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WWF: African elephants may become fully extinct by 2040

By Guardian Reporter

THE African elephant will disappear within two decades if urgent action is not taken to save one of the world's most iconic animal species, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has warned in a new campaign fundraiser.

The population of these elephants—the largest animal walking the earth—has declined by 70 percent in the last 40 years, in large part because of the illegal ivory trade, which is the biggest driver of elephant poaching, according to the conservation organisation.

It says that 20,000 elephants are killed every year to feed this trade—which is

“**These weapons hurt the animal but do not kill them immediately. Once the elephant is on the ground, the poachers cut its tendons to immobilize it, condemning them to a painful death. So that the elephant empties more quickly of his blood, they cut the trunk**

equivalent to one death every 26 minutes.

Once an elephant is killed, poachers harvest the ivory to meet a growing demand for products made from this material. Ivory can be turned into ornaments and decorations, as well as being used in traditional Asian medicine for its purported therapeutic value. Elephants are also sometimes killed to provide a source of meat.

This poaching takes place despite a global ban on ivory sales under the CITES multilateral treaty (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) which was introduced in 1990. Above the poachers are powerful organized criminal networks which commonly engage in corruption, money laundering and assassinations.

Part of the issue in policing the problem

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UN panel directs government to compensate lady with albinism



President John Magufuli unveils plaque in Dodoma yesterday to signal the laying of the foundation stone of a modern bus terminal in city. Photo: State House.

The tribunal ordered the government to provide her with an effective remedy including compensation, proper medical treatment and redress for the abuses suffered and provide other support devices

By Aisia Rweyemamu

UNDER The Same Sun (UTSS), a charitable organisation concerned with justice and welfare for people with albinism, has called on the government to compensate and provide medical care to a Tanzanian woman living with albinism who was attacked and her arms chopped off in 2011.

This follows a ruling by a panel of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP) in September which found that the authorities denied Mariam Stafford (36) justice by freeing the suspect she

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‘Modern market, bus terminal will bolster status of Dodoma city’

By Getrude Mbago

THE gigantic modern market sitting alongside equally colossal bus terminal are likely to boost the status of Dodoma as the capital city come February next year.

The 38.7bn/- project, which was commissioned by President John Magufuli yesterday, is one of several development projects financed with loans from the World Bank (WB).

Speaking during the event President Magufuli commended Dodoma authorities for

“**This market will not only serve Dodoma residents but also from Mwanza, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and other regions as it will carry international standards...**

supervising the projects calling on the contractor to speed up the projects and make sure that they are completed within scheduled timeframe.

He proposed the new market to be named before the name of National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai to honor his contribution in the city and the parliament.

“This market will not only serve Dodoma residents but also from Mwanza, Iringa,

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MUHAS to examine substances in local margarines, fast foods

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has received a grant worth USD 80,000 (over 180m/-) to address the dangers of trans-fat exposure in Tanzania.

Trans fat is an unhealthy substance that is made through the chemical process of hydrogenation of oils. Hydrogenation solidifies liquid oils and increases the shelf life and the flavor stability of oils and foods that contain them.

They are found in vegetable shortening and in

some margarines, crackers, cookies, and snack foods. Trans fatty acids raise the ‘bad’ (LDL) cholesterol and lower the ‘good’ (HDL) cholesterol levels in blood, thus increasing the risk of heart disease.

The study will be implemented in two years and MUHAS is expected to conduct the first-ever assessment of levels of harmful trans fats in local street foods, fast foods and edible oils.

The grant programme, part of the LINKS platform that connects people working to improve

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'Modern market, bus terminal will bolster status of Dodoma'

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Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and other regions as it will carry international standards...It has also as special area for petty traders," he said.

Among others the bus terminal project involves construction of a recreation park at Chinangali area. The park will provide the residents with leisure, entertainment and recreational pursuits.

It also involve construction a modern dumping site at Chidaya area, lorry park at Nara area and six solid waste collection points.

President Magufuli also said that the government also plans to construct a 110km ring-road worth 415bn/-. The road will start from Nara passing through Veyula-Mtumba to Ihumwa.

"We also working to construct a modern dam to address water scarcity in Dodoma city...this will be a dam of its kind as it will carry a lot of water to serve the city and neighboring areas," he added.

He further urged Tanzanians to work hard to improve income. "The issue of improving personal economy, everyone has to engage on income generating activities."

He urged farmers in the country to utilize the ongoing rain season for better harvests.

For his part, minister of State, President's Office, Regional Ad-

ministration and Local Government Selemani Jafo said that so far a number of development projects have been implemented in the capital city thus boosting its status and improving people's incomes.

Also speaking during the event, a representative from World Bank said that the two projects are part of several projects implemented by WB in collaboration with the government in various cities in the country.

"World Bank and the ministry of the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government are now implementing a number of projects under the Tanzania Strategic Cities Programme with total finance amounting to \$898 million (2.1 trillion) in various cities in the country.

He said that the programme covers eight rapidly urbanizing cities in Tanzania: Dodoma, Tanga, Arusha, Mwanza, Kigoma, Ilemela, Mbeya and Mtwara, to enable them keep up with the pace of rapid urbanization.

"The programme is aimed to scale up infrastructure investment and promote growth which include improve security in major cities, fight unemployment, improve transport, fight hazards, capacity building to institutions among others," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings at Zanzibar State House yesterday with the CEO of Norway's Haukeland University Hospital, Eivind Hansen, who led a delegation including Trond Mohn (2nd-L) and Marit Mohn Westlake. Photo: Zanzibar State House

UN panel directs government to compensate lady with albinism

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identified on the ground that she was visually impaired and thus could not correctly see the attacker. Stafford referred the case to CRDP citing infringement of her rights for justice.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, the UTSS director Berthasia Ladislaus said lawyers for UTSS and Stafford successfully argued that rejection of her case

was in violation of articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15(1), 16 and 17 of the convention which the Tanzania government is a party. The director explained that in 2011 when the attackers were arrested, Stafford said that she knew the attackers well, but her testimony was given little weight because the court considered that as a person with visual impairment who could therefore not see well she could not correctly identify the attackers.

Ladislaus explained that after

Stafford and UTSS referred the matter to the convention committee, the Tanzania government submitted its observations on the admissibility of Stafford's case.

She elaborated that in January 2018 the government acknowledged receipt of the lawyers' comments on behalf of the victim, and since then the government provided no further information by the fixed deadline.

On September 19 the UN committee delivered a ruling in favour of

Stafford declaring that the government of Tanzania had failed to fulfill its obligations under article 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15(1), 16, 17 and 18 of the convention.

The tribunal ordered the government to provide her with an effective remedy including compensation, proper medical treatment and redress for the abuses suffered and provide other support devices.

The CRDP tribunal has also ordered the government to conduct

an impartial, prompt and effective investigation into the attack suffered by Stafford and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators.

The committee has also ordered the country to review and adopt legal frameworks as necessary to ensure that they encompass all aspects of attacks against persons with albinism.

In accordance with article 5 of the optional protocol and rule 75 of the committee's rules of procedure, the

government should have submitted to the committee within six months a written response, including information on any action taken in the light of the present views and recommendations of the committee, starting from October 15.

UTSS urged the government to keep on cooperating with people with albinism and organizations representing them in the spirit that all people are equal and no one ought to be left behind.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Muslim faithful shortly after Friday prayers at Gaddafi Mosque in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

WWF: African elephants will likely become extinct by 2040

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is that the governments of nations where Africans elephants live often lack sufficient resources to protect and monitor elephant herds, which often reside in remote and inaccessible habitats. When the animals are killed, they often suffer a brutal death.

"Poachers generally use Kalashnikovs or poisoned arrows," WWF Coordinator for West Africa, Pauwel De Wachter, said in a statement. "These weapons hurt the animal but do not kill them immediately. Once the elephant is on the ground, the poachers cut its tendons to immobilize it, condemn-

ing them to a painful death. So that the elephant empties more quickly of his blood, they cut the trunk."

African elephants are found in 37 countries across the continent and are categorized as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

with a remaining population of around 415,000 in the wild, according to WWF.

These animals play a crucial role in the ecosystem, helping to maintain healthy habitats for many other species. This is because African elephants help to disperse seeds.

The population of African

elephants—which are split into two subspecies—numbered between three and five million early in the past century. However, this figure has fallen dramatically as a result of poaching and other factors, such as habitat fragmentation or loss.

MUHAS to examine substances in local margarines, fast foods

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cardiovascular health around the world, is funded by Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of Vital Strategies and managed by Resolve along with the World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the CDC Foundation.

Speaking in an interview on the matter yesterday Dr Fredrick Mashili, a lecturer and research officer at the East African Center of Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences, said the grant will allow researchers to leverage on policy and practice towards the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases.

"In my community, cardiovascular diseases are increasingly common, including life threatening complications like stroke and heart failure, thus knowing amount of trans fats in Tanzanian foods will help guide the community for better and healthier choices, spurring policy action towards reducing trans fats in the local food chain," he explained.

Trans fats cause heart attack and stroke and were estimated to cause more than 540,000 deaths a year worldwide.

A recent analysis concluded that eliminating trans fats from the global food supply could save 17 million lives

over 25 years.

This second round of grant funding will support government and civil society organizations working in 18 countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Haiti, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Funded programs include a patient-centered hypertension screening and treatment program in Pakistan, monitoring South Africa's sodium reduction laws, and advocacy for effective regulation of trans fats in Kenya.

The move comes just weeks after the government launched a national plan to contain alarming rise of non communicable diseases (NCDs).

The plan includes key components of health education along with the prevention and treatment of NCDs.

The increase in NCDs was a sign of a health system failure in the first place as the cost of treating patients poses challenges as it takes a long time.

The main approach in the plan is to collect have data in the first phase of implementation, like establishing the number of cancer cases and other aspects for proper intervention.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) engaged in talks with the Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Pamela O'Donnell, in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

Sustain your watchdog roles, CSOs counselled

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CIVIL society organizations (CSOs) in the country as well as those operating around the East African Region have been cautioned not to give up their watchdog roles out of fear, intimidation or getting compromised by people in positions.

"Civil societies are the spokespersons of the ordinary people; they stand better chances of advocating for the right of the communities since they are more educated and organized," pointed out Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa, from the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition.

He was addressing representatives from Civil Society Organizations and other human rights groups who are converging in Arusha for the conference on 'Civil Space and the role of civil society organizations in shaping better future,' taking place for two days in Arusha.

The conference is organized by 'ActionAid Tanzania,' 'Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition,' and the 'Training Center for Development Cooperation,' taking place at the TCDC campus in Usa-River area of Arumeru District of Arusha.

According to Ole Ngurumwa, once the watchdogs fail to deliver on their responsi-

bilities, the aggrieved members of the community, most of them being disorganized individuals will take it upon themselves to address emerging problems or cruelty in society using horrid means including uprising strategies.

"Many organizations have been doing well, supplementing their watchdog activities in the provision of other community services, such as health, education and attending other social needs of people, but they should not forget their bedrock responsibilities of advocacy, watchdog roles and speaking on behalf of the voiceless," pointed out Ole Ngurumwa.

The THRD representative was presenting a paper on 'Defending Human Rights and Civil Space in Tanzania - Policy and legal frameworks and practical challenges affecting civic space,' and while at it he expressed concern that of late the watchdogs have been ditching their core missions in favour of some trivial undertakings.

Other presenters, including Kenneth Simbaya, Ezra Mbogori and Yaekob Metena were on view that even the media outlets no longer make use of the CSOs representatives in their live commentaries or special programs unlike in the past when these people would make use of the platforms to address various issues affecting the societies.



Civil societies are the spokespersons of the ordinary people; they stand better chances of advocating for the right of the communities since they are more educated and organized

Finance ministry receives views on Microfinance Services Act execution

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Finance and Planning has met with some of stakeholders from the ministry's mini-sector on micro finance services for discussions and receiving opinions on how best to educate the public on issues

of policy and laws on micro finance. Speaking at the meeting in Dodoma, Senior officials from the Ministry of Finance and Planning Janeth Hiza explained that the ministry has organized the meeting to collect stakeholders' views to see how best to convey to the wananchi the impor-

ance of educating the public on the issue. "This programme is a result of the Microfinance Services Act of 2018 that came into force on November 1 2019 and announced by the Minister for Finance and Planning in the Government Gazette," she said.

She said the Ministry, in part-

nership with Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) established a task force to educate the public on policy and the micro-finance law as a last stage in the law's implementation.

She said opinions of the stakeholders will enable the ministry to know how best to reach all im-

portant stakeholders with ease for discussions on the modus operandi in educating the public on the issue. She said all the groups they had discussions with have given good advice, they have increased various manners of approach to enable the public to get acquainted with the issue which

aims to develop the microfinance sector.

On his part, FSDT head of Agriculture and Rural Development Mwombeki Baregu said the meeting is important and has taken place at the right time when the laws has come into effect, and added that after the opinions giv-

are worked upon, the Ministry will issue the procedure on implementation. Various stakeholders who participated in the discussions praised the government for organizing the meeting and added that the issue will answer many of their questions since the enactment of the law.

Govt calls on stakeholders to help study on scale of post-harvest loss

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Morogoro

THE government now seeks collaboration with agricultural stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive survey to ascertain the actual magnitude of post-harvest loss in the country.

Acting Director-National Food Security Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Honesty Kessy invited private sector and international organization to help raise funds for the survey yesterday at the Tanzania Post Harvest Management Platform (TPMP) Annual General Meeting held in Morogoro region.

He said there is no study conducted so far to establish realistic data, making difficult to trace the magnitude of the problem. The data used are from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) which estimates that post-harvest losses claim between 30 to 40 per cent of grains each harvesting season.

The director said as result most of data used were those conducted at the global level the situation that sometimes does not reflect reality.

"Our study will initially first prioritize regions with high cereals productivity that automatically be in a high probability of facing post-harvest loss," he said.

Dr Kessy said once the draft containing the total cost was over, then each stakeholders will be allocated according to their financial capacity noting that the data collected will be used to feed in the national portal.

He said post-harvest loss was a critical problem that affects multiple value chains and posing a threat to overall food security.

According to him, farmers across the country incur losses when handling, transporting and storing their produce leading to huge loss to individuals and the entire nation.

He said that post-harvest losses is estimated to claim more than 30 to 40 percent of grains each harvesting season as a result of poor handling and storage practices.

Besides that, the effects of these losses can have devastating impacts on food security, nutrition and hunger at the local, regional and global level.

Furthermore, in food-insecure regions, crop losses at the farm level not only reduce available food for family consumption, they directly affect smallholders' livelihoods.

One week ago, the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) Executive Director, Audax Rukonge, said without investing enough in addressing post-harvest loss issues, it would result in increased losses of harvested crops.

He spoke at the stakeholder's meeting to kick-start implementation of the National Post-Harvest Management Strategy (NPHMS) held in Dar es Salaam.

In the plan, 41 per cent of the fund would be contributed by the government and its development partners, while the remaining 59 per cent would be raised by other stakeholders, including the private sector players and community-based organizations (CBOs).

Other actors are international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), cooperatives, financial institutions, etc.



Mwanza Regional Police Commander Muliro Jumanne shows journalists yesterday a Nyanza Road Company car he said was stolen in the region on November 12 and intercepted in Arusha Region six days later. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

Zanzibar Speaker pledges support to integration of gender issues in the House

By Guardian Reporter

SPEAKER of the Zanzibar House of Representatives Zubeir Ali Maulid has expressed his readiness to support any processes required to ensure that gender-related issues are fully mainstreamed in the House.

Maulid made the commitment earlier this week when speaking at the launch of the first Gender Strategy and Action Plan for the Zanzibar House of Representatives (ZHoR).

The strategy was developed through the Association of Women

Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (UWAWAZA) with the support of UN Women under its Women's Leadership and Political Participation "Wanawake Wanaweza" Phase II project.

"This is a great development for the House of Representatives which will need effective planning and programming. I offer the full support of my office in ensuring the successful implementation of the strategy," said Maulid.

The Speaker stated that as a model of democracy in the country, the House should set an example for the promotion of gender

equality in Zanzibar and beyond.

"Having a large number of female delegates at different levels of decision-making is not the only achievement required, but gender mainstreaming in various activities will help to address critical development issues as well," he said.

Women's representation in the ZHoR currently stands at 37.2%, with women currently holding key posts of Deputy Speaker, and Clerk of the Office of the ZHoR.

The new Gender Strategy and Action Plan which will be implemented until 2023 will focus on strengthening the capacity of

women representatives and working towards equal representation in the House; mainstreaming gender throughout the House; improving the gender-sensitivity of the ZHoR infrastructure, parliamentary culture and staff; and achieving shared responsibility for gender equality by all representatives to support gender equality outcomes.

The launch was graced by the Deputy Speaker, Clerk of the Office of the House of Representatives, and the "Wanawake Wanaweza" project development partners including the Embassy of Finland, USAID and the Embassy of Switzer-

land. UWAWAZA, which includes all women Members of the House, is mandated with empowering and educating women to effectively advocate and influence the women's agenda by increasing women's representation at all levels of decision making, engendering resource allocation and advocating for the enactment of gender legislations. Through the association, Members are also able to improve their leadership capacities through various training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

East Africa fish farming project supporting food security and mitigating impact of climate change

By Shem Oirere

SMALL-SCALE fish farming is at the center of an initiative among communities near the shores of Lake Victoria in East Africa dedicated to integrating fish production with other solutions to address food insecurity, human health, and eradication of poverty.

One fish production project initiated by a community in Nyakach, Kisumu County in Kenya, with the support of Oklahoma, U.S.A.-based World Neighbours - a nonprofit international development organization working in Asia, Africa, and Latin America - is enabling communities to achieve better nutrition and to earn an income from fish sales.

"The issues of climate change, women empowerment, food security, poverty eradication and health are so intertwined and using the small-scale fish-farming project as an entry point into this community was a more sustainable approach to finding long term solutions to these challenges," World Neighbours Regional Director for Africa Chris Macooloo said.

"World Neighbours picked on the Lake Victoria basin because it is one of the areas with high number of marginalized communities that have high negative development indicators, maternal deaths, HIV/AIDS and low income levels," Macooloo added.

The fish farming project, which could be duplicated among Lake Victoria basin communities in Uganda and Tanzania, entailed construction of a small fish pond lined with a plastic sheet to prevent water seeping through the soil.

The water for the fish pond was harvested into adjacent water tanks before it was filled into the pond. The project beneficiaries then introduced tilapia, a popular seafood product in East Africa, into the pond, and nurtured the fingerlings to maturity.

"After sometime, the water from the fish pond is pumped out using a solar-powered water pump to an adjacent greenhouse where the project beneficiaries grow various types of vegetables all the year round," Macooloo said.

He said the project recently introduced lung fish to boost food security and to help "achieve nutrition for better health and earn income from fish sales and the associated green vegetable sales," according to Macooloo.

Kenya's Kisumu County is known not only as one of the leading inland-water fish sources because of its proximity to Lake Victoria, but it has some areas that often suffer from frequent flooding responsible for the county's soil degradation.

"The communities are now partnering with local government extension officers not only for training on intensive fish farming techniques but also in the initiative of using the water pumped from the fish pond to carry out other activities such as horticultural production and they have even launched tree nurseries for re-forestation of deforested areas," Macooloo said.



Meat is prepared for roasting at an open-air eatery at Mgagao livestock auction in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt persuades factories on benefits of environment-friendly clean energy

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

THE government has called on the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to persuade various factories in the country to use the country's natural gas so as to do away with traditional energy such as oil that is not friendly to the environment.

Deputy Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President (Union Affairs, and Environment) Mussa

Sima gave the directives on Thursday when he visited various gas procession plants in Mnazi Bay and Madimba areas in Mtwara Region as part of his inspection visit on issues of environment in the said projects.

Sima said there was no reason for factories to destroy environment by using oil and instead they should change to clean energy - natural gas that is now plentiful in the country and is environment

friendly.

He said: "The government is directing you (TPDC) to sit with Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) to persuade now how to use natural gas instead of traditional oil that destroys the environment."

Sima who was accompanied by officials from the National Environmental Management Council (MEMC) also directed firms engaged in gas processing to seek

permission on air pollution levels in its day to day activities.

He said the plants are required to follow the 2004 environmental laws including informing the public on the hazards brought by the energy, and that NEMC should now air pollution levels from gas processing activities.

He said: "Right now the world is faced with challenges from climate change which is creating devastating effects to the environ-

ment, hence when we start such projects we have to seek permits so that we know pollution levels from the projects and pay levies thereon according to the laid down procedures."

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka called on all factories with similar gas processing activities to have plans on how to monitor air pollution levels so as to fight environmental destruction.



Mothers, some with babies, attend a World Prematurity Day event organised by Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The Day is usually marked each November 17. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt institutions among Kilombero council's big rent defaulters - ministry

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula has directed the Kilombero district Council in Morogoro Region to closely monitor government institutions that owe land rent to the Council to the tune of 1.9bn/- to pay the rent immediately.

Dr Mabula gave the directive yesterday when she met government leaders of Kilombero District Council including officials in the land sector from both Kilombero and Ifakara Municipal Councils during her inspection visit of land related issues in Morogoro Region.

The directive followed her briefing from the Kilombero Development Director Eng Stephano Kaliwa that among huge land rent defaulters in his Council were government institutions.

He mentioned the institutions as Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) who owes more than 1.7bn/- in respect of its areas of land it owns. He said these were - Kidatu (1,007,452/-), Kihansi (996,957,750/-) and Mlimba (29,826,650/-). Another is the TANAPA Trustees that owes

12,819,550/-.

Urban Planning Officer for Kilombero District Council Remigi Lipiki told Dr Mabula that Tanesco requested for the verification of its debt as some of the areas that were under its control had been taken by other institutions and gave Kidatu as an example.

Dr Mabula said Kilombero District Council must ensure to make a close follow up on those institutions to pay their debts as they have been setting aside funds for payment of various services rendered to them including land rent, wondered why steps are not being taken against the defaulters.

The Kilombero DED explained that the main challenge faced by the Council is collection of land rent from some of farming investors due to no-completion of formalizing the ownership procedures thereon.

He mentioned some of farm owners as Mufindi Paper Mills with 10,000 hectares, Green Resource Limited (25,000 hectares), Hiragro Ltd (1500 hectares) and Sygen Ltd 30,000 hectares).

Kaliwa said due to no-completion of formalization for the ownership procedures the Council has been losing a total of 132,865,031/- each year.

Incidence of violence against children cases alarming

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE government has expressed concerns over the rising incidence of violence against children incidents in the country, calling for religious leaders to chip-in and restore the social values and protect children rights.

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndungulile expressed the concern when speaking at the function to mark the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) organised by the United Nations Children's Fund

(UNICEF).

The convention protects the right of all children, everywhere, to be free from discrimination, violence and neglect.

Dr Ndungulile described the figures as shocking, saying violence against children has increased to 14, 419 of last year from 13, 457,

which is equivalent to an increase of 7 percent. He said it was high time for parents and guardians to stop from the tendency of concealing cases of child violence for the purpose of protecting their brotherhood as it contributes to the increase. "I call on religious leaders to have a time with their

believers to discuss in detail on better parenting and family morals," he said.

He added that due to the lack of morality in families, marriages are broken and separated leaving children with no direction.

The deputy minister added: "Now days divorce cases has in-

creased dramatically, most of them breaking up after six or one year of marriage, this need religious leader intervention."

Dr Ndungulile said that in Tanzania 1 in 4 children have already being subjected to violence from the society.

He urged children to report any

violence they face without fearing because children are legally protected.

Meanwhile, Deputy Permanent Secretary Ali Possi called on the community to continue to protect the rights of children including the right to not be discriminated, to live, to education and to be heard.



Jatu PLC executive director Peter Isare speaks earlier this week at the launch of an irrigation project in Kiteto District, Manyara Region, set for implementation in Matui ward early next year. It is expected to benefit more than 1,000 smallholder farmers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Zanzibar will have ultra-modern mental facility in East and Central Africa region'

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has praised the staff of University of Haukeland Hospital in Norway for its assistance in the construction of mental hospital at Kidongo Chekundu that would be the most modern of its kind in the East and central African region.

Dr Shein was speaking at Zanzibar State House yesterday at a meeting with a delegation from the University of Haukeland led by Trond Mohn.

Dr Shein said the good news was a result of long time relationship between the Norwegian Hospital and Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital in Zanzibar.

He said the Kidongo Chekundu Mental Hospital is among very old hospitals in the country with a long history since it was built during the British rule in the 1950s and it was named 'Prison for the Deranged.'

He said the Zanzibar government will continue to cooperate with the Norwegian hospital under Trond Mohn's leadership and mentioned that the good cooperation existing between the two hospitals has been going for over ten years now.

He added that the Zanzibar government will continue with its policy of free medical

care for the people, the policy that began since the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution.

Executive Officer of the University of Haukeland Hospital Eivind Hansen told Dr Shein that they are happy with the existing good relationship and cooperation between their hospital and Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital that has been going on for 10 years now.

