfortable in an environment not driven by hierarchy.
- Focused on client needs and comfortable working directly with clients across all levels of seniority.
- An ambassador for NIRAS, able to represent the company at different international and national fora.
- Have exceptional ethics and integrity.
- International candidates, preferably be residing in-country with resident status.

Qualifications:

- Post graduate qualification with a minimum of 5 years of proven leadership, managerial and program experience in development and/or business.
- Results focused orientation with proven track record of delivery.
- Ability to manage and motivate a highly qualified team of professionals in different fields.
- Solid understanding of financial management and budgeting.
- Proficiency in English and Kiswahili (spoken and written).
- Experience leading and managing large complex projects budgets, delivering, and reporting results, and ensuring compliance with donor requirements.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills including the ability to build coalitions, negotiate, and manage conflict situations.
- Outstanding communication skills with ability to clarify vision and strategy.
- Genuine respect for the skills and perspectives of communities, partner organizations and the private sector.
- Excellent report writing skills and working knowledge of computers and MS Office software package.
- Demonstrated success in cultivating and maintaining relationships with donors/clients of all kinds: government, individuals, private sector, and private foundations.

Interested candidates should submit their applications which include a detailed CV, cover letter and contacts of 3 references via email to JUKI@niras.com by 26th March 2021. Hardcopies will not be accepted. Detailed terms of reference can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6775094104155033600/> or by email request to JUKI@niras.com.

THE COMPANY ACT CAP 212 OF 2002
RAMCO GROUP LIMITED P.O BOX 25 - MWANZA
COMPANY NO. 126260

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO WIND UP VOLUNTARILY

NOTICE: I have given to the general public that by special resolution dated 07th December, 2019.

TAKE NOTICE: That all the creditors are hereby requested to furnish to the chairman with full details of their claims against the Company at the Company address within 21 days from the date of this Notice.

Dated at Dar es Salaam on 27th December, 2020.

JOHN JULIUS MWAMPAMBA
LIQUIDATOR

EA needs funding for initiatives to boost cultural, creative industries

CULTURAL diversity is the quality of diverse or different cultures, as opposed to monoculture, the global monoculture, or a homogenisation of cultures, akin to cultural decay. The phrase cultural diversity can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. The phrase 'cultural diversity' is also sometimes used to mean the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. Globalisation is often said to have a negative effect on the world's cultural diversity.

Diversity refers to the attributes that people use to confirm themselves with respect to others, 'that person is different from me.' These attributes include demographic factors such as race, gender, and age as well as values and cultural norms. The many separate societies that emerged around the globe differ markedly from each other, and many of these differences persist to this day. The more obvious cultural differences that exist between people are language, dress, and traditions, there are also significant variations in the way societies organise themselves, such as in their shared conception of morality, religious belief, and in the ways, they interact with their environment. Cultural diversity can be seen as analogous to biodiversity.

A Tanzanian NGO, Muda Africa, has received US\$72,989 in funding from the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD), for the project 'Strengthening the East African contemporary dance scene.'

The project aims to strengthening the East African contemporary dance scene in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania by creating a web portal that promotes young professional East African dance artists and connects them to global dance markets, as well as empowering women dance artists through cho-

reographic capacity building and new regional policies.

Through the project, a network to promote contemporary dance in East Africa will be created. An online database will also be created featuring 120 East African dancers from the Afrika Mashariki Dance (AMDA) network in United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. The project activities also include carrying-out a survey on dance markets in the region as well as development of a manual and training on art marketing for 180 dancers. The empowerment of East African women dance artists will be ensured through three training workshops on contemporary dance targeting 45 women artists, and organisation of a 2-day conference with the members of AMDA network to develop policies promoting East African women artists.

The Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions met on 1-6 February 2021 and approved IFCD funding for initiatives that will boost the cultural and creative industries in developing countries around the world. A total of 6 projects were approved, including this contemporary dance project submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, which will benefit the region. Selected from 1,027 applications from 102 countries, the projects will enhance the development of evidence-based cultural policies and measures, boost cultural entrepreneurship in indigenous communities, widen the engagement of civil society, women and youth in cultural policy-making processes, and support the mobility of artists. The projects are also intended to strengthen the resilience of the cultural and creative industries, which have been severely hit by COVID-19, and to make culture more accessible to all.

With 50 million people, auxiliary vaccine manufacturing plausible

TOP authorities at the National Institute of Medical Research and related agencies have lately aired the view that there is a chance that Tanzania might start manufacturing a coronavirus vaccine when it has established the best type or formula for the purpose.

The details as to what is being done were not extensive but it is evident that the research agencies are in a position to obtain samples of the currently approved coronavirus vaccines, and proceed to make an evaluation which is most suitable for certain purposes. One such purpose is to be able to set up a mechanism for local manufacturing of the vaccine.

Already some countries around the world have obtained lease to make vaccines under licence from an original producer once the vaccine has been approved for use by global bodies, starting with the relevant national authorities, especially the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) mostly takes note of approval of drugs by competent national authorities, so there is nothing like a drug that is approved by the United Nations rather than this or that major producing country. In most cases, countries of the size of Tanzania for population and economy await delivery of vaccines rather than manufacturing, unlike larger economies with large populations, for instance India.

In that case there is indeed an option for the manufacturing of vaccines in the country as part of a wider procurement effort, as Tanzania was at the centre of a South-

ern Africa Development Community (SADC) health sector initiative starting from 2018.

Still, other countries have started making arrangements for the flow of vaccines from one or other source but the situation isn't a merry-go-round. Even in well-placed countries like the United States, Germany, France or the UK, there are plenty of complaints on the speed at which the roll-out is being done; joining the queue could prove frustrating, but the options are difficult.

Especially if there is a joint approach to the matter at the SADC level, it would be much easier to obtain the cooperation of the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) which has a key confidante in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) director general, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a member of its governing board. Major regional organisations on the continent could be charged with a roll-out task if there are facilities in the continent to conduct the chemical engineering work from specified raw materials to manufacture a vaccine. Selecting which type of vaccine could be conducted in consultation with regional offices of WHO as well as looking at conditions of procurement in each case, and financial or donor expectations.

There is also a need to take a look at the performance of the various vaccines already developed, with the likely exception of the Pfizer-BioNTech type of US and German companies, with manufacturing facilities in Belgium, for its storage conditions, prohibitively requiring -70C hard frost cover.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

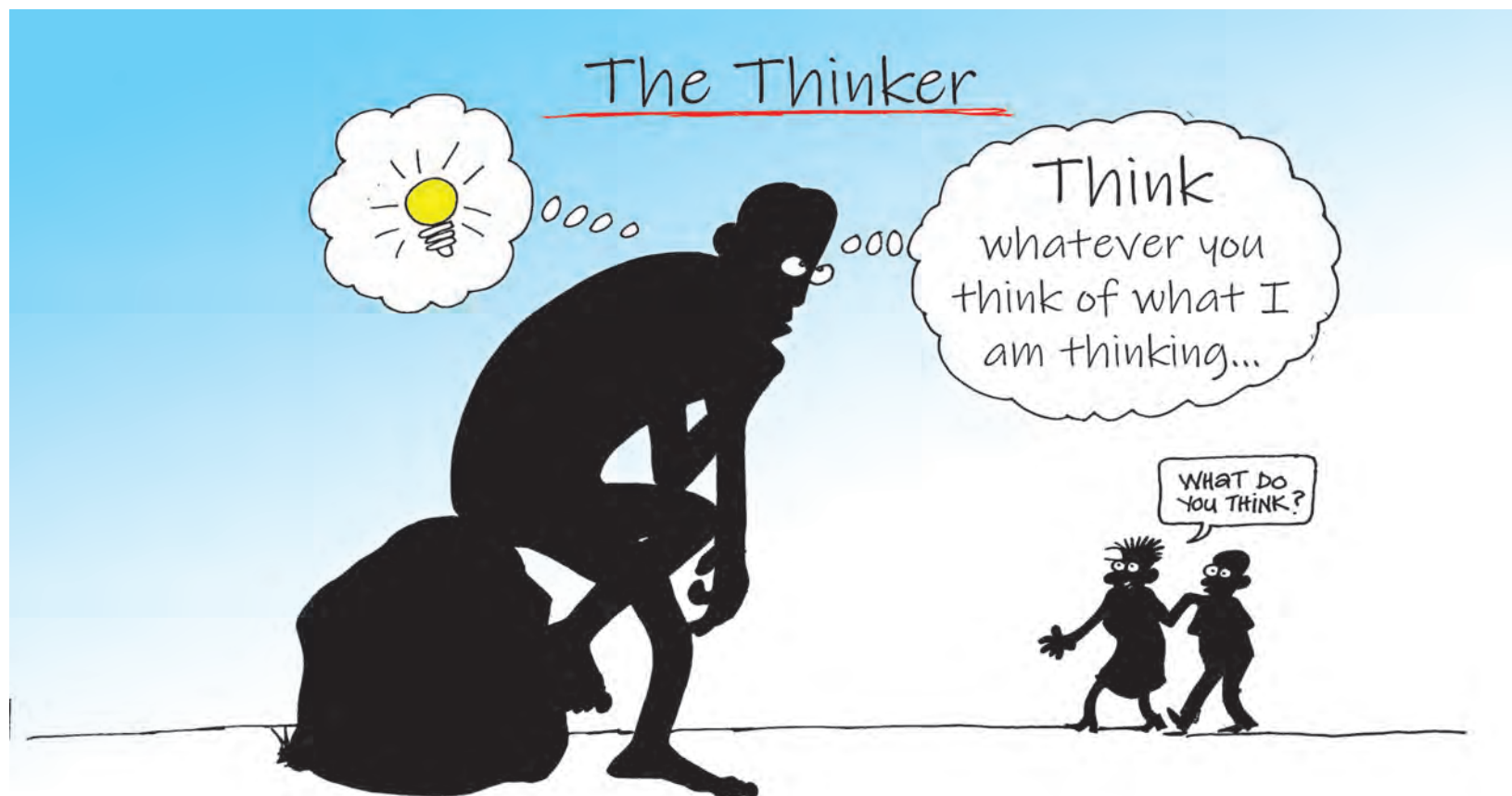
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Doing good makes good business: Reflections on my 90th birthday

By Raymond Ackerman

TO be turning 90 seems unreal. It's a very long time, and if I think back on the many ups and downs, the difficulties we've been through as a nation, it's quite amazing to be writing this at all.

The past year has been brutal. So many families have been bereaved, so many breadwinners have lost their jobs, and so many businesses have gone under. At times, the situation has seemed hopeless.

Yet, we are still standing, and the way in which people have got on with life in the most trying circumstances, and cared for one another along the way, is a source of great hope for the future.

It's true we have enormous difficulties, like most countries, and some particular South African challenges. We will always have difficulties, but I believe very strongly that we have a sound country.

I think back to 1960, when many people were leaving South Africa, and my family and I chose to stay, because we believed there was a great opportunity to work for the end of apartheid and to build a business in a new dispensation.

The foundation of that business and the key to its success

was the principle of consumer sovereignty - an idea I had learnt at university and which was reinforced during a stay in the US.

This is the recognition that the aim of business is not simply to maximise profit, as so many business leaders believe, but rather to respect and be a part of the community.

Respect for everyone has been at the core of Pick n Pay's success and I believe it remains the key to our future as a country.

My advice to anyone starting out in the retail business is to understand that, to be successful in retail, you've got to really care about your community, care about your society, and care about your people, and thereby achieve your objective of being a successful retailer.

It doesn't happen the other way around.

The role of business, perhaps now more than ever, is to give back and to do good, not only by keeping prices down, and fighting with suppliers to keep prices low, but to help make changes in the country that affect people. In short, doing good is good business. If we rebuild our economy on this basis, our future will be secure.

The other important thing is to be positive. I have a lot of faith in the future, and I'm not just saying that.

Recently, I spoke in a meeting and I was talking about us being very positive about the next 60 years. They thought I was mad. They thought, well, he's getting old and we don't quite understand what he's saying.

But if I was not 90, I'd be planning very strongly for where Pick n Pay should be over the next 60 years.

Yes, there are problems, there always will be, but actually what I miss most in retire-

ment is tackling problems.

We've always had to build Pick n Pay by trying to be positive, interpreting trends and having a vision for the future. It was never good enough to continue doing as we had always done - we had to inject new ideas into the business to keep it fresh.

These are the qualities that I think will carry us through the tough times we're experiencing now.

We should never forget that, as hard as things may be today, they were infinitely worse not too long ago.

Just as many people today feel things can only get worse, there was a pervasive sense of despair in those years. We were a country at war with itself and the economy was on a downward spiral.

And then, as if by a miracle, Nelson Mandela was released and democracy arrived. Everything that so many had dreamt of suddenly came true. We are in a much better place today.

I'm extremely proud of the way Pick n Pay and our consumers responded to the Covid crisis, through the Feed the Nation programme, which helped to feed 20 million people in this difficult time.

It was a reminder of the principles on which Pick n Pay was founded, of caring for the community, and the most exciting thing for me is that this principle has not only stood the test of time, but it has been successful. Without it, Pick n Pay would not be the business it is today.

In South Africa, we have a sound future. You all have the strength and ability to make it a great one.

On March 10, 1931 a man was born who

would change the face of South African retail.

Raymond Ackerman would grow up to become one of South Africa's most loved business personalities, affectionately known and widely respected for his passion for consumer rights and for always fighting for what he believed was right.

His father Gus co-founded the Ackermans chain after World War I.

Raymond Ackerman built up local and international expertise to become one of the country's most successful retailers.

After a few setbacks in his career - including being fired from Checkers in 1966 - Ackerman, with the support of his wife Wendy, leapt into entrepreneurship and purchased the Pick n Pay supermarket group consisting of just four stores in Cape Town from Jack Goldin in 1967.

Goldin later went on to found Clicks. For over 40 years until he retired 10 years ago as chairman, Ackerman grew the supermarket group into what this iconic brand is today - more than 1 900 stores in seven African countries.

Ackerman attributes his success to his strong consumer sovereignty philosophy and always putting the customer first.

While growing a multibillion-rand business, Ackerman never forgot that "doing good, is good business" and consistently fought passionately for all South Africans during his career - and still does today.

A woman's beauty is in her character and deeds

By Miriam Ghirmay and Miriam Yohannes

BEAUTY is an overrated word and possibly the most wrongly used. Is it something we see or feel or could it be both? We struggle to have this quality in everyone's eyes that it's sadly become almost the only quality a woman needs to survive. But why is it treasured as a premium possession?

It's good to be beautiful, isn't it? But which one is it? The one I was created to be or the one people crafted. Is it the long hair or big round eyes, killer legs, a thin waist, or a perfectly curved body? The momentary glory sure does feel good, but it does not last. It eventually dies and takes away the identity you crafted above it.

Are you beautiful because they said you are or because you know you are? And how do you know you are? These questions run through my head when I get carried away in the delusional world of beauty. I can't answer them, not because they're too hard but because they are unfathomable. The world has set too many standards for beauty which are, mostly, for the pleasure of the eyes. These intricacies can either

boost or demote the way a woman feels about herself.

I traveled back in time and sought to really understand my lineage. Who is she that gave birth to me? Who is she that fills a part of me I haven't yet discovered? There has to be something beyond that crusted face and the grim yet caring pitch. She has to be more than a good cook and a good dresser.

A woman is all - gorgeous, meticulous, compassionate, keen, and at times a bit hot-headed. Her magnificent beauty is not restricted to her physical appearance; it includes the strength, determination, kindness, and selfless spirit she holds. Throughout history, women have conquered constraints and triumphed. They have broken the chains of preconceived standards and limitations, only to prove to the world that a woman is beautiful inside and out.

Let me say, with all the moderation I can summon, at best, a woman is perfectly capable of doing anything and does it flawlessly. Time and again she has proved to be a warrior, an office worker and a loving mother, a daughter, a sister, a

wife, and a friend. I have believed in words as the finest mode of communication and expression but they fail me when it comes to defining a woman. In short, a woman is a complete book of life. She sacrifices her whole life for her family, works from day to night to support her family, and devotes her entire life to others.

A lot has been said about the internal beauty of my heroine, the Eritrean Woman. The Eritrean woman is phenomenal, not in the sense that she looks or walks like a model. But her conspicuous and well-earned confidence lifts her head so high that when she walks in front of people, anyone can notice her confidence, grace, and pride in being an Eritrean. Her core focus is on the mystery of her personality, not the appearance. The Eritrean woman doesn't stand in front of mirrors all day and repeats an affirmation that she is beautiful for she knows she simply is.

Eritrean women have contributed and are still contributing towards the success and betterment of their families, their people, and their country. They would never give up on positive thoughts, hope, unconditional love, and the need to give. They have

fought for equal rights, against female genital mutilation, underage marriage, and other social evils and are fighting to achieve better results.

The Eritrean Tegadalit is special. In the least comfortable situation, she managed through with ease. Her valor testifies to the magnificent being underneath the sunburnt brown exterior.

Her perfect milk-white teeth, puffy Afro, athletic figure, calloused hands, khaki shorts, and the graves altogether invalidate the formerly established depiction of beauty. Beyond her looks, though, it was her personality and willpower that was starkly noticeable.

She never felt the need for make-up, wardrobe, a hairstylist, a manicure, and an air-conditioned set and yet was a sight to behold.

The determination kept the Eritrean Tegadalit resilient, turning the fields of Sahel into a home. Home to the people of one heart, a refuge to the victims of cruelties and those that were hungry for justice. This is the kind of woman that I strive to become. My mother, friend, sister, aunt, grandmother, this is my tribute to you. Happy Women's Day!

