

SEPTEMBER PAGE3



**ANNUAL HEADLINE INFLATION FOR** 

**CASHEWNUT FARMING IN SINGIDA** PAGE 4



**BANK EMPOWERS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS PAGE7** 



Page 13

# **VP directs former** Burundi refugees to observe the law

#### By Guardian Reporter, Mpanda

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has appealed to Tanzanians to stop hosting foreigners fleeing justice in neighbouring countries.

Addressing residents of Katumba Ward in Nsimbo Constituency, Katavi Region, the VP said the government has received complaints from neighbouring countries that wanted suspects are being hosted in Tanzania.

She said the cited individuals are those who conduct subversive political activities against their governments and sneak into Tanzania where they find refuge among citizens without the government being involved.

The Vice President was addressing a rally to mobilize votes for CCM candidates. She said hosting a foreigner without knowledge of authorities is a criminal offence.

"The complaints we have are that Tanzania is hosting opponents of governments in neighbouring countries, and if you examine our official records, we have no such people. But in

reality we have them and you host them silently," she told the gathering.

People living in Katumba Ward came as refugees from neighbouring Burundi, some of whom applied for and were granted Tanzanian citizenship.

Suluhu, the CCM presidential running mate, directed officials in the area to be alert on the issue, which she said is contrary to the country's laws and procedures.

"Katumba Ward residents and their children are Tanzanians per se after rejecting the citizenship of their former country, hence they are bound to abide by Tanzania's laws," the VP declared

She said Tanzania is a peaceful country that has no history of violence, and whoever comes to stir violence will be hunted down, and legal steps taken against them.

She cited reports that some residents in the area own and manufacture firearms contrary to existing laws, with those arms being used in

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**TAIFA STARS VS BURUNDI** 

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President Dr John Magufuli and his visiting Malawian counterpart, Dr Lazarus Chakwera, in buoyant mood yesterday shortly after unveiling the foundation stone of a modern bus terminal lined up for Dar es Salaam city's Mbezi Luis suburb – as Malawian and Tanzanian first ladies, Monica Chakwera (L) and Janeth Magufuli, look on. Photo: State House

### CONTRACTORS BOARD

## Magufuli gives contractor 3 weeks to finish bus terminal PCCB nabs head teacher

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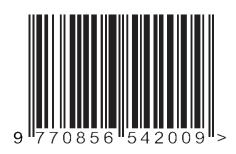


### **CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK** Page 6









# in exam cheating fiasco

#### **By Guardian Correspondent, Kiteto**

DETECTIVES from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Kiteto District, Manyara Region, are holding a primary school head teacher allegedly for facilitating cheating in the standard seven national examinations.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, the regional head of PCCB, Holle Makungu named the teacher as Oscar Waluye of Olkitikit Primary School.

The teacher is accused of arranging for bright yet unregistered candidates to write the tests on behalf of struggling pupils in a bid to boost the score of the school and give the

pupils undeserved passes, he said.

The head teacher allegedly picked bright standard six pupils and another who finished at the school last year and did well, giving them registration numbers of the slow learners.

After getting wind of the situation on Wednesday when the exams started, PCCB detectives arrived at the school and pounced on Waluye who will be arraigned in court for violating national examination regulations.

"He used his position as head teacher to engage in examination malpractice," the regional commander noted, elaborating that by the time Waluye was arrested,

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#### **By Guardian Reporter**

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday issued a 23-day ultimatum to a company constructing the Mbezi Luis International Bus Terminal to complete the work, being undertaken by Hainan International, a Chinese firm.

President Magufuli issued was commissioning the project, accompanied by his Malawian counterpart Dr Lazarus Chakwera, on the last leg of a three-day state visit

"The reason given for delaying the project was the coronavirus outbreak, which doesn't hold water," the president intoned, insisting that it was unfair for the 71bn/- project scheduled to be completed in July to be

extended to next January.

"Today corona is cited as a reason; tomorrow delays will be referred to rainfall, later sunshine and spirits. This is unacceptable," he declared He directed the Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC) director who signed the contract to ensure it is completed before November 1

without any extension.

"The contractor should work day and night," he said, remarking further that the contractor's pay should be deducted for liquidation damage if the October 30 deadline is not met, to set an example for other contractors.

He said that the project was poorly implemented; denying taxi operators as well as tricycle, motorcycle and food vendors

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### NMB launches UnionPay cards

#### By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

UNIONPAY payment cards will now be accepted at NMB Bank P;ATMs and points of sale (POS), thanks to a new partnership between the lender and UnionPay International (UPI).

The two institutions also launched an e-commerce platform that will see merchants enabled to make online payments on their websites, at an event graced by Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Zanzibar Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage.

NMB Bank chief executive officer, Ruth Zaipuna said UnionPay cards will ensure quick, easy and secure payment services enabling UnionPay cardholders to access their funds, along with extra digital value-added services.

UnionPay International (UPI) is a subsidiary of China UnionPay, focused on the growth and support of UnionPay global business, in partnership with local stakeholders around the world.

"This is another milestone on NMB Bank's commitment to enhance customer service and experience. It is also an opportunity for merchants such as retail stores, hotels and tour operators to boost their cross-border businesses



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#### NATIONAL.NEWS



Contractors Registration Board registrar Rhoben Nkori (2nd-R) shares a light moment with Mzumbe University's Prof Prosper Ngowi in Arusha on Wednesday moments before opening three-day training on business management skills for Tanzanian contractors organised by the board for northern zone contractors. With them are the CRB deputy registrar (Research and Development) David Jere (R) and training coordinator Neema Fuime. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# **Be creative, work diligently to lure more clients, CRB tells contractors**

#### By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Arusha

TANZANIAN contractors have been urged to be creative and work diligently to attract more clients for construction tenders instead of complaining about foreign companies' dominance in the sector.

Contractors Registration Board (CRB), Registrar Rhoben Nkori made the call here yesterday when opening a three-day training of business management skills for local contractors.

Organised by CRB, the training brought on board 96 contractors from Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manvara, Tanga, Dodoma, Singida and Mwanza regions. It's a continuation of training to equip local contractors to improve their standards and topic covered were Business skills, entrepreneurship and business life cycle, marketing matters,

business plans, strategizing and business model.

Nkori said without improvement, creativity and joint ventures when implementing construction sites local contractors will remain observers while foreign companies secure big construction tenders.

He said construction is a business like any other business so contractors must value their profession by observing standards they have signed in their contract with their clients.

"Find connection in district council and Tanroads so that it can be easy for you to get tenders, every business has its challenges so don't give up and I coming soon," said Nkori.

The registrar said local contractors have been improving their work and there is a lot of evidence of good work they have done when

projects something that disqualify the perception that local companies cannot perform big projects with standards.

Training facilitator, Prof Prosper Ngowi, said the competition within construction industry is increasing so he urged local practitioners to improve their standards and be innovative in their daily activities if they need to remain in the construction market.

Professor Ngowi said to be local contractor is not a criteria to get tender anywhere but the only way to compete with foreign companies in tenders competition is to improve would like to take this opportunity to their standards when implementing tell you that something good for you is construction sites they get from government and private institutions.

"We must speak the truth in order to change and improve our companies because no one will come and give you construction sites only because you are

implementing different government a local contractor, your competence and good records is the only thing that will lift you up," he said.

He advised contractors to prepare working plans at least of five years so that it become easy for the successor of the company to know where to start if anything happen to the owner like death or sickness.

He said market is an important component for any company to survive so he advised them to set some amount for advertisement by producing some calendars, banners, caps, emblems and other products that have the company profile and communications. "When you attend meetings like this take advantage to advertise yourself and network with others, you must carry something to advertise your company, don't underestimate the power of networking because if you don't advertise no one will know where you are and what you are doing," he said.

### **Dar fish sellers feel pinch** of the Covid-19 pandemic

#### By Blandina Semwaiko, TUDARCo

TRADERS selling fried fish at the Ferry Market in Dar es Salaam have decried lack of customers due to impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

They said before the pandemic, they used to sell fish to foreigners, but now there are nowhere to be seen.

"We're currently facing hard times as there are no more big customers who used to buy fish because of the virus. The outbreak of Coronavirus spoiled our business as sometimes, Chinese were among the best customers of fish at this market, but now they aren't coming as it was in the past," said Amisi Juma, a fish trader at the fish market.

"To be honest, things are not pleasing these days; the business is so difficult here as there are no many customers as it was used to be. The outbreak of Coronavirus has spoiled our business. There are no longer foreigner customers who used to come here, Chinese were among the best customers at this market," said Hamis Juma, one of the fried fish traders.

Hamis said that presently, traders can stay from morning till evening without selling anything, something which affects them deeply as they have families to take care of as well as to pay rent for the business area.

He added that before corona, customers from Uganda and Turkey

were able to meet retailers and buy large quantities of fish for export to their countries, but now it is different from how it was before.

For her part, Zaran Omary, also a fish trader at the market hinted that during corona crisis, sales have dropped and traders are earning little.

The traders further asked the government to establish more fish processing factories in Dar es Salaam so as to benefit not only the fish sellers but the nation as well.

"The government should establish fish processing factories in the country for the development of Tanzanian fishermen, for example in Dar es Salaam, there is very few fish processing factories," Zarau added.

To be honest, things are not pleasing these days; the business is so difficult here as there are no many customers as it was used to be. The outbreak of Coronavirus has spoiled our business

## PCCB nabs head teacher in exam cheating fiasco

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said.

the imposters had already done the Kiswahili and Arithmetic papers. "Currently we are continuing with investigations. We will take further action after we finalise the inquiry," he

Pupils sat for standard seven national examinations for two days from Wednesday.

Announcing the start of the annual event in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) Executive Secretary, Dr Charles Msonde warned that there will be consequences for those found engaging in cheating.

"The council would like to take this opportunity to call on regional examination committees and district, municipal and city councils to ensure that all procedures for the conduct of national examinations are adhered to. Exam committees should ensure that examination centers are safe and secure, and prevent any loopholes that could lead to cheating," he said.

This year, there are 1,024,007 candidates in the Mainland. Out of the number, 493,289 (49.17 per cent) are boys while 530,718 (51.83 per cent) are girls.

### VP directs former Burundi refugees to observe the law

#### FROM PAGE 1

criminal activities.

"Tanzanian laws forbid people to own firearms, but whoever wants to own a fire arm must be licensed and specify the purpose for needing it. Anything less than that will be contravening the country's laws," she said.

The VP also referred to a problem

that some residents of Katumba ward welcome people from a neighbouring country who just decide to enter the country.

"Officially a person entering the country must pass through an Immigration entry point and have his/her passport stamped. But people come in quietly and we host them; this is contrary to the laws," the VP added.

### Magufuli gives contractor 3 weeks to finish bus terminal

#### FROM PAGE 1

space to place their wares, therefore delaying income generation without compensation.

"Minister, make sure the contractor works day and night. Regional and district engineers should shift to the project area," he spelled out.

He also tasked the Contractors Registration Boards (CRB) and Engineers Registration Board (ERB) to closely follow implementation of the project and ensure the consultant fulfils his job to represent the client in the project spending Tanzanians' money.

The timeframe and value for project money should be observed, as the company was allowed to subcontract some activities to other firms, he further directed.

The bus station has the capacity to host 1,000 upcountry buses, 280 taxis, tricycles and motorcycles, as well as serving buses plying to member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

For his part, Dr Chakwera said the implementation of the project was an indication that African countries can bring development using their own resources.

He commended President Magufuli for giving him an opportunity of making Tanzanian history in allowing him to lay the foundation stone for one of the country's giant projects.

"I know there are many Malawians who travel to Tanzania to do business, hence construction of this terminal will help to scale up business between the two nations," said Dr Chakwera, who left the country later in the evening.

Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), earlier said the new facility which will be the largest bus station in East and Central Africa. It will house crucial services and upon completion it will accommodate 3,456 buses and 80 small vehicles at one time and provide outside parking slots for 1, 000 vehicles.

The project whose construction has been completed by 85 percent employed 600 people and when completed it will employ more than 10,000 jobs where beneficiaries generate a total of 10.2bn/- annually, he added.



Prof Ibrahim Lipumba, opposition Civic United Front's candidate for the Tanzanian President in the upcoming General Election, addresses a campaign rally at Arusha city's Kilombero market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

#### FROM PAGE 1

by accepting online payments," she stated.

"With our chain of more than 1,750 sale terminals and over 800 ATMs across the country, the service is expected to significantly benefit UnionPay cardholders," the CEO affirmed

Luping Zhang, general manager of UnionPay International Africa said a UnionPay card is recognized as a significant payment tool for trade, tourism and culture exchanges between Africa and Asia.

"This link between NMB Bank

# NMB launches UnionPay cards

and UnionPay International extends UnionPay cross-border capabilities and cements the new era of financial transformation," he said. "We are excited to roll out this comprehensive acceptance with NMB Bank, a market

leader in Tanzania," he remarked. Today, with over 8.4bn cards issued in 61 countries and regions, UnionPay serves the world's largest cardholder base. In Africa, UnionPay is present in 50 countries with cards issued locally

in 11 countries. Moreover, UnionPay has launched various innovative payment products in Africa in response to the worldwide digital transformation and financial inclusion.

The Isles minister said that 250 million Asians, who mostly hold UnionPay cards, make holiday trips across the world each year.

"If we get only one percent of the number of travelers from Asia then we should be fine," he declared.

In a recent survey, about 40 percent of tourists who visited Zanzibar said they would be willing to return to the Isles if the country improves its payment systems, he pointed out.

Last year, Zanzibar received 528,425 tourists, earning the country a total of \$421m in foreign exchange.

iourism accounted for 30 percent of Zanzibar GDP last year and 82.1 percent of foreign direct investments (FDI), he added.

#### NATIONAL.NEWS

# Guardian

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It's a moment for some celebration for these Standard Seven students at Coast Region's Mkuranga Primary School shortly after they were done with the last paper of their national examinations yesterday. Photo: Correspond

# Hope for consumers as inflation declines

#### **By Correspondent Crispin Gerald**

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of September this year decreased to 3.1 per cent from 3.3 per cent recorded in August 2020, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced yesterday.

The decrease explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended September 2020, decreased compared to the speed that was recorded for the year ended August 2020.

Announcing the statistical changes in Dar es Salaam, statistician general for NBS Dr Albina Chuwa said the overall index went up to 119.54 in September, 2020 from 115.92 recorded in September 2019.

She said that, food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the month of September, 2020 has decreased to 3.4 percent from 3.7 percent that was recorded in August, 2020.

Annual Inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of September, 2020 has also decreased to 4.5 percent from 4.8 percent recorded in August 2020.

The 12 month index change for non-food products in September, 2020 has stagnated at 3.1 percent as it was recorded in August, 2020.

"Among the food products which recorded a decrease in price for the month of September 2020 in comparison to the same month in 2019, include rice which decreased by 2.0 percent, recommended classification of maize by 10.2 percent, cooking flour by 1.3 percent, consumption by purpose (COICOP).

cassava by 18.4 percent and sweet potatoes by 10.7 percent," Dr Chuwa explained.

"On the other side, non-food products which experienced a decrease in price include kerosene by 15.6 percent diesel for 14.2 percent and petrol decreased by 10.2 percent, she elaborated.

Apart from that, Chuwa highlighted the status of inflation rate among East Africa countries for the year ended September 2020, whereby, in Kenya the inflation rate for the month ended in September 2020 has decreased up to 4.20 percent from 4.36 percent in the month ended in August 2020. While in Uganda, the inflation rate also recorded a decrease of 4.5 percent for the month of September 2020 from 4.6 percent recorded in the month of August 2020.

The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) measures the change over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania. A basket includes a list of 278 goods and services of which 97 are food and alcoholic beverages and 181 are non-food items that are being priced on a monthly basis.

The NCPI weights are based on monetary expenditure relating to consumption for all households in the 25 geographic regions of Tanzania mainland. The index weights are based on expenditures of both urban and rural households derived from 2011/2012.

The NCPI follows the internationally individual

# agufuli resumes campaign rallies today - Dar

#### **By Henry Mwangonde**

CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli will resume his campaign rallies today in Dar es Salaam.

The party's Ideology and Publicity Secretary Humphrey Polepole told journalists at a press conference in Dar es Salam that after a short break in which Dr Magufuli attended to official duties, he will hold a campaign rally at the Mkapa stadium in the city.

According to Polepole, the rally will be an opportunity for the party to explain to Dar es Salaam residents the achievements made in the last five

The CCM presidential candidate who is seeking reelection last hold a rally in Zanzibar on October 3rd this year before returning to Dar es Salaam where among other things performed presidential duties including hosting Malawian president Dr Lazarous Chakwera who was in the country for a two days official visit.

"Our candidate will have two to three rallies in Dar es Salaam, we expect to use this as an opportunity for our party to explain to the people what we have been doing for Dar es Salaam in the last five years," said Polepole.

This will be the fourth round of campaigns out of the six phases that the party has put in place.

Polepole said the rally today will be followed by other rallies which will be announced later.

According to Polepole the CCM led government has done a lot to transform Dar es Salaam through infrastructure saying other were coming because the party's manifesto for 2020/25 has listed down a number of projects to be undertaken in the next five years.

Polepole named some of the projects that have been undertaken by the CCM government under Dr Magufuli including flyovers at Tazara and Ubungo

among others.

Others include the construction of the Salender bridge and some outer roads within the city which are aimed at reducing congestion.

"Our candidate will have two to three rallies in Dar es Salaam, we expect to use this as an opportunity for our party to explain to the people what we have been doing for Dar es Salaam in the last five years,"



#### **By Guardian Reporter**

CCM Vice Chairman for Zanzibar Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said the forthcoming elections will be financed by government's money and there will be no external funding.

Zanzibar elections will be internally funded - Shein

Magufuli, his running mate Samia will change the economic status for



**USAID PROTECT Project** Plot No. 175, Ruhinde Road, Ada Estate + P.O. Box 23182 + Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Website: www.rti.org

Dr Shein, who is also Zanzibar's President revealed this yesterday at Bumbwini Makoba in Zanzibar North District B in North Region at a CCM campaign rally.

He said in case his party's Presidential Candidate for Zanzibar Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is elected, he will continue maintaining Zanzibar's respect within the Isles traditions and will not succumb to ridicule.

Dr Shein also said Dr Mwinyi was creative as he has initiated many things while in leadership role in the union government, and called on CCM members and Zanzibaris in general to receive the candidate as he will win decisively.

Likewise, he appealed for votes to the Union Presidential Candidate John Suluhu Hassan, CCM's parliamentary, House of Representatives and council candidates.

Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi on his part praised Dr Shein for implementing the area. CCM Election Manifesto in Zanzibar, adding that he will implement all Dr Shein's pledges he made at Idd Al Haj 'Baraza' at Bumbwini.

He said his government will continue from where Dr Shein left, by building infrastructures for health services, including houses for health workers and increase budgets for purchase of medical equipment and drugs.

He said the east-west Bumbwinilong detours people make for people travelling between the two areas. He said when built, the infrastructure residents of North Region B.

He also pledged to implement the pledge of building Makoba-Kiongwe road to ease transport for people in the

In regard to the oils and gas port project, he said it is a priority for the coming government as a modern oil and gas terminal at Mangapwani in North B District.

He said the promised 300,000 jobs will be given at the terminal and steps will be taken to shift the small entrepreneurs and fishermen to other areas.

He said his aim was to ensure Mahonda road will be built to reduce small entrepreneurs are facilitated and priority will be directed to their training to enable them to conduct their businesses more professionally.



**October 6, 2020** 

### **Project Close Out Notification**

### Notice to the Stakeholders, Partners, and Others Who Work With RTI

The RTI USAID PROTECT project partners with wildlife, conservation, and tourism organizations in Tanzania to address threats to biodiversity conservation and private sector-led tourism growth.

**RTI USAID PROTECT supports interventions that:** 

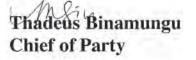
- · Reduce threats to biodiversity such as human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss, and wildlife trafficking
- Empower a wide range of organizations to participate effectively in the policy-making process
- Build the capacity of institutions working with wildlife, conservation, and tourism
- Leverage private sector investment in the wildlife tourism sector
- Support local partners to implement conservation activities at a landscape scale

The project started on April 1, 2015 and will come to an end on December 31, 2020.

This is to inform the General Public that the RTI USAID PROTECT Project will officially close on December 31, 2020. In this regard all project activities will officially cease on December 31, 2020, and all 13 staff will unfortunately be declared redundant.

Please be assured of management commitment to go through this exercise efficiently with a full appreciation of the difficulties it may cause to those who might be affected. In this regard, please let us know if you have any pending issue with anyone from our organization so that we sort on time. This notice will last until end of October 2020.

Sincerely,



#### NATIONAL.NEWS

# Cotton ginnery in Kahama gets up from 5-year 'sleep'

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

Guardian

ENGINES of the giant cotton ginnery belonging to the Kahama Cooperative Union (KACU) that fell silent five years back yesterday roared again amidst ululations at a colourful officiating by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe.

To revive the ginnery and add value to cotton grown by cooperative members in the district, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), gave KACU 4,650,959,543/- in form of soft loan and in accordance with dictates of the phase two of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II).

Bashe told the launch rally that yesterday was a day of enormous importance to the cotton industry and more so to Kahama cotton growers and cooperative leaders, the TADB and the National Microfinance Bank (NMB).

The equally excited deputy minister said: "You have saved us from nakedness; you have clothed us. We did not think these things were possible (in recent cotton marketing)."