Hansen said the Haukeland Hospital has been assisting the Mnazi mmoja Referral Hospital in various areas, in developing various projects including construction of buildings for various services, provision of hospital equipment and health experts and added that Haukeland Hospital has been offering further studies in the health sector to doctors and other medical staff from Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital.

He said the construction of the mental facility at Kidongo Chekundu is 50 percent completed while more new buildings will be erected as well as renovation work to the older buildings.

He said during their visit in Zanzibar his delegation plan to meet with ministry of Health and Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital officials to discuss various issues of mutual interest in the development of the Zanzibar health sector.



He said the Kidongo Chekundu Mental Hospital is among very old hospitals in the country with a long history since it was built during the British rule in the 1950s and it was named 'Prison for the Deranged'

Pesticides contribute to non-communicable diseases - MUHAS researcher

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RESEARCHER and Senior Lecturer from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Dr Vera Ngowi has said the use of pesticides in farming, livestock and human health without abiding by laid down guidelines and procedures have

contributed to adverse economic effects and non-communicable diseases including cancer.

The researcher revealed this at the university during a meeting that discussed strategic policy in reducing the use of pesticides to human health and the environment when presenting her research findings.

She explained that factory-

made pesticides have been in use in the country since 1945 and were brought for trial basis by World Health Organisation (WHO) and that many of them are hazardous especially to children due to their weak resistance to them.

She cited other society groups who are adverse affected as pregnant women due to their body

chemistry, as well as older people.

She also said the pesticides also degrade the environment especially in rivers, lakes, fish, soil, air, homes and hotels and contribute to non-communicable diseases due to the chemicals that accumulates for very long times before causing havoc through bacteria living in vegetables that

are sprayed with the pesticides while in the farm.

She cited another group that faces such hazards includes small farmers and children who are employed in crop spraying in farms without protective gears.

Ag MUHAS Vice Principal Prof Rose Mpenbeni said the research was done in the period of five years in partnership with

University of Bergensis in Norway, University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and was funded by the Norwegian government.

Some of the discussions' participants including Members of Parliament for Bahi, (Omar Badwel) and Biharamulo (Oscar Mwapasa) advised on how MUHAS can cooperate with sectoral ministries to attain targeted

goals through the research. Senior Programme Officer from AGENDA - a non governmental Organisation Dorah Swai said apart from the good results of the research it is advisable for the concerned authorities to adopt the habit of monitoring the use of the pesticides so that other users should adhere to their appropriate use.

New mammoth ship christened 'Hapa Kazi Tu'

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

A NEW state-owned mammoth ship being built in Mwanza Region at a cost of 89bn/- which is set to ply Lake Victoria has been christened MV Mwanza Hapa Kazi Tu, Works, Transport and Communication Minister Isack Kamwelwe has said.

Kamwelwe made the revelation here recently when he visited and inspected progress on various government projects implemented in Lake Victoria.

'Hapa Kazi Tu' is a slogan President John Magufuli used during 2015 presidential campaign. The slogan which gained widespread popularity literally means Just work, nothing else.

The minister said it was not a simple task to get that name as there is a special committee that works out to get names for government's projects, he said.

Contractor of the ship is GAS ENTEC in collaboration with KANG NAM all of them from South Korea and SUMA JKT from Tanzania. The ship is 92.6 metres long, 17 metres wide and 11.2 metres high.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Eric Hamissi said the ship with a carrying capacity of 1200 passengers and 400 tones of cargo is scheduled for completion early 2012.

Other government projects implemented in Lake Victoria in Mwanza include building of a slipway, rehabilitation of Mv Victoria and Mv Butiama that are scheduled for completion in March next year, he said.

Hamissi noted that until now the government has already paid contractors of all four projects a total amount of 70.8bn/- and up to that point has no debt.

He underscored that building of a new ship as well as a slipway and rehabilitation of Mv Victoria and Mv Butiama will cost 152.7bn/- in total and have employed 1000 people.

According to him, the pace of building a slipway is going okay as the work is over 55 percent complete now.



'Hapa Kazi Tu' is a slogan President John Magufuli used during 2015 presidential campaign. The slogan which gained widespread popularity literally means Just work, nothing else



Motorists have a hard time moving along the Namanga-Best Bite stretch of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road yesterday following flooding blamed on a short-lived downpour. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Wildlife college introduces system it hopes will boost sustainable conservation, curb poaching

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi.

THE College of African Wildlife Management-Mweka (CAWM-Mweka) has introduced new Geographical Information System (GIS) in their training, aiming to improve student's ability to access information they need on time for sustainable conservation, anti-poaching and tourism, thanks for the new USAID funded project.

Speaking during the official

handover of 35 computers yesterday from USAID at the CAWM-Mweka, the minister for natural resources and tourism Dr Hamisi kigwangalla explained that the system comes at a right time due to rapid development of science and technologies; thus will help them to produce students with more capacity to know on time what is going on in the national parks and other conservation areas.

'On behalf of CAWM-Mweka

and the government in general, I sincerely appreciate the role played by the U.S. government to this college since its inception in early 1960's in various projects and programmes including today's handover of computers," he noted.

According to the minister, people of the United States of America through USAID has supported CAWM in various projects including the construction of the two students dormitories, sponsoring

some students to acquire their high education studies at the college and abroad, among many others.

For his part, the Deputy Mission Director at USAID Tanzania David Thompson explained that they have provided 35 computers (20 desktops and 15 laptops) connected with the high technical internet in their computer labs including GIS Lab for e-learning, a move aims at promoting wildlife protection and conservation,

among many others.

He added that, the computer Labs will also improve various research at the college, thus improving wildlife conservation and tourism in the country and in the world at large.

The CAWM-Mweka Rector, Prof Jafari Kideghesho explained that, apart from 35 computers that are connected with the internet and GIS all worth 98.5 mil/-, USAID has also facilitated them with strategic business plans.

TBS embarks on sensitisation campaign for small industrialists in Singida Region

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has embarked on a programme to sensitise and educate all industrialists whose products are not certified, the move would help in the industrialisation drive.

Speaking in Singida Region, Inspector of Tanzania Bureau of Standards Domiano Rutahala said once sensitised the industrialists would certify their products hence access into any market which will improve economy of the country.

He said the programme to educate entrepreneurs who own small industries on importance of certification started in Singida region and would be extended to other areas namely Manyoni, Kiomboi, Shelui, Mkalama and Singida municipal.

"The exercise will also go to Itigi district council, where it has attracted some businesspersons who have already started to apply for certification of their products", he said.

Rutahala said for the past 16 days officials from TBS have been sensitising and educating owners of sunflower processing plants and maize processors in Singida on importance of mark of quality.

"We are here to conduct this exercise and reach all industrialists and producers whose products are not certified to hear them and support them to reach required standards," he said.

He added: "most of them were happy when we approached them at their work-

ing premises and have responded well and pledged to convey the message to others so that they certify their products."

Rutahala said apart from education, they also conducted impromptu visits to cosmetics dealers and confiscated all banned products which threatens health of consumers.

All the banned cosmetics were removed from the market because they pose a high risk to users including skin cancer.

Meanwhile, Singida Association of Processors chairman Juma Mene insisted on quality training for sunflower processors since they are facing a lot of challenges in obtaining a mark of quality from TBS.

He said more efforts were needed to support producers in Central Corridor of Tanzania.

He thanked officials from the standard watchdog for visiting manufacturers in their working premises and address their challenges.

Speaking in Singida at the opening of the second SIDO national exhibition last month, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was quoted as urging manufacturers to cooperate with local and foreign certification agencies in attesting their goods to access market in Tanzania and beyond borders.

"It is important for you to certify your goods the move will help you to access opportunities in local and foreign markets to sustain competition," he said.



Monica Milinga (R) and Paulo Temu of the East African Community commercial department donate blood in Arusha on Thursday in marking the bloc's 20th anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

CEOrt welcomes local investors to utilise upgraded DSE

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE CEO Round Table of Tanzania (CEOrt) has welcomed local investors in the country to make use of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) following the recent development made in the bourse that attracts global investors.

DSE has recently been awarded accreditation from U.S based

institutions to a frontier market status after a long assessment of the market on how it performs.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend CEO for DSE Moremi Marwa said the market got the award after long scrutiny of the market that focused on assessing its performance.

He added that the new classification will enhance global investors confidence thus increasing

liquidity within the Tanzania market and encouraged continued initial public offerings (IPOs). Marwa noted that the stock market has succeeded to retain the status of the business to its customers while at the same time expand the scope of the investment.

"Investment in the share is a long term business which needs consistency and passion as the

profit doesn't come in a day," he explained. "Our expectation is that investors confidence in investing in Tanzania market will rise, and because the economy is growing at a promising rate, we expect to see more investments in the future," he explained.

Historically, private sector companies lamented the high financial and regulatory costs associated with listing on the stock

exchange, however, it is deemed that the benefits far outweigh the costs in terms of wealth creation, enhanced access to capital and visibility.

Chairman for CEO round table Sanjay Rughani said the best thing to do is to establish what kind of education and awareness is needed to be applied to attract investors in the market.

"Also to discuss what kind of

policy reforms is required, what kind of strategy is required, so that in the future we can see a lot of action that will be taken from the private sector, and the government to have policy reforms and an enabling environment," he added.

The CEO round table continues to advocate for improved business environment to ensure the private sector remains well

positioned to help Tanzania achieve its long term economic objectives.

As part of the organisation's efforts to help promote sustainable socio-economic development and in line with the ethical leadership agenda, the round table adopted key initiatives including public private dialogue, leadership capacity building and business and sustainability.



Rose Macharia, a commissioner with Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, pictured in Dodoma city on Thursday addressing members of Dodoma Secondary School's ethics club on the efficient running of such clubs. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

UN wants action on climate change in nine nations on African continent

ANKARA

MORE than 11 million people in nine southern African nations are experiencing "emergency levels of food insecurity" because of drought and climate crisis, a joint UN-affiliated report said on Thursday.

UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme stressed the warning of the Regional Interagency Standing Committee Africa (RIASCO) that the number of people suffering crisis and emergency in the nine nations is likely to rise in coming months if humanitarian action is not implemented immediately.

In Zimbabwe, 3.58 million people are in danger. In Zambia, 2.3 million are estimated to be at crisis level or worse. In southern Angola, 1.6 million people are affected by drought with at least 562,000 in crisis or worse, according to the report. "By September 2019, 1.6 million people in Mozambique faced difficulties in accessing food as a result of agricultural losses, internal displacement and destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods stemming from two cyclones that devastated the country in March and April 2019. In southern Madagascar, 916,201 people are facing severe acute food insecurity," it said.

It said southern Africa is currently "at the forefront of the climate crisis and facing the consequences of it first-hand."

Documenting deaths in southern African states, the report said "climate shocks have exacerbated outbreaks of measles in several countries across the southern African region."

The report highlighted the effect of droughts in southern African nations.

"The aggregate regional cereal output in 2019, including a production forecast for the winter wheat crops, to be harvested from October, is estimated to be nearly seven per cent below the 2018 production," it said. "Production of maize, the main staple in the region, is estimated at nearly 10 per cent below the previous five-year average."

"Livestock rearing and production—a key coping and resilience pathway and a contributor to national GDP in southern Africa—is also being impacted by reduced water availability and degradation of pastures, as well as increased outbreak of transboundary animal diseases. In the southern region of Angola, the drought has affected 2.2 million cattle and 1.2 million sheep, leading to the death of 27,767 animals," the report added.

The report referred to a new disease affecting crop production for first time in northern Zambia.

"A new disease reported for the first time in northern Zambia, is presenting additional risks to crop production in the region," it said, adding that "Macroeconomic volatility, including high levels of inflation, rising unemployment and eroded household purchasing power have further compounded the high levels of food insecurity in several countries."

In drought-affected parts in south Africa, a "growing number of traditional community water points have dried out or do not meet the minimum water demand, resulting in household water insecurity, lack of water in institutions (including schools and health facilities), depletion of watering points for agriculture and livestock which in turn increases unplanned migration of people and livestock."

UN agency promises to assist east African SMEs access Indian market

NAIROBI

THE International Trade Centre (ITC) on Monday pledged to assist east Africa's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to gain access to the India market.

Govind Venuprasad, coordinator of ITC's project dubbed

Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA) told Xinhua in Nairobi that it is providing small firms in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda with advisory and strategic support to enable them to improve their competitiveness.

"By using partnership with In-

dian institutions and business, we are enabling east African SMEs in select agricultural value chains to boost their revenues through exports," Venuprasad said on the sidelines of the Kenya-Indian agribusiness forum.

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) is

visiting Kenya with a delegation of 27 companies from India primarily in the agricultural sector who is seeking investment, joint venture and other business opportunities.

The beneficiaries of the SITA projects are in the textile, apparel, leather, spices, pulses and

edible oil sectors.

ITC is also encouraging investment partnerships between Indian and eastern Africa companies as part of the south-south cooperation.

Venuprasad said that countries have traditionally relied on the west as key markets for their

products. "We are keen to help the East African firms to diversify their product portfolio in order to enhance their incomes," he added.

He noted that one of the biggest challenges facing SMEs is access to finance, markets as well as compliance with interna-

tional product standards.

The International Trade Centre is a development agency that supports the internationalization of SMEs, which is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

Police detain three Bukoba council officials for shoddy school projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

POLICE in Kagera Region are holding three Bukoba Municipal Council officials for failing to supervise construction and renovation projects at Kaholoholo and Bukoba secondary schools.

The officials' detention was ordered by the Kagera Regional Commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti during his inspection visit to projects implemented at the schools saying the work done was not satisfactory.

Gaguti said the government tries its best to issue funds for the renovation of the schools' infrastructures but supervisors are failing to do their work to acceptable standards and in time.

He said the twin projects were earmarked for completion in October this year according to the contract agreement.

However, the Regional Commissioner due to poor work supervision, ordered the immediate arrest of the headmaster of Kaholoholo Secondary School Marick Ogambage, and the acting headmaster of Bukoba Secondary School Siasa Focus, the Bukoba Municipal Council's engineer George Geoffrey, and the Mzinga Contracting Company project

manager Festo Tarimo.

He said the central government dished out 893.8m/- for Kaholoholo Secondary School project that involved renovation work for power, water, sewage and dormitories infrastructures, adding that up to now only 32 percent of the work is completed including renovation of the administrative building comprising of four classrooms and the laboratory.

As for Bukoba Secondary School the government gave 1.4bn/- for renovation of buildings whose roofs were blown away by heavy winds in October 2018 as well as damages from the September 2016 earth tremor, but up to now only 85 percent of the work has been completed.

Earlier, reading the progress report of the work on project, the Kaholoholo Secondary School headmaster said the main challenge facing the school is the contractor's unavailability whenever required to clarify certain issues.

He said renovation work at his school involved 24 buildings including classrooms, dining room, toilets, administrative buildings and 10 houses for school staff and was to be completed in 75 days only beginning August this year.



Supervisors for 30 Arusha city polling stations during tomorrow's countrywide local government elections are sworn in on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

The business of farming: How digitalisation is bringing Africa's youth back into agriculture

By Michael Hailu

THEY say that the future belongs to the young. In Africa, the future of the continent's agriculture almost certainly belongs to its youth. More than 60 per cent of Africans are under 25, and every year, 10-12 million young people enter the job market in search of employment. Vast numbers work in farming in rural areas - agriculture employs almost 70 per cent of the population - but the prospect of higher wages and a more secure livelihood is driving urban migration for many others.

This trend, if it is not slowed or even reversed, could have far-reaching consequences for Africa's food and nutrition security.

Digital technologies, along with the right policies and investments, have the power to change this. There has been

significant growth in digitalisation for agriculture (D4Ag) over the last ten years, although in Africa it has been slow to serve the smallholders that produce some 80 per cent of agricultural output.

At the same time, more than 70 per cent of registered D4Ag users in Africa are between 15-35 years old. By coupling this digital savviness with rural opportunities, young 'agripreneurs' are identifying new and profitable business opportunities, not just in food production but across the entire agricultural value chain.

CTA is a leader in the use of digital technologies for agriculture and is at the forefront of the move towards precision agriculture solutions, including data gathering by satellites and drones, weather information and soil sensors. These digital

tools are making agriculture more efficient and climate-smart, allowing farmers to plant and cultivate their crops with greater accuracy and increasing the appeal of a sector often considered physically gruelling and economically unpredictable.

Supporting digital entrepreneurship

For over five years, CTA has used the AgriHack Talent initiative to promote and support digital entrepreneurship among tech-savvy youth in Africa as well as the Caribbean and Pacific. The initiative's primary focus is Pitch AgriHack, an annual competition for start-ups offering e-agriculture services. Entrants receive training and mentorship during a five-day boot camp. They also have the opportunity to pitch their digital agribusinesses to potential

investors. Finalists have raised more than 2 million € to date and reached at least 1 million farmers and agricultural stakeholders with their services.

Likewise, the Eyes in the Sky project has supported the establishment of 30 rapidly expanding, largely youth-led enterprises that offer drone-based services in the agricultural sector. By enabling real-time data gathering and processing through the project's support for these drone-based enterprises, CTA aims to enhance decision-making and so improve productivity and yields. The young entrepreneurs have been provided with technical training in the responsible use and piloting of drones as well as data acquisition and processing.

In Mali and Senegal, where youth unemployment is high, CTA has partnered with the Syn-

genta Foundation to train 50 young entrepreneurs to offer advisory services, such as advice on input use, via the RiceAdvice app developed by AfricaRice, as part of the Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in the West African Rice Value Chain (PEJERIZ) project.

In Burkina Faso too, where agriculture accounts for 86 per cent of the country's economy but has undergone little modernisation, the Innovative Enterprise Development and Market Linkages for Young Agripreneurs in Burkina Faso (IDEAL Burkina) project is supporting young digital entrepreneurs to offer services to 300 young farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in the country. On a broader scale, 25,000 professional stakeholders will benefit from the project, including agripreneurs, innovators and

agricultural extension workers, but above all a revitalised youth population.

Africa Youth Month

Africa Youth Month offers an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of the continent's young people while recognising their ongoing role as key agents of change, economic growth and sustainable development in all areas of African society.

This is nowhere more apparent than in agriculture, where young women and men with vision and ambition are using digital innovations to reach and impact millions of stakeholders through CTA projects alone. As Michael Oluwagbemi, operator of Wennovation Hub, a Nigerian-based innovation accelerator, put it, D4Ag puts 'sexy' back in agriculture for our youths.

Farms could become the offices of the future." Thanks to the work of CTA, its partners and Africa's youth themselves, we are already seeing this become a reality.

Attracting further investment However, we understand that the evidence to attract targeted investments to further develop D4Ag in Africa is insufficient. CTA's landmark publication The Digitalisation of African Agriculture Report, 2018-2019 is the first attempt to consolidate the available evidence and provide proof of impacts and knowledge that will attract these investments.

Serving as a baseline, the report positions us to start scaling out proven youth-focused solutions through farmer organisations, governments, the private sector and other partners that will enable the continent to meet its food and nutrition secu-



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Riziki Pembe Juma (R) briefs journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on Form Two and Standards Four and Six examinations lined up to start next week. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Empowering of rural women under spotlight at African Women's Forum

By Naomi Lloyd

THE 2019 African Women's Forum took place in Brussels, drawing together government leaders, policymakers, business leaders and NGO's from Africa and around the world to exchange ideas and work together to create real change for women on the African continent.

The event is organised by the Swiss Crans Montana Forum, which has been running for more than 30 years.

One of the themes of this year's forum was how to empower rural women in Africa.

"We are encouraging women to make agriculture a business, not a subsistence agriculture," explains Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko.

nel Correia Sacko.

"We want to achieve, shift the paradigm and give a chance to women to modernise agriculture so that she can increase productivity and also the income for the households.

Agriculture is the main source of jobs in Africa. Yet with women contributing nearly 80 per cent of the food supply, they only have access to 15 per cent of the land.

In October, the African Union unveiled a statue dubbed "Retiring the Hoe to the Museum", in the Burkina Faso town of Bobo Dioulasso to symbolically mark their agenda of promoting agriculture mechanization among women to improve food production.

The FAO estimates that only 15 per cent of farm power is provided by mech-

anized services in the continent, 25 per cent is provided by animals, with the bulk of the 60 per cent provided by human muscles, out of which, 50 per cent of that is provided by women through drudgery.

One of the themes of this year's forum was how to empower rural women in Africa

"We are encouraging women to make agriculture a business, not a subsistence agriculture," explains Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko.

"We want to achieve, shift the paradigm and give a chance to women to modernise agriculture so that she can increase productivity and also the income for the households."

Africa developing new tools to build resilience to future drought shocks

BONN

DROUGHTS have decimated communities and livelihoods in Africa for long.

This year alone, over 45 million people across Africa, mostly in Eastern and Southern Africa, are food insecure due to prolonged droughts.

The Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) announced they will

collaborate to support the development of financial tools to help Africa to adapt and become resilient to future drought and other extreme weather events.

The partnership will support African countries in managing the impact of extreme weather events, including drought. It will also seek to leverage private sector resources through the development of new financial instruments that can provide insurance protection and other funding to

mitigate these risks.

The announcement was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary, and Mohamed Beavogui, ARC Director General, during a two-day technical workshop convened on 22 and 23 October in Bonn, Germany.

The workshop is reviewing the proposed principles and work of the eXtreme Climate Facility (XCF).

XCF is a new financial vehicle aiming to tap into capital market resources to provide financial support to countries affected by extreme weather events.

Technical experts gathered at the workshop are exploring the robustness of the core elements of the XCF. These include the financial products and their underlying index, viable alternative market-based solutions and the partnerships that are essential to deliver both the product and the

aims.

The process for the XCF began in March 2014 when the African Union Conference of Ministers of Finance requested the AR C, by decision no. 927(XLVII), at the Seventh AU-ECA Joint Annual Meetings in Abuja, Nigeria, to develop a financing mechanism to enhance Member States' response to the impacts of increasing climate volatility.

The first Special Report on Climate Change and Land released

just three months ago by the authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that droughts may increase in frequency and intensity in much of Africa.

"The message is clear. We will see an increasing number of droughts with unprecedented severity, which are exacerbated by climate change. No country or region, rich or poor, is immune to the vagaries of drought. The ARC-led XCF will become an important

tool to help African countries to cope effectively with the impacts of drought," said Ibrahim Thiaw during the ceremony.

"Currently, through the Drought Initiative, the UNCCD is helping 35 of Africa's 57 countries to create the mechanisms they need to take early action to avert drought disasters. Today, Africa is ramping up preemptive actions as a unified front against future drought and climate-induced disasters in the region," Thiaw added.

As fire outbreaks can cost a fortune, reminders can never come too often

THE government agency with the official mandate of overseeing the provision of fire and rescue services in Tanzania has for long complained that it was operating in difficult conditions, in the main for lack of finance, equipment and trained personnel.

What with its failure to deliver as promptly and efficiently as expected, it has always found itself under a barrage of scathing attacks from members of the public.

It doesn't call for confirmation from firefighting experts to appreciate the fact that an ill-equipped and understaffed fire and rescue brigade is of little use.

This manifests itself whenever it so happens that the agency finds itself with no option but to seek assistance from private firms to battle all manner of fires in the country.

As noted, the agency time and again complains about being without enough modern equipment capable of putting out fires particularly in Dar es Salaam - the national commercial capital of upwards of four million inhabitants that is becoming increasingly characterised by the mushrooming of high-rise buildings.

Now, the city is hopelessly exposed to many risks, considering the fact that it is the chief base in the country for the storage of petroleum products, that it boasts the country's most important port and international airport, that it is home to scores of world-class hotels, and that it stands as Tanzania's chief gateway for the importation and exportation of goods.

The mushrooming of unplanned settlements is easily one of the factors that have made the city hardly navigable, with road traffic congestion having assumed alarming proportions years ago.

These conditions collude to make it extremely difficult for firefighters to operate smoothly, particularly along pathways meant to serve bustling and densely populated slums.

When fires erupt in such squatter areas, it is only to be expected that all hell will break loose as even firefighters' vehicles cannot move fast

enough to carry out rescue operations before the situation becomes unmanageable.

For the national fire and rescue agency to perform its functions efficiently enough, the government needs to address more seriously the shortage of vehicles and personnel it is facing.

Another area of paramount importance is requisite training in the use of fire-fighting equipment, including for people working and living in high-rise buildings and the larger population.

Previous fire outbreaks in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere provide ample evidence that few people living in, or working from, skyscrapers - and, indeed, even everywhere else - can handle fire extinguishers effectively and few serious efforts have been made to help them out.

In the circumstances, we support pleas for the fuller enforcement of the Fire and Rescue Service Act of 2007, under which it is mandatory for owners of high-rise buildings to fit the structures with suitable fire-fighting gear.

Under the law, it is a must for all tall buildings to have floor drawings indicating the components' ability to resist fire, the location of emergency exits, sprinkler and smoke detection systems, etc. But everyone knows the actual situation on the ground!