Women will not reach parity at pinnacle of power for another 130 years, predicts UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations says the highest levels of political power remain the furthest from achieving gender parity in an increasingly male-dominated power structure worldwide.

Women serve as Heads of State or Government in only 23 countries (10 women Heads of State and 13 women Heads of Government out of 193 UN member states), while 119 countries have never had a woman leader.

At the current rate, says a new report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, parity at the pinnacle of power will not be reached for another 130 years. (based on calculations of UN-Women data, as of 1 November 2020).

But this triggers the question: Does this also apply to the United Nations, which has never had a woman as Secretary-General, while only four women have been elected to lead the General Assembly - over a period of 76 years?

Available research demonstrates that women's and men's education, political experience and ages upon entering executive office are similar.

Gendered perceptions that executive offices should be filled by men, and not on the basis of credentials, account for women's severe underrepresentation at this level, according to the report which will go before the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 15-26.

The CSW, described as the principal global intergovernmental body, exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, is a functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Speaking on International Women's Day March 8, Guterres singled out the progress made on gender parity under his administration.

"Overall, we in the United Nations are on a positive trajectory towards gender parity. Two decades after the General Assembly's first deadline, we are finally making progress across the entire United Nations system. We achieved the goal of 50-50 gender parity amongst my Senior leadership, two years ahead of my commitment," he said.

In the Secretariat, the proportion of women in the professional categories and above has increased to over 41 per cent from 37 per cent in 2017 - a steady annual increase. "This shows that our strategy works".

In the Secretariat's field operations, the gender balance is 31 percent women and 69 percent men.

Guterres also said: "We are taking steps to identify qualified women candidates to replace many of the 3,000 international staff who are retiring in the next eight years, the majority of whom are men. This includes measures to develop staff and build internal tal-



Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (R) was only the fourth woman in the 76-year history of the United Nations to be elected President of the General Assembly, the UN's main deliberative and policy-making body. She was the Foreign minister of Ecuador.

ent pipelines."

Gender equality is a question of power. "We live in a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture and male-dominated power structures. This has inevitably affected the institutional culture of the United Nations, and of diplomacy as a whole", he declared.

But does that male-dominated power structure reach out to the office of the UN Secretary-General?

Ian Richards, a former president of the UN staff coordinating committee, told IPS there have been varied reactions from UN staff to the Secretary-General's gender parity policy, particularly when it comes to downsizing in peacekeeping operations.

"However, this year many staff have been asking us if the Secretary-General plans to apply the gender parity

policy to his own position, which up to now has only been filled by men. We don't know how to answer them on this as it is outside our mandate," said Richards.

"The Secretary-General may wish to address this question directly," he added.

Barbara Adams, chair of the board of Global Policy Forum, told IPS: "It's a relief to see that the Secretary-General is no longer equating gender parity with gender equality. As we know overcoming structural or institutional discrimination of any and all kinds extends to measures beyond individual appointments."

The recognition of importance and impact of power dynamics is welcome, but "taking" power in the present setup is a bit of a contradiction in terms, she argued.

Perhaps the quote of Simone de Beauvoir would be

of interest, said Adams, a former Associate Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York (1981-1988).

Considered one of the most pre-eminent French existentialist philosophers and writers, Simone de Beauvoir, once famously remarked: "The point is not for women simply to take power out of men's hands, since that wouldn't change anything about the world. It's a question precisely of destroying that notion of power".

IPS

Sudan took important step, but now should send ICC suspects to the Hague

NEW YORK

SUDANESE authorities concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in February in its investigation of Ali Kushayb. This much needed step is expected to allow ICC investigators access to Sudan ahead of ICC judges' deliberations in May to assess whether there is sufficient evidence to send his case to trial.

Kushayb, a leader of the "Janjaweed" militia who also held commanding positions in Sudan's auxiliary Popular Defense Forces and Central Reserve Police, faces ICC charges on more than 50 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur. He voluntarily surrendered to the court last June.

Sudan's transitional government has promised to cooperate with the ICC, and welcomed the ICC prosecutor to Sudan for the first time in October. This is in marked contrast to the previous government of Omar al-Bashir - who is also sought by the ICC, for alleged genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur - which actively blocked the ICC's efforts.

But the transitional government can and should take its cooperation further by surrendering the four remaining ICC fugitives, three of whom, including al-Bashir, are already in Sudanese custody.

It is important to note that there is no legal basis for the Sudanese authorities to hold on to the ICC fugitives, and they are in fact under an international obligation to surrender them. The UN Security Council resolution that referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC in 2005 expressly requires Sudan to cooperate with the ICC. It was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, meaning it carries with it the council's enforcement authority.

Some may argue that Sudanese authorities can and should try the ICC suspects at home. But then the government would have to establish to the ICC's judges that Sudan's legal system is in the process of trying the same suspects for the same crimes that the ICC charges cover.

No such proceedings currently exist based on available information, and a year and a half after the transitional government took office, too much time has already passed. The authorities should transfer the ICC's outstanding fugitives now and thereafter follow necessary procedures should it wish to try the suspects at home on the same crimes.

But the authorities also should consider all the challenges of trying to prosecute the ICC's cases at home. Genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes - the charges the ICC suspects face - were not explicit crimes in Sudanese law until more than five years after government forces began to commit widespread atrocities in Darfur in 2003. It is possible that local



Displaced people living in Ardamat camp in El Geneina, capital of West Darfur, welcoming the start of proceedings in the case against "Janjaweed" militia leader Ali Kosheib at the International Criminal Court.

courts could hold that the suspects cannot be tried on these crimes in Sudan since the law wasn't changed until after the crimes occurred.

If domestic prosecutions were to take place only for other crimes, such as murder and conspiracy, this would deprive victims of accountability for the full scale of atrocities committed.

The legal principle of command responsibility, on which the criminal responsibility of leaders often rests, is still not incorporated into Sudanese law. Immunity for those in official positions and statutes of limitation limit cases domestically as well, and Sudan's system lacks fair trial protections in law

and practice, which are needed for credible proceedings, in actuality and in appearance.

The ICC focuses on a small number of cases involving the highest-level suspects for good reason - the cases can be extremely complex and costly to prosecute as they often involve numerous incidents over an extended period and showing links to suspects who may not have been physically present when crimes were committed. The cases tend to be highly sensitive given the profile of the suspects and present significant security and witness protection problems. Addressing these issues could be a major strain for Sudan's authorities.

Meanwhile, there are more than enough opportunities for Sudanese authorities to bring justice for past crimes that go beyond the ICC's five Darfur cases. There are no doubt dozens - maybe even hundreds - of other people who should be criminally investigated with a view to prosecution for mid to higher-level responsibility for atrocities in the conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and Darfur, along with attacks on protesters. Some people implicated in these abuses remain in official positions.

While news reports suggest there has been progress in a few domestic criminal investigations of past crimes, impunity overwhelmingly prevails and far more robust efforts are needed. Sudan should establish, without delay, the special court for crimes in Darfur provided for in the 2020 Juba peace agreement.

And, if the Sudanese authorities are pursuing charges for any of the ICC suspects for crimes other than those brought by the ICC, they can negotiate an op-

portunity for the suspects to face those charges back in Sudan. ICC procedures also potentially allow suspects to serve sentences in their own countries, if desired.

Sudan should not hold onto ICC fugitives in defiance of international obligations because they aspire to one day try them on Darfur crimes.

This serves neither the victims nor the government, which could gain a lot of support for the transition with a prompt handover and could benefit from having greater resources to devote to the many other cases involving serious crimes that should be prosecuted.

Agencies

China's 'two sessions' offer new impetus, inspirations for global development

BEIJING

IN the past few days, China's annual "two sessions" have attracted much global attention, with the international community watching closely where the world's second largest economy is heading and what impetus it will generate for global development.

Inspired by China's prominent achievements amid the pandemic and heartened by the country's new development blueprint, observers worldwide believe China's resolution to achieve modernization through high-quality development will definitely promote world prosperity.

ACHIEVEMENTS AMID PANDEMIC

During the annual sessions of the country's top legislature and political advisory body, China reviewed its achievements and experience in coordinating epidemic control and economic development, which observers believe will inject confidence into the global fight against the deadly pathogen.

The country became the only major economy that registered positive growth last year, with its gross domestic product (GDP) increasing by 2.3 percent year on year to cross the 100-trillion-yuan (about 15.40 trillion U.S. dollars) threshold, while its imports and exports of goods expanded 1.9 percent.

In 2020, all of China's nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line cast off poverty after eight years' efforts.

China has demonstrated its ability to cope with unexpected challenges facing the world, said Andrei Vinogradov, head of the Center for Political Studies and Forecasting at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"China's victory in eradicating absolute poverty is a major achievement ... This experience is of global importance," Vinogradov said.

China has avoided the "trap" of a dilemma between safeguarding health and beefing up the economy, and its strategy "has resulted in overcoming the health crisis inside China and at the same time protecting its economy," said Pelagia Karpathiotaki, a Beijing-based researcher at China's University of International Business and Economics.

Praising the Chinese people's dynamism in fighting the pandemic, Bernard Dewit, chairman of Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, said "this can be a model for the rest of the world, because despite being severely hit by the pandemic, they could overcome it and even go further with growth, with improving the situation of its population."

China has displayed the "generosity spirit" of international cooperation in its global anti-virus efforts, said Munir Akram, president of the UN Economic and Social Council.



People work at a workshop of Harbin Dongan Automotive Engine Manufacturing Co., Ltd. in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, Feb. 25, 2021. (Xinhua)

HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

During the "two sessions," China set its goals for 2021 and adopted the country's development blueprint for the next five to 15 years, which, with an emphasis on high-quality development, are expected to bring fresh opportunities to the pandemic-battered world.

China aims to expand its GDP by over 6 percent year on year in 2021, with more efforts on reform, innovation and high-quality development, according to the government work report.

The growth target shows "the determination and confidence of the Chinese government to promote sustained economic recovery to the world, and China will continue to boost the world economy," said Tursunali Kuziev, a professor at Uzbek University of Journalism and Mass Communications.

In the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period and beyond, high-quality development will remain the theme for China's economic and social development, and it concerns the overall situation of the country's socialist modernization drive.

At the same time, the country will implement opening-up policies in a wider scope and broader areas and at a deeper level, and

better participate in international economic cooperation.

The goals for 2021 and the blueprint for economic and social development over the next five years "are impressive," said Jeffrey Sachs, an economics professor at Columbia University and a senior UN advisor.

"They aim for sustainable development, based on reduced pollution, resource efficiency, scientific and technological advance, expanded education, and improved quality of life," Sachs said.

According to the blueprint for its development in the next five to 15 years, China will accelerate forging a new development paradigm of "dual circulation," in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other with the domestic market as the mainstay.

"Dual circulation" puts a parallel emphasis both on domestic and international circulation. A high-level opening-up certainly serves this end, brings win-win outcomes both for Chinese and multinational companies," said Jochen Goller, chief of BMW Group Region China.

PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH

For observers, the annual "two sessions" provide them with an opportunity to decode

China's enormous successes and better understand its democracy.

China has always put the people first during its development, increasing their benefits, ensuring that the people are their own masters and supporting development in an all-round way.

From the massive poverty alleviation campaign and the handling of the pandemic, to the development blueprint and goals that aim to meet people's aspiration for a better life, China has shown that its modernization involves not only a remarkable increase in economic production capacity, but also comprehensive targets to improve people's well-being.

China's poverty alleviation campaign is "the work of a nation committed to its people," according to Stephen Perry, chairman of Britain's 48 Group Club.

Describing China's response to the pandemic as "first class," Perry said no other country could get thousands of doctors and nurses to Hubei, once the hardest-hit prov-

ince in China, within days.

"As soon as the Chinese government knew about the severity of this epidemic, they moved the priority to saving lives," Perry said.

Meanwhile, the agendas of the "two sessions" have demonstrated that China's democracy features an extensive collection of public suggestions, thorough discussions and a gradual formation of consensus.

Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, said that the "two sessions" present a window on how China efficiently builds consensus for its development strategies and goals.

"I think the consensus-building process is just as hard, but it's more efficiently conducted in China," Gupta said.

"You have so many delegates from the provinces and from local levels at the 'two sessions' showing ... how broad and wide that consensus is," Gupta said. **Xinhua**

Harry and Meghan's love and hate affair with the Fourth Estate

By Rebecca Davis

IDON'T know if you clocked this at the time, but human civilisation's darkest hour was reached in 2014. It was in that year that the extraordinary American reality TV show *I Wanna Marry Harry* debuted on our screens, for its one and only season. The premise of the show was so surreal that you're going to think I'm making this up, so feel free to take a Google break and come back when you know better.

The show featured 12 young American women competing for the romantic attentions of an eligible single man. This in itself is the idea underpinning far too many reality show franchises, but *I Wanna Marry Harry* had, um, a twist. The bachelor in question was a posh, red-haired young Englishman who travelled everywhere by helicopter and had a retinue of bodyguards.

Do you see where this is going? The women on the show had been led to believe that the man was Prince Harry. They had swallowed the idea that the - at that stage - fourth-in-line to the British throne had been given permission to participate in a reality TV show where he would choose a princess from among 12 American dumplings.

The man who was posing as Prince Harry was really an environmental consultant called Matthew Hicks, who looked like Harry in approximately the same way that I look like Princess Diana.

"Judging by the evidence of this show," I wrote at the time in a TV column for the *Sunday Times*, "you could shove a ginger mop on top of a cardboard box and American girls would think they were hanging out with Prince Harry. When they are eliminated from the competition, they bawl. 'At least I got to meet Prince Harry', never stopping to consider how profoundly strange it is that Buckingham Palace is outsourcing Prince Harry's wife-hunt to American TV producers."

But life has a funny way of imitating art, and so it is that in this year of our Lord 2021, Prince Harry is - for real-real - placing his marital dramas in the hands of American TV producers. I am referring, of course, to the CBS primetime feature that saw Harry and bride Meghan sit down to bare their hearts to the Queen, by whom I mean Oprah.

Oh, how I miss Oprah. That, surely, was the major takeaway from the whole multimillion-dollar tableau: the world needs Oprah now more than ever. Oprah, with a new pair of earnest spectacles, managing to move her face in ways both empathetic and sceptical at the same time. Oprah, who had brought a tracksuit with her so that she could commune with the Sussexes' chickens in appropriate attire. Oprah, who echoed the feelings of so many of us at various points by simply responding: "Wut?"



Oprah Winfrey (R) interviews Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on A CBS Primetime Special premiering on CBS on March 7, 2021.

The interview, which required South African TV viewers to sit through innumerable adverts for the haemorrhoid medication Anusol, took place in the garden of a lovely home that we were immediately told was neither Oprah's nor the Sussexes'. Harry and Meghan, it emerges, are now utterly obsessed with security and privacy, and loathe the media. On the one hand, this is only to be expected when your mother dies in a Paris underpass being chased by paparazzi. On the other hand, why then choose to participate in a globally broadcast TV production at all?

Just go and live your lives, Harry and Meghan, with your chickens and your children. Never give another interview. But the basic problem is that for all their protestations, the pair desperately need the media. Their new business ventures are all within the realm of media. The media is how they elevate their profile above just another Santa Barbara couple hoping to break into the streaming industry. They may hate it, but as the very act of participating in the interview showed, Harry and Meghan simply can't kick the media habit.

Even if you didn't watch the interview, by now you will doubtless have heard of the biggest bombshell emanating from it: that unnamed members of the British royal family asked Harry "how dark" the skin of his offspring with Meghan was likely to be. The couple refused to be drawn on which member was responsible for this offensive query.

Afterwards, I started drawing up a mental list of suspects. Top of the list without question was Prince Philip, who is famously the least woke person in Great Britain. Al Jazeera once ran an article titled, "The priceless racism of the Duke of Edinburgh", which is a more accurate description of what sycophantic British news outlets more often call Philip's "gaffes".

On a visit to China, Philip referred to "slitty eyes"; in Ethiopia, he compared the local art to something a toddler would draw; he described Nigerian national dress as resembling pyjamas; a black British politician was asked by Philip "what exotic part of the world" he came from. The list literally goes on and on - but given that the duke is currently in perilous health in hospital at age 99, it feels a bit

unkind to labour the point.

Suspect number two on my list has to be Princess Michael of Kent, who was photographed wearing a "blackamoor" brooch to the occasion of Meghan Markle's first Christmas lunch with the family. It was later revealed by her daughter's ex-boyfriend that Princess Michael owns two black sheep that she named "Venus" and "Serena". There was also the awkward occasion in 2004 when the princess allegedly told a group of customers talking too loudly in a restaurant to "go back to the colonies".

Other suspects: Prince Charles, who joked in 2018 that a brown-skinned woman did not look like she could be from Manchester, and who was previously exposed as having nicknamed one of his Asian polo chums "Sooty". Next: the Queen, who told travel writer Paul Theroux in 1996 that the premier of Papua New Guinea had "fuzzy-wuzzy" hair: a derogatory term for black people popularised by poet Rudyard Kipling.

About a decade ago, another of my prime suspects would have been Harry himself. There was his well-publicised decision to dress in Nazi uniform at a fancy dress party. There was the time he was caught on camera referring to a brown-skinned pal as "our little Paki friend". There was the occasion on which he remarked to British comedian Stephen K Amos: "You don't sound like a black chap". But Harry told Oprah that it was Meghan who opened his eyes to the world of racism, so we assume those days are behind him.

