



### National Pg 3

Hope to students who missed Form I placement



### National Pg 5

TRC to loan railway wagons to businesspeople



### National Pg 6

'Govt intervention crucial to end SRGBV'



## Bashir avoids jail, handed two years in a reformatory

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S ex-president Omar al-Bashir (pictured) has been sentenced to two years in a social reform facility for corruption.

The judge told the court that, under Sudanese law, people over the age of 70 cannot serve jail terms. Bashir is 75.

Bashir also faces charges related to the 1989 coup that brought him to power, as well as the killing of protesters before his ousting in April.

During the sentencing, his supporters started chanting that the trial was political and were ordered to leave.

They continued their protest outside the court, and afterwards one of the ousted leader's lawyers, Ahmed Ibrahim, said they would appeal against the verdict.

Mohamed al-Hassan, another lawyer for Bashir, previously said that the defence did not consider the trial a legal one but a political one.

It is unclear whether Bashir will be tried over widespread human rights abuses during his time in power, including



**The UN says that around 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million were displaced in the war**

allegations of war crimes in Darfur.

The corruption case was linked to a \$25 million (£19 million) cash payment he received from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Bashir claimed the payments were made as part of Sudan's strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia, and "were not used for private interests but as donations."

None of the active cases against Bashir in Sudan is linked to the charges he faces at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, over the conflict in Darfur that broke out in 2003.

The UN says that around 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million were displaced in the war.

After Bashir was ousted in April, ICC prosecutors in The Hague requested that he stand trial over the Darfur killings.

The Sudanese army generals who seized power immediately after his fall initially refused to comply, but Sudan's umbrella protest movement - which now has significant representation in the country's sovereign council - recently said it would not object to his extradition.

Prosecutors in Sudan have also charged him with the killing of protesters during the demonstrations that led to him being ousted.

# Treasury urges BoT to closely monitor microfinance sector



Assistant Inspector of Police Alanus Mbigi inspects one of the buses held for an impromptu roadworthiness check at a barrier in Korogwe District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

"The National Microfinance Act also recognizes that low income populations need microfinance services to finance economic activities and improve livelihoods"

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango has directed the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to closely monitor operations of microfinance institutions, saying there are lots of dirty deals in them.

He said there are those that lend money at exorbitant interest rates only to end up confiscating properties of people who fail to repay the money, with most microfinance institutions having unfriendly loan contracts with customers.

On the other hand, there are people who borrow money and simply fail to comply with the contract, defaulting to pay back, he said.

Officiating at the launch of a public education programme on the National Microfinance Act 2018 and its regulations, the minister said he has received complaints from people whose assets have been confiscated by some microfinance institutions.

He said the situation was caused by lack of a proper regulatory framework for microfinance operations, creating loophole for lenders to do what they want.

"Interest rates range from three to 20 percent per month, equivalent to 36 to 240 percent per year," the minister highlighted, noting that



**I call upon BoT to closely monitor operations in this sector for I am tired of the complaints from people**

this causes serious trouble for those seeking services.

Dr Mpango cited another challenge facing the microfinance sector as improper release of loans causing many debts on customers, along with indecent debt collection procedures that make people lose their properties. There are those who deliberately default, he remarked.

He said some players in the sector also conducted money laundering, citing the lack of a specific law compelling them to adhere to demands of the Money Laundering Act.

"I call upon BoT to closely monitor operations in this sector for I am tired of the complaints from people," he cautioned.

The BoT Central Zone branch manager Richard Wambali said at the meeting that high interest rates do not work for national development.

Most of those targeted by microfinance institutions are poor people, especially the rural based population who in many cases fail to repay the loans, leading to loss of property in loan recovery, the manager admitted.

Wambali said the law builds on new developments to address complexities and challenges related to entry of new players, innovative products and services, increased informality and delivery mechanisms or initiatives.

"The National Microfinance Act also

## Tanzania: Boost funding on climate change effects

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA said at the just ended 25th Conference on the United Nations Climate Change Convention (UNCCC) that it has been a weak but struggling victim of climate change and its impacts, asking the developed world to increase contributions toward the fight against the global calamity.

Addressing the conference, the Deputy Minister in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Musa Sima, said global warming has had a terrible impact on Tanzania, especially because of heavy rains not experienced in past decades, causing deaths and destroyed costly infrastructures.



**Unlike similar periods over the last decades in many parts of the country, October has been the wettest month in many parts of Tanzania**

The trends and warnings highlighted this year by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) are already evident in Tanzania, he asserted.

"These trends are already affecting Tanzania through extreme rainfall events and temperature-rise causing widespread flooding associated with loss of life and devastating socio-economic impacts, including destruction of infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

"Unlike similar periods over the last decades in many parts of the country, October has been the wettest month in many parts of Tanzania.

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## ZEC gears to register 204,752 new voters

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) said it intends to register 204,752 new voters for next year's General Election in an activity scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The new voters according to ZEC will make a total of 708,332 eligible electors as the commission also embarks on verifying the identity details of 503,580 registered voters in the Permanent Voter



Register.

These affirmations were made yesterday by the ZEC chairman, Judge (rt'd) Hamid Mahmoud when briefing journalists on the voters registration starting in Pemba Island's Micheweni district mid this week and slated to end in Mkoani district on February 3.

After Pemba, the exercise will shift to Zanzibar starting February 9 in Zanzibar North 'A' district and climax in Zanzibar Urban West District on March 4.

Judge Hamid said the registration exercise will involve eligible Tanzanians who are qualified to vote but have not been registered in the Permanent Voter Register.

Those who will go for registration will have to go with their IDs as Zanzibar residents that have

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## ZEC gears to register 204,752 new voters

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been verified, he stated.

He called on all Zanzibar residents qualified to vote to register and those who had already been registered to go for verification of their details.

Anthony Mavunde, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), told the National Assembly early this year that the National Electoral Commission (NEC) will register four million voters for the 2020 General Elections.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, launching the countrywide updating

of a voter registration database in May, said the only way to participate in the democratic exercise of choosing leaders is by registering.

In the 2020 general elections slated for October, eligible Tanzanian voters will vote for preferred presidential, parliamentary and ward counselor candidates.

NEC says the number of voter registration stations in Tanzania Mainland have been increased from 36,549 in 2015 to 37,407 in the coming year.

In the Zanzibar archipelago, voter registration stations have been increased from 380 in 2015 to 407.



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, speaks at a symposium for Tanzanian and French universities held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Tanzania: Boost funding on climate change effects

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Therefore, concerted global efforts in forging effective, appropriate and adequate adaptation strategies are urgently needed," he told the delegates.

He told the meeting that Tanzania appreciated efforts made during the first formal replenishment process of the Green Climate Fund leading to pledges of \$9.66 billion, noting however that in spite of several developed countries pledging voluntary contributions to the funds, "we are still far from bridging the gap of financial needs of developing countries and the financial target of collecting 100 billion for climate change global mitigation efforts."

Internally, he said, the government has strengthened the capacity of the National Meteorological Authority, buying two weather radars that have enhanced weather monitoring and prediction capacity.

In a long-term bid to reduce gas emissions, he said, besides the

construction of hydro-electric dams, the government has built a Bus Rapid Transport system in Dar es Salaam and was building a Standard Gauge Railway. The government was also keen on a countrywide tree planting campaign to halt deforestation and forest degradation, he stated.

He told the meeting that Tanzania believed the costs of adaptation and participating effectively in mitigating needed significant and predictable international support including financial and technology transfer.

The deputy minister paid tribute to the Chilean government, the host Kingdom of Spain and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for making the meeting possible.

UN Secretary General António Guterres deserved plaudits for organizing the precursor UN Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, he added.

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recognizes that low income populations need microfinance services to finance economic activities and improve livelihoods," he said, elaborating that high interest rates remain a bottleneck in this quest. The law will also ensure consumer protection, he affirmed.

## Treasury urges BoT to closely monitor microfinance sector

The microfinance sector will be regulated well using the law, as the sector has four categories of players,

the microfinance banks, non-deposit taking microfinance service providers, the savings and credit cooperatives

(SACCOS) and largely informal community microfinance groups, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein pictured in Zanzibar yesterday checking items produced by small entrepreneurs in the Isles, as he visited pavilions near the venue of a Diaspora workshop he had just opened. Among those accompanying him are Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi and Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) George Simbachawene. Photo: Correspondent Issa Haji Ussi

## Education ministry set to involve local authorities in bid to control truancy

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is in the final stages preparations for a circular for guidelines to control truancy in schools that see the days go below 90.

This was revealed here at the weekend by the Ministry's assistant director of basics and development on policy Yesse Kanyuma who represented the ministry's permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo while closing the 14th Forum of Tanzania Heads of Secondary Schools Association (TAHOSA).

He said the days will be reduced so that if a student is not seen in school immediate steps are to be taken.

"The government's aim is not to sack the student but to require them to finish their studies when they start Standard I to reach Standard VII and when they start Form I to reach Form IV, truancy is a problem and if we cannot control it, it will stain our efforts," Kanyuma said.

He said the guidelines will state the responsibilities of all stakeholders in the truancy issue.

He said originally it was 90 days if the students not seen at school then he/she is automatically sacked, but now this number of days will be reduced.

He said the guidelines will also state how the class teacher, school head and the disciplinary teacher can be accountable in managing the truancy issue, and added that in many cases when the students is absent from school there was no communication between the school and the parent or even a local government official from the area.

He said there was a big gap in communication between the school leadership and the parents, and called on schools to have live disciplinary and advisory committees to oversee the truancy issue.

He also said starting next year the government will embark on improving both the teaching and learning environment for secondary schools including production and publishing of books, improvement to infrastructures and more training for teachers.

He said in order to accomplish the projects in the given timeframes school heads will be required to supervise them with diligence and trust as force account system will be used.

The Acting Director of Education George Jidamva said the forum aimed at capacity building for secondary schools heads in the country in the administration of the education sector.

HARARE

Zimbabwean authorities have arrested the wife of Vice President Constantino Chiwenga on charges of money laundering, fraud and violating exchange control regulations, the country's anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) said yesterday.

Mary Mubaiwa was arrested on Saturday evening and will likely appear

## Zimbabwe vice president's wife arrested for suspected fraud, money laundering

in court on Monday, ZACC spokesman John Makamure said. He declined to give further details.

Mubaiwa could not be reached for

comment on Sunday.

Appointed by President Emmerson Mnangagwa this year, ZACC is under pressure to show that it can tackle

high-level graft, which watchdog Transparency International estimates is costing the country \$1 billion annually.



**The government's aim is not to sack the student but to require them to finish their studies when they start Standard I to reach Standard VII and when they start Form I to reach Form IV, truancy is a problem and if we cannot control it, it will stain our efforts**





UBA Bank managing director Usman Isihaka (R) is interviewed in Dar es Salaam at the weekend by East Africa Television (EATV) presenter Deogratius Kithama on the station's ongoing popular business promotion campaign programme known as 'Kibiashara Zaidi'. Photo: EATV

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

## Government set to review the Wildlife Conservation 'Dangerous Animals Damage Consolation' Act 1974

THE government is reviewing the Wildlife Conservation (Dangerous Animals Damage Consolation) Act, 1974 to make sure every citizen whose crops are damaged by the wild animals is compensated accordingly.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf Mkenda made the statement over the weekend when addressing the stakeholders' conference organised by the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum.

Prof Mkenda noted that the review of the law will enable Tanzanians residing near national parks and other game reserves and wildlife management areas to be compensated when such destructions occur. He said that changes of the law will also reduce complaints from the residents over difficulties they

face in getting compensation after they report such cases to ward and village executive officers.

"The government is aware of the challenges that people residing near national parks face. We are aware that elephants have been invading your farms and destroying crops. We have also initiated beekeeping projects in the villages surrounding the parks to chase away the dangerous animals especially elephants," said the Permanent Secretary.

According to him, the government is finalising process to start selling wild animal meat to areas surrounding game reserves as part of efforts to

control hunting by villagers. He said most villagers engage in hunting to get food.

Babati Rural member of parliament, Jitu Soni commended the government's move to review the Wildlife Conservation (Dangerous Animals Damage Consolation) Act, 1974 adding it will promote conservation in the villages surrounding game reserves.

TNRF Executive Director, Zakaria Faustine complained of the complicated compensation process saying the villagers have also been lamenting of the small amount of monies given to them after the wild animals destruct their farm crops.

He said the smaller compensation rates have been discouraging villagers from engaging in conservation activities. "Review of the law will enable the villagers to be compensated accordingly as well as enhance conservation activities", he noted.

One of the residents residing close to the Arusha National Park, Asha Salim said: "We have been paid small amounts of money as compensation to our destroyed farms. The monies we receive do not match the value of destroyed farm crops. We commend the government for reviewing the old Act so that we can be paid in accordance with the loss we incur".

## '5,970 students in Dar who passed but missed Form I selection sure to join secondary schools'

By Guardian Reporter

SOME 5,970 students who passed their primary education but missed chances to continue with secondary education in Dar es Salaam region will begin their Form One lessons by February 2020.

This is in accordance with the directives from the Minister of State, President's Office (Regional Administration and local Government) Selemán Jaffo to regional and district commissioners countrywide that come February 29 2020 they should complete construction work on classrooms for secondary schools so that lessons begin March 3 2020.

Speaking to this paper on Saturday the Dar es Salaam Regional Education Officer (REO) Hamisi Lissu, said serious efforts are being taken to beat the deadline. Lissu said: "The double-shift arrangement has not been done this year due to stringent budget, but already we have mobilised ourselves to ensure our children start lessons by end of February next year."

He said Temeke District has fewer secondary schools and has the largest number of those missing Form One places.

For three consecutive years Dar es Salaam Region led countrywide in having the largest number of students passing Standard VII examinations since 2017.

Temeke District Executive Director (DED) Lusubilo Mwakabibi, when contacted, was not ready to explain on the challenge claiming that REA was the right person to speak about it.

Deputy Mayor of Temeke Municipal Council Juma Mkenga said the issue of students passing exams but miss secondary school placements is a challenge which will be extensively discussed in the council meeting on what to do.

Speaking at the weekend, Minister Jaffo said 701,038 students, equivalent to 92.27 percent who passed were selected to join Form I in January 2020.

He said out of those 335,513 were boys equivalent to 47.86 percent and 365,525 girls (52.14 percent).

He said 3,145 students selected (0.41 percent) will join boarding schools, while 970 students will join schools for high marks students and 1,095 will join technical schools.

He said 58,699 students (77.77 percent) including 28,567 boys 30,132 girls of those who passed were not selected due to shortage of Form I classrooms.

Jaffo also mentioned other regions whose students also missed the opportunity to join Form I with their number in brackets as: Arusha (4,739), Manyara (728), Mara (9,493), Iringa (3,480) and Songwe (4,684).

Others are Kigoma (12,092), Lindi (1,665), Tanga (3,044), Mbeya (2,716), Coast (2,918), Rukwa (686) and Simiyu (6,616).

*"The double-shift arrangement has not been done this year due to stringent budget, but already we have mobilised ourselves to ensure our children start lessons by end of February next year."*

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### Posting ID: SLS-2019-004

Simba Supply Chain Solutions Limited and Simba Logistics Limited are looking for an astute, mature and reliable Human Resource Professional between the ages of 35 and 40 years. This position will be on a two-year fixed contract. The major focus will be to continue with the groups Human Resource Road Map which completes its second year of implementation ending 2019.

We are not looking for a HR manager to handle day to day task such as Payroll and Work Conflicts, however a sound knowledge of daily tasks is an essential requirement and will be tested upon. This opportunity is for candidates who seek to further their skill set in to the realm of Human Resources and to grow their careers beyond Human Resources. This opportunity is for candidates who are willing to work in a high-demand industry and will require them to constantly think outside the box. This opportunity is for candidates who want to make a difference in the lives of others and will involve an extensive amount of hands on training to be conducted.