The sad experience we have had with fire outbreaks points to the fundamental need to carry out thorough and regular inspections of all high-rise and other buildings in the country in part to ensure that they are fitted with reliable and working standby fire-fighting equipment which even ordinary citizens can operate.

There should not be any compromise on this requirement. But each one of us must be on the lookout, which would in part mean relentlessly relaying and observing reminders on the menace fire outbreaks can be and how to forestall them or minimise harm when the worst comes to the worst.

This will spare us needless loss of life and limb as well as damage to, and destruction of, property.

Taking note of local research vital, with keen eye on people's interests

RESEARCHERS in universities and specialised institutions had something to be happy about on Thursday in relation to what President John Magufuli said, upon receiving his honorary doctorate at the University of Dodoma (UDOM).

The president called on ministries and other governmental authorities to use locally directed research findings in executing their routine activities.

That was a well surmised appeal although, as usually happens, implementation may not be quite as easy as would be expected or wished.

The theme the president addressed upon being honoured by UDOM - his vote of thanks, as it were - was that academic and other research institutions need to prioritise funding for research activities to ensure that research studies are locally driven.

He expressed concern that most such surveys tend to be driven by donors, thus failing to meet local expectations and merely helping to augment what donors know about the country and not how to solve its problems.

It's a valid observation, and it will be interesting seeing how Tanzanian and other researchers or academicians will react to the call, particularly with "local" funding for the respective undertakings hard to come.

One problem is that, almost by definition, credible research entails universal recognition or acceptability - gaining positive 'peer review,' as they

call it. Thus, if the agenda is locally driven in the strict sense of the word, some quarters might dismiss it as focusing rather excessively on the 'official' position or on 'official' activities.

Tanzania is not an island. It has working links with various regional, continental and international organisations, with its academic institutions forming part of a global academic and research community.

When one looks at research outputs that can easily be said to be donor-driven, the annual workshops at REPOA being a ready example, one notices that foreign or foreign-based researchers have been close to Tanzanian institutions for years - even decades.

Locally devised and implemented agendas and projects are useful and relevant if they go with time, as former President Benjamin Mkapa notes - in his recently launched memoirs - with respect to the failure of local projects under the Dar es Salaam-based Investment Climate Facility for Africa.

President Magufuli's appeal will work commendably if it translates into encouragement to Tanzanian researchers or academicians to stand firm in challenging policy assumptions overtaken by events.

It is our hope that all concerned will act on the president's advice appropriately enough to ensure that research done in Tanzania is to the benefit of our people.

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SKYROCKETING MAIZE PRICES... BLESSING? CURSE?



@MSAMBA

Africa needs sustained support: Stop this aid, it's killing us!

By NJ Ayuk

LOOKING at Africa and only pushing for aid is not in the interest of the everyday Africans. It is about the egos of the elites and latte intellectuals who believe they have the solutions to why the continent is still poor.

As Africa's population and economies surge, greater opportunities for development are presented, societies change, and the aspirations of everyday Africans are increasingly requiring urgent attention.

On the other hand, Germany's energy transition anticipates a vastly more efficient and interconnected energy system in the future - one that I believe young African technology entrepreneurs can certainly learn from and accelerate the growth of the energy sector.

With technology start-ups with the intention to build sustainable power solutions emerging across the continent particularly in the power sector, Germany can look to this market on how it can invest in Africa while providing energy and technology solutions and African entrepreneurs can embrace German products in reshaping and restructuring African energy economies.

While the economies of some countries on our conti-

nent have grown considerably in recent years, particularly as a result of energy sector developments, economic diversification and sustained foreign investments, there is still no denying that Africa still has a long way to go.

With this comes the question of how the continent will achieve prosperity? The answer - not with monetary aid.

In my book, *Billions at Play: The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals*, I examine the topic of foreign aid as a solution to Africa's problems in great detail.

This is because for too long, well-meaning foreign entities have stepped in to provide us aid, and in doing so have inadvertently stepped on our toes. This is considering that donor nations and foreign institutions do not sufficiently understand what we need and how we operate.

Aid is not a solution for Africa. Africa needs long-established support. We need skills development, key infrastructure, sustainable and enabling environments that drive results, and we need to build vibrant energy economies that will bring long-lasting change that is beneficial to the everyday African woman and man.

Determined to promote cooperation with Africa, increase investment on the continent

and help improve standards of living, this year's edition of the G20 Compact with Africa Summit kicked off in Berlin earlier this week.

I believe this initiative led by Chancellor Angela Merkel can work and can be beneficial to both Africa and Germany. But Germany and other foreign countries looking at the continent need to understand that Africa is a true partner for development and that, in addition to relationship-building with governments, African businesses also need to be engaged. They are also decisive in driving development.

We have to move beyond aid. As Africa emerges and takes its place on the global stage, it not only stands to benefit from its relationship with Germany but also can contribute to Western Europe's objectives, as presented by the Compact with Africa Summit.

With the continent having nearly 600 million people without access to electricity, Africa's challenges seem insurmountable - especially given the number of opportunities and the fast-tracked development that access to electricity can unlock.

But there is hope. With a number of African nations developing and launching large-scale renewable energy projects, countries such as Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and

Mozambique championing gas developments and launching world-class projects, the continent is resolute on transforming and diversifying its energy mix, proving that it is a worthy partner, particularly for Germany.

Earlier this year, the Germany Africa Business Forum (GABF) announced its multi-million-Euro funding commitment to investing in Germany energy start-ups that focus on Africa. This commitment pledged funds to German start-ups with exposure to African energy projects.

The role that such German companies from the private sector can play for Africa is increasingly coming to light. For instance, German companies ESC Engineers and Noordtec collaborated with Equatorial Guinea's Elite Construcciones on the Akonikien project - the region's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage and regasification plant.

Forming part of the government-led LNG2Africa initiative, the project advanced the nation's efforts to monetise gas resources through the creation of domestic gas-to-power infrastructure, a sector which presents major opportunities for the private sector all across Africa. This is a true example of German's expertise serving Africa's best interests.

On Tuesday (November 19), German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she saw the investment in Africa's growth and development as a "win-win" and encouraged that, instead of talking about Africa, "we should do everything we can to cooperate with Africa".

I agree with this view, as indeed the continent has a lot to offer and collaboration is critical for Africa's future. We do not need quick fixes; we need capital and technology that are supported by hard work, due diligence and solid execution in order to have an impact.

We can only achieve this through recognition and collaboration, not with the same old strategies of providing aid that has not been very useful.

African Energy Chamber dispatch filed from Johannesburg, NJ Ayuk is Centurion Law Group CEO and African Energy Chamber executive chairman. His experience negotiating oil and gas deals has given him an expert's grasp of Africa's energy landscape. He is the author of 'Billions at Play: The Future of African Energy and doing deals'.

Gender equality: It's time to shatter status quo, we cannot afford to wait!

By Vanessa Mounzar in Abidjan

IF you are a gender champion, then you are familiar with the discussions around the glass cliff - the story of women eager to defy the odds, accepting leadership roles at times of crisis, when the chance of failure is the highest. The truth is that many bold glass cliff climbers have succeeded without falling off.

Two of such champions come to my mind: former Xerox CEO Anne Mulcah and Aliethia IDF co-founder Tokunboh Ishmael.

Mulcah, Ishmael and like-minded agents of change have already shattered the status quo. So, when the Global Gender Summit kicks off this coming Monday (November 25) in Kigali, Rwanda, the international community will hurtle towards heeding the calls to dismantle barriers to women's full participation and advancement economic development on the continent.

Women make up over 40 per

cent of African business owners yet only 2 per cent are able to access finance, according to a McKinsey report. Meanwhile, one in four women globally who start in a business come from Africa, reports Global Entrepreneurship Monitor. The three-day Kigali summit, organised by the Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) Working Group on gender, will be held in Africa for the first time ever. This year's summit is hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in partnership with the government of Rwanda and supported by other multilateral development banks as key partners.

Under the theme 'Unpacking constraints to gender equality', the summit will share best practices and seek innovative solutions that can be harnessed to empower women and girls in Africa and around the world.

Rwanda has set a strong example when it comes to promoting women's rights and representation. It was the first country in

the world with a female majority in parliament, currently standing at 67.5 per cent. Out of a total parliamentary membership of 80, women occupy 54 seats. This feat puts the nation ahead of even the most developed nations. From the massive financing gap for women-led enterprises, inadequate data, laws and cultural norms that negatively affect women to a lack of representation in business and politics, the challenges are great.

But the opportunities are there too. Discussions will focus on the main barriers to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, namely: scaling up innovative financing, fostering an enabling environment and ensuring women's participation and voices. Sectors to be addressed will include climate change, the digital revolution, private sector and human capital and productive employment.

In Africa, women-led enterprises face a whopping US\$42 billion financing gap. One of

AfDB's flagship gender-focused projects is its Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), which seeks to accelerate growth and employment creation across African economies by closing the financing gap for women.

Over the next five years, AFAWA is expected to unlock US\$3 billion in private sector financing to empower female entrepreneurs through capacity-building development, access to finance as well as policy, legal and regulatory reforms to support enterprises led by women.

The bank's Fashionomics Africa initiative supports the African textiles and fashion industries by building the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises in the textile and clothing sector, especially those run by women and youth.

By using technology as a driver for the development of skills and capacity in Africa's creative industries, AfDB seeks to stimulate job creation on the continent. At the Kigali summit, it will unveil an innovative online marketplace for designers across the continent.

The bank will use the opportunity of the summit to launch a number of initiatives to dramatically transform the landscape of access to finance for women across the continent.

These include the Africa Gender Index, a joint report by AfDB and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) assessing African countries on gender equality.

The launch of the AFAWA/AGF Risk Sharing Facility is meant to de-risk lending to women through AGF's partial guarantees to financial institutions and its capacity development to women entrepreneurs.

Vanessa Mounzar is AfDB's Director of Gender, Women and Civil Society.

South Africa's constitution by no means ending at the water's edge

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THE Manuel Chang case presents South Africa's Ramaphosa administration with a serious dilemma - a stark choice between respecting the rule of law and maintaining good foreign relations.

Does it extradite the former Mozambican finance minister to his home country at the risk of flouting its own laws? Or does it extradite him to the United States (US), thereby almost certainly antagonising a good neighbour, regional ally and fellow comrade in the 'Former Liberation Movement' fraternity?

That's the big decision President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Justice Minister Ronald Lamola must make. Last month the High Court in Johannesburg upheld Lamola's application to rescind the May decision of his predecessor Michael Masutha to extradite Chang to Mozambique.

The court sent the decision back to the justice minister - now Lamola - to review, on the grounds that Masutha didn't consider all the relevant facts when he made his decision. Mainly he didn't take into account that Chang still enjoyed parliamentary immunity from prosecution in his own country - a critical fact the Mozambican government concealed.

Chang is appealing the High Court decision and it seems likely that Lamola will oppose the appeal. That would indicate that he's leaning towards the bold decision of sending Chang to face trial in the US, on the grounds that justice will more likely be served there than in Mozambique.

In Mozambique the government



The Manuel Chang case is a chance for SA to show that even foreign policy is governed by law. File photo

has every incentive to obfuscate in case Chang incriminates other senior politicians and officials in the US\$2 billion shipping loan scam. Through the corrupt deal, he and several other officials, shipbuilding executives and Swiss bankers allegedly received millions of dollars in bribes. Fears have even been voiced that Chang could be 'disappeared' if he returns to Mozambique, since he seems to know too much.

The US case against some of his co-accused is meanwhile producing some intriguing testimony. Jean Boustani, a salesman in the Cherbourg-based shipbuilding company Prinvest, seemed to contradict himself. He is accused of offering bribes to Chang and two other Mozambique officials and three Swiss bankers to get loans

and a big contract to build fishing trawlers and military patrol craft.

At some moments he seemed to be suggesting that what he paid the officials were not really bribes but rather the inevitable fruits of extortion, 'because that was the cost of doing business in Mozambique.'

At other times Boustani seemed simply to be denying the charges, testifying that when he told his Prinvest boss Iskandar Safa that Mozambique officials were demanding bribes, Safa told him not to hand over any money 'but just keep tango dancing with these guys and let's see where it will go.' This gives a whole new meaning to the expression, 'It takes two to tango.' Three bank-

ers have already testified, however, that Boustani paid them multimillion-dollar bribes.

Where does this leave Lamola? He will probably announce soon if he intends to oppose Chang's appeal against South Africa's High Court decision. And where will he eventually extradite him to? In July Chang supposedly resigned from Parliament so, according to the Mozambique government, he may now be legally charged.

Nevertheless the Mozambique government's credibility in this case has been shot to pieces, giving Lamola good reason to doubt that Chang would ever be properly charged in Mozambique. Whereas it's pretty clear that if

he stands trial in the US, the defrauded and otherwise abused people of Mozambique would probably discover how the shipping scam worked and who else in government and perhaps elsewhere was implicated.

Lamola and Ramaphosa are aware of the high stakes. If they send him to the US, not only will it anger Mozambique but probably many other Southern African Development Community (SADC) allies, especially former liberation movements.

The same is true of the 'RET crowd' back home, as one official describes them - i.e. the Jacob Zuma/Ace Magashule 'Radical Economic Transformation' faction of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) who will no doubt accuse Lamola and Ramaphosa of colluding with imperialists against ANC allies.

Advocate Max du Plessis, appearing in the Johannesburg High Court case for the Helen Suzman Foundation - a friend of the court - put the other side of the decision well. He argued that the South African government was obliged to put law before politics, including foreign politics.

He cited a 'cohort' of recent judgments by the country's highest courts insisting that even the most political decisions 'are not immune from legal challenge. Nor does the field of international relations provide a cloak which shields such decisions from judicial scrutiny.'

Du Plessis mentioned three cases that most sharply illustrated this point. One was the setting aside of the then international relations minister's decision to grant immunity from prosecution to then Zimbabwean first lady Grace Mugabe for alleged assault in Sandton.

Another was various courts' decisions that Pretoria had

broken the law in failing to arrest and detain then Sudanese president Omar al-Bashir when he visited South Africa. He was wanted for genocide by the International Criminal Court. And lastly the court's decision to order Ramaphosa to reverse Zuma's decision to withdraw South Africa from the SADC Tribunal.

'Each of these cases succeeded, and relief was granted, despite the potential foreign policy implications,' du Plessis said. 'Why? Because our courts police the rationality of the executive's decision making, in all situations. As [Judge Kate] O'Regan put it so powerfully: "There is nothing in our constitution that suggests that, in so far as it relates to the powers and obligations imposed by the constitution upon the executive, the supremacy of the constitution stops at the borders of South Africa.''

The High Court accepted that argument. So now we have another court decision - to add to du Plessis's growing list - insisting that the law should trump foreign policy. Trouble is that in practice it usually doesn't.

These court decisions risk creating a parallel universe to the real world of foreign policy where such rulings have been largely ignored by Pretoria. Is this about to change with the Chang decision?

Is it naive to hope that Lamola decided to seek the court's opinion so he could send Chang to where justice is most likely to be done - the US - and then justify the decision to the ANC's Mozambique Liberation Front comrades (not to mention the ANC itself) on the grounds that 'the law made me do it'?

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

With UN Security Council in paralysis, any new hopes for Rohingya Muslims?

UNITED NATIONS

THE 15-member UN Security Council (UNSC) stands virtually paralyzed in the face of genocide charges against the government of Myanmar where over 730,000 to one million Rohingya Muslims have been forced to flee to neighboring Bangladesh since a 2016 crackdown by Myanmar's military.

A team of U.N. investigators has declared that the crackdown was carried out with "genocidal intent".

The paralysis at the UNSC, attributed to inaction by two of its veto-wielding members, namely China and Russia, has now triggered interventions by both the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which are expected to sit in judgment over the atrocities.

Although judges at the ICC last week agreed to authorise a full-scale investigation into allegations of mass persecution and crimes against humanity, Myanmar is not a party to the Rome statute that established the ICC.

Asked how effective any ruling would be against Myanmar as a non-party, Param-Preet Singh, Associate Director, International Justice Program at Human Rights Watch, told IPS: "Any action by the ICC would be against individual defendants, not the state".

"If your question is whether Myanmar would surrender any suspects to face justice in The Hague, based on its current position with respect to the ICC, it would be easy to say that the authorities would never cooperate."

But the same was said about Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and Slobodan Milosevic - each of whom fell from positions of power and eventually found themselves in the dock at the Yugoslav tribunal, she pointed out.

"Of course, it was a long and complex process to get those defendants before the court, and that's exactly why it's difficult to speculate about the success of any ICC efforts to hold individuals to account", she declared.

Dr Tawanda Hondora, Executive Director of World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP), the organisation that houses and coordinates the work of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), told IPS

"While Myanmar disputes that genocide has taken place, it has done very



little to prevent and stop the persecution, deportation, forced displacement, killing and torture of the Rohingya community, which acts may amount to genocide."

"We hope that the ICJ will reaffirm the legal principle that any States Parties to the Genocide Convention have legal standing to sue another States Party, which has failed to take steps to prevent and punish acts of genocide."

"A declaration by the ICJ that Myanmar has failed to prevent and punish those responsible for these heinous acts will help to address the plight of the Rohingya community."

This case, he pointed out, is a wake-up call for the United Nations Security Council, which continues to shirk its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and has so far failed to protect the Rohingya community.

The formal submission to the ICJ, accusing Myanmar of genocide through the murder, rape and destruction, was made on November 11 by the Republic of the Gambia, on behalf of the 57-member Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Meanwhile, in a statement released November 14, ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said: "I welcome the decision by ICC judges to 'authorise my request to open an investigation into the

Rohingya refugee children wade through flood waters surrounding their families' shelters following an intense pre-monsoon storm in Shamlapur makeshift settlement in Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh. File photo

situation in the People's Republic of Bangladesh/Republic of the Union of Myanmar."

She said the ICC judges have "accepted my analysis that there is a reasonable basis to believe that coercive acts that could qualify as the crimes against humanity of deportation and persecution on grounds of ethnicity and/or religion may have been committed against the Rohingya population".

With that decision, a formal investigation has been authorised, for crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, allegedly committed on or after 1 June 2010, at least in part on the territory of Bangladesh, or on the territory of other state parties, as described in the decision.

This is a significant development, sending a positive signal to the victims of atrocity crimes in Myanmar and elsewhere, she declared.

After a reported military-led crackdown, widespread killings, rape and village burnings, nearly three-quarters of a million Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine state to settle in crowded refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh, according to an ICC press

release.

Asked what the next step would be if Myanmar refuses to abide by the decisions of the two international courts of justice, HRW's Singh said: "I think it's important to discuss both cases as proceedings, since final decisions in both courts are a long way off".

She said the fact that Myanmar's actions are being scrutinized by two judicial mechanisms - through the separate but complementary lenses of state and individual responsibility - challenges Myanmar's empty denials of its role in atrocities and raises the political cost of ongoing abuses, both for Myanmar and the countries that would rather ignore its dismal human rights record.

Asked if the intervention by the two courts also send an implicit message to the UN Security Council which has so far refused to impose sanctions or take punitive action against Myanmar, Singh said: "The actions by Gambia and the ICC prosecutor to find a measure of justice for the Rohingya contrast sharply with and further expose the UN Security Council's paralysis on the crisis in Myanmar".

"And with that exposure, there is a rising political cost for its refusal to discharge its responsibility to address concerns about international peace and security in the region," she noted.

Asked for a reaction from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters November 14: "No, it is not for us to comment on procedures going on in the judicial end of the UN system. I think the Secretary General has spoken out very clearly and very forcefully on the need to address the situation of the Rohingyas and for the Government of Myanmar to put in place a number of actions and for justice to be done, but we have no specific comment on that case."

Meanwhile, back in October 2018, Marzuki Darusman, chair of the fact-finding mission of the Human Rights Council (HRC), briefed the Security Council on the mission's report.

Among its findings was that Myanmar security forces had committed what amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity in their treatment of several ethnic and religious mi-

norities in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States.

He also said there was sufficient information regarding the treatment of the Rohingya ethnic group in Rakhine State for senior officials in the Tatmadaw (Myanmar's military) to be investigated to determine their liability for genocide, according to the Security Council Report, a NGO publication monitoring the activities of the UNSC.

Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, told IPS that it is worth keeping in mind that Bangladesh is a member of ICC. Any indictment from the ICC would mean that some of Myanmar's senior generals, who are responsible for atrocities, would not be able to travel outside Myanmar without the fear of being arrested and possibly ending up in a prison cell in The Hague.

Symbolically, it may also result in Aung San Suu Kyi's final ignoble transition from Nobel Peace Prize winner to indicted suspected perpetrator of Crimes Against Humanity.

He also pointed out that the ICC is about individual criminal responsibility and the ICJ is about state responsibility. But ICC indictments and a condemning judgement from the ICJ would puncture the Myanmar authorities' culture of denial, exposing them in front of the entire world as a government responsible for genocide, the crime of crimes.

"Both of these international courts, which are sometimes criticized as being distant, bureaucratic and slow-moving, have done more to address the issue of the genocide against the Rohingya than the UN Security Council. More than two years have passed since the genocide began in northern Rakhine State. The UN Security Council needs to name the crime and hold the perpetrators accountable. Anything less is a total abdication of their historic responsibility," Dr Adams declared.

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Achieving the possible: Weapons of mass destruction free one in the Middle East (II)

By Tariq Rauf

THE Arab States maintain that all of them have acceded to the NPT, while Israel continues to defy the international community by refusing to become a party to the Treaty or to place its installations under the Agency's comprehensive safeguards system, thus exposing the region to nuclear risks and threatening peace.

Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is likely to lead to a destructive nuclear arms race in the region; especially if Israel's nuclear installations remain outside any international control.

Most Arab States of the region of the Middle East consider that:

- the 2018 UNGA decision A/73/546 on convening a conference on the zone was a breakthrough;

- the new initiative through the UNGA is directed at all States of the region of the Middle East, the three co-sponsors of the 1995 NPTREC Resolution are invited and no States of the region shall be excluded;

- while the UNGA route was not ideal, it was resorted to as there was no realistic alternative due to the prevailing situation regionally and globally; and

- the initiative shall be fully inclusive, involve direct dialogue, be based on arrangements freely arrived at, there will be no singling out of any State of the region; however, if any State of the region does not attend, this cannot prevent other States of the region to attend the conference slated for November this

year.

Regarding the question of how to deal with the Middle East issue at the 2020 review conference of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the following points are relevant:

(a) the NPT review process remains the primary focus and the UNGA initiative is not an alternative to the NPT process but should be regarded as parallel and complementary;

(b) it can alleviate pressure on the 2020 review conference;

(c) there is no intention to hold the review conference hostage to the Middle East issue and the NPT States of the region want the review conference to be successful;

(d) the UNGA conference shall be open to all States and now it is important to start engagement and preparations on the modalities and procedural aspects;

(e) the assertion is incorrect that Israel was not consulted in advance on the 2018 resolution at UNGA, in fact it was consulted in advance of the decision;

(f) the decision garnered more than 100 affirmative votes at UNGA, which was a clear majority;

(g) the 2019 NPT PrepCom should take factual note of the UNGA decision to convene the conference in November;

(h) the Middle East zone issue remains within the NPT process and the 2020 review conference would have to reaffirm and recognize this;



(i) the November conference provides an opportunity to all States to meet and discuss zone matters, express views, all decisions shall be by consensus, it is an opportunity for direct consultations among the States of the region of the Middle East, and it is up to the States of the region to decide whether to sign/ratify a future MEWMDZFZ treaty;

(j) the Middle East zone now can be considered as the fourth pillar of the NPT;

(k) it is regrettable that some States (Israel and the United States) had urged the IAEA (and other relevant international organizations) not to attend the November conference;

(l) the NPT States of the region believe in collective not selective security and this calls for the uni-

versalization of the NPT and the cessation of granting privileges to States not party to the Treaty (Israel);

(m) regarding the three co-sponsors (Russia, UK, USA) of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference Resolution calling for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction: the UK has voiced support for the vision of a MEWMDZFZ and is attending the November conference; the Russian Federation endorsed the convening of the conference also is attending the November conference which it regards as easing pressure at the 2020 review conference; while the US has indicated support for the goal of a Middle East free of WMD based on direct dialogue and consensus

but has condemned the General Assembly decision of 2018 to convene the November conference as "illegitimate" and is boycotting the conference; and

(n) Israel too has decided not to attend the November conference.

The METO Project

The Middle East Treaty Organization (METO) Project for a zone free of WMD in the Middle East represents a civil society initiative on "Achieving the Possible" was launched and sustained by Sharon Dolev of the Israeli Disarmament Movement and has attracted support from experts from States of the region of the Middle East as well as from other countries. The METO project has developed the elements of a text of a MEWMDZFZ treaty that has been shared with the States of the Middle East region and is designed to serve as a catalyst for them to jump start discussions on such a treaty.

It is hoped that the States attending the current conference can draw motivation, ideas and elements from the draft treaty text prepared by the METO Project as they discuss the possible elements and provisions of a future treaty that can garner the support of the States of the region.