Under these circumstances, Harry being asked "how dark" his child with Meghan might be sounds a lot like a best-case scenario to me. I can think of about a thousand more offensive comments coming out of the mouths of most of the Windsors. Yes, the question is stupid and ignorant - but anyone expecting different from the British royal family clearly has not followed their history very closely.

And this was, to be fair, the exact defence marshalled by Meghan. She assumed the royal family were just like ... celebrities, she told Oprah. She didn't Google Harry before their first date (luckily for him, or she might have found the racist stuff). She didn't know you had to curtsy when you met the queen. Meghan, in short, was

about as clued up about the prince and his family as the contestants on *I Wanna Marry Harry*.

As I see it, the problem is that Meghan met Harry in 2016. The first season of *The Crown* was only aired in November of that year, so she cannot be blamed for her ignorance. *The Crown* is now the portal through which all of humanity is receiving its education on the Windsors, as Oprah admitted without an ounce of shame during the interview. Oprah is all of us.

If you stumbled upon the interview without any context and had no idea who Meghan Markle was, you might have assumed that Oprah was interviewing a woman who had recently escaped from the clutches of Scientologists. "That was the last time that I saw my passport, my driver's licence, my keys. All that gets turned over," Meghan said, adding that she was not even permitted to go out for lunch with friends.

I have questions about this, since it was well publicised that Meghan flew to New York for her baby shower and a five-day "girls' trip". But it is also plausible that she could do this without laying her mitts on her passport, because members of the royal family may not actually be required to carry any such plebeian documents.

This almost-unimaginable level of privilege is, in a nutshell, the issue that sticks in many gullets when we try to summon up real tears for the estranged royal twosome.

That Harry and Meghan are better off outside the palace walls is a no-brainer. They will not struggle financially, even if their media ventures don't take off. Harry gets a reported £300,000 (around R6.3-million) annually from his late mother's estate, and Meghan is independently wealthy from her acting career. What they may battle with more is a sense of purpose and meaning beyond the burdensome significance of their former roles. In which case, all we can say is: welcome to the real world, guys. **DM**

Govt, NGO partner in fighting off HIV infections to create and Aids-free world

TANZANIA has made impressive gains in reducing under-five and infant mortality, by strengthening immunization services and improving preventive services for malaria and other childhood diseases. A number of new HIV cases have been also decreasing. Our Correspondent DANIEL SEMBERYA sat for an interview with the Country Director of Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in Tanzania (EGPAF), Dr Sajida Kimambo on how the Non-Governmental Organisation complements government's drive to wage war to end HIV/Aids. Excerpts:

Question: Briefly tell us what EGPAF is?

Answer: EGPAF is an international organization that seeks to end pediatric HIV/AIDS through research, advocacy, and prevention and treatment programme implementation. Founded through a mother's determination, we are driven to see a world where no other mother, child or family is devastated by this disease. For more than 30 years, EGPAF has been a leader in meeting urgent needs in pediatric HIV and AIDS in the world's most affected regions. EGPAF began supporting HIV programmes in Tanzania in 2003 and established a country office in 2004.

Q: As an organisation dealing with health issues, how have you been collaborating with the government to ensure the health sector has resolved to give more attention to the quality of health services in tandem with the pursuit of universal access?

A: EGPAF-Tanzania supports the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) at national, regional, and district levels to implement the highest quality services within the national HIV and AIDS programme.

EGPAF-Tanzania works hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Health, Community Developments, Gender, Elderly and Children at the national, regional, and district levels to scale-up the national HIV programme. We advocate for the development of policies that facilitate greater access to services and support those affected by HIV and AIDS in Tanzania. We also carry out operations research to evaluate and inform high-quality HIV and AIDS programmes. Through programme implementation, research, and advocacy activities, EGPAF-Tanzania is working to eliminate HIV infection in infants and children and to increase access to comprehensive, high-quality, and well-integrated PMTCT, family planning, and HIV/AIDS and TB care and treatment services among HIV-positive pregnant women, children, and their families.

Q: We are informed that in Tanzania you are currently implementing various health programmes. Would you mention few of those programmes you are implementing?

A: Yes, we have different programmes. The first being the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Boresha Afya (2016-2021).



EGPAF-Tanzania country director Dr Sajida Kimambo. Photo courtesy of EGPAF

The goal of USAID Boresha Afya is to improve the health of all Tanzanians and increase access to high-quality, comprehensive, and integrated health services. The project is implemented by EGPAF in partnership with EngenderHealth and supports preventive and curative services for HIV/AIDS, family planning, and TB as well as gender-based violence (GBV) services, while promoting equitable models of care are employed to address the special needs of children, adolescents, and other vulnerable groups.

USAID Boresha Afya is implemented in six regions - Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Singida, and Tabora - and as of June 2020 the project directly supports over 447 sites with HIV services that are integrated with TB, family planning, and reproductive health services.

The second is the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Malezi II (2018-2021). This one carried on the success of Malezi I that was implemented from 2016-2019 (see below), the Malezi II project, with funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, continues to support children aged 0 to 5 years in catchment areas around 86 high-volume maternal and child health clinics and HIV care and treatment centers in three districts of Tabora.

Malezi II also seeks to improve the capacity of young children. The project launched an innovative media/communications component to enrich caregiver engagement in child stimulation. It has also introduced a bi-directional referral system, which includes mapping existing relevant support services and assisting children with developmental delays through linkages to those services.

Malezi II includes major operations research media platforms towards behavior change of caregivers and counseling skills of community health workers (CHWs).

Another project is Catalysing Pediatric TB Innovation (CaP TB) Project (2018-2021): Funded by Unitaid, the project seeks to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with pediatric TB by reducing the pediatric TB diagnostic and treatment gap. Launched in 2018 in Tanzania, CaP TB seeks to increase coverage of new pediatric fixed-dose combination and scale-up treatment of latent TB through implementation of innovative models of care for pediatric TB that focus on integration and decentralisation in two regions, Singida and Tabora.

Delivering Technical Assistance Project (DELTA2): 2019-2024 is another project implemented by EGPAF. DELTA 2 is a five-year, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded cooperative agreement implemented by EGPAF, starting in 2019. Building on EGPAF's successful Project DELTA, DELTA2 provides cost-effective technical assistance (TA), capacity building and programme implementation services to optimize the impact of programmes supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to ultimately help achieve an AIDS-free generation.

In the initial project year of DELTA2, EGPAF supported a variety of activities under PEPFAR's Faith and Community Initiative as well as COVID-19 infection prevention and control activities. To date, DELTA2 has supported work in Cam-

eroon, Botswana, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The fifth project is CDC Foundation Monitoring and Evaluating the Advanced HIV Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Cascade in Malawi and Tanzania (2019-2021).

EGPAF is conducting an intensive M&E study focused on advanced HIV disease (AHD) care models in Tanzania and Malawi. The main objectives of the study are to understand the cascade of clinical care provided to patients presenting with AHD as well as to survey the availability of new AHD diagnostic and treatment products in both countries. The evaluation has a pre- and post-intervention design, looking specifically at care given to patients six months before and after trainings conducted by EGPAF at health facilities and the introduction of AHD products in-country.

The sixth project is Implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Recommended Advanced HIV Disease Package of Care in Tanzania (JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021). WHO issued formal guidelines around the care and treatment of patients with advanced HIV disease (AHD) in July 2017.

With this project, EGPAF will seek to strengthen the implementation of key interventions, such as screening for clients with AHD criteria, then screening for Cryptococcus, provision of cryptococcal infection pre-emptive treatment and meningitis treatments, and to improve the cascade of care for PLHIV with AHD aligned with the WHO Guidelines for managing advanced HIV disease and rapid initiation of antiretroviral therapy for adults, adolescents, and children.

Q: What have been your key achievements?

A: In the past one year we are proud to say that we have tested nearly half a million individuals for HIV and identified over 22,000 new HIV-positive cases, currently providing over 120,000 HIV-positive adults, and over 6,500 children access to ART and have reached over 5,000 pregnant women with services to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, identified over 22,000 TB cases and supported with treatment and supported provision of over 1.5 million FP methods, including long-acting contraceptives to 44% of the clients.

EGPAF also assisted the MOHCDGEC in the development of multiple national-level strategies and tools; developed an innovative Victory Club intervention to engage adolescents with low viral suppression along with their treatment supporters; and completed a mixed methods study evaluation on the adolescent and youth-friendly services (AYFS) model for promoting integrated HIV and reproductive health services for Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV).

Take folic acid 3 months before pregnancy, experts urge women

By Felister Peter

WITH the number of children born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus in the country keeps increasing, experts stress the need for women planning to become pregnant to take folic acid and eat foods which are high in folate three months before they conceive.

Promoting folic acid as food fortification or as a supplement has been cited as among effective means of protection against the rare diseases. The number of children born with diseases is increasing in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. At least 3 out of 100 or 1,000 children are born with the disorders.

Research conducted by the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Tanzania (ASBAHT) in between 2018 and 2021 indicates that Coast Region, Morogoro, Dodoma and Iringa regions are leading with the highest number of children born with the diseases.

Nearly 90 percent of children born with Spina Bifida get Hydrocephalus. 80 percent of Hydrocephalus disease in children is caused by lack of folic acid (folate) to pregnant women.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during training for journalists and press officer which aimed at enhancing their knowledge on nutrition and malnutrition issues, a neurosurgeon from the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) Dr

Consolata Shayo suggested for pregnant women to continue taking folic acid even after delivery since the multivitamins are also important for a healthy body.

Sponsored by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the seminar was jointly organized by ASBAHT, Child Help International and the association of parents to children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Zanzibar.

Dr Shayo mentioned other factors which contribute to mothers giving birth to children with the disorders as too much consumption of alcohol during pregnancy, smoking and giving birth to too many children.

"Eating balanced diet and taking folic acid lowers the risk of unborn babies having a neural tube defect. The neural tube defect happens when the tissues and bone around the brain and spine do not grow well," said the doctor.

ASBAHT Community Development Officer, Theresia Jacob said: "Our research findings indicated that women in the regions with the highest number of children born with the disorders do not eat fruits.

Theresia who works closely with MOI states that the hospital receives between 5 and 6 new cases of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Dar es Salaam Region's Health Secretary, Sister Mathew urged parents with disabled children not to hide them because they are entitled to better health care as

well as education. She was concerned that most of the people still link disabilities with witchcraft, the thing that denies children most of their rights including education.

Mathew who represented the region's medical officer, suggested for stakeholders including journalists to continue educating pregnant women on the importance of taking folic acid and eating a balanced diet.

Body uses folate during pregnancy to make red and white blood cells and to help the baby to grow, she added.

She said the government is working to ensure availability of folic acid at all the health centres at hospitals across the region.

Archad Ngemela, Project Manager (Food Fortification) from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) said a number of initiatives have been taken by stakeholders and the government to ensure food fortification as part of measures to prevent children from being born with neural tube defects.

Ngemela said that GAIN works closely with small and large scale maize flour manufacturers whereas they provide them with technology to facilitate the fortification process. He said since most of the consumed maize flour is produced by small scale manufacturers, the organization has supported manufacturers in Mara, Kagera, Shinyanga and Simiyu regions.



Parents following a presentation about nutrition and malnutrition held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Sabato Kasika

According to him, the government has passed laws which require all businesses to fortify wheat flour, maize flour and edible oil by adding trace amounts of iron, vitamin A and/or zinc. He said the move was reached after it was proved that food fortification was one of the effective ways to ensure a healthy population.

Ngemela added: "Large scale industrial maize mills do not cover a large proportion of the population, medium and small scale mills reach many people, hence the need to support them to fortify their maize flour with vitamins and minerals per the national stand-

ards." "The government also launched the National Nutrition Strategy and formed Steering Committees on Nutrition at district and regional level. Establishment of the committees resulted in decisions to have nutrition officers at district and regional level," he stated.

One of the parents of the disabled children, Rahma Makame Juma from Zanzibar called upon the government to ensure availability of folic acid at medical facilities.

She highlighted the need to change people's mindset against the diseases, because children with neural tube defects have the ability to learn.

FAO and JR Farms join forces to support youth-led initiatives in agribusiness in Rwanda

KIGALI/ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rwanda has signed an agreement with JR Farms Limited to promote youth involvement in agriculture and create decent work opportunities.

JR Farms is a Rwandan led agri-enterprise operating in Rwanda, Nigeria and Zambia in the areas of food processing and retailing, agro

commodity trading and consulting. Its corporate goals are to ensure food security, end hunger in Africa and create decent jobs for Africa's women and young people.

FAO and JR Farms have joined forces with the aim of developing youth-led agriculture enterprises by providing equity funds, through JR Farms' Green Agribusiness Fund (GAF), to selected youth-led agribusinesses involved in different agri-food value chains.

The young "agripreneurs" will also benefit from training and capacity development opportunities and will be introduced to wider networks of fellow agripreneurs.

"This important partnership with JR Farms will open up new opportunities for young people in agriculture and agribusiness to create decent work, improve livelihoods and boost food security," FAO Representative in Rwanda Gualbert Gbehounou said.

"As a youth-to-youth initiative, the Green Agribusiness Fund will play an important role in creating opportunities for youth in agribusiness in Africa. The initiative is holistic, it does not only offer funding but other salient support such as capacity building, training and exposure which are necessary for success in agribusiness - this is why we are excited about this partnership with FAO which will position more young people to engage in agribusiness,"

Rotimi Opeyemi Olawale, JR Farms Chief Executive Officer said.

The alliance with JR Farms is one of the outcomes of the Africa Regional Conference on Youth Employment held in Kigali, Rwanda in 2018, and organized by FAO in conjunction with the African Union and the Government of Rwanda.

The partnership is also in line with FAO's new Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2021-2025), endorsed by the FAO Council in Decem-

ber 2020, and which promotes more diverse and inclusive partnerships, more cooperation at the local level and more attention to micro, small-and-medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The partnership also contributes to a broader multi-country FAO project in Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda and that supports countries to adopt more youth-inclusive agri-food system development policies, strategies and programmes.

The ongoing fight for gender parity in Lebanon

BEIRUT THE fight for equality around the globe has taken a few steps forward in some countries which provides a glimmer of hope for future generations for increased female participation and representation. However, that particular fight is taking new shapes and forms in multiple corners of the world, where women are still persecuted, silenced, threatened, killed, harassed, and stripped off their basic human rights on a daily basis. The question today is, when will the world become a safer place for women and girls?

While the degree of severity is uneven in countries, Lebanese women and girls struggle each day on multiple fronts. While many Civil Society organizations (CSOs) and United Nations agencies work on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5) for Gender Equality, facts point towards a reality that will require years to achieve gender parity as per Agenda 2030. In fact, according to the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Index of 2020, Lebanon is ranked 145 out of 153 countries when it comes to gender equality and parity.

Lebanese women's political participation has increased over the years. This was seen especially during the 2018 parliamentary elections, with 86 registered women candidates, according to a study by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), titled "2018 Lebanese Parliamentary Elections: Gender Key Results". In contrast to the parliamentary elections of 2009, that saw only 12 women candidates. In January 2020, and as a result of the 2019 Lebanese revolution, a new cabinet formed by Prime Minister Hassan Diab, included 6 female ministers, a first in Lebanese history.

This unequal political representation is due to gender stereotypes that Lebanese women still have to face on a daily basis. Political activist and trainer, Victoria El-Khoury Zwein, told IPS that women still face gender stereotyping when running for elections. As a woman in politics, Zwein explained that she faced multiple challenges, especially when in 2004, while pregnant, she ran for the municipal elections for the first time in her town of residence.

"According to them [the public], I was a foreign pregnant woman with children and needed to take care of them", she said, adding "It seemed [to the residents] as if there were no more men to run for elections".

The political activist went on to run for the 2016 municipal elections after more than a decade and she was met with a more welcoming attitude from the residents of Sin-el-fil where she won with a high



Zwein during one of the 2019 protests in Beirut.

number of votes.

Zwein believes that politics should be viewed and practiced differently in Lebanon; subsequently she was pushed to run for the Lebanese parliamentary elections of 2018.

Zwein highlighted to IPS the political violence that women are subjected to in this field. "Women [politicians] are faced with violence in all aspects.

They are targeted with comments on social media and receive constant threats of rape and abuse especially when publicly stating controversial political opinions".

Zwein explained that when women discuss political topics, they are met with attacks on their personal lives which could potentially end their careers, while in parallel, men are not met with the same shameful attitude. "Any sexual scandal that befalls men in politics is not given much attention and a male politician could still become prime minister if he wishes to be, but never a woman", stated Zwein.

Additionally, the activist pointed out that the media play a huge role in reinforcing gender stereotypes because of some inherently sexist and disparaging questions that are asked to women candidates during interviews, such as juggling their professional and personal lives, and whether or not they have their spouse's approval and support. "Violence against women politicians only occurs, because they are women" Zwein emphasized.

Violence against women in Lebanon takes on multiple shapes and forms. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in domestic abuse, gender-based violence and femicides in Lebanon and across the globe.

The United Nations refers to this phenomenon as the "Shadow Pandemic". This escalation in cases of domestic violence was visible through an increase in the numbers of calls from 1375 in 2019 to 4127 in 2020 to the domestic violence helpline affiliated to ABAAD; a Lebanese resource center for gender equality.

Additionally, the Lebanese internal security forces (ISF)'s domestic violence hotline (1745) registered

1468 calls from 2020 till 2021, in contrast to 747 calls between 2019 and 2020, showing that reports of domestic abuse have almost doubled in the past year. According to the ISF, 61 percent of those abuse reports are made against husbands.