He explained that ordinarily, the 8bn/- borrowed from the bank, would have attracted a 16 percent interest and close to 3bn/- would have been paid in form of interest charges. "But with the guarantee of the TADB, we designed a special product with the NMB and we offered the supplier with just a Letter of Credit, assuring him that he will get his money at the end of October. This means we shall pay only two percent (or some 160m/=) instead of 16 percent... Thank you all," he said.

He praised Kahama cooperative leaders and members for spending 15m/- instead of the projected 80m/-, and asked the registrar of cooperatives to ensure money did go to paying allowances of things of that nature.

Based on the success bagged, the minister said, "Sola, Lugulu, Malawa ginneries will be revived too. It is possible," he asserted.

TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine pledged continued support

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE introduction of cashewnuts farming in Singida Region is expected to rescue many of its residents from poverty as well as tackling climate change.

The remarks were given mid this

to KACU, pledging that in the next planting season bank officials would join AMCOS leaders in their respective areas so that growers benefit from every kilogramme and every hectare of cotton. "Using KACU we shall ensure timely delivery farm inputs, especially insecticides and farmers make most of the timely delivery of those inputs," he said.

Support given by TADB to KACU enabled the union to become the market leader in paying cotton farmers (920/- per kg). KACU has 79 AMCOS with 6,800 farmers from Kahama, Msalala and Ushetu plus 16 AMCOS from Kishapu with 1,300 farmers, six AMCOS from Nyang'wale with 570 farmers.

TADB's short-term objectives in this venture are to enable the union collect and pay advance payment to farmers on time; creating market linkages to smallholder farmers for their produce; reducing post-harvest losses caused by delayed collection of farmers produce due to lack of cash as experienced in the last cotton purchase season; reviving the union's operations which ceased in 2013/2014 season and creating permanent and temporary opportunities.

> You have saved us from nakedness; you have clothed us. We did not think these things were possible (in recent cotton marketing)



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine makes remarks in Kahama town yesterday just before the resumption of operations at a Kahama Cooperative Union cotton ginnery, an event also attended by Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe and scores of farmers. Photo: Guardian

# 'Govt spent 1.2trn/- on Arusha Region's strategic projects in the past five years'

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

THE government has spent 1.2trn/- in the implementation of various strategic projects in Arusha Region between 2015 and 2020.

The ruling CCM member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) Anna Agatha Msuya said this during the launching of the party's election campaign at Moivo Ward, West Arumeru Constituency in Arusha Region.

She said the allocated funds were

directed to education, health, water and road infrastructure projects in all seven councils in the region - Karatu, Monduli, Ngorongoro, Longido, Arusha (Rural), Arusha (urban) and Meru.

She elaborated that during the period more than 139bn/- was spent to improve the education sector including free education plan for the region's primary and secondary school students. He said another 11.5bn/- was directed to the health sector for the construction and or refurbishment of dispensaries, health centres and district hospitals

Meru Referral Hospital in Arusha. She said the money was also spent

for purchase of drugs and medical equipment for the health facilities.

She further said during the five-year period the government also spent more than 326bn/- for the refurbishment and construction of road infrastructures under Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in all seven districts of Arusha Region.

the same period the government and councillorship posts in the region.

as well as improvement of the Mount invested more than 720bn/- for the implementation of water projects in the region's districts.

In regard to power distribution, she said the government, under Rural Energy Agency (REA) has connected electricity to more than 85 percent of all villages in Arusha Region. She said in order for the region's projects' implementation pace to go even faster, people should vote for John Magufuli as the president including all CCM Msuya explained that during candidates vying for parliamentary

### Cashewnut farming to lift small-scale farmers from poverty trap

Tanzania Cashew Nuts Board (CBT) in providing training to farmers on better land plots on a condition that they increasing production.

Dr Nchimbi said people were given

"Farming cashew nuts, Manyoni Manyoni District Executive Director Charles Fussi said they expect to farming practices of the crop aimed at cultivate cashew nuts, and if not, one collect between 6bn/- to 7bn/- per invested by providing small farms farmers that already they have surrenders the land, and the overall year from cashew nuts levy in the totaling 22,000 hectares," he said. She said in the past Singida Region response has been overwhelming next three years when farmers start harvesting. Fussi said the revenue follows his district investment in cashew nuts growing by allocating more than 22,000 hectares distributed in small farms to farmers. next three years.

district Council is far ahead, we have Central Zone Ray Mtangi ensured He said what the farmers needed was a cooperative, just as they do in the training on technology for cashew nuts southern region. farming techniques.

CBT Manager for the Western and embarked on a process of establishing

Rehema Nchimbi as she was speaking to as among regions with rampant to researchers from the Naliendele Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural who were working together with achievements.

drought, but it was not so, as farmers were advised to cultivate cashew nuts change Singida Region to move away Research Institute (TARI-Naliendele) and other crops resulting in huge from drought and poverty," Dr Nchimbi

week by the Regional Commissioner, Dr used to be erroneously referred especially in Masigati area in Itigi where the farms are being expanded.

"Cashew nuts is the crop that will said.

national The cashew nuts He said after receiving the training, coordinator Dr Geraldina Mzena they will produce huge quality crops said TARI-Naliendele has already that will beef up council coffers in the established a seed farm for the cashew nuts in Manyoni District.

# Enabel "

### **Enabel – SAKIRP - Vacancy**

#### **Construction site supervisor - Kigoma region**

Enabel – the Belgian Development Agency is recruiting civil building technicians for the supervision of bridge construction works.

Duty station: Kigoma region Kakonko or Kibondo – willing to relocate in function of construction sites. Contract term: 1 year extendable - competitive salary package(14 months' Salary i.e. Leave allowance and Christmas Bonus) Medical Insurance Coverage, Relocation allowance Etc.

**Profile:** minimum diploma in Civil Engineering or equivalent

Experience: minimum 2 years hands-on supervision of masons and contractors.

Computer literate and good reporting skills in English/ Kiswahili. Details vacancy at: https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/ Submit your applications to: recruitment.tza@enabel.be

Deadline: 20TH October 2020 at 15:00 HOURS

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL AT DAR ES SALAAM **APPEAL NO. 16 OF 2020** BETWEEN TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED . APPELLANT AND FLORIAN NGUNANGWA. **1ST RESPONDENT ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY .....** 2ND RESPONDENT (Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012) TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 27th July, 2020 in which EWURA found the Appellant in breach of its statutory duty and held the Appellant liable for the loss suffered by the 1st Respondent and awarded damages amounting to TZS 15,000,000.00 to the 1st Respondent.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The appeal is based on the grounds that the decision was made in an error of the law and fact by being based on secondary evidence, improper assessment of evidence and in disregard of statutory requirements applicable to EWURA. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to set aside the award with costs.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 9th October, 2020.

REGISTRAR

#### Repoa MD promises to strengthen research and policies link between

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Managing Director of Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Dr Donald Mmari, has said his institution will strengthen relationship between research done by REPOA and the country's policies in order to implement the 4th Five-Year International Plan (2020-24).

Dr Mmari was speaking mid this week when opening a seminar for policy analysis and application of research findings to officials in the Parliament and Prime Minister's offices organised by REPOA.

He said among the responsibilities of the parliament office include advising the government on policy formulation and various laws of the country and that Parliament discusses and endorse national plans, government budget and ultimately oversee the government periodically.

He said the main responsibilities of REPOA was to conduct researches on policy, capacity building of researchers on policy issues and submit results thereof to end users.

He said the aim will be achieved by working together with various stakeholders when preparing priority areas for their researches simultaneously with having in place a programme for facilitating researchers and users of the research findings.

He further said the main aim was to contribute to the efforts in bringing social and economic changes so as to attain inclusive development according to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and even the African Unity Agenda 2063.

"Since the 12th parliament is about to be elected after the elections, and in any case it will have various plans and policies that will be referred thereto, it would be better to remind one another, from our capabilities in policy analysis to pass the knowledge to others," Dr Mmari said.

Closing the training seminar, parliament secretary Stephen Kagaigai said officials from both offices, parliament and prime minister's office are required to understand their positions in the procedures regarding various plans so that policies and laws to be formulated should respond to real challenges confronting citizens in their area.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

# TPB BANK CELEBRATES CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK



TPB BANK CEO, MR SABASABA MOSHINGI ATTENDING A CUSTOMER AT METROPOLITAN BRANCH DAR ES SALAAM DURING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.



TPB BANK LIBERTY BRANCH (MWANZA) IN A GROUP PHOTO.





TPB BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR. EDMUND MNDOLWA IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH TPB EXECUTIVE BRANCH STAFF DURING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.



TPB BANK STAFF FROM DODOMA BRANCH IN A MASSAI ATTIRE DURING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.



Guardian

TPB BANK CAPITAL CITY STAFF (DODOMA) IN A STUDENT UNIFORM ATTIRE DURING THE CELEBRATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.

TPB BANK PEMBA BRANCH STAFF IN A GROUP PHOTO DURING THE CELEBRATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.



TPB BANK METROPOLITAN BRANCH STAFF IN AFRICAN ATTIRE DURING CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.



TPB BANK BOARD MEMBER, MR MACRICE MBODO RECEIVING A GIFT FROM YWCA BRANCH MANAGER MS. SALMA MARIJANI DURING THE CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK.

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#### NATIONAL.NEWS



Tigo managing director Simon Karikari responds to questions from customers by phone from the firm's customer service centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday as a part of Customer Service Week celebrations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

PRIME Minister, Kassim Majaliwa has called upon the fertilizer company -YARA to increase its investment in the country so as to go in tandem with the strengthening of the agricultural sector for increased benefits to farmers.

Majaliwa gave the call in Dar es Salaam mid this week soon after visiting YARA head offices, which, among others, he praised the firm's investment so far.

"The fifth phase government has given priority to the agricultural sector to be certain of raw materials for industries to achieve its aims of attaining industrial economy. We praise YARA and other stakeholders for their efforts in supporting the government,"

## Majaliwa advises Yara fertiliser company to increase investment

#### he added.

He was also pleased with YARA efforts in assisting the country's small scale farmers to reduce the unemployment challenge, to develop the farming sector and ensuring food security.

He also pledged to investors that the government will continue working on existing challenges over investment to attract more investors in various economic sectors.

TheNorwegianAmbassadorElisabethJacobsen saidhercountry

has been at the forefront in supporting development in the farming sector in the African continent including Tanzania.

the farming<br/>security."Africa has been faced with a<br/>challenge on food shortage, YARA<br/>has been coming up with many plans<br/>to ensure food security including<br/>the "Action Africa" Programme that<br/>aimed at distributing fertiliser to small<br/>farmers especially during the Covid-19<br/>pandemic period that adversely<br/>affected many world countries," she

ıg said.

On his part, YARA Tanzania Managing Director Winstone Odhiambo said his company will continue handling the quality of the fertiliser in order to increase crops' production and provide employment to Tanzanians.

Recently YARA launched the "Action Africa" Programme in Tabora, Kigoma and Songwe regions that aimed at distributing free fertiliser under which more than 83,000 farmers will benefit during the 2020/21 season.

### Exim Bank commits to carrying on with 'innovative service' to customers across the country

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

EXIM Bank Tanzania has joined the rest of the world in paying homage to frontline staff and customers in recognition of the International Customer Service Week held annually in October. The bank has pledged to further digitize its financial services and bring more innovative products on the market to serve customers better.

In a bid to interact and get feedback from customers, Exim Bank's Chief Executive Officer Jaffari Matundu and other senior managers visited branches, engaged with customers and observed how they were being serviced by the bank's staff.

"As a customer-centric institution, this week allows Exim Bank to actively engage with our customers. Positive and strong relationships with our customers remain core and this initiative shows our drive to realize this in so many ways," said Matundu when he visited the bank's main branch in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking on the importance of service delivery, Matundu commended the bank's staffs who continue to work tirelessly and relentlessly to satisfy the bank's esteemed customers while also appreciating customers for their loyalty over the years.

"We are constantly looking for new ways to serve our customers better, provide smooth banking experiences, deliver excellent financial services and inspire growth among our customers," he said.

The CEO further noted: "Exim Bank would continue to focus on initiatives that will continually meet the needs and aspirations of its customers, as we understand clearly the power of the customers in our business and this is clearly reflected in the entire model for the Digital transformation of the bank which is customer lead."

In a related development, the bank's manager of customer service, Frank Matoro restated the bank's commitment to excellent service delivery to meet the needs and aspirations of its customers at all times.

"It is important to highlight and appreciate the value of excellent service delivery in regard to our customer experience and needs; it is a key ingredient towards building strong financial institutions in the country." He mentioned.

During his visit to some of the bank's customers in Dar es Salaam, accompanied by other senior officials from the bank, Matoro used the opportunity to showcase some of the digital and innovative self-service options offered by Exim Bank.

"To make transactions more efficient and convenient for our customers, we have a number of options in facilitating easier transactions including mobile banking either through USSD or smart phones, bouquet of cards, vast POS network as well as online banking via web or app, where our customers are able to access services and perform transactions twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week," he mentioned.

Following the visits some of the bank's customers including MMI Tanzania, a premier wine merchant and spirits specialist and Shrijee Traders were equally delighted with such treats.

"Over the years, Exim Bank has been excellent and impressed me in various aspects, especially prompt over the counter cheques' payments, quick online transfers, efficient alternate channels and flexibility of the Bank's products especially the digital services. I am proud to be served by Exim Bank" said Sabalsinh Champs, the Managing Director of Shrijee Traders and the owner of Shrijee's Supermarket.

> "We are constantly looking for new ways to serve our customers better, provide smooth banking experiences, deliver excellent financial services and inspire growth among our customers"

BIASHARA ZOTE MAKINI



#### NATIONAL.NEWS

Paul Rwegasha (L), Director of Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport, and Vodacom Tanzania customer services director Harriet Lwakatare cut a ribbon yesterday to open a modern shop the mobile phone service provider has set up at the airport's Terminal 3 in celebrating its 20th year of operations in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### **Over 200 women entrepreneurs benefit** from KCB's empowerment programme

#### **By Beatrice Philemon**

ATOTAL of 215 women entrepreneurs have been benefiting through KCB 2jiajiri programme and get support from the bank to run their businesses.

Bank's managing director, Cosmas Kimario revealed this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing on this year's Customer Service Week.

"Under 2jiajiri programme, we've empowered women with entrepreneurial, business finance, and marketing skills. In this, beneficiaries are provided with three supervisors to monitor them on what they did for one year and later on we give them working tools," he said.

He also said that the bank has been providing their graduates to be with practical training in areas where they have businesses so that they can put into practice what they have learned.

According to him, the main goal formal sector, be bankable, make their plan." business grow, and later on after two years manage to access loans from the bank.

"As KCB Bank, we're very proud for what we have achieved from this programme women have managed to improve their skills and business they have as well as create more business opportunities," he said.

KCB bank Tanzania joined the rest of the world to mark the international Customer Service Week, he called on its customers to provide feedback to the bank on the main challenges they face in business and other issues to help them provide excellent banking solutions to their customers and provide knowledge and tools required for them to succeed in businesses they have.

During the week, he said: "We'll help is to help women improve their our customers get what they need business skills, move from informal to because this is in line with our bank's

> Bank's head of marketing and corporate affairs, Christina Manyenye said: "So far the bank has 14 branches across the country that allow customers to transact at any branch, she says among those, 8 branches are in Dar es Salaam while the remained 6 branches are in Mwanza, Arusha. Moshi, Zanzibar, and Morogoro."

> She said the bank has introduced agent banking services to allow people operate their business on time instead of coming to the bank, increase financial inclusion and bring the bank's services closer to customers.

Tomorrow, the bank will visit the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) to donate various items to patients and later on have friendly football match with Multichoice Tanzania (DSTV).





#### **Expression of Interest (EOI)**

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, gualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the supply of one Wheel Loader Volvo L120F supplied to the AUMS standard options.

#### At AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

#### 1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 15/10/2020 quoting "EOI Supply of Wheel Loader Volvo L120F" in the subject line of your email.

#### Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, previous contracts to supply Remote Control Technologies equipment.
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 15/10/2020 shall not be considered.

#### 2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS (T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsgh.com



Guardian

Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Supply of one new Caterpillar R2900G Load Haul Dump Underground Loader to AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Supply of one new Caterpillar R2900G Load Haul Dump Underground Loader to AUMS (T) Ltd

#### **1.Schedule and deadline for submission**

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 15/10/2020 quoting "EOI Supply of Caterpillar R2900G Loader" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, Contracts to supply similar drill equipment.
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 15/10/2020 shall not be considered.

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For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsgh.com.

#### **Expression of Interest (EOI)**

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the supply of three (3) Zitron 220 Kw Twin Stage Co-Rotating Axial Ventilation Fans with Part number - 2 x ZVN 1-14-110/4 At AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 15/10/2020 guoting "EOI Supply of Ventilation Fans" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile. Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, previous contracts to supply Remote Control Technologies equipment.
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

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For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsah.com.

#### **EDITORIALS.OPINION**



### Tanzania, Malawi should focus more on economic cooperation

ASIC data on relations intensity. between Tanzania and Malawi are changing shape following the setting out of broad areas of cooperation the countries expect to pursue in the short and medium terms.

New areas of economic cooperation to spur development and strengthen relations between the countries were emphasized at a State banquet for visiting Malawian President Dr Lazarus Chakwera.

Remarks by the VIP guest and his host, President John Magufuli, left no doubt whatsoever as to the intensity of the cross-sector plank of cooperation beyond transit trade issues, into several exciting spheres.

Gone are the days when Malawi-Tanzanian relations were characterised by a border dispute that simmered for far too long, as it tended to be an identity issue especially in Malawi.

At the start of his presidency, Dr Magufuli publicly rejected the idea of any conflict with Malawi, and soon there was a changed atmosphere in the neighbouring country as well.

What perhaps acts as a check in the opening up of business opportunities in the two countries is the size of each country's market and its growth potential in the next decade and beyond.

With greater presence of the private sector in many directions, opportunities would be widened - which isn't to suggest that there aren't such openings at the moment, only that they could be far more numerous.

Given the geographical proximity of the two countries, a shared economic area is possible with the right infrastructure on the ground, this including the ability to form partnerships, existing purchase businesses and lower taxes.

Conditions exist in Africa where all this can be realised if the treaties and agreements that both countries are likely to have appended their signatures

One such is the East African Common Market and its provisions for free movement of goods, capital, investors and experts - if not all of labour - where surrogate rights of citizenship are also possible. If a neighbouring country is interested, it can obtain a 'most favoured nation' status to trade.

Another protocol linking Tanzania and Malawi is the Southern African Development Community (SADC), where it is unclear if we have exhausted - or intensely enough taken up - the breadth of business links envisaged.

What was raised in remarks by the two leaders at the Dar es Salaam state banquet for Dr Chakwera was more of state-to-state cooperation under SADC. However, it was also on sharing experience in governance-related issues

like revenue collection, or crop sector expertise. The state to state issues shall obviously be the focus of what follows

after the state visit, so business organs must follow up also. There is still a third sphere that hasn't

taken off quite yet, but legally it is more or less binding as many countries have ratified it. This is none other than the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) pact.

This is intended to create markets across wide spans of territory, but it can only work optimally if and when it involves some common market commitments - like right of residence or expedited rights with a certain amount of capital, as well as ability to obtain rights similar to locals.

Plenty of intra-state African investments are already up and running; further structural change create conditions where unofficial migrations, largely involving, youth totally cease.

There is an immense lot Malawi and Tanzania can, and ought to do, to make things happen with greater impact on several fronts for their mutual benefit and, as importantly, in the spirit of

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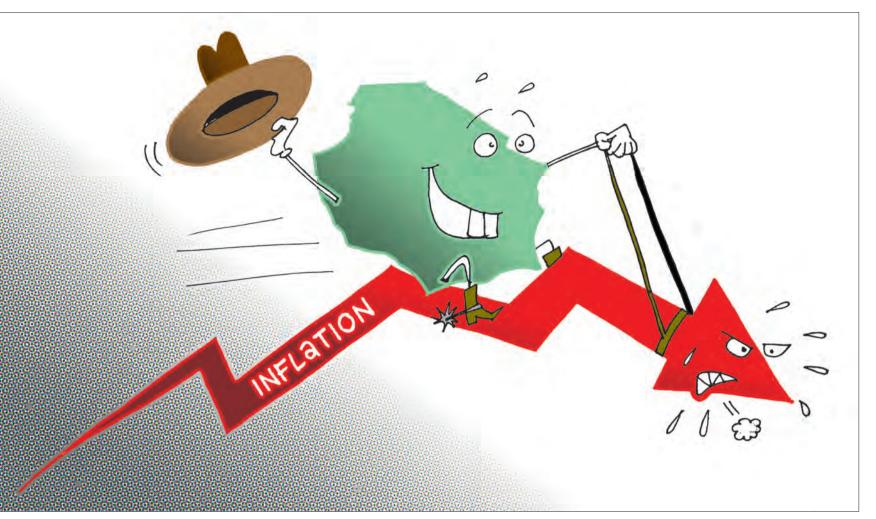
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Advertising



### Violence targeting women: Africa's shadow pandemic

#### **By Special Correspondent**

HE number of cases of sexualised violence and femicide in Africa has risen during the Covid-19 pandemic. Will those in power finally grow aware of the extent of the problem?

"I slept with a small knife, because I was afraid. I didn't even think about defending myself, because he was three times as strong as I am," said Cameroonian journalist Kitty Chrys-Tayl, recounting her experience.

Having often been beaten and humiliated, she knows all about genderbased violence (GBV) firsthand.

The United Nations has called it the "shadow pandemic". Violence, sexual assault and femicide have all increased

relatives or police officers.

The UN's MINUSCA mission in the Central African Republic reported another increase: 27 per cent more instances of rape and 69 per cent more cases where women and children were hurt.