Some may find shortcomings or omissions in the draft text but States of the region and other concerned parties are invited to further develop, enhance and enrich the elements presented in the draft text.

This effort needs to be joined not by sceptics nor naysayers but by optimists and those who are serious about promoting the cause of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and of its transformation into a region of peace, justice and security.

Conclusion

The Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction now underway at the United Nations in New York provides a belated but important opportunity to address regional security, non-proliferation and disarmament matters in the region of the Middle East.

It sets into place an annual process focusing on discussing matters pertaining to eliminating the threats, dangers and risks of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region; achieving universal adherence in the region to the NPT through the verified elimination of Israel's nuclear weapon programme, and also securing universal adherence in the region to and compliance with the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention that prohibit biological and chemical weapons, and signature and/or ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that prohibits all types of nuclear explosive tests.

The first part of this article appeared in yesterday's issue of The Guardian

Evo Morales: Hero or villain?

STOCKHOLM / ROME

TO be president in a country like Bolivia might be like a precarious act performed by a tightrope-dancer between "the Devil and the deep blue sea". After 23 years as Bolivia's President, Evo Morales finally lost his foothold and ended up as political refugee in Mexico, adding his name to a long list of previous revolutionary exiles, like Augusto Sandino, Fidel Castro, and most prominently - Leon Trotsky. The last one was murdered, though the others came back, something Evo Morales has promised to do:

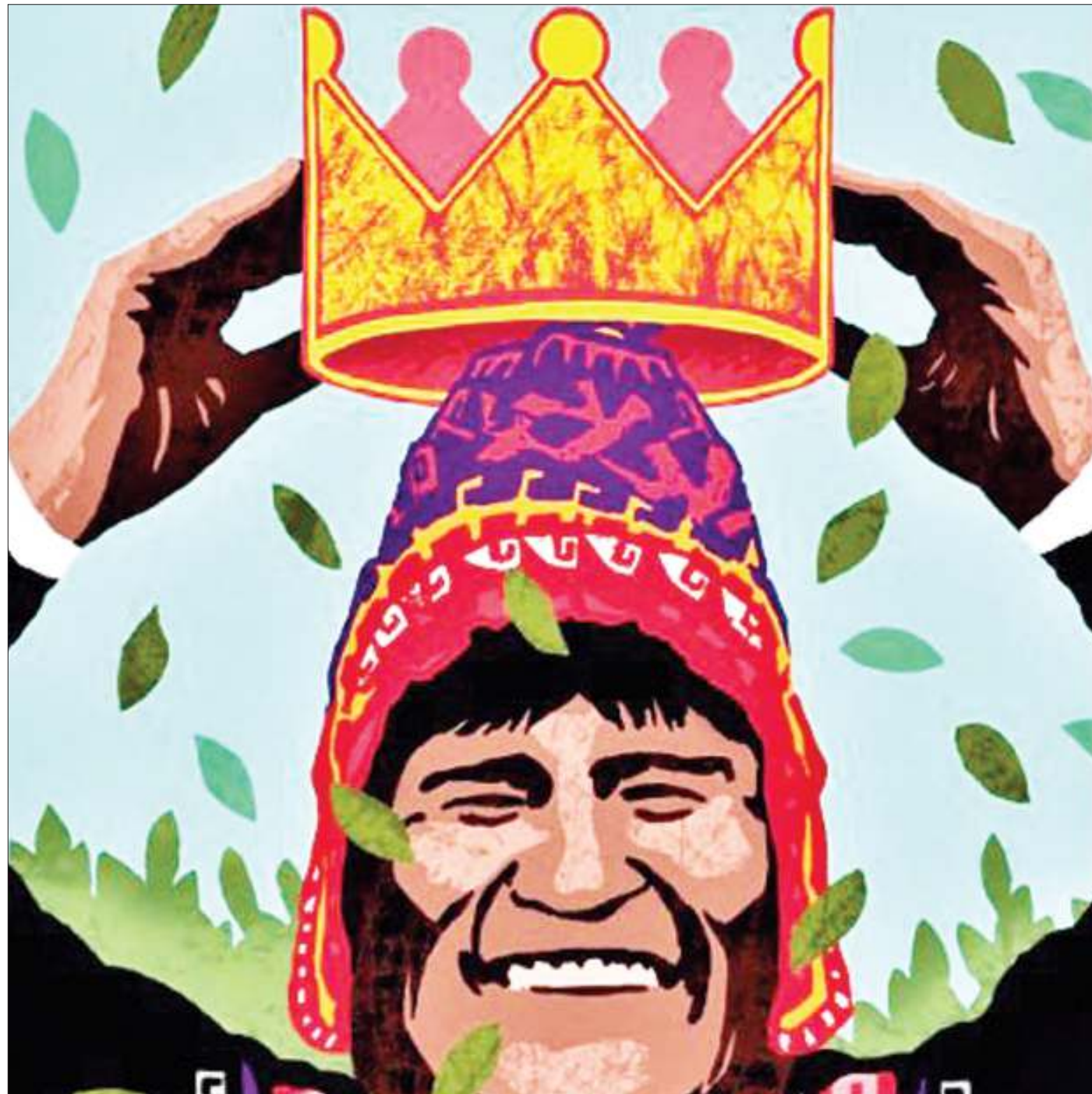
"Sisters and brothers, I leave for Mexico, grateful for the generosity of the government of that kindred people who gave us asylum to defend our lives. It hurts to leave the country for political reasons, but I will remain vigilant. Soon I will return with greater strength and energy."

Morales balance act was performed between an urban, social elite, a hostile U.S. government, suspicious neighbouring countries, big landowners, industrialists, the Army, coca growers, corrupt, political allies, alleged mistresses, regional leaders, environmentalists and not the least dissatisfaction amidst loyal supporters among poor and indigenous communities, suffering inevitable frustrations over his administration's inability to provide everything they hoped for.

Nevertheless, a galloping inflation was checked under Morales's regime. Foreign currency reserves grew steadily, while millions were spent on subsidies and infrastructure. Contrary to many other Latin American populists, Morales is also a pragmatist who instead of outright nationalizing companies and institutions, while throwing out foreign investors, cut better deals for the State and embraced market-friendly policies.

If he had groomed a successor and accepted power transition Morales, who was born to a poor peasant family in the desolate and isolated Aymara village of Lasallawi, could have been remembered as one of the great political leaders of Latin America. Though as most leaders within a volatile, prejudiced and highly combative political environment he made self-interested moves and occasionally stabbed opponents in the back.

In spite of being known as a "modest person with little interest in material possessions", who when he became president reduced both his own salary and those of his ministers by 57 percent to USD 1,800 a month, he soon became a brand of vitality and infallibility. One example was his regu-



lar, predawn workout in a gym, when he in front of an audience displayed stamina and strength. Later in the day he used to visit a couple of cities or villages, where his image was stamped on murals in subsidized housing complexes, on airport billboards and even on taxis and buses.

I first became acquainted with Evo Morales's mounting presence when I on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in 2000 began visiting Bolivian universities. When I first arrived in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third largest city, it had recently suffered violent clashes between protesters and army troops. Riots erupted after President Hugo Banzer signed a contract with a private consortium to control the city's water resources. This was part of

a privatization policy initiated by his predecessor, Sánchez de Lozada, meaning that more than 50 percent of former state-owned businesses and enterprises were transferred to private investors. In Cochabamba, the price for water tripled, leading to widespread rioting among those who no longer could afford clean water.

My hosts at the San Simon University told me protests were organized by radicalized coca growers from Chapare, a district which population between 1992 and 2016 had doubled from 132,000 to 262,000,2 mainly due to an influx of former miners and smallholders, migrating from the highlands, which since the

beginning of the 1980s suffered from an economic crisis shutting down mining enterprises and destroying markets for poor farmers. The majority of the migrants were Quechua and Aymara speaking indigenous people. Among the newcomers had been nineteen-years-old Evo Morales, whose family had left the highlands since violent storms had destroyed their small farm.

Several migrants were former union leaders hardened by decades of work in the mines and had no agricultural experience before their arrival, something that proved to be of great importance. The coca plant is autochthonous to the Chapare region, but had so far not been exploit-

ed, since its high concentration of alkaloids makes it unsuitable for akulliku (mastication), the common use of coca at higher altitudes. Nevertheless, Chapare coca was well suited for cocaine production and did not need much care from inexperienced farmers. It could be harvested four times a year and was highly profitable, satisfying an expanding, global market.

When I visited Chapare, roads entering the district were guarded by control stations making me remember the ones I passed while entering East Germany in the 1980s. They were guarded by armed personnel from the Bolivian Army and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), controlling in- and outcoming traffic. Inside the district, towns and villages made me think of towns in Western movies - haphazardly constructed buildings, bars and even brothels, but no communal squares. Stores were filled with the latest electronic equipment, refrigerators, air conditioners, computers, motorbikes, etc.

The San Simon University supported experimental plantations for various crops to stimulate farmers to quit coca production. Apart from such plantations I visited coca fields where growers told me that international support to drug eradication had actually made coca growing even more profitable - new roads improved buyers' access, subsidies for alternative crops were gratefully received, while the coca purchasers offered improved plants with higher alkaloid content occupying less space and being suitable for interplantation with other crops. They considered DEA agents as enemies, as well as a Government, which according to them served a wealthy, urban elite bowing to U.S. pressure to persecute coca growers, of which several wore t-shirts with slogans like Coca no es cocaína, "coca is not cocaine" and Causachun coca. Wañuchun yanquis, "Long live coca. Death to the Yankees."

Their hero was Evo Morales, who had organized the Cocalero Union and now headed the country's second biggest political party. Adorned with a garland of coca leaves Morales gave arousing speeches presenting coca as an emblem of an Andean culture threatened by U.S. imperialist

oppression. He was right about inept politicians and the open meddling of the U.S. in Bolivian politics, as well as coca being an integrated, even religiously important part of Andean culture, though he failed to mention that this was not at all the case of Chapare-produced coca. He was also right about the marginalized position of indigenous people, though he failed to mention progress made after the 1952/53 revolution when indigenous people had risen against a corrupt regime in an uprising that led to extensive land reforms, universal suffrage, strengthened labour unions and efforts to integrate indigenous people in the ruling of a country where roughly 65 percent of the population identify themselves as "indigenous people". In short, to me Morales appeared to be a populist who slightly twisted reality to make it serve his political career.

However, Morales proved to be an able politician transforming his pro-coca and pro-indigenous stance to an effective political agenda that eventually changed Bolivia. Already a few months after Morales assumed the presidency in 2006 the State increased its control of the hydrocarbon industry. Corporations had up until then paid 18 percent of their profits to the State - now the new regime reversed the situation by decreeing that 82 percent of the profits would be passed on to the State. Oil companies threatened to cease all its Bolivian operations, but remained anyway. In 2002 the Bolivian State received USD 173 million from hydrocarbon extraction, but already in 2006 it obtained USD 1.3 billion.3

The increased revenue resulting from this and similar measures was invested in efforts to expand the welfare state. Prices of gas and many foodstuffs were controlled.

Local food producers were motivated to sell their produce in the local market, rather than exporting it and the economy grew. Stronger public finances brought economic stability and inflation was curbed. Upon Morales' election, Bolivia's illiteracy rate was at 16 percent, the highest in South America. A literacy campaign was introduced and in 2009 UNESCO considered Bolivia to be free from illiteracy.4 By 2014,

Investing in women's empowerment essential to achieving peace, security

By Brigitte Hugh

A COUNTRY can achieve sustainable peace and security only if women are included, said Monde Muyangwa, Director of the Wilson Center's Africa Programme at a recent Wilson Center event on the role of women in promoting peace and security in Africa. "And I would argue that part of the challenges that we face on the African continent, the insecurity that we face in parts of the African continent," she said, "is precisely because not all segments of society are included."

Sub-Saharan Africa faces multi-dimensional security risks in the 21st century, such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, ethnic tensions, environmental degradation, and climate change. Not only are the impacts of these risks present now, but they are looming on the horizon, said Muyangwa.

"You can't ignore 50 percent of your population and expect to grow economically, socially, or peacefully," said Ambassador Phillip Carter III (ret.), President of Mead Hill Group, LLC. Addressing gender inequality to promote peace and security will involve more than taking an "add women and stir" approach, said Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, President of Women in International Security. In 2000, the UN Security Council passed the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda which recognises two key points. First, gender inequality produces instability, insecurity, and violent extremism. Second, sustainable and durable peace requires the participation of everyone in the society, including women. The WPS agenda encourages the implementation of a "gender perspective" in policymaking which can show how structures of gender inequality impede access, opportunities, and well-being for certain people, as well as ultimately impeding peace, said de Jonge Oudraat.

Close to 50 percent of African Union states have created national action plans to implement the WPS agenda, which is progress, said de Jonge Oudraat; however, implementation remains problematic.



ic. Of the 24 plans, only 14 are still active. Much like their global counterparts, African politicians are really good at talking the talk, but not very good at walking the walk, said de Jonge Oudraat.

Redefining Security

How you define security matters, said Muyangwa. When you look at security more holistically, including softer issues, it sets the stage for a more comprehensive approach. "That way you're able to invest in the right places," she said. We need to stop defining security risks as just those hard, violent risks such as terrorism, or conflict, and instead incorporate soft security sectors such as family planning and girl's education, said Carter.

We must consider our development agenda in the context of sustainable security, said Carter. You can't have security without development, and you can't have development without security. Yet, he noted, the Departments of Defense and State operate in distinct silos, treating security as separate from development, instead of connecting them. There is a growing awareness within the security community that we can and must continue to deal with the hard security threats, said Carter. But in order to be sustainable there needs to be greater investment in development, or we will ultimately need to invest in

more bullets.

The biggest unaddressed security problem on the African continent, said Carter, is that we do not know the drivers of the problems we're seeing. For the younger generations, desperation, disillusionment, and disaffection inform much of why they get involved in violent conflict as they cannot see opportunities for their future in the current governance structure. Solving for these drivers through better governance may be the best way to "staunch the wave of violence on the continent," Carter said.

Improving Governance

In thinking about women's role in governance, de Jonge Oudraat said, it is important to think about which societal institutions wield the greatest power. While global society regards Rwanda as a "success story" because women are well-represented in Parliament, she noted that Parliament is not necessarily the most powerful institution in Rwanda. So while better representation may reflect growth, it is not as progressive as it may seem. Additionally, in many countries violence against women in politics is exacerbated by police. A potential solution, said de Jonge Oudraat, would be to involve women in the police force and increase their representation in more powerful institutions in society.

Without improved governance, the

high fertility rate and younger age structure of many African countries will contribute to a higher conflict rate. In countries with a history of revolutionary conflict and a youthful population, there is a 75 percent likelihood that they will continue to experience that type of conflict in future years, said Elizabeth Leahy Madsen, Senior Program Director of International Programs at the Population Reference Bureau.

Why Population Structure Matters

One aspect of development is related to population change. When a country's fertility rate falls and a larger percent of the population is composed of working-age adults, rather than dependent children, economic growth may accelerate, according to the "demographic dividend" concept.

When fertility drops, the benefits of a stable age structure, or the proportion of the total population in each age group, go beyond economic prosperity—expanding across multiple sectors. For example, research shows that when the median age of a country is 29, the country is more likely than not to attain the Sustainable Development Goals for child health, Madsen said.

However, simply creating a more stable age structure by lowering the fertility rate will not ensure economic growth, peace, and security. Investing

in women's empowerment, specifically in family planning, education, and economic growth, is essential to promoting growth and stability in African countries. When you invest in girl's education, it has many impacts on economic growth, said Carter.

"There is a direct relationship between increases in contraceptive use according to women's wishes and declines in the fertility rate," said Madsen. For every 13 percent increase in voluntary contraceptive use, fertility rates drop by one child per woman. In Africa, one in every five women have an unmet need for family planning. This means that they are sexually active and want to delay or avoid pregnancy but are not using any type of contraception. Providing comprehensive family planning services can help countries achieve a stable fertility rate. We need to meet individuals' stated preferences for family planning, while not imposing something on them, said Madsen.

Women and girls' education has a bidirectional relationship with fertility rates, said Madsen. A study conducted in Ethiopia found that for each additional year of girls' education, there was a 6 to 7 percent decline in early childbearing and early marriage.

The low-hanging fruits that could help address the population question in Africa are actually child marriage and early age at first birth, said Alex Ezeh, Dornsife Professor of Global Health at Drexel University. Delaying child marriage and age at first birth by two years, he said, can reduce projected population growth by 10 percent.

In addition to promoting family planning and education, it is crucial to enable women to build the skills to be the drivers of economic growth, said Madsen. Women are already economically active in most countries. But most are stuck in low-wage work like subsistence agriculture and small-scale trading. Providing skills training to allow women to transition to the formal and higher-paying labor force can ensure greater economic security. Investing in girls'

education should be one of the most important priorities for African peace and prosperity, said Carter. They will need not just reading, writing, and arithmetic, but the technical skills to prepare for a 21st century economy.

The solutions to build African peace and security are not in military security systems, said Carter. They are in engineering prosperity and allowing women to own the prospect of creating worth. By doing these three things—promoting voluntary family planning, girls' education, and economic empowerment—and many more, we can not only enhance women's well-being, but also promote national development, economic growth, and peace and stability, said Madsen.

African Agency

"You can't create security for Africans," said Muyangwa. "They have to own it and create it themselves." Current engagement models with Africa need to fundamentally change since they denigrate what Africans bring to the process, said Muyangwa. Without respect for the knowledge and agency that Africans bring to the process, it will not be possible to create sustainable peace. In fact, as de Jonge Oudraat said, African women's organizations in civil society are leading the charge to promote gender equality within the implementation of the WPS agenda. Engagement models with Africa need to acknowledge the work that Africans are already doing to promote peace and security on the continent.

One problem with the current development model is that it tends to operate in emergency response and crisis, said Ezeh.

Part of the sustainable peace process in the African continent will involve getting Africans to own the process of thinking about and then building local institutions to provide innovative solutions and ensure government accountability. "The ideas that will change Africa tomorrow and today are sitting with Africans in Africa," said Ezeh.

African countries fall well behind on progress towards poverty alleviation targets

By Zuhumnan Dapel

IN their annual meeting at the United Nations in 2005, world leaders agreed on a common economic agenda. This was to halve - between 1990 and 2015 - the proportion of the world's population living on less than one dollar a day. It's been nearly 15 years since this resolution.

The world has certainly seen economic progress but it is not even. And countries in Africa lag behind the global average.

Global wealth has more than doubled from US\$170 trillion in 2000 to \$360 trillion in 2019. Global wealth per adult is at a record high of \$70,850.

Mean wealth per adult in Africa is \$6,488. In Mozambique it is as low as \$352.

The proportion of the world's people living on less than two dollars a day (an updated measure of extreme poverty) has more than halved from 35.9% in 1990 to 10% in 2015. But in sub-Saharan Africa the figure still stands at 41%, according to the World Bank. The bank estimates that 87% of the world's poorest people will live in the region by 2030 if the trends con-

tinue.

Life expectancy has been growing by 16 weeks a year so that those born today are likely to live 20 years longer than a child born in 1960. In Africa, average life expectancy remained at a level that the rest of the world passed in 1974 and is rising at a snail's pace.

The continent still pays up to 30 times more than the rest of the world for generic medicine, despite a worldwide decline in drug prices. And energy prices in Africa are more than three times higher than in the United States.

African countries have missed important opportunities in the past two decades that could have ensured these graphs looked different.

Interlocking problems: debt and aid. In 2004 UK Prime Minister Tony Blair initiated the Commission for Africa, to "carefully study all the evidence available to find out what is working and what is not."

The Commission's main findings were:

The problems... are interlocking. They are vicious circles which reinforce one another. ...Africa will never break out of the deadlock with piece-



African countries have an opportunity to reduce poverty with new policies.

meal solutions and policy incoherence. They must be tackled together. To do that Africa requires a comprehensive 'big push' on many fronts at once; which requires a partnership between Africa and the developed world.... Africa is very unlikely to achieve the rapid growth in finance and human development necessary to halt or reverse its relative decline without a strong expansion in aid.

Blair then called for two simultaneous actions: forgiving the continent's debt, and doubling development as-

sistance. This call was partly heeded.

Fourteen African countries benefited from the 2005 multilateral debt relief initiative. That relief saved Nigeria - the region's largest economy - \$31 billion. A host of other countries benefited too, ranging from Benin (\$690 million) to Ghana (\$2,938 billion).

But these countries didn't make the most of the relief they'd been given. Debt in many African countries is on the rise again. What's more concerning is that debt isn't being incurred for useful purposes, such as plugging the

infrastructure gap. Instead, according to an IMF report, the rise is being driven by corruption and mismanagement.

As for aid, since 2005 the flow to Africa has risen by 50%, reaching \$49.27 billion in 2017. African countries received more than half a trillion dollars (\$0.62 trillion) in aid in the decade and a half after Blair's appeal.

However, the continent now gets less donor aid per recipient than most regions in the world: an average of 14 cents per person per day. This is

because its rapidly rising population size in recent decades is not being matched by the size of aid inflows.

Added to this is the fact that many African countries have failed to stem the flow of illicit money from the continent. An estimated \$30.4 billion was transferred from African countries between 2000 to 2009.

Such outflows strip countries of desperately needed financial resources for investment in hospitals, schools and roads.

To stop this trend, Africa needs the help of advanced countries, because some of these countries have been and still serve as havens for illicit funds originating from repressive African regimes and despots.

In "Overcoming the Shadow Economy," Joseph Stiglitz and Mark Pieth forcefully argue:

In a globalised world, if there is any pocket of secrecy, funds will flow through that pocket. That is why the system of transparency has to be global. The US and EU are key in tipping the balance toward transparency, but this will only be the starting point: each country must play its role as a global citizen in order to shut down the shadow economy—and it is especially important that there emerge from the current secrecy havens some leaders to demonstrate that there are alternative models for growth and development.

Tanzania affirms commitment on support to women, girls and marginalised groups

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA has unveiled the country's commitments to ending maternal deaths, meet all women's demand for family planning, and stop violence against women and girls by 2030.

The commitments were made last week at the three-day Nairobi Summit on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) dubbed: 'Nairobi Summit ICPD25', that took place after 25 years after the landmark ICPD in Cairo where 179 governments adopted an action plan for women empowerment and sexual reproductive health for all.

Unveiling the commitments

on behalf of the government of Tanzania, Hamad Mohammed Rashid, Minister for Health from Zanzibar said that Tanzania recognises the important correlation between population and development and has made significant strides in raising the quality of life and the well-being of its people.

Renewing her commitments to the ICPD objectives, the United Republic of Tanzania, valuing its social norms and values desires to accomplish the following targets by 2030 against the highlighted global commitments:

Sustaining political will among leaders at all levels and increasing by 10 per cent the proportion of youth and women in decision-making bodies such as the Parlia-

ment, as well as regional and local councils to accelerate the implementation of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

Enhancing efforts towards achieving the goal of zero preventable maternal deaths, and maternal morbidities through integration of comprehensive approach of the essential sexual and reproductive health packages by strengthening availability of and access to Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) services; and

Reviewing and rolling out a competency-based curriculum for midwives by 2030 to enhance provision of quality care. Accelerating the integration of HIV and other reproductive health serv-

ices to reduce burden of HIV to the population including reducing mother to child transmission to under 5 per cent by 2030.

Other commitments are: Enhancing efforts towards achieving the goal of zero unmet needs for family planning services to enhance child and maternal survival by 2030. Increase access to comprehensive age-appropriate sexual and reproductive services to adolescent and young people in and out of schools and health facilities.

According to the minister Tanzania is committed towards ending sexual and gender based violence and violence against children of all forms, including zero child marriages, female genital

mutilation, in order to realise all individuals' potential as agents of change in their societies by 2025.

This shall be achieved by working together with all stakeholders to expand capacity of the country to deal with gender based violence and violence against children, according to Rashid

Tanzania Rashid said, is committed to increasing health financing and exploring new and innovative financing instruments and structures to ensure full, effective and accelerated implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action by: Increasing national budget allocation for health to meet the Abuja declaration target of 15 per cent from the current base of 8.9 per

cent and Increase enrolment to cover more population with insurance schemes towards universal health insurance by 2030.

According to the minister Tanzania is committed to empower and invest in adolescents and youth in education, employment opportunities and health including family planning and sexual and reproductive health services.

Speaking at the start of the Nairobi Summit 25, United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem said, "since the Cairo ICPD we have put women and girls at the center of global development. This has paid off time and again. That the ICPD

vision is still far from reality, and that journey that began 25 years ago in Cairo is far from over."

According to the UNFPA Executive Director, it is now time to finish the unfinished business.

The Nairobi Summit 25 was hosted by the government of Denmark, Kenya and UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, the summit is mobilizing the political will and securing the financial commitments urgently needed to make sexual and reproductive health a reality for everyone, everywhere as stipulated in the ICPD Programme of Action agreed to by 179 governments in 1994 and confirmed unanimously in a political declaration in 2019.