Multiple women's rights experts have attributed the rise in gender-based violence to the unprecedented lockdowns and economic crisis Lebanon is currently facing. Gender expert, journalist, and human rights activist, Hayat Mirshad told IPS that: "Not a week goes by in Lebanon without hearing on the news of murder of a woman that was the result of domestic abuse. Ever since the beginning of 2021 until this day, more than 5 femicides occurred, which indicates an alarming aggravation of this phenomenon [gender-based violence]".

Mirshad explained that the real issue when it comes to gender-based violence is the societal culture and conservative mentality that justifies abuse and violence against women and girls by holding victims accountable for the abuse.

The justifications are often related to honour and disobeying their spouse, among others. "It is important to point out that a law [Law n. 293 ratified on 7/5/2014] to protect women and girls from domestic abuse exists in Lebanon and was amended recently [December 2020]. However, the real problem is the execution of this law" stated Mirshad.

The gender expert pointed out that the measures taken by authorities are not as strict as they should be and that there is still a lot of wasted time when it comes to taking real action and separating the victim from the abuser.

"We are still witnessing patriarchal practices at courts, from different judges, from the internal security forces (ISF) and many other entities. This also contributes to increase in cases of gender-based violence" added Mirshad.

The activist stressed on the critical importance of the government to execute all aspects of the law that protects women and girls from domestic abuse such as providing victims with financial support which en-

courages more victims to leave abusive households. There is a need to handle such matters with the appropriate urgency, seriously by imposing stronger sanctions on abusers, accelerating prosecution processes.

According to "Sharika Wa Laken", an online feminist platform, Lebanon saw 27 murders of women and girls in 2020 and 5 femicides in 2021.

The latest victims were Zeina Kanjo a young newlywed who got married 6 months prior to the murder, and both middle-aged women Widad Hassoun and Ahkam Derbas who were brutally murdered in 2021 among many other women and girls who were severely injured at the hands of abusive spouses, relatives, or even strangers.

In June 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) among other donors, launched the initiative, "Qudwa".

This initiative tackles violence against women and children, especially child marriage, child labor and gender-based violence, to be operative from 2020 until 2027 to promote equality and dignity. Additionally, the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) [an official institution established by the Lebanese presidency of council of ministers], Sexual and Gender-based Violence Taskforce (SGBV TF), alongside the United Nations system in Lebanon launched a campaign for the 16 Days of Activism (November 16 - December 10, 2020) to promote safety and prevent gender-based violence...

The launching of such projects and campaigns in collaboration with Lebanese ministries and official institutions grant hope to women and girls living in harsh conditions nowadays, although tangible changes are yet to be seen when it comes to the number of victims in Lebanon.

The reality of Lebanese women still requires drastic changes that can only be brought forth by improved laws and policies. These changes can only be attained once more women are granted a seat at the decision-making table and are given the opportunity to influence laws that take into consideration women's struggle for equality, gender parity, and security. Lebanon is looking at potential parliamentary elections in the undetermined near future in hopes to change this unfortunate reality.

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



MONDAY

TIME

- 05.00 AM
- 06.00 AM
- 06.30 AM
- 06.50 AM
- 07.00 AM
- 7:10 AM
- 07.15 AM
- 07.25 AM
- 07.40 AM
- 08.00 AM
- 08.10 AM
- 09.00 AM
- 09.10 AM
- 09.20 AM
- 10.00 AM
- 10.03 AM
- 10.10 AM
- 13.00 HRS
- 13.10 HRS
- 13.30 HRS
- 16.00 HRS
- 16.03 HRS
- 16.30 HRS
- 18.30 HRS
- 19.30 HRS
- 20.00 HRS
- 20.10 HRS
- 21.00 HRS
- 21.05 HRS
- 22.00 HRS
- 22.15 HRS
- 23.00 HRS
- 23.03 HRS
- 01:00 -05:00HRS

PROGRAMME

- HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
- AMKA NA BBC
- NIPASHE
- MATANGAZO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- MATANGAZO
- TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
- UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
- KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
- HABARI NYEPESI
- KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
- HABARI ZA BIASHARA
- MATANGAZO
- BRAND TALK
- NEWS BRIEF
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- YALIYOMO YAMO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- DJ SHOW
- NEWS BRIEF
- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- HOJA YA LEO
- DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
- SPOTI LEO
- NEWS BULLETIN
- RADIO ONE DOCTOR
- NEWS BRIEF
- DAKIKI 45
- NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
- AFRO TIZII
- NEWS BRIEF
- AFRO TIZII
- MUZIKI MCHGANGANYIKO)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 171 00--

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

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

3 LETTERS: ART, HUT, RIB
 4 LETTERS: COST, TING, LEAD, TASS, STAR, ROME, UNIT, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: ASIDE, DOORS, TSARS, SKULL GRATE (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: ENDURE, ARREST, BEAGLE, SERENE ASSIGN (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MEXICAN
 8 LETTERS: HARANGUE
 10 LETTERS: CALAMITIES

CLUES: Across

- 1 able to operate independently
- 5 a list of meals
- 7 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas
- 8 Chief city of Jordan
- 10 the whole quantity
- 11 an inlet
- 13 group of musicians playing together
- 15 an enzyme which breaks down RNA into smaller molecules
- 17 afflicted
- 19 the chief male character in a book
- 20 the chemical element of atomic number 68

Down:

- 1 an unspecified amount
- 2 former monetary unit of India
- 3 a thing that is borrowed
- 4 an instrument for sewing
- 6 community of Muslims
- 7 festival of the Christian church celebrating the resurrection of Christ
- 9 unusual
- 12 ended, stopped
- 14 person who donates something
- 16 beard in Kiswahili
- 17 exclamation expressing triumph
- 18 a kind of rock in which metal is found

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: T Y R R H E N I A N, A E N, M E A N A W A S H, E P O E M S W, M S O F E W, C A R E E R, L A S, M I N T L E A S T, N A G R, A D A P T O R S, D I N E E V, D A S I S E I T S E

CROSSWORD: N E W S P A P E R S, A A O H, M A I D A S S E S, E T O A S T B, O E D E M A K, A M C, O B E Y E S T E R, A O H, A L L U S I O N A, B L A T U S, A G H O S I S E

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



JUMATATU	
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
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA (marudio)
00:00-04:00 HRS	LETE RAHA (marudio)
04:00-05:00 HRS	SPOTI (marudio)

BUSINESS

NMB Bank donates equipment valued at 32m/- in Namtumbo and Songea districts

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

NMB Bank Plc has donated school equipment worth 32m/- in Namtumbo and Songea districts in Ruvuma region.

Speaking yesterday during the handing over of the equipment to three primary schools, NMB Southern Zone Regional Manager Janeth Shango named the schools that received the equipment as Legele primary school with 60 galvanized iron sheets for roofing a classroom and a toilet.

The other schools are Mshanganokati given 80 desks and Chandamali primary school which has been given 21 staff tables, 21 staff chairs and four cupboards.

In Madaba District Council, she said NMB has provided 25 beds at Gumbiro secondary school, 50 chairs and tables at Nguluma secondary school with all equipment worth ten million.

In Namtumbo District the bank has donated various equipment for Namtumbo District Hospital worth ten million.

Shango described the equipment as five patients' beds and mattresses, two state-of-the-art maternity beds and 25 sheets for the beds.

"For several years now NMB has been supporting various development projects for the people by focusing more on education projects by providing desks and roofing materials

and on health by providing beds and mattresses," he said.

He emphasized that through the community, NMB recognizes that giving back to the community is part of the Bank's culture that has reached all districts in the country at 100 percent.

Namtumbo District Commissioner Sophia Kizigo thanked NMB Bank for the support which she said has increased the beds in the hospital which has started accommodating patients and that prior to the donation the hospital had only ten beds.

"We started with ten beds, today NMB has brought us ten million equipment to support our hospital, we are very grateful to them," stressed Kizigo.

For his part, NMB Songea Branch Manager David Zake, said NMB Bank is giving back to the community by allocating one percent of its annual net profit to community based projects.

Songea Acting District Commissioner Pendo Ndumbaro said the bank has been close to the community in Songea district by providing various assistance in schools and health centers.

Songea Municipal Primary Education Officer Zakia Fandey said the support would increase student attendance especially at Mshanganokati primary school, which had a severe shortage of desks and that teaching and learning would improve.



Geita district commissioner Fadhili Juma (C) shows a leaflet with details on how to use a newly launched GGML security information system in Geita town at the weekend. He is with GGML security manager George Kaijunga (R) and community affairs manager Joseph Mangilima. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

GGML inaugurates simple security information system

By Guardian Reporter

TO enhance security and woo other investors in the mining sector, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has launched a security system that involves the communities surrounding it making free calls and reports any crime to the government and company.

Launching the system in Geita region, Geita District Commissioner Fadhili Juma said any information provided would be treated as confidential for the security of the residents, investor and their property.

"During this era of communication technology, it is essential to address various

challenges facing the community including crime and sabotage of various infrastructures like electricity or water pipes which cost the government a lot of money that we work as a team.

"In this digital system, people surrounding the mining area will be able to call 0800 750 145 free of charge when they detect any criminal activities including conspiracy, damage to company property, corrupt practices from some employees or contractors working with the company of GGML, security measures including unsafe driving, and all other company-related information as well as for the safety and security of community members.

"I commend GGML Company for coming up with this innovation as its goal in helping the government have access various criminal information. The role of the government is to create the best possible environment to protect the investor so that he can carry out his activities safely and effectively, providing employment and contribute in the national income through various taxes and levies," he said.

Commenting on the system, GGML Security Senior Manager Suleiman Machira said it was thought of as a result of the company and the residents realizing the importance of good co-existence and strengthening relations so that they all benefit

from the mine's presence in the area.

"We have had good citizens who have grown up and ready to provide various information that would help the company, but fail to provide information due to the lack of a simple and inexpensive reporting system," said Machira.

Machira noted that when an investor conducts his business safely without being harmed, it means he will be able to contribute a lot in economic output of Geita region and Tanzania in general will benefit.

Over the past 20 years, GGML has funded various projects worth more than 30bn/- in a period of 3 years in Geita region.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai speaks yesterday at the launch of a tree planting initiative in Kongwa district. Looking on is SBL managing director Mark Ocitti. Photo: courtesy of SBL.

Ndugai salutes brewer for helping to turn Kongwa into a green town

By Francis Kajubi

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Job Ndugai has hailed initiatives employed by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) for its contribution in transforming Kongwa into an ever-green town among other areas of the country.

Speaking yesterday at a special occasion for planting trees in Kongwa town the headquarters of Kongwa District, Ndugai said SBL has for years now set an example to the private sector by leading not only in giving back to the general public through contributions to economic development related issues but also environmental conservation for future generations.

"Since the relocation of the central government's activities to Dodoma there have been a lot of initiatives from the private sector dedicated

to social and economic matters. But to make Dodoma more attractive in the eyes of everyone visiting here we have no other option rather than environmental conservation which planting of trees is part of it," said Ndugai.

The Speaker decried human activities that perpetuate deforestation believed to have posed environmental challenges such as poor food production, water availability and harassment to wildlife.

The tree planting initiative is being organized by SBL in collaboration with Kongwa District Council and a Dodoma-based NGO-Habari Development Association (HAD). The company is in a view that planting of trees would help in bringing natural ventilation to the semi-arid climate of the region.

SBL Managing Director Mark Ocitti

said the initiative is part of an ongoing environmental conservation as it plans to plant thousands of trees in various parts of the country.

"SBL considers trees as an essential part of the ecosystem. Trees provide habitat for terrestrial biodiversity, absorb harmful carbon from the atmosphere and are useful for medicinal purposes;

Our business and the community at large are part and parcel of this ecosystem which makes it a shared responsibility by all of us to conserve and protect the environment," said Ocitti.

The tree planting initiative by SBL comes at a time when there are worldwide concerted efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change and guarantee a safe and protected environment for future generations.

Kenya Power in U-turn on bills increase push

NAIROBI

KENYA Power is seeking to lower fixed charges in contracts signed with electricity generating companies, a move that will boost its financial performance and lead to reduced power bills for consumers.

The Auditor-General says the electricity distributor has identified a reduction of capacity charges - paid to power firms regardless of generation - as one of the key actions that will pull it out of deep losses.

The electricity distributor says the move will also serve to bring down electricity bills.

This marks a U-turn by a utility that has since 2018 been pushing for an increase in electricity prices by up to a fifth.

Kenya Power argued it needed more cash to cover the cost of buying wholesale electricity from generators such as KenGen and

maintenance of the national grid.

Now, the utility wants to cut the bill it pays generators, including OrPower, Lake Turkana Wind and Thika Power, with the ultimate goal of lowering the price of electricity for homes and businesses.

"It's obvious that if the cost of electricity from generators comes down, the same will go to the economy or wananchi/customers by the regulator also reviewing the retail tariff downwards," Kenya Power's chief executive, Bernard Ngugi, told the Business Daily.

"It would be very good if the economy gets the benefit of cheaper power to spur growth through manufacturing that heavily relies on electricity rather than merely to think of electricity players making money."

The size of the reduction in capacity charges and their impact on final electricity bills are expected



Kenya Power new CEO Bernard Ngugi.

to become clear once negotiations with producers, including KenGen and independent power firms, are concluded.

The wholesale power producers, including Gulf Power, IberAfrica, Tsavo Power last year, protested plans by Kenya Power to review bulk electricity prices citing low demand

in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Kenya Power reckons that time has come for the generators to cut their appetite for higher profits.

"It's high time cheaper power was achieved by all making some sacrifices to grow our economy for all," Mr Ngugi said.

Most domestic customers are currently charged an effective rate of between Sh16 and Sh24 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), depending on their consumption bands.

Capacity charges, paid to power producers and recovered from consumers, are meant to help the companies earn a return on their capital investment which runs into billions of shillings.

"Management indicated that plans are underway to renegotiate downwards the capacity charges on the existing power purchase agreements (PPAs)," the Auditor-General said in its report on Kenya

Power's financial statements for the year ended June 2020.

"These charges, which account for 54 percent of the total cost of sales are significant and, considering their fixed nature, may have adversely affected the company's performance resulting in losses."

Kenya power paid capacity charges totalling Sh474 billion, representing more than half of the company's cost of sales of Sh874 billion.

It buys power from 20 generators, but Kengen, OrPower, Lake Turkana account for 79 percent of the firm's bulk electricity purchase costs.

The high costs, coupled with a sharp increase in administration expenses and provisions for bad debt, saw the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm sink into a net loss of Sh939 million in the review period.

The company had made a net

profit of Sh262 million the year before.

Besides capacity charges, the power distributor has a long list of other costs, including interest on loans, infrastructure maintenance and staff remuneration.

A cut in electricity prices is set to boost Kenya's quest to make energy costs competitive compared with other African nations like Ethiopia, South Africa and Egypt.

The cost of power is a key determinant of new investments.

Reduced bills will ease household budgets given that electricity prices are among expenses whose costs have jumped the most under President Uhuru Kenyatta's administration since 2013.

Electricity sales in the year ended June 2020 grew by a marginal 0.7 percent to 4,196 Gigawatt hours (GWh) compared to 4,176GWh the year before.

US producer prices rise as consumers' inflation expectations are set at easing

WASHINGTON

US producer prices increased strongly in February, leading to the largest annual gain in nearly 2-1/2 years, but considerable slack in the labor market could make it harder for businesses to pass on the higher costs to consumers.

That was supported by a survey last Friday showing an easing in consumers' near-term inflation expectations early this month, even as their confidence in the economy rose to a one-year high.

Receding new COVID-19 cases, an acceleration in the pace of vaccinations and more pandemic relief money from the government are seen allowing wider economic re-engagement in the spring.

Inflation is expected to accelerate in the coming months and exceed the Federal Reserve's 2% percent target, a flexible average, by April. Part of the anticipated spike would be the result of price declines early in the pandemic washing out of the calculations. Many economists, including Fed Chair Jerome Powell, do not expect the strength in inflation will persist beyond the so-called base effects.

"Beyond a rise in the metrics this year on base effects and a fuller reopening of the economy that will revive demand, price pressures are unlikely to keep accelerating, given an incomplete recovery in the labor market," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics in White Plains, New York.

The producer price index for final demand rose 0.5 percent last month, with the costs of energy products and food surging, the Labor Department said. That followed a 1.3% jump in January, which was the biggest advance since December 2009.

In the 12 months through February, the PPI accelerated 2.8 percent, the most since October 2018. The PPI increased 1.7 percent year-on-year in January. Last month's rise in the PPI was in line with economists' expectations.

Manufacturing and services industries have been flagging higher production costs as the year-long pandemic gums up the supply chain. Surveys this month showed measures of prices paid by manufacturers and services industries in



Workers produce some of the specialized valves at Emerson Electric Co.'s factory in Marshalltown.

February racing to levels last seen in 2008. These inflation jitters have boosted U.S. Treasury yields.

The government has provided nearly \$6 trillion in relief since the pandemic started in the United States in March 2020, with President Joe Biden on Thursday signing legislation for his \$1.9 trillion package. At the same time, Fed is pumping in money through monthly bond purchases, raising fears in some quarters of the economy overheating.

But the worst recession since the Great Depression, which started in February 2020, has left at least 20.1 million Americans on unemploy-

ment benefits.

"Supply-chain issues are temporarily putting upward pressure on producer prices along with higher energy prices," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "These pressures should begin to moderate. We expect growth in consumer prices to accelerate through the first half of this year, but this will be transitory."

Consumers' one-year inflation expectations moderated to 3.1 percent in mid-March from 3.3 percent in February, the University of Michigan said in a separate report on Friday.

Its preliminary consumer sentiment index rose to 83.0, the highest since last March, from a final reading of 76.8 in February.