"The situation was already bad for women before the pandemic. The pandemic merely lifted the veil from what was not being seen," Jean Paul Murunga of the women's rights organisation Equality Now said, adding: "It doesn't mean that the problem wasn't there. It was there, and this helps open the government's eyes to the real situation."

In May, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "The scourge of gender-based violence continues to stalk our country, as the men of our

rapists of children under the age of 14 governments must include more to be chemically castrated. Following popular protests, all state governors declared a state of emergency due to GBV.

Meanwhile, in Malawi, the Supreme Court ordered the police in a small town to compensate victims of sexual abuse by officers.

Cameroonian Kitty Chrys-Tayl launched an online campaign called 'I Decided to Live' to force decisionmakers to listen.

"The subject of sexism must be dealt with in schools," the journalist said, adding: "For that, one needs political will, because it's about damage caused by gender-based violence and the rape culture."

women's rights activist Murunga, who

women able to speak for - and with other women.

In some countries, governments have created bodies or issued statements against gender-based violence, but government budgets rarely include money for concrete measures.

Little has been done to eradicate the root of the problem. "We've got driving factors such as alcohol and drug abuse, and that's part of it. But the main reason we have violence against women in our country is the low status women have," says Lesley Ann Foster, executive director of the Masimanyane Women's Rights International in South Africa.

In the coronavirus pandemic, women are often at the mercy of their partners This is also the opinion of Kenyan during curfews. The alcohol ban temporarily in place in South Africa led

### Ex-TRA top official's new role in South Sudan does Tanzania proud

NTERNET reports from Juba, the capital of South Sudan, that a Tanzanian expert had been appointed Commissioner General of the South Sudan National Revenue Authority (SSNRA) came with a bang

What was especially surprising was that, checking the name pointed to an even more cited individual - a Ugandan diplomat with the same name and equivalent academic credentials. This could bring about some confusion.

Yet, the fact is that the appointee is a former deputy commissioner in the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), and his work there rhymes perfectly with his new role with SSNRA.

After signing his employment contract, the man set out his plans, and it appears that he was appointed precisely to bring about neutrality and objectivity at the top level of SSNRA operations.

The appointee, Dr Patrick Mugoya, has lectured and researched in finance management as an academic at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) in Dar es Salaam and for nine vears headed the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) before being assigned higher leadership roles in the revenue authority itself. That academic, institutional and administrative experience is hugely vital.

What is for some reason significant about the new international expert from Tanzania is that he is not attached with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), which has for long stood as the main "fountain" from which many top level appointees have been fished.

Other institutions have been gradually also making their mark in their respective professions, this going alongside structural and other changes in our institutions of higher learning, and this is encouraging indeed.

Lone could say that, back in the 1980s for instance, many accountancy experts were graduates of the then Institute of Development Management (IDM) and not the then Faculty of Commerce at UDSM. But a degree has a higher say in employment, so IDM finally also graduated from a polytechnic to a university format.

Inwardly speaking, Dr Mugoya's appointment provides better credentials for ITA - including that it adheres to the required standards.

This is not just according to some external examiners but going by the fact that its long serving rector was first "lifted' by TRA and has now become the field leader for a job that would attract strong applicants internationally.

The appointment also says something about Tanzania's experience in revenue collection, which has been cited time and again by regional and external dignitaries as worth emulating.

At TRA, as Deputy Commissioner Responsible for Trade Facilitation and Procedures, Dr Mugoya worked on initiatives aimed at getting credible agents to ensure better customs services to the business community, the sort of experience that his new appointment is meant to meaningfully exploit.

The task he has long lined himself up for is akin to what he said in Juba after signing his appointment documents, notably that SSNRA will put in place measures that will seal loopholes and revenue leakages in terms of tax evasion and unscrupulous exemptions, tax avoidance and the likes, as immediate measures.

While South Sudan can rely on this great Tanzanian to do the needful, what with his vast expertise and experience, his employers ought to muster the political will to enable him to work unfettered and generally to satisfaction. We wish him well.

in the past months across Africa and the globe. The reasons for the spike are closely related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Liberia recorded a 50 per cent increase in GBV in the first half of this year. Between January and June, there were more than 600 reported rape cases, while the number for the whole of 2018 was 803 in the country.

Nigeria also saw an increase of sexual violence during the curfews. Two cases in June, in which young women were raped and killed, shocked the country. In Kenva, local media reported almost 4,000 schoolgirls becoming pregnant when schools were closed during the lockdown. In most cases they had allegedly been raped by

country declared war on the women."

According to the latest statistics from the South African Police Service, every three hours a woman is murdered in the country.

Violence The Gender-Based Command Centre in South Africa noticed a strong upward trend in violence against women during the lockdown from March 27 to April 16.

So far, the measures taken against gender-based violence have been ineffective, despite South Africa's National Strategic Plan, which was implemented in May to address prevention, protection, accountability, support and healing.

Nigeria's Kaduna State recently introduced a law which allows for

says: "Historically, a lot of African countries are patriarchal in nature. For a long time, women and girls have been seen as unequal to the male gender. So issues affecting women and girls take a longer time to get onto the table.'

Murunga says that one problem is the low representation of women in leadership, adding: "Therefore, issues affecting women and girls don't get priority." Often, the focus is on topics like infrastructure, roads and military, but not on budgeting for health and family planning.

As long as governments consist only of men, GBV will remain a "shadow pandemic". According to Murunga, one

thing above all must change: African

to a decrease in reported cases. Yet, this could also be explained by the lack of opportunity to report rapes.

"It's about patriarchy, it's about strength and power, and it's about social norms and standards. The latter are so weak when it comes to women that women are easily disposed of," said Foster.

Foster noted further: "They're killed, they're raped, they're beaten up. The country is not addressing this. There isn't enough of a push to advance gender equality. There's not enough respect for the dignity of women, for their lives, their safety and their protection."

Agencies

### Has Covid-19 changed the news industry's course for the better?

#### **By Simone Flueckiger**

OUNGER workers desire flexibility and remote work options, and the coronavirus pandemic may just have given the news industry the push it needed to be able to attract them, says Jennifer Bertetto, President and CEO of Pittsburgh-based publisher Trib Total Media, in a recent interview for the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

"If the (coronavirus) pandemic hadn't hit us all, I'm not sure our industry would have been quick enough to adapt to these changes with our working environment," she says. At this year's virtual Newsroom Summit conference, which is expected to take place on October 20 and 21, Bertetto will share how Trib Total Media adjusted its daily operations and business strategies during Covid-19 and discuss the impact the pandemic might have on how newsrooms will operate in the future.

In this pre-conference interview, she gives us a brief look at how things have been working and some lessons

they've learned so far. Excerpts:

WAN-IFRA: How has coronavirus impacted on editorial operations at Trib Total Media?

JB: Overnight, we went from being a staff that worked entirely in the office and the field to 100 per cent remote. We needed to find a new way to accomplish all of our day-to-day work. While navigating the challenges that come along with working remotely, at the same moment, our website traffic and hunger for information from our readers were never higher.

Except for seven weeks in late spring and early summer, we have remained 100 per cent remote. We have replaced the in-person conversations that happen as part of a newsroom's fabric with Microsoft Teams Video calls.

Have you launched any new products or services in response to the pandemic? If so, which have proved particularly successful?

For 11 weeks, like many other news organisations, we made our e-edition free to anyone. The free trial led to several hundred new paid subscribers when the programme ended.

We

also expanded our

Neighbourhood News Networks. Before the pandemic, we had local sites for eight neighbourhoods in our footprint. Today, we have 32 hyperlocal sites. These sites have become relatively popular, as we allow usergenerated content to be posted.

We also developed relationships with school districts, community groups, churches, etc., to make them "trusted contributors", meaning that they can post news and information to the sites as well straight to the web.

What have been some of the main challenges and lessons learned for Trib Total Media during the past several months?

Sometimes, the best solutions are the most obvious ones. Keeping the staff motivated and engaged while working remotely can be a challenge. However, we have instituted engagement software across our company to help our employees manage their time more effectively.

We have learned that video calls are far more critical than phone calls, and virtual face-to-face contact has been vital in keeping our employees engaged in their work and with our company.

We have also learned that where there is a will, there is a way. When we were forced to move to a 100 per cent remote operation, even though we had never done it before, everyone learned the technology they needed to do their iobs well.

In your opinion, how might the pandemic affect the news industry in the long run in terms of newsroom organisation and management?

In some ways, I think the pandemic has forced us, as an industry, to make modifications to our work - which were necessary anyway to attract younger employees. Many younger employees desire flexible work schedules and remote work.

I think we will emerge from the pandemic as leaner companies and companies with much more agile and technologically advanced staff.

All of these changes needed to happen for our long-term success as an industry and, to be honest, I am not sure whether we would have modified our work quickly enough to remain relevant without Covid-19 changing our course.

WAN-IFRA

#### FEATURE

#### BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA

s Donald Trump spent last weekend at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre in Washington, DC, being treated for Covid-19, his physician entered the spotlight as he presented daily updates about the president's condition.

Some of the attention on Navy Commander Sean Conley arose from contradictory information he provided over the weekend and when he acknowledged on Sunday that, despite his cheerful presentation on the president's health on Saturday, he had not disclosed that the president had received supplemental oxygen and was taking a steroid medication generally prescribed in severe cases of coronavirus infection.

Explaining the lack of disclosure, Conley told journalists that he had been "trying to reflect the upbeat attitude" that the team and the president had had over his course of illness.

The man overseeing and explaining the president's treatment is also reportedly the first physician to a sitting president to hold a doctorate of osteopathy rather than being an MD, or Doctor of Medicine.

Like MDs, osteopathic doctors are state-licensed physicians who can prescribe medication and treat patients across the United States. They receive similar training but with a different viewpoint on the body's health and healing capacities.

To review the distinctions between a DO and an MD, the Las Cruces Sun-News, part of the USA TO-DAY Network, spoke with physician Bill Pieratt, dean and chief academic officer at the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

#### Q.: What is the distinction between a DO and an MD?

**Bill Pieratt:** It really is a different philosophy of healing. Osteopathic medicine focuses on wellness and

# Trump's doctor may be the first presidential physician without Doctor of Medicine - so?



Donald Trump. File photo the body's ability to sort of selfregulate, self-heal and achieve that equilibrium. It does that through osteopathic manipulation techniques (OMT) to identify any sort of dysfunction and restore function, alignment, balance and so forth.

Those techniques may be different types of musculoskeletal manipulations or adjustments. There are also muscular stretches and counter-stretches. There are soft-tissue techniques that augment lymphatic flow. We use the same techniques as allopathic medicine and then add these osteopathic principles and techniques.

On the allopathic side, there has been a more contemporary approach to come alongside the osteopathic philosophy of taking a more holistic approach and facilitating wellness, not simply limiting practice to the

#### treatment of disease.

#### What is 'allopathic' medicine?

Allopathic medicine is just the term used for what is considered the more traditional Western medical training (leading to an MD degree).

"Allopathic medicine" is a term used for modern or mainstream medicine. Other names for allopathic medicine include conventional medicine, mainstream medicine, Western medicine, orthodox medicine and biomedicine.

Allopathic medicine is also called allopathy. It's a health system in which medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals are licensed to practise and treat symptoms and diseases.

Treatment is done with medication, surgery, radiation, and various other therapies and procedures.

Other types or approaches to medicine are referred to as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) or integrative medicine. Alternative approaches, by definition, require the stopping of all Western medicine.

CAM are commonly used alongside mainstream medicine, including homeopathy, naturopathy, chiropractic care, Chinese medicine, and ayurveda - an alternative medicine system with historical roots in the Indian subcontinent.

The term "allopathic" is most commonly used by CAM professionals to separate their type of medicine from mainstream medical practice.

Is there a tension between these approaches?

If you go back probably to the early 20th century, even into the mid-20th century, there was probably more tension. The osteopathic training and profession was probably less wellknown and less well understood.

Today, an undergraduate student who wants to become a physician will take the same foundational science courses and the same Medical College Admission Test.

In fact, many students apply to both MD and DO-granting medical schools. Both of those schools are four years in duration and when you graduate you have a medical degree that then permits you to enter a residency training programme, which is the next step in becoming a practising, licensed physician.

The residency programmes accept both MD and DO graduates. Upon completion of a residency, a physician then is "board eligible" to sit for a board certification examination.

There are DO physicians in every sub-specialty of medicine and surgery, just as there are traditional MD physicians. DOs aren't really limited to practising a specific discipline of medicine. They are licensed and trained in the same disciplines that MD physicians are.

We follow the same licensing and the same board certification and maintain the same licence requirements, the rights and privileges and responsibilities - and all that is governed at the state medical board level.

The additional curriculum that applies to the osteopathic principles and techniques accounts for about 200 extra hours within the medical curriculum.

#### What is osteopathic manipulation?

It's a hand-on approach. There are techniques intended to both diagnose and treat some of the imbalances and dysfunctions that may impede the body's physiology and its ability to regulate and heal.

Some of it may be musculoskeletal, while some of it may be related to physiology and the balance of not just the musculoskeletal system but the lymphatic system, the immune system and so forth.

#### Have there been changes of practice in osteopathy and/or allopathic practice that have changed the relationship between them?

It used to be the emphasis in osteopathic medicine was more on primary care than specialties. Historically, you had more DOs going into things like family medicine and internal medicine and paediatrics, but today you have DOs practising in all specialties and sub-specialties of medicine. You have DOs who are neurosurgeons and dermatologists and heart surgeons. There is not an area of medicine where a DO does not or cannot practice.

Where things have changed the most has been in the residency training. There used to be separate osteopathic residency programmes, and now you have MD graduates and DO graduates training alongside each other in common programmes that accept both.

I think that doing that improves the working relationship between the two and it sort of demystifies the differences. MD and DO physicians train alongside each other in residency, they practise alongside each other, and they often participate in the care of a given patient together.

It's like any other working relationship where you assess someone for their competency, not based on what you think you understand about their background or their training.

> A dispatch by Las Cruces Sun-News/USA Today filed from Las Cruces in New Mexico, with additional information from Healthline.



"To all our clients, a very Happy Customer Service Week.... We promise to deliver you the best of services each and every time."

We hope you continue to enjoy our service! If there's anything else we can help you with, please call: 0782 253 676."

# New study shows mining in the Amazon threatening one-fifth of indigenous lands

WASHINGTON

new report reveals that mining operations in the Amazon basin now cover more than 20 per cent of Indigenous lands, threatening hundreds of Indigenous communities and endangering critical ecosystems across 450,000 square kilometers.

This new paper from World Resources Institute and the Amazon Geo-Referenced Socio-Environmental Information Network (RAISG) details for the first time the full extent of large-scale mining concessions and illegal mining on Indigenous territories across the Amazonian rainforest, and offers solutions.

With gold prices skyrocketing and demand for other minerals on the rise, mining is a growing threat to ecosystems and communities around the world.

In the new report, Undermining Rights: Indigenous Lands and Mining in the Amazon, WRI estimates that 1,131 Indigenous lands across the Amazon basin suffer from the impacts of legal and/or illegal mining.

The study has confirmed that illegal miners have invaded 370 Indigenous lands, including many in Brazil, where all mining on Indigenous lands is illegal. Illegal mining operations are also leaching toxic chemicals, such as mercury, into at least 30 Amazonian rivers.

"Despite growing evidence that Indigenous Peoples are among the world's greatest environmental stewards, our paper confirms what Amazonian Indigenous leaders have been telling us for years," said Peter Veit, Director, Land and Resource Rights Initiative at WRI, and co-author



of the new paper.

"Across the Amazon, Indigenous territories are under siege from mining, both legal and illegal, and these activities are eroding communities' ability to protect themselves, prevent deforestation and safeguard ecosystems that are essential to the planet's wellbeing," he added.

Past WRI research found deforestation rates two to three times lower within tenure-secure Indigenous lands than outside those territories.

The new report also reveals that mining is eroding communities' proven ability to prevent deforestation: from 2000 to 2015, Indigenous tional Legal Consultant and co-aulands with mining activities had a thor of the paper.

higher incidence of tree cover loss than those without mining across the Amazon.

In Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, forest loss was at least three times higher in Indigenous territories with mining operations - both legal and illegal - than those without; and one to two times higher in Colombia and Venezuela.

"We found that countries in the Amazon all grant some important legal protections to Indigenous People, but these protections are often weakly or unevenly enforced," said Patricia Quijano Vallejos, Interna-

"Governments either own the mineral resources or control them, so Indigenous Peoples can neither prohibit miners with government permits from entering their lands nor fully access the minerals within their territories," she reported.

In their legal analysis of six Amazonian countries that hold over 90 per cent of the Amazon Basin, including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Peru, Quijano Vallejos and her co-authors have found that national laws and regulations often favour companies over Indigenous Peoples.

Beyond damage done to the ecosystem, weak government oversight to protect Indigenous communities

of mining activities can also lead to violent conflicts between Indigenous communities and miners. Last year saw more environmental defenders - including many Indigenous People -killed protecting their lands from mining than from any other sector, with two-thirds of all murders occurring in Latin America.

Even in countries like Guyana, the only nation reviewed in WRI's research that grants Amerindians a limited right of consent to any mining development on their lands, authorities have ways around legislation.

"The reality on the ground is quite different," said Michael Mc-Garrell, who represents the Amerindian People's Association in Guyana and is the human rights coordinator for COICA (Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca), the umbrella organization for the Indigenous organizations of the Amazon Basin.

"Government officials can say, for example, that a mining concession on Amerindian land is in the public interest. This means that even if a community says no, the minister can say yes," he noted.

What can be done? The WRI report outlines concrete steps that government officials can take to protect Indigenous Peoples from harmful mining activities.

Indigenous "Protecting communities will require a radical shift in governments' approach to mining," said Eleodoro Mayorga Alba, a former minister of mines for Peru, where significant progress has been made in adopting legislation

and their lands.

"This includes establishing and enforcing social and environmental safeguards aligned with international standards, more consistently monitoring mining operations across Indigenous lands and stepping up efforts to identify and prosecute those who facilitate illegal mining practices," noted Alba.

The report also finds that in several countries, Indigenous communities have successfully used their rights to shut down illegal, harmful mining on their lands.

It offers a number of case studies of successful efforts to block mining in regions, among them the Yaigojé Apaporis' land in the Colombian Amazon and the Indigenous Shipibo and Ese'Eja communities' lands in the Tres Islas territory of Peru.

But to secure long-term benefits, Indigenous communities will need financial and technical assistance to monitor illegal mining practices on their lands, recognise threats and collect evidence that can be used in courts of law.

Ultimately, safeguarding Indigenous territories - including the sustainable development and environmental benefits they generate - will require stronger commitments and urgent actions from governments, companies, civil society leaders as well as non-governmental and others organisations.

The report details what these commitments and actions look like for all key actors so that Indigenous Peoples can safely protect their lands and livelihoods.

World Resources Institute

#### **By Jez Walters**

he first lockdown to 'flatten the curve' of the Covid-19 pandemic happened swiftly and took the publishing industry by surprise earlier this year.

Global in scope, publishers had virtually no time to implement any contingency plans as the industry became a virtual mix of Zoom calls, work from home protocols, and hastily digitised events.

Fast forward seven months and the narrative of 'flatten the curve' has,

# Lessons from coronavirus pandemic lockdown: What publishers learned



partners, we launched many initiatives, such as our home-working "Creator Network" of trusted editors. This includes influencers, photographers and video creatives who all combine virtually to provide a valuable creative

of our readers and how their lives have changed since the lockdown as possible in order to provide the right content that they need. For example, on a Bauer level, research studies into consumer behaviour and media consumption were conducted almost immediately and are still being updated every two weeks.

We have had to evolve our offering and dial up certain content in order to respond to our readers' ever-changing needs.

"Grazia itself carried out a 'Life after lockdown' study with Instagram, which spoke to women across the UK two months into the lockdown, to understand how they are feeling about their mental health, relationships, sex, work, fashion, hobbies and money. We also launched a 'WhatsApp Covid diaries' project, where we recruited 20 Grazia readers to be part of a WhatsApp group and answer daily questions around their lives, feelings and behaviours in lockdown. "We introduced themed issues that covered the changing aspects of our audience's behaviour in lockdown: Interiors, Food, Beauty & TV. We highlighted those on the frontline - for our first issue produced from home, we shot different medics for the cover and the issue was free for NHS workers. This proved to be our most engaged with cover on social media ever. "Sales have continued to grow throughout the period, and we are seeing convenience stores up year on year as reader habits change. We've also seen strong subscriptions growth both in print and digital - these were up +25 per cent year on year in April - and we made single print issues available to buy in order to respond to the interest in some of

rightly or wrongly, evolved into the 'number of cases' with localised lockdowns replacing broader measures. However, with winter approaching and case numbers soaring, the threat of new national lockdowns can't be ignored - except that this time around publishers have had time to prepare.

What's New in Publishing talked to a number of UK publishers to find out what various preparations and contingencies they've made, what lessons they learned from lockdown #1, and what specific advice they would give other publishers in the event of another blanket lockdown.

Chris Kerwin, Group MD at Immediate Media: "We learned that we were able to run our business completely remotely and keep the high quality of our special interest publications and websites meeting the needs of our audiences. We are really proud of our teams for their dedication and flexibility during the whole of the last six months, but specifically when the restrictions were at their most severe.

"That said, we also learned that a creative business thrives on collaboration and that doing that remotely is much more difficult than keeping the show on the road.

"Going forwards we need to adapt our physical space to facilitate this collaboration with people highly likely to be in the office less, but also find better online tools for facilitating workshops, brainstorms and creative sessions.

"The Leadership Team at Immediate had some feedback from the organisation that we needed to be more visible and that's a lesson we learned quickly and, I hope, responded to quickly.