How jihadists struck gold in Africa's Sahel

OUAGADOUGOU

PEOPLE around Pama, a West African town on the edge of vast forested conservation areas, had long been forbidden by their government to dig for gold in the reserves, to protect antelope, buffalo and elephants.

In mid-2018, men wearing turbans changed the rules.

Riding in with assault rifles on motorbikes and in 4X4 trucks, they sent government troops and rangers fleeing from the area in eastern Burkina Faso bordering the Sahel, a belt of scrubland south of the Sahara Desert.

The armed men said residents could mine in the protected areas, but there would be conditions. Sometimes they demanded a cut of the gold. At other times they bought and traded it.

The men "told us not to worry. They told us to pray," said one man who gave his name as Trahore and said he had worked for several months at a mine called Kabonga, a short drive northwest of Pama.

Like other miners who spoke to Reuters, he asked not to be identified for fear of retribution. It was not safe for reporters to visit the region, but five other miners who had been to Kabonga corroborated his account.

"We called them 'our masters,'" Trahore said.

The pits around Pama are no isolated case. Groups linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State, having lost ground in the Middle East, are expanding in Africa and exploiting gold mines across the region, data on attacks and interviews with two dozen miners and residents, and government and security officials, show.

Besides attacking industrial operations, two of the world's most feared extremist forces are tapping the \$2 billion informal gold trade in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger - a flow that is already largely out of state control.

Researchers and the United Nations have warned of the risks of armed extremists reaching the region's gold mines; Reuters' analysis of data from Burkina Faso, and testimony from people who have fled mining areas, show this is happening at scale.

For the Islamists, the mines are both a hideout and a treasure trove: of funds with which to recruit new members and buy arms, and of explosives and detonators to stage the attacks that extend their power.

A poor country of mainly subsistence farmers, Burkina Faso has in recent years become the focus of a campaign by local insurgents and regional jihadist groups.

The violence has killed hundreds of people, including at least 39 gold mine workers ambushed on a road earlier this month. Dozens of robberies and kidnappings have been reported that target mining.

The attacks extend towards hundreds of small-scale mines in Burkina Faso alone. Around 2,200 possible informal gold mines were identified in a government survey of satellite imagery in 2018.

About half of them are within 25 km (16 miles) of places where militants have carried out attacks, according to the analysis of incidents which were documented by Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), a consultancy that tracks political violence.

The militants' advance has traced a route from the north towards the south and the east of the country, according to the analysis, which mapped their movements and mining areas with help from the U.S.-based Countering Wildlife Trafficking Institute, a consultancy with expertise in analysing geospatial data. The militants have carved a path through some of Burkina Faso's richest gold fields, the analysis found.

It is hard to say how much gold the mines produce or exactly who controls them - many are in places where government forces are absent and bandits roam - but the sums involved are huge. In 2018, government officials visited just 24 sites near where attacks had taken place and estimated they produced a total of 727 kg of gold per year - worth about \$34 million at current prices.

Oumarou Idani, Burkina Faso's minister of mines, said in May that Islamists had taken control of some mines, especially in protected areas, where they encouraged camps of miners to dig in violation of government bans.



PATROL: Soldiers from Burkina Faso in the Sahel area in March. REUTERS

"They fed the camp and bought and sold gold," he said.

Incidents linked to Islamists dropped sharply that month, after military operations helped drive insurgents from mining areas. But by October, the total had almost returned to its peak from before the military actions, the ACLED data shows.

Most of Burkina Faso's informally produced gold is smuggled to its neighbours, particularly Togo, to avoid export taxes, according to the government. From there, it is flown to refineries before it is exported to countries including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Switzerland and India.

"Violent extremists have extended their areas of control and have enhanced their ability to generate income through gold - while state actors remain poorly positioned to do anything about it," said William Linder, a former officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who served in West Africa and now runs a risk consultancy.

"Failure to fix this problem now will only deepen and help spread the Sahel crisis."

Burkina Faso's Security Minister, Ousseni Compaore, said the government was not failing: Governments in the region are aware of the risk and working together to tackle it, he said.

In Mali, the U.N. has reported that rebels tax the gold trade in the northern town of Kidal, and in Niger, government officials say Islamists are demanding a share of gold produced in the west.

A senior official in Mali's ministry of mines said it could not rule out the possibility of Islamists tapping into gold, especially in the north, but was working to regulate small-scale mining. Niger's mining minister did not respond to requests for comment.

States of emergency

Gold has long been an ideal commodity for insurgents: It retains its value; it is widely accepted as a proxy for currency in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia; and once refined, it can easily be smelted and smuggled.

Informal mines in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger produce between them some 50 tonnes of gold, worth \$2 billion, a year, according to estimates by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Of this, small-scale miners in Burkina Faso produce around 15-20 tonnes of gold a year, worth between \$720 million and \$960 million, according to government and OECD estimates.

In 2018, Burkina Faso recorded official exports of only around 300 kg of gold from small-scale mines - around 1.5% to 2% of the country's estimated production - indicating the scale of smuggling.

Informal miners often operate out of sight of the authorities. Burkina Faso's push to locate its small-scale mines found that just 25 had valid permits country-wide, Salofou Trahore, managing director of the government regulator, told Reuters.

Government researchers visited

more than 1,000 sites to carry out basic checks, and found that 800 were active. They discovered others not seen in the satellite imagery and looked in-depth at 64 more. But many they could not reach. Large parts of the north and east are out of control of the capital, prompting it to declare states of emergency in 14 of the country's 45 provinces.

Security analysts attribute many of the attacks to al Qaeda's regional affiliate, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (Group for Support of Islam and Muslims) and a homegrown group named Ansarul Islam (Defenders of Islam). In the east, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara operates in forests that have long been a haven for bandits, smugglers and poachers. None of the groups could be reached.

"Nothing else"

In Burkina Faso as elsewhere, jihadist groups are adept at exploiting local grievances to win people over. In a country with annual incomes of just \$660 a head according to the World Bank, government efforts to close off mines to individual diggers - whether for conservation or to make way for big business - are unpopular.

"How many people in Burkina Faso can pay the school fees without artisanal mining?" said Moamoudou Rabo, head of a national union of gold miners. "Our economy is gold mining. There is nothing else."

At one digging site, Ouargaye in the southeast, miners said Islamists arrived just as local police were demanding bribes from miners who lacked ID cards. The nine policemen were armed, said

a miner who was there. Even so, the police sped away on motorbikes. "After that," the miner recalled, "people said the gunmen were the real masters." Compaore, the security minister, said it was not possible to verify this report.

In June, hundreds of civilians fleeing a wave of attacks on churches in northern Burkina Faso began showing up on the outskirts of the capital, Ouagadougou. They arrived with only what they could cram onto trucks and buses - a sack of rice, jerry cans for water, pots and pans, mats to sleep on.

Many women and children sought shelter in three dusty school yards. Among them were a handful of young men who had been digging for gold around the remote town of Silgadji, near the border with Mali.

For months, they said, armed extremists who were not from their area had been hiding out among the miners. They had imposed their laws and threatened to kill anyone who spoke about their presence. Zakaria Sawadogo, 43, fled with his family to the capital.

"There used to be traders who would come buy our gold and re-sell it," he said. "But the terrorists were robbing them as they had lots of money." The traders stopped coming, he said.

To the south, in the town of Bartiebouougou, a mason who spent four months on a construction project in a mining area there said the pits were teeming with fighters.

"They were more heavily armed than the soldiers," the mason said. "They controlled everything."

The mason said the gunmen hired some miners to dig for them, buying gold from others. Sometimes the Islamist interlopers gave food to the poor, he said; other times they were ruthless. "We saw two people who were killed for selling alcohol," he said.

Hidden in the hay Gold flows out of Burkina Faso across porous land borders in cars and buses. It is strapped to cattle or hidden in bales of hay attached to bicycles. Miners at Kabonga, in an area near Pama reserved for herders to raise their livestock, said buyers included locals and traders from neighbouring countries, including Ghana, Togo, Benin and Niger.

Neighbouring Togo, a country which produces little gold from its own mines, is a smuggling hub.

In recent years, the United Arab Emirates - a global centre for gold refining and trading - has established itself as the main destination for gold from Togo, declaring imports of more than 7 tonnes (worth \$262 million) in 2018, according to U.N. trade data. In turn, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Switzerland are the main takers of gold from the UAE.

In early 2019, international officials pressured Togo to act to prevent gold-smuggling, fearing the trade was driving conflict in the region, a person with direct knowledge of the initiative told Reuters. Nestor Adjehoun, director of development and control in Togo's ministry of mines, said gold trading had been suspended there since the beginning of the year to make the trade more transparent. Togo's 2018 export figures were not available in U.N. data.

Gold isn't always carried through neighbouring countries. Those with connections and means can smuggle it out of Burkina Faso via Ouagadougou's international airport, one former gold smuggler with years of experience in West Africa told Reuters.

Gold-trafficking networks, aided by corrupt officials, are funneling gold out of the country by air, Evariste Somda, a top Burkina Faso customs officer, said in response. The flow is depriving the country of millions of dollars in revenue and customs officers are trying to stem it, he said.

The International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, last week called on the UAE to tighten up regulations to prevent the gold trade being used to finance terrorism. A senior UAE official said the country maintains robust regulation in line with international standards.

Operation Firestorm

Burkina Faso's government has tried to contain the militants.

In January, miners said, the military dropped leaflets from helicopters telling miners to leave sites around Kabonga. The next month, the military said its forces had killed around 30 fighters in airstrikes and ground operations in the area.

The government banned small-scale mining across the east and much of northern Burkina Faso, and government troops mounted a six-week offensive, dubbed Operation Firestorm, to restore state authority in the east. On April 12, General Moise Miningou, head of Burkina Faso's armed forces, declared at a news conference: "Our mission was accomplished."

In the north, the government launched a similar effort, Operation Uprooting, in May, which is still ongoing.

But more than 500 deaths have been recorded in violence linked to jihadist groups in both regions since June.

As of September, Islamist fighters occupied at least 15 mines in the east of the country, giving them direct control over production and sales, said Mahamadou Savadogo, a security consultant and former Burkinabe gendarme who is researching the insurgency.

Despite government bans, mining continues in areas where Islamists operate. In October, 20 people were killed in an attack by suspected jihadists on an informal gold-mining site in the northern province of Soum, security sources said.

Today, it is unclear who controls Kabonga, the mine near the wildlife-rich reserve by the Sahel.

"The Kabonga forest is immense," Security Minister Ousseni Compaore told Reuters in June. "We cannot exclude the idea that some might have pulled back and hidden so they can return later."



POWER: An artisanal miner holds a gold nugget at an unlicensed mine in Gaoua, Burkina Faso. REUTERS

BUSINESS



Femi Young, founder and CEO of Total Outsourcing Solutions.

PLUTO-CLASS

Kenyans splurge millions on purchase of citizenship in Europe and Caribbeans

NAIROBI

For Kenya's super rich, having a second or third passport is becoming the new luxury. Most of the very wealthy are past the stage of acquiring products that signal status and moved to services that offer comfort and the best quality of life that money can buy.

For now, this is buying residence rights or citizenship in another country, where a billionaire can easily travel with his private jet, without bothering to stand in line at immigration counters to get a visa.

Experts that help the wealthy get citizenship and residency in about 20 countries say that more affluent people, including Kenyans, are actively looking for an additional country they can call home, just as they would buy exclusive second and third holiday houses out of the country. "More Kenyans are seeking EU or Caribbean passports," said Armand Arton, the founder and CEO of Arton Capital, a company that specialises in investor programmes for residence and citizenship.

As wealth in Africa rises, foreigners are seeking citizenships in the region as rich Africans also look to have a second home in Europe. "In Africa, top markets are South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Egypt. South Africans prefer Portugal, the US and Malta. Nigerians prefer Cyprus, which is the most expensive, and has the best investment programme. They also like the Caribbean countries especially Antigua and Barbuda. People from Ivory Coast prefer Canada and Montenegro," explains Armand, adding that for African business people, he would recommend the EU countries such as Malta, Portugal and Montenegro.

Is it important to have a second or third passport?

In a tough global economy, and to diversify investments in 'safe havens', a second or third citizenship is a highly sought-after commodity because it provides an exit strategy in cases of political and economic turmoil.

According to Andrew Amoils, the head of research at New World Wealth, a market research group based in South Africa, a number of governments are also targeting globally mobile wealth. "Some countries are actively enticing wealthy individuals to relocate with favourable tax regimes, while others are introducing overseas buyer taxation on residential purchases. In emerging markets, growing economic risk could boost demand for such schemes as money is channelled to safer havens," he said.

Marios Rafail, the head of Henley & Partners Geneva office said investment migration has grown and has become a \$26 billion (Sh2.6 trillion) industry. "Governments are competing with each other to attract foreign direct investment through the citizenship and residence by investment programmes as they generate wider levels of both

foreign investments and incremental income," explained Marios.

Henley & Partners advises wealthy individuals and governments on residence and citizenship planning. "In the last three years, we see that Kenya, Nigeria, followed by South Africa coming up as the key dominant countries for an alternative citizenship through investment," he said.

"But as a region, North Africa (mainly Egypt, Algeria, and Libya) dominates the market. Each country for each own reasons: Nigeria and Kenya is mostly for visa free access purposes. In South Africa, there is a wave of entrepreneurs who want to conduct business in Europe and seek such flexibility through these programmes. Finally, North African clients – always interrelated to the Middle East, are looking for a safety pillar."

Today, there are over 10 citizenship by investment programmes. Private clients globally, including the younger entrepreneurs are seeking such solutions for different reasons. "Some are looking for global mobility, security (plan B) due to the current geopolitical situation, family planning, to increase investment and raise capital," he added.

Armand said that the citizenship by investment business is growing due to the increase in political instability, especially in the Middle East and other developing countries.

Rich Africans

Africa accounts for almost 10 percent of their services with the largest demand coming from China with 60 percent of the company's clients. The Middle East follows, with 20 percent of the clientele. Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) brings 10 percent of the clientele.

"There is an increase of ultra high net worth individuals and the high net worth individuals in developing countries who lack wide mobility. Interestingly, many private jet owners lack the passports with visa free access and they have to do the normal lengthy visa application process," he said. Holders of the African passports are familiar with the constant challenges of acquiring visas to several countries including South Africa and Nigeria. The visa process is often tedious and sometimes unsuccessful.

Femi Young, founder and CEO of Total Outsourcing Solutions, who is helping rich Nigerians get a second citizenship in Malta said having an additional passport gives one access at any time, which is crucial especially if an individual comes from a country that has political and economic instability.

"Many business people have lost huge deals due to lack of visas or visas were acquired late. These programmes give you the ability to access better education for your children, global business opportunities, healthcare and leisure. It is all dependent on the needs of the client," said Femi.

RELIEF

Agricultural Council of Tanzania applauds stand by JPM on setting of price of maize

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

The agricultural Council of Tanzania has applauded President John Magufuli's public declaration that the state will not intervene against market forces to bring down maize prices which have skyrocketed thanks to rising demand.

Mid this week, President Magufuli refused to intervene against free market forces saying his administration will never interfere with prices of farm produce and thus backing Minister for Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga's recent public statement on the issue.

Addressing Morogoro residents while on his way to Dodoma, Dr Magufuli said his administration will never fix prices for farm produce instead it will let the market decide which will be in the interest of smallholder farmers.

ACT Chairperson, Jacqueline Mkindi said President Magufuli's position backing Minister Hasunga's earlier public statement, is a brave decision by the head of state that will go down into history books as the best move in the interest of millions of farmers.

Mkindi who is the CEO of TAHA Group, argued that in the past, excessive government intervention against market forces for agricultural produce had ended up artificially driving down crop prices and thus unfairly undermining smallholder farmers hence maintaining poverty in rural areas.

"We as the voice of farmers in the country, feel that this decision will address the historical injustice for agrarians. Indeed, it will save our bleeding souls," noted the ACT Chair who is credited with singlehandedly developing a horticulture sector from its humble beginning to a money minting industry earning the country an average of US\$764 million in exports



Agriculture Council of Tanzania's Chairperson, Jacqueline Mkindi. File photo.

annually.

Making an economic sense of the decision, Mkindi who is an Alumnae of Sokoine University of Agriculture said, if executed unwaveringly, it will rapidly spur agricultural investments, encourage innovation and help build a stronger middle class, assure the country of food security and pull millions of the rural farmers out of abject

poverty.

In her statement, the ACT boss whose mission is to enable Tanzania get a lion's share of US\$1 trillion Africa's food and agribusiness market come 2030, argued that the decision is a crucial step in defending the interests of millions of farmers in commercial farming and more so on free market principles.

"As ACT, we sincerely

commend the government on its decision of allowing free market principles for farm produce by rejecting to set indicative prices on maize. This clearly proves that it harbours the good intention of supporting poor smallholder farmers," Mkindi stressed.

She further noted that the ACT's board of directors is highly satisfied with the impressive performance

of President Magufuli's administration and, in this case, the Agriculture Minister who has, in recent days, been heard publicly defending farmers' interests.

Hasunga was quoted early this week as announcing the government's position not to interfere with hiked maize prices in the market, the first such position by a setting government in several decades.

Hasunga's Deputy, Hussein Bashe is also on record rejecting any attempt by the government to come up with indicative prices for maize and maize flour, the nation's staple, as consumers complain against hiked market prices thanks to depleted supplies.

"As ACT, we are deeply comforted, on behalf of farmers, to hear statements of this kind being made by our leaders," the ACT Chair cum Taha Group CEO added.

On her part, the ACT's Executive Director, Janet Bitegeko seconded her boss' arguments saying the country's maize production currently stands at six million metric tonnes with a target to hit eight million tonnes come 2021, which needs smallholder farmers' commitment.

"If farmers will enjoy fair prices for three or four years consecutively uninterrupted, there's a possibility of achieving the production of 15 million tonnes of maize per annum in a few years time because the majority of famers will be motivated," Bitegeko noted.

FEEL GOOD

Man gets job after pushing trolleys by day and secretly studying engineering by night



Mitchells Plain resident Steven Arendse earned his living by pushing trolleys for a supermarket six days a week.

JOHANNESBURG

To support his family, Steven Arendse was pushing trolleys for a supermarket six days a week. What his loved ones did not know was that he had a secret life by night - studying mechanical engineering online so he could improve his career prospects.

His "secret" recently came out when he received news for which he had been waiting. Not only had he obtained his qualification, but he had also secured a permanent job in his chosen field.

Arendse, 27, who has since put in his notice at Giant Hyper in Epping so that he can start his new job, laughs as he tells News24 about his journey. "When I started I had nothing and any job was good enough for me. I was glad to have something to provide for my children," he shares.

"I didn't care that people might look down on me. I was doing it for my girlfriend and my boys, who are six- and one-and-a-half-years old." While grateful for his trolley job, the Mitchells Plain resident aspired to do and be more.

Studying in the garden After doing some research online, he found a mechanical engineering course that a college was offering and decided to sign up. "I would stay up every night till 12, 1am, 2am to work on my course on my cell-phone. I must admit my eyes did burn [looking at the small screen]."

He says he studied in private and his girlfriend, sister and mother were none the wiser. "I was doing it outside. They thought I was working in the garden at night," he chuckles. "They were so shocked when they found out."

Arendse was called to complete his practical but admits that when it

went silent after that, he worried he might have fallen for a scam. It was an absolute relief when he eventually heard he could fetch his N2 certificate from Northlink College and that the monthly instalments for his course had not been in vain. With papers in hand, he then went for an interview and secured a fixed maintenance permanent job in Stikland. He is expected to start there soon.

'An inspiration'

Jasmine Arnold, who often shops at Giant because she is in the party industry, shared Arendse's story online after he told her he had found another job. "I literally had goosebumps by the time he was done. It was like, you know when your jaw drops? I have seen him a few times and he has never been rude and always greets me and is very friendly," she says.

"It's such an inspiration. I come from Salt River where people constantly take the wrong path, take drugs. And here is this man who made an improvement all on his own, even though he doesn't have all the tools yet."

Arnold says it is common to judge others but everyone has a story to tell. "We need to speak to people that we bump into every day, including someone who opens the door or who pushes the trolley." Now that Arendse has a bit more time on his hands, he plans to rest a bit and enjoy time with his family before studying further.

"I want to do my N3 and go a bit higher so I can work on gearboxes. Not now but as time goes on," he shares. Asked if he had read the positive comments about his journey online, Arendse becomes shy and says he has not but plans to. "I am proud. I hope my life turns out the way I want it. I don't want to give up."

HONESTY

Former beggar's kind act to help motorist whose vehicle broke down wins him a job

JOHANNESBURG

When motorists pull up next to Sibongiseni Nkosi in Auckland Park, he smiles, waves and asks them about their day. But unlike a month ago, he does not have to beg them for food or small change.

Instead, 22-year-old Nkosi is proudly earning his keep as a trainee petrol attendant to support himself and gran at home. And it is all thanks to his kind act of helping motorist Vic Campher push his broken down car two weeks ago - something he never thought would turn his life around.

Campher, whose hobby is classic cars, told News24 he was driving his old Jaguar down Kingsway Avenue when it broke down and he was stuck. "It was 18:30 and getting dark. I was worried about how to get back but then Tom, which is Sibongiseni's street name, came running along and started helping me."

Campher said they had to push the car back to the Volvo dealership where he is a managing director. "He had to push the car quite far. He never asked questions and kept on pushing. He gave the best he could and we got the car back and locked it up."



Sibongiseni Nkosi (C) with his supervisor Innocent and Vic Campher, the motorist he helped.

"I thought let's give him a chance"

In chatting with Nkosi, Campher recognised him as

he would beg at the nearby traffic lights. He gave him R50 and a burger and chips but also got to thinking about

the wise words of Springbok coach Rassie Erasmus who recently said there were lots of societal problems in the

country and that real pressure was not having a job.

"He said he was off the glue and clean. I thought let's give him a chance and see if he can clean up." Nkosi rushed to his Vrededorp home to get his ID, something his granny was apparently reluctant to hand over because she thought he wanted to sell it.

She has taken care of him since he was 3 years old. His mom died when he was young and he does not know where his dad is. Campher, whose family also owns the Engen petrol station on the same premises, then gave him a uniform, a trainee bib and an opportunity to show what he was made of.

Life on the street

And so far, he has been impressed. "He's a real nice chap and he's done so well. The amazing thing is that people who got used to him being on the street corner started asking where he is and what happened to him. Then they found out he is working here."

Nkosi recalled that he was looking for money to buy food the evening he met "father" [Campher]. "I didn't expect the job," he said softly. "Life was bad because when it was raining, I was there on the street. When it was cold,

when it was hot, every time I was there because I needed to buy something."

He said his gran was happy that he could now provide for them. "I don't want to go back on the street because there is no life. You smoke too much and you are killing yourself." Nkosi's supervisor, Innocent, told News24 he almost cried when he saw him at work that morning in his uniform and was asked to train him.

Tears

"Sometimes he would come here and ask for something. Now if you see him, you would be impressed. "He has a lot of energy and runs up and down here now. I am scared he might even be running after my supervisor job," he joked. Innocent said the whole team was fully behind Nkosi. And tears are the order of the day.

"A lot of customers just get out the car and say they are proud of you. Those who recognise him - they cried their tears out." Campher is in the process of setting up a bank account for Nkosi. And from Friday, he will be a fully-fledged petrol attendant when his trainee bib comes off. Nkosi said: "I am feeling happy because I am not going the way I was going."



An example of a critically endangered tree species from Tanzania.

WARNING

A third of tropical African plants face sure extinction

MAPUTO

A third of tropical African plants are on the path to extinction, according to a new assessment.

Much of western Africa, Ethiopia, and parts of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the hardest hit regions, standing to lose more than 40% of their richness of plants. Species at risk include trees, shrubs, herbs and woody vines.

Threats include deforestation, population growth and climate change, the scientists said. "Biodiversity provides countless benefits to humans and losing diversity jeopardises our future," said lead researcher Dr Thomas Couvreur of the French National Institute for Sustainable Development.

Loss of biodiversity will be particularly problematic in tropical Africa, "a region of incredible diversity but with major social and political challenges and expected rapid population growth over the next decades," he added.

The findings of the study, published in *Science Advances*, are based on a revised method for assessing extinction risk. Official assessments of extinction are recorded in the Red List of Threatened Species, published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN.

So far, almost nine in 10 mammals and two-thirds of birds have been assessed, but less than 8% of vascular plants (flowering plants and most other plants, excluding mosses and algae). The researchers used a similar, but more speedy, method to assess the likely extinction risk of more than 20,000 plant species.

They found that 33% of the species are potentially threatened with extinction, and another third of species are likely rare, potentially becoming threatened in the near future. This is mainly due to human activities such as deforestation, land-use changes, population growth, economic development, and climate change, they said.