Stocks on Wall Street were mostly lower. The dollar gained versus a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields rose.

A 6.0 percent jump in the cost of energy goods accounted for more than two-thirds of the broad-based rise in the PPI last month. Energy prices rose 5.1 percent in January. Wholesale food prices jumped 1.3 percent. Goods prices rose 1.4 percent.

Excluding the volatile food, energy and trade services components, producer prices

climbed 0.2 percent. The so-called core PPI accelerated 1.2 percent in January. In the 12 months through February, the core PPI increased 2.2 percent after gaining 2.0 percent in January.

The Fed tracks the core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index for its inflation target. The U.S. central bank has signaled it would tolerate higher prices after inflation persistently undershot its target.

The core PCE price index is at 1.5 percent. The government reported this week that the core CPI barely rose in February after being unchanged for two straight months.

MTN Nigeria secures additional spectrum

LAGOS

MTN Nigeria has acquired additional 10MHz spectrum in the 800MHz band from Lagos-based telecommunications firm InterCellular Nigeria Limited.

According to a brief statement released by MTN, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has approved the transaction and assigned the frequency to MTN Nigeria.

"The acquisition will significantly improve customer experience, in line with our commitment to deliver excellent service quality to our subscribers," the operator added.

Commenting on the acquisition, Karl Toriola, CEO, MTN Nigeria said, "Through this acquisition, we will be better positioned to support the deepening of broadband penetration in the country. The added resources will also greatly impact our customers' experience providing even better internet connectivity. It is our goal to keep finding ways to grant everyone access to a modern connected life."

In a recent presentation of MTN Group's full-year financial results, Group CEO Ralph Mupita said MTN Nigeria "...continued to deliver solid overall performances with double-digit service revenue growth..."

MTN said it had signed up over 280 000 additional agents and over 395 000 registered agents for its Fintech business in this market.

In March this year MTN Nigeria released details of its financial year ended 31 December 2020.

In addition to SIM NIN registration process, the company outlined its ambition regarding its network coverage and infrastructure.

Ferdi Moolman, now Group Risk Officer, MTN, said at the time that MTN Nigeria would fast-track the roll out of 4G sites and continue to expand rural coverage.

While acknowledging the impact that COVID-19 has had on the company and its operations in Nigeria, Moolman said the business remains focused on the safety and wellbeing of staff, customers and broader stakeholders.

"As we navigated the fallout of the pandemic, adapting our processes and structures to the new realities, we acted swiftly to support the national response in a holistic way as the pandemic caused unprecedented disruption to businesses and impacted lives and livelihoods. Although the operating environment remains challenging, the easing of lockdown restrictions led to an improvement in economic activity and market conditions into H2."

Boeing unveils order for troubled 737 MAX

WASHINGTON

BOEING Co unveiled a new order for its 737 MAX on Friday, pushing its shares up 6 percent as it renews efforts to recapture investor confidence following a two-year safety crisis.

The deal to sell 24 of the 737-8 model to a backer of Canadian low-cost carrier Flair Airlines comes after Reuters reported it was poised to win another, much larger deal with Southwest Airlines. Shares in Boeing rose 6.2 percent to \$267.86.

Boeing has been trying to rebuild its image with passengers and airlines following the nearly two-year grounding of the MAX after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people.

This week marked the second anniversary of the second accident, with a final investigative report expected any day. Boeing said Miami-based private equity firm 777 Partners, which has a stake in Flair Airlines, agreed to buy 24 737-8 airplanes with an option to

purchase a further 60.

Flair, which was recently relaunched by veterans of European budget giant Wizz Air, is now operating one plane for domestic flights. It said it would lease 13 of the 24 aircraft from 777 Partners starting this year.

Reuters on Wednesday reported Boeing was on the verge of a deal to sell dozens of 737 MAX 7 jets to Southwest Airlines in potentially its largest 737 MAX order since the jet's safety ban was lifted.

Both deals would provide a much-needed injection of cash for the U.S. planemaker, which The coronavirus pandemic has further complicated the MAX's recovery by decimating demand for air travel and new jets.

Ultra low-cost carriers, or ULCCs, are seen as the winners of the COVID-19 crisis as they offer a no-frills experience at low prices.

They are pervasive in Europe's fragmented market, with Hungarian Wizz Air - a key Airbus customer -

competing with the likes of Ireland's Ryanair, a top Boeing user like Southwest.

They have grown more slowly in North America. Ended last year with more than \$60 billion in debt and an historic loss of \$12 billion.

In December, Alaska Airlines agreed in December to buy 23 737 MAX 9 jets and Ryanair ordered 75 jets.

At Southwest, Boeing was fending off a challenge from the newer Airbus A220, building on a position as the airline's exclusive supplier as Airbus struggles to reduce production costs for the Canadian-designed A220, industry sources said.

Analysts have described Southwest as a must-win for Boeing and crucial to its broader recovery.

Analysts caution it faces a list of other challenges, from production of its 787 Dreamliner to the delayed development of its 777X and financial overruns on a U.S. Air Force tanker.



A Boeing 737 MAX airplane lands after a test flight at Boeing Field in Seattle, Washington.

Isuzu Motors extends SAP to improved sales and customer service experience

JOHANNESBURG

IN today's Age of the Customer, companies that can offer a consistent, positive customer experience will often outperform their less agile peers by extending their service access point (SAP).

For one of South Africa's most beloved motoring brands, a divestment by a global parent company sparked a digital transformation process that has helped it break down internal silos and gain a

real-time view over each customer to help it deliver a consistently superior customer experience.

"We had been reliant on the systems and processes of our US-based parent company until they divested in 2017," says Loren Meyer, Department Executive for Information Technology at Isuzu Motors South Africa. "We had to build local capabilities, and since it's our aspiration to be a leader in the manufacture and supply of vehicles, and to exceed

customer expectations, we needed a technology solution that would support our growth plans. We chose SAP technology and Dimension Data as our implementation partner, and have achieved outstanding results to date."

Isuzu develops, produces and sells commercial vehicles, light commercial vehicles and diesel engines, of which it is the world's largest producer, having sold more than 85 million diesel engines in the year to date. Isuzu



sells vehicles in more than 120 markets and has manufacturing facilities in 30 countries.

Following General Motors' (GM) divestment from South Africa in 2017, Isuzu was restructured, with Isuzu Japan buying

out GM's production facilities. A new company, Isuzu Motors South Africa (IMSAF) was formed, which today employs 1000 people locally and boasts a network of more than 115 dealers across Africa.

"During the GM divestment in 2017, an agreement was signed to allow Isuzu Motors South Africa to utilise certain GM systems for a period of time," says Meyer. "However, as part of our localisation we had to develop our own local systems and in-source our resources. We had been working on a locally hosted Isuzu enterprise SAP system that incorporates both the commercial vehicle and light commercial vehicle business processes, and

wanted to complement this with an extended landscape that includes a unified SAP Service and Sales cloud solution."

Previously, Isuzu's sales team were relying on Excel spreadsheets, CRM tools, emails and portals to log, track and manage customer enquiries. This left them without a complete view over each customer and unable to accurately track the progress of the sales pipeline.

"We wanted an integrated service solution with a

single point of reference to create, update and track a customer enquiry," says Meyer. "We chose to implement SAP Service Cloud, which helped us reduce the number of systems an agent has to use to resolve a call, and enables our teams to resolve customer enquiries more quickly. The built-in analytics tool has empowered our managers to get a real-time view of each call to allow for personalisation according to each user's preferences or role."

British Airways calls for vaccinated people to travel without restrictions

LONDON

BRITISH Airways's new boss said vaccinated people should be allowed to travel without restriction and non-vaccinated people with a negative COVID-19 test, as he set out his ideas for a travel restart a month before the UK government finalises its plans.

Holidays will not be allowed until May 17 at the earliest, the government has said, but before that, on April 12, Britain will announce how and when non-essential travel into and out of the country can resume.

Sean Doyle, appointed BA's chief executive last October, called on Britain to work with other governments to allow vaccines and health apps to open up travel, after a year when minimal flying has left many airlines on life support.

"I think people who've been vaccinated should be able to travel without restriction. Those who have not been vaccinated should be able to travel

with a negative test result," he said.

Doyle said the roll-out of vaccines made him optimistic BA would be back flying this summer, but added the recovery depends on what is said on April 12.

He wants government to give its backing to health apps that can be used to verify a person's negative COVID-19 test results and vaccination status.

Apps will be key to facilitating travel at scale, the industry has said. Airline staff checking paperwork takes 20 minutes per passenger and is not practical if large numbers of passengers return.

Britain has rapidly rolled out vaccinations and 44 percent of the adult population, mostly people over 60 percent, have now had their first shot.

The government has said any return to travel must be fair and not unduly disadvantage those who have not been vaccinated.

Doyle expects Britain to bring in a tiered framework with destinations put into cate-



Passengers are seen at the counter of British Airways to check in for their flights to London at the Benito Juarez International Airport in Mexico City.

gories depending on risk, and that will determine BA's summer schedule.

Beyond saying there was "huge pent up demand", Doyle declined to forecast how strong the season could be. Budget rival Ryanair, Europe's biggest airline, has said it hopes to fly up to 70% of 2019 passenger numbers this summer.

BA has struck a deal with a testing kit provider giving its passengers 33 pound (\$46) tests to take abroad.

Travel commentators expect most European airlines to focus on short-haul leisure routes this summer, and Doyle noted France, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus and Spain had all sounded positive about welcoming British holidaymakers. But he said BA was also looking further afield.

"We're already looking at new destinations over the summer that we haven't flown to before, and that could be across both long haul and short haul," Doyle said.

India drafts e-commerce policy as it calls for equal treatment of all sellers

NEW DELHI

INDIA will require e-commerce firms to treat sellers equally on their platforms and ensure transparency, according to a draft policy seen by Reuters on Saturday that follows criticism against business practices of big online companies.

India has been deliberating a new e-commerce policy for months amid complaints from brick-and-mortar retailers who allege online giants like Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart flout federal regulations. The companies have denied the allegations.

A Reuters special report last month revealed that Amazon has for years given preferential treatment to a small group of sellers on its India platform and used them to circumvent the country's foreign investment rules.

The latest draft of the policy document says operators should be impartial in their dealings with sellers.

"E-commerce operators must ensure equal treatment of all sellers/vendors registered on their platforms and not adopt algorithms which result in prioritizing select vendors/sellers," it says.

A spokesman for the commerce ministry declined to comment.

The policy will apply to Amazon and Flipkart - two top e-commerce players in India - as well as domestic players like Reliance Industries, which has plans to expand its JioMart online platform. All three firms did not immediately respond to a request

for comment.

Separately, India is also considering changes to foreign investment rules that could prompt players including Amazon to restructure their ties with some major sellers, Reuters reported in January.

Government officials are set to hold talks next week with industry executives on such rules, according to people with direct knowledge.

On Saturday, top government officials from various departments, including the commerce ministry, met to discuss the e-commerce policy. The timeline of publication and whether it will be subject to further changes were not immediately clear.

Indian traders have also complained about steep discounts offered by online companies which smaller retailers have not been able to match. Amazon and Flipkart have said they comply with all laws.

E-commerce firms must "bring out clear and transparent policies" on online discounts, the draft document says.

The Reuters special report last month - based on internal Amazon documents dated between 2012 and 2019 - showed the company helped a small number of sellers prosper on its India platform, giving them discounted fees and helping one cut special deals with big tech manufacturers.

Amazon has said it "does not give preferential treatment to any seller on its marketplace," and that it "treats all sellers in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY 08 March	WEDNESDAY 10 March	FRIDAY 12 March	CAPITAL
	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	06:00 Al Jazeera
	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	16:30 Business edition rpt
	9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	17:00 In good shape
	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Meza huru
	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	19:00 Turning the spotlight
	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Tanzania yetu
	11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
	12:00 Al Jazeera News	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	21:30 Capital Prime News
	12:30 Mtego rpt	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	22:00 Capchat rpt
	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Jagina rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera
	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	
	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	Mon 08 March
	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	06:00 Al Jazeera
	14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	14:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	15:00 Meza Huru	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	18:00 Jiji Letu	17:00 The Base	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt	17:00 Meza huru
	18:10 Aibu yako rpt	18:00 Jiji Letu	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	17:30 Meza huru
	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong	17:30 Kisilam	19:00 The Décor rpt
	18:45 Kesho leo	19:00 Ijue Sheria	18:00 Jiji Letu	19:30 Shamba lulu
	19:00 Afya ya Jamii	19:30 Isidingo	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	19:00 Shamba lulu	20:45 The Monday Agenda
	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	19:30 Shamba lulu	21:30 Capital Prime News
	21:05 Dakika 45	21:30 Kipindi Maalum:	20:00 Habari	22:00 Kipima Joto
	22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	21:05 Kipima Joto	22:00 Capital Prime News
	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	00:00 Al Jazeera
	23:30 The Base	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	
	00:30 Al Jazeera	23:30 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	Tues 09 March
	02:00 DWTV	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	06:00 Al Jazeera
		02:00 DWTV		07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
				09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
				13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
				14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
				16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
				16:30 Capchat rpt
				17:30 Meza huru
				19:00 Innovation
				19:30 Jagina rpt
				20:00 Series: Beats of Love
				20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
				21:30 Capital Prime
				22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
				22:30 Eco@Africa
				23:00 Al Jazeera
				Wed 10 March
				06:00 Al Jazeera
				07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
				09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
				13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
				14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
				16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
				16:30 Innovation rpt
				17:00 Innovation rpt
				17:30 Meza huru
				19:00 Sports Gazette
				19:30 Chetu ni chetu
				20:00 Series: Beats of Love
				20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
				Sat 13 March
				08:00 Al Jazeera
				09:00 Rev rpt
				09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
				10:00 Culinary delight rpt
				10:30 Innovation rpt
				11:00 Out n' about rpt
				11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
				12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
				12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
				13:00 Business edition rpt
				13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Iris
				14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
				17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
				17:45 Bundesliga kick off
				18:15 Capchat rpt
				19:15 Mizengwe
				19:30 The Décor
				20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
				21:00 Out n' About
				21:30 Movie: A Stranger in Town (tape no:5335)
				23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
				01:00 Al Jazeera
				Sun 14 March
				08:00 Al Jazeera
				09:00 In good shape
				10:00 Capchat rpt
				11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
				11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Iris
				12:00 Jagina rpt



People move past a hoarding of Amazon India outside a metro rail station in New Delhi.

WORLD

Londoners protest after police officer charged with woman's murder

LONDON

POLICE in London clashed with mourners and protesters on Saturday after more than a thousand people gathered to mark the killing of a 33-year-old woman, hours after the police officer charged with her murder appeared in court.

Sarah Everard's disappearance as she walked home on the evening of March 3 had led to a wave of accounts from women about the dangers of walking streets alone at night, and dismay at the failure of police and wider society to tackle this.

Early on Saturday an impromptu memorial with flowers and candles sprang up around the bandstand on Clapham Common in southwest London, near where Everard was last seen alive.

Kate, Britain's Duchess of Cambridge, was among those who paid their respects. A palace official said Kate "remembers what it was like to walk around London at night before she was married".

By late Saturday around a thousand people - mostly women - gathered at the site to pay their respects and protest at the lack of security they felt when out alone. Some chanted "shame on you" at police who were present.

Campaign groups had wanted to organise a formal vigil, but London's Metropolitan Police said people should not gather due to coronavirus restrictions. The head of the force, Cressida Dick, said any vigil "would be unlawful and would be unsafe".

As tensions mounted, Reuters witnesses saw police drag several women



Londoners protest after police officer charged with woman's murder

away from the gathering on Clapham Common. Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Helen Ball said four people were arrested for public order offences and breaches of the Health Protection Regulations.

"We absolutely did not want to be in a position where enforcement action was necessary," Ball said in a statement. "But we were placed in this position because of the overriding need to protect people's safety."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan - who is responsible for policing in the city - said the officers' response "was at times neither appropriate or proportionate" and added that he was seeking an urgent explanation from Dick.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer called the scenes "deeply disturbing" and Conservative interior minister Priti Patel said she too wanted answers from police about "upsetting" images.

Earlier on Saturday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he and his partner Carrie Symonds would light a candle in memory of Everard.

"I will do everything I can to make sure the streets are safe and ensure women and girls do not face harassment or abuse," he said.

Appearing at London's Westminster Magistrates' Court on Saturday morning, 48-year-old police officer Wayne Couzens, wearing a grey tracksuit, spoke only to confirm his identity.

Couzens's lawyer did not enter a plea to the charges of kidnap and murder ahead of a fuller court hearing scheduled for Tuesday. Couzens remains in custody.

Police discovered Everard's body on Wednesday in woodland about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of London. The court heard that her body was found in a builder's refuse bag, and was identified using dental records.

Couzens joined the Metropolitan Police in 2018 and guarded foreign embassies before his arrest.

England's police watchdog has launched an investigation into the Metropolitan Police's handling of the case.

Agencies

China voices firm opposition to UK, G7 statements over Hong Kong

LONDON

THE Chinese side expresses its strong condemnation of and firm opposition to "groundless slanders at China" and blatant interference in China's internal affairs by some politicians, a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Britain said on Saturday.

Responding to a statement by British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and another joint statement by the Group of Seven foreign ministers and the High Representative of the European Union, both on issues related to Hong Kong, the spokesperson said that the authority of China's National People's Congress's decision to improve the electoral system of Hong Kong "brooks no challenge."

"This decision was made by China's highest organ of state power," said the spokesperson, adding that it is in line with the provisions of the Constitution of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, conforms to universal practice, and constitutes a necessary step to uphold and improve the mechanisms of

"one country, two systems."