We've upped the frequency of our All Hands, our CEO Tom now does a biweekly 'Ask Me Anything' session and we've been doing informal 'Meet the Leadership Team member' interviews.

I think the feedback was a good sign of the dialogue within Immediate and I'm glad we could respond to that feedback quickly and it's something we need to hold on to.

"Immediate additionally put in place

a programme of activity with the aim of supporting our teams through the crisis, IM Community. As a company, we have a fantastic HR and internal events team which organized an amazing array of support initiatives for the organization - things like book clubs, exercise sessions, a subscription to headspace, etc.

Recognising what a strain of people we were going to be under right at the start of the crisis enabled us to be on the front foot in terms of the support that we offer our people. The longer this goes on, the more important that is going to become.

"We also learned just how important some of our brands are to our audiences and the lifelines they provided to them during the lockdown. Three examples here, but we're lucky enough to publish Radio Times, BBC Gardeners' World magazine, and BBC Good Food.

"All behaved very differently during the lockdown but all were brands whose importance to their audiences grew. At our peak in April, we had 87 million global users across our portfolio and we've seen significant digital

growth throughout the year." James Wildman, CEO at Hearst UK & President at Hearst Europe: "When the first lockdown hit, we were in a fortunate position that we'd already been working hard to modernise our business and culture over the previous few vears, and had been encouraging more agile working across the company. We were wellequipped and able to all start effectively working from home and after a two-day rehearsal we made the decision to do so before we even had to.

"Once we had ensured our people were safe and our business continuity was secure, the three key things we prioritised were strong internal communications, innovating quickly to superserve our commercial partners and providing our audience with practical, life-affirming, positive content to help them navigate the climate.

"The majority of initiatives we launched at the start of lockdown have been so successful that we

are continuing with them, adapting as we go. For example, I began sending - daily - all staff updates, which included things such as a summary of the news, practical support about working from home, how to maintain a healthy/ work life balance, information for parents, and advice to support both mental and physical wellbeing. Whilst we have changed the frequency to twice a week, these communications continue to be a valuable tool to ensure that our people feel informed and supported.

"I also started to host a weekly virtual all-staff meeting, where every Friday morning, we'd come together as a business for updates on our progress and to feel more connected generally. This is something which landed really well, and has since evolved into a forum where I'll welcome different people and teams from all corners of our business to come over each week to discuss what they've been working on, share lessons and shout about their successes.

"In terms of our commercial

solutions service to our customers despite the challenging conditions. We also continue to host B2B (business-to-business) initiatives such as insight webinars, which highlight how changing consumer behaviour is affecting sectors such as food, health and wellness, fashion, finance and beauty.

"Whilst our positioning as a beacon of positivity continues to inform everything that we do, from an editorial content perspective our brilliant brand teams continue to provide their audience with inspiring, uplifting content. We've seen our subscriptions grow across our brands by up to 200 per cent, while our ecommerce business has also had increases of up to 300 per cent which is a testament to how our brands are delivering content which resonates with our diverse audiences."

Chris Duncan, CEO at Bauer UK: "The first lockdown was a sprint to make sure that we could move to remote working and still make great products, while learning what was changing before our eyes. I think any second-wave impact is much more of an endurance event where we understand what we need to do but must work together to keep up our energy, our creativity and our teamwork to keep doing it despite the

continued restrictions." Hattie Brett, Editor, Grazia (Bauer Media Group): "There were two sets of considerations for Grazia when the lockdown began. There are the practical and logistical challenges of producing content - with working from home, social distancing and limitations to shooting imagery - but also, and perhaps more importantly, the needs of the readers have changed.

"We've been keen to gather as much insight and understanding Jez Walters is the Editor-in-Chief of What's New in Publishing, in whose weekly newsletter this piece was originally run, and a 30-year veteran of the European advertising, marketing and publishing industries. He has edited and managed WNIP since 2012 with a special focus on how publishers can prosper at a time of profound tech disruption.

# **CRDB lauded for 'globe-trotting'**

#### BY CORRESPONDENT MARC NKWAME,

#### MOSHI

THE fact that it is now possible to draw money and make payments in all Automated Teller Machines and points of sale in many countries across the world, using their Debit Cards, business persons, tourists and other globetrotting individuals have lauded the CRDB Bank's international reach out through the network of different syndicated Automated Teller Machines and points of sale.

Speaking during the CRDB Customer Service Week, held at Mbuyuni Branch of Moshi, in Kilimanjaro Region, many of the that, even the idea of arranging bank's clients expressed satisfac- regular meetings with the bank tion with the wide network of the financial institution, saying being because clients appreciate recogcovered wherever one goes, be it nition as well as platforms to air

Africa or as far as China, gives one a sense of security and confidence when doing businesses.

"Gone are the days when we used to cart along huge sums of money while traveling for businesses," stated Deo Mushi, a businessman whose transactions cut across Africa, Europe and Far-East, saying the bank is doing Tanzania proud through maintaining presence almost everywhere around the globe.

"There is nothing more reassuring than getting local financial support while traversing in alien countries," added Mushi, insisting customers' helps to build trust

within the country, Kenya, South- their complaints, offer their views and being kept informed with new development.

Another customer, Yasinta Mumburi from Kibosho hospital said the seamless digital transactions that are now experienced through CRDB banking has made it easy for them to make and receive payments, check their balances as well as getting notified when salaries get deposited in coffers.

"We no longer have to trek long distances to draw or deposit money, everything can be accessed from the palm of our hands and in the comfort of our homes, offices or cars," Mumburi pointed out.

The CRDB Bank's northern zone manager, Chiku Issa, said the financial institution is placing great importance to its customers and

GEITA GOLD MINE

ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI

always finds ways to meet them and cater for their needs with the Customer Service Week being a prime example.

Last July, the bank revolutionised customer feedback services by transforming the old suggesting boxes into digital portals that can be accessed from smartphones and tablets or through other digital applications.

Through the new 'Quick Response Code' or simply abbreviated as 'QR Code' system, clients' complaints receive rapid response and solutions.

The CRDB Bank has also floated special access to finance and various packages designed for women in businesses in order to boost local entrepreneurship schemes and empower women in the process.

## Hard time for Dar fried cassava vendors as colleges close

#### BY FLORIDA RAYMOND, TUDARCO

TRADERS who live by selling fried cassava and whose main customers are college students say they are in recession since universities closed last month.

Speaking to The Guardian at Mwenge and Survey suburbs of Dar es Salaam yesterday, some of the popular cassava sellers said that they have lost three quarters of their daily earnings, thanks to closure of universities.

Mwenge and Survey are popular spots for students from the University of Dar es Salaam, Ardhi University and Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College among other institutions.

The 53-year-old Musa Kopa ventured into fried cassava business three years ago

at Survey area after see an the students were their main opportunity in the fact that customers and were the ones not all students can afford who contributed to the growth traditional meals. business was very good and

"My target was students and the business is good when universities are open. Since the closure it has been very difficult to find customers; I sell only a quarter of what I used to student is ablel to afford other before," he said.

"Before, I used to sell the entire sack of cassava but now things have been a little different and sometimes the cassava remains and that means loss," he added

Amina Abdallah who does her business at Mwenge said that it has now become a major challenge in the fried cassava business. Three quarters of next month and that is when the business is gone with the students," she said.

cassava as a fast and cheap food for them, not every meals; most of them come from ordinary families, so this business was helping them and us," added Abdallah. The 23-year old said she started the business last year after quitting her house help

of their income, "The cassava

the profits were huge as many

students were using fried

job because of mistreatment by her employer and all was well until last month's recess. Universities will open late

these traders hope that their businesses will pick up again.

The traders admitted that 



#### **RE-ADVERTISED** INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS GOODS AND OR SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring various goods and or services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various goods and or services for any of the below listed services.

#### Scope of work:

Reference Number	Description of Services and or Goods
GGME0910	Provision of Supply and Delivery of UG AD60 Dump Truck Tray Routable
GGME0912	Supply and Delivery of 5x6 MB Grade Container

#### 1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%		
COMMERCIAL			
Company Profile	2.5%		
Copy of registration/Incorporation Cert	2.5%		
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate	2.5%		
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company	2.5%		
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade	2.5%		
Company Shareholding Structure	2.5%		
List of Directors	2.5%		
Compliance with the Mining (Local Cont 2018 by providing an approved Local Co Mining Commission	2.5%		
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRA</b>	20%		
Audited & certified financial statements	10%		
At least 2 references from the applican supplier's credit position	10%		
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAG	10%		
OSHA Compliance Certificate		2.5%	
Environment Compliance Certificate		2.5%	
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate compliance	2.5%		
Safety and Environmental Policies	2.5%		
PAST EXPERIENCE		10%	
At least 3 Names of the applicant's clie duration of the contracts entered into v past two years (must be listed)	2.5%		
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of above)		2.5%	
Acceptance certificates/completion cer above)	2.5%		
Provide at least 3 recommendation lett clients	2.5%		
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	40%	2.370	
Warranty	13.33%	GGME0910	
Authorized Dealer of CAT	13.33%	Provision of Supply and Delivery of UG AD60 Dump Truck Tray Routable	
Technical Support	13.33%		
	13.33%		
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	40%		
		GGME0912 Supply and Delivery of 5x6 MB Grade Container	

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP METAL AND VARIOUS** WASTE FROM GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring the service of Purchase and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Various Waste from Geita Gold Mining Limited and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below mentioned service.

#### Scope of work:

REF NO.	SERVICE TO BE PROCURED			
GGME0984	PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP METAL AND VARIOUS WASTE			
	FROM GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED			

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED		
PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%	
COMMERCIAL		
Company Profile	2.5%	
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	2.5%	
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	2.5%	
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	2.5%	
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	2.5%	
Company Shareholding Structure	2.5%	
List of Directors	2.5%	
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by providing an approved Local Content plan from the Mining Commission	2.5%	
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	20%	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	10%	
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	10%	
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	10%	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Environment Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	2.5%	
Safety and Environmental Policies	2.5%	
PAST EXPERIENCE	10%	
At least 3 Names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	2.5%	
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2.5%	66450004
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	40%	GGME0984
The Applicant should possess a valid permit from The United Republic of Tanzania Vice President's Office (State Union & Environment) for collection, storage and transportation of scrap materials	20	PURCHASE AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP METAL AND
The Applicant should provide proof of an approved scrap yard by NEMC	10	VARIOUS WASTES FROM GEITA GOLD
The Applicant should provide proof of possession of at least two road worth trucks with capacity to carry 30 tones each	10	MINING LIMITED
Total Score in %	100%	

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the NAME & REFERENCE NUMBER of the service they intend to express interest on together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs

and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 20 October 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the NAME AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the service they intend to express interest on together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via

e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 19 October 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

#### **FEATURES**

## Guardian

# Texas doctor (28) dies of Covid-19: 'She wore the same mask for weeks'

#### By Alastair Gee in New York

T took Carrie Wanamaker several days to connect the face she saw on GoFundMe with the young woman she had met a few years before.

The fundraising site reported that Adeline Fagan, a 28-year-old resident OB-GYN (obstetrician-gynaecologist), had developed a debilitating case of Covid-19 and was on a ventilator in Houston.

Scrolling through her phone, Wanamaker found the picture she took of Fagan in 2018, showing the fourth-year medical student at her side in the delivery room, beaming at Wanamaker's pink, crying, minutes-old daughter.

Fagan supported Wanamaker's leg through the birth because the epidural paralysed her below the waist, and they joked and laughed since Wanamaker felt loopy from the anaesthesia.

"I didn't expect my delivery to go that way," Wanamaker, a paediatric dentist in upstate New York, said, adding: "You always hear about it being the woman screaming and cursing at her husband, but it wasn't like that at all. We just had a really great time. She made it a really special experience for me."

Fagan's funeral took place on Saturday. The physician tested positive for the virus in early July and died this September 19 after spending over two months in hospital.

She had worked in a Houston emergency department, and a family member says she reused personal protective equipment (PPE) day after day owing to shortages

Fagan is one of over 250 medical staff who died in southern and western hotspot states as the coronavirus surged there over the summer, according to reporting by the Guardian and Kaiser Health News as part of Lost on the Frontline - a project meant to track every US healthcare worker death. In Texas, nine medical deaths in April soared to 33 in July, after Governor Greg Abbott hastily pushed to reopen the state for business and then reversed course.

Among the deceased healthcare



workers who have so far been profiled in depth by the Lost on the Frontline team, about a dozen nationwide (including Fagan) were under the age of 30. The median age of death from Covid-19 for medical staff is 57, compared to 78 in the general population.

Around one-third of the deaths involved concerns over inadequate PPE (personal protective equipment). Shortages of the items are devastating for healthcare workers because they are at least three times more likely to become infected than the general population.

"It kicked me in the gut," said Wanamaker, adding: "This is not what was supposed to happen. She was supposed to go out there and live her dreams and finally be able to enjoy her life after all these years of study-

ing.' Fagan worked at a hospital called HCA Houston Healthcare West and had moved to Texas sometime last year after completing medical school in Buffalo, New York - a few hours from her hometown of LaFayette. She was the second of

four sisters, all pursuing or considering careers in the medical field. Her younger sibling, Maureen (23), said she dealt with patients in uncomfortable or embarrassing situations with "grace", as she had observed when she accompanied Fagan on two medical mission trips to Haiti.

"Addie was very much. Do you understand? Do you have other questions? I will go over this with you a million times if need be," noted Maureen. Maureen also mentioned

Fagan's comic side - that she was voted by her colleagues as 'most likely to be found skipping and singing down the hall to a delivery' and prone to rolling out hammy Scottish and English accents. Fagan "loved delivering

babies, loved being part of the happy moment when a baby comes into the world, loved working with mothers", said Dori Marshall, associate dean at the University at Buffalo medical school. But she (Fagan) found liv-

ing by herself in Houston lonely, and in February Maureen moved down to keep her company; she could just as easily prepare for her own

medical school entrance examination in Texas. It is unclear how Fagan contracted the coronavirus, but to Maureen it seemed linked to her July rotation in the ER (emergency

room). HCA West is part of HCA Healthcare - the largest hospital chain in the US - and in recent months a national nurses union has complained of its "wilful violation" of workplace safety protocols, including pushing infected staff to continue clocking in.

Maureen said that, amid national shortages, her sister faced a particular challenge with PPE. "Adeline had an N95 mask and had her name written on it. Adeline wore the same N95 for weeks and weeks, if not months and months," she noted.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that an N95 mask should be reused at most five times, unless a manufacturer says otherwise.

HCA West said it would not comment specifically on Maureen's allegations, but the facility's chief medical officer, Dr Emily Sedgwick, said the hospital's policies did not involve constantly reusing masks.

"Our protocol, based on CDC guidance, includes colleagues turning in their N95 masks at the conclusion of each shift and receiving another mask at the beginning of their next shift," noted the officer.

A spokesperson for HCA West, Selena Mejia, also said that hospital staff were "heartbroken" by Fagan's death

On July 8, Fagan arrived home with body aches, a headache and a fever - while a Covid-19 test came back positive. For a week the sisters quarantined and Fagan, who had asthma, used her nebuliser. But her breath-

ing difficulties persisted, and one afternoon Maureen noticed that her sister's lips were blue, and insisted that they go to hospital.

For two weeks the hospital attempted to supplement Fagan's failing lungs with oxygen. She grew so weak that she wasn't able to hold her phone up or even keep her head upright. She was transferred to another hospital, where she agreed to be put

on a ventilator. Less than a day later, she was hooked up to an ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) device for a highly invasive treatment of last resort, in which blood is removed from the body via surgically implanted intravenous tubes, artificially oxygenated and then returned. Fagan lingered in this state through August, an experience documented on a blog

by her software engineer father, Brant, who arrived in Houston with her mother, Mary Jane, a retired special education teacher - even though they were not allowed to visit the daughter.

The medical team tried to wean her off the machines and the nine sedatives she was at one point receiving but, as she emerged from unconsciousness she became anxious and was put back under to stop her from pulling out the tubes snaking into her body.

She was able to respond to instructions to wiggle her toes. A nurse told Brant that she might be suffering from "ICU psychosis", a delirium caused by a prolonged stay in intensive care.

The family tried to speak with her daily. "The nurse told us that they have seen Adeline's eyes tear up after

we have been talking to her on the phone," Brant wrote, adding: "So it must be having some impact."

On September 15, her parents were at last permitted to visit. "I do not think we were prepared for what we saw in person -when we entered her room," he wrote.

He added: "Occasionally, Adeline would try to respond, shake her head or mouth a word or two. But her stare was glassy and you were not sure if she was in there."

It was too much for him. "Being the softy that cannot stand it when one of my girls is hurting, I commenced to get light-headed and pass out."

Finally, on September 17, it seemed that Fagan was turning a corner. Still partly sedated, she was nevertheless able to sit up without support. She mouthed the words to a song, being unable to sing because a tracheostomy prevented air passing over her vocal cords.

The next day, the ECMO tubes were removed. The day after that, Brant made his last post. His daughter had suffered a massive brain haemorrhage, possibly because her vascular system had been weakened by the virus. Patients on ECMO also take high doses of blood thinners to prevent clots.

A neurosurgeon said that even on the remote chance Fagan survived surgery, she would be profoundly brain damaged.

"We spent the remaining minutes hugging, comforting and talking to Adeline," Brant wrote, adding: "And then the world stopped ..."

The Guardian US

How much would Trump's coronavirus treatment cost most Americans? cantly from one patient to another. In the FAIR Health data on coronavirus

**By Sarah Kliff** 

resident Donald Trump spent three days in the hospital. He arrived and

patients over 60, one-quarter face charges less than \$26,821 for their hospital stay.

left by helicopter. And he received multiple coronavirus tests, oxygen, steroids and an experimental antibody treatment.

For someone who isn't president, that would cost more than \$100,000 in the American health system. Patients could face significant surprise bills and medical debt even after health insurance paid its share.

The biggest financial risks would come not from the hospital stay but from the services provided elsewhere, including helicopter transit and repeated coronavirus testing.

Trump has praised the high quality of care he received at Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre, and has played down the risk of the virus. "Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life," Trump tweeted on Monday, before returning to the White House.

Across the country, patients have struggled with both the long-term health and financial effects of contracting coronavirus. Nearly half a million have been hospitalised. Routine tests can result in thousands of dollars in uncovered charges; hospitalised patients have received bills upward of \$400.000.

Trump did not have to worry about the costs of his care, which are covered by the federal government. Most Americans, including many who carry health coverage, do worry about receiving medical care they cannot afford.

For some Americans, the bills could start mounting with frequent tests. Insurers are generally required to pay for those tests when physicians order them, but not when employers do.

The Trump administration made that clear in June, when it issued guidance stating that insurers do not have to pay for "testing conducted to screen for general workplace health and safety". Instead, patients need to pay for that type of testing themselves.

Some might be able to get free tests at public sites, and some employers may voluntarily cover the costs. Others could face significant medical debt



from tests delivered at hospitals or urgent care centres.

Covid tests can be expensive. Although they typically cost \$100, one emergency room in Texas has charged as much as \$6,408 for a drive-through test

About 2.4 per cent of coronavirus tests billed to insurers leave the patient responsible for some portion of payment, according to the health data firm Castlight. With 108 million tests performed in the United States, that could amount to millions of tests that leave patients responsible for some share of the cost.

Marta Bartan, who works as a hair colorist in New York City, needed a coronavirus test to return to her job this summer. She received a \$1,394 bill from the hospital running the drivethrough site where she was tested.

"I was so confused," said Bartan, who is contesting the bill, adding: "You go in to get a Covid test expecting it to be free. What could they have possibly charged me \$1,400 for?"

The bills for the typical American would continue at the hospital, with the routine monitoring that any patient would receive and the drugs provided in the course of care.

Remdesivir, a new coronavirus treatment created by Gilead, costs insurers and \$2,340 with public pro-

grammes like Medicare and Medicaid. Trump also received an experimental antibody treatment from Regeneron. It's currently available to clinical trial participants or to those granted a "compassionate use" exemption.

In either situation, the drug would typically be provided to the patient at no charge. This will most likely change, however, when the treatment is done with trials and hits the commercial market.

These types of drugs are hard to manufacture, and other monoclonal antibodies cost thousands of dollars. Health economists are only starting \$3,120 when purchased by private to understand the full costs of coronavirus treatment, just as scientists are

mapping out how the disease works and spreads.

They do have some early estimates: The median charge for a coronavirus hospitalisation for a patient over 60 is \$61,912, according to claims database FAIR Health.

That figure includes any medical care during the hospital stay, such as an emergency room visit that led to admission or drugs provided by the hospital.

For insured patients, that price would typically be negotiated lower by their health plan. FAIR Health estimates that the median amount paid is \$31,575. That amount, like most things in American healthcare, varies signifiAnother quarter face charges higher than \$193,149, in part because of longer stays.

Many, but not all, health insurers have said that they will not apply copayments or deductibles to patients' coronavirus hospital stays, which could help shield patients from large bills.

Uninsured patients, however, could be stuck with the entire hospital charges and not receive any discounts.

While the Trump administration did set up a fund to cover coronavirus testing and treatment costs for the uninsured, The New York Times has reported that some Americans without health insurance have received large bills for their hospital stays.

The biggest billing risk for a patient receiving treatment similar to Trump's would probably come from helicopter rides to the hospital.

Air ambulances are expensive and often not in major health insurance plans' networks. The median charge for an air ambulance is \$38,770, according to a study in the journal Health Affairs published this year.

When the helicopter trip is out of network - as about three-quarters of them are - patients are left with a median charge of \$21,698 after the insurance payout.