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- Must have a Master's Degree in either Human Resources, Public Administration, Business Administration, Sociology or related fields.
- Conversant with Labor Laws and attended CMA Court
- High proficiency in using MS office suite (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint)

#### Experience Requirements

- At least 8 years' experience in Human Resource management
- Strong interpersonal skills to enable communication with a wide audience
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- Solid communication and decision-making capabilities based on analytical skills
- Solid understanding of HSE issues and can conduct HSE Training if necessary

#### Instructions to all candidates:

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4. Email your CV/Resume to [info@simba-logistics.com](mailto:info@simba-logistics.com) with a subject line to read "SLS-2019-004" and await confirmation by email.

#### Kindly note:

1. Pre-Screening will close on the 31st of December 2019 at midnight.
2. If you submit any other documents on the email, **your application will not be received or reviewed.**
3. If you do not mark the subject line of the email as specified, **your application will not be received or reviewed.**
4. Only candidates who are successfully screened will receive a further application packet.

11555402



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

**TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) BUREAUS OF STANDARDS INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM ICT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190559**

The East African Community (EAC) and TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) would like to invite interested and qualified reputable consultancy firms/consortiums to participate in this tender for the supply and installation of the East African Community (EAC) Bureaus of Standards Information Sharing Platform ICT Infrastructure.

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com). The closing date for submission of this tender is on or before **Thursday, 06 February 2020 on or before 4.00 p.m. (Tanzania Time)**.

Interested and qualified **reputable consultancy firms/consortiums MUST** submit their bids through TMEA's Procurement mail box using the email address, [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com). The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed **5 MB**.

**TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**







Prof Mohamed Janabi (L), Managing Director of Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, presents a trophy to GSM Group of Companies marketing and communication manager Matina Nkururu. The firm emerged overall winner in this year's Tanzania Consumer's Choice Awards. The event was held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

## More standards on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and animal food in pipeline, says government

THE government has insisted to prepare more standards and regulate agricultural products and animal husbandry.

Speaking at the just ended agricultural and livestock exhibition in Morogoro, standards officer from Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Mwajuma Idd, said more standards on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and animal food are coming.

She said TBS is the only institution which has been tasked to prepare standards and regulate safety and standards of products in Tanzania, hence it is well organised to look

after standards for agricultural and livestock.

She narrated that the organisation is preparing standards through technical committee which involves imperative stakeholders on the relevant sector including lecturers, manufacturers, traders, regulators, consumers, responsible ministries and processors.

In a move to implement the roles, she said TBS has five committees in agricultural and livestock sector.

They are fertiliser committee (AFDCIO), pesticides, food pollutant, agriculture committee (AFDC27) and seed committee (AFDC 30).

Others are agricultural machine committee (GDTC 5) and animal food committee (AFDC 9).

In a process to prepare standards all stakeholders are involved through draft Tanzania standard for public comments.

She said the proposed standard is sent to stakeholders and public through

website and email and forwarded to World Trade Organisation (WTO) so they can send to other countries to make more recommendations in order to avoid confusion during its implementations.

Moreover, she said TBS is collaborating with other institutions such as TPRI, TOSCI in regulating agricultural and livestock products which aimed at improving efficiency in controlling standards and safety of the said goods.

## Confiscation of cattle: Herders accuse forest officials of unfairness

By Guardian Reporter

HERDERS from villages surrounding the Kigosi Moyowosi Forest Reserve in Ushetu District, Kahama have aired their grievances before Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina after their 2,400 cattle were seized and confiscated by forest officials.

The herders said originally they were using the 94,030-acre Usumbwa Local Authority Forest Reserve legally owned by Ushetu district council as per GN No. 442 of 1958 1958 but were surprised in 2002 when the area was incorporated in the Kigosi Moyowosi Forest Reserve causing many of the livestock to die or confiscated on reason that they were found in the protected area.

The herders said the areas which have been affected by the conflict include Nyankende, Idahina, Ulewe, Ubangwe, Ulowa and Ushetu wards that borders with the reserve, and since 2016 up to now more than 2,400 head of cattle were seized and confiscated throwing them into deep poverty.

One of the herders Samweli Shineneko, speaking while in tears before Minister Mpina said his livestock which he had for many years have all been confiscated and are being held inside the reserve for a long period of time, some of which were reportedly sold away. He pleaded with the minister to convey the wananchi's grievances to President John Magufuli.

The chairman of Kahama Livestock Keepers Association Doa Limbu said apart from livestock confiscation, herders in the area are forced to walk a distance of 40 kilometres for cattle dip services and asked the government to bring the service nearer to them to serve the areas of Nyankende, Idahina, Ulewe, Ubangwe and Bulungwa.

He also asked for water for their cattle to drink especially in dry seasons by constructing water dams.

Responding to the grievances minister Mpina assured the wananchi that the government will burn all hiding places for corrupt elements and ill treatment to the people.

He warned that public officials who will use law enforcement as a pretext while actually they were robbing and ill treating the wananchi, when found, will be dealt with accordingly.

He formed a special team that will go to the area to find out the legality of the Usumbwa Forest Reserve as well as Kigosi Moyowosi Forest Reserve ownership that it was the property of Ushetu District Council so as to resolve the conflict.

He said the team will also revive and redraw new borders as well as erecting beacons which every stakeholder will have to respect.

The minister also directed government leaders in the areas to well understand laws including those governing livestock and reserve areas so as to mete out justice to all parties of the conflicts.

Mpina also decried the habits by some government officials tasked to oversee the livestock sector to stay in their offices while herders continue to be harassed without any assistance from them.

The minister also assured the wananchi that the government of president John Magufuli will reach every place where people engage in livestock keeping come rain come sun to find permanent solutions to their conflicts that have existed for many years.

The Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha thanked the minister for his visit that has been an eye-opener for them as they were made to understand that some of the issues were not to be questioned including the issue of confiscation of wananchi's livestock.

Henry Mwangonde

## Women calls for more interactive programmes to spur empowerment

A call has been made for Tanzania to establish long-term programmes that can bring together various groups of women from different sectors to facilitate learning and exchange of experiences on how they can increase their participation and influence the socio-economic and political development.

This was said by the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Society of Tanzania (EST), Dr Blandina Kilama during the Sneakers and Heels

Exposition held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

The event was organised by EST in partnership with UN Women in line with the just ending 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign.

The exposition also marked the beginning of planned dialogue sessions under a new UN Women Campaign - Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future. In Tanzania, the campaign brings together

the next generations of women's rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995.

The aim is for these change makers to collectively tackle the unfinished business of women's empowerment.

Dr Kilama, who is also a Generation Equality Campaign Champion said the participation of women and girls in the campaign will not only provide visibility of issues that women would

like addressed, but also present opportunities on how women can partner in a more coordinated, strategic, robust and sustainable manner.

"There is a gap between different groups of women who, if they are to increase interaction and working together, they can benefit more from each other. In addition, while we have that situation, there is also another gap between women who championed gender equality during the period of the Beijing Platform for Action and those that are currently in the women's rights movement," said Dr Kilama.

She further explained that the Generation Equality campaign was critical and relevant in the Tanzanian context where there is a need to develop and reinvest in a new common vision that can strengthen efforts towards improving the status of women for an equal future.

Under this campaign, activities will run through September 2020, which is a significant year that will mark the 25th anniversary of the most

progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

UN Women will also celebrate 10 years of championing gender equality and working to shift the position and improve the status of women globally. The Security Council Resolution 1325 will commemorate 20 years while the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations will turn five and 75 respectively.

During the meeting participants who shared their experiences from the sneakers section, included a value adding gemstone processor, Lightness Salema; development mineral owner, Consolata Rwegasira and a geologist from African Minerals and Geosciences Center (AMGC), Lilian Moshi.

Women who featured in the heels section which looked at women in top management positions included the Norwegian Ambassador, Elisabeth Jacobsen; Partner at Rex Attorneys, Ambassador Mwanaidi Maajar who served in the United Kingdom and the USA; Netherlands Deputy Ambassador,

Lianne Houben; former Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) President, Neemayani Sanare and the Head of Human Development Innovation Fund (HDFI), Majorljin Wilmink.

UN Women Country Representative, Hodan Addou, highlighted the need to advocate for equal opportunities for women in the extractives. An estimated 6.4 percent of women and 7.6 percent men are formally employed in the mining and quarry sector while women constitute a larger number of 27.2 percent against an 18.7 percent of men in the informal sector.

Addou called for actions directed towards addressing challenges faced by women in the extractives including gender-based violence and exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. "Strengthening legal frameworks, policies and programmes that respond to the needs of women in the extractives can protect their rights and end extreme levels of violence particularly in resource rich countries that are in conflict," Addou said.

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Kilimanjaro regional community development officer Hilda Lauwo (L, foreground - with notebook) takes a close look at a sample of liquid soap made by Village Community Banking of Mkombozi Group of Himo in Moshi District at an exhibition held there at the weekend. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



By Guardian Reporter, Mtwara

## Government to merge six crop boards to form three

THE government is planning to merge the country's six crops boards under the Ministry of Agriculture into three to enhance performance in their management.

This was revealed by the Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga at the weekend when speaking to senior officials of cooperative societies at Tandahimba district council hall during his official visit in Mtwara region.

The minister said there were just too many boards for crops but the outcome of their performance does not commensurate with their numbers hence for better performance they will be merged.

He said seven boards will be merged to form one authority that will manage strategic crops that include coffee, cotton, sisal, tobacco, pyrethrum, cashew nuts, sunflower and oil palms.

He said the envisaged changes will also see the establishment of various 'departments' to manage each crop.

The second board will deal with cereal crops, vegetables - Cereal and

Horticulture Authority - and the third will be the Sugar Board that will be independent.

He said too many boards resulted into difficult supervision whereas it is envisaged that fewer boards will strengthen performance and the knack to manage officials thereof.

"Merging of the crops regulatory agencies will ease bureaucracy and save time, a bottleneck which many stakeholders complained against for many years," said the minister.

Meanwhile, Hasunga said his ministry is in the process of revising the Cooperatives Act including the Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO) to have strict supervision of wananchi's money and assets.

The minister is in Mtwara Region in an official visit after visiting Coast and Lindi regions where he inspected the

2019/20 cashew nuts harvest season as well as the situation thus far on payment to farmers for the cashew nuts bought by the government in the 2018/20 season.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Hussein Bashe said in Dodoma recently that establishment of the Horticulture Development Agency, will completely change the business of horticulture in the country.

Bashe said several reforms geared at eliminating bottlenecks frustrating rapid growth of the horticulture industry.

The authority, he said will be responsible to oversee the rapid growth of the industry and increase annual earnings from the current U \$ 764 million to U \$ 1.85 billion by 2021 while creating jobs and wealth for youth and women in the process.



NMB Bank Plc north zone manager Aikansia Muro (2nd-L, foreground) symbolically hands over 50 chairs and as many tables to Handeni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe at the weekend for use in schools in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TRC to loan railway wagons to businesspeople

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

THE government said it is ready to distribute its railway wagons to carry goods for business people to enable them transport their cargoes on rail and ships as a way to strengthen railway transport sector.

In the process the government will distribute 1,000 Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) goods wagons to large scale business people who will need them for transporting their goods from the ports to other destinations.

Speaking at the weekend at Lake Victoria ports of Bukoba and later at Kemondo Bay in Kagera Region, Minister for Transport and Communications, Eng Isaac Kamwelwe said the process will begin after he meets with various stakeholders including business people who use both water and rail transport to

transport their goods.

He said: "The wagons that will be handed to them will be maintained by them (business people) but continue to be the property of TRC which will charge them for using its rail system."

"In the coming two days or so I will have a meeting with TRC Director General Eng Masanja Kadogosa to discuss the issue deeply, as it will simplify our services provision as we want to run instead of walking."

While at Bukoba Port Kamwelwe said it started to be built in 1943 and completed in 1945 and handled various vessels in the Lake and later the government acquired its own ships - MV Victoria, MV Bukoba and MV Butiama.

"Unfortunately MV Bukoba sank and another vessel, MV Clarias broke down. But after the coming of phase fivea, changes began to be made including

the refurbishment of Bukoba port."

He said they are refurbishing the berths, warehouses for goods, offices for both Tanzania ports authority (TPA) and Tanzania Shipping Agency Company (TASAC) and passengers waiting area.

He said as of now another vessel, MV Umoja has started transporting cargo and has a capacity of carrying 19 railway wagons at a time soon after arrival by train at Mwanza Port without any need of offloading or loading of cargo.

He said: "Apart from refurbishing Bukoba and Kemondo Bay ports, the government is also refurbishing the largest ship in the lake - the MV Victoria as well as MV Butiama that will become almost new as major components - including engines and generators are being replaced with new ones."

By Correspondent George Sembony, Muheza

## Road improvement essential for tourism growth, villagers plead

VILLAGERS residing near the Magoroto Forest in Tanga Region and the forest management have pleaded to the government to improve the 12-kilometre road at the area to promote tourism and facilitate transportation of agricultural produce to the market.

Interviewed recently, the villagers said since most of them are farmers; construction of the road will ease transportation of goods to markets in Muheza District, but also allow many people to visit the Magoroto forest reserve.

They were concerned that the road will become impassable during rainy seasons thus affecting economic activities.

Magoroto Forest manager, Jeremiah Mchechu said: "With good transport services we are likely to see an increased number of visitors hence boost government's coffers. The government should consider constructing the road to tarmac level to boost tourism at the area".

Mchechu noted that it would do a

lot to improve the 12 kilometre road stretch to the forest since the villages will easily ferry their farm produce to markets in Muheza.

He said the management also plans to introduce special training programme to surrounding residents to enhance their skills on spices farming.

The training programme, he said, will also see expansion of the conserved area beyond the 500 hectares of forest through introduction and cultivation of crops that are friendly to the environment.

Mchechu said communities residing near the conserved forest have been cultivating various crops including black pepper, cardamom and vanilla which require forest cover to properly grow.

He said farmers will also be encouraged to plant clove since it is friendly to the environment and it's trees are expected to increase forest cover in areas which have been destroyed through increased human activities.

Mchechu added: "The company cultivates spices because they are environmental friendly and we believe they can turn around the fortunes of people and enhance conservation," he said.

A resident of Manga village, Martin Beleko said their efforts to massively engage in commercial agriculture are hampered by poor infrastructures since they find it difficult to reach markets in urban areas.

"We have joined the forest management to demand for construction of the road since we are sure that it will facilitate transportation of crops to markets," said Beleko.

Magoroto forest is situated in the East Usambara Mountains in north-east Tanzania.

The East Usambaras' mountain form part of the mountain chain called the Eastern Arc which ranges from southern Kenya to southern Tanzania. These mountains are known for their high levels of species endemism and rich floral and fauna diversity.

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania  
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

### Job Opportunity

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, development and integrated environmental conservation education. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots (R&S), is the education movement of the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania, started as a club on 19 February 1991 at Dr. Jane Goodall's house in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with 12 secondary school students and four educators.

Roots & Shoots is about making positive change to happen — for our communities, animals and environments. Today, Roots & Shoots is Jane Goodall's (JGI) global environmental and humanitarian youth program, involving hundreds of thousands of young people in more than 100 countries. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania establishes Roots & Shoots service-oriented clubs in primary, secondary schools, and universities to help inspire and empower young people to foster respect and compassion through action-oriented clubs that plan and implement projects based on their unique interests, resources, and community concerns.