Improving the electoral system in Hong Kong and implementing the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" will promote the sound development of the democratic system in Hong Kong, better safeguard the rights, interests and freedoms of Hong Kong citizens, and ensure the steady and sustained practice of "one country, two systems," said the spokesperson.

Moreover, the so-called "China breaches the Sino-British Joint Declaration" is a non issue, the spokesperson said, adding that the core content of the Joint Declaration is to ensure China resumes exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and its historical mission was completed at the handover.

"The UK has no sovereignty, jurisdiction or right of 'supervision' over Hong Kong after the handover, and it has no so-called 'obligations' to Hong Kong citizens. No foreign country or organisation has the right to take the Joint Declaration as an excuse to interfere in Hong Kong affairs, which are China's internal affairs," the spokesperson said.



Aerial photo taken on March 6, 2021 shows citizens displaying China's national flag and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in support of implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" at Tamar Park in Hong Kong, south China. (Xinhua)

China strongly opposes any external interference, said the spokesperson, adding that Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China.

"How to design and improve its electoral system is purely China's internal affair and brooks no external interference," the spokesperson said.

The attempts of politicians from the relevant countries and groups, including Britain, to distort facts and impose unwarranted accusations on China will in no way change the judgement of the just force in the international community, said the spokesperson.

"China has the will, determi-

nation and capability to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests. We urge the relevant countries and groups, including the UK, to immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs, which are China's internal affairs," said the spokesperson.

Xinhua

Information campaign against Russia's COVID-19 vaccine not over yet - diplomat

MOSCOW

THE West has not yet stopped its information campaign against the Russian coronavirus vaccine, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Saturday aired by YouTube channel Solov'yev Live.

"It is evident that the campaign against our vaccine

has been ongoing for many months. The backbone of that information hydra was broken by Westerners, by the way, after they had either rolled out vaccination with the Russian vaccine or started asking for its deliveries, or started calling for joint production on their territories. But it does not mean that this smear information campaign is over. It is not over

yet," Zakharova said. Apart from that, she noted the Western countries' determination amid the problems caused by the pandemic to somehow shape "aversion to everything Russia does" among their people.

Zakharova mentioned a mechanism of provocations, which the West had been practicing in recent years, includ-

ing against Russia. "They have twice within three years performed a stunt called provocations with the use of alleged chemical weapons against our country. And in regard to Syria, how many times has it happened? Naturally, there is no proof. On the contrary, there is evidence proving the opposite that these are provocations and that those provocations

were deliberately planned. We are well aware what they have in their arsenal. This instrument and this mechanism, I mean provocative with the use of various methodologies, could be applied to whatever they want. They have been practicing this mechanism over recent years," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman noted.

Agencies

China's spending on basic research nearly doubles during past five years

CHINA'S spending on basic research nearly doubled during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), said an official with the country's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) during a press conference held on Feb. 26.

Ye Yujiang, head of the Department of Basic Research at the MOST briefed the media about the development of China's basic research at the press conference.

He introduced that the development of the discipline demonstrated a good momentum and a number of major original results have been achieved, and the country also significantly increased investment in basic research, which

nearly doubled during the past five years and is expected to exceed 150 billion yuan (\$23.18 billion) in 2020.

Besides, the policies and systems which support basic R&D have been continuously improved, and important progress has been made in the construction of scientific research bases, he added.

Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang told the press conference that China has systematically promoted basic research and achieved breakthroughs in core technologies in key areas. As a result, China's science and technology innovation capacity have increased significantly, he added.

For the first time, investment in basic research accounted for more than 6 percent of spending on R&D.

Meanwhile, China has promoted the application of scientific and technological achievements in the development of the economy and society in an all-round manner, so as to foster "new growth drivers" for high-quality development, he remarked, adding that the number of high-tech enterprises has exceeded 200,000.

According to the MOST chief, China has also increased the pool of qualified scientific and technological personnel. Talent development of the country has been

accelerated, which is indicated by its full-time equivalent of R&D personnel reaching 4.8 million man-years.

China has deepened reforms of the science and technology system in key areas and formed a "new ecology" for innovation and entrepreneurship, and actively joined the global innovation network, making new advances in scientific and technological cooperation, Wang said. Besides, the country has acted swiftly and tackled the scientific and technological difficulties in emergent response to the COVID-19 pandemic, making new contributions to the world's efforts to address common global

challenges.

Wang stressed China will give full play to the supporting role of technological innovation during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). To promote the high-end development of the industrial chain, the country will step up to make breakthroughs in key technologies and intensify the arrangement of frontier technologies. It will also push forward the large-scale application of technological advances to support the development of the real economy.

In order to safeguard people's health and lives, the country is planning to enhance R&D and application in the prevention and

treatment of major diseases, as well as innovative medicines and medical equipment, Wang introduced.

According to him, the country will also advance technological breakthroughs and promote their application in pollution prevention and control to realize its goals in peaking carbon dioxide emissions and achieving carbon neutrality.

Besides, to improve the overall efficiency of the innovative system, China will put emphasis on stimulating the vitality of talents and launch a new round of reforms in the scientific and technological system. **People's Daily**

Myanmar civilian leader says people should defend themselves as toll mounts

THE acting leader of Myanmar's parallel civilian government said it will seek to give people the legal right to defend themselves as the death toll in protests against last month's coup exceeded 80, according to an advocacy group.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, who is on the run along with most senior officials from the ruling National League for Democracy Party, addressed the public via Facebook, saying, "This is the darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close".

He said the civilian government would "attempt to legislate the required laws so that the people have the right to defend themselves" against the military crackdown.

More than 80 people had been killed as of Saturday in widespread protests against the military's seizure of power, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group said. Over 2,100 people have been arrested, it said.

At least 13 people were killed on Saturday, one of the bloodiest days since the Feb. 1 coup, witnesses and domestic media said.

Five people were shot dead and several injured when police opened fire on a sit-in protest in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, witnesses told Reuters.

Two people were killed in the central town of Pyay and two died in police firing in the commercial capital Yangon, where three were also killed overnight, domestic media reported.

"They are acting like they are in a war zone, with unarmed people," said Mandalay-based activist Myat Thu. He said the dead included a 13-year-old child.

Si Thu Tun, another protester, said he saw two people shot, including a Buddhist monk. "One of them was hit in the pubic bone, another was shot to death terribly," he said.

A truck driver in Chauk, a town in the central Magwe Region, died after being shot in the chest by police, a family friend said.

A spokesman for the junta did not answer phone calls from Reuters seeking comment. Junta-run media MRTV's evening news broadcast labelled the protesters "criminals" but did not elaborate.

PROTESTS

Saturday's protests erupted after posters spread on social media urging people to mark the death anniversary of Phone Maw, who was shot and killed by security forces in 1988 inside what was then known as the Rangoon Institute of Technology campus.

His shooting and that of another student who died a few weeks later sparked widespread protests against the military government known as the 8-8-88 campaign, because they peaked in August that year. An estimated 3,000 people were killed when the army crushed the uprising.

Aung San Suu Kyi emerged as a democracy icon during the movement and was kept under house arrest for nearly two decades.

She was released in 2010 as the military began democratic reforms. Her National League for Democracy won elections in 2015 and again in November last year.

This year, the generals overthrew her government and detained Suu Kyi and many of her cabinet colleagues, claiming fraud in the November elections.

Agencies

Demonstrators call for justice, reforms a year after Breonna Taylor's death in Kentucky

LOUISVILLE

HUNDREDS of demonstrators gathered for a rally and march in Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday to mark the one-year anniversary of the killing of Breonna Taylor, whose death helped fuel U.S. protests against police brutality.

Taylor, a Black 26-year-old emergency medical technician and aspiring nurse, was shot six times and killed by police in her Louisville home during a botched raid on March 13, 2020.

A grand jury in September recommended no homicide charges against the three white officers in the case. One of the officers, Brett Hankison, was charged with three counts of wanton endangerment for firing into a neighbor's apartment, and a juror said later those charges were the only ones brought to the grand jury by Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron.

Hankison and two other officers were fired by the police department.

The incident, along with the police killing in May of George Floyd in Minnesota, sparked demonstrations against racism and excessive use of force by law enforcement across the nation last summer.

During Saturday's rally in Louisville, speakers called for justice for Taylor and reforms to the criminal justice system.

Agencies

Ethiopia rejects US allegations of ethnic cleansing in Tigray

NAIROBI

ETHIOPIA on Saturday rejected US allegations there has been ethnic cleansing in Tigray, pushing back against the latest criticism of its military operation in its northern region by the new administration in Washington.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday he wanted to see Eritrean forces and those from the Amhara region replaced in Tigray by security forces that will respect human rights and not "commit acts of ethnic cleansing".

"(The accusation) is a completely unfounded and spurious verdict against the Ethiopian government," the ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement on Saturday.

"Nothing during or after the end of the main law enforcement operation in Tigray can be identified or defined by any standards as a targeted, intentional ethnic cleansing against anyone in the region," it said. "The Ethiopian government vehemently opposes such accusations."

Ethiopia's federal army ousted the



former regional ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), from the capital Mekelle in November, after what it said was a surprise assault on its forces in the region bordering Eritrea.

The government has said that most fighting has ceased but has acknowledged there are still isolated incidents of shooting.

Ethiopia and Eritrea have denied the involvement of Eritrean troops in the fighting alongside Ethiopian forces, although dozens of witnesses, diplomats and an Ethiopian general have reported their presence. **Agencies**

Sri Lanka to ban burqa, shut many Islamic schools - minister

COLOMBO

SRI LANKA will ban the wearing of the burqa and shut more than a thousand Islamic schools, a government minister said on Saturday, the latest actions affecting the country's minority Muslim population.

Minister for public security Sarath Weerasekera told a news conference he had signed a paper on Friday for cabinet approval to ban the full face covering worn by some Muslim women on "national security" grounds.

"In our early days Muslim women and girls never wore the burqa," he said. "It is a sign of religious extremism that came about recently. We are definitely going to ban it."

The wearing of the burqa in the majority-Buddhist nation was temporarily banned in 2019 after the bombing of churches and hotels by Islamic militants that killed more than 250.

Later that year, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, best known for crushing a decades-long insurgency in the north of the country as defence secretary, was elected president after promising a crackdown on extremism.

Rajapaksa is accused of widespread rights abuses during the war, charges he denies. Weerasekera said the government plans to ban more than a thousand madrasa Islamic schools that he said were flouting national education policy.

"Nobody can open a school and teach whatever you want to the children," he said.

The government's moves on burqas and schools follow an order last year mandating the cremation of COVID-19 victims - against the wishes of Muslims, who bury their dead. **Agencies**

US says engaged in indirect diplomacy with Iran

WASHINGTON

THE United States and Iran have begun indirect diplomacy with Europeans and others conveying messages about how they might resume compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Friday.

"Diplomacy with Iran is ongoing, just not in a direct fashion at the moment," he told reporters.

"There are communications through the Europeans and through others that enable us to explain to the Iranians what our position is with respect to the compliance for compliance approach and to hear what their position is," Sullivan (pictured) added.

The new administration of US President Joe Biden has rejected giving Tehran unilateral incentives to begin talks but has held out the possibility of both sides taking reciprocal steps to resume implementing the deal, an approach Washington calls "compliance for compliance."

"We are waiting at this point to hear further from the Iranians how they would like to proceed," Sullivan said. "This is not going to be easy but we believe that we are in a diplomatic process now that we can move forward on and ultimately secure our



objective, which is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and to do so through diplomacy."

The United States on Feb. 18 said it was ready to talk to Iran about both nations resuming compliance with the pact that aimed to prevent Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons, seeking to revive a deal that Washington itself abandoned in 2018.

Iran began violating the deal in 2019, about a year after former US President Donald Trump withdrew from it and reimposed economic sanctions. Tehran has accelerated its breaches in recent months.

Each side has insisted the other go first in returning to the deal, with Tehran demanding Washington remove its economic sanctions and the United States demanding that Iran reinstate limitations on its nuclear programme. **Agencies**

CHINA'S tremendous achievements in poverty reduction and its important contributions to the development and progress of the world's human rights cause won praise from participants in an international meeting on the role of poverty alleviation in promoting and protecting human rights held on Feb. 26.

As part of the 46th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which is slated to run from Feb. 22 to March 23, the meeting was aimed at facilitating the sharing of good practices and experience in promoting human rights through poverty reduction and fostering technological cooperation

China wins praise for contributions to world's human rights cause

concerning human rights in the international community.

Facts have shown that China's idea of "No human right is more important than the right to a happy life", which the country has advocated all along, is inspirational to the international community.

The country has adhered to a people-centered philosophy in protecting human rights, combined the universal principles of human rights with the prevailing realities of the country, and pursued a new path of human rights protection based on its national conditions.

China has always regarded the rights to subsistence and development as the primary and basic human rights, which is in accord with the Declaration on the Right to Development of the UN, which stipulates that the right to development is an inalienable human right.

The country is committed to improving the protection of the people's economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental rights, safeguarding social fairness and justice, and promoting the well-rounded development of individuals. China has won the war against

poverty as planned, and attained the poverty reduction goal set in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule; it has built the world's largest education system, social security system, medical system and the system of community-level democracy; the average life expectancy of Chinese people has increased from 35 years to 77 years.

Such achievements China has made in protecting human rights have proven that development is the master key to solving all problems and that living a happy life is the primary human right.

China's human rights philosophy is not only the inherent logic behind its human rights progress, but also the country's important contribution to enriching and expanding the world's human rights theories.

Guided by its people-centered approach in human rights protection, China has been able to better protect and promote human rights through effective poverty alleviation actions.

Since 2012, China has organized and launched a tough anti-poverty drive that is the largest in scale and strongest in intensity in human history.

Climate scientist optimistic about China's role in global climate actions

GENEVA

A world-leading biologist and climate scientist has expressed optimism about China's role in global climate actions.

"We know China can change quickly like it did in the past in so many ways and produced so many benefits for its population.

I have no doubt in the coming decade it can produce cleaner air, cleaner energy, and create greater prosperity," Professor Tim Flannery at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva told Xinhua in a recent video interview.

The Chinese system of five-year planning has been tremendously productive, and I look forward to the 14th Five-Year Plan with great expectation," he said. China's 14th Five-Year Plan will outline the top priorities of the economic and social development of the world's second-largest economy from 2021 to 2025.

China will make concrete efforts to achieve the peaking of carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon-neutrality by 2060, according to the government work report submitted Friday to the national legislature for deliberation.

Flannery said he is paying attention to the emission reduction in



A tramcar runs past begonia flowers in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, March 28, 2018. (File photo)

China for the coming five to 10 years, China's adaptation to the inevitable effects arising from climate change, as well as the usage of drawdown technologies to capture, store and utilize atmospheric carbon.

From 2007 to 2009, Flannery chaired the Copenhagen Climate Council, an awareness-raising civil society organization, in preparation for the United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen, which failed to reach a global agreement.

Noting that China "in particular came to Copenhagen to act," Flannery appealed to the international community to join the efforts. "I think the situation has fundamentally changed," he stressed, "because the price of clean energy has dropped so much, to address climate change has become a win-win situation.

The impetus for action is only growing stronger, those who act now will be better off." Flannery expressed concern that cutting the emissions alone will not suffice. "To avoid serious consequences, scientists tell us to reduce emissions roughly by 45 percent over the next 10 years.

Given all the international pledges together, we are only on track to reduce by 1 percent," he warned. "So we need to urgently consider cap-

turing and sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide."

As an advocate for seaweed farming as a solution to capture and sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide, Flannery said: "Seaweed grows very rapidly. It sucks the carbon dioxide from the upper layer of the ocean, hence from the atmosphere, fixes the carbon, and some of the carbon can be transported by currents or other means, into the deep oceans."

"It's one of few industries we have that are already scalable and can create enormous benefits: it can decacidify oceans, we can grow high-quality protein, and we can deal with climate change," he said. Saying that he was "impressed" by the experience East Asia has in seaweed farming,

Flannery noted that China grows and harvests about three quarters of the world's seaweed. **Xinhua**

AstraZeneca's EU vaccine woes deepen on clots, nationalism

By Bloomberg

ASTRAZENECA Plc's European vaccine nightmare is worsening, with a number of countries halting shots over safety fears as further delivery delays prompt governments around the world to hoard doses they've already got.

At least 10 countries including Italy and Norway reacted after Austria, and later Denmark, raised concerns over the possible side effects from two batches. While Europe's medicines regulator said there was no indication of issues, it led to a spate of suspensions stretching as far as Thailand.

The health scare emerged against a backdrop of further supply woes. The drugmaker's efforts to make up for the European Union shortfall by sourcing shots elsewhere have hit a wall as governments around the world protect their own supplies. The US rebuffed pressure to share doses and is holding on to its Astra stockpile, even though the shot isn't yet authorized for use there.

The drama keeps Astra at the center of a political storm in Europe, weeks after manufacturing issues first put the two sides into conflict. Meanwhile, the EU is falling further behind the UK and the US in vaccinations, creating a political crisis for the bloc's leaders.

In addition to low yields producing less vaccine than planned, one plant in the Netherlands is still awaiting regulatory approval to deploy doses. The site, owned by the manufacturer Halix, is making the vaccine drug substance for Astra and forms part of both the EU and UK supply chains.

An Astra spokesman said the approval timing is in line with original plans and hasn't had any impact on EU deliveries. Halix didn't respond to a request for comment outside of normal business hours.