COMPETITIVENESS

SA has some of the cheapest Viagra and Xanax in the world, new research shows

JOHANNESBURG

Erectile dysfunction medication Viagra and anxiety medication Xanax is considerably cheaper in South Africa compared to the rest of the world, a new study by digital medicine platform Medbelle found.

Medbelle's 2019 Medicine Price Index showed that Viagra is 76.40%, and Xanax 10.83% cheaper in South Africa compared to the rest of the world. Out of the 50 countries surveyed, only Argentina (81.42%), Egypt (89.24%), and Ireland (90.57%) had cheaper Viagra than South Africa compared to the world average.

Meanwhile, Viagra in the United States (US) was the most expensive at 660.24% more than the world average, followed by Taiwan with 152.18% more expensive, and Switzerland with 132.69% more. The study was compiled by converting local medicine prices to US dollar amounts, and then making a comparison. China had the cheapest Xanax at 83.91% cheaper than the world average, followed by Bulgaria with 78.55% and Thailand with 77.06% cheaper.

The US once again had the most expensive Xanax at a whopping 2568.75% more expensive than the world average, followed by Russia with 1002.85% more expensive, and Mexico with 449.06% more expensive. Overall, South Africa's medication was 53.72% cheaper than the world average - the sixth cheapest in the study.

Thailand's medicine was the cheapest at 93.93% below the world average, followed by Kenya with 93.76% cheaper and Malaysia with 90.80% cheaper. The US had the most expensive medication 306.82% above the world average, followed by Germany with 125.64% above the world average and the United Arab Emirates with 122.03% above the world average.

INNOVATION

Transform or die - the value and purpose of digital transformation

NAIROBI

It is not enough for business to simply stick to the fundamental products and services they have always offered. In the digital age it's disrupt or die.

According to the IDC, digital transformation is essential for an organisation to adapt quickly to changing markets. Business opportunities are fleeting, the IDC said, and if your business does not have the agility to seize them, your competitor will.

The IDC said that digitally transformed organisations can react quickly to changing market dynamics, and adapt their strategies quickly and on-demand. Companies that are not transformed will miss out. One example of this, are cellular network operators around the world.

Not too long ago, offering mobile voice and messaging services was a game changer. Then came mobile data. Now these are simply the expected functions of a network. "They are fundamental, but not enough" said Lu Baoqiang, Huawei vice-president

for the Southern Africa Region. To remain relevant, businesses have to adapt to new technologies and transform.

Huawei defines digital transformation as the application of new digital capabilities including tools, platforms and systems to processes, operations, product design, and services. Baoqiang said that the aim of such a transformation is three-fold: increase revenue, improve efficiency and decrease costs, and enhance the customer experience.

"When we talk about digital transformation, we have to realise it's all about how you can engage your customers," said Baoqiang. While new technology is essential to a digital transformation, it must be in support of the primary purpose of the exercise - making things better for your customers.

Baoqiang said that, broadly, there are two forms digital transformation can take. The first is where existing operations are streamlined using new technologies. The second is where a business expands



Tourists enjoy the view of Nyungwe National Park while on the canopy walkway.

its offerings into new digital frontiers.

Huawei has partnered with several mobile network operators in Africa in their digital transformation, Baoqiang said. One example is Safaricom in Kenya. With

Safaricom in Kenya, Huawei has helped implement financial technology in the form of services like M-PESA and Fuliza. These have unlocked a whole new digital economy in the country.

Huawei and Safaricom have jointly received the "Business of Tomorrow" award for the most innovative service at AfricaCom 2019. The award recognises the two companies for offering

Fuliza, a mobile money overdraft service that runs on the M-PESA platform. Fuliza lets users with insufficient funds in their M-PESA accounts borrow money to complete their M-PESA transactions.

The service was launched in January 2019, and has been gaining popularity in Kenya where Safaricom has over 23.6 million M-PESA users. Kenyans transacted over KES 6.2 billion in the first month of Fuliza's launch. Fuliza has disbursed KES 140 billion since January, processing 13 loans per second. The companies say that the service has a very low default rate due to its purposeful nature.

Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. With integrated solutions across four key domains - telecom networks, IT, smart devices, and cloud services, the Chinese company has shown commitment to bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.

INVESTMENT

Italian firm to open food innovation hub in Rwanda

KIGALI

Seed&Chips, an Italy-based firm focused on using technology to improve food value system, has announced plans to set up a food innovation hub in Rwanda with investment estimated at between \$50 million and \$100 million.

Speaking during a news conference to announce the Global Food Innovation Summit slated for November 3-5, 2020 in Kigali, Marco Gualtieri, Founder and Chairman of Seed&Chips said that in total, the company will open 10 food innovation hubs in 10 countries in

Africa, but starting from Rwanda.

The firm runs Global Food Innovation Summit, which is considered the leading food innovation summit in the world. Gualtieri said that the company has launched a \$1 billion call to set up several of such hubs on the continent.

The 10 beneficiary countries are Rwanda, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola, Morocco, South Africa, and Egypt. "We want to open the first one in Rwanda in one year if we get the right place, and other countries will follow," he said.

"The idea is that we could invest between \$50 million and \$100 million in each country because we think we can create many jobs. The goal is to create thousands of new jobs - at least 30 [thousands] - in each country," he said.

The food industry, he said, "is the most important, the biggest industry in the world in terms of occupation, and in terms of money. So, we are just working on innovating this industry." For instance, according to information from the World Bank, Africa's food market is predicted to reach \$1 trillion per

year by 2030 from \$313 billion in 2013.

The hubs will be involved in technologies in food production, precision agriculture - which Gualtieri said is expected to be a multi-billion-dollar industry, and food processing among others. Gualtieri said that some technologies or focuses will be in some countries depending on the needs. "We want these hubs to be (interconnected) so that people in the recipient countries can benefit from them through learning different skills," he said.

Speaking to The New Times, Régis Umugiraneza, co-founder of the Kigali-based CARL Group, an agribusiness company created by young university graduates, welcomed the idea of having the hub in Rwanda saying it will be of great benefit especially to young entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector.

"Sometimes young people's start-ups fail because they lack the know-how as their products fall short of standards and lack competitiveness on the market," he said.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The luxury pet hotel owner who proved the doubters wrong

ABU DHABI

When Afra Al Dhaheri declared that she wanted to open a luxury hotel for pets, not everybody took her seriously. So she hit the streets of Abu Dhabi, getting strangers to fill in hundreds of surveys, to prove there was demand.

She drew up a business plan and asked the Khalifa Fund, which supports Emirati entrepreneurs, for a large loan. Initially, she said, fund managers were "surprised" at her idea and offered only a tenth of what she asked for.

But nearly eight years on, she employs almost 40 staff, has established an award-winning veterinary clinic and is planning to set up a second, far larger operation from a farm. "A lot of people expected me to last a year or two," Ms Al Dhaheri said. "They just thought I was some spoiled, young, rich

Emirati who wanted to show off her hobby. But I'm not that type of person, I was very determined.

"When I started the business people didn't realise I had taken out a loan, so it was a big responsibility." After further discussions, the Khalifa Fund was persuaded to provide close to the Dh3 million she had applied for. With support from her older sister, who also took out a loan to help, Ms Al Dhaheri was able to open Cloud9 Pet Hotel and Care from a villa in Khalifa City.

It is a labour of love for the 33-year-old, who also offers pet grooming, training, dog walking, pet sitting and even a service to help people overcome animal phobias. As well as being trusted to care for customers' pets, she has taken in countless mistreated or abandoned animals that she tries to find stable homes. The centre has become a sanctuary for



Afra Al Dhaheri, UAE businesswoman and animal rights activist, at cloud 9 pet hotel.

animals including ducks, reptiles and exotic birds that Ms Al Dhaheri did not have

the heart to turn away. Between 70 and 80 rescue animals are currently being

care for, in addition to 'day care' guests and those filling the 92 dog and 27 cat

hotel rooms - which are usually close to capacity. Among them is Meeko, the racoon who was left by an owner who no longer wanted him. He has spent so long playing with the cats that staff believe he now thinks he is one.

Charlie, a chocolate Labrador, likes to collect bricks. While around 25 other dogs swamp Ms Al Dhaheri when she enters their large outdoor exercise pen, Charlie diligently guards his broken breeze block, barking at anyone who dares approach.

Yzma, a blue parrot, was booked into Cloud 9 by her owners while they went on a long holiday. But she fell in love with Kronk, a male of the same species. So now Yzma now lives at Cloud 9 too, with her old owners occasionally taking her home for a weekend.

Ms Al Dhaheri owns 13 dogs herself, nine of which come with her to work every

day. "It was 12, but I got another one last month," she says. "I live close by, and I have a big car." Asked where a pair of turtles came from, she shrugs. "People didn't want them and we had a plastic pool. We're building a pond for them."

When she took in a pregnant ferret, it had nine babies. Four were rehomed, and the rest are still there. There are now 13 Cloud 9 ferrets, fed an expensive diet of chicken livers and hearts. Her altruism has cost her money, Ms Al Dhaheri admits, and she is forced to turn some animals away.

"I have the responsibility of making sure my employees are secure and paying all the bills," she said. "When we say no it's not because we don't want to help. It breaks our heart." She is now looking into setting up a non-profit organisation to care for abandoned or unwanted animals, which would be

able to accept donations.

But despite the resources she spends on caring for animals with nowhere to go, the business is still performing. Her sister, and the Khalifa fund, have been paid back, and she is now looking to expand. Cloud 9 has even become a mini-tourist destination, with Ms Al Dhaheri building up a huge social media profile and many of her followers, especially children, turn up unannounced to meet her and the animals.

"My plan now is to buy a farm," she said, with room for pet pools, off-leash gardens, a cafe and more volunteering and community schemes. "It's just a matter of finding the right spot right," she said. "All the rescues are why it took us so long to decide to open another branch. But even if it takes another 10 years, as long as I am helping those animals, I am happy."

OUTSTANDING

Turkish Airlines: Record load factor in October 2019



Turkish Airlines planes parked at Istanbul International Airport.

ISTANBUL

Turkish Airlines, which has recently announced the passenger and cargo traffic results for October 2019, recorded 83.3% load factor in that month.

According to the October 2019 traffic results, total number of passengers carried increased by 1.9% to 6.6 million. Domestic load factor was 86.2% and international load factor was 82.9%.

International-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers) increased by 8.0%, and international passengers excluding the international to international transit passengers increased by 9.7% compared to the same period of last year. The total number of international passengers increased by 8.8% in October compared to same month of last year, which is the highest growth since the beginning of the year.

In October, the national flag carrier realized double digit increases in number of passengers in Middle East and Far East by 11.5% and 11.4%, respectively. In October, cargo/mail volume increased by 7.9%, compared to the same period of 2018. Main contributors to this growth in cargo or mail volume are Europe with 10.9%, Far East with 10.2%, and North America with 4.6% increase.

According to the January-October 2019 Traffic Results: During January-October 2019, the total number of passengers carried is around 63.1 million; During January-October 2019, total load factor reached 81.6%. International load factor was recorded as 80.9%, while domestic load factor reached 86.4%; and International-to-international transfer passengers carried increased by 4.3%. Cargo/mail carried during the first ten months of 2019 increased by 9.3% and reach to 1.3 million tons.

BIG BOOST

Prince of Wales to support fashion talent in new partnership with Yoox

LONDON

The Yoox Net-a-Porter Group (YNAP) has announced a major new project in conjunction with The Prince's Foundation, to help support emerging talent in the fashion industry. As part of this unique partnership, entitled the Modern Artisan Project, the two formidable organisations have come together with the aim of helping fashion students gain a vital first step into the hard-to-crack luxury market.

The initiative will task 12 students from Italy and Britain with designing and manufacturing a high-end capsule collection for both men and women, to be sold across all four YNAP companies: Net-a-Porter, The Outnet, Mr Porter and Yoox. Profits will go to support The Prince's Foundation.

Ambitious in scale, the project consists of two parts, the first of which will invite six students hand-picked from the prestigious

Politecnico di Milano in Italy to design the garments. To coincide with the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci this year, the students will draw on the Renaissance master's legacy as inspiration, reinterpreting elements and ideas into their final designs. As part of the process, the students will also have access to YNAP's invaluable market knowledge, and will be able to use data-driven insight to mould the collection to customers' wants.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	00:30 CNN International	6:00 HABARI	15:00 Mwangaza	21:30 Capital Prime News
MONDAY 18 Nov	WEDNESDAY 20 Nov	6:40 KumeKucha	16:00 The Great queen Seondok	22:00 Capchat rpt
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	7:30 HABARI	16:45 Igizo rpt: Utelezi	23:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 Habari	6:00 HABARI	8:00 KumeKucha Michezo	17:30 Kipindi cha kikiristo	Frid 22 Nov
6:40 KumeKucha	6:40 KumeKucha	8:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	06:00 Al Jazeera
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	09:00 KumeKucha Kishindo	18:15 Mapishi	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
8:00 KumeKucha Michezo	8:00 KumeKucha Michezo	9:30 Isidingo	18:30 Mizengwe rpt	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo	9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo	9:55 Habari za saa	18:45 Matukio ya wiki	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	10:00 Watoto wetu	19:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo	20:00 Habari	16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:55 Habari za saa	21:05 Biko	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:10 Mizengwe	17:30 Meza Huru
11:00 Jagina rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:30 Usafiri wako	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	18:00 Drive it
11:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok	11:55 Habari za saa	22:15 Bongo Movie: Identity card	19:30 Eco@Africa
11:55 Habari za saa	11:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot	20:00 Albu yako
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco		20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa		20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Dakika 45	13:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt		21:30 Capital Prime News
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:30 Habari za saa		22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
13:45 Sanaa na wasanii rpt	15:00 Meza huru	14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt		00:00 Al Jazeera
13:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto Wetu	14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost		Sat 23 Nov
14:00 Sanaa na wasanii rpt	17:00 The Base	14:55 Habari za saa		08:00 CNN International
14:15 Series rpt: The Slingshot	18:00 Jiji Letu	15:00 Meza huru -live		09:00 Drive It rpt
14:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mizengwe	16:30 Watoto Wetu		09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
15:00 Meza Huru	18:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo	17:00 The Base		10:00 Culinary delight rpt
15:30 Watoto Wetu	19:00 Ijue Sheria	17:30 Ibadaya ya kiislamu		10:30 Innovation rpt
17:00 The Base	19:30 Isidingo	18:00 Jiji Letu		11:00 Out n'about rpt
17:30 Jiji Letu	20:00 Habari	18:15 Mizengwe rpt		11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
18:00 Albu yako rpt	21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?	18:30 Shamba lulu		12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
18:15 Mapishi rpt	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	19:00 Uchumi na biashara		12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
18:30 Kesho leo	21:40 Ripoti Maam	19:30 Isidingo		13:00 Business edition rpt
19:00 Afiya ya Jamii	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	20:00 Habari		13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
19:30 Isidingo	23:00 Habari	20:00 Habari		14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
20:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	20:00 Habari		17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
21:05 Dakika 45	00:30 Al Jazeera	21:00 Habari		17:45 Bundesliga kick off
22:00 Insta Bet	2:00 CNN International	21:30 Habari		18:15 Capchat rpt
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost		22:00 Habari		18:30 Mizengwe
23:00 Habari		22:00 Habari		19:30 The Decor
23:30 The Base		23:00 The Base		20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
00:30 Al Jazeera		00:30 CNN International		21:00 Out n' About
02:00 CNN International				21:30 Movie: Madae's family reunion
TUESDAY 19 Nov	THURSDAY 21 Nov	SATURDAY 23 Nov	CAPITAL	23:00 Grapes of Justice rpt
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	Tues 19 Nov	01:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 Habari	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	06:00 Al Jazeera	Wed 20 Nov
6:40 KumeKucha	6:40 KumeKucha	6:40 KumeKucha	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	06:00 Al Jazeera
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:00 Habari	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
8:00 KumeKucha Michezo	8:00 KumeKucha Michezo	8:00 Al Jazeera	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Watoto wetu	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo	9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo	10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt	16:30 Capchat rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt
9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	10:45 Usafiri wako rpt	17:30 Meza huru	17:00 Innovation rpt
09:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	11:15 Shamba lulu rpt	19:00 Innovation	19:30 Out n'about rpt
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Igizo rpt: Utelezi	11:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	19:30 Jagina rpt	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
10:30 Shamsam za pwani	10:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	20:00 Habari	12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Igizo rpt: Utelezi	15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	20:00 Habari	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
11:00 Shamsam za pwani	11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ripoti Maalum	15:15 Igizo: Utelezi	20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?	13:00 Business edition rpt
11:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	16:00 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	21:30 Capital Prime	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt	14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Ijue Sheria	18:00 Jiji Letu	22:30 Eco@Africa	17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
12:30 Afiya ya jamii rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mapishi	23:00 Al Jazeera	17:45 Bundesliga kick off
12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Shangweka rpt	18:30 Jungu kuu		18:15 Capchat rpt
13:00 Uchumi na biashara	13:30 Tanzania yetu	19:00 Sanaa na wasanii		19:15 Mizengwe
13:30 Shamba lulu rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019		19:30 The Decor
13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	20:00 Habari		20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	14:55 Habari za saa	21:00 Shangweka rpt		21:00 Out n' About
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru	21:30 Kesho leo		21:30 Movie: Madae's family reunion
15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja		23:00 Grapes of Justice rpt
16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo		01:00 Al Jazeera
17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	23:00 Isidingo rpt		Sun 24 Nov
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	01:30 CNN International		08:00 CNN International
18:15 The great queen Seondok	18:30 Jagina rpt			09:00 In good shape
18:55 Jarida la wanawake	19:00 Usafiri wako			10:00 Capchat rpt
19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo			10:30 Sports Gazette rpt
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari			11:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
21:00 Tanzania yetu	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja			12:00 Jagina rpt
21:30 Chetu ni chetu	01:30 CNN International			12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost				13:00 In good shape rpt
23:00 Habari				13:30 Series rpt: Godwin
23:30 The Base				15:15 Albu yako
				15:30 Drive it rpt
				16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
				16:45 Mizengwe rpt
				17:00 The Decor rpt
				17:30 Meza huru
				19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
				19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
				20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
				21:00 Shift
				21:15 Capchat live
				22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
				00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Mountain of impeachment evidence beyond dispute

WASHINGTON

AFTER two weeks of riveting public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, there is a mountain of evidence that is now beyond dispute.

Trump explicitly ordered US government officials to work with his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani on matters related to Ukraine, a country deeply dependent on Washington's help to fend off Russian aggression.

The president pushed Ukraine to launch investigations into political rivals, leaning on a discredited conspiracy theory his own advisers disputed.

And both American and Ukrainian officials feared that Trump froze a much-needed package of military aid until Kyiv announced it was launching those probes.

Those facts were confirmed by a dozen witnesses, mostly staid career government officials who served both Democratic and Republican administrations. They relied on emails, text messages and contemporaneous notes to back up their recollections from the past year.

Stitched together, their hours of televised testimony paint a portrait of an American president willing to leverage his powerful office to push a foreign government for personal political help.

That alone has many Democrats on

the brink of voting to impeach Trump before the end of the year, potentially pushing toward a trial in the Senate.

Yet the witness accounts left one prominent hole that offered a lifeline for Trump and his GOP allies. None of the witnesses could personally attest that Trump directly conditioned the release of the US\$400 million in military aid on a Ukrainian announcement of investigations into former Vice President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee.

Some Republicans suggested that even if that link could be made, it wouldn't be enough for them to support impeaching Trump and removing him from office. And without that link, Trump's wall of support among GOP lawmakers seems formidable.

"I have not heard evidence proving the president committed bribery or extortion," said Rep Will Hurd, a moderate Republican from Texas who is retiring from Congress next year and would be a bellwether for any signs of weakness in GOP support for the president. Like some other Republicans, he made clear he found Trump's actions "inappropriate" – just not impeachable.

Democrats now face the prospect of a House impeachment vote split along party lines. That would mirror public polling, which shows Americans divided over whether Trump should be impeached for his dealings with Ukraine



President Donald Trump

and removed from office.

With the public hearings complete, Democrats are now urgently plotting the way forward with a limited blueprint in just the nation's fourth impeachment proceeding.

They must first decide whether to begin drafting articles of impeachment based on what has been revealed to this point or to launch a long-shot bid for testimony from additional witnesses who could provide more direct evidence of Trump's actions.

There are indeed officials who would likely be able to fill in some of the blanks. Democrats have requested testimony from acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney and former National Security Adviser John Bolton, men who spent hours alongside Trump in the West Wing and whose names popped up repeatedly in the recollections of other officials.

In a pointed moment in Thursday's testimony, former White House national security official Fiona Hill said she believes "those who have information that the Congress deems relevant have a legal and moral obligation to provide it."

Yet it appears unlikely that Bolton and Mulvaney will tell their stories to Congress. Citing executive privilege, both men have filed court cases to determine if they must appear. And House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday that she didn't want the next steps in the inquiry to be "at the mercy of a court."

That's fine with many Democrats who say the bar for impeachment has already been cleared through the methodical case built over the past two weeks. The diplomats and national security officials testified that they repeatedly raised alarms over the administration's dealings with Ukraine and described urgent efforts to help leaders in Kyiv boost their standing with Trump in order to secure the military aid.

William Taylor, the top American diplomat in Kyiv who opened the hearings, vividly cast the security assistance as a matter of life or death for Ukrainian soldiers in a hot war with Russia. He said he was left deeply unsettled by the prospect of the Trump administration abandoning American partners abroad.

Lt Col Alexander Vindman, a White House Ukraine adviser who testified in his Army uniform bedecked with medals, said he was shaken as he heard Trump ask Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Biden and the DNC in the July 25 phone call that launched the impeachment probe. Vindman, whose family fled Ukraine when he was 3, was forced to defend himself against charges from Trump allies that he had divided loyalties.

And U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland made clear the effort to extract investigations from Ukraine wasn't a secret within the administration. He declared, "Everyone was in the loop."

Agencies

China eyes convergence of advanced manufacturing and services industry

CHINA aims to cultivate a batch of enterprises, platforms and pilot zones which excel in the in-depth integration of advanced manufacturing and the services industry by 2025.

The National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planner, together with 14 other related ministries and departments, on Friday, November 15, issued a document pushing for further integration of advanced manufacturing and the modern services industry.

The moves come at a time when the services industry accounts for over 50 percent of the GDP of the world's second-largest economy, and when the central government is placing repeated emphasis on manufacturing, with advanced manufacturing as its key driver.

The document calls for development in sectors such as smart factories, the Industrial Internet of Things, smart supply chain management and full life cycle management.

For instance, the country aims to replace traditional cars with smart ones, tap the data which they generate, and use it to provide support to the improvement of car manufacturing, city planning and grid improvement.

The document said that leading companies or areas heralding this trend will be given, based on commercial principles, favorable financial resources over the mid and long-term. Entities will also be supported by the facilitation of bond issuance, listing and access to other financing tools.

Global Times



Staff from China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) introduced the 5G unmanned road construction to the audience.

Putin to hold customary year-end news conference Dec 19 – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will hold a customary year-end news conference on December 19, the Kremlin's press service has said. Accreditation for the event has been announced.



"The Presidential Press and Information Office's Department of Accreditation and Briefings is beginning accreditation for Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual news conference," the press service announced in a news release yesterday.

The press service said that "accreditation applications will be accepted from Russian mass media having Roskomnadzor [the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology, and Mass Media] registration and foreign journalists with Russian Foreign Ministry accreditation."

The accreditation deadline is December 5, 17:00 hours Moscow time. The accreditation procedure is to be held only on the website www.kremlin.ru.

The forthcoming news conference will be Putin's 15th since 2001. On all previous occasions the head of state answered media questions for several hours in a live broadcast. The event was invariably the focus of attention of mass media and the public at large.

The first news conference in 2001 was also the shortest one (1 hour and 35 minutes). The longest one in 2008 lasted for 4 hours and 40 minutes. Starting from 2004 all news conferences continued for more than three hours. The duration depends on the president.

Last year's presidential news conference was on December 20. It lasted 3 hours and 43 minutes. Putin answered questions from 53 mass media outlets. Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier described Putin's news conferences as an unprecedented way of briefing the media and society on the current situation and the results of the outgoing year.

"There's no stage direction involved, it's obvious," Peskov noted. Putin has appeared at annual news conferences each year since 2001, except for the period of his premiership of May 2008 - May 2012. He resumed the tradition of such events after his election for a six-year presidential term in 2012.

Agencies

High-speed railway makes travel more convenient, brings tourism boom to Xinjiang

THE Lanzhou-Xinjiang high-speed railway, which has been in operation for five years, has brought travel convenience for local people and brought a tourism boom to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The line, which connects Lanzhou, the capital city of north-west China's Gansu Province, with Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang, is the first long-distance high-speed line in China's Western region.

Since its opening on November 16, 2014, the railway's Xinjiang section has safely transported 30.75 million passengers, playing an important role in promoting coordi-

nated economic development and convenient travel, according to a statement China Railway sent to the Global Times on Monday, November 18.