JGI Tanzania is currently seeking to recruit suitably qualified and competent Tanzanian to fill the following vacant position:

**Job Vacancy:** Zonal Roots & Shoots Coordinator  
**Work Station:** Zanzibar  
**Reporting Line:** National Coordinator for Roots & Shoots

#### Job Overall Summary:

The Roots & Shoots Zonal Coordinator will manage Roots & Shoots Scholarship Programme in Zanzibar, and provide management and oversight to achieve the programme goal and objectives in a professional manner, by ensuring that Roots & Shoots is able to respond to the needs of JGI, National and International Volunteers, teachers, members, government and other partners. The coordinator is also expected to demonstrate strong programme management skills for a Roots & Shoots model, experience in working in a multisector team and leading clubs, and environmental conservation education projects and all other related Roots & Shoots projects and programmes in Zanzibar zone. The job holder is expected to raise public awareness, understanding and trust about JGI, Conservation, environmental education, conservation education and outreach programmes, timely reporting and capacity development for volunteers. Working in close collaboration with the Government Departments, stakeholders and Partner NGOs to provide management and oversight of the programme so as to achieve effective and on time delivery of programme results. Below are the essential and specific job responsibilities:

#### Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- To develop a standardized students selection guideline
- To coordinate and manage scholarships and students career guidance for Zanzibar
- Liaise with Universities, colleges and parents on matters related to students' scholarships
- Coordinate with Scholarship Selection Committee
- To manage all technical, logistical and office administration in a zonal office in Zanzibar
- Coordinate scholarship applications, selection and managements
- Supervise community gardens and students Roots & Shoots placements
- To coordinate all Roots & Shoots in the Eastern zone of Tanzania
- Establish new clubs in schools and regions where the need arises
- Represent the National Coordinator in all stakeholders' meetings and established networks in the zone
- To manage and facilitate Roots & Shoots Seedlings production center in Zanzibar
- To coordinate and provide data to feed the National Roots & Shoots database
- To facilitate and coordinate Roots & Shoots trees and mangroves planting in Zanzibar and Pemba
- Supervise and report all administrative matters related to memberships, certifications and registrations in the zone
- To coordinate all National and International Roots & Shoots and JGI-Visitors in your zone
- To work with National Coordinator on raising money (fundraising) for projects and activities to benefit Roots & Shoots program in Tanzania
- To manage, control and ensure safety and security of all Roots & Shoots assets in the Eastern zone - Tanzania
- To induct, train and support Roots & Shoots volunteers, interns, teachers and youth leaders on relevant Roots & Shoots thematic areas (Environments, Animals, communities)
- To facilitate all Roots & Shoots membership registrations, certification, club activities, events and networks in your zone
- To train teachers and coordinate Roots & Shoots activities and projects
- Provide updates on semi-annual and annual reports to the National Coordinator
- Conduct any other official related duties as shall be directed by your supervisor

#### Minimum job Requirements & Qualifications:

- o At least BSC of Environment or Environment Conservation, Wildlife Management, Education in Biology, and Ecological Studies.
- o A solid background in Professional teaching - Science or Earth related Science subjects.
- o Strong command in Strategy, Projects and office management skills.
- o Practical understanding of hands-on, Conservation education, tree planting and community engagements.
- o Ability to work under pressure, deadlines and little supervision.
- o Previous experience in conservation education management, environmental education, outreach and expeditions.
- o Ability to effectively manage a team of professional program officers, volunteers and interns.
- o Knowledge and experience of conservation and sustainable natural resources management is desirable.
- o Computer literate and ability to use data analysis programs, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook etc.
- o Experience working in a multiskilled, high pressure, and a dynamic ability to communicate effectively with various agencies, government Departments, UN agencies and Partners.

#### Essential Competencies:

- Self-disciplined, maturity, open minded and flexible
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Swahili
- Excellent inter-personal skills with a proven ability to develop and maintain effective relationships
- Team player
- Demonstrated ability to maintain a high degree of professionalism and integrity, both within and outside the work environment
- Capacity to work in a challenging environment
- Trustworthy and problem solver

#### Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (resume), copy of relevant certificates, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be sent to the following e-mail address: [jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz)

Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the interview.

**Deadline: Seven (7) days from the date of the first appearance of this advertisement on the newspapers**  
JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, and marital status.

QUALIFIED WOMEN ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.



# Stakeholders appeal for govt intervention in bid to end SRGBV

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SCHOOL related gender based violence (SRGBV) is reportedly common in schools in the country and stakeholders now appeals for the government intervention to reverse the trend.

SRGB, according to the UNESCO and UN-Women, refers to acts or threats of sexual, physical, or psychological violence occurring in and around school, perpetrated as a result of gender norms and stereotypes, and enforced by unequal power dynamics.

Speaking during the recently concluded Tanzania Heads of Secondary Schools Association (TAHOSSA)'s 14th Annual General Meeting here, some teachers expressed shock that such malpractice still exist in schools.

They were moved by a presentation by a local non-governmental organisation. Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), which highlighted the plight of students and pupils who undergo school related violence.

CAMFED's board vice chairperson Leonard Msiwga said school related gender based violence affects children and youth in terms of their physical and psychological health, and also academic achievement.

He said it also has both health and psychological impacts, such as it limit social skills and self esteem, body injuries and death.

It also leads to pregnancy and the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS following students' dropout from schools, rejection from families as well as poor performance in school, caused by less attendance, less participation in classroom activities fearing drawing attention from teachers and their peers.

"There is need for joint efforts to help end this kind of violence that negatively affect the nation's workforce" he said, adding that a recent study by his organisation reveals that many students face severe punishments.

He added that incidences of SRGBV can occur in school environments and on the way to and from school and can

be perpetrated by teachers, school staff, students and community members.

Msiwga expressed concern on "The Law of the Child Act 2009" which does not repeal this provision or prohibit corporal punishment in schools.

Government guidelines in 2000 reduced the number of strokes from six to four and stated that only the heads of school are allowed to administer the punishment, with penalties for teachers who flout these regulations.

Juma Mohamed, a teacher from Lake Zone, while speaking to this paper admitted that there are several forms of punishments administered to pupils that can be termed as violence and not correctional approach.

He said some of the pictures demonstrated in CAMFED presentation clearly show that serious action should be taken to end the problem. "It is wrong to administer such strange punishments in schools as if the students were in a military training," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by another teacher who declined to be named, saying, "Such correctional measures only make students more chronic.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), globally, it is estimated that up to one billion children aged 2-17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect.

Worldwide an estimated 246 million children experience school-related violence every year, according to UNESCO.

In Tanzania, at least 17 percent of Tanzanian women aged 15-49 years have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, and 40 percent experience physical violence, according to the Tanzania House Survey (TDHS 2015/16).

The survey showed that 75 percent of girls and boys had experienced physical violence by the age of 18 whereas nearly 3 in 10 females and approximately 1 in 7 males in Tanzania have experienced sexual violence prior to the age of 18 (UNICEF)



Repair of a road near Dar es Salaam's Hubert Kairuki Memorial Hospital under way yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## EACJ congratulates Judge Mugenyi on her new appointment

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Court of Justice has congratulated Justice Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi, Principal Judge of the First Instance Division, on her new appointment as a Judge of the Court of Appeal from the High Court of Uganda.

The EAC Heads of State Summit appointed Her Lordship a Judge to the East African Court of Justice in December 2013 and consequently she was designated the Principal Judge in July 2015, a position she still holds to date.

The President of the Court, Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebutja, congratulated Her Lordship Justice Mugenyi and commended her remarkable ser-

vices as the Principal Judge of the First Instance Division, which has greatly raised the reputation of the court and enhanced its jurisprudence in the region and globally.

Article 24 (8) provides that; "The Principal Judge shall directly work in the First Instance Division, represent it, regulate the disposition of the matters brought before the Court and preside over its sessions".

Dr Ugirashebutja further added: "Justice Mugenyi's new elevation to the court of appeal is an indicator of her hard work in the judiciary of Uganda and entrusting her with greater assignment. I once again congratulate Her Lordship and wish her good coop-

eration in implementing the role of the court of Appeal of Uganda".

He said the East African Court of Justice is greatly indebted to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his continuous trust and confidence in Her Lordship Justice Mugenyi's contribution to the judiciary not only to the Ugandan Judiciary but also to the regional judiciary, which is a great honour to the EACJ.

Lady Justice Mugenyi previously before being appointed to EACJ, served as the Judge, High Court of Uganda (Land and Criminal Division); Manager Corporate Services, Uganda Road Fund / Legal Secretary Uganda Road

Fund Board; Legal Consultant Uganda; Legal Officer, Privatization & Utility Sector Reform (World Bank/IDA) project Uganda/Secretary Divestiture & Reform Implementation Committee (Sub-committee of Cabinet; Policy formulation body); Senior State Attorney, Attorney General's Chambers, Uganda; State Attorney, Ministry of Justice among other distinguished offices in Uganda. Her Lordship Justice Mugenyi, holds an LLM in International Trade Law Degree (University of Essex, UK); a Postgraduate Diploma, Legal Practice (Law Development Centre, Uganda); LLB Degree Makerere University, Uganda & is an advocate of the High Court of Uganda.



Crossing this flooded Mussa River Bridge at Munkawa village in Manyoni District, Singida Region, is a sure challenge - as captured late last week. Photo: Correspondent Jembe Ismail

By Correspondent James Kandoya

## EASTC challenged to enroll more female students

ZANZIBAR Minister for Finance and Planning, Ambassador Mohamed Abdiwawa has challenged the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) to increase enrollment of female students to promote gender equality

He was speaking at the EASTC 5th graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

He was concerned that out of the 116 graduates for the 2018/19 academic year, only 41 were females, 75 being males, which according to him, the number of female graduates was small. "Without women involvement,

achieving development will not be easy. Therefore it is very important for the EASTC to reconsider gender equality when enrolling students for various courses," said.

He however applauded the EASTC for successes achieved since its inception in 1965 calling for both public and private institutions in and outside the country to use official statistics prepared by professional statisticians.

The ambassador called on the graduates across the country to work hard and deliver to their maximum to

prove without reasonable doubt that EASTC is a centre for excellence.

EASTC Regional Advisory Board chairman, Dr Albina Chuwa called on governments to contribute for the centre to produce more competent statisticians for the entire region.

"We need to see African governments put resources in official statistics to promote our training centre," she said.

She noted that official statistics play a vital role in poverty reduction adding that if there was no statistics it won't be

easy to reach development goals.

Dr Chuwa who is also the Statistician General, expressed her office's commitment to work closely with EASTC to expedite the use of technology and leave paper technology.

She said competent statisticians were highly needed especially this time when the governments focus on the use of evidenced based statistics to bolster developments.

"I call on all of you who have graduated here to work hard when you get opportunity. While doing your

duties don't forget to increase your level of your education up to PHD if possible," she insisted.

The EASTC Rector Dr Frank Mkumbo said that EASTC has embarked on practical teaching to meet market demand.

He also challenged the two higher learning student's loans boards in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland to increase sponsorship to students interested to study statistics.

"Official statistics are crucial for the country development, planning taking

preparing for more coverage of civic education programmes before the next year's General Election.

Issa Maulale, a reporter from Ruangwa FM said, the training will strengthen their journalism skills, knowledge and professionalism especially on how to identify story ideas, write radio stories, identify news sources, present news stories, and journalism ethics and law.

"The majority of us from community radios are practicing journalism without formal journalism training; this training will empower us and strengthen our skills, knowledge, and professionalism".

UNESCO through The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded project, "Empowering Local Radios with ICTs for the Promotion of Rural Citizens' Participation in Democratic Discourse and Development", supports 25 community radios as well as the network of community media in Tanzania (TADIO).

The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive accurate information and knowledge.

into consideration that the fifth phase government focuses into transforming Tanzania into a middle-income size nation by 2030," he said.

The EASTC aims to promote the production and use of high quality statistics through training, research and consultancy in statistics for evidence-based decision making in user countries.

It serves eighteen African countries namely Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mauritius, Namibia, Eritrea, Sudan, Gambia and South Sudan.



By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Govt to continue nurturing higher learning institutions, states Samia

THE government has vowed to continue creating better environment for universities to thrive and increase students' enrollment at universities to attain country's industrialisation agenda.

Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan made the pledge over the weekend when speaking at the 12th St Joseph University graduation ceremony.

In her speech read by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof James Mdoe, Samia said yet the number of graduates from universities in Tanzania is low compared with other East African partner states.

She urged the Ministry of Education together with public and private higher learning institutions to come up with strategies on how to increase university enrollment.

Samia said private universities are good government partners in the improvement of education so it is important for the responsible ministry to create good environment for them to flourish and increase number of

students.

She said, every year, 25 percent of all university graduates in Tanzania from private universities insist on the need for Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) to collaborate with the ministry and see the importance of working together for improvement of the education sector.

"TCU should see private universities like St Joseph as their partners and not enemies and it is supposed to create enabling environment for them to expand and provide quality education. We are partners, we depend on each other to help the country to produce competent graduates," she said

"I'm aware that some of your programmes were closed by TCU due to several factors, but am happy to hear that you have corrected everything and you are now on track," she said adding, "my presence here is a clear testimony that the government is satisfied by the improvement you

have made".

She said records show that since the introduction of St Joseph in 2004, the college has produced more than 7,900 graduates of engineering and other fields something that complement government's efforts in producing experts.

The VP lauded contribution made by the Catholic Church of Tanzania particularly on how it has been investing in education since 1980's when the government requested private people and institutions to establish universities.

St Joseph Vice Chancellor, Prof Innocent Ngalinda, commended the government on how it has been providing loans to students that join his university and employ them when they complete their studies.

He said St Joseph is committed to make sure it produce competent graduates who are going to employ themselves and employ others rather than waiting for employment posts.

# The Guardian Limited

## JOB VACANCY

The Guardian Limited (TGL), widely acclaimed as the Home of Great Newspapers, is part of the IPP Group of Companies – one of Tanzania's leading private sector entities with dignified presence in the print media as well as television and radio broadcasting.

TGL currently publishes two upmarket daily newspapers – The Guardian (in English) and Nipashe (in Kiswahili).

In our ongoing endeavour to ensure that we have a team of highly qualified, diligent and motivated professionals in our various departments and units, we are looking for suitable people to fill the following vacancy:

### Job Title: SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

#### Responsibilities:

- To professionally lead the sales team to achieve the set targets for all publications.
- To Plan, pitch and sale advertisement spaces directly and through our network of freelancers and Agencies.
- To oversees the advertising activity of our publications by ensuring that The Guardian and Nipashe maintain the strong market share in the advertising sector.
- To stay in close communication with the clients, explaining strategy and providing status updates about our publications.
- To build a network of reliable clients who have strong and mutual trust to our brands and thereby give the company an extra advantage in terms of revenues generation.
- To plan and develop special projects like supplements with a purpose of generating additional revenues to the company.