But the various issues mean Astra will only be able to deliver about 100 million doses to the EU in the first half of the year, it said Friday,



about a third of the number originally planned. Thirty million doses are due to be delivered by the end of this quarter, with the rest coming in the next three months.

Italy has already responded with direct action, making use of a new EU measure to stop Astra from shipping some doses to Australia. Prime Minister Mario Draghi hinted on Friday that he'll do that again if he has to.

"The European Union has taken clear commitments with pharmaceutical companies and we expect they will be respected," Draghi said. "We have taken some strong decisions against companies which have delayed the deliveries and we will continue to do so."

The latest developments will do little to encourage take up of the Astra vaccine in the EU, which had already encountered issues in recent weeks in light of the varying efficacy rates, potential loss of protection against new virus variants, and questions on its effectiveness in older adults. Until recently, a number of countries had restricted use of the shot to those aged under 65.

In a March 7 YouGov survey, perceptions in EU countries of the safety of the shot from Astra and the University of Oxford were lower compared with vaccines from Pfizer Inc and partner BioNTech SE, and Moderna Inc. By contrast, Britons viewed Astra's as the safest of the three.

The suspensions may further

embed negative views, despite the guidance from the European Medicines Agency.

The number of incidents reported -- about 30 from a group of around five million -- is no greater than what would have occurred naturally in that size of population, according to regulators and scientists.

"Genuine problems with a batch are very rare and almost always relate to contamination by bacteria or physical" particles like glass detected by the manufacturer, said Stephen Evans, a professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. "Pausing the use in this case is not evidence-based."

Astra said an analysis of safety data of more than 10 million records had shown no evidence of an increased risk of pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis in any age group, gender, batch or country.

The Astra vaccine has become an emblem for growing pandemic nationalism as countries race to inoculate populations as quickly as possible. The US has already ordered nearly enough vaccines from the three manufacturers with authorization from the Food and Drug Administration to immunize its adult population twice over.

"We're going to start off making sure Americans are taken care of, first, but we're then going to try to help the rest of the world," President Joe Biden said on Wednesday.

Agencies

Sputnik V has same effectiveness for all age groups - developer

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Sputnik V anti-coronavirus vaccine has demonstrated the same level of effectiveness in all age groups, said Alexander Gintsburg, the director of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology that developed Sputnik V.

"Sputnik V has demonstrated the same level of effectiveness in all age groups. At first, there were doubts that it might possibly be less effective for people aged 60 and older.

As their immune systems are less active, they can produce a weaker [immune] response. However, nothing of this kind [happened]. This preparation works well for elderly people aged 60, 70 and 80," he said in an interview on the Solovyev Live YouTube channel on Saturday.

In his words, all vaccinated persons demonstrated good immune response and high tolerability of the vaccine. According to Gintsburg, the vaccine's effect may last two years or even longer. Mass vaccination of the adult population against the novel coronavirus in Russia began on January 18. Russians can currently be vaccinated free of charge with one of the two registered vaccines - Sputnik V or EpiVacCorona.

On August 11, Russia became the first country in the world to register a coronavirus vaccine named Sputnik V, which was developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry. **Agencies**

while, the remarkable achievement has also provided solutions to global poverty problems in both theory and practice.

As a major developing country with a population that accounts for about one-fifth of the world's total, China has beyond doubt injected strong positive energy into the development of global human rights cause with its great human rights achievements.

Serbian-American economist Branko Milanovic, who works on global inequality issues, noted that China's poverty reduction and development are of great significance for promoting global equality and progress. **People's Daily**

SPORT

Simba SC faces Al Merreikh in tricky CAF Champions League clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC faces a tricky fixture when the club entertains Al Merreikh of Sudan in this season's CAF Champions League's Group A, which will take place in Dar es Salaam.

With CAF having opted to direct that the clash should take place behind closed doors, the fixture therefore is expected to turn into a quite competitive tie.

The continental soccer body recently announced that all CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup games will be played without fans.

After the statement, Simba's leadership summoned the press and apologized to the side's fans because it was CAF's decision and they are the ones with the authority of African football.

The club's leaders said their squad is used to playing without fans outside Tanzania but th squad has never witnessed such an atmosphere in the country.

Speaking on Saturday, the club's Head of Information and Communication Department, Haji Manara said he knows how difficult it is to play without fans, they however have to obey the African football governing body decision.

Manara said that though it is the first time for Simba to play without fans at home, the players have experienced that situation in their CAF Champions League matches held in several countries.

The team have played the fixtures behind closed doors in, among others, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe and Sudan.

Simba, who will take on Al Merreikh in a return leg tie of CAF Champions League's Group A, have been enjoying support from their enthusiasts in home matches but this time around it will be different.

They were expecting to have a full back up of home supporters, but this time will definitely be a blow for the

Premier League defending champions as CAF suspended fans.

The football followers were extremely supportive when Simba edged Egypt's Al Ahly 1-0.

The decision is linked with measures to stop the spreading of Coronavirus pandemic that have hit many countries, leading to the imposition of travel ban.

In most parts of the Europe and other continents, football matches remain unattended by fans in the wake of Covid-19 scare.

The continental soccer body, Manara noted, issued restriction through the country's football governing football body, TFF.

He disclosed: "Only the officials and a few individuals will be allowed into the stadium for the game. All we can ask from our supporters is to pray for us from home and we will not disappoint them."

The official further stated it will not be a problem for Simba to play in an empty stadium since the players have the needed experience to perform.

CAF also directed Simba to have just a half of 60,000 capacity of Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium when they beat African champions, Al Ahly of Egypt in their earlier CAF Champions League's group match.

"This will be a silent battle from our players just the way a lion does when it is on a hunting mission," Manara continued.

"It does not matter whether there will be fans or not because the players know how to handle the situation owing to their experience.

We will give our best and I am hopeful we will get a positive outcome." Manara further insisted on what the team is aiming at achieving in the competition.

He added that they are planning to get three points to secure a place in the qualifiers as they will need only one point in two games which will remain against Al Ahly and AS Vita Club.

Karaoke entertainment catching up in Dar, providing new youth visions

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOMETHING new is on the way to being included, or is already taking its place in evening life in the city of Dar es Salaam and not surprisingly some urbane spots upcountry, in the sense of the rise of Karaoke entertainment.

Online sources say Karaoke is a type of interactive entertainment developed in Japan in which people sing along to recorded music using a microphone.

The music is an instrumental version of a well-known popular song, in which case the live band is doing the singing but doesn't need the physical side, like guitars, drums, piano and the like. The young people learn the singing, dancing.

What makes the music an especially interesting type of relaxation is that it is innovative in its dancing, and it is unclear how far the numbers that are recorded in instrumental actually involved that kind of dancing at the start, but when the dancers sing out the music and dance it, the whole show looks original and authentic.

The music is sourced in different spheres and cultures, and as a matter of fact it looks like it is devoted almost entirely to overseas music, as then nobody would be imitating some other bands in town, which have their songs and are a bit envious about them. Foreign songs aren't in local competition.

Deciphering the marketing outlays of this kind of entertainment isn't excessively complicated, as to put it bluntly, it is a 'higher' version of the off-road or side-street local dances that are morphing into physically exciting dances like infamous 'kigodoro' that some parts of Zanzibar are blackening out.

Karaoke is higher in the sense that it doesn't involve the provocations of coastal zone initiation music now forcing itself to the stage but off radar as it were, counting on the tolerance of authorities to conduct their trade.

As these activities help make



Waluguru Original Band musicians put their skills show for the troupe's enthusiasts in Morogoro a few months ago. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

ends meet for youth and a measure of happiness for residents, they let it be.

Karaoke is different from this sort of scenario, as it is vibrant not in its provocation but dancing intricacy, modeled on musical gymnastics of classical theatrical performances for instance what is known as Bolshoi in Russia, Broadway theatre in New York, etc.

It is part music and part gymnastics in its innate ability to combine or marry intricate musical beat to an orchestrated dance pattern that must actually flow in tandem with the music, without let up or gap, as otherwise the show is muddled up.

While the music or rather instrument plays, two 'athledancers' take the stage, imitating romantic admixture, to see it through.

There is something of that kind in 'musinastics' (musical gymnastics) of the karaoke sort, in the patterns that youths take up to dance the music, showing intricate flexibility of feet in particular, as the waist is far less visible in karaoke, unlike its distant local cousin.

Still when one looks around at a limited show in a bar lounge in a middle class residential district rather than

exclusive beach resorts as is more often the case, some bikini clad girls are sure to be seen, and may engage in the music.

With a bit of advancement mentally, that clothing is seen more like what girls wear in athletics or tennis courts; so little worry there.

This kind of music makes one thing evident, that it provides entertainment joints of an upper level in the city with a different kind of musical turnout than the usual offensive youth output now common in bars or singles that the youths put up.

It is hard to listen to such songs in the company of family members, whereas karaoke is pure musical entertainment, without offensive songs or provocative dancing, even if there is some liberty in how the young women dress.

And then again they don't invade the surroundings as a large group of singers and dancers as it is often the case, they sing in turns, by specializing numbers.

Karaoke opens up visions in youth engagement in entertainment as it makes dubbing a profession, where a certain foreign number is erased of its original content and is sung from the platform.

The singer is just someone just sitting somewhere at the bar front, and only the DJ has a visible corner with a computer set, and speakers on the sides of the hall.

Often one has to look around to figure out who is singing and where he or she is sitting, but once in a while a more energetic singer comes out dancing, intricately on the floor.

Karaoke has pushed youths to learn the ABCs of foreign languages so that they get the taste of the music numbers they come across, so that a youth sings a French jazz song as if it is being performed in Paris or Bordeaux.

Many tourists will be pleased to see there are youths here who can perform legendary musical creations back home and could even be especially captivated by the dancing, as some will not have had prior experience of exactly that same performance earlier.

If the tourism authorities start looking out for imaginative youths playing such music and entertain visitors of a particular country with their own music, it may earn their admiration.

They can also decide to come back to relive that experience, and why not?

Spotify and the future of African streaming

By Stella Nasambu - BBC Money Daily

SPOTIFY has finally made its debut to the wider Africa market. Despite staying away from the continent for over a decade and being accessible only through VPN.

On paper, the African market is important as it will give independent & upcoming African artiste an even bigger platform and expose Spotify to a 1 billion user market share.

But what does this really mean for African artiste and Spotify users?

Reviewing the streaming industry - What Africa has to offer:

Spotify launch into South Africa in March of 2018, was met with raised eyebrows. The expected first African home for many industry pundits was the highly populated Nigeria but back then Claudius Boller, Managing Director for Middle East and Africa at Spotify, said South Africa was first choice for lots of reasons but especially for its developed music market.

Boller insisted that spotify was committed to taking the slow approach when it came to rolling out in new markets. He reiterated that spotify needed to have all the music in place to cater the needs of the fans

It was no surprise that after a decade of careful deliberation, Spotify finally made a move to launch in 2021 to the rest of the continent.

A quick scan of their website lists some African Spotify markets such as Mali, Botswana, Nigeria, Kenya among the 37 countries to join the Spotify family.

Spotify's biggest music stars are surprisingly Nigerian though with Artiste such as Burna Boy, Davido, WhizzKid and Tiwa Savage out streaming the rest of the continent.

While these artistes ride the wave of afrobeats, the streaming giant offering promises to be quite diverse with curated playlists of different genres like Amanpiano, Bongo Flava, South African and many more for sampling both in the continent and globally.

Blinky Bill, a producer, musician and trailblazer of the Kenyan urban scene has the luck of being both user and featured artist.

His thoughts about Spotify's launch? "I use Spotify all the time, they have an amazing Algorithm that helps me discover so much more music that I'd possibly like and my first thought was no more VPN!!!" he said.

With all the excitement, there has been online chatter



Phiona Okumu, Head of Music - Sub-Saharan Africa at Spotify.

on a few gaps mainly from artistes ... Blinky said "I think mostly (the gap) is just information on how to get your music onto the streaming sites. But check out the websites of Distrokid, TuneCore, Orchard etc and figure out what works for your budget and get your music out there.

Blinky's music is on Spotify to the delight of his fans everywhere. "I have

been added to a couple of playlists and I'm getting my music discovered by different audiences globally and with tools like Spotify for artists, you get real time data on who is listening and where and this can help you be more intentional about your next moves" Blinky said.

The multi-hyphenate musician did however point out wanting to see more of the Benga genre

and was keen on exploring the Podcast platforms available on offer.

This echoes a sentiment by Phiona Okumu, Head of Music- Sub-Saharan Africa at Spotify.

She said that Spotify local producers were on ground in key markets and were ready to service the needs of the various market moving forward.

Market needs may vary but according to an industry insider DJ Edu (Destination Africa, BBC Ixtra /This is Africa, BBC World Service) African users are looking at access to wide catalogue of music, services on multiplatform at affordable services. "They also want a light app that doesn't use up lots of data" he said.

He also cited a future streaming trend, combining streaming, video and social media platforms for effective promo is a growing trend. Spotify's latest features such as Spotify clips is their answer to the growing trend of short behind the scenes videos of an artiste. This is expected to roll out in the coming months.

Podcasts is also a trend that Spotify plans to lean into for 2021. Spotify has invested roughly \$1 billion into podcasts.

According to the foremost

global research body on Advertising , World Advertising Research centre, by 2022 podcasts could account for 4.5% of global audio advertising spend, a total of \$1.6bn

Global streaming competitors

Spotify arrives in a market already occupied by Boom play. According to Boomplay they service 70 million + monthly users in markets such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Tanzania. The streaming platform has had its fingers on the pulse of African music since its launch in 2015.

Competition isn't even on the radar for Boomplay according to Tosin Sorinola Director, Artiste and Media relations in Africa.

She said "In my opinion, all the streaming platforms in Africa today are actually allies as we all face the same biggest threat and challenge, Piracy.". Tosin pointed out Boomplay's wish to work with other legitimate platforms, rightsholders and government to fight piracy. "Only if we could achieve that, we would then be able to actualize the potential of the 2nd largest continent with 1.3 billion population and build a well-structured ecosystem for the

industry" She said.

Artiste vs Spotify: The Mystery of artiste compensation?

Spotify sceptics have greeted its entry into the African market with a raised eyebrow. Artiste compensation has been a sore point for Spotify.

Spotify does not disclose how much it pays artists per stream, but the Recording Industry Association of America have calculated it at about \$0.00318, meaning that a rights holder would receive \$3.18 (£2.74) per 1,000 streams.

The association has stated that 30 seconds of a song is considered a full stream and is paid out as part of the grand total of the stream royalty.

As recently as November of 2020, the streaming received an open letter from the Union of Musicians and Allied Workers in the United States.

The letter called for better pay and claimed that Spotify allegedly encouraged established labels and management companies to pay for plays. The letter also stated. The practice amounts to payola," added the letter. "It is unacceptable and must be stopped.

Zaha is first Prem player not to kneel pregame

LONDON

CRYSTAL Palace winger Wilfried Zaha has become the first Premier League player to not take a knee before a game since the demonstration began last season, standing during the prematch ritual against West Brom on Saturday.

Players and officials have been taking a knee before games since protests began after the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis in May 2020.

"My decision to stand at kick-off has been public knowledge for a couple of weeks now," Zaha said in a statement via his management team Rocnation. "There is no right or wrong decision, but for me personally I feel kneeling has just become a part of the prematch routine and at the moment it doesn't matter whether we kneel or stand, some of us still continue to receive abuse.

"I know there is a lot of work being done behind the scenes at the Premier League and other authorities to make change, and I fully respect that, and everyone involved. I also fully respect my teammates and players at other clubs who continue to take the knee.

"As a society, I feel we should be encouraging better education in schools, and social media companies should be taking stronger action against people who abuse others online -- not just footballers. I now just want to focus on football and enjoy being back playing on the pitch. I will continue to stand tall.

Zaha had previously said taking a knee before every game is "degrading" and called for tangible change instead of being used to "tick boxes."

"The whole kneeling down -- why must I kneel down for you to show that we matter," he told the "On The Judy" podcast. "Why must I even wear Black Lives Matter on the back of my top to show you that we matter? This is all degrading stuff.

"When people constantly want to get me to do Black Lives Matter talks and racial talks and I'm like, I'm not doing it just so you can put 'Zaha spoke for us.' Like a tick box, basically.

"I'm not doing any more because unless things change, I'm not coming to chat to you just for the sake of it, like all the interviews I've done."

The Ivory Coast international came up through Palace's academy and has spent 11 seasons of his senior career with them. He is not expected to face a punishment.

Premier League CEO Richard Masters said earlier Saturday that players would continue to take a knee before games until the end of the season.

"It is a big statement, it was player-led. We spent a lot of time talking to players. It was an emotional time during the pandemic," Masters told Sky Sports.

"Going back to Project Restart, when we were talking to players, they wanted to make a statement about their thanks to the NHS and key workers and to make a stand against the events in America last summer.

"We were happy to support the players. Perhaps for the first time, we had the Premier League, clubs and players on the same page on an important issue.

Palace beat West Brom 1-0 thanks to a first-half penalty by Luka Milivojevic.

(Agencies)

Lewandowski equals goal milestone as Bayern power past Bremen

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich romped to a 3-1 win at Werder Bremen on Saturday as Robert Lewandowski claimed another goal-scoring milestone in the Bundesliga and hit the woodwork three times in a dynamic display.

Bayern dominated their final fixture before hosting Lazio in the Champions League last 16, second leg, on Wednesday holding a 4-1 lead.

Goals by Leon Goretzka and Serge Gnabry put Bayern 2-0 up in Bremen before Lewandowski claimed his 32nd league goal this season.

"He fights for his goals for the team in every game," Bayern midfielder Thomas Mueller said of Lewandowski to Sky.