Taking two helicopter rides, as Trump did, could plausibly result in more than \$40,000 in medical debt for patients without access to their own aircraft. But, of course, most people do not leave the hospital by helicopter.

The financial consequences of a coronavirus hospitalisation in the US could be long-lasting, if a new Supreme Court challenge to the Affordable Care Act is successful. That case argues that all of Obamacare is unconstitutional, including the health law's protections for preexisting conditions. The administration filed a brief in June supporting the challenge.

The Supreme Court hears that case this November 10. If the challenge succeeds, Covid-19 could join a long list of preexisting conditions that would leave patients facing higher premiums or denials of coverage. In that case, coronavirus survivors could face a future in which their hospital stays increase their health costs for years to come.



# **REVIVED STATE FISHERIES COMPANY RECOVERS ASSETS WORTH 118.19BN/-**

#### **By Francis Kajubi**

recovering state fisheries company which was almost defunct for many years, has been rejuvenated and has since recovered property worth 118.19bn/-

Tanzania Fishing Corporation which collapsed in 1998 has most of its assets taken over by district councils, government departments or agencies.

Tafico acting General Manager, Esther Mulyila said in Dar es Salaam last week that identification and repossession of assets started with Dar es Salaam Region a bigger chunk of the above valued property has been taken back.

"Evaluation and repossession of assets including plots at Mkwazi Delta in Kigamboni, a fish products processing industry at Kurasini, residential and warehouses plus machinery are some of the properties that have so far being repossessed," Mulyila said as the Fifth Phase Government beefs up efforts to revive the defunct Tafico.

She said the company's which was lined up for privatization in late 1990s by the then Presidential Parastatal Sector Reform Commission, failed to be taken over by private investors hence



#### Canoes parked at Tafico's Mkwazi Delta in Kigamboni.

#### left to die natural death.

In 2005, the government through Ministry of Lands, Housing and Hua cabinet paper decided that Tafico's properties be kept under the use of other government entities. "But there were other goods of the corporation that were sold in 2008 some as scrappers including two ships that were owned by the corporation but were not operating since 1998," she added.

Muyila explained that the identification and evaluations exercise decided to revamp the fisheries cor-

is being done in collaboration with

man Settlements Development and covers the whole country. "Under PSRC the incomplete privatization plan took seven years and failed, then in 2005 Tafico was handed back to Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism as its custo-

dian by the time to continue with privatization process," she noted while adding that by 2017, the state

poration.

According to her, following the state's decision to revive Tafico through an Economic and Social Development Program financed by an 89bn/- Japanese government grant, implementation is underway for the next several years.

The acting Tafico chief executive further noted that the revival project will last te next ten years and among other things, involves the purchasing of five fishing vessels.

construction cold rooms for storage and an ice plant.

Properties that are in the list of being reposed are fish delivery centers and markets, ice berg machines and refrigerators at the ports of Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika in Mwanza and Kigoma Regions. Established in 1974 to develop fisheries industry, Tafico failed to continue operations due to mismanagement and lack of investments.

# **Uniquely situated SABIS International School sets green** building precedent

#### NAIROBI

The new SABIS International School in Runda, Nairobi, was awarded a four-star Green Star Africa-Kenya PEB v1 Design Rating earlier this year. **Construction on the SABIS International School** - Runda campus started in June 2016 and was completed in June 2018.

Facilities include an independent kindergarten area, upper and lower school buildings, cafeteria, gymnasium, pool, football pitch, tennis courts, mini car track, and an auditorium. As the first Green Starcertified school in Kenya, the aim was to positively impact the project's design and construction costs, asset value, operating costs, workplace productivity and user health.

With a GFA of almost 14,600sqm, the school is located near the Northern Bypass in Kiambu County. The project was developed by the SABIS Network, a global network of schools that dates back to 1886 and currently educates over 70,000 students in 20 countries on five continents. Concept design architects on the project were Archika, with Boogertman + Partners as executive architects. The green building AP (accredited professional) team comprised WEB Limited, a Kenyan-based sustainable development consultancy and co-founding member of the Kenya Green Building Society, in collaboration with Solid Green Consulting.

Elizabeth Wangeci Chege of WEB Limited explains that the site was chosen to meet growing demand for a new school in an area that has become densely urbanised in the last 10 years. Being very close to the equator with no extremes in weather, conditions lent themselves to passive design; the soil is conducive to plant growth and biodiversity; and there is an abundance of rain for harvesting.

The SABIS Network has developed schools in different regions in the Middle East and South

Strandline secures U\$26m from Nedbank to finance Fungoni Project

#### **By Property Watch Reporter**

DEFYING the novel coronavirus outbreak, Australian based Stran-

dline Resources Limited has secured a loan of U\$26 million (over 60.3bn/-) to finance Fungoni Mineral Sand Project in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

In its 2020 annual report, the company said Fungoni's success is parallel to similar progress being made at its flagship Coburn Project in Australia. The company said while the pace of activity was at times limited by the impact of COVID-19, the signing of a Project Finance Facility Agreement with Nedbank CIB for development of the Fungoni project succeeded.

"This facility accounts for most of Fungoni's total estimated capital cost of US\$35 million (excluding financial costs). All parties are now working towards satisfaction of conditions precedent to financial close and first draw down," the Strandline report noted.

The report said the facility remains subject to finalisation of conditions precedent to financial close and first draw down and includes finalising the additional finance documents with Nedbank, obtaining the remaining government related approvals (including completing documentation for the Tanzanian Government's 16 percent free-carried interest in the project company, compensation and resettlement agreements in relation to project site access), as well as satisfying the equity

#### Strandline's Fungoni Mineral Sands Project.

shortfall.

"As part of the equity tract to Milembe Construcprocess, Strandline is in distion Company Limited. cussions with international Fungoni Mineral Sands Project which is situated finance institutions about strategic equity investment 25 kilometres south of Dar in Fungoni and/or Strandes Salaam Port is based on line. In preparation for deconventional open pit dry velopment, the company mining and processing awarded several key conbeneficiation to produce premium quality zircon struction contracts, including the supply of a purposesand, chloride ilmenite, rubuilt power solution for tile and monazite containthe project (by Aggreko) ing rare earths. and the civil bulk earth-

"Development of Fun-

works construction congoni is expected to pave the way for a succession of major mineral sands projects along the coastline of Tanzania, including the large-scale Tajiri project in northern Tanzania. The company has secured three major off-take contracts covering 100 percent of forecast revenue for the life of the Fungoni project," the Strandline annual report added.

The report also said the

global mineral sands market continues to grow with higher value minerals being needed in abundance. "Mineral sands products are used in everyday life and demand continues to grow, largely driven by urbanisation, global growth and an extensive array of applications," the report added.

"With global supply progressively reducing due to mine closures, declining

grades and depleting stockpiles, new capital projects are required to meet ongoing demand. The advanced nature of Strandline's projects positions it well to capitalise on the forecasted emerging supply deficit. The mineral sands industry generally is orientated towards the supply of two main raw products, zircon and titanium dioxide ores,"

Strandline Resources annual report stated.

America, and the concept design had to be contextualised, acclimatised and aligned with local expectations. For example, following the attack on the Garissa University College in April 2015, a top priority was security which necessitated a boundary wall and physical barriers between the buildings.

"Safety on site is also paramount," comments Anthony Opil, project architect at Boogertman + Partners. "The site is on a steep slope so the buildings were staggered and connected with soft, landscaped ramps - working with the terrain to make the buildings easily accessible to one to another and for the mobility impaired. Courtyards were also designed for different age groups with specific play areas for the lower school and high school – which was an approach that was customised to local expectations."



An aerial view of SABIS International School in Nairobi.

#### **JOHANNESBURG**

BarrickGold'stopexecutive says the gold industry needs more consolidation so it can increase exploration to boost depleting reserves, lure more generalist investors and improve efficiencies.

flurry of deals The the that characterised

Barrick CEO says gold mining industry still needs to conso will likely continue, with miners in Australia already "stamping their mark" on the industry, chief executive officer Mark Bristow said in a virtual South African mining conference. Mergers

#### sector in the past two years and acquisitions are likely trust data tools, our awardto dominate the sector in Africa, and are needed in Canada, where the world's second-largest gold miner is based.

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winning articles, and support quality journalism in the process. "The industry still needs further consolidation," Bristow said Wednesday. "Canada still needs more work on consolidation.'

While there was a scramble for deals after Barrick's 2018 mega-merger with Randgold Resources and Newmont's subsequent acquisition of Goldcorp, deals have slowed as gold's rally to an all-time high this year pushed up the

price of assets.

Bristow cautioned producers against merely "rearranging the deck chairs" through deals. Gold miners must invest in finding new deposits to replace reserves, he said. For its part, Barrick

interested remains in acquiring more so-called tier-1 assets, including Freeport-McMoRan's Grasberg mine in Indonesia, Bristow said.

"Barrick as you know is completely, single-mindedly focused on tier-1 assets, and

so it's going to be of interest to us because there aren't many tier-1 assets left that we don't own or own part of," Bristow said. Tier-1 gold assets are generally considered to have output of at least 500 000 ounces a year and long-term costs at the lower end of industry averages.



#### CONSTRUCTION

# **UK-BASED WORLD LAND TRUST FINANCING FOREST CONSERVATION IN LINDI VILLAGES**

#### **By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon**

14

EN villages in Mtama District of Lindi Region are earmarked to benefit from a three years 'Scaling up Community Based Forest Management in the Coastal Forest Project financed by UK based World Land Trust.

Project Manager, Yahya Mtonda told Journalists attending training on advocating forest reserve conservation for all villages targeting three zones in the country and conducted by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group that the main goal is to communities allocate areas for village land forest reserves to be protected legally.

Mtonda said legal recognition of village forest reserves allows communities to earn income through sustained timber harvest while also cultivating on fertile land as forests prevent erosion and degradation.

"These villages will have their forest reserves gazzetted by the government hence become legally protect against deforestation," he said while naming the villages as Ntene, Mdawa, Namupa, Muungano 11, Mnara, Mihima, Utimbula, Chiodya B, Chiwerere and Liganga.

The Project Manager further noted that under the project, the villagers will also be trained on how to get certificates of customary rights of



Yahya Mtonda (R), Project Manager of a Scaling up Community, Based Forest Management in the Coastal Forest Project, briefs journalists during recent training on village forest conservation. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

occupancy, forest conservation and land use plan management to en-

"In addition, the villagers will which they will save money but also

#### also be trained on how to establish give loans to each other when need sure sustainability. village community banks through arises," Mtonda added while pointnels," he noted.

# Impala approached over stake in giant Zim platinum project

# Mozambique airports lost US\$24 million because of Covid-19

#### MAPUTO

State-airport manager Aeroportos de Moçambique (Mozambique Airports - ADM) announced yesterday that it had recorded losses of approximately US\$24 million as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, but said it is still working towards international health certification in anticipation of receiving more flights soon. **Covid-19 continues to** impact different sectors, devastating the accounts at several companies. ADM says that, up to this September, it had recorded losses of about US\$24 million as a direct result of the pandemic. However, and despite the accumulated losses, the prospect of resuming flights in number is growing, and to this end, preparing airports with adequate sanitary conditions is vital.

HARARE The owners of a Russian-backed project to build Zimbabwe's biggest platinum mine have held talks to sell a stake of at least 20% to Impala Platinum Holdings, according to

will be issued to the villagers with a target of planting 20 million trees during the period. To start with, the project is being executed in Ntene and Mihima villages with a combined 6,852 hec-

ing out that a record 1,500 certifi-

cates of customary rights occupancy

tares of natural trees being turned into a forest reserved. Furthermore, TFCG in collaboration with district officials will assist communities formalize recognition of their allocated forest reserves prior to being gazzet ted by the state.

With support from development partners, TFCG is backing government efforts to legally conserve an estimated 17.6 million hectares of unreserved forests, which is approximately 80 percent of about 22m ha of forest cover located in village lands countrywide.

Mtonda further added that the move is aimed at reversing desertification because an estimated more than 469,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared annually by various human activities including logging and agriculture.

"The legally unprotected forests are exposed to unsustainable harvesting which leads to land degradation which worsens poverty levels in communities while also affecting government revenue because illegal loggers don't follow proper chan-

# **Green recovery** of air transport industry leaders

**GENEVA** 

Despite the current crisis facing the global aviation industry, its commitment to pursuing sustainability remains strong, particularly as the sector starts to recover. Speaking at the Global Sustainable Aviation Forum, industry leaders reiterated that long-term climate action should be a priority alongside economic recovery in the coming years.

Executive director of the crossindustry Air Transport Action Group, Michael Gill said: "Air transport is in the midst of the deepest shock in its history. We expect a reduction of up to 4.8 million jobs in the sector by the end of the year and a massive hit to our ability to connect the world. However, as we plan for the recovery of air connectivity, we also must prioritise our environmental progress.

"Our sector has a long-term climate change goal to cut CO2 emissions in half by 2050. With the right help from governments, the energy sector and technologists, we expect that global aviation will be able to hit net zero emissions a decade or so later. Some parts of the world will be able to meet this point earlier and a number of individual companies have already set goals along these lines.

"To achieve this will require a transition in our energy source from fossil fuel to sustainable aviation fuel, the acceleration of research and development of electric, hybrid and potentially hydrogen aircraft. It will also require a commitment to collaboration going even beyond our current levels. We have the next decade to set the scene for sustainable global connectivity for the next

**Prospective countries** for reciprocal international flights with Mozambique include Ethiopia, South Africa, Portugal, Qatar and Turkey.

partly because the Johannesburgbased company also has the capacity to process ore from the mine, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the details aren't public. That would give Great Dyke an offtake agreement to help it to raise financing to complete the mine, they said.

Great Dyke Investments views

Impala as an attractive partner

people familiar with the matter.

Subscribe for full access to all our share and unit trust data tools, our award-winning articles, and support quality journalism in the process. Great Dyke – owned jointly by tycoon Vitaliy Machitski's Vi Holding and undisclosed Zimbabwean investors is in talks with a number of potential equity partners, Chairman David Brown said in an interview, without being more specific.

Great Dyke's Darwendale project further. has the potential to become one of the world's biggest platinum mines and its development is central to the Zimbabwean government's plans to reboot its collapsing economy. "The



Impala Platinum Holdings giant Zimbabwe platinum project in Harare.

Impala said it isn't in formal negotiations with Great Dyke. Impala already operates mines in Zimbabwe. One stumbling block to a deal is Great Dyke's valuation of size of the stake we plan to sell is the project, the people familiar said. subject to negotiations," said Brown, Great Dyke would consider selling a a former chief executive officer of bigger stake, but for the moment the Impala. He declined to comment existing shareholders want to retain

a majority holding, they said.

Zimbabwe has the world's thirdlargest platinum group metal reserves after South Africa and Russia. Former president Robert Mugabe handed the Darwendale concession to Russian investors in 2006 after the government repossessed land from a local unit of Impala.

Great Dyke hopes to secure about respond to emailed questions.

\$500 million in initial capital by the end of the year and the mine could be commissioned in 2023, CEO Aleksandr Ivanov said last month. It could produce more than 860 000 of PGMs a year at full production. Ivanov declined comment when spoken to by Bloomberg on Tuesday. Vi Holding didn't immediately

## Equatorial Guinea and Russia break ground on geological mapping project

#### MALABO

An energy cooperation between Equatorial Guinea and Russia kicked off when the first team of Russia's state-owned joint stock company Rosgeo arrived in the West African country to start a historic geological mapping project.

The initiative has been in the making for some time, and follows the signing of Memorandum of Understanding during the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi in 2019 between Rosgeo and the Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons (MMH).

It was followed by the signing of two firm services contracts in May 2020 with JSC Zarubezhgeologia and JSC Yuzhmorgeologia, internationally operating subsidiaries of Rosgeo, for the initial phase of seismic acquisition in transit zone and state geological mapping in the Rio Muni area in mainland **Equatorial Guinea.** 

As a result, JSC Zarubezhgeologia will be performing scouting works for state geological mapping, and JSC Yuzhmorgeologia will be performing scouting works for complex seismic acquisition in the transit

zone of Rio Muni.

The activities are notably aimed at analysing landscape conditions for geological surveying and prospecting, determining the scope of mapping drilling, researching the possibility of mineralogical sampling of channel deposits, analyzing technical conditions for the arrangement of geological camp in Rio Muni, and other scouting necessary to prepare for next phases of exploration works.

Equally important, the programme marks the re-entry of Rosgeo into Equatorial Guinea following successful operations of its subsidiary JSC Zarubezhgeologia back in the 1970s when its activities formed the basis for **Equatorial Guinea's geological** exploration industry.

"This is a historic moment for Equatorial Guinea as we welcome once again long-standing partners of our country to explore onshore Río Muni. We expect this region of Equatorial Guinea to become a new natural resources hub both for onshore oil & gas operations but also for mining and minerals.

Upcoming exploration activities will provide the foundation for this next phase of growth in our industry, and having Rosgeo on the ground gives us confidence and faith for a successful exploration campaign," says Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, minister of mines and hydrocarbons.

The Rio Muni area is believed to be one of the most promising exploration frontiers in Equatorial Guinea, which could turn the country once again into a hotspot for natural resources exploration. Increased exploration is expected not only to help in sustaining and increasing domestic output of oil and gas, but also in proving additional reserves in key minerals to help Equatorial Guinea further diversify its economy.

30-40 years."

Speaking about the need to focus on sustainability as part of the industry's long-term recovery from Covid-19, the director general of Airports Council International, Luis Felipe de Oliveira, said: "The recovery of the aviation industry will be a key driver of the global economic recovery. To ensure that aviation can continue to provide the economic and social benefits, it is crucial that we pursue a green recovery and lay the foundation for a prosperous and sustainable industry for the long term.

"Airports are central to the interconnected and interdependent aviation ecosystem. Airports and their partners in the aviation industry need the support of appropriate regulation and government policies to facilitate a green recovery and push for real change."

**Civil Air Navigation Services** Organisation director general, Simon Hocquard said: "Meeting our ambitious sustainability goals continues to be of paramount importance and will only happen if everyone in the aviation system plays their part. From implementing new operational procedures to adopting the latest technologies,



Air Transport Action Group, Executive director Michael Gill.

#### CONSTRUCTION

# HOW LONDON IS LURING MIDDLE EAST DEMAND FOR **LUXURY HOMES DURING COVID-19**

#### LONDON

uxury real estate company founder Trevor Abrahmsohn is very busy at the moment. The founder of Glentree International, which has been operating for 45 years, says he is inundated with rental queries from international clients, particularly in the Middle East, looking for prime London properties to move into. And the coronavirus pandemic is not denting the level of interest.

"Rentals are doing very well. I've got very little stock for higher rentals. I'm raiding the sales larder for some of my prospective tenants, trying to persuade people who want to sell to rent out their properties instead," says Mr Abrahmsohn.

Glentree is responsible for 90 per cent of trophy home sales on properties worth more than £10 million (\$12.89m) along London's north-western corridor, which includes leafy areas such as Hampstead, Highgate and St. John's Wood, according to the luxury real estate specialist. And sales demand has also heightened in recent months, mainly among clients already in the capital following the Covid-19 lockdown.

"I have a Middle Eastern princess, looking for a home for a very significant amount of money," he says. "She has a number of family members already living in Hampstead so the price is secondary to the property."

This flurry in activity is mirrored by other market leaders in prime real estate, such as Barclays Private Bank, which has a base in Dubai International Financial Centre as well as in Asia, Africa and Russia. It claims to be one of the biggest mortgage lenders in London's prime real estate space and has noticed a surge in activity over the past few months.

"We've seen a lot of action over the summer," says James Penny, head of UK international private banking for Barclays. "If you'd asked me in March how busy we would be with the mortgage business over the summer. I would have probably said not very, but we are dealing with more inquiries and actual live



#### A street of elegant Victorian Edwardian luxury houses in the exclusive area of South Kensington, London.

property transactions than we've outskirts of the capital or outside had for the last three years."

While a global pandemic and uncertain travel restrictions might be considered a deterrent for the wealthy to invest in a luxury real estate, prime property prices in the capital and beyond have been on the rise over the past couple of months.

Buvers from the Middle East are 2020's third largest spenders in prime residential property in London, having accounted for a quarter of all buyers over £10m in London in 2019, according to global real estate consultancy Knight Frank. Prices for high-

London altogether hit highs in the third quarter not seen since before the global financial crisis of 2007, according to Savills, driven by record levels of demand from buyers looking to change their housing needs after the lockdown.

Values of prime regional property - broadly the top 5-10 per cent of the market by value -are now 1.4 per cent above their 2007 peak, with the biggest increases seen in the traditional £2 millionplus traditional country house market and in coastal properties. "A desire for more space is now

end homes with a garden on the a major priority for buyers. It has

boosted the appeal of more rural and lifestyle locations ... It has also created demand for larger family homes in London, particularly for those expecting to work from home for at least part of the week on an ongoing basis," says Frances Clacy, a Savills research analyst.

While much of the demand is domestic, Savills says the number of international visitors to properties on its website has risen steeply in recent months, "with interest from Germany, the Middle East and Canada at record levels." "There certainly appears to be pent-up demand for UK property from international

person when travel restrictions ease," says Andrew Perratt, head of UK residential.

Güardian PROPERTYWATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

Barclays has noted more summer action at the more expensive end of prime property, where values tend to top £5m, says Mr Penny. Transactions on second pads in the countryside are also on the rise, he says, perhaps in case the UK heads into a second lockdown.

"In some cases, the property remained unsold so the client has come back and made an offer below the asking price of 5 to 10 per cent, which has been successful," he says. "Covid has buyers who wish to view in not been a deterrent for longterm buyers looking in London. For prime central London, prices are welldefined, they are not making any more land, so it's a long-term store of value."