#### Qualifications:

- Degree in Business Administration/ Sales/ Marketing
- Five years working experience in Sales and Marketing

#### Skills:

- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Ability to positively and meaningfully connect with clients
- Time management skills, particularly as relates to dealing with calls to – and by – clients
- Experience in meeting retention and sales negotiation goals
- Basic computer software skills and ability to work within relevant data spreadsheets
- Ability to work diligently and efficiently in a fast-paced environment
- Attention to detail and ability to reason and think quickly during negotiations

**Interested candidates meeting the above-mentioned criteria should send their applications, complete with detailed CVs, addressed to:**

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
THE GUARDIAN LIMITED  
P. O. BOX 31042  
DAR ES SALAAM

Alternatively, deliver the documents at The Guardian Limited offices in Mikocheni Light Industrial Area – opposite ITV studios or send the application via Email: to [vacancy@guardian.co.tz](mailto:vacancy@guardian.co.tz)

**Deadline: 24th December, 2019**

- Please note that only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY WORK ON SELECTION OF CORE BANKING SYSTEM (CBS) AND ENTERPRISE SERVICE BUS (BUS)

1. CRDB Bank Plc is seeking for Request For Proposal (RFP) from qualified Consulting Firms for Consultancy services to guide / assist the Bank towards Selection of any or all of the following banking systems:
  - LOT 1: Core Banking System (CBS).**
  - LOT 2: Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) system.**
  - LOT 3: ATM / POS Switch & Card Management system.**
2. The Consultancy services for the above listed systems include, but not limited to, the following activities:
  - Preparing and documenting Business / User and Technical Requirements;
  - Creating a Request For Proposal (RFP) document to be issued to short-listed bidders for each of the above systems;
  - Establishing and benchmark the bidders' capabilities to successfully carry out the project of implementing the proposed systems;
  - Review RFP Responses from bidders and prepare final short-list of bidders;
  - Organize onsite presentations and due diligence / reference checks for the final short-listed bidders;
  - Conduct final vendor and systems selection and recommend the same to the bank;
  - Conduct financial negotiations and Contract signing with the successful bidder.
3. The bank now invites eligible Consulting Firms to submit RFP for the Consultancy service for Selection of any or all of the above listed systems.
4. Interested Consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified and experienced in selection of the respective systems by submitting the following information:
  - General information: Company profile, Key references of similar consultancy services;
  - Professional capabilities: Description of similar assignments, Overall experience in providing similar consultancy services, Resources and availability of appropriate skills among staff and business partners that will be engaged in the project.
  - Financial proposal for the Consultancy services for any or all of the above listed systems.
  - Estimated timelines of completion of the Consultancy services for any or all of the above listed systems
5. A shortlist of Consulting firms will be developed on the basis of the RFP responses submitted to CRDB Bank Plc. The shortlisting will be conducted through a two-staged "Quality Based" process. Initial short listing shall be conducted based on assessment of Professional Capabilities, Experience and skills, whereas the second short listing shall be done based on presentations covering previous similar assignments, experience and capabilities in conjunction with due diligence of reference provided by the participating firms.
6. Interested eligible Consulting firms may obtain further information from the office of the CRDB Bank Tender Committee Secretary, CRDB Head Office along Azikiwe Street, 1st Floor, Office of Accommodation Scheme Building, from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Local Time on Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.
7. All RFP responses in one original, duly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the Tender Box on the 1st Floor, CRDB Head Office, along Azikiwe Street, Office Accommodation Scheme Building, Opposite New Post Office, P.O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam before 1100hours local time on 27th December, 2019. All RFP responses clearly marked, should be addressed to the Secretary Management Tender Committee CRDB Bank Plc P.O.BOX 268, Dar es Salaam.
8. All RFP responses will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidder's representatives who will choose to attend the opening ceremony at CRDB Head Office Meeting Room situated on the 1st Floor on 27th December, 2019 at 1100 hours' local time.
9. Late RFP Responses, a portion of it, Electronic versions, Responses not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

The Managing Director  
CRDB Bank Plc  
P.O.BOX 268  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Let's continue making roads in Dar safer, more navigable

GOVERNMENTS and various other authorities or agencies around the globe have waged war on road traffic congestion in cities and other urban areas since the advent of motor vehicles just over a century ago.

Tanzania began experiencing the menace in earnest with the introduction of the liberalisation of the economy over three decades ago. That was at a time when ownership of motor vehicles, considered some sort of a luxury, was 'decontrolled'.

The development led to a rise in the importation of cars and all manner of other vehicles, gradually making road congestion in some urban areas a fact of life.

Over time, it really became a menace in every sense of the word particularly in fast-growing Dar es Salaam, with the number of its residents standing in the millions and more and more soon owning motor vehicles while the capacity of roads meant to handle the traffic failing miserably to do so.

But is traffic congestion on our roads a sign of general or chronic failure? If long queues at banks, post offices, ticket offices and restaurants are seen as signs of success, why should traffic queues be viewed any differently?

People endlessly complain about being stuck in traffic but, unlike in times of inclement weather such as a sudden downpour, no one seems to do anything about it. Rather, it is usually transport and law-enforcement officials as well as other stakeholders overseeing or otherwise associated with urban transportation systems who are repeatedly criticised for the mess on the roads.

If we had no large cities, the problem of traffic congestions would be minimal. But cities exist, and they help in promoting social interactions and economic transactions. In a way, considered together the mess on roads, they are necessary evil. Road traffic congestion usually occurs when many people go about their various activities at the same

time, and roads just cannot cope.

So, traffic jams can be an inevitable by-product of a vibrant urban life, a manifestation of social and economic vitality, while empty streets are signs of failure.

Conventional wisdom holds that traffic congestion exacts a terrible social and economic toll on society, and it is quite possible for expanding transportation capacity to make things worse.

In the circumstances, redesigning cities and expanding alternative transportation modes will likely serve as a better and more long-term way of reducing traffic congestion.

Too bad, for countries where the people's major concern is related to solving the poverty teaser, these undertakings often prove very costly.

Therefore, it might make sense for one to suggest that the country can barely afford to divert enough of its limited resources to efforts to ease urban traffic congestion.

However, Dar es Salaam is the country's commercial capital and most important port-city. It boasts a high concentration of trade, manufacturing and other services. For example, even though the it holds only one-tenth of the country's population, it is there that about half of the people employed in the manufacturing sector live.

Dar es Salaam is also the hub of the Tanzania's transportation system, at least in the sense that all the country's main railways and several highways originate there. And while it has indeed now lost to Dodoma its official status as the country's capital city, its importance internationally is all but intact.

So, it remains as important today as it has always been for the authorities to end the city's traffic congestion menace in the best but most affordable ways they can.

Many applauded the inauguration of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) commuter bus services three years ago, but they know that the traffic congestion dragon is far from dead and buried.

## Improving business policies crucial for Tanzania, Kenya

RELATIONS between Tanzania and Kenya are on an upswing, a new phase in the post-independence context.

The first phase was rather frosty as cooperation arrangements underwent two structural changes in 1963 (from High Commission to Common Services) and then in 1967 (from Common Services to Community).

Each time there were indications of slackening. Ten years later the mechanism simply fell apart, manifested in the 1977 collapse of the 'first-phase' East African Community.

After liberalisation in Tanzania and Kenya having a second-phase state order, if you will, there was some thawing in ties but only in the 'third-phase' presidency on this side was it possible to say 'let bygones be bygones'.

But even then, the old trappings were not gone yet, as differences of opinion between the two neighbouring countries Kenya-Tanzania have had plenty to do with market forces taking the upper hand - with Tanzania feeling short-changed.

As happened, the tentative restoration of relations used up three years from 1996 until a mechanism for cooperation was knocked into shape and it was now feasible to set up a secretariat with a clear function and set of tasks.

For instance, there are common programmes but they are executed at territorial level as national projects, only coordinated in collaboration with the other parties. This way there are no conflicts on supranational agencies.

It has thus taken another a long 20 years for the process to reach tentative harmonisation of trade policies, first enabling the removal of most non-tariff barriers and now liberalisation of agro-products marketing.

As expected, there were much fewer problem areas when Foreign Affairs and

East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi recently attended a ceremony to mark 56 years of Kenya's independence in Dar es Salaam. It is now much easier to emphasize the intent to cooperate all the more, as the differences are slowly but surely easing.

Admittedly, there are new sources of pressure that did not exist previously, all reflecting that Africa is changing rather fast, and opportunities demand that people cross traditional barriers to make use of them.

That is what often happens when a person notices a business opportunity that can unite local markets. Now, such a business could extend to six countries.

Minister Kabudi understandably mentioned the need to pull together in economic diplomacy, that obviously including concrete evidence of combining forces at regional and global levels such as the African Union and the UN.

It means that EAC partner states getting increasingly closer, and this will likely be even more pertinent the more markets are integrated and the common market actually begins to grow real feet and not just the customs union.

There is even a rather distant plan for the re-creation, so to speak, of an East African currency which presumes enhancement of trade harmonisation.

That is a bit far from where we are now, but the pointers are all in the right direction, and when lingering problems of ensuring there is sufficient commitment in each of the EAC partner states to the boosting of relations, changes of faster integration are obvious.

Unstable countries don't put up lasting partnerships, and businesses don't invest in quicksand. Tanzania and Kenya have attained assured levels of stability but there is still work to do. We wish efforts towards that end every luck.

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### MADRID

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has joined forces with 11 other international organisations in efforts to help developing countries build resilience against the impact of natural disasters caused by extreme weather.

Following a series of deadly weather events that have caused widespread destruction, especially in Africa, the institutions met here for the just-ended (December 2 to 13) COP 25 UN climate change conference to launch the Alliance for Hydromet Development.

"The science is clear: the global average temperature has increased by 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period and by 0.2°C compared to 2011-2015," said Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

"Ambitious climate action requires countries to be equipped with the most reliable warning systems and best available climate information services," noted Taalas.

"Many developing countries are facing capacity constraints as they seek to provide these services. The Alliance is the vehicle to collectively scale up our support to the most vulnerable," added Taalas.

The members of the Alliance have committed to ramping up action strengthen the capacity of developing countries to deliver high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems, hydrological and climate services.

Known for short as "hydromet" services, these underpin resilient development by protecting lives, property and livelihoods.

"The African Development Bank joins the Alliance in recognizing the gap in the limited capacity of African countries to address vulnerability to extreme climate shocks," said Anthony Nyong, the bank's Director for Climate Change and Green Growth.

"Through the Hydromet Alliance, we are committed to doubling our climate finance support to African countries and will work with them to transition from dealing with disaster emergencies to building resilience against the impacts of extreme weather events," he explained.

The Alliance's founding members are the Adaptation Fund, AfDB, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, UNDP, the UN Environment Programme, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and WMO.

The members have committed to unite their efforts in four areas, one being strengthening capacity to operate observational systems and seeking innovative ways to finance observations.

The second is boosting capacity

## Alliance out to help developing countries fight extreme weather



for science-based mitigation and adaptation planning.

They also agreed to strengthen early warning systems, for improved disaster risk management - this involving developing multi-hazard national warning systems, comprising better risk information, forecasting capabilities, warning dissemination, and anticipatory response.

They further agreed to boost investments for better effectiveness and sustainability. This would include systematically strengthening WMO's integrated global, regional and national operational hydromet system.

The determination by the Alliance to close the hydromet capacity gap is guided by the principles of UN agreements, including the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Alliance is open for membership to all public international development, humanitarian and financial institutions that assist the hydromet capacity of developing countries.

Earlier reports said there was standing room only as ministers, diplomats, activists and journalists gathered in the Spanish capital on Tuesday to mark Africa Day at the COP 25 climate meeting, at which speaker after speaker called for a united front to tackle the challenges of climate change in Africa.

In the opening statement for the Day on Tuesday, Egyptian Environmental Affairs minister Yasmin Fouad said on behalf of the African Union: "We have, and will continue to engage and to seek landing grounds on the outstanding issues."

"But we must flag our concern at the apparent reluctance by our interlocutors to engage on issues of priority to developing countries, as evidenced by the large number of such issues which have simply been pushed from session to session without any progress," she added.

Africa contributes the least to global

warming emissions yet is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, as witnessed by devastating natural disasters recently. Africa Day has been held at the conference every year since COP 17 in 2011 to rally support for the continent's cause.

"The climate disaster issues confronting the continent demand a predictable and unified response," said UN Assistant Secretary General Mohamed Beavogui, Director General of African Risk Capacity, an agency of the African Union that helps governments respond to natural disasters.

"Africa needs to move towards market-based innovative financing models to achieve a strong, united, resilient and globally influential continent. The future of Africa depends on solidarity," he noted.

Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), meanwhile said her commission would support African countries in revising their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to attract private sector investments in clean energy.

"The lack of concerted and meaningful global ambition and action to tackle climate change poses an existential threat to African populations," she said.

The Paris Agreement is the guiding force of current climate negotiations. It calls on nations to curb temperature increases at 2°C by the end of this century, while attempting to contain rises within 1.5°C. The next step is to implement NDCs, which set out national targets under the Paris Agreement.

While African countries outlined bold aspirations to build climate-resilient and low-carbon economies in their NDCs, the continent's position is that it should not be treated the same as developed nations in that its carbon emissions constitute a fraction of the world's big economies.

"The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) remains

committed to partnering with other institutions in providing the requisite support to AU member states in reviewing and updating their NDCs," said Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programmes at AUDA-NEPAD.

Barbara Creecy, South Africa's Environment minister and current chair of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, recommended that the Africa Day event come up with new ideas to enhance the implementation of NDCs in Africa.

For his part, AfDB's Anthony Nyong said Africa was already responding positively to the challenge of climate change, citing huge investment interest in renewables at his bank's Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg.

"Clearly, we are a continent that has what it takes to create the Africa that we want to see happen," he said, adding: "I believe what has been the missing link is the ability to brand right and to act on the market signals," he said.

"We continue to present Africa as a vulnerable case and not as a business case with opportunities. In fact, where we have attempted the latter, and the results have been spot-on," he noted.

Pan-African Parliament Vice President Chief Fortune Charumbira said robust climate legislation was of paramount importance: "The world's response to the challenge has shown that legislation is imperative to cement efforts employed by various stakeholders, from the Paris Agreement to Nationally Determined Contributions."

Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission, said climate change affected sectors key to Africa's socio-economic development, such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries, energy, biodiversity and tourism.

She called on African countries to take stock of the Paris Agreement and its implementation around finance capacity building and technology.

• Agencies



# Commonwealth: Commit to limit global warming or face irreversible impacts

MADRID

COMMONWEALTH countries, including those in the Caribbean, continue to push for more ambition, following reports that a few very influential parties have stymied efforts to respond to the climate emergency.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) has expressed concern that if this persists, the majority's efforts to create platforms to unleash climate action suitable for averting catastrophic warming will be thwarted.

World Resources Institute explains that "in the climate negotiations, 'ambition' refers to countries' collective will—through both domestic action and international initiatives—to cut global greenhouse gas emissions enough to meet the 2°C goal".

As the United Nations climate negotiations, the 25th Conference Of The Parties (COP25), is nearing an end, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland said there is urgent need for higher climate ambition to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 ° Celsius - or risk severe and irreversible impacts.

"We've never seen disasters on this scale before - bigger than ever, seas are rising, there's increased desertification, increase in drought," Scotland told IPS.

"The fight is on. Nobody ever knows how a COP will go until the end, so there's



Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland said there is urgent need for higher climate ambition to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 ° Celsius - or risk severe and irreversible impacts. Credit: Desmond Brown/IPS

a lot of us who are advocating for greater ambition because we have no choice."

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is imperative that global warming be held to 1.5 ° C above pre-industrial levels. It also warns that global warming of 2 ° C

would have devastating impacts on the planet, including more frequent extreme weather events, flooding and drought.

A special report from the IPCC defines global warming as "an increase in combined surface air and sea surface temperatures averaged over the globe

and over a 30-year period".

The report, entitled Global Warming of 1.5 ° C: An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 ° C above pre-industrial levels, uses comparisons to the 1850 to 1900 period as an approximation of pre-industrial temperatures.

Scotland said an ideal outcome from COP 25 would be recognition of the IPCC's findings.

"A recognition that we have no time. A recognition that the IPCC reports are correct and that we now have an aggressive implementable, action-oriented plan, which every single country is going to be committed to delivering. That would be my dream," Scotland said.

"If you look through everything the Commonwealth is doing, we too are tired of talk; we want to do. We are committed to doing."

Scotland said commonwealth countries are living climate change.

This September, the Bahamas was hit by Hurricane Dorian, resulting in initial damages already totalling \$3.4 billion, equal to one-fourth of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The catastrophic 2017 Atlantic hurricane season affected many Caribbean states, resulting in an estimated 3,300 deaths and damages estimated at \$282 billion.

In Dominica, Hurricane Maria resulted in total damages of \$931 million

or 236 percent of their 2016 GDP.

"We are living with the sea rises, we are living with coastal erosion, we are living with the degradation of habitats, we are living with the reality of what climate change means, and we're fighting," Scotland said.

"It is not enough for us to talk. All of us need to do constructive things, which will make it incrementally better and more achievable for us to get where we can go. I think we can do it, but we haven't got a lot of time.

"I've said before, human genius got us into this mess, and human genius is going to get us out. And I know that the people of the Caribbean and the people of the Commonwealth, we have a lot of genius, so we are going to have to utilise it very quickly," she added.

Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General at the CARICOM Secretariat, said the expectation coming into COP 25 was that it was all about ambition.