"We were fresher and more active. We had control of the game. We should have scored more," added Mueller, who set up the first two goals.

Despite hitting the post and clipping the crossbar, Lewandowski finally scored with an hour gone to equal former Schalke striker Klaus Fischer's tally of 268 Bundesliga goals.

Only Bayern legend Gerd Mueller has scored more in Germany's top-flight with 365 in 427 league games.

A superb save from Bremen goalkeeper Jiri Pavlenka also prevented Lewandowski scoring with a powerful header late on.

The victory extends Bayern's lead at the top of the table to five points.

Second-placed RB Leipzig need to beat Eintracht Frankfurt at home on Sunday to keep pace with the Bavarians.

Mueller was outstanding in Bremen as his deft flick allowed Goretzka to head home the opening goal from a corner on 22.

AFP

Aguero moves Man City closer to title, but what is his future?

LONDON

THERE was time when Sergio Agüero's importance to Manchester City was a certainty and their success in the Premier League was not.

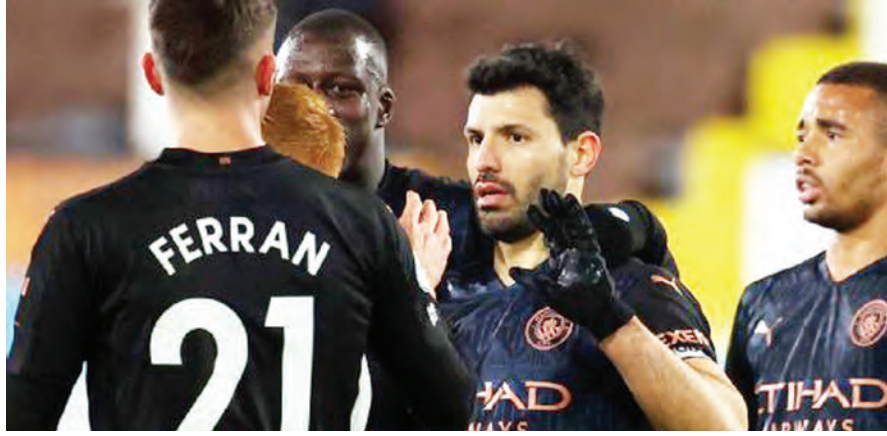
It feels decidedly different now.

City eased to a 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Fulham at Craven Cottage on Saturday to extend their lead over Manchester United to 17 points. United have two games in hand but, whatever Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side do, City need just five wins from their remaining eight games to secure a third league title in four seasons.

They have achieved such a dominant position largely without their all-time record goalscorer, restricted by injuries and COVID-19 to just four starts this season, with Saturday's bow just his second since Oct. 24.

The 32-year-old scored his first league goal in 14 months -- a barren run mitigated by various factors, not least a global pandemic -- netting City's third from the spot after John Stones and Gabriel Jesus had struck to make the game safe.

"For Sergio it is important [to score]," City boss Pep Guardiola told



Sergio Agüero, who is out of contract after this season, scored his first Premier League goal since January 2020. (Agencies)

BeIN after the match. "A long time injured, the use of a false nine to assert midfield dominance against certain opponents. Of course, he is still in the process but it was good to finish 90 minutes in good rhythm and to score a goal for all strikers is important."

Agüero had to start somewhere, of course, but this will need to be the beginning of a strong upturn in form with meaningful games running out to prove he can remain at the vanguard of what is shaping up to be a new dynasty under Guardiola.

It is yet another testament to the City manager's coaching prowess that he has re-established their domestic pre-eminence by methods aside from transfer market power: İlkay Gundogan's deployment in a more advanced position, Joao Cancelo's reinvention as

a full-back/midfielder, the use of a false nine to assert midfield dominance against certain opponents.

That latter tweak was in part informed by Agüero's unavailability. Jesus has struggled with his fitness this season, too; this was the first time the Brazilian and Agüero have started together since February 2020.

They now have 24 goals from 13 league starts together, a sign of their past potency and a record Agüero will be looking to extend in the weeks ahead.

Agüero is a City legend whatever happens, his 257th goal of an illustrious career the apotheosis of which will probably always be that stoppage-time winner against Queens Park Rangers in May 2012 to seal their first league

title in 44 years.

"Sergio is maybe the legend," Guardiola said. "Sometimes when I review the goal that won the Premier League for [Roberto] Mancini [in 2012], it is something special. He is a lovely person and what he has done ... we are going to decide the best for both sides."

Consequently, he should not be written off lightly despite turning 33 in June, and with a contract expiring this summer. There are murmurings that Agüero has become frustrated at a bit-part status of late having been fit to start well before Saturday's game. He is probably not alone in wanting more game time: Guardiola has now made 94 changes to his starting lineup this season, more than any other manager in the division.

City are likely to enter the scramble for Borussia Dortmund forward Erling Haaland should he become available this summer, a move which will likely hasten Agüero's departure.

But Agüero insisted in a Twitch interview this week that talk of a move to Barcelona was premature while Guardiola claimed he "will think about" a new contract "when the international break starts and I have more time."

The Argentine striker needs to seize every opportunity. He was undoubtedly a little ring-rusty here and not helped by City lacking their usual fluency in the first-half.

Agüero dropped deep at times to help link the play with Guardiola opting for a three-man defence supported by wing-backs Cancelo and Benjamin Mendy also aiming to provide attacking width.

With Gundogan and Kevin De Bruyne on the bench, City were a little disjointed and Agüero found himself on the periphery. He ended the half with just 16 touches, the same number as City goalkeeper Ederson and the fewest on the pitch bar Fulham winger Ademola Lookman.

City were struggling to move the ball with suf-

ficient speed or incision to unsettle Fulham and so it will infuriate Cottagers boss Scott Parker no end that their resistance was broken from a set-piece just after half-time, triggering a blitz of three goals in 13 minutes.

Cancelo swung over a free kick and Stones poked the ball into the net. If the opening goal was maddening, the second was comical. Joachim Andersen tried to clear the ball but only succeeded in hitting Ivan Cavaleiro, ricocheting straight into Jesus' path. He rounded Fulham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola before smashing the ball into the net.

Jesus was then fouled in the box by Tosin Adarabioyo -- a City academy graduate -- giving Agüero the chance to get on the scoresheet, ending his barren run. He completed 90 minutes for the first time in 13 months with 37 touches, the fewest of any City starter.

Guardiola's side remain in with a chance of a remarkable quadruple trophy haul this season. They seem almost certain to be celebrating on at least one front. Whether it proves to be Agüero's swansong or the start of another chapter remains unknown.

ESPN

Shaken by pandemic, soccer avoids financial collapse

LIVERPOOL, England

WANDERING around the concourses of the third tier of Anfield's main stand provides a glimpse into the past.

To the last day of normality in English soccer, before the world changed.

One year later, the betting boards are still filled with the odds for Liverpool's Champions League meeting with Atletico Madrid.

That game, on March 11, 2020, was the last time an English stadium had a capacity crowd. That same day, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

On the one-year anniversary, most games around Europe were still being played in empty stadiums. But after an initial total shutdown of soccer and fears that clubs may go bankrupt because of the loss of ticket revenues, the sport seems to have emerged largely intact. And with vaccine rollouts gathering pace across Europe, there is hope that fans will soon be back in the stands.

"We are no longer in full crisis," Andrea Agnelli, the Juventus chairman who leads the European Club Association, said this week.

But it's been a year where soccer became directly intermingled in the politics of trying to control the spread of the coronavirus.

The British government initially ruled out any restrictions on sports events, and the Liverpool-Atletico game went ahead with a capacity crowd of 52,267 fans. At that time, Spanish authorities had already imposed a ban on events in Madrid with



Chelsea's Mason Mount, third from left, scores his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Chelsea at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, England, Thursday, March 4, 2021. (AP)

more than 1,000 people.

In the end it was the Premier League itself that decided to pause for 100 days after prominent infections at Arsenal and Chelsea.

In France, the domestic league was abandoned entirely on government orders, while the other major leagues also took long breaks. The 2020 European Championship was postponed until 2021, as was the Copa America in South America. The Champions League wasn't completed until August in empty stadiums in Lisbon.

After the initial lockdown, fans were briefly allowed to return in pockets of Europe -- Liverpool was allowed up to 2,000 supporters in December at Anfield -- but the second wave of infections and the spread of new variants sparked new lockdowns.

"Especially at Liverpool we missed (the fans) because we have the most special atmosphere probably in the world of football," Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said this week. "So it's clear it makes a massive difference."

At least there was

no second complete shutdown of soccer in Europe, which helped prevent the financial apocalypse feared at the start of the pandemic.

But there has been a significant impact caused by the loss of matchday and commercial revenue, and rebates owed to broadcasters due to the disruptions to the schedule.

Accountancy firm KPMG assessed the finances of 43 clubs in Europe and found that total revenue dropped 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) -- or 13% -- last season.

Agnelli, the ECA head,

warned in January that European football teams face losing up to \$10 billion due to the pandemic.

Juventus has already revealed that losses more than doubled year-on-year to 113 million euros in the final six months of 2020. The Italian champion was among leading clubs to waive parts of their salaries. Arsenal and Barcelona also got their millionaire stars to accept pay cuts.

Barcelona has still been one of the clubs hardest hit as the pandemic compounded its existing financial prob-

lems. The Catalan club currently has debts over 1 billion euros. The Premier League fears clubs are losing 100 million pounds (\$140 million) a month as long as the turnstiles remain locked.

The impact of the pandemic was noticeable in the January transfer window when spending across England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France dropped from almost 1 billion euros in 2020 to around 275 million euros this year.

"I don't think the market will ever go back to where it was because the business models were sometimes too stretched," said Andrea Sartori, KPMG's global head of sports. "So I think the crisis has helped rethink the overall business model of football because it's hard to operate in an industry where many, many clubs are operating in a cost to revenue ratio which is well in excess of 65% like Barcelona."

Postponing Euro 2020 has already cost UEFA hundreds of millions of euros. That's why the governing body is determined to have stadiums at least half-full when the tournament goes

ahead across the continent in June and July.

The lingering financial damage caused by pandemic to the wider economy is also felt by soccer clubs, as it could have an impact on sponsorship deals and broadcasting revenue. The Premier League is in the midst of auctioning TV rights to the world's richest soccer competition and could be in for a shock.

"There's certainly going to be a rights correction and it may be seen and interpreted by many as rights deflation," said Simon Green, the head of BT Sport, which airs Premier League games in England.

But the overall outlook is a lot more optimistic than it was when soccer was largely shut down across the continent, and no one knew for sure when it might resume.

"We are now starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel," La Liga President Javier Tebas said. "In spite of loss of income of 2 billion euros, it could have been 7 billion euros. Especially the large clubs have been able to cope throughout this crisis."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Aguero moves Man City closer to title, but what is his future?

PAGE 19

Taifa Stars ready for Harambee Stars friendly, says coach



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S senior national team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, says his charges are ready for this afternoon's international friendly match against Kenya's Harambee Stars at Nyao Stadium in Nairobi.

The two teams will again lock horns in a fixture, to be played at Kasarani Stadium on Thursday.

Poulsen noted his charges are well prepared for the match which will be his first as the national team head coach.

The coach said he will use the game to assess his charges ahead of two crucial Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers' games against Equatorial Guinea and Libya, set to take place at the end of this month.

"We have two difficult games and our mission is to win. We are targeting an AFCON slot, the good thing is that the morale is high, of course it's a friendly match, but all the players are in good shape ready for the encounter," he said.

Taifa Stars are positioned third in Group J of the quest a place in the continental competition.

Tunisia, Libya and Equatorial Guinea are also the group's

contenders.

Taifa Stars' chances of reaching a second successive AFCON finals were dealt a blow after recording 1-1 draw with Tunisia, who are leading the group.

However, a victory over Equatorial Guinea would bring the team back into contention.

Poulsen says he is confident of qualifying for the Cameroon 2021 finals, maintaining his squads needs good preparations.

The team are made up of many local players. The foreign-based players who have joined camp are Egypt's ENPPI midfielder Himid Mao, Nassor Saadun who plays for MFK of Czech Republic, Kelvin John of Brook House College of United Kingdom (UK) and Morocco-based Nickson Kibabage, who plays for Yossufia FC.

Coach Poulsen stated Simba players who are involved in CAF Champions League clash against Al Merreikh

of Sudan, will join the national team after their side's fixture, to be played tomorrow.

Other foreign-based players joined Taifa Stars camp on FIFA-sanctioned days.

In a previous interview, Poulsen said he is happy that his squad is made up of both young and experienced players, a situation which is giving the team the much needed balance.

"I am happy with the squad, currently we have 22 players in camp, but what makes me more happy is the balance in the squad. I have a mixture of both young and old that is good for the current and the future of the national team," he said.

The Dane said the mission is to see to it Taifa Stars qualify for AFCON finals and noted he is during the training working on attacking, defending and transition.

He stated: "Although we don't have enough time to prepare well for the

international friendly matches, we are working hard on scoring as the aim is to score more goals."

"We are also working on defending so as we do not concede more goals, the focus is as well on transition (midfield) which is very important in balancing and distributing the ball," he said.

Harambee Stars are coached by Jacob Mulee and they will use the friendly matches to prepare for AFCON qualifiers against Egypt and Togo.

Taifa Stars and Harambee Stars last met in a competitive match on December 19, 2019 and the latter won 2-1.

The last international friendly match bringing together the two squads took place on May 29, 2016, it ended in 1-1 draw.

The teams have met 53 times, with Kenya having an upper hand. They have won 24 times, lost 15 games and 14 fixtures have ended in 1-1 draw.

EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hills
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 55ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hills

UJENZI

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Find out how using glass blocks from Canghul Traders Limited can improve your home decor

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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Ihefu FC optimistic of remaining in VPL next season

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

IHEFU FC's head coach Zubeir Katwila states he will use the current football recess to prepare his side to avoid crashing out of this season's Vodacom Premier League.

Katwila's side is positioned 17th in the top flight with 20 points from 24 matches.

The Mbeya squad is yet to battle it out in 10 games to finish the league.

Katwila, former Mtibwa Sugar head coach, said Ihefu FC has crucial games and the squad needs to show character for them to remain in the league.

He said they are not in a good position but if they can work hard they can avoid relegation from the elite league.

The coach said the team's technical, in cooperation with executive committee's members and fans, will leave no stone unturned in their bid to remain in the league.

He disclosed they need to fight hard to keep their survival hopes alive.

"Now we have reached a stage where every game is crucial to us, we need to work even harder for us to avoid relegation, we need to do well in our remaining games," he said.

At the start of the second round of the Premier League, Katwila paid tribute to such experienced players like striker Juma Mahadhi and keeper Deogratius Munishi for largely contributing to the team's promising start, but the team is not performing well now.

He was quoted to have said: "I requested the management to sign experienced players in the team for us to survive. The old guard is working hard. I am impressed with their performance," he said.

Premier League teams went for recess for three weeks to pave way for senior national team assignments.

The Mbarali-based side is coming from a 3-0 defeat in the hands of Azam FC.

They have no player in the senior national team, a situation which means Katwila will have all of his players at his disposal.

If they can play well in their remaining 10 matches, their chances of remaining in the league will be high. Once the league resumes next month, Ihefu FC will play away to Namungo FC and the former will thereafter have five games at home.

They will lock horns with Mbeya City FC, Tanzania Prisons, Coastal Union, Polisi Tanzania and Dodoma Jiji FC.

After the home games, Ihefu FC will travel to JKT Tanzania, Kagera Sugar, Yanga and finish this season's Premier League with a tie with Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Other two bottom-placed sides in the domestic top flight are Mbeya City FC, placed 16th with 20 points, and Mwadui FC, staying last with 20 points from the same number of fixtures but having inferior goal difference.

Kagera Sugar hire Baraza as new head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar have unveiled coach, Francis Baraza, as the side's new head coach on a two-and-a-half year contract and he will next week start serving the Bukoba-based team.

The Kenyan coach has joined the team taking over the reins of his predecessor, Mecky Mexime who parted ways with the team over allegations of dissatisfaction with their results in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

Baraza, who had previously trained Biashara United, had helped the team garner tremendous success in the top flight.

The Mara-based club is placed fourth in the Premier League with 39 points and it has also booked a place in the last 16 of the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Baraza has confirmed that he has already left his former club and will now be in a new team to continue his career.

"I have already left Biashara United, let me have a new challenge, this is my job and I am not afraid of anything as I look forward to new challenges," he disclosed.

Baraza, who lifted the Kenya Premier



Francis Baraza

League (KPL) title with Sony Sugar in 2006, had realistic chance of winning the VPL this season with his former club.

The Mara side is 11 points behind the VPL leaders Yanga.

Baraza has been riding on the high tides with Bashara United, a small

club based in a small town of Musoma, since he left Kenya for a greener pasture in Tanzania in November 2019.

It is reported that Kagera Sugar FC has tabled an irresistible offer to the man who has coached Chemelil, Sony Sugar, and Muhoroni FC, among other clubs in Kenya.

Unlike Biashara United, who are barely three years in the league, Kagera Sugar FC boast of a solid foundation and relatively strong financial muscle that they want to use to push themselves out of the bottom half.

It is clear although Kagera Sugar have money and good welfare for coaches, Biashara United have more success in the Premier League.

Kagera Sugar are struggling and they have therefore chose to hire Baraza.

Baraza is the only Kenyan coach to have lifted two league titles as a player and one as a coach.

He won the league with AFC Leopards in 1998 and Oserian (2001) before guiding Sony Sugar to their only top podium finish in 2006.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