The Middle East is one of the world's hotspots for wealth with more than 14,000 ultra-high-net-worth-individuals in the region and 195 billionaires, far exceeding the UK's billionaire tally of 71, according to Knight Frank's Global Wealth Report 2020.

With interest rates at record lows and sterling weakening since 2016 when Britain voted to exit the European Union, international clients looking to park their money in these uncertain times are attracted by the relatively good deal a London property purchase presents.

"With the weakness in sterling, a client who has considered buying in London as part of a longer-term plan is able to purchase an amazingly good quality asset at a price that's significantly cheaper than it was a few years ago," says Mr Penny. "Sterling has found its floor and we don't see significant weakness moving forward and that's a view shared by quite a few clients who have been waiting to see where Brexit goes to try and time their purchase."

Another financial driver for international buyers is the UK's intention to add a 2 per cent surcharge on Stamp Duty Land Tax for overseas buyers next year. International buyers are currently subject to the same rates on UK residential property purchases as UK residents, which equates to up to 12 per cent of the value of a property worth more than £1.5m for prime property buyers.

"The stated purpose of the increase in 2021 is to deter foreign buyers from driving up UK property prices and to provide revenue to combat rough sleeping," says Dominic Filleul, partner at law firm Cripps Pemberton Greenish. "The surcharge will inevitably have an effect but there are bigger factors now at play - how the UK looks to investors post Brexit and how long it takes to come through the Covid-19 pandemic."

# **Supersonic business jet to cut New** York-London flying time by hours

#### **NEW YORK**

Aerion, the supersonic jet builder founded by Texas billionaire Robert Bass, plans to deliver its first AS2 business jet in 2027, with top speeds of 1.4 times the speed of sound, or about 1,074 mph-roughly double that of traditional commercial aircraft. Still, with rivals like Boom Technologies and others advancing their own supersonic plans, Aerion chief executive Tom Vice is already anticipating the arrival of hypersonic travel.

"Our long-term vision is to allow people to travel between any two points on the planet within three hours," Mr Vice said October 2 in an interview with Bloomberg News. To do so - and to avoid the physical rigors and technical complexities of suborbital space flight – Aerion's next craft would have to cruise within the atmosphere at more than four times the speed of sound, or about 3,000 mph.

Aerion, which is moving its headquarters from Reno, Nevada, to Melbourne, Florida-adjacent to its planned assembly center-is one of several firms in the nascent field of supersonic civil aviation, which has been heating up this year despite the economic shocks of the coronavirus pandemic.

Virgin Galactic Holdings surprised some investors in August with plans for a Mach 3 aircraft seating as many as 19 people, an interim step on the company's



The Aerion AS2 supersonic business jet being developed by Aerion and Lockheed Martin.

path toward eventual hypersonic point-to-point travel. Virgin's supersonic project is being assisted by Rolls-Royce, which is also working with Boom on supersonic engine technologies.

And a fourth player, Bostonbased Spike Aerospace, plans a 12-18-passenger supersonic jet that cruises at Mach 1.6 and has range to cover nonstop flights from London to Hong Kong and Dubai to New York. The company hasn't offered a timeline for its development, however.

While many companies in this space have been big on pronouncements, the engineering obstacles to bringing a new generation of supersonic planeslet alone hypersonic planes-to market are nothing to sniff at. Aerion's aspiration to hypersonic speeds comes almost five

years before it even plans to build a production-model of its \$120 million supersonic business jet, and seven years before the first delivery, assuming everything goes right.

Boeing holds an equity stake in Aerion, while General Electric is designing and building a new Affinity supersonic engine for the company. Aerion said it plans further capital raises over the next three or four years and will add additional equity investors before it turns to the debt market for financing, Vice said.

Boom Technologies, meanwhile, plans a \$200m supersonic jet that can carry 65 to 85 passengers at more than twice the speed of sound, which it said will enter service by 2030. The company has orders for 30 jets from Japan Airlines and Virgin.

Colorado-based Boom plans to introduce a one-third demonstration model on Wednesday, the XB-1, which will allow the company to begin flight testing in 2021 to glean data on the jet's wings and fuselage. Boom plans to use three GE J85 engines to power the XB-1 and is evaluating engine designs with Rolls-Royce for the production aircraft, which Boom calls Overture.

Mr Vice argues that Aerion has an advantage over supersonic competitors when it comes to engine development, pointing to its partnership with GE and its plan to build the first commercial supersonic power plant in more than five decades. The design is exclusive for Aerion, said Mr Vice, who declined to disclose how much the engine development will cost or how

it's being financed.

"Somebody else wanting to build a supersonic business jetthey're going to have to go find a different engine," Mr Vice said. Aerion "for sure" will be the first new supersonic commercial aircraft to market, he predicted. "We'll get there years ahead of anybody else."

Aerion said it scoured the world for an engine, including Russian designs that would meet noise restrictions, fuel-burn requirements and reliability over thousands of hours of highspeed flying. No existing engines fit the bill, though. Instead, the company turned to GE to build an engine with 20,000 pounds of thrust, special acoustic linings to reduce take-off noise and dual turbo-fans that don't require fuel-guzzling afterburners.

# Saudi Arabia exempts property deals from VAT and imposes new 5pc tax

#### RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Friday issued an order exempting property deals from VAT and imposed a new 5 per cent tax on transactions.

The latest decision by the government is expected to boost the property sector in the kingdom and help citizens seeking to buy homes, according to a Saudi Press Agency report. "The royal decree aims to support citizens and ease their burden ... and enable them to own their homes," Saudi Arabia's finance minister Mohammed Al Jadaan said in a tweet.

"It also contributes to the development of the kingdom's economy by stimulating the residential and commercial [property] sector." The move is "posi-tive and pragmatic," Tarek Fadlallah, chief executive of Nomura Asset Management Middle East said in a tweet. "It will provide a boost [to] sentiment and asset prices."

Saudi Arabia increased VAT on all goods and services from 5 per cent to 15 per cent on July 1 as part of measures to shore up its finances amid low oil prices and the coronavirus-induced economic slowdown.

The government will also bear the cost of the new Real Estate Transaction Tax for Saudi citizens purchasing their first home, provided that the amount does not exceed 1 million riyals (\$266,442), according to the SPA.

"This contributes to achieving the kingdom's vision of increasing housing ownership by Saudis to 70 per cent by 2030," the country's housing minister, Majid Al-Hogail, said in a tweet. During the second quarter of this year, the average cost of residential properties in Riyadh rose by 3.5 per cent from last year, while average rental rates fell by 1 per cent, according to a JLL report on Saudi Arabia's property sector.

In Jeddah, average house prices and rental rates fell by 6 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. In Dammam, the average house price rose by 1.5 per cent while in Makkah, house prices and rental rates dropped 2 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively, JLL said in its July report.

"The decision to levy a 5 per cent property transaction tax, rather than apply 15 per cent VAT, should serve to support the market and is consistent with a long-term government policy of increasing home ownership," Chris Hobden, associate director and head of strategic consultancy at Chestertons Mena, said.



#### WASHINGTON

SALT LAKE CITY - US Vice-President Mike Pence and Democratic challenger Kamala Harris clashed over the Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic during their debate on Wednesday, as the White House struggled to contain an outbreak that has infected President Donald Trump and dozens of others.

The policy-heavy debate stood in stark contrast to last week's chaotic presidential debate between Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, which was marred by Trump's constant interruptions and personal insults from both men.

Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis, along with his age and that of Biden, added weight to the debate, as both Pence, 61, and Harris, 55, sought to demonstrate they were capable of assuming the office if needed. Either the Republican Trump, 74, or Biden, 77, would be the oldest US president to be sworn into office if victorious in November.

But Wednesday's confrontation seemed unlikely to alter the dynamics of a race that opinion polls show Biden is winning with less than four weeks to the Nov 3 election, as both candidates evaded certain questions, stuck to talking points and avoided major gaffes.

Harris, the California US senator and former state attorney general, immediately went after Trump's record on the pandemic that has claimed 210,000 American lives and devastated the economy.

"The American people have wit-

nessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country," Harris said as the debate began at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

In response, Pence touted the US administration's efforts to battle the disease. "I want the American people to know that from the very first day, President Donald Trump has put the health of America first," he said.

The two candidates were separated by 3.6 meters and plexiglass shields, a reminder of the virus that has led to the largest public health crisis in a century.

Harris, who made her own unsuccessful run for the presidency, faced enormous pressure as she took the biggest political stage of her life. On Wednesday, she largely succeeded at fulfilling the running mate's traditional attack role.

Pence delivered the kind of calm, reasoned points that the combative Trump rarely offers, but the president's propensity for grabbing headlines is likely to overshadow his second-in-command's performance almost immediately.

#### Masks and social distancing

Pence was questioned about the administration's White House event last month announcing Trump's latest Supreme Court nomination, where masks and social distancing were mostly absent. A number of prominent attendees, including the president himself, have since tested positive for COVID-19.

The vice-president noted that the



US Vice-President Mike Pence speaks as Democratic vice-presidential candidate Senator Kamala Harris listens during the vice-presidential debate on Wednesday, at Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. (AP)

Race an issue

bate with Biden.

otal Florida.

ous presidency.

November's contest.

Harris, the first Black woman to

serve on a major-party presidential

ticket, also attacked Pence on race

relations, criticizing Trump for turn-

ing down an opportunity to denounce

white supremacists at last week's de-

In response, Pence accused the me-

dia of taking Trump's words out of

context and said the president had re-

Biden leads Trump in national opinion polls and has an advantage of 12

percentage points in the latest Reu-

ters/Ipsos survey of likely voters. Polls

show the race to be closer in some of

the election battleground states that could determine the winner, although

a Reuters/Ipsos poll on Wednesday

showed Biden leading Trump in piv-

Harris, who was on the biggest stage

of her political career, is a US senator

from California and the daughter of

Pence, a former conservative radio

host, is a former US congressman and

Indiana governor who has steadfastly

defended Trump during his tumultu-

In addition to competing for No-

vember's election, the two candidates

were also jockeying for long-term po-

sition in their respective parties. Both

are widely seen as future presidential

candidates, whatever the outcome of

It was the only vice-presidential

debate of the campaign. Biden and

Trump are due for a rematch on Oct

immigrants from Jamaica and India.

peatedly disavowed racist groups.

event was outdoors before criticizing Harris and Biden, tics with people's lives." who have promised to mandate masks on federal property and encourage the practice nationwide, for not respecting people's freedom to make their own choices on health.

"You respect the American people when you tell them the truth," Harris retorted, noting that Trump played down the virus for months.

Harris faulted the Trump administration for trying to invalidate the Affordable Care Act (ACA) healthcare law in the midst of a pandemic and assailing Trump for reportedly paying US\$750 a year in federal income taxes as president.

"When I first heard about it, I literally said, 'You mean \$750,000?" Harris said, referring to a New York Times investigation. "And it was like, 'No - \$750."

She also warned that the Trump administration's challenge to the ACA would enable insurance companies to deny coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions: "If you love someone who has a pre-existing condition, they're coming for you."

Pence called the ACA, popularly known as Obamacare, a "disaster."

The US Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments over the law a week after the election. Republicans are working to seat Trump's conservative nominee to the court, Amy Coney Barrett, by month's end over the objections of Democrats.

#### Tax battle

Pence sought to counter Harris's attacks by turning the focus to the economy and tax policy, saying: "On Day One, Joe Biden's going to raise your taxes." Harris responded by saying that Biden has vowed not to raise taxes on anyone making less than US\$400,000 a year.

The vice-president also asserted that Biden would ban fracking and embrace the Green New Deal, a massive environmental proposal backed by liberal Democrats. Biden, however, has disavowed both of those positions.

Asked about a potential vaccine, Harris said she would only trust the word of scientists, rather than that of Trump, who has promoted unproven treatments in the past.

"If the doctors tell us that we should take it. I'll be the first in line to take it, absolutely," she said. "But if Donald Trump tells us to take it, I'm not taking it."

Pence fired back, accusing Harris of undermining public 15 and 22. confidence in vaccines.

"I think it is unconscionable," he said. "Stop playing poli-

#### **Despite Brexit ultimatums, UK** and EU lurch toward a deal

#### **BY BLOOMBERG**

JUST as the UK's trade negotiations with the European Union look like they're heading off a cliff, there's reason to suspect things might not be as bleak as they seem.

On the surface, the brinkmanship is clear: On Tuesday, the EU dared Boris Johnson to walk away from the talks by his Oct 15 deadline if he views a deal as impossible. The very next day, Johnson's government said it fully intends to do just that, if that's what it concludes.

That followed weeks in which statements from both sides have barely gone beyond reiterating the need to keep trying because the gulf between them remains huge. On Wednesday, EU Council President Charles Michel urged the UK to "put its cards on the table".

Yet, in private, officials are more upbeat. While the politics are inescapable -- and may yet be definitive -- experienced negotiators know that sometimes the worst moments happen shortly before an accord is struck.

They recall Johnson's telephone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in October 2019, which prompted one UK government insider to brief that, because of her intransigence, a deal on the country's withdrawal from the EU was effectively impossible. One was done nine days later.

The two sides are now trying to reach an accord not only on their future trade relationship, but also on a range of issues from cooperation on law enforcement to transport. Failure to reach an agreement by the time UK leaves the EU's single market and customs union on Dec 31 would leave businesses grappling with tariffs, costs and disruption at the border.

#### Stock-taking

Johnson has said that if he doesn't see that a deal is on the cards by Oct 15, he will pull the plug so businesses have time to prepare themselves.

The EU, whose leaders will discuss Brexit at a summit on the same day, doesn't recognize that deadline and plans to carry on talking however long it takes.

Officials in Brussels with knowledge of the negotiations suggest an elaborate choreography is being worked out, in which, despite some level of differences remaining, both sides will find a way to carry on discussions into the second half of October.

The summit will be a mere "stock-taking" exercise, which won't get in the way of the negotiations. **Agencies** 

#### Soudi Arabia must focus on 'own interests' while serving Palestinian cause

#### RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia's former intelligence chief and ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, said the kingdom must focus on its own interests and security while supporting the Palestinian cause.

In the final episode of a three-part interview with Saudiowned Al Arabiva television aired on Wednesday, Prince Bandar once again criticized Palestinian leaders.

"We are at a stage in which rather than being concerned with how to face the Israeli challenges in order to serve the Palestinian cause, we have to pay attention to our national security and interests," he said.

Prince Bandar previously in the interview criticized the Palestinian leadership for their "transgression" and "reprehensible discourse", in opposing the decision of some Gulf states to normalize ties with Israel.

**Agencies** 

### Kurdish issue to explode unless Syrian integrity issue solved, Russia's Lavrov warns

#### MOSCOW

THE Kurdish problem may explode, unless the issue of Syrian territorial integrity is solved, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday.

"It is always a blatant violation of international law to play with territorial integrity of any country. In this specific case, it is not about Syria alone, but also about the Kurdish issue that may explode in a way that will make the current situation appear, well, far less serious," he said.

According to the Minister, the Kurdish issue involves a wide array of Middle Eastern countries.

"Invitation to separatism - and not just an invitation, but active promotion of separatism - may end very badly. Once again, this is done by a country from far beyond the ocean, while the consequences will be dealt with by the countries and we [Russia] is not too far away



of the region, as well as Europe - ourselves" Lavrov underscored.

proposed an initiative to develop He also reminded that Russia a security concept in the Persian

Gulf region, involving all Arab nations, Iran, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the UN Security Council permanent members and the European Union.

"I hope that the time has come when too many problems have accumulated both in the Persian Gulf, and around it, including the Middle East and the Northern Africa in general. It is unavoidably necessary to sit down and negotiate," he said.

The Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria enjoy the support of the US, which Lavrov has pointed out repeatedly. Even after the bulk of the US forces were withdrawn from Syria, they continued to control a portion of oil fields in the country. In September, US senator Lindsey Graham announced that a US company signed a direct agreement with the Kurds.

The United Arab Emirates agreed a historic deal to normalize relations with Israel in August, and the Gulf state of Bahrain, a close Saudi ally, followed suit in September. Palestinian leaders regarded the deal as "betrayal".

Palestinians fear the moves will weaken a long-standing pan-Arab position - known as the Arab Peace Initiative that calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and acceptance of Palestinian statehood in return for normal relations with Arab states.

The deals are seen as a strategic realignment of Middle East countries against Iran. Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, has not directly commented on the normalization deals, but has said it remains committed to peace on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative.

Prince Bandar said Palestinian leaders had high regard for "new players into the picture" such as Iran and Turkey, than Riyadh and other Gulf countries.

"Turkey occupies Libya and wants to liberate Jerusalem by withdrawing its ambassador from Abu Dhabi. Iran wants to liberate Jerusalem through the Houthis in Yemen or through Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria," he said.

He spoke at length about the decades-long support of successive Saudi kings and other Gulf countries to the Palestinian cause, adding that the denial of these efforts from Palestinian leaders will not affect the attachment to the cause.

"Things are clear and we are at our limit with those guys," he said.

Agencies

### Young man in Tibet autonomous region working for dream of modern agriculture

URGYEN Tsering is the head of a collective machinery enterprise established to benefit farmers in Chagjug township, Sagya county, Shigatse, China's Tibet autonomous region. As autumn approaches, he is getting busier day by day.

According to him, he's currently preparing for the autumn harvest of highland barleys, and a rapeseed oil plant is about to be put into operation soon. Besides, he's also kept busy by the phone calls from across the country ordering pastures.

The young man, born in the 1990s, has been running his own business in the highland barley fields for seven or eight vears.

Sagya is a major agricultural county in Shigatse. It has planted 75,000 mu (5,000 hectares) of highland barleys this year. "We can harvest and pack 1,800 mu



Urgyen Tsering poses for a picture in front of a tractor.

of the crops a day with 18 tractors. That's People's Daily. the efficiency of mechanization," he told

"We have 9 large harvesters, 1 excava-

tor, 1 loading machine, 19 large tractors and various other machineries," he said, adding that his company is the largest agricultural-machinery cooperation organization in the county.

Urgyen Tsering is smart and diligent. He came to Lhasa, capital of Tibet autonomous region a dozen years ago. When he worked for others to operate excavators in 2011 in the city, he joined free tractor, excavator and harvester training sessions organized by Lhasa government. A year later, he contracted a 38.2-kilometer dredging project in Chagjug township, and all the work was completed by himself alone.

In 2015, Urgyen Tsering started the collective machinery enterprise, and applied for a 3-million-yuan (\$441,767) loan under the policy support of the local government, which enabled him to fully

mechanize his business, from ploughing and planting to harvesting.

Agencies

"I was even thinking how to handle my business in my dreams," Urgyen Tsering told People's Daily. thanks to the favorable policy of the country to develop plateau agriculture, as well as the credibility he has gained in past operation, his enterprise earned 1.5 million yuan in 2018, and 2 million yuan in 2019.

Gyixong village of Chagjug township is home to 81 households, all of whom were impoverished. The village has over 800 mu of farmland, but the yield was not satisfying. Urgyen Tsering signed an agreement with the villagers to offer free farming services, so that the latter can go out for work.

According to the young man, all the residents in the village has shaken off poverty and even bought cars. In April

last year, he received a silk banner as an award from the village committee, to mark his contribution to the poverty alleviation efforts of the village.

From 2012 to 2019, the total grain output of Tibet autonomous region increased 10.3 percent from 949,000 tonnes to over 1.04 million tonnes, and the per capita disposable income for rural residents also went up by 1.3 times from 5,697 yuan to 12,951 yuan.

"Farming and animal husbandry are no longer just businesses to make a living, but a great cause that we love as newtype professional farmers," said Urgyen Tsering, adding it's his biggest dream to make his fellows rich by developing modern agriculture and making the business mechanized, extensive, professional and market-oriented.

**People's Daily** 

#### WORLD NEWS



The house of Lu Yulan, a resident from Houwu village, Moganshan township, east China's Zhejiang province is being renovated, July 13. Photo by Yao Haixiang, People's

### **China creates poverty-alleviation** miracle in human history

"WITH my income increasing and burden relieved, my life now is just great!" That was said by Guo Yufa, a farmer from Xinghe county, China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. According to him, most of his wife's medical expenses are reimbursed, and his children are enjoying free education and financial aid. Besides, the family also gets poverty-alleviation subsidies, which enable it to develop poultry raising, a business that earned them nearly 50,000 yuan (\$7,362) last year.

Zhang Xianhua, an impoverished resident from Qijiafang village, Kangbao county, north China's Hebei province told People's Daily that her life in the mountains before were tortuous, but after moving to the relocation communities in the township, she believes her future is prosperous. Zhang is now a sanitation worker in the community, and her husband a warehouse manager. Living in the community, they don't even have to go out for grocery shopping and medical services.

The stories of Guo and Zhang are taking place across China, constituting a perfect "answer sheet" of China's poverty-alleviation.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China has steadfastly implemented targeted poverty-alleviation policies with more investment. From 2015 to 2019, the registered poor population in the country shrank from 55.75 million to 5.51 million, and the number of impoverished counties was also decreasing.

The incidence of poverty dropped from 5.7 percent to 0.6 percent. All rural residents falling below China's

The average annual growth of poverty relief fund dispensed by the central government has been kept above 20 percent, and a series of unusual policies were implemented to solve deep-rooted problems. From 2015 to 2019, over 11 million poor people were lifted out of poverty each year.

In the past five years, the income of impoverished residents witnessed a large increase, and problems related to people's access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing have been generally solved

According to statistics, more than 90 percent of the country's registered poor residents benefited from industry-driven poverty alleviation and pro-employment policies.