For the Caribbean, he said, ambition is about trying to have member states committing to keeping the global temperature rise to below 1.5 ° C.

"We know that is a big challenge, and the ambition we want is that there will be a recommitment of all, especially the big polluters, with their Nationally Determined Contributions," Slater told IPS.

"In other words, what will they be doing to decrease greenhouse gasses and therefore keep temperatures down? Quite frankly, we are informed that there was supposed to be what you call a stock taking at this meeting, where we would have an idea of where we are. We're told that that might now come out. If it doesn't come out, we still hope that we will be on our way."

Slater said Caribbean countries will continue to put moral pressure on big polluters as they were causing the problems and should commit to solving them.

"We're seeing the horrible storms, but it is not just those. There are the slow onset events - that is, as the temperature rises and the level of the sea, we are losing land, we're losing out mangroves, we are losing out coral reefs," Slater said.

"We want that reality coming out of this COP, that we send a message strong enough so that the bigger players understand and to put some moral pressure on them to say 'hey, we are part of the universe. We have a right to be here, and that right we have to be here depends on all of us working together.'" IPS

# Boosting farm productivity crucial for Ethiopia's agriculture

JOHANNESBURG

THE agricultural sector is the bedrock of Ethiopia's economy, employing more than 70 per cent of the country's workforce, accounting for more than a third of GDP, and serving as the largest earner of foreign exchange.

Yet, outdated farming practices and low productivity mean that the sector is far from reaching its potential in the country.

Boosting output from this sector could help improve the security of local staple crops like teff and to unleash significant economic growth, especially through targeting the export market.

Ethiopia is already a significant exporter of coffee, oilseeds, pulses and flowers, but adopting more modern farming practices and improving productivity could elevate foreign exchange earnings dramatically.

With its Growth and Transformation Plan for 2015-2020, the government has recognized that the commercialisation of the agricultural sector is a major opportunity for the country.

A successful commercial farming drive could vastly increase agricultural production and create many rural employment opportunities. But there are many roadblocks on the way.

Today, the Ethiopian agricultural sector is largely driven by small-scale and subsistence farming. Productivity and yields are low because farmers don't have easy access to quality inputs like seeds and pesticide, and because small-scale farmers are not applying the latest technologies and best practices for farm management.

Ethiopia is wrestling with a range of challenges, among them limited arable land, changing weather patterns, land degradation, short fallow periods, poorly developed transport links and shortages of key skills.

To thrive against the backdrop of these challenges, the country's agricultural sector will have to be more precise, more resilient and adaptive.

The policy to drive larger-scale commercial farming is a step towards improving productivity and yield per hectare. Investments in irrigation projects and transport infrastructure will, in the longer term, be decisive in driving the growth of agriculture.

In the more immediate future, encouraging farmers to use improved seed and pesticide, and to learn new-age farm management practices, could help to vastly increase yields.



New-age agricultural companies can support these efforts with new technologies and practices around seeds, crop protection and digital farming technology.

For example, continuous improvement of herbicides and insecticides can help farmers stay ahead of threats to their crops and protect their yields. As demand for food increases worldwide, better seed choices allow farmers to maximise productivity while building a sustainable future.

In years to come, as commercialisation gathers pace, farmers in Ethiopia will be able to use digital technology to improve productivity and yields.

Cloud-based farming applications, drones, intelligent sensors and other devices are clearing the way for farmers to use digital technology to address some of their most pressing challenges with precision agriculture techniques.

Precision agriculture is about using real-time information to ensure that crops, water, fertiliser, pesticides and soil are managed in a manner that

produces the optimal yield while ensuring environmental sustainability.

The tools of this trade - satellite imaging, drones, Internet of Things sensors, data analytics - are becoming more accessible to small-scale commercial farmers all the time.

Even though Ethiopia has successfully diversified its economy over the past decade with a fast-growing services sector, growing and modernising agriculture is central to sustaining the country's economic wellbeing.

There is an opportunity for the country to adopt the latest technology and techniques to elevate agricultural production and become a major global player in agriculture in the years to come.

At least this is accord-

ing to Corteva Agriscience, a publicly traded, global pure-play agriculture company that provides farmers around the world with a reputable portfolio in the industry.

This includes a diverse mix of seed, crop protection and digital solutions focused on maximising productivity to enhance yield and profitability.

With some recognized brands in agriculture and an industry-leading product and technology pipeline positioned to drive growth, the firm is committed to working with stakeholders throughout the food system to enrich the lives of those who produce and those who consume, ensuring progress for generations to come.

•Agencies



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

## Challenges remain for British PM despite Conservatives' landslide win

LONDON

CHAMPAGNE corks could be heard popping from 10 Downing Street as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson celebrated his landslide victory in Friday's general election.

With 365 MPs in the House of Commons, the ruling Conservatives appear untouchable, with an 80-seat majority, as they prepare next week to gather in the chamber to start putting into place the promises made by Johnson in his election manifesto.

Despite the scale of the win - which could mean Johnson in power for a decade - warnings continued Saturday that Johnson faces many challenges in the weeks, months and years ahead.

"While the prime minister has won a clear majority, he can expect the shortest honeymoon ever," said Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress (TUC). "After nine years of failed austerity, the pressure is now on the government to boost living standards and inject real investment into our National Health Service (NHS) and public services."

"There are no more excuses for Boris Johnson on Brexit. In the year to come, he must deliver a deal with the European Union (EU) that protects jobs, rights at work and peace in Northern Ireland," said O'Grady.

The Labor-supporting newspaper Daily Mirror said the nation will wait anxiously to see what sort of PM Johnson will be, unshackled with his large majority.

"Will he be able to bridge the country's chronic north-south chasm for those many Labor voters who went blue (by voting Conservative) ... or will Labor backers who 'lent' their vote come to regret their decision if the PM betrays them," said the newspaper.

It cited Britain's underfunded NHS, Brexit and its long-term relationship with the EU, the knife-crime epidemic, the environment and Johnson's re-

lationship with U.S. President Donald Trump as his key challenges.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Financial Times, a business newspaper, said the Conservatives have to move fast to boost growth or face some difficult financial realities, with business groups warning there are still big barriers to resuming investment.

Big challenges facing Johnson and Chancellor Sajid Javid include the appointment of a successor to Mike Carney as governor of the Bank of England, framing its first spending budget, kick-starting growth against a dismal economic background and looking beyond Brexit after Britain's departure from the EU on Jan. 31, said the FT.

Businesses are hoping that an orderly Brexit in January will give ministers the bandwidth to address longer-term challenges, from domestic problems such as housing and skills, to the future shape of immigration policy and the extent of regulatory alignment with the EU, added the FT.

Tim Pitt, a former Treasury special adviser, said on Twitter that the electoral fortunes of the Conservatives were now tied to votes in working-class areas that had been opposed to the economics of former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The Times, meanwhile, said the new seats won by Johnson, and the MPs representing those places, will be pressing for higher social spending to deal with urgent social problems.

In his first major speech on Friday after his victory, Johnson thanked the thousands of people who voted Conservative.

"I say thank you for the trust you have placed in us, and in me. We will work round the clock to repay your trust and to deliver on your priorities with a parliament that works for you," said Johnson.

Every corner of Britain will be watching and waiting to see if he delivers his promises and rises to the challenges. Xinhua



# Creativity is the currency of the future

By Brett Morris

I've spent most of my life learning about and trying to understand creativity and the creative process. My exploration started very early as my mother is a fine artist and she was always either making art or teaching art, so I was lucky enough to grow up surrounded by the opportunity to be creative.

There were always art materials around the house and I would spend hours, that seemed to go by like minutes, drawing, painting or sculpting. So, for me, creativity wasn't something that was reserved for special people with a special gift that you did at a special time. It was just something that you did all the time. I never realised how lucky I was to have the opportunity for creative exploration in my foundation years and that probably had a lot to do with what I ended up doing for a living.

As much as my formative years were engaged in making things, whether drawings, paintings, sculptures or any other manner of often uninterpretable abstract objects, it's important to point out that for me the definition of creativity is not art.

Often, when people hear that I work in a creative field, they might say: "You're so lucky you're creative, I'm not creative at all, I can't even draw." While art is certainly an output of creativity or creative thinking, I see creativity as something much more fundamental and it is certainly not dependent on an artistic output like drawing.

As I moved into a field that requires creative thinking, and in fact sells creativity, I've come to realise over time that creativity is essentially an elevated form of problem-solving. And in my experience, the best creative thinkers are often the most passionate, disciplin



plined and tenacious problem solvers.

The tenacity is important because a creative process requires an unreasonable amount of focus and commitment. If you want to create something valuable out of nothing, you have to figure the best way of getting to the solution. Whether it's a drawing or a business, it's the same process, and that often involves trial and error. You start with a very clear point of view or at least a vision of what the end product will look like and then methodically work your way towards getting a result. That, in my view, is creativity. And it's not just reserved for artists.

There are, of course, many creative artists (and some not-so-creative ones) but there are also creative business people, educators, entrepreneurs

and even accountants. That last one always gets a laugh, but I don't mean creative accounting as in "dubious". I've worked with some very creative accountants who are able to solve complex problems within a very bureaucratic construct to enable businesses to be more innovative and productive.

Ironically one of the fields where creativity is sorely lacking is education. I came to learn a lot more about creativity and analytical thinking when our youngest child started at a Reggio Emilia inspired pre-school. My wife and I consider ourselves profoundly lucky to have been exposed to a system of learning that fosters

deep inquiry and honours every child's ability to learn in their own unique way, and that they are innately curious, collaborative and creative.

Without wanting to oversimplify it, the most fascinating thing about the approach for me is that there is no syllabus and they don't give the children any pre-prepared answers. This was quite unnerving at first, but once you see how the children flourish and how deeply they learn and how creative and innovative they can be, it makes you wonder why every school in the world doesn't work this way.

It took us a while to wrap our heads around this and stop our-

selves from jumping to answers when our children ask us questions. Answers, or facts, are now ubiquitous. You can get any answer to any question at any time. It's not important, or even helpful to remember a large number of facts by rote, what's important is how you apply the knowledge you have. If you want your children to be prepared for the future, probably the most important things you can teach them are analytical thinking (creativity), leadership and collaboration.

The reason for this, as I'm sure you've heard, is that creative professions are predicted to be relatively immune from a future where AI is able to do a lot of things better than humans, including processing facts, and so in the past few years many companies, businesses and educational institutions have become more interested in creativity – and yet in the field of marketing and communications, which has fostered creativity for more than a century, some seem to be ignoring its power.

This is not a new syndrome. I started in advertising before there was social media (like *tots OG*, I know) and even then, some marketers and agencies handed over a "formula" that would make creativity far more structured and predictable. Well, the bad news is there is no formula, but the good news is, just like a schooling system that has no structured syllabus and is not focused on answers, creativity can still be very consistent if the system it's in is agile and adaptive.

As I mentioned in a recent trends article, there seems to be a correlation between Moore's Law and the levels of anxiety that agencies and marketers have around navigating the complexity that technology brings. Like the very steep price-performance

technology curve, there is an equally steep incline in the panic-proliferation curve, which also seems to be doubling every year.

Technology and the resultant complexity it brings to marketing is causing many brands to aim for measurement and control at the expense of creativity. Fortunately, we work with many clients who place more, or at the very least equal, value on creativity and technology, appreciating that creativity can have an exponential impact with technology in support, and just like brands that enjoy exponential value by continuing to spend on marketing in a recession, I believe those that focus on creativity while others are avoiding it will ultimately win.

We are entering one of the most exciting eras in communication. There is so much potential in data, artificial intelligence, automation, martech platforms, voice and image recognition, among many other things that we can't yet even fathom. These technologies will fundamentally change how advertisers operate and make storytelling exponentially more powerful, but only with creativity at the core.

Whether you're manufacturing widgets or building brands, the more technologically advanced we become, the more important creativity will become. We should be implementing it in our businesses and teaching it to our children. I was given that gift as a child (thanks mom and I intend to give that gift to my children, to help them understand that the creative process and the act of creative problem solving is not the domain of a few, lone geniuses. Anyone can be creative and creativity is no doubt going to be a currency of the future. So my advice would be, if you haven't already: start investing in it.

DM

## Beyond business as usual: Addressing Ghana's unemployment woes

By Marie-Noelle Nwokolo

THE unemployment rate in Ghana has averaged 6.6% for the past five years, implying an unemployed population of about 825,000 Ghanaians, of those counted to be in the labour force. Unemployment lingers in Ghana – this is not good now, nor for the future.

Ghana's economy, a darling of the international community, has failed to create enough jobs for its population, especially the youth. Today, total unemployment stands at 6.7%, 0.7 percentage points above the sub-Saharan average and 1.7 percentage points above the world average. Compared to countries like South Africa which have unemployment rates upwards of 20%, one might say Ghana is not doing badly. However, for a country the size of Ghana with its relatively peaceful history and the long-standing "hope of Africa", the country could do so much better.

Similarly, given the rate at which the population is growing and considering developments such as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), addressing the issue of jobs should be an utmost priority.

Among the youth, unemployment is worse. Of Ghana's youth, (18-35 years of age), 13.7% are unemployed and that is with the assumption that these estimated figures are correct. In reality, the figures are probably much higher.

Maxwell Ashon, a Ghanaian policy and sustainability specialist, says that "the definition a lot of these agencies use masks the actual level of youth unemployment in Ghana. If I were to peg it, youth unemployment in Ghana is above a third of the youth population.

"One of the main reasons for this is that there are marked discrepancies in unemployment data available. The World Bank, for instance, says one thing and the Ghana Labour Force Report says another." Ashon says, referring to a 2016 World Bank report that showed youth unemployment at about 48% while the Ghana Labour Force Report figure was just a third of that.

These discrepancies show that the narrow formal definition of unemployment may not necessarily fully capture the extent of unemployment in sub-Saharan African countries, like Ghana. When asked why that unemployment, and more so youth unem-



ployment, was so high, Ashon noted that "people are employed today and tomorrow they are not. There is little security".

Indeed, if there is one thing that exacts a collective accord in Ghana today, it is that the lack of jobs is tearing at the socio-economic cohesion of the nation. Should we worry? Perhaps. A youthful population unable to secure a prosperous economic future is unlikely to look on in futility and wait for change to happen.

This is not just a Ghanaian problem. By 2050, Africa's population is projected to double to 2.5 billion people. This trend will see an increase in the populations in cities across the continent. These cities will accommodate more than half of Africa's citizens in the next decade. By 2050, Africa's young population will increase by 50%, surpassing the young populations of East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

While this does not automatically mean doom, the concern lies in the fact that 10 to 12 million youth join the African labour force each year, yet only about 3.7 million jobs are created annually. Despite recent progress in poverty reduction, up to 71% of sub-Saharan youth still live on less than \$2

a day. In the absence of strategic reform in economies, most African countries, Ghana included, will face multiple social, economic and political challenges in an already precarious world.

The underlying causes of youth unemployment in Ghana include inadequate job creation despite relatively good economic growth; poor access to, and quality of, education; and a mismatch in skills appropriate to the labour demands.

Although the country has experienced some growth over the past couple of years, job creation opportunities for many young people are few and far between, popularising the phrase jobless growth – 1% of economic growth translates into 0.47% growth in employment, with most of these gains captured in the informal sector. This means that while growth may have occurred, it has not led to the creation of formal wage jobs which can contribute to the structural transformation of the economy. Even with existing jobs, the quality of decent jobs (productive jobs that deliver

fair income, security and social protection) in Ghana are few, as hinted at by Ashon.

Similarly, Ghana has over the years seen a shift from agriculture to services, mainly low-value services concentrated in the informal sector. Efforts at economic transformation appear to lack vigour as manufacturing value-added trends downward and high incomes and improved livelihoods for its population remain out of reach. In addition, rising utilities, fuel and basic commodities prices have gnawed at consumers' purchasing power and general hardship is the gel of every conversation at social functions. There are not enough jobs, nor good ones at that.