A local resident said the rail link enables him to travel between his workplace in Urumqi to his home of Kumul - a distance of 597.9 kilometers - in just two and a half hours.

Daily services on the Xinjiang section have risen from the initial 6.5 round trips to 43 now, of which 15 are general-speed trains, the statement read.

The rail line has driven a tourism boom, as domestic and foreign visitors have come to the region



Attendants and passengers celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Lanzhou-Xinjiang high-speed railway over the weekend. The 1,776-km line transported 30.75 million passengers during the period.

through the railway.

From January to October this year, Xinjiang received more than 201 million tourists, up 42.6 percent year-on-year, while tourism income reached 341.73 billion yuan (\$48.7 billion), an increase of 43.4 percent, both hitting new highs, according to the website of the Xinjiang regional government.

The length of railways operating in Xinjiang stands at 6,568 kilometers, and it is expected to reach 9,126 kilometers by 2021. The railway system will cover more areas in Xinjiang in the future, said China Railway.

Global Times

Dispute between Japan and South Korea overshadows G20 meetings

NAGOYA, Japan

JAPAN seized the last event of its G20 presidency yesterday to reject a South Korean warning about radiation from the ruined Fukushima nuclear plant as a dispute between the neighbors threatened to overshadow the meetings.

Foreign ministers from the Group of 20 (G20) nations gathered in the central Japanese city of Nagoya for two days of talks, just as an intelligence-sharing pact between Japan and South Korea is set to expire.

In a sign of the discord, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had yet to officially confirm whether she would attend, although a diplomatic source told Reuters she was expected

to be arrived in Nagoya later yesterday.

Relations between Japan and South Korea, both US allies, have been upended by a dispute over history that has spilled into trade and other areas.

South Korea has voiced concern about radioactive contamination from Japan's Fukushima plant, devastated by a 2011 earthquake and tsunami, but Japan dismissed the worry.

"Go tell your Korean friends it is not true," one Japanese government official said as she handed out a Korean-language brochure entitled "To Eliminate Groundless Rumours", which said fish and agricultural produce from Fukushima were safe.

South Korea is set to let an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan lapse



South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha

on Saturday over their feud, defying US pressure to maintain an important element of trilateral security cooperation in Asia.

A senior South Korean presidential adviser said on Thursday talks were being held with Japan to reach a last-minute resolution.

The dispute has its roots in a decades-old disagreement over compensation for South Korean laborers forced to work at Japanese firms during World War Two.

It deepened this year when Japan restricted exports of chipmaking materials to South Korea, threaten-

ing to disrupt the global tech supply chain.

South Korea has fired back by raising concern about contamination from the Fukushima nuclear plant, on Japan's east coast.

The head of South Korea's nuclear safety agency has said Japan's reluctance to disclose information about the release of radioactive water from Fukushima has hampered efforts to control the impact.

Japan has responded by having its embassy in South Korea post data on its website to show there was little difference in radiation levels between the two countries.

2020 could see first election in 50 years - Somali official

UNITED NATIONS

THE head of Somalia's electoral commission told the UN Security Council on Thursday that 2020 is "a pivotal year" for the country whose citizens have been denied the right to political participation for 50 years and are hoping for an election with universal voting.

Halima Ismail Ibrahim said the country's political leaders must follow through on agreements since 2011 to holding a one-person, one-vote election as a replacement for "clan-based power-sharing." In presidential elections most recently in 2017, lawmakers were chosen by about 14,000 clan

delegates and they in turn elected a president.

Ibrahim (pictured) urged Somali leaders to treat one-person, one-vote elections in 2020-2021 "as a constitutional obligation and a national priority and provide the necessary political and financial support" for the National Independent Electoral Commission which she chairs to conduct an election with universal voting next year.

Since Somalia became an independent nation in 1960, she said, "universal suffrage elections have only been conducted twice, 1964 and 1969."

Later that year, a coup brought military leader Siad Barre to power. After three decades of civil war, extremist at-



tacks and famine, Somalia established a functioning transitional government in 2012 and has been working to rebuild stability.

But UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said the government must still tackle violent extremism, terrorism, armed conflict, political instability and corruption.

James Swan, the UN envoy for Soma-

lia, told the Security Council that "political dynamics" in the country are increasingly focusing on the 2020 election and the federal government has committed to adopting an amended federal constitution by June 2020, but significant challenges remain.

First and foremost, he pointed to the lack of "effective cooperation" between the central government and states for more than a year, which has become "an obstacle to achieving important national priorities."

"Somalia's leaders must act urgently to break this stalemate between the central and the federal member states in the interest of the nation," Swan said.

He also urged parliament to approve

the electoral code and amendments to the law on political parties in December, warning that any delay "puts the 2020 electoral calendar at risk."

Somalia's UN Ambassador Abukar Dahir Osman told the council the government is continuing to make preparations to hold one-person, one-vote elections in the last quarter of 2020. And it has made a commitment to pass the electoral law by the end of December and to conclude the review of the constitution by June 2020, he said. Osman said President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's meeting Wednesday with two former presidents "sends a strong signal of Somalia's commitment to ... truly historic, democratic elections next year."

He said the government recognizes it will not meet its goals and reform agenda without the cooperation and engagement of member states – but this requires "genuine reconciliation efforts and holding fair, transparent and inclusive elections" in the states.

"Where electoral process does not meet those criteria, the federal government will not recognize the outcomes and so should our partners," he said.

UN envoy Swan stressed that "insecurity remains a major challenge to progress in Somalia" because al-Qaida linked al-Shabab militants continue "to execute deadly terrorist attacks against civilians as well as military targets."

Agencies



A ship moors at Qingdao port on April 26, 2017. (Photo from CFP)

Foreign investors optimistic about China, no large-scale withdrawal - MOFCOM

FOREIGN investors remain optimistic about China, and there's been no large-scale withdrawal from the Chinese market, a senior official from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said on Monday.

New statistics showed that the actual use of foreign capital in China was 69.2 billion yuan (\$9.87 billion) in October, a year-on-year increase of 7.4 percent - a growth rate almost twice that of September.

In the first 10 months, the actual use of foreign capital increased by 6.6 percent year-on-year, and more than 33,000 new foreign-invested enterprises were established, data from the MOFCOM showed on Monday.

"Some export-oriented foreign-invested enterprises in some coastal areas in East China with relatively low added value have shifted production out of China, but that's a normal market practice," Zong Changqing, director of the department for foreign investment under the MOFCOM, told a press conference in Beijing on Monday.

On the whole, there has been no large-scale foreign capital withdrawal. Most foreign-invested enterprises still regard China as a target market, and they are very optimistic about their investment in China, Zong said.

Increasing investment, coming amid the prolonged trade war between China and the US, shows that foreign investors have recognized China's opening-up efforts, and its attractiveness has not been affected by outside uncertainties, Dong Dengxin, director of the Finance and Securities Institute at Wuhan University, told the Global Times on Monday.

"Foreign capital will continue to flow into high-end sectors. As China has been undergoing industrial upgrading, some low-productivity work

will continue to move out of China," Dong said.

China is striving to provide a well-designed protection mechanism for foreign companies. The MOFCOM said that China is now drafting a judicial interpretation of the Foreign Investment Law, and formulation of supporting regulations is in progress.

On November 7, China enacted 20 suggestions on further improving the utilization of foreign investment in four aspects to safeguard a more "fair, transparent and predictable" business environment for foreign-invested enterprises.

The document said that all local governments and departments should not discriminate against foreign-funded enterprises in aspects such as the release of government procurement information, and they also shall not restrict the ownership form, organizational form, equity structure or investor country, as well as products or service brands of suppliers.

Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, chairwoman of the German Chamber of Commerce in China, as well as the regional representative for Asia of Freudenberg Group, told the Global Times in a previous interview that German companies still see huge opportunities in China's market in light of its growing consumption power as well as increasing demand for foreign brands and quality.

A survey released by the German Chamber of Commerce last week showed that 67 percent of the companies surveyed intended to increase their investment in China in the next two years. One in two of all surveyed companies were likely or very likely to increase their investment in China if greater market access is granted.

Global Times

Netanyahu charged with corruption, deepening Israel's political crisis

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S attorney general officially announced on Thursday that he has decided to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on corruption charges after months of speculation.

The announcement comes as Israel finds itself in muddy political waters, after two inconclusive elections that have left the country with an interim government for almost a year.

Netanyahu has been under investigation for three years and has consistently denied any wrongdoing. Among other offenses, he is charged with giving benefits worth of hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars, in return for fa-

vorable headlines in a popular news website. The charges could carry 10 years or more sentence in prison.

"I have given my life to this country," Netanyahu said in a statement after the announcement of the attorney general. "This is an attempt to overthrow a prime minister through legal means."

According to Israeli law, a prime minister is not required to resign if indicted. He can remain in power until a final verdict is handed down. However, political pressure might mount against him. His legal



status was a hot-topic of the election campaigns.

It is important to note that because Netanyahu is now the leader of an interim government, several legal experts have questioned whether the law that allows a prime minister to remain in office under indictment is applicable to him.

This matter has yet to be settled and leaves many question marks about the legality of giving Netanyahu the mandate to form a government.

"This is a sad and difficult day," said Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit, as he announced the decision. "It was a difficult decision for me. I decided this with a heavy but confident heart."

Xinhua

Pope urges Thais not to see Christianity as 'foreign'

BANGKOK

POPE Francis paid tribute yesterday to Catholics in Thailand who suffered or were killed for their faith in the past and urged today's Thais not to consider Christianity a "foreign" religion.

The pope was on his last full day of a visit to Thailand, where the dominant culture is closely tied to Buddhism, although the Catholic minority of fewer than 1% were generally treated well in modern times.

Yesterday, Francis traveled to Wat Roman, a mostly Catholic area on the outskirts of the bustling capital of Bangkok.

The pope visited a modern sanctuary built in honor of Nicholas Bunker Kitbamrung, a Thai priest who died in 1944 and is considered a martyr.

The son of Christian converts from Buddhism, he was arrested for ringing a church bell during a period dominated by an anti-Western government suspicious of foreign influences, such as the French colonial powers in neighboring countries.

The priest was sentenced to 15 years in prison and died of tuberculosis in a hospital where he was treated badly and denied proper care because he was Catholic.

In a talk to priests and nuns gathered in the Church, Francis expressed his gratitude to those he said had offered the "silent martyrdom of fidelity and daily commitment" in the past.

In 1940, seven Catholics, including



Priests, religious seminarians and catechists touch the hands of Pope Francis as he leaves after meeting them at Saint Peter's Parish on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday. (AP)

three teenage girls, were killed by Thai police in the northeastern province of Nakhon Phanom. Pope John Paul II later declared them martyrs.

The World War Two period and other spells of persecution are considered aberrations and today relations between Buddhists and Catholics are generally very good.

During the reign of Thailand's King Narai 350 years ago, the Vatican formally established its "Mission de Siam".

Although missionaries failed to achieve mass conversions, they were largely tolerated by the Buddhist majority and particularly the royal court.

Thai face on Catholicism Since the start of his pontificate in

2013, Francis has preached that the Church should grow by attraction and not by proselytizing, or conversion campaigns. This has provoked criticism from some conservatives who favor an aggressive approach and largely oppose what is known as "inculturation," or adapting Church teachings to local culture.

Francis urged priests and nuns to find more ways to talk about their religion in local terms, saying he had learned "with some pain, that for many people, Christianity is a foreign faith, a religion for foreigners".

He added, "Let us give faith a Thai face and flesh, which involves much more than making translations."

Agencies

Xinhua

Morales dismisses allegations that 'Russian soldiers' are waiting for him in Bolivia

MOSCOW

BOLIVIA'S former president Evo Morales who was granted political asylum in Mexico has dismissed allegations that Russian military are waiting for him in Bolivia.

"They are trying to destroy us with endless lies and accusations," Morales wrote on his official Twitter account. "They said that I already returned to Bolivia, that Russian soldiers are in Bolivia waiting for my return. Now in the framework of the same campaign, they are accusing me [of crimes] and presenting montage as evidence. The Bolivian people call for peace and dialogue," he added.

The presidential election in Bolivia was held on October 20. According to the Supreme Electoral Court, incumbent President Evo Morales won in the first round. His main competitor, Carlos Mesa, refused to recognize Morales' victory in the first round. After the results of the election were announced, large-scale protests and strikes started across the country.

On November 10, Morales announced his resignation and characterized the situation in the country as a coup. He was earlier asked to leave his post by the country's armed forces, opposition and labor unions. Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera and several ministers and parliament members stepped down as well.

The Mexican authorities granted political asylum to Morales. Morales arrived in Mexico on November 12. Later on that day, Bolivian Senator Jeanine Anez declared herself as interim president.

Agencies

HONG KONG

ON Tuesday, the U.S. Senate passed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019. The U.S. politicians who proposed the bill said the move was to tell the so-called "Hong Kongers fighting for their long-cherished freedom" that "we continue to stand with you."

On the same day, more than two million yuan (about 284,135 U.S. dollars) was donated in the Chinese mainland to families of a 70-year-old sanitation worker killed by a brick thrown by these "freedom fighters," and a man who was critically injured after being doused in flammable liquid and set on fire.

The U.S. politicians, who claimed to be concerned with Hong Kong people, did not utter a word of sympathy to the victims, nor did they openly condemn the perpetrators. Therefore, whom are they standing with? The 70-year-old sanitation worker, surnamed Lo, was killed on

his lunch break by brick-hurling rioters. Online footage showed him standing and facing the black-clad mob before being hit and falling to the ground.

The other victim, surnamed Lee, was set ablaze by rioters for simply having a different political view. He is still in critical condition with second-degree burns on half of his body. His chance of survival stands at about 30 percent.

Their right to subsistence, the most basic of rights, was deprived, not to mention other rights guaranteed to Hong Kong residents - their rights to work, to go to school, to voice their opinions, especially different opinions, and to feel secure in a place that had always been one of the safest in the world.

Hong Kong people demand their rights and freedom from the rioters who, for five months, have vandalized shops, attacked police officers, blocked roads, torched mass transit railway stations, turned universities into strongholds and forced school classes to be suspended.

Even some Western media are beginning to change their attitude toward the rioters. Broadsheet newspaper The Australian carried a front page article on Tuesday stating that "at any other time in Hong Kong, or in any other place, these people would be condemned as brutal thugs."

"The protesters are Hong Kong's enemy right now," it said.

However, the China hawks in Washington ignored and even distorted the fact that ordinary Hong Kong people's lives have been greatly endangered by the rioters, and portrayed the rioters as "heroic freedom fighters," even as the bloodthirsty rioters used sheer violence and celebrated the death of their victim.

In this way, these U.S. politicians are standing against the Hong Kong people.

They are standing against the Hong Kong people because they fail to acknowledge their suffering.

When many locals lost their jobs, and some were beaten with clubs and ham-

mers, the U.S. politicians turned a blind eye to their misery.

They are standing against the Hong Kong people because they embolden the rioters to be more violent. From meeting the separatist leaders and condemning the law-enforcing police officers to advocating the new bill, every move and gesture by those U.S. politicians have been interpreted by the rioters as a sign of support, making them increasingly reckless.

They are standing against the Hong Kong people because they are using them as bargaining chips for their own purposes. It is no secret that some U.S. politicians have always seen China as a threat and tried to "contain" its development. It is shameful that they, along with the rioters, have taken Hong Kong residents as their "hostages."

It is time for these U.S. politicians to stop lying and pretending, and view Hong Kong realistically and objectively and not for their political gain and manipulation.

Xinhua

Greenest election pledges ever emerge from key parties in UK

LONDON

BRITAIN'S main political parties agree on one thing in this election season: The environment needs radical action fast.

While Boris Johnson's Conservatives and the Labour opposition run by Jeremy Corbyn scrap over Brexit and socialism, their hardening consensus about climate change is putting the UK on track for what may be the most radical energy policies in the developed world.

Those two parties along with Liberal Democrats and Greens are responding to pressure for action from protesters, who occupied public spaces and bridges for weeks last month to draw attention to the risks of

global warming. Scientists also are raising the alarm bell, with the British Broadcasting Corp amplifying the message through a constant stream of David Attenborough documentaries on the issue.

"Public and business concerns have created a landscape where none of the parties can ignore climate change," said Nick Molho, executive director at Aldersgate Group, which advises companies on energy and environment policies. "If you were talking at a conference two years ago about net zero, people would've thought you were mad. It was a fringe issue. Now it is completely across business, society and politics."

The result is a marked con-

trast with the political environment in the US or even other European nations, where business lobbies and conservative groups stress the costs of a quick transition away from fossil fuels.

In Britain, the main parties agree the UK should work toward zeroing out emissions and that coal plants should close early in the next decade. In encounters with media and voters, Labour, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are falling over themselves to prove their green credentials with pledges to plant more trees, install more wind turbines and boost investment into cleaning up Britain's energy supply.

Voting in the UK on Dec 12 may help provide a signal for the sort



of environment policies that sell, a result that may help guide the work of Democrats in the US working on a "green new deal." Following is where the main UK parties stand on climate and environment.

Conservative Party

Since the Conservatives took office in 2010, their energy policies spurred the UK to become a world leader in offshore wind.

They've also set a target to drop coal as a power generation fuel by 2025 and closed some of the nation's largest plants burning the fuel.

Britain under the Conservatives was the first major economy to enshrine in law a target for net-zero emissions by 2050 and has committed to the end of the sale of new cars using internal combustion engines. It also imposed a moratorium on new fracking of natural gas wells, citing the risk of earthquakes.

Johnson hasn't yet set out a manifesto that would detail how the 2050 target will be met, but enough commitments have dribbled out to show the direction of Conservative policy. That includes 640 mil-

lion pounds (US\$826 million) on planting 30 million trees a year by 2025 and 800 million pounds for carbon, capture, usage and storage.

Some of the policies are aimed more at protecting the look of the countryside than the environment: Conservatives have all but banned new wind farms on land and made it more difficult to build sprawling solar photovoltaic units. Johnson wants developers to focus on offshore wind, setting a target for 40 gigawatts by 2030. He also has backed citizens climate assembly to guide climate policy, one of the key demands of the protest movement Extinction Rebellion.

Labour Party

Labour is positioned as the most radical on climate and energy, seeking to upend decades of efforts to privatize utilities and oil companies.

Corbyn wants to nationalize electricity distribution and water utilities. He's planning an 11 billion-pound windfall tax on oil companies to pay for retraining workers hit by the transition to cleaner energy.

The party's self-styled "Green Industrial Revolution" has seen commitments topping 100 billion pounds that it wants to invest in adding 10,000 turbines in the wind industry and as enough solar panels to cover 22,000 soccer pitches.

Agencies



Athletics' world record holders (L-R), Michael Jazzy (France), Jim Ryun (USA), Tanzanian Filbert Bayi, Sebastian Coe (United Kingdom), John Walker (New Zealand), Steve Cram (United Kingdom), Nourredine Morceli (Algeria) and Hicham El Guerrouj (Morocco) pictured during the IAAF Mile Night gala, which was held in France on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FILBERT BAYI

IAAF honours Filbert Bayi

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA's athletics legend, Filbert Bayi, was among other seven record breakers who were recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) at a gala in Monaco, France, on Thursday.

The world athletics governing body recognized the eight athletes who broke 1500 meters and one mile (1600 meters) record at the gala, dubbed Mile Night.

Bayi said the event was organized by Chris Turner, the Head of IAAF Heritage. Other record breaking athletes who were recognized by IAAF were Kipchoge Keino of Kenya, Adi Bile of Somalia, Eamon Coughlan from Ireland.

"The event was also attended by Council Member of IAAF, Prince Nawal Bin Mohammed Al Saud, former athletes and journalist," Bayi noted.

The world athletics governing body said the mile is the last remaining imperial distance still applicable for world record ratification.

The mystique of the mile (1609.344 meters) is the key for it remaining an official record distance.

Over the course of 160 years of documented record attempts, the mile has lured athletes from across the world to tackle one of the key benchmarks of human athletic achievement, IAAF said.

Bayi was born in Karatu District, Arusha

in 1953. He has won many medals at various events, but he set the record on February 2, 1974 in men's 1500m final at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand.

This is a race that is often described as the greatest middle distance event of all time.

His record time in the race was three minutes and 32.2 seconds.

Part of the IAAF letter to Bayi acknowledged that since the association's formation in 1912, the men's world mile record has been held by athletes from Algeria, France, Finland, Morocco and Sweden.

Athletes from English-speaking countries, Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Tanzania, and the USA, with whom the mile is arguably more closely associated, have too held the record.

It further said: "The numerous attempts in the first half of the last century to break the four-minute barrier made headlines and dominated news reels across the world."

Bannister's 3:59.4 run on 6 May 1954 is arguably one of the greatest sporting moments in twentieth century history, the letter said.

"That the record run of fellow Briton Diane Leather Charles later that month, who became the first woman to dip under five minutes (4:59.6 on May 29), went largely unheralded is a sad reflection of the times but not of her marvelous achievements."

Study reveals music's universal patterns across societies worldwide

WASHINGTON

FROM love songs to dance tunes to lullabies, music made in disparate cultures worldwide displays certain universal patterns, according to a study by researchers who suggest a commonality in the way human minds create music.

The study, published on Thursday, focused on musical recordings and ethnographic records from 60 societies around the world including such diverse cultures as the Highland Scots in Scotland, Nyangatom nomads in Ethiopia, Mentawai rain forest dwellers in Indonesia, the Saramaka descendants of African slaves in Suriname and Aranda hunter-gatherers in Australia.

Music was broadly found to be associated with behaviors including infant care, dance, love, healing, weddings, funerals, warfare, professions and religious rituals.

The researchers detected strong similarities in musical features across the various cultures, according to Samuel Mehr, a Harvard University research associate in psychology and the lead author of the study published in

the journal Science.

"The study gives credence to the idea that there is some sort of set of governing rules for how human minds produce music worldwide. And that's something we could not really test until we had a lot of data about music from many different cultures," Mehr said.

Penn State University anthropology professor Luke Glowacki, a study co-author, said many ethnomusicologists have believed that the features in a given piece of music are most heavily influenced by the culture from which the music originates.

"We found something very different," Glowacki said. "Instead of music being primarily shaped by the culture it is from, the social function of the piece of music influences its features much more strongly."

"Dance songs sound a certain way around the world because they have a specific function. Lullabies around the world sound a certain way because they have a specific function. If music were entirely shaped by culture and not human psychology you wouldn't expect these deep similarities to emerge in extremely diverse cultures," Glowacki added.

Caravans face Annadil Burhani test in DRCC Caravans Cup today

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THIS year's DRCC Caravans T20 competition's defending champions, Caravans Club, have an opportunity to tighten their grip on the top spot in the event's Group A, given they will come up against Annadil Burhani at the Leaders Club venue in Dar es Salaam today.

Caravans lead the rest of the pack in Group A, notching two victories in as many matches that have helped them collect four points and a net run rate of 4.10.

The defending champions, one of few domestic cricket sides which boast of depth in almost all departments, are expected to line up their key players that include Kassim Nassor, Jayaraj Malayil, Abdallah Jabir, Anoop Kumar, Jitin Singh and Gokul Das in an effort to post victory over their opponents.

They are though not expected to easily coast to victory, given Annadil Burhani will be eager to notch victory and turn into a serious competitor in this season's event.

Annadil Burhani, currently placed third in Group A, have conceded a defeat in the only game they have taken part in. They succumbed to 27-run loss to Aga Khan in the city recently.

Led by skipper Mustafa Lookmanj, Annadil Burhani are set to depend on such players like Abdulkadir Dossajee, Juzer Ghor, Abbas Adamjee and Khuzaima Janoowala to come out victorious against Caravans.

The Caravans versus Annadil



Newly elected Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) chairman, Premji Pindoria (L), hands over man of the match prize to GP Club's batsman, Farhan Atiq, shortly after the latter's squad had confronted Shree Kutchi Leva in this season's DRCC Caravans tournament's match in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Burhani clash and the rest of the weekend's fixture are, though, subject to weather conditions and will be reconfirmed today, as noted by the DRCC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's organizing committee.

Three more duels have been scheduled for the same weekend. Annadil Burhani will be in action against Gymkhana, Union will lock horns with Aga

Khan, and Caravans will come up against Aga Khan.

Due to the ongoing rains, the committee pointed out it has decided to hold the competition's Group A's matches at the Leaders Club venue.

This, the committee noted, has been done in order to complete the tournament before the end of the domestic cricket's calendar year.

GP Club, placed second in Group B with two victories in three outings, had the last laugh a clash with Shree Kutchi Leva which was held early this week, grabbing a four-wicket win over the latter.

Shree Kutchi Leva chose to bat after they had won the toss and went on to amass 114 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs.

Vipul Pindoria was the top run getter in the innings with 43 which consisted of three fours, opener Nilesh Varsani chipped in with 19 runs.

GP Club bowlers Zafar Khan, Tambwe Rashid and Wahid Hussain took two wickets apiece in their respective four overs.

In response GP got down to successful chase for the loss of six wickets in 18.4 overs.