Over two thirds of them shook off poverty by working out-of-town and developing industries. From 2015 to 2019, the growth of per capita disposable income of farmers in impoverished regions outran the national average, and the average annual growth of net income of registered impoverished residents hit 30.2 percent.

"The village medical center now has most of the common medicines. We don't have to go out to see the doctors for trivial health problems, and we only have to shoulder 10 percent of the total expense," said Wang Baolian, an impoverished resident from Shutai village, Bazhong, southwest China's Sichuan province.

Between 2016 and 2020, impoverished regions saw prominent improvement in basic public services, and basic health services, compulsoguaranteed for impoverished resi-

### South Sudan's oil firm to build 500m USD oil refinery

JUBA

WASHINGTON

A South Sudan's oil marketing firm is planning to set up about 8.2 billion South Sudanese pounds (about 500 million U.S. dollars) crude oil refinery in Paloch oilfield to serve the region with refined petroleum products.

Robert Eric Mdeza, chief executive officer of Trinity Energy, a company specializing in petroleum products

US President Donald Trump declared

that catching the coronavirus was a 'blessing from God" that exposed him

to experimental treatments he vowed

would become free for all Americans, in

a video address released on Wednesday.

Trump, eager to revitalize his ailing

and related services, said that the plan along Juba-Bahr-el-Ghazal highway is to produce a 40,000 barrels per day scalable factory in Paloch. "The idea is to build a scalable refinery that will eventually reach the size of 40,000 barrels per day. That is our plan," Mdeza said on Monday.

Mdeza revealed that the firm controls about 40 percent of the country's oil market, and noted that the company plans also to build a 50 million liter storage capacity of refined products

**Trump says catching COVID-19** 

was 'blessing from God'

He said the initial purpose of installing the refinery in Paloch, located in the oil-rich Upper Nile region, is to reduce the cost of crude oil transport.

"So we have the source, we will refine it right near the sources, and from there we will find the market. One market is obvious is South Sudan, next door is Ethiopia, Sudan and the surrounding countries are the potential Xinhua market," he said.

'Russia has security obligations to Armenia, not Nagorno-Karabakh'

**Guardian** 

#### MOSCOW

RUSSIA may stand up for Armenia under its Collective Security Treaty obligations, but these obligations do not cover the unrecognized republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists Wednesday.

"The obligations on security are as follows: if a CSTO member nation is subjected to aggression, an attack from outside, then the Treaty signatory nations have to protect this nation," the spokesman said.

When asked in what case Russia would be ready to send its military to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area, Peskov underscored that "this is rooted in the obligations" under the CSTO.

"In this case, we are talking about Armenia; [Russian President Vladimir Putin] has made it perfectly clear and he differentiated between these two issues: the CSTO obligations do not cover Karabakh," the spokesman said.

According to Peskov, reports of hostilities on Armenian territory have not been confirmed.

Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that the Armenian authorities raised no question regarding Russia's compliance with the CSTO obligations. The head of state recalled that Russia has obligations before Armenia - a CSTO member state - and noted that the hostilities do not take place on Armenian territory

The CSTO is an international security organization, comprising six signatories: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. The CSTO aims to counter threats to security and stability and to protect territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states without meddling in their internal affairs. Agencies

**Israel extends COVID-19** regulations to limit anti-govt protests

re-election campaign two days after his release from Walter Reed military hospital, repeatedly stressed how well he felt so far in his recovery from COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. It was unclear if he was still testing positive for the virus. "I think this was a blessing from God that I caught it. This was a blessing in disguise," Trump said, adding that his use of the medication from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc had allowed him

to experience first-hand how effective it could be. Trump, who has been widely criticized for a slow response to the pan-

demic that has killed more than 210,000 Americans and putting his own staff at risk by discouraging the use of masks in the White House and on the campaign trail, also cited similar medication from Eli Lilly and Co.

"I want to get for you what I got. And I'm going to make it free," Trump said, at one point calling the unapproved medicine a "cure."

The timing of the video's recording was unclear. Trump said in the message that he had gotten back to the White House "a day ago," suggesting he was speaking on Tuesday. But Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, said the video was recorded earlier on Wednesday.

The video's release followed White House assurances that the 74-year-old president was back at the Oval Office ry education and housing have been on Wednesday, getting briefed about economic stimulus talks and Hurricane



US President Donald Trump gives the thumbs-up as he leaves Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland heading towards Marine One on Oct 5, 2020. AFP

message appeared to be a step in that cant seat on the Supreme Court by the direction.

A speech to senior voters is being contemplated for Thursday, they said.

Vice President Mike Pence's debate with Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris in Salt Lake City will take center stage of the campaign on Wednesday evening.

Republican-controlled Senate before the election also may be in doubt, since three Republican senators infected with the virus may not be able to vote.

#### **Costly absence**

A wave of infections at the White House among Trump's top lieutenants

current poverty line will be lifted out of poverty before the end of this year, and so will impoverished counties.

Absolute poverty, which has haunted the Chinese nation for thousands of vears, will soon become a thing of the past. This will be a great miracle in human history.

He Poyi, a villager from Ekeluo village, Fugong county, southwest China's Yunnan province who had moved out of the mountains and started a new life, told People's Daily that it was the frequent conversations launched between him and poverty-alleviation working teams that put away his worries. "Now I can work near home and live a good life," he said.

To relocate all impoverished residents, batches of officials trekked over mountains and stationed in mountainous villages.

"Thanks to the strong support of targeted poverty-alleviation policies, we will complete a historic transition from suffering extreme regional poverty to shaking off poverty for all the residents. During the past five years, officials went to the village in droves to complete the "last kilometer" of targeted poverty alleviation.

dents.

All villages established their own health centers; teaching conditions of 108,000 compulsory education schools have been improved; and all relocation communities have been constructed, bettering living environment for over 9.6 million impoverished people.

All of China's established villages with mature conditions are now connected to hardened roads; the reliability rate of electricity supply in rural China hit 99%; and 98 percent of impoverished villages in extremely impoverished regions have been covered by broadband networks.

China's poverty alleviation strategies and achievements receive wide recognition and high evaluation from the international society.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "Targeted poverty reduction strategies are the only way to reach those farthest behind and achieve the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," adding that China's experiences can provide valuable lessons to other developing **People's Daily** countries.

Delta.

A White House official said Trump entered the office from the Rose Garden to avoid walking through the White House hallways and possibly exposing others to the coronavirus.

Chief of staff Mark Meadows, who briefed Trump in personal protective gear, said the White House was keeping access to the Oval Office extremely limited.

Trump had been in his residence in the White House since his dramatic made-for-video return from Walter Reed in a helicopter on Monday night. Trump, who faces Democrat Joe

Biden in the November election, has had no COVID-19 symptoms for the past 24 hours, his doctor Sean Conley said in a statement.

"He's now been fever-free for more than four days, symptom-free for over 24 hours, and has not needed, nor received, any supplemental oxygen since initial hospitalization," Conley said.

#### Eager to campaign

Despite his illness, Trump has been looking for ways to get his election message out and cut into Biden's lead in battleground states, advisers said. His video

Aides say Trump is impatient to get back on the campaign trail and insistent on going ahead with the next debate on Oct. 15 in Miami, but Biden said on Tuesday he will not participate if Trump is not virus-free.

The new claim on free medications came the day after Trump abruptly ended talks with Democrats on a new round of stimulus for a pandemic-pounded economy, with both sides far apart on how much money to devote to a deal.

Both Biden and the top Democrat in the US Congress, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, accused Trump of abandoning needy Americans.

"The president turned his back on you," Biden said in a Twitter post.

With layoffs in key industries mounting by the day and threatening the fragile recovery, Trump late on Tuesday urged Congress to quickly pass US\$25 billion in funding for passenger airlines, \$135 billion for small businesses and provide US\$1,200 stimulus checks for Americans.

But White House officials on Wednesday downplayed the likelihood of any kind of stimulus being passed before the election. Trump's drive to get Judge Amy Coney Barrett confirmed to the va-

and press aides has left the West Wing struggling to find its footing. At least 19 people close to Trump have tested positive. Trump has depicted himself as a man who vanquished the disease and emerged stronger, telling Americans not to be afraid of COVID-19.

The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll, conducted Oct 2 to 6, found that 38 percent of adults approved of Trump's handling of the coronavirus, while 56 percent said they disapproved.

In a withering editorial, the New England Journal of here accused America's leaders of an astonishing degree of failure over the COVID-19 crisis that "turned it into a tragedy."

Although Trump long defied experts by holding out the possibility that a vaccine might be available before the election, he acknowledged in his video message that a vaccine would be out after the ballot because of "politics."

Advisers say Trump wanted to be talking about other issues instead of the virus by this stage of the campaign, to put pressure on Biden. Opinion polls show Trump down double digits, and Biden with sizeable leads in many swing states.

#### **Agencies**

**JERUSALEM** 

THE Israeli cabinet extended oyesterday regulations that limit anti-government protests, citing a need to limit gatherings amid a COVID-19 resurgence.

\In an overnight conference call, the ministers approved a one-week extension of the emergency regulations until Oct. 13.

The regulations restrict rallies to a 1,000-meter radius of the participants' homes and in groups of no more than 20 people. "These restrictions were set in order to reduce traffic in the public sphere and prevent contacts and gatherings as much as possible ... in order to curb the spread of the virus," the cabinet decision read, noting they are part of a three-week nationwide lockdown imposed on Sept. 18.

The regulations, first approved on Sept. 30, effectively ban the weekly rallies held outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem, in which thousands of Israelis have been demanding the long-time leader resign for his mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis.

With almost a quarter of Israel's labor force unemployed, Netanyahu and his government are facing growing public anger over their failure to halt a second resurgence of the coronavirus and the ensuing Xinhua economic crisis.

#### NAIROBI

DEILA Zerga has struggled to provide basic needs to her kids amid deprivation rampant in her low income dwelling area on the northern suburb of Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.

The 50-year-old mother of six found her bearing in August when the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) gave her a cash donation of 4,720 Ethiopian Birr (about 131 U.S. dollars) to help relieve the family's financial hardships that have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Zerga, who is heading an HIV positive household, had previously received cash donations twice from CFPA, which has been lending a helping hand to transform

China's success in combating poverty offers hope to Africa livelihoods of under-privileged households in the Ethiopian capital.

"The third round of cash hand-

out came just as I was short of cash

to buy teff (an Ethiopian staple

crop). I'm happy the money came

during this difficult period," Zerga

Zerga's 11-year-old daughter

Ekram Bashir was in high spirits

as she recounted how the cash

donations from CFPA fulfilled her

recent interview.

added.

"I bought a full dress with the first round of cash handout. The second round of cash came during the early days of COVID-19 outbreak in Ethiopia. I used it to buy

desire to dress like her peers. "My mother has bought me shoes and clothes with the cash donation," said Bashir.

The benevolence of CFPA has brought cheer to under-privileged households in Ethiopia since 2015, when the charity commenced opfood," Zerga told Xinhua during a erations in the Horn of Africa nation.

Speaking to Xinhua, Daniel Worku, a project manager at CFPA, said the cash donation program to HIV positive households is a continuation of other pre-existing programs, including a school feeding project being done in various parts of Ethiopia.

"In this project we give priority to those students who have HIV in

their blood and also parents living in the same household who are HIV positive," Worku added.

Worku said that with the COV-ID-19 pandemic forcing schools to be shut down, the cash donation to low income households serves as a kind of food security to households with children.

#### VALUABLE EXPERIENCES FOR AFRICA

The charitable activities of CFPA in Ethiopia, including support for school feeding programs, women empowerment and provision of clean water to households, mirror the view that China has bolstered efforts to eradicate poverty across the African continent

African leaders, policymakers

Namibia's President Hage Geingob said in a statement in early April that Namibia would like to draw lessons from China in poverty eradication, through closer bilateral cooperation and support. Geingob said the eradication of poverty and hunger in Namibia is a key policy objective of the Namibian government.

"The Namibian economy has been severely affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus, which

threatens our socio-economic stability, and the gains we have made to reverse poverty," Geingob

The World Bank said in a report titled "Accelerating Poverty Reduction in Africa" that the share of Africans living in extreme poverty has fallen substantially, from 54 percent in 1990 to 41 percent in 2015, but due to high population growth during the same period, the number of poor people in Africa has actually increased from 278 million in 1990 to 413 million in 2015.

According to the African Union, the COVID-19 crisis has increased poverty with the African Development Bank estimating that the

pandemic will push between 28.2 million and 49.2 million more Africans into extreme poverty.

China's development experience over the past decades offers key lessons to Africa, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said at the sixth African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe in February.

"Just as China's remarkable achievements in lifting its people out of poverty contributed to major advances under the Millennium Development Goals (SDGs), so can Agenda 2063 have similar impacts on SDGs," said Mohammed.

Agenda 2063 is Africa's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development. Xinhua

added.

and scholars said the continent is leveraging on robust cooperation with China to acquire capital, skills, technology and best practices required to back the war against deprivation.



Morogoro's Regional Police Commander (RPC), Wilbroad Mutafungwa, explains the importance of valuing physical fitness after the culmination of sporting activities, which involved the region's police officers, at Morogoro Regional Hospital's ground recently. PHOTO; MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

# Police officers urged to value physical fitness

#### BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA MOROGORO

MOROGORO Regional Police Commander (RPC), Wilbroad Mutafungwa, has asked all of the region's army officers to regularly take part in sporting activities that include athletics, boxing, tug-of-war and chicken chasing with a view to staying fit.

Mutafungwa made the call in the region recently after he had overseen a route march involving over 100 armed cops, which started at Town Center and ended at Morogoro Regional Hospital grounds.

The event culminated with the army officers participating in sporting activities which include boxing, tug-of-war and chicken chasing.

He congratulated the region's Field Force Unit (FFU) for emerging as champions in the tug-of-war, saying other task force teams have to learn from the FFU.

ing the sport is moreover a therapy for non communicable diseases.

"I congratulate you because most of you are aged 35 and above, failure to take part in physical fitness exercises will put you at risk of having diseases including diabetes," he stated.

He disclosed involvement in unethical behaviours also improves chances for the officers and other people to succumb to the diseases

He added he is planning to will invite other army bodies to feature in all sporting activities in an effort to test the cops' fitness.

The police officers, he stated, will later share ideas with their fellows on how to curb crimes and maintain peace and security, as the general election is a few weeks awav.

"It is an endless program for all police staff in the region, what takes place in Mo-

# **Taifa Stars' opportunity to** experiment against Burundi

#### **BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE**

anzania's senior national team, Taifa Stars, will take on neighbours Burundi in an international friendly match in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The team returns to international football after almost a year-long absence due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Taifa Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije will use the match to prepare his squad for the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers, set for next month.

The build up will also prepare some of the players for the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals to be played early next year.

Taifa Stars meet Tunisia in the AFCON qualifiers on November 13 before the return game in Dar es Salaam on November 17.

The matches were initially set for March 27-31, and coach Ndayiragije had announced his squad before the Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced the suspension of all matches as the global coronavirus pandemic escalated.

After two rounds of matches, Tanzania are placed third in Group J of the qualifiers for Cameroon 2022 with three points following a home win against Equatorial Guinea and an away loss to Libya.

Tunisia are in first place with six points points followed by Libya who are second with three points but ahead of Tanzania on Head to head rule while Equatorial Guinea are bottom without a point.

Ndayiragije realises how much work still needs to be done before Taifa Stars battle it out with the dreaded North African giants.

His squad has vibrant attacking options including captain Mbwana Samatta and Simon Msuva, so that department only needs a few tweaks.

However, the defensive combination and the wings' uncertainties will need to be addressed in this friendly.

Since the days of an in-form the bench. Thomas Ulimwengu in 2013, the



Yanga defender, Lamine Moro (R), celebrates with fellow players after he had netted for the outfit in a Vodacom Premier League match against Mtibwa Sugar, which took place in Morogoro recently. Yanga won 1–0. PHOTO; COURTESY OF YANGA

#### able winger.

Farid Mussa is out of the team while Ulimwengu has not really offered much for the past three vears

The likes of Iddy Selemani Nado' and Ayub Lyanga have been in good form for Azam FC but they have not transformed that performance into the national team.

Lyanga lacks confidence as soon as he puts on the Taifa Stars' shirt and it is no wonder he has been dropped.

Ditram Nchimbi is the only winger-cum striker who has performed with that extra grit and higher work rate in the national team recently, but he is also finding it tough to start for Yanga.

With Mussa's return to the Vodacom Premier League, all eyes were on the former Azam FC winger but he too has struggled and was not recalled by Ndayiragije.

There is no denying the talent of Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto' and Said Ndemla, both have crisp passing and are the type who can make an instant impact off

However, both players some-

full-back. and substance in their style of

play Ally Msengi is an underrated defensive midfielder Ndayiragije can use to partner up with Jonas

Mkude Msengi plies his trade in South Africa's Premier Soccer League with Stellenbosch.

If the youngster has produced decent performances in the more competitive South African League, there is no reason why he cannot be an excellent midfield reinforcement.

Ndayiragije could also give Mzamiru Yassin- who has two goals in five appearances for Simba- a chance to play in the midfield.

With Erasto Nyoni and Kelvin Yondani out, Ndayiragije will need to reshuffle the defensive line.

Yanga's center back Bakari Mwamnyeto has proven to work well alongside Nyoni but he will now have to get a new partner in Abdallah Kheri 'Sebo' or Iddy Moby.

Azam FC's Sebo is a defender who deserves to get some playing time in the Stars' build up.

He boasts of the versatility to

Mtibwa Sugar's Dickson Job is

another defender Ndayiragije must take into consideration from now on.

Taifa Stars are limited in the fullback positions, so it would be interesting to see how well David Bryson and Israel Mwenda would integrate, if given the chance, though Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe are the default starters.

Bryson has impressed with KMC FC so far this season showing his ability to defend with composure and quickly transit into the attacking buildup plays.

He has two assists to his name in five appearances for KMC FC.

Morocco-based Nickson Kibabage is another youngster who should also get a crack at playing at this stage.

In one year in charge of Taifa Stars, Ndayiragije has undoubtedly revived the senior national team fortunes, but now the hard work begins ahead of the AFCON qualifiers.

Now is the time for him to experiment with some new faces in the areas the team has strug-

The tug-of-war, he noted, is extremely rogoro town is also set to take place in all useful for testing the officers' strength, add- districts in the region," he said.

team have struggled to find a reli- times struggle for consistency play as a centre-back and also a gled in.

#### ...The bubble is the real MVP of this NBA season A moment of rest finally arrives at the NBA Finals

#### LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

LOS Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James got back to his hotel suite after Game 4 of the NBA Finals early Wednesday morning. At 6:30 a.m., he was already tweeting out images to announce to his 47.6 million followers that he was wide-awake.

When the season's over, he'll sleep plenty. Until then, his cycle is going to be a total mess.

Like it or not, the NBA Finals are on hiatus until Friday – the first two-day break in this series between the Lakers and Miami Heat. When Game 5 happens, the Lakers will enter with a 3-1 series lead and on the brink of their 17th NBA championship.

"For me, I mean, at this point in the season, I don't care about rest," James said. "I really don't. I don't care about sleep. I don't care about resting throughout the game. ... I don't care about resting because I can rest in a week, max."

Maybe sooner. James' teams – two in Miami, one in Cleveland – are 3-0 in finals games when they stand a win away from a championship. All-time, his teams are 38-10 in games where they have closeout chances. Clearly, James doesn't like to wait when the chance comes to clinch a series.

"They are going to make adjustments. We got to be prepared for it," Lakers forward Anthony Davis said of the Heat, who are facing an elimination game for the first time in these playoffs. "We're going to make adjustments. It's going to be a big two days for us. Come out Game 5 and hopefully finish it off."

Game 4 on Tuesday night was the first grind-it-out matchup of this series; the Lakers won 102-96, both teams finishing the game with a series-low in scoring and Miami shooting a series-low 42.7% from the floor. Some of that could simply be defenses catching up with offenses, but it also could have been the toll of four highly competitive games taking place in a seven-day span.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis makes a 3-point basket during the second half in Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Miami Heat Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

"Our guys love competition and love the challenge," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We are here for a purpose. We never expected this to be easy. We'll just rest and recover. I think everybody could probably use that a little bit. Recalibrate, get back to work on Thursday.'

Miami's Jimmy Butler has played more minutes than anyone in the series, averaging nearly 42 per game. The Heat have been barely able to take him out; Butler has logged 45, 45 and 43 minutes in his last three games, respectively numbers nobody else in these finals have reached even once. He isn't willing to show

fatigue. "Our confidence ain't going nowhere," Butler said. "It's going to stay high, I'm going to make sure that it stays high, because it's going to have to be at an all-time high to get this next win."

The Heat could use a couple days off from a health perspective. It remains unclear – doubtful is probably the best word – if point guard Goran Dragic can play anytime soon because of the torn plantar fascia in his left foot. But getting All-Star center Bam Adebayo back from a neck injury for Game 4 was a plus, though he confessed he's not 100%.

"I feel like collectively we all

need two days off," Adebayo said. "It's not just me, it's not just Goran, but we all need a couple days just to readjust, realign, get some fresh air and get back to the drawing board." From the Heat perspective, that is indeed the case.

For the Lakers, the waiting may be the hardest part. The chance at the franchise's first title in 10 years is looming, and James – who has great respect for Spoelstra, his former Miami coach – is certain that the Heat won't go out easily.

"I know Spo going into Game 5," James said. "That's the best part about it. It's a chess match."