Sub-optimal education and training outcomes in Ghana are also significant contributors to high unemployment, especially among the youth. Education improves the quality of lives, raises productive capacities and creates more broad-based access to opportunities.

The famous and somewhat clichéd statement that "give a man a

fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime" offers insight into the importance of education.

The world is changing rapidly, and the skills demanded by the global workforce are changing with it. Expanding access – as Ghana has recently done – is great, but improving quality is greater and can yield tremendous results that will help Ghana achieve faster and more sustainable economic development. Without investment in its human capital, no country can do this.

Similarly, our educational systems, like most on the continent, do not prepare pupils for the economic realities prevailing outside school systems. For many, theoretical concepts remain the order of the day with limited scope for training and practical skill acquisition. Ashon said that the 2018 Education Sector Analysis Report showed that nearly half (48%) of TVET staff do not have technical skills qualification while there remains little or no involvement of industry in skills training. Most people who create or can create

jobs are not involved in the education system, robbing both parties of producing a population with the skills that are actually needed.

Additionally, technical schools use outdated and archaic methods and machinery, rendering their graduates economically undesirable upon graduation. Ghana's education spending as a percentage of GDP stands at 3.6% and rivals that of South Korea, Japan and Singapore. Which maintain a 3%-4% range – and yet one cannot compare our outcomes to theirs. As a nation, our delivery on education has been sub-par and has led to costly deficits in potentially high-growth sectors. While many have raved about the need to focus on TVET schools, very little is being done to push this agenda. Ashon noted that "2014 was the only year technical schools received the highest allocation and that was only 3.8%"; it's not been much more since.

This has created a large pool of youth either involved in menial or low-paying jobs, or aimlessly seeking greener pastures, or perhaps a relative who can get them into some position through backdoor connections.

To succeed, the government needs to be better integrated with the needs of the private sector that offers a strong path to higher rates of economic growth through increased productivity, better knowledge of how to position existing firms in the global value and supply chains, and how to minimise technological and savings gaps. This will not come about if the private sector is viewed, and treated, more favourably than they are.

Ghana's challenges with unemployment are not insurmountable. They've been dealt with before. At the turn of the millennium, Ghana saw a consistent decline in unemployment. Former president John Agyekum Kufuor's administration worked strategically to harness an agricultural transformation to strengthen the nation's economy, halving the number of hungry people and helping to slash poverty in half.

DM



# How Africa will be affected by climate change

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AFRICA is more vulnerable than any other region to the world's changing weather patterns, explains climate specialist Richard Washington

First, African society is very closely coupled with the climate system; hundreds of millions of people depend on rainfall to grow their food.

Second, the African climate system is controlled by an extremely complex mix of large-scale weather systems, many from distant parts of the planet and, in comparison with almost all other inhabited regions, is vastly understudied. It is therefore capable of all sorts of surprises.

Third, the degree of expected climate change is large. The two most extensive land-based end-of-century projected decreases in rainfall anywhere on the planet occur over Africa; one over North Africa and the other over southern Africa.

Finally, the capacity for adaptation to climate change is low; poverty equates to reduced choice at the individual level while governance generally fails to prioritise and act on climate change.

African climate is replete with complexity and marvels. The Sahara is the world's largest desert with the deepest layer of intense heating anywhere on Earth.

In June and July the most extensive and most intense dust storms found anywhere on the planet fill the air with fine particles that interfere with climate in ways we don't quite understand.

The region is almost completely devoid of weather measurements yet it is a key driver of the West African monsoon system, which brings three months of rain that interrupts the nine-month long dry season across the Sahel region, south of the desert.

For the decades following the 1960s and peaking in 1984, there was a downturn of rainfall of some 30% across the Sahel, which led to famine and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of many millions.

No other region has documented such a long and spatially extensive drought.

Evidence points to Western industrial aerosol pollution, which cooled parts of the global ocean, thereby altering the monsoon system, as a cause.

The currently observed recovery of the rains is projected to continue through the 21st Century, particularly over the central and eastern Sahel.

But that change seems to depend on exactly where future heating in the central Sahara peaks, emphasising cruelly the region we least understand.

In southern Africa we are seeing a delay in the onset and a drying of early summer rains, which is predicted to worsen in forthcoming decades.

Temperatures there are predicted to rise by five degrees or more, particularly in the parts of Namibia, Botswana and Zambia that are already intolerably hot.

Meanwhile over Kenya and Tanzania, the long rains from March to May start later and end sooner - leading to an overall decrease in rainfall.

This observed change sits uncomfortably next to predictions of a wetter future in the same season - problem scientists have termed the East African Climate Paradox.

Central Africa, one of three regions on the planet where thunderstorms drive the rest of the planet's tropical and sub-tropical weather systems, lives perilously close to the rainfall minimum needed to support the world's second largest rainforest system.



est rainforest system.

Even a little less rainfall in the future could endanger the forest and its massive carbon store.

We know remarkably little about that climate system - it is scarcely even monitored - there are more reporting rain gauges in the UK county of Oxfordshire than the entire Congo Basin.

Africa's complex climate system is, unusually, influenced by all three global ocean basins.

Emerging from one of those rapidly warming oceans, tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth in March and April 2019 destroyed parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, with Kenneth

following a particularly unusual path over Tanzania.

But on the scientific front there is hope. In collaborative efforts we are working intensely hard to improve climate prediction.

Projections of climate change depend on climate models of which there are dozens, each as complicated to understand as the real world.

Through efforts such as the ongoing Future Climate for Africa (FCFA), a programme funded by the UK's Department for International Development and Natural Environment Research Council, the experience and insights of African

climate scientists have led to a discernible jump in our ability to understand and model African climate.

Each region and sub-region of Africa is changing differently but an emerging commonality is a shift towards more intense rainfall - even where there is observed and projected future drying.

The rainfall arrives in shorter bursts, causing more runoff and longer dry-spells in between.

## Why harnessing digital tech for universal health coverage essential

By Stefan Germann and Kate Campana

IMAGINE a world where healthcare is less about the treatment of disease and more about health promotion, disease prediction and prevention. We would see innovation in medicine as well as a change in mindsets, in science and health systems, in technology as well as our overall approach to healthcare.

We believe data driven, digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning can enable this transformation to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030. Fortunately, many African countries are well-placed to harness these benefits for UHC, and the Sustainable Development Goals more broadly, especially as internet connected devices (internet of things, IoT) continue to surge and improve exponentially.

AI and IoT combined with 5G, the fifth generation of cellular wireless technology, could dramatically change how healthcare is delivered today in African countries, particularly for people living in hard to reach areas.

Digital technologies can contribute to improvements in point of care diag-

nostics, real-time patient remote monitoring and increase access to more affordable and appropriate care.

With the analysis of big data, AI and machine learning can even help to predict certain health problems based on probabilities derived by algorithm. This type of data can empower patients, healthcare providers and health systems to predict disease, intervene and provide preventive measures in a timely manner.

We must take advantage of available and emerging digital enablers if UHC2030 is to be achieved.

However, it is not only about the development and implementation of technology. New policies are needed, and a digital mindset must be adopted in policy making to encourage a cultural change in the way innovation is seen and understood.

It will also mean developing new partnership models with non-traditional health actors such as with retailers, consumer companies, and the entertainment and gaming industry. For example, preventative healthcare games can make services more accessible, fun and empowering for users.

Currently, such political efforts are being made by The African Union and



In Zanzibar, D-tree International's Safer Deliveries program use mobile technology to address the multiple obstacles that women face when trying to go to a facility for delivery.

leaders like Former President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania who are actively advocating for strong country leadership on UHC through inter-ministerial and governmental collaboration.

Through the One By One: Target 2030 Campaign, Kikwete is encouraging African Heads of State to create an enabling policy environment for coordinated UHC with the development of a UHC Resolution at the Pan-African level. When governments become digital enablers, and strong UHC is defined by African leaders, policy reflective of this innovative approach to inclusive digital health is possible. We acknowledge a lack of coordination

around health policies in Africa, but also a great potential and interest in digital uptake for better health. We also recognize African governments face other challenges to integrating digital technologies, such as a lack of human resources for digital health and ethical issues related to the collecting, storing and sharing data and specimens.

Moreover, most healthcare data generated in Western nations lack adequate representation of females and African populations, which in turn create inadequate datasets with the potential of bias. An issue that we are also seeing worldwide is that many

datasets are not publicly available, despite being publicly funded.

A current lack of regulation of data ownership is a real challenge to the social benefits that big data could bring. Coalitions such as that formed by Fondation Botnar, PATH, Women Deliver, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) among others, are an important effort towards increasing collective action, harmonising approaches to the pooling and sharing of data, and tackling these biases so benefits can be experienced by everyone, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or geography.

Despite these challenges, solutions

to some of the most pressing problems facing countries in Africa are being designed to take advantage of what digital technology has to offer.

For example, the introduction of mobile phones to remote areas of Africa has enabled the social and economic benefits of telephone networks while 'leapfrogging' the need for intensive landline infrastructure.

Digital technologies including predictive analytics and biometric identification, are being used to improve the flow of information and increase coordination between community health workers, health facilities, and private drug dispensers in Tanzania. (11)

In other cases, electronic medical records are used to gather comprehensive health data sets and provide clinical decision support to improve care in response in low-resource settings.

These examples of innovative practice show the potential of digital technology to not only improve efficiency, lower overall costs, and streamline workload, but to also enable more responsive, people-centered care.

Many African countries are in a strong position to harness digital technology for UHC, as well as other social and economic advantages.

The next generation of digital natives, the growing adolescent and youth population across the continent, must also be supported in driving this change.

Digital health solutions must address health disparities otherwise the most vulnerable groups in society will reap little or no benefits from the digital age. Working in partnership we must do all we can to ensure digital technology is used to democratize health and to transform the delivery and accountability of health services, so no one is left behind.

## AfDB's digital skills training benefits women

### Aims to expand the programme to 130 centers of excellence across Africa in 10 years

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER graduating from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria with a degree in Communication and Language Arts in 2016, Olashile Odetola could not find a job.

But an online learning programme piloted by the African Development Bank has given her two 'gifts': digital skills and a sense of confidence.

Odetola, 31, was one of two thousand students who took part in the 'Coding for Employment' digital training programme launched by the African Development Bank in partnership with technology firm Microsoft in April 2019 after successful pilots in Nigeria,

Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. 46 percent of the students have been women.

Odetola said the skills she acquired from the coding programme have made her more competitive in the job market. She was permitted to attend the training class with kids in tow - and was even nursing her last child.

"Never in my life would I have thought that I will have this opportunity. For the first time in my life, I feel confident in myself. I am now working from the comfort of my home in the digital field," she told a packed auditorium at this year's African Economic Conference (AEC), held in Egypt.

Theme for this year's AEC con-



ference was 'Jobs, Entrepreneurship, and Capacity Development for African Youth'.

After completing the five-week programme, Odetola now works to provide annotation

and labelling for an online company. "It's helped me to support the family," she said.

"When I saw this opportunity from the bank, I jumped at it," she said.

Her testimony drew cheers from scores of hopeful young people who had been invited to attend the conference. Her testimony was an illustration of the bank's Jobs for Youth in Africa strategy, which aims to create 25 million jobs by 2025 and to equip 50 million African youth with competitive skills.

Uyoyo Edosio, programme task manager at AfDB said: "Jobs for Youth is operational and we seek to create impact. Not just any impact but impact that can be scaled. African youth deserve

value - that is what the African Development Bank and her partners sought to create".

"We placed all our bets on the youth and for the first time, the private sector, non-governmental bodies and development institutions like the bank were not speaking profit margin, we were speaking development," Edosio said.

The said the goal is to expand the program to 130 centers of excellence across Africa over a 10-year period. The aim is to create nine million jobs and to empower young people to become innovative players in the digital economy.

"This is just one step on that journey to empower our youth in Africa to get the greatest

jobs in computer science", Rich Reynolds, General Manager at Microsoft Philanthropies Strategy, said.

Government ministers from Nigeria, Liberia, South Sudan and Eswatini attending the conference. They commended the initiative as a pacesetter in tackling the enormous youth unemployment challenge the continent is grappling with.

The leaders outlined policies being pursued in their respective countries to address youth employment.

The AEC is hosted by the AfDB in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.







## BUSINESS

## APPRECIATION

## PM salutes Huawei's support for state digital economy investment

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

## Rwanda to cease importation of maize seeds by next year

## KIGALI

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animals Resources Jean-Claude Musabyimana has said that the local seeds production strategy in place will see Rwanda totally stop the importation of maize seeds by next year.

He said this on Friday evening during an end of year party organised by USAID-funded project dubbed 'Feed the Future HingaWeze project.' Musabyimana said that the local seed production strategy focuses on eight crops that include maize, wheat, soya, beans Irish and sweet potatoes. The government has been spending about Rwf4bn annually on importing of maize, wheat and soya seeds; importing about 3,000 tonnes of maize seeds.

"We have been importing and that is why we have been building capacity of personnel to locally produce the seeds. Right now, we are mobilizing farmers to plant those hybrid maize seeds," he said. Besides cutting the import cost, local production will solve farmers' complaints about seeds distribution delays.

Research by 'Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa' whose findings were released in August 2019 indicates that satisfaction with availability of basic maize seeds is at 73 per cent. Of this, 69 per cent is with bean seeds, 70 per cent with wheat and 78 per cent with soya.

Under the Crop Intensification Programme (CIP), the use of improved seeds rose from 3 per cent in 2006 to 12.5 per cent in 2018 in small scale farms and 53.1 per cent in large scale farms. Musabyimana said that efforts have been made in producing maize seeds grown on low and average altitude landscape and as of today, time is being invested in working on seeds grown at high altitude.

"I think in the next two agricultural seasons we will no longer be

importing maize seeds, but that does not mean that an individual farmer cannot import seeds if they wish to," he said. He said that the ministry is reorganizing the coordination of the seeds sector by working with the private sector and other organizations in order to set clear roles and responsibilities.

"The sector must have those in charge of research so that we have basic and adaptive seeds, those in charge of multiplication, distribution and marketing of seeds. The Rwanda Agricultural Board was involved in all the chains but it will only be dealing with research and inspection and the rest must be done by the private sector," he said.

The Program Director of the USAID-HingaWeze project, Daniel Gies said that the five-year USAID 'Feed the Future' project aims to sustainably increase income for 530,000 smallholder farmers, improve the nutritional status of women and children and increase the resilience of agriculture and food systems to the changing climate.

"So far, it has increased agriculture productivity by over 50 per cent for 26,488 smallholder farmers as well as the successful development of 818.9 hectares of terraces and 50 ha of irrigation sites," he said.

The project progress report indicates that 238,480 beneficiaries applied improved management practices or technologies, 60,113 hectares are now under improved management practices and \$1,102,689 was accessed in form of value of agriculture-related financing.

It further shows that 36,718 beneficiaries are now participating in group savings, 8,775 households increased income for purchase of nutritious foods for women and children while 22,271 children under two years old reached with community-level nutrition interventions.

## By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed appreciation to Huawei Technologies for backing efforts to digitise the economy which needs heavy investment in training of human capital.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said in Dar es Salaam last week that the Chinese tech giant's ICT talents ecosystem development is important in providing qualified personnel to back a digital economy.

In a speech read on his behalf by Trade and Industry Minister, Innocent Bashungwa during an award giving ceremony of Huawei Tanzania ICT Competition for 2019/20, Majaliwa said the competition which aims at providing a platform for global ICT talents to showcase their ability, compete and communicate, is an important investment for Tanzanian youth.

He said ICT is a critical part of the country's infrastructure development as the government invests in knowledge and skills as part of realising goals listed in Tanzania's 2025 vision.

"In developing ICT skills, talent is the most important capital. Lack of skilled people will limit our capability of adapting, managing and operating new technologies," the PM stated while noting that as the 4th industrial revolution beckons, ICT plays a pivotal role in shaping the nation's economy.