GP batsman Farhan Atiq was presented with man of the match prize for his scintillating displays at the crease, blasting unbeaten 31 runs, which included a six.

Caravans Club has hosted the tournament, which is held annually, under the auspices of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), targeting to promote the game at the domestic level.

This year's competition's sponsors include Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics and SBC through Pepsi brand.

Antetokounmpo has triple-double, Bucks beat Trail Blazers

MILWAUKEE

THE Milwaukee crowd greeted Carmelo Anthony with a loud ovation when the 10-time All-Star was introduced before the game. It cheered louder after the Bucks extended their winning streak to six straight.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had his second triple-double of the season and Milwaukee beat Portland Trail Blazers 137-129 on Thursday night.

"Giannis is Giannis," Anthony said about the reigning MVP. "He's a tough check. I thought tonight we actually did a pretty good job. Even though he had a triple-double, when you look at that, it's like 'Oh, he had a hell of a game.' But I thought, for the most part, we were back on him. We loaded up on him. He got some and-1s, he got going a little bit. ... He found some guys, they made some 3s, kind of opened the game up."

Antetokounmpo had 24 points, 19 rebounds and a career-high 15 assists to lead the Bucks to their seventh win in the last nine games against Portland.

"I couldn't get going offensively," Antetokounmpo said. "Shots weren't falling and they were showing a lot of crowds. I tried to find my teammates and they were in the right spots. They were able to knock down shots and to roll hard. I just did half of the work and my teammates did the rest."

Antetokounmpo, who also had a triple-double in the season opener, became the first player in franchise history to record a game with 20 points, 15 rebounds and 15 assists. The 6-foot-11 forward has 16 career



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo drives past Portland Trail Blazers' Anthony Tolliver during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, in Milwaukee. (AP Photo)

triple-doubles. Milwaukee is 14-2 in those games.

Eric Bledsoe added 30 points and six assists in the Bucks' high-scoring game of the season.

After scoring 10 points on 4-of-14 shooting in 24 minutes in his season debut Tuesday night against the Pelicans, Anthony had 10 points in the first half Thursday. Anthony finished with 18 points (6-of-15 shooting) and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who were without Hassan Whiteside (hip), Damian Lillard (back), Zach Collins (shoulder) and Jusuf Nurkic (leg).

"He's getting his sea legs after having that year off," Portland guard CJ McCollum said about Anthony. "Getting used to that movement, getting used to how

the game is flowing."

McCollum scored 37 points and Skal Labissiere added 22 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks for Portland. The Trail Blazers lost their third straight game overall and their sixth straight in Milwaukee.

The Bucks made their first seven shots, including three 3s, and led 17-6. Milwaukee never trailed.

The Bucks also had their highest first-half total, leading 72-58. The Blazers used a 40-point third quarter to close the gap and pulled within 117-115 with just over 7:00 play. But Brook Lopez and Wes Matthews hit back-to-back 3s to seal the Bucks victory.

"I thought we competed,"

McCollum said. "I thought we played hard. Obviously, we came up short. But I thought it was a step in the right direction."

Milwaukee made 21 of 26 free throws against 12 of 14 for the Trail Blazers and outrebounded Portland 58-41.

"Keep in mind, their starting center (Lopez) didn't even get a rebound," Trail Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "So they did all that rebounding without even their center getting it. So they got them from a lot of different positions. We have to be aware of it. We can't assume that anybody else is going to get it. We don't have one guy that's going to go snatch all the rebounds. We gotta do it with five guys."

AP

From 'Knives Out' to Bond, Ana de Armas is on the rise

LOS ANGELES

ANA de Armas is fumbling with a packet of sugar and talking about her breakneck schedule on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles when her already enormous almond eyes widen even further.

"Do I have avocado on my face?" she asks somewhat nervously. She doesn't, but the 31-year-old Cuban-born actress has been feeling a little frazzled lately. It's been hard to find

time to eat, let alone do a spot check in a mirror.

De Armas left the New Orleans set of Adrian Lyne's Patricia Highsmith adaptation "Deep Water" the night before to attend the premiere of Rian Johnson's Agatha Christie-inspired whodunnit "Knives Out," which opens on Thanksgiving. It was a brief respite; after a few days of interviews, de Armas flew back to continue filming.

And it's been that way for a few

years now. She's filmed not only "Knives Out," but the next James Bond, "No Time to Die," the Marilyn Monroe movie "Blonde" (she plays none other than the former Norma Jeane) and a film about the late United Nations diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello.

In fact, she was looking forward to a little bit of a break when "Knives Out" came her way at the tail end of the grueling three-month shoot for "Sergio" in Thailand. And the

description she got wasn't exactly an enticing one.

"I get this email saying, 'Nurse in a house and she's Latina and she's pretty and this is the scene,'" she recalled. "And I was like 'Are you kidding me? I don't know what this is about.' That little description doesn't say anything to me, it doesn't speak to me."

De Armas knew that Johnson had written and would direct the film and that a big star, Daniel Craig,

was attached. She's also protective of her career and needed to know more before she would even agree to audition. Although she speaks naturally with an accent, she's worked hard to prove herself capable of playing characters outside of her ethnicity and pushes her team to send her out on auditions for everything.

This innate determination and unwillingness to settle has gotten her where she is and now she's on the

brink of full-fledged stardom. After attending theater school in Havana, she moved to Madrid with \$300 saved up to try a bigger pond. It was an amount that she assumed would help her survive for a few months (it would have in Cuba) but she quickly discovered otherwise. Still, de Armas found a way and started landing roles in television and film. After 8 years there, she was ready to move on and try Hollywood even though she knew very little English.

Time running out for Emery to prove he can kickstart Arsenal

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Unai Emery was given a reminder of how cut-throat Premier League management can be with Tottenham's sacking of Mauricio Pochettino this week and needs a quick turnaround in fortunes if he is to avoid the same fate.

Emery's side face Southampton at the Emirates on Saturday with the Spaniard's position coming under increasing scrutiny after a dismal run that has brought just two wins in the last ten Premier League games.

"For me it was a surprise," said Emery on Pochettino's departure. "I think Tottenham were doing very good work with Pochettino."

"Maybe the last result, the last matches they didn't play or didn't achieve good results, but I think overall that their way in the last years with Pochettino was perfect."

Emery has far less credit in the bank with the Arsenal fans than the Argentine did across north London and the natives at the Emirates are growing increasingly restless at not just a lack of results, but lack of entertainment.

Many anticipated a lack of cover at centre-back could cause Emery problems in his second season at Arsenal, but failings at the back are now being mirrored at the other end of the pitch.

A forward-line built around star strikers Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette and supported by £72 million record signing Nicolas Pepe, Mesut Ozil

and on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos was expected to be the side's major strength.

But Emery's men have managed just five goals in their last six league games to fall nine points off the top four.

Aubameyang has shown his class to score eight league goals despite largely living off scraps, but Lacazette and centre back David Luiz are the only other Arsenal players to have scored more than once in the Premier League this season.

Lacazette has not scored in six games since returning from an ankle injury, but Pepe's inability to make an impact is even more alarming.

The Ivorian has been benched for the last two games after scoring just once in the league from the penalty spot.

And the feeling that Emery is struggling to find a solution was underlined by his decision to recall Ozil for the 1-1 draw at home to Wolves and 2-0 defeat Leicester having frozen the German out for the vast majority of his time in charge.

The visit of a struggling Southampton side who lie second bottom should provide Arsenal with the perfect opportunity to kickstart their season, but anything but a convincing win and the pressure on Emery is likely to intensify.

"I am optimistic. I know we need better performances with the team, individually and collectively," added Emery. "We need to play better and control the game better in 90 minutes."

AFP

Mourinho returns to the fray as Man City face tough Chelsea test

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho will inevitably be the centre of attention as he takes charge of Tottenham for the first time this weekend while Manchester City look to get their Premier League title challenge back on track against Chelsea.

The former Chelsea and Manchester United manager has been charged with rescuing Spurs' season after this week's sacking of Mauricio Pochettino, with the club desperate to claw their way back into the top four.

At the top of the table, runaway leaders Liverpool have a winnable-looking fixture away to Crystal Palace but the chasing pack cannot afford to allow the gap to widen further.

City, licking their wounds after their 3-1 defeat by Liverpool earlier this month, host Frank Lampard's Chelsea, who are one point above them in the table, eight points behind Jurgen Klopp's side.

Leicester, in second place, ahead of Chelsea on goal difference, travel to England's south coast to take on Brighton.

AFP Sport picks out some of the talking points ahead of the weekend's matches:

The Mourinho factor
Mourinho's first match in charge of Tottenham will be away to West Ham at the London Stadium on Saturday but he will not have the luxury of a honeymoon period.

The Portuguese boss has a number



of issues to sort out, including addressing the woeful away form -- Spurs have not won on the road in the Premier League since January.

Last season's Champions League finalists have had a shocking start to the season, languishing in 14th place in the Premier League after just three wins in their opening 12 games.

With their new stadium to pay for, Tottenham are reliant on Champions League revenue but the outlook is not bright.

No team with as low a tally as Spurs have after 12 games -- 14 points -- has ever gone on to record a top-four finish.

Mourinho, often labelled a cheque-book manager, has made the right noises so far, saying at his first press

conference he will not demand millions to spend in the transfer market.

"I don't need players, I am so happy with the players I have, I just need time to understand them better, to know everything about them," he said.

"My gift is this squad, the squad is very, very good."

Liverpool's mental strength

Over their past 38 league games, Liverpool have tallied 101 points and lost just once, overcoming champions Manchester City in their most recent outing.

Manager Klopp last season labelled his players "mentality monsters" and captain Jordan Henderson says that is a crucial factor in their success.

"Our mentality is just as important as the technical ability of the team," Henderson told the club's website.

"I think everybody sees how talented the squad is, how many good players we've got in the team, but mentality is huge in football."

Lampard returns

Lampard, who spent a season playing for Manchester City after leaving Chelsea, takes his young side to the Etihad for his first visit as a manager.

Pep Guardiola's side host Chelsea in the unusual position of being fourth in the table, a point and place below the visitors, who have had six successive league wins.

Chelsea will also be eager to gain revenge for their 6-0 mauling by City last season -- their biggest-ever

Premier League defeat.

Leicester riding high

Former Leicester and Tottenham forward Gary Lineker believes Brendan Rodgers' side are better than the team that lifted the Premier League title in 2016.

The club have already played all the members of the "Big Six" apart from Manchester City and sit in second spot in the Premier League with a winnable set of matches to come.

Academy graduate Harvey Barnes, who has played in 11 of Leicester's 12 Premier League fixtures, said confidence was key.

"It's a great place to be at the minute," he told the club's website. "You can see the buzz around the club and as a player, being involved in it is great."

"We're going into most games at the minute thinking we're going to win. It's a great feeling to be as confident as we are as a team and as individuals as well."

Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)

Today

West Ham v Tottenham (1230), Bournemouth v Wolves, Arsenal v Southampton, Brighton v Leicester, Crystal Palace v Liverpool, Everton v Norwich, Watford v Burnley, Manchester City v Chelsea (1730)

Tomorrow

Sheffield United v Manchester United (1630)

Monday

Aston Villa v Newcastle (2000)

AFP

Keown urges Arsenal to consider Pochettino snoop

LONDON

ARSENAL should weigh up an audacious move for former Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino, according to ex-Gunners defender Martin Keown.

Spurs acted swiftly to replace Pochettino, sacking their manager after five years at the helm on Tuesday before appointing Jose Mourinho.

While Mourinho's previous spells in charge of Chelsea look likely to make him a divisive figure among the Tottenham faithful during the early stages of his reign, Pochettino opting to switch allegiance in north London would cause a whole other kind of ructions.

Gunners head coach Unai Emery has come under increasing scrutiny amid a mixed start to the season and, although Keown does not want any rash decisions on the former Sevilla and Paris Saint-Germain tactician's future, he feels the Arsenal board should be duly aware of unexpectedly changing circumstances.

"There's no need to panic at Arsenal, we are getting close to panic by the way, because we're not having the best of seasons," he told the Daily Mail.

"But the powers that be at the top

of the club should be seriously considering Pochettino.

"I have a lot of admiration for what he did at Tottenham, the way he nurtured those young players and he didn't spend a great deal of money."

He added: "I would have stayed with Pochettino. I think he deserved that. I think it's a hugely significant sacking. You're going to have managers now looking over their shoulders."

"I know the poor record he has recently, but I still would have given him another chance. I don't like the way Tottenham have done it."

"There will be a lot of chairmen looking at him now. Manchester United wanted him this time last year. I think Arsenal would have to be interested if they want to take a step forward."

Mourinho cut a contented figure on his first day as Spurs head coach on Wednesday and Keown believes the embattled figure from his final days in charge of Manchester United must be consigned to the past.

"He lost the dressing room and fell out of love with the game of football in his quest to be successful," the former England international said. "He has to jettison that part of himself."

(Agencies)

Bernabeu rage over Wales flag doesn't worry Bale

MADRID

GARETH Bale's agent has told ESPN FC he has "no worries" about how Real Madrid fans will react to his "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order" flag celebration.

Wales captain Bale was pictured laughing with teammates while posing with the fan-made banner after his country qualified for Euro 2020 on Tuesday with a win against Hungary.

The image has been met with an angry reaction in the Spanish media -- with the club calling it a bad joke -- but the player's representative Jonathan Barnett told ESPN FC he's not concerned about the reception for Bale at the Bernabeu on Saturday when Real Madrid host Real Sociedad.

The flag and celebration were "meant for the media" rather than being aimed at the club or its fan-base, he said.

Members of the Real Madrid squad have told ESPN FC they were amused by the image, but believe it could damage Bale's relationship with fans.

The front-page headline of Spain's biggest-selling sports newspaper Marca on Thursday read "Disrespectful. Misguided. Ungrateful. In that order" in reference to Bale's celebration.

Madrid-based newspaper AS's front-page claimed that "the club and [coach Zinedine] Zidane fear the reaction of the fans."

Bale returned from international duty to take part in full training with his Real Madrid teammates at the club's Valdebebas training ground on Thursday.

He is expected to feature at the Bernabeu on Saturday having not played for Madrid since October, when he was injured playing for his country.

(Agencies)

Will Mourinho show at Tottenham that he has learned from his mistakes?

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

HE'S BACK. Eleven months have passed since Jose Mourinho was sacked by Manchester United and, in between, we got a couple of commercials for bookmakers, a global roadshow in multiple languages to remind us he was still special, some technical analysis in TV studios and talk of wanting to join a club with "structural empathy." That's your starting point. Those two words: "structural" and "empathy." Will Mourinho get this at Tottenham now that he has replaced Mauricio Pochettino?

As far as structure is concerned, despite praising not just Tottenham's "great structure" but the "dynamic of the structure" at his cheery unveiling to the press on Thursday, Mourinho will get what he had at Manchester United, where executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward held control, unless something radical happens in North London: He'll be working for an owner who never speaks and sits an ocean away (Joe Lewis), plus a big boss in Daniel Levy who runs the club, micromanaging transfers and budgets. And not much else, in the sense that there is no Director of Football or Head of Recruitment to act as a buffer between the manager and the top.

As for empathy, suffice to say it's not a word often associated with Levy, his new Woodward. Levy is routinely depicted as a shrewd, ruthless negotiator, relentlessly looking for value. It's a neat contrast with the profligacy of his previous boss -- whether it be Alexis Sanchez' paycheck or Romelu Lukaku's fee -- but it's also a different way of doing business.

Woodward is (or at least was when Mourinho was at Old Trafford) the guy who buys the priciest ingredients in an attempt to bake the best pie and then looks to grow it; Levy is the guy who doesn't like to share his pie and looks after every single crumb.

But look at it another way: Perfect fits are exceedingly rare in the highest echelons of football. If you take over a team in mid-season, it's usually going to be a club in distress. It will usually be in distress because your new employers made some very poor choices and you have to trust that they will make better decisions going forward.

There is no question here that while Mauricio Pochettino bears

some of the responsibility for what went wrong at Tottenham -- the most damning statistic: 25 points from 24 league games dating back to February -- and was effectively waiting to leave since the summer, which no doubt hurt Spurs' performance, fingers of blame have to be pointed upstairs.

It's easy to be desensitised because it has been a running theme for so long, but it's simply unconscionable for a club to find itself with four starters -- Jan Vertonghen, Christian Eriksen and Toby Alderweireld -- out of contract next summer and Danny Rose, who wants to leave, in contractual limbo. While it's true that Pochettino made a point of pushing out various recruitment figures at the club (Franco Baldini and Paul Mitchell) to arrive at a situation where it was just him and Levy calling the shots, it's equally true that the buck stops with Levy.

When a player is underperforming, you sell. When a player is running down his contract, you either sell or extend it. These are basic tenets of running a club. It's what Spurs used to do very well -- this is the club that got around £60 million (\$80m) for Kevin Wimmer, Nabil Bentaleb, Benjamin Stambouli, Roberto Soldado and Paulinho -- but it's what they were seemingly incapable of doing over the summer. Offers came in for every one of the "Tottenham Four" named above but partly due to indecision (from both Levy and Pochettino), partly due to an incorrect belief that they could get more and partly due to disagreements on potential replacements, they all stuck around.

So this is what Mourinho inherits: Not much "structural empathy" there at all. He tiptoed around the contractual time bomb on Thursday, noting

that "it is too early."

"I have no time for individual cases," he said. "I don't know how I can influence or try to influence. Mr Levy did not have time to discuss this."

Whether you buy this or not, it's hard to imagine Mourinho walking into a situation where some \$300m worth of talent (the minimum cost to replace them) could be walking away in the next few months without assurances of the grand plan. What's the budget to replace them? Or do Spurs think they can persuade them to extend their deals? Or is yet to be discussed in detail with Mourinho? Or -- as some have mooted -- is it all largely irrelevant because Lewis, having built a new stadium and enjoyed consistent top four finishes, is going to sell the club?

That last bit of speculation -- and it is just speculation -- would explain why Mourinho is so relaxed. He gets the club, he gets the stadium, he gets the academy and training ground ("So good it can't be compared with any in football, just some NFL teams"), he gets London... but he doesn't get Levy and the budget restrictions. Instead, he gets a hypothetical deep-pocketed new owner willing to make his dreams come true.

If that were the case, you too would be chilled out about taking over a team where four regulars have one foot out the door. Where Dele Alli is coming off a long injury and hasn't yet returned to level he was before. Where Eric Dier, once a mainstay for club and country, has started seven league matches in 2019. Where Serge Aurier is his only serviceable right-back. Where injured goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris won't be back until the New Year. And where there are only six clubs below them in the Premier League table.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Ruvu Shooting: Simba SC not so indomitable

SPORT

Mourinho returns to the fray as Man City face tough Chelsea test

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ruvu Shooting keeper, Abdallah Rashid (L), saved a shot by a Simba player when the two clubs met in a recent Main Premier League match at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

RUVU Shooting will be out to chase a first victory over Vodacom Premier League defending champions, Simba, when the teams meet at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam today afternoon.

The Coast Region-based club registered their fourth loss of the league season when they were beaten 2-1 by Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium in Lindi before the international break on November 6.

Ruvu Shooting have claimed 15 points from 11 matches in the 2019/20 season.

Ruvu Shooting may be up against 19-time league champions but the former's head coach Salum Mayanga is confident of good results.

He has challenged his side to end the winless run against the Msimbazi Street club when they

meet in today's showdown.

Ruvu Shooting are yet to register a win against Simba, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', in the Vodacom Premier League since September 2010 - which is a run of 15 losses and a draw.

"Simba are not so indomitable though they are rightly praised for having a very strong squad this season. We are having the same preparation we had against Yanga early this season, why wouldn't we take maximum point against them?" he asked.

He confidently added: "All taboos are made to be broken, this is the year to end our winless

run against Simba and Yanga, whether we play them at home or away."

On the opening day of the season Mayanga managed to help Ruvu Shooting end their 16-match winless run against Yanga when a solitary goal netted by Sadat Nanguo gave them a 1-0 victory at Uhuru Stadium.

Simba, meanwhile, head into the clash with doubts lingering over the future of head coach Patrick Aussems.

Aussems is widely believed to be the next Vodacom Premier League coach on the chopping block.

The sentiment has been strengthened by the 56-year old Belgian tactician's decision to dodge questions about his future this week in the wake of his employers saying he travelled out of the country without following due procedure.

Aussems is rumoured to have gone to South Africa formalize talks with the country's Premier Soccer League side, Polokwane City.

Be that as it may, Simba's chief executive officer, Senzo Mbatha, has since moved to dismiss speculations, it is only a matter of when not if Aussems will become

the latest coaching casualty this season.

The back-to-back champions are four points clear atop the standings but they know rivals, Young Africans (Yanga), have enough matches in hand to make up the points difference.

Mainland Premier League Fixtures:

Saturday
Ruvu Shooting v Simba (Uhuru Stadium, Dar es Salaam, 4pm), Mbao FC v Azam FC (CCM Kirumba Stadium, Mwanza, 4pm), Mbeya City v Singida United (Sokoine Stadium, Mbeya, 4pm)

5 EATV **TONIGHT @ 21:00**

UJENZI

MONDAY
11:00 DADA7 (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.

eastafrika RADIO
05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Mbao FC, Azam FC set for Mwanza battle

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MBAO FC will look to keep their winning run intact when they play host to Azam FC in the Vodacom Premier League at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza today.

The Mwanza-based club have lifted themselves off the foot of the table to 10th spot with two successive away victories in the Vodacom Premier League, a 1-0 victory over Police Tanzania and a 2-1 victory over Coastal Union.

Former Azam FC striker, Waziri Junior Shentembo, will be the man to watch for Mbao FC as they seek to extend their unbeaten run to four games.

Shentembo has rediscovered his form, having netted three goals in his last three matches for Mbao FC.

Mbao, who were promoted to the domestic top flight soccer tournament in 2015/16, have never lost a game against Azam FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium.

Mbao, however, will have to be at their very best as the visitors have set sight on winning a second successive match following their 2-1 victory over Biashara United before the international break.

Azam FC, nicknamed 'The Ice Cream makers', are still very much in the title race as they have only played seven games in the league thus far compared to the nine outings log leaders Simba SC have had.

Azam, the 2013/14 Mainland Premier League champions, have plenty of ground to make up though as they are nine points adrift but do have games to make up the points difference.

Recently appointed Romanian tactician, Aristica Cioba, knows Azam FC needs to win games against the so-called small teams if he is to survive the axe from his trigger happy bosses, who have fired 10 coaches in 10 seasons since 2008/9 season.

Having lost two out of the three matches since his appointment, Cioba knows there is little margin for error and even a draw will not be deemed good enough in this encounter as they try to keep Simba within sight.

Azam FC has been placed 11th in this season's league standing and the outfit's assistant coach Iddi Cheche has insisted they have to return to where they belong and avoid another premature title race exit seen in the last two seasons.

"We prepare to make sure every department is good enough, we have to be good in possession of the ball, in attacking, scoring, finishing and other things. We have always belonged in the top four and we need to make sure we return to where we belong," Cheche explained ahead of the match.

TPC dismayed by Morocco refusal to host Africa Para Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona



Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Secretary General, Tuma Dandi.

TANZANIA Paralympics Committee (TPC) has expressed its disappointment over the Morocco government's decision to pull out of hosting the maiden Africa Para Games which were slated for January next year.

Tuma Dandi, TPC Secretary General, said the withdrawal by Morocco is a big blow to Tanzania's Para athletes who were preparing for the games, which were to be held from January 26-30 in the city of Rabat.

He said most of events at Morocco Games would have been used as qualification for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The TPC official named local Paralympic athletes, who were ready for the Morocco Games, as Paralympics swimmers, athletes, power lifting and wheelchair tennis players, while sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball players are still taking part in

training.

Dandi issued the comments following a letter that the Africa Paralympics Committee (APC) sent to the National Paralympics Committee of various countries.

The APC in the letter said the decision was made following unresolved issues between APC and Morocco authorities.

"This is a big blow to Tanzania Paralympics athletes, we prepared them for the games, they were ready physiologically and the morale was very high, they were looking forward to qualifying for the Tokyo Paralympics," Dandi noted.

"You know we are tired of competing at the main events on wild card, the aim was to have a straight qualification."

In April this year, Morocco accepted to host the Africa Para Games after a protocol agreement was signed in the presence of International Paralympics Committee (IPC)

president Andrew Parsons and APC president Leonel da Rocha Pinto.

Dandi however said he is optimistic that APC will shift the host of the games to another country, but maintained that this will still affect his committee in many ways which include time of preparations and physiological effect.

"I'm sure APC will look for another country to host the Africa Paralympic Games, but the main problem is preparations, and there is also a possibility that the games can be held in zones, there are unconfirmed reports that Uganda will host goal ball, Nigeria will host power lifting," he said.

The Africa Para Games were separated from main African Games and the new format would have placed the All Africa Paralympic Games into the same category as the main Paralympic Games, which are organized separately from Olympic Games.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