AP

#### LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

THE bubble hasn't burst. And the finish line is in sight.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver acknowledges that he had doubts if this was even possible. So did many players. Racial injustice protests were happening around the country and coronavirus positivity rates were skyrocketing in Florida when the NBA moved into Walt Disney World – the league calls it a campus, everyone else calls it a bubble – three months ago. It wasn't a stretch to think it was only a matter of time before trouble started.

Never happened. The NBA got the games in and kept the virus out. Players managed to find a balance between what they felt were their basketball obligations and social responsibilities.

This season, a year that was longer than a year and difficult in almost every imaginable way, is nearing an end; the Los Angeles Lakers have a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals over the Miami Heat, with a potential title-clincher in Game 5 coming Friday night.

"The job's not done," Lakers forward LeBron James said.

He's right, on many levels. The NBA came here to crown a champion; that White players talk about hasn't happened yet. Playwhy it matters; Black play-

ers came here to use their platform to fight against racial inequality and voter suppression; those efforts continue. And the coronavirus pandemic rages on; no end in sight there, either.

> Outside the bubble, problems reign.

Inside the bubble, things are not perfect. It has not been easy. Often, it was not fun.

But it worked.

"I wanted everybody to have perspective on how difficult this is, how extraordinary of an experience all of this is," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Being part of this bubble, being here for 80-plus days, surviving all of it and

earning the right to compete for an NBA title." When the Lakers got to

Lake Buena Vista, there were 22 teams in the bubble – more than 1,300 people in all, teams living in three different hotels, crossing paths at times. Social distance guidelines and protocols are followed and people are tested daily. Though there is no retreating to familiar surroundings to escape setbacks, failures on the court or to go recharge their batteries, players are able to talk about their top priority: social justice. They talk about affecting change.

ers do the same, some at every opportunity.

Only two teams remain, and they're still talking about the same things. Heat All-Star Bam Adebayo ends every media session the same way: "Black Lives Matter, people." He says it because he believes America still needs that reminder.

"What's important to our players is important to us, but it wasn't just our players," Silver said. "The players know, and the NBA community knows, there is a long history in this league of fighting for social justice, for racial equality. And it seemed appropriate."

They put Black Lives Matter on the courts. They put it on jerseys. When players felt the message wasn't getting through, they shut down play - stopping for three days during the playoffs. Some players were willing to go home to make the ultimate statement. Things nearly came apart in a three-hour meeting.

They feel they have made some progress. Key word: some. Most of the league's eligible players are now registered to vote; that was far from being the case three months ago. More than half of the league's arenas are going to be voting sites or were involved in the process through registration drives.

#### SOCCER.NEWS

BERLIN

### Man United missed all of Solskjaer's targets - sources

#### LONDON

MANCHESTER United failed to sign any of manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's priority targets during the summer transfer window, sources have told ESPN

United completed their transfer business on deadline day on was ruled out when Manchester Monday by sealing deals for Edin- City moved swiftly to complete a son Cavani, Alex Telles, Amad £41m deal for the Netherlands in-Traore and Facundo Pellistri, having secured the £40 million signing of Ajax midfielder Donny van de Beek at the beginning of September.

But sources have told ESPN that Solskjaer went into the transfer window having drawn up a shortlist of targets including Borussia Dortmund's Jadon Sancho, Aston Villa midfielder Jack Grealish and a commanding centre-half, with RB Leipzig's Dayot Upamecano and Bournemouth's Nathan Ake his preferred options to partner captain Harry Maguire at the heart of United's defence.

None of the subsequent summer signings were players identified by Solskjaer and his coaching staff as key targets, although sources have told ESPN that the manager was consulted on every new arrival and that he sanctioned each deal before being completed, including that of Van de Beek, who has yet to start a Premier League game for United.

Solskjaer also missed out on top target Erling Haaland during the January transfer window, with the forward instead moving to Dortmund from FC Salzburg after lengthy attempts by United to sign the player.

the solution to Solskjaer's search for a centre-forward in January, United ultimately signed Odion Ighalo on a short-term loan from Shanghai Shenhua on Jan 31.

Despite being the focus of United's summer transfer plans, a move for Sancho failed to materialise due to a refusal to meet Dortmund's £108m asking price, Saint-Germain in the Champions as well as high demands from the League group stages on Oct. 20. player's representatives.

Villa's £80m valuation of Greal-

ish, who ultimately signed a new contract at Villa Park, scuppered prospects of a deal for the England midfielder, while Leipzig also tied Upamecano to a new contract.

And any potential move for Ake ternational in early August.

United also explored the possibility of signing Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich before the former Barcelona midfielder completed a £20m move to Liverpool last month.

Meanwhile, Manchester United's new signing Edinson Cavani could miss the club's next Premier League match at Newcastle as he undergoes quarantine amid the coronavirus pandemic, sources have told ESPN

Cavani was one of four players who joined the club on deadline day on Monday after signing a two-year deal at Old Trafford, and was in line to make his United bow against Newcastle on Oct. 17 following the international break.

However, as Cavani travelled from Paris to Manchester on Sunday, he is subject to the UK's COVID-19 quarantine rules and will be asked to self-isolate. The government guidelines on selfisolation is 14 days, which will take Cavani up to a day after the match at St James' Park.

Sources have told ESPN, the striker -- who has been handed the No. 7 shirt -- trained alone on Tuesday while United sought Having failed to sign Haaland as clarification about the conditions of his quarantine.

> Cavani has confirmed he contracted COVID-19 in the summer after a holiday to Ibiza with his girlfriend.

> If he does not feature at Newcastle, the 33-year-old's first match in a United shirt could come against former club Paris

> > (Agencies)

# **Rio judge ends Neymar's**

#### RANCE and Italy celebrated notable achievements on opposite ends of the age spectrum on Wednesday as both teams earned big wins in friendly games.

The 17-year-old Eduardo Camavinga became France's voungest scorer in more than 100 years after making his first start for the national team, netting the opening goal in a 7-1 rout of Ukraine in Paris.

The 33-year-old Francesco Caputo became the oldest player to score on his debut for Italy when he grabbed the second goal in a 6-0 win over Moldova in Florence.

The Sassuolo forward broke the record held by Leonardo Pavoletti, who was 30 when he scored in a European Championship qualifier against Liechtenstein last year.

Caputo almost got a second goal, too, but Moldova defender Veaceslav Posmac converted into his own net as he tried to clear.

Stephan El Shaarawy scored twice while Bryan Cristante and Domenico Berardi also netted their first international goals for Italy, which was 5-0 up at the break after a first-half onslaught.

Roberto Mancini fielded an experimental Italy side ahead of the Nations League matches against Poland and the Netherlands on Oct. 11 and 14.

At Stade de France, Olivier Giroud scored twice on his 100th appearance to take his tally to 42 goals, one more than French great Michel Platini and just nine behind France's alltime top-scorer Thierry Henry.

Camavinga opened the scoring with an acrobatic left-footed strike from outside the box into the top cor-



Camavinga, Caputo set age marks for France, Italy in wins

France's Eduardo Camavinga controls the ball during their friendly international soccer maths between France and Ukraine at the Stade deFrance in Saint Denis, north of Paris, Wednesday Oct. 7, 2020. (AP Photo)

ner. He became the second youngest player to score for France, at 17 years, 11 months. Maurice Gastiger was just six months younger when he scored against Switzerland on March, 8,

1914. Corentin Tolisso, Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann also netted for France, while Vitaliy Mykolenko scored an own goal for a Ukraine side depleted by coronavirus cases and

injuries. Viktor Tsygankov

scored the visitors' consoup," Low said, despite lation early in the second Borussia Monchengladhalf.

#### **CARELESS GERMANY**

Germany coach Ioachim Low left out many regulars for Turkey's visit to an all-but-empty stadium in Cologne, but he was left disappointed when Kenan Karaman scored in the fourth minute of injury time to grab a 3-3 draw for the guests. "Disappointed and fed man soccer federation

and by the high number of coronavirus infections in Cologne. Only 300 spectators were allowed to attend.

#### SPAIN HELD, LIECH-TENSTEIN MILESTONE

While the goals were raining in Paris, Florence and Cologne, there were none in Lisbon, where Portugal ended Spain's 42game scoring streak in a 0-0 draw. It was the first time Spain had failed to score since a 2-0 defeat to Italy at the 2016 European Championship.

Some 2,500 socially distanced fans attended the match as a test for Portuguese authorities evaluating the possibility of supporters in stadiums amid the pandemic.

Tiny Liechtenstein defeated Luxembourg 2-1 away to record two consecutive victories for the first time after a 2-0 win over San Marino on Sept. 8.

Frank de Boer's first bach midfielder Florian game in charge of the Netherlands ended in a 1-0 loss to Mexico. Raul Jimenez' penalty was enough to decide the game in Amsterdam

> Poland enjoyed a 5-1 win over Finland in Gdansk. Kamil Grosicki scored a hat trick as star forward Robert Lewandowski was given the night off. AP

# How Covid-19 uncertainty affects 2022 World Cup road map- Part I

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

FOOTBALL had a plan. Qualification for the 2022 World Cup would wrap up by March of that year, with the draw a month later and the tournament itself kicking off on Nov. 21, 2022, in Qatar. Then came the global pandemic and, with it, the scrambling, adjusting and, above all, negotiating between the two souls of the sport: the club game and the international game. The two sides are united against a common enemy, the coronavirus, but are also mindful of their own share of a global football pie that is smaller than it once was. And only two confederations (UEFA and Africa) have a chance at determining World Cup qualifiers by the originally planned date. The other four (CONCACAF in North America, CONMEBOL in South America, AFC in Asia and OFC in Oceania) have, to different degrees, already been derailed by COVID-19. FIFA president Gianni Infantino was optimistic last month, pointing out that the positive aspect of a winter World Cup is that football has a little more flexibility. It still means cramming World Cup qualifying, the Nations League, Euro 2020 (in 2021), the CONCACAF Gold Cup, Africa Cup of Nations, the Olympic football tournament and Copa America in the next 25 months within the delicate footballing compromise that is the FIFA International Match Calendar. All while we hope the pandemic doesn't wreak more havoc on the world. Last week, FIFA amended its rules regarding the release of players for international duty for the rest of 2020. Whereas teams were previously forced to release players during international breaks, it's been made optional until the new year, provided there is a travel restriction with mandatory quarantine in either the club's location or the national team's destination and no "sporting exemption" is granted by national governments.





legitimate: clubs pay the players' wages and yet, every so often, they have to give them up for international duty without much in the way of compensation. Sending them off for high-risk activities can seem needless or unfair, particularly when cash is tight and the economic effects of missing European football or being relegated because you lost players to the after-effects of international duty are magnified. Then there's the obvious flip side: international football. It's easy to forget these days as we drooled over the Champions League draw, the return of Europe's big domestic tournaments and the final hours of the transfer window, but for most of the world, the national team is where it's at, particularly during a World Cup qualifying cycle. The fact of the matter is that many national teams haven't played a competitive game in the past year, and there is very little wiggle room in terms of the International Match Calendar.

### cybercrime probe linked to rape case

#### SAO PAULO

A BRAZILIAN judge has closed an investigation into possible cybercrimes violations involving soccer star Neymar, a case linked from prosecutors to close to a woman's rape allegation that the investigation into the led to no charges against him, The Associated Press learned Wednesday night.

investigation with access to the Trindade for alleged false report judge's Oct. 2 ruling provided a copy to the AP. In it, Rio de Janeiro judge Marcel Laguna Duque Estrada tersely states the the judge's order to close the cybercrimes probe of Neymar must be ended. The rape case unable to contact her lawyers was closed more than a year ago by another judge.

is now training with Brazil's training session early with back national soccer team ahead pains, which could force him matches, has always denied any wrongdoing in both the rape cybercrimes violation.

Neymar was under investigation by the cybercrimes getting treatment but that it division of the Rio state police for posting images and messages of the accuser without her authorization in possible violation of her online privacy.

The contest was posted after recover," Lasmar said. the rape allegation was made in Neymar said the images were posted by his press team.

Brazilian model Najila Trindade accused Neymar, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain, starters for the opening rounds of raping her at a Paris hotel. No of World Cup qualifying as complaint was filed with French goalkeeper Alisson and striker police. The AP doesn't identify alleged sexual assault victims

unless they make their identities public, which Trindade did in several interviews.

In August 2019, a Brazilian judge accepted a recommendation rape allegation due to lack of evidence against Neymar. Police and prosecutors also decided A person close to the to open an investigation of of a crime.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Trindade might appeal cybercrimes case. The AP was Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Brazil striker The 28-year-old player, who Neymar left Wednesday's of two World Cup qualifying to miss Friday's opening World Cup qualifier against Bolivia.

Brazil's team doctor Rodrigo allegation and the potential Lasmar told journalists at the training ground in Teresopolis that Neymar had already started was too soon to say whether he'll be fit for the game at the Neoquimica Arena in Sao Paulo.

"The next 24 hours will be important to see how he will

Footage published by Brazil's 2019. During testimony last year, soccer confederation on social media showed Neymar putting his hands on his back and kneeling on the pitch.

> Brazil has already lost two Gabriel Jesus are both injured. AP

This isn't a huge issue within Europe, since countries are generally quick to provide exemptions and travel is rarely more than a couple of hours. Yet it's a much bigger issue

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has always been bullish about the ability to fit in all the international tournaments and qualifiers around the club schedule, leading up to the 2022 World Cup. But is that realistic? (Agencies)

in other parts of the world, such as in South America, Africa or Asia, where the bulk of a country's national team is often based abroad. There are two sides to this. One is player welfare, particularly with a hypercongested match calendar. Clubs don't enjoy releasing players at the best of times, let alone during a pandemic. Stuffing them onto planes to send them halfway around the world, where medical protocols may or may not be as stringently followed as they are back "home,"

keeps them up at night. guidelines government around the world as infection rates rise and fall, there's the risk of mandatory quarantine when they get home. That might be another two weeks of unavailability, plus training time lost, which in turn means they might not be match-fit and available again until time to jet off for the next international break.

The above is why repre-

sentatives of Europe's top Throw in the fact leagues and clubs, as well as that with ever-changing FIFPro, the players' union, met with FIFA last month to hammer out a deal. Professionals from Asia, Africa and South America routinely face multiple intercontinental trips every fall: between international and Champions League travel, Lionel Messi (for example) is set to play games in Spain, Argentina, Bolivia (at altitude), Italy, Peru and early November -- just in Ukraine -- all in the next

six-and-a-half weeks.

Neuhaus scoring on his

Germany debut and Ben-

fica forward Luca Wald-

schmidt getting his first

Germany took the lead

on three occasions but

lacked the concentration

The game was overshad-

owed by fresh allegations

of tax evasion by the Ger-

to hold on for the win.

international goal.

The other aspect, while a bit crude, is nevertheless

To be continued



# Kazim Nasser Memorial tournament 's **Division B semis set for Oct. 18**

PETRO



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Mbeya City FC's coach, Amri Said.

# Mbeya City FC not contemplating sacking coach Said

**By Guardian Reporter** 

Club, K&P are the event's semi-

games, having posted victory in four duels and lost one match.

Lions Cricket Club, K&P Constructions team and Patel Brotherhood side finished second, third and fourth respectively to wrap up the competition's last four stage's list.

Estim Cricket Club will therefore lock horns with Patel Brotherhood squad in the first of the semi-finals, whereas Lions Cricket Club will take on K&P Constructions squad in the second clash of the knockout stage.

The Estim cricketers had stepped up their quest for silverware in the KNML Division B, sailing through to the knockout stage with 16-run victory over Lions Cricket Club

at Annadil Burhani oval in the Estim outfit cricketers made the most of their chance to start batting once Lions Cricket Club had won the toss and chose to bowl, amassing a good score and thereafter defending it well.

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Vinod Jesani, Bhavik Bhudia, Ashvin Pindoria and Mahendra Kerai had impressive innings, seeing to it their squad posts 173 runs for nine wickets in 30 overs.

Jesani was the eventual top run getter, recording 30 runs, which included two fours, Bhudia ended with 26 runs, which included four fours.

They had a good start, given openers Ashvin and Mehul Luhar scored 25 run and 17 runs not out respectively.

Mahendra, batting at number three, also made good knocks and posted 22 runs that included four fours.

Estim Cricket Club's players pictured shortly before locking horns with Strikers Club in a recent Caravans T20 Cup tournament's tie, played in Dar es Salaam

Estim Cricket Club is one of the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B semi-finalists. PHOTO; COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Jitesh Pindoria and Purshotam Gorasiya chipped in with 14 runs and 13 runs respectively, whereas Hitesh Gorasiya ended four runs short of double digit figure.

Cricket Club's Lions Abdulsamad Ahmed ended with a four-wicket haul, leaking 30 runs in six overs, but his effoorts did little to prevent Estim from recording the imposing total.

In response, Lions Cricket Club put spirited showing but they ultimately lost steam in the chase, posting 157 runs all out in 30 overs.

Opener Ahmed capped an vain. impressive all-round showing with solid displays at the crease, notching 34 runs that included four fours.

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After a slight wobble, which saw Gulraiz Haideri and Mubin Hassan fce early exits, Mohamed Salim recorded 17 runs to somewhat push his squad's score.

There were two more early exits that were followed by contribution by middle order batsmen, Atif Salim and skipper Yasser Abdulhamid, who ended with 10 runs apiece.

Imran Khan and Hasham Ahmed then staged a late surge for the squad, notching 27 runs waned, given they ended with and 15 runs not out respectively, 153 runs all out in 27.5 overs. their efforts though ended in

Estim's Jitesh Pindoria, Ashvin, Harnish Hirani and Bhudia managed to foil their opponents' chase, ending their bowling spells with two wickets each.

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Patel Brotherhood side secured qualification for the knockout stage impressively, posting 34-run victory over Malabar Cricket Club last weekend.

Patel Brotherhood won the toss, chose to start batting and posted 187 runs, dropping eight wickets in 30 overs.

Malabar Cricket Club's efforts to mount a successful chase

TONIGHT @ 9:00 HIS season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B's semi-finals have been slated for October 18 in Dar es Salaam. Estim Club, Lions Cricket Constructions squad and Patel Brotherhood Club

> finalists, given they took the top four spots. Estim cricketers took the top spot in the KNML Division B after the completion of the group

#### By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MBEYA City FC officials have disclosed that coach Amri Said will keep on heading the club's technical bench, quelling rumuors they had planned to sack the coach.

Ihefu FC and Yanga are so far the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clubs that have parted ways with their respective head coaches after five rounds of matches.

Mbeya-based Ihefu FC released their head coach, Maka Mwalwisi, for what was termed as the gaffer's failure to live up to expectations, following in Yanga's footsteps, given the latter had terminated their contract with head coach, Zlatko Krmpotic.

Mbeya City FC secretary general, Emmanuel Kimbe, noted his squad respect Said's profession, insisting they have no reason for showing the coach the door.

Kimbe pointed out his club's leadership feels the coach is hardly the reeson for the team's below par showing in the top flight.

"We are a street team, we have a board of directors, the top leaders will meet to trash the matter out should there be need for them to do so," he disclosed.

"We will not just choose to part ways with Said simply because Yanga and Ihefu FC have sacked their coaches, we are hardly planning for that."

Kimbe noted Mbeya City FC still believes coach Said merits heading the side's technical bench, maintaining reasons for the side's results are more scientific.

"We are the only side which played right up to the play offs for promotion and relegation of the last season's top flight, whereas our fellows had rested," he stated.

'We did not have much time for either go for proper player recruitment or preparations for the new season, as it was the case for other teams."

"People should for that matter not say the coach has contributed to the outcome."

Mbeya City are curently placed at the bottom of the domestic top flight table with one point from five matches.

They are the only side which has yet to find the opponents' back of the net.

Yanga terminated their contract with Krmpotic, claiming they were not playing impressively.

Ihefu FC released Mwalwisi for poor performance shown by the squad in the competition. They have won one match and lost four.

# **Tanzanian boxer set for WBO Africa title bout**

#### By Nassir Nchimbi, TUDARCo

TANZANIAN boxer, Innocent Evarist, has got a shot at lifting international titles, given he is set to face England's Prince Patel in a World Boxing Organization (WBO) Africa and WBO Global Bantamweight titles' fight, which is set to take place at Keko in Dar es Salaam on October 16.

> Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC)'s official, Emmanuel Mlundwa, who has been tasked with hosting the bout, stated preparations for the showdown are in progress.

Kilimanjaro-based Evarist, a southpaw boxer, has won 10 fights, lost one and his other two fights were declared draw.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

Bantamweight division which has 32 boxers

Evarist has been placed 261st in the division globally by Boxrec, a network which keeps records of all professional boxers in the world, with the division being made up of 1036 boxers.

Blackburn-based Patel has 23 wins, one loss and one fight being declared a draw.

Mlundwa said there will also be three undercard bouts involving Tanzania professional boxers and foreign opponents.

"In one of the undercard bouts, John Brendan," Mlundwa noted.

In a fight which will bring together female boxers, Mlundwa stated,

He is locally rated third in the Tanzanian Halima Vunjabei will trade blows with Indian Sunan Kumar.

He said: "The fights gear towards getting boxing fans and other sports enthusiasts to come together, enjoy the sport and love it."

He stated the organizers have moreover given small businesses' owners opportunity to sell their products during the bouts.

The main fight will be an opportunity for Evarist to revenge for his loss in a national title fight against the same opponent which took place in May last year.

The Pugilistic Syndicate of Tan-Tanzanian Issa will trade jabs with zania (PST) national Bantamweight title fight, scheduled for 10 rounds, had Patel recording a Technical Knockout win over Evarist.



Tanzaian boxer, Innocent Evarist.

### DID YOU DOCTOR, I AM GOOGLE afraid I Have IT? HYPOCHONDRIA DR MODE