"The development of ICT human capital which needs to be addressed for full exploitation of benefits of the ICT sector by recognizing that professionals and providing appropriate skills and training to obtain a competent human



Trade and Industry minister, Innocent Bashungwa (5th L) and China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (5th R), in a souvenir photo with winners of Huawei Tanzania ICT Competition for 2019/20 held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Photographer

resources base to accelerate Tanzania's socio-economic development efforts in the information age," Majaliwa added.

With the rapid development of the global digital economy, World Bank's latest report pointed out that Sub-Saharan Africa's demand for digital skills by 2030 will be as high as 230 million people. In Tanzania, there is a general shortage of ICT skills in both public and private sector, the PM conceded.

Briefing Majaliwa

on Huawei's ICT skills development initiative, Huawei Tanzania's CEO, Frank Zhou said the company appreciates the privilege to work with the government and other local partners to provide connectivity to rural areas by deploying low cost, solar powered and fast deployed base stations.

"Huawei Tanzania is proud to have been at the frontline in building a digital workforce, serving more than 35 per cent of Tanzania's population since our establishment in 2007," Zhou said adding

that more than 1,000 jobs have also been created both directly and indirectly while another 2,000 got training as ICT engineers.

To cultivate more ICT talents, Huawei Tanzania holds two corresponding talents program which include a job fair which was held last July and the ICT which allows winners to participate in a global event.

Currently, Huawei Tanzania is ready to utilize all latest technology to support Tanzania digital transformation, especially in smart city

and smart education, Zhou added. "We need a comprehensive approach of skills development for employment, enhanced productivity and growth. After all, the talents and knowledge will be the key factor to Tanzania industrialization and Vision 2025," the Huawei Tanzania CEO stressed. Huawei Tanzania has so far signed up seven universities across the country establishing ICT academies where students can access industrially-recognized certification online courses.

## CHALLENGING

## Health minister urges private sector to invest in public health facilities

## By Guardian Reporter

THE private sector has an important role to back government's efforts to improve delivery of quality health services in the country, Health, Community Development, the Elderly, Gender and Children, Ummu Mwalimu said in Dar es Salaam last week.

Mwalimu who paid tribute to NMB Bank Plc's management after receiving various medical equipments which included five specialised beds for children's intensive care unit at Muhimbili National Hospital said the government has invested heavily in health delivery but noted that a lot more needs to be done.

"These specialised ICU beds for children are a big investment that NMB has done to complement government's efforts in improving the health sector," Mwalimu said the 10 beds mattresses meant for normal wards also help to ease shortages at the country's largest referral hospital.

She said President Magufuli's administration continues to invest heavily in the health sector with construction of 352 health centers, 68 district hospitals and seven referral hospitals and two zonal referral hospitals but a lot more remains to be done.

"In order to continue improving health services, we need committed partners like NMB and others to speed up the exercise," she added saying the five ICU specialised beds for children means that MNH which includes



Health, Community Development, the Elderly, Gender and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu (2nd R) and NMB's Chief Internal Auditor, Juma Kimori (L) listens to Muhimbili National Hospital's Director of Health and Maternal Services, Zuhura Mawona (gesturing) during a hand over ceremony of the equipment in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

its Mloganzira affiliate, has 93 ICU beds from 21 when Magufuli took over in November 2015.

In remarks after presenting the donation, NMB's Chief Internal Auditor, Juma Kimori said the country's largest bank will continue investing in important social services such as health to back state efforts to improve delivery of services.

Kimori said the 45m/- donation comes from the bank's allocated one per cent of its net profit made last year and

which is earmarked for supporting community services as per the bank's policy. "We also support education and relief aid to victims of disasters," he added while pointing out that the bank's management understands that its impressive performance is a result of public support which utilises its products and services.

He said MNH has been one major business partner of NMB because a lot of the referral hospital's transactions are handled by the bank

hence benefiting as a business.

For her part, Director of Health and Maternal Services, Zuhura Mawona said NMB's donation came at the right time because the hospital is still facing a number of challenges which include medical equipment.

"These five beds donated by NMB makes the total that we have now at the children's ICU to 12 which means we have reduced the deficit but more are needed to meet rising demand," Mawona noted



Kagera regional commissioner Marco Saguti (3rd-L) shakes hands with National Bank of Commerce managing director Theobald Sabi at the RC's office last week. Photo courtesy of NBC.

## GROWTH

## Mobile-based M-Shwari lends Sh430 billion in seven years

## NAIROBI

NCBA Group-owned lending platform M-Shwari has disbursed a cumulative Sh430 billion in loans to 31 million customers in seven years since the launch of the mobile-based service.

Chief Executive John Gachora said the platform, launched in November 2012, has become a convenient source of short-term credit for Kenyan households and businesses. He said 42 per cent of the total loans had been

invested in businesses, highlighting that M-Shwari has been an option for small-scale businesses that have struggled to get credit from other sources.

The product, built on Safaricom's mobile money service M-Pesa, was created by the former CBA Group, which recently concluded its reverse takeover of NIC Group to form NCBA Group. The merged entity reported a 17.3 per cent net earnings growth to Sh7.7 billion in the nine months ended

September, performance analysts say was largely driven by M-Shwari and Fuliza (another micro-lending platform backed by the lender).

"The service (M-Shwari) has provided a convenient and secure solution to many, contributing to the economy by promoting inclusion planning and empowering our customers to effectively manage their cash flow," Mr Gachora said.

M-Shwari savings platform dubbed

M-Shwari Lock currently has slightly more than 450,000 customers. The average savings on the platform is Sh8,981 for an average of seven-and-half months, proving an alternative savings solution for M-Pesa customers. The customer deposits on M-Shwari currently stand at Sh18.7 billion.

Some of the top users of M-Shwari were rewarded with free deposits of Sh1,000 each as NCBA marked the product's seventh anniversary.

Customers with outstanding loans between one to two months were also offered a chance to repay within seven days and get a credit of Sh700 into their M-Shwari accounts between November 28 and December 4 when the promotion ended.

M-Shwari charges charges a "facilitation fee" of 7.5 per cent of the loans, which are repaid in one month, taking the annualised cost of borrowing from the platform to a rate of 90

percent. Last month, Safaricom acting Chief Executive Michael Joseph said the telco is considering reducing its customer charges on M-Shwari and the M-Pesa overdraft facility Fuliza.

"I would like the cost of this lending to come down and Safaricom is working to that end. "It's a regulated activity, certainly we will push to find ways to make it cheaper," said Mr Joseph said without giving details on the anticipated cuts.



## PROMOTION

# Airtel debuts 'Lipa Ada' with Airtel Money solution

By Guardian Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Airtel Money can now forget about queuing in banks halls to pay for their children's schools but instead do so on their handsets through Airtel Money.

Speaking today in Dar es Salaam while announcing the move, Airtel Money director Isack Nchunda said that the solution is aimed at solving one of the biggest problems of school fee payments by parents.

Nchunda said the new product is a collection solution for the schools as well as sensitizing Airtel customers to continue using their Airtel Money platform will also help school administrator avoid working on piles of bank statements.

"As we all are aware that this is the time for parents to pay school fees for their students and pupils then the easiest way to

do is by Airtel Money because in general customers can now their accounts to pay school fees at their convenience," he said.

Nchunda added that Airtel Tanzania has decided to come up with the 'Lipa Ada' payment solution as one among many ways of promoting financial inclusion in Tanzania. "As per the latest statistics from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, Tanzania has more than 22.9 million mobile money subscriptions with total mobile money transactions value pegged at more than 8trn/- by June 2019," the Airtel Money director noted.

He said in recent years, mobile money has evolved from traditional payments such as domestic remittances and airtime top-ups, to more complex financial products enhancing financial inclusion as people without access to banking services are now getting

them.

Speaking at the same event, Airtel Tanzania public relations and communications manager, Jackson Mmbando said that the mobile phone service company prides itself as having the biggest mobile money agent network in the country.

"As a part of our retail expansion plan in line with the company's long-drive to offer solution-based state of the art products and services, Airtel has over 1,000 Airtel Money branches across the country aimed at supporting financial inclusion by bringing Airtel services and products closer to our customers," Mmbando said.

"Our plan is to continue to build a strong, reliable agent network with an array of services that can be accessed through our Airtel Money Branches in addition to traditional cash in and cash out," he added.



Airtel Money director Isack Nchunda displays a poster at the launch of 'Lipa Ada' na Airtel Money campaign in Dar es Salaam last week. Others in the photo are managers with Airtel Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

## MARKETING

# Local vehicles agent debuts new Chinese made truck in market

By Guardian Reporter

A new Chinese made truck, Hongyan has entered the local market thanks to MFK Automobile of Dar es Salaam which says the vehicle is better suited for rough terrain roads.

Speaking at the truck's unveiling ceremony, MFK Automobile's senior official, Ali Karmali said his company which also imports several other brands of brand new motor vehicles has debuted Hongyan after seeing that there is demand.

Karmali told Tanzania Truck Owners Association chairperson, Angelina Ngalula that the brand new truck is sturdy and efficient to give transporters real value for their money. "This is the first time that this car is being sold in East Africa by MFK Automobile who are the sole agents so far," said Karmali.

He urged local customers to buy and try the new truck saying they will not regret because apart from low fuel consumption it is also environmentally friendly and cheap to maintain as servicing is affordable.

Karmali paid tribute to President John Magufuli's administration saying its heavy investment in infrastructure means that transporters have no problem of shipping people and cargo anywhere in the country.



People admiring a Chinese made Hongyan truck.

"Better roads and bridges being put in place by the government will also allow our company and transporters to contribute a lot to national economic growth through transportation," he added while noting that the new vehicle will also help create jobs both directly

and indirectly as it will need drivers, technicians and engineers to service and repair the same when need arises.

Speaking at the launch, Ngalula commended MFK Automobile for importing the truck which some of the 900 Tutoa members will find suitable to invest in as they

seek to improve transportation of goods and people.

"This is a worthwhile investment and I am sure that many transporters will find it useful to invest in for their use," she underlined

while also commending the government for better policy and legislative changes

which have improved the working environment for transporters although many challenges also remain.

Tutoa members have more than 15,000 trucks among them which transport the bulk of the country's cargo but also transit cargo to neighbouring countries.

## DISINCENTIVE

# 91% of SMEs in SA impacted by delays in payments - survey

JOHANNESBURG

A survey among more than 500 small and medium sized businesses in South Africa found that 91% are impacted by their invoices being paid late due to a growing culture of late payments.

The average overdue invoice is paid about 18 days late, according to The State of Late Payments report by global small business platform Xero. This, in turn, has a big impact on a business' ability to pay its own staff and suppliers.

Almost half of respondents (47%) said they see cash flow and late payments as a threat to their business. They said it restricts their current operations as well as their "long-term aspirations" for the business.

About 30% of respondents indicated that they would actually be able to clear all their business or personal debt - like credit and loans - if only they were paid on time. Over a quarter of respondents (28%) had to borrow money from friends and family to keep their business afloat.

Colin Timmis, general country manager of Xero South Africa emphasises that SMEs "live or die" by their cash flow. If they're not paid, they can't survive. "Every delayed payment has a profound impact on a small business. Salaries don't get paid on time, raw materials can't be acquired, existing projects suffer, and new ones can't be taken on," says Timmis.

"Getting paid on time would help entrepreneurs invest and grow their business." More than a fifth (21%) of respondents that had invoices paid late said they struggled to pay their own suppliers on time because of it, and 20% said they struggled to pay their staff because of late payments of their invoices.

Nearly half (47%) listed cash flow and late payments as one of the main threats to their long-term growth aspirations. About 21% were refused access to finance because of late payments, while 21% said they are struggling to pay for business-critical services.

According to Timmis, not only does late payments stunt the growth of existing businesses, but it could make potential entrepreneurs hesitant to establish their own businesses in future. "Late payments

make owners become preoccupied with managing short-term cash problems, thus taking time and resources away from planning for the future," says Timmis.

When asked what they would do with the late payments owed to them, 30% of respondents said they would clear some debt; 38% would appoint more staff or raise salaries of existing ones; and 29% said they would invest in new business technology to help them manage the challenge of late payments.

The Experian Business Debt Index (BDI) improved moderately in the third quarter, rising to a reading of -0.18, from -0.35 in the second quarter. The index reflects the relative ability for businesses to pay their outstanding suppliers or creditors as well as the overall health of businesses in the economy.

The improvement is attributable largely to businesses' willingness to repay creditors, which outweighed the slight deterioration in the macroeconomic contributors. "While this is a step in the right direction ahead of the festive season, businesses still find themselves in negative territory, albeit a slower deterioration in business debt conditions," said Thabo Hermanus, chief operations officer at Experian South Africa. One of the more dramatic inferences to draw from the latest Experian data is the deterioration in the financial position of SMEs relative to the overall business sector.

Whereas the number of outstanding debtors' days amongst SMEs shot up from 50.0 at the beginning of 2018, to 65.5 in Q1, 66.1 in Q2 and 68.6 in Q3 of this year, the corresponding increases in outstanding debtors' days amongst all companies in South Africa has been from 49.0 to 54.7 days over the same period - much less pronounced.

Debtors' days measures the average outstanding period in days that businesses take to repay their debt. A higher debtors' day value points to an environment where firms are taking longer to repay their outstanding debt obligations. This suggests that the weak state of overall economic activity is impacting far more negatively on small businesses than on the overall business sector.



Colin Timmis, general country manager of Xero South Africa.

## NATIONALISM

# There is no going back to dollarisation, states Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa

HARARE

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa vowed on Friday not to revert to using the United States dollar despite the country's new local currency plunging against the greenback since its introduction this year, fuelling inflation and economic hardship.

In 2009, Zimbabwe "dollarised" the economy by allowing the US dollar and other foreign currencies to be used as legal tender in the country after hyperinflation decimated the value of Zimbabwe's sovereign currency.

The government ended

dollarisation in June after it outlawed the use of foreign currencies in local transactions in a bid to defend a fledgling interim sovereign currency. This paved the way for the new Zimbabwean dollar, which formally entered circulation last month. But economists say the decision to end dollarisation actually drove hyperinflation, eroding wages and savings.

Economists, businesses and the opposition have accused the government of rushing to reintroduce the Zimbabwean dollar without the backing of foreign currency reserves. They say the government should allow the use of US dollar and other

currencies to tame soaring prices.

"No progressive nation can progress without its own currency. However, we have so many among our people who fight this decision. We will not revert back to a basket of currencies, never, never, never," Mnangagwa told ZANU-PF members at an annual party conference outside the capital.

There is little foreign investment in the troubled Southern African nation, which is in the throes of its worst economic crisis in a decade. Export earnings and remittances from the diaspora have fallen. The resulting shortage of US

dollars to pay for imports has led to fuel and electricity shortages, hobbling businesses including in the important mining sector.

Although it is now illegal to use foreign currency to buy local goods, many people still take the risk and some businesses charge in both US and Zimbabwe dollars. Hopes have faded that Mnangagwa - who took over from late President Robert Mugabe after a coup two years ago - can quickly revive the economy, which has left millions struggling and facing hunger. Mnangagwa said his government is pursuing difficult economic reforms,

including measures to reduce the budget deficit to single digits.

He said violent protests in January that erupted in the wake of a fuel price hike - and calls by labour unions for strikes to boost paychecks in line with inflation - were both part of an anti-government plot to derail economic reforms and undermine his rule. "I want to commend the people of Zimbabwe for rejecting the machinations by those with unbridled political ambitions who are even prepared to use violence, divisions and disunity and violent demonstrations to acquire power," Mnangagwa said.







## WORLD

## Boris Johnson's win may deliver Brexit but could risk UK's breakup

LONDON

LEAVING the European Union is not the only split British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has to worry about.

Johnson's commanding election victory this week may let him fulfill his campaign promise to "get Brexit done," but it could also imperil the future of the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland and Northern Ireland didn't vote for Brexit, didn't embrace this week's Conservative electoral landslide – and now may be drifting permanently away from London.

In a victory speech on Friday, Johnson said the election result proved that leaving the EU is "the irrefutable, irresistible, unarguable decision of the British people."

Arguably, though, it isn't. It's the will of the English, who make up 56 million of the UK's 66 million people. During Britain's 2016 referendum on EU membership, England and much smaller Wales voted to leave bloc; Scotland and Ireland didn't. In Thursday's election, England elected 345 Conservative lawmakers – all but 20 of the 365 House of Commons seats Johnson's party won across the UK.

In Scotland, 48 of the 59 seats were won by the Scottish National Party, which opposes Brexit and wants Scotland to become independent of the UK.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon said her party's "emphatic" victory showed that "the kind of future desired by the majority in Scotland is different to that chosen by the rest of the UK."

The SNP has campaigned for decades to make Scotland independent and almost succeeded in 2014, when Scotland held a referendum on seceding from the UK. The "remain" side won 55% to 45%.

At the time, the referendum was billed as a once-in-a-generation decision. But the SNP argues that Brexit has changed everything because Scotland now faces being dragged out of the EU against its will.

Sturgeon said Friday that Johnson "has no mandate whatsoever to take Scotland out of the EU" and Scotland must be able to decide its future in a new independence referendum.

Johnson insists he will not approve a referendum during the current term of Parliament, which is due to last until 2024. Johnson's office said the prime minister told the Scottish leader on Friday that "the result of the 2014 referendum was decisive and should be respected."

The Scotsman newspaper summed up the showdown Saturday with front page face-to-face images of Sturgeon and Johnson: "Two landslides. One collision course."

"What we've got now is pretty close to a perfect storm," said historian Tom Devine, professor emeritus at the



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson waves after addressing the media outside 10 Downing Street in London, on Saturday. AP

University of Edinburgh. He said the UK is facing an "unprecedented constitutional crisis" as Johnson's refusal to approve a referendum fuels growing momentum for Scottish independence.

Politically and legally, it's a stalemate. Without the approval of the UK government, a referendum would not be legally binding. London could simply ignore the result, as the Spanish government did when Catalonia held an unauthorized independence vote in 2017.

Mark Duffley, an Edinburgh-based political analyst, said Sturgeon "has said that she doesn't want a Catalonia-style referendum. She wants to do this properly."

There's no clear legal route to a second referendum if Johnson refuses, though Sturgeon can apply political and moral pressure. Duffley said the size of the SNP's win allows Sturgeon to argue that a new referendum is "the will of the people."

Sturgeon said that next week she will lay out a "detailed democratic case for a transfer of power to enable a referendum to be put beyond legal challenge."

Devine said the administrations in Edinburgh and London "are in a completely uncompromising condition" and that will only make the crisis worse.

"The longer Johnson refuses to concede a referendum, the greater will the pro-independence momentum in Scotland accelerate," he said. "By refusing to concede it, Johnson has ironically become a recruiting sergeant for increased militant nationalism."

Northern Ireland has its own set of political parties and structures largely split along British unionist/Irish nationalist lines. There, too, peo-

ple feel cast adrift by Brexit, and the political plates are shifting.

For the first time this week, Northern Ireland elected more lawmakers who favor union with Ireland than want to remain part of the UK.

The island of Ireland, which holds the UK's only land border with the EU, has proved the most difficult issue in Brexit negotiations. Any customs checks or other obstacles along the currently invisible frontier between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland would undermine both the local economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

The divorce deal struck between Johnson and the EU seeks to avoid a hard border by keeping Northern Ireland closely aligned to EU rules, which means new checks on goods moving between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

READ MORE: EU greets Johnson victory with relief and reluctance

"Once you put a border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland's going to be part of a united Ireland for economic purposes," Jonathan Powell, who helped negotiate Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord, told the BBC. "That will increase the tendency toward a united Ireland for political reasons, too."

"I think there is a good chance there will be a united Ireland within 10 years."

In Scotland, Devine also thinks the days of the Union may be numbered.

"Anything can happen," he said. "But I think it's more likely than not that the UK will come to an end over the next 20 to 30 years."

Agencies

## EU sanctions extended to punish Moscow for refusal to review Minsk

MOSCOW

THE European Union once again extended its sanctions against Russia to punish Moscow for its refusal to review the Minsk agreements on Ukrainian reconciliation, said Konstantin Slutsky, a senior member of the lower chamber of Russian parliament, the State Duma.

Slutsky (pictured), who heads the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee, made the statement while commenting on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Friday statement.

"Merkel does not see sufficient reason to lift anti-Russian sanctions. But it is more likely that there is not enough political will and independence from the United States to admit how absurd they are," Slutsky wrote on Twitter.

"It was Merkel who said that revising Minsk-2 could be possible. Apparently, sanctions are Russia's punishment for its refusal to crack those agreements," the lawmaker added.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at a press conference following a European Union summit on Friday that although progress had been achieved in resolving the conflict in Donbass, there was still no reason to lift the sanctions on Russia. In her words, EU countries extended the sanctions against Moscow "unanimously."

In 2014, the European Union imposed sanctions on Moscow over the situation in Ukraine and Crimea's reunification with Russia. Visa waiver negotiations and talks on a new cooperation agreement were suspended.

Some Russian officials were barred from entering EU countries, their assets were frozen. Besides, trade, financial and military restrictions were also introduced. In response, Russia banned the import of a number of food products from the European Union. **Agencies**

## Turkey urges more EU funding for Syrian refugees

ISTANBUL

TURKEY on Saturday called on the European Union to increase the funding for Syrian refugees being sheltered on Turkish land.

"As long as the migration crisis is there, we have to continue to cooperate, and we have to work together," said Faruk Kaymakci, deputy minister of foreign affairs and director for EU affairs.

"So far the migration crisis has cost us more than 40 billion dollars," Kaymakci told the foreign press at a meeting in Istanbul, saying only 2.3 billion euros, or 2.6 billion dollars, in aid from the EU have reached Syrian refugees in Turkey numbering about 3.6 million. **Xinhua**

## Chinese language learning surges globally

CHINESE language education is increasingly sought after by more countries, global representatives told the 2019 International Chinese Language Education Conference on Monday, December 9 in Changsha, Central China's Hunan Province.

Local demand has been the main driver of Chinese language popularity, based on China's growing international influence and overseas trade, the representatives said. More than 1,000 delegates from over 160 countries attended the conference in Beijing.

"As China's overall influence has increased and China-Japan relations have improved, Chinese has become the second most spoken foreign language across Japanese campuses in recent years," said Tutaka Furukawa, former vice-president of the International Society for Chinese Teaching, told the Global Times.

By November, 69 countries and regions have officially incorporated Chinese language teaching into their national education systems including the UK, Russia, South Africa, Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Madagascar will join the list next year, said Andriamamonjy Oninaina, a Confucius Institute teacher at the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Chinese-speaking talent is in a great demand in countries that have joined the Belt and Road Initiative, Andriamamonjy said. Confucius institutes have attracted many young Africans by integrating Chinese learning with e-commerce, agricultural and IT technologies, Andriamamonjy said.

Combining Chinese language learning with vocational training has become a trend of Confucius institutes in Southeast Asia and African countries, Andriamamonjy told the Global Times.

"The ability to speak Chinese can triple their salaries," she said. There are reportedly 550 Confucius institutes and 1,172 Confucius classrooms in 162 countries and regions. About 100 million people are learning Chinese globally.

In 2019, eight countries - Haiti, the Central African Republic, Chad, North Korea, Maldives, East Timor, Saudi Arabia and Dominica - applied to set up institutes for the first time. **Global Times**

## China-US trade deal 'bullish news for both countries, world'

LJUBLJANA

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that the China-US deal on the text of a phase-one economic and trade agreement serves as bullish news for both countries and the rest of the world.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Miro Cerar, Wang said China has, as always, been opposed to settling economic and trade disputes by imposing tariffs as there is no winner in a trade war.

China has also rejected the use of unilateral pressure as it violates the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), said Wang.

He pointed out that following rounds of back-and-forth negotiations, China and the United States have agreed on the wording of a phase-one economic and trade agreement, and the US side has promised to phase out additional tariffs on Chinese products.

The agreement demonstrates the spirit of mutual respect and is the outcome of the consultation on equal basis, which addresses concerns of both sides, he said.

The agreement meets the intrinsic requirements of high-quality economic development of China and the common aspiration of the international community, and serves the common interests of both peoples, he said.

The agreement is conducive to gradually bringing China-US economic and trade relations back onto the track of normal development, injecting confidence into the downward world economy and enhancing stability of the global trade order, he said.

The current China-US relations still face many issues which call for attention and careful handling, Wang said, voicing hope that the United States will make concerted efforts with China to effectively manage differences and expand mutually beneficial cooperation so as to push forward with the China-US relations featuring coordination, cooperation and stability.

The deal is neither targeting nor harming a third party but bullish news for all countries of the world.

China-US trade cooperation will be based on WTO rules and Chinese enterprises will import more competitive products and services from the United States and other countries according to



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Miro Cerar attend a joint press conference after their talks in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Saturday. (Xinhua)

the marketing and commercial principles, he said.

As China is deepening its reform and opening up, its market will inevitably expand, which offers opportunities to the United States, as well as to Europe and the rest of the world, Wang said.

Voicing China's consistent opposition to protectionism, Wang said that China maintains that an

open economy be built up and all countries should provide a fair and non-discriminative environment for normal trade and investment, he said.

China welcomes businesses from all countries to compete fairly in the Chinese market and more competitive products from Europe, he said. **Xinhua**

## Senator Graham predicts Trump impeachment will 'die quickly'

NEW YORK

REPUBLICANS in the Congress upper chamber expect to put an end to impeachment process of US President Donald Trump as soon as possible. This was announced on Saturday by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who is also Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

"This thing will come to the Senate, and it will die quickly, and I will do everything I can to make it die quickly," the South Carolina Republican said answering questions from CNN at a business forum in Doha, Qatar.

In late October, Graham introduced a resolution condemning Democrats'

attempts to remove the US President from power.

When asked if it was appropriate for him to be voicing his opinion before impeachment reaches the Senate, Graham replied, "Well, I must think so because I'm doing it," CNN reported.

"I am trying to give a pretty clear signal I have made up my mind. I'm not trying to pretend to be a fair juror here," Graham said.

"What I see coming, happening today is just a partisan nonsense," he added.

"If you don't like President Trump, you can vote against him in less than a year. It's not like a politician is unaccountable if you don't impeach them,"



Graham said.

The Senator also expressed confidence that Trump had good reason to ask Kiev "to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, who was on the board of a Ukrainian natural gas company (Burisma gas company - TASS). His son was receiving \$50,000 a month from a gas company run by the most corrupt guy in the Ukraine and about two months after they raided the gas company's president's home,

they fired the prosecutor," Graham told CNN.

## Impeachment procedure

On Friday, the House's Legal Committee approved two charges against Trump as part of impeachment. Representatives of the Democratic Party accuse him of abusing his power and obstructing Congress by thwarting the House's investigative efforts.

The House will review the charges next week. If the charges are approved, the indictment, prepared as a result of the investigation in the Legal Committee, will be transferred to the Senate, where the procedure will turn into a trial.

It will be led by the Chairman of the US Supreme Court. In this case the House of Representatives actually acts as a party to the prosecution, and senators play the role of a jury.

For impeachment to take place, at least two-thirds of the votes of senators are required (at least 67). For this reason, with the current line-up of the Senate, the probability of voting in favor of impeachment is virtually reduced to zero.

Since the beginning of this year, Republicans (based on the results of the November midterm elections) have 53 out of 100 seats in the upper house of Congress. **Agencies**





French President Emmanuel Macron

## Macron pushes ahead with pension plan amid damaging strikes

### PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron remains determined to push ahead with an overhaul of the nation's pension system despite more than a week of nationwide strikes that paralyzed public transport in Paris, where stores and restaurants have seen eroding profits.

Yet, travelers from around the world have continued to visit the City of Light as the holiday season approaches, according to the Paris tourism office.

Speaking in Brussels, Macron said Friday the "historic reform" aims at better equipping the country for 21st century challenges.

The changes, which include raising the retirement age to 64 and ending special privileges for some workers, will make the pension system fairer and will keep it out of debt, he added.

Macron expressed "solidarity" with his fellow citizens, but did not specifically address unions' complaints or the transport headaches that travelers have been facing since the strikes began Dec. 5.

Major unions want to push the strike through Christmas.

The many French workers who support the strike fear the pension changes will force people to work longer for less money and threaten the country's welfare system.

It's too early to fully assess the strikes' impact on tourism and Paris businesses, tourism office director Corinne Menegaux told the Associated Press. Still, despite an initial slump in hotel reservations, bookings ahead of the "most important time of the year" – Christmas and the New Year – have continued to grow, she said.

Menegaux pointed to difficulties getting to and from airports. The city has put in place additional airport shuttles as the strikes wear on. Still, foreign

tourists have continued to visit the city and explore its sites on foot, she said.

"What's magic about Paris especially is that it's a very resilient destination," Menegaux said. The surge in tourism the city saw from April to November can help make up for any losses in December, she added.

Only two of 14 metro lines in the French capital are fully functional, and regional trains are running irregularly.

Crowded and unpredictable trains and traffic jams stretching hundreds of miles have created headaches for local residents, particularly those who commute into the city for work.

As more people stay home and fewer French travelers come into the city, restaurants and stores have seen a drop in customers, according to Menegaux.

The Eiffel Tower and several museums were closed the first day of the strikes, but they have since reopened. The Louvre has shuttered several exhibits, and some museums and tourist attractions have reduced visiting hours.

For the most part, though, tourists visiting this month still have access to Paris' famous attractions.

Tourists who enjoy walking, like Oscar Carrillo and Mayra Dono from New York, didn't mind seeing the city on foot. "We walked a lot. I like to walk, but we have to because everything was closed," Carrillo said. "It was our first time here, so we liked it and maybe next year we'll come back."

For older and less able visitors, however, the strikes restrict mobility.

Chiara Mascagni and Andrea Strino from Italy walked for an hour and a half with their bags to get to their hotel – a journey that, as they pointed out, not everyone can undertake.

"We are young and we want to walk but other people can't come here because of the strike," they told the AP.

Agencies

## Positions of Putin and Zelensky don't coincide on some issues - Kremlin

### MOSCOW

THE Russian and Ukrainian Presidents, Vladimir Putin and Vladimir Zelensky, have started dialogue, but they have failed to come to terms on a whole range of issues so far, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Bolshaya Igra (Big Game) TV program on Russia's Channel One.

"Putin and Zelensky have started talking to each other. However, they are far from reaching an agreement on a whole range of issues, they are using different terms," Peskov said.

"I think their one-on-one conver-

sation lasted 10-15 minutes, so this is not that brief," Peskov said. "Later, they were interrupted by President [of France Emmanuel] Macron who insisted on continuing the work in the Normandy format."

A Normandy Four summit was held in Paris on December 9, for the first time after a three-year break.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia, Emmanuel Macron of Germany, Vladimir Zelensky of Ukraine and German Chancellor Angela Merkel gathered in the Elysee Palace to discuss ways of settling the conflict in Donbass. The seven-hour talks yielded a final

document committing to paper a number of concrete accords.

Among the summit's expected results was an agreement to exchange prisoners of war in Donbass on an all-for-all basis by the year-end. The summit's participants also called for a total and comprehensive ceasefire until the end of 2019 and agreed to support an accord within the framework of the Contact Group on the political settlement in eastern Ukraine on three additional sections of disengaging forces and weapons in the conflict area by the end of March 2020.

Agencies

## Ex-Sudan strongman al-Bashir gets two years for corruption

### KHARTOUM

A COURT in Sudan convicted former President Omar al-Bashir of money laundering and corruption on Saturday, sentencing him to two years in a minimum security lockup.

That's the first verdict in a series of legal proceedings against al-Bashir, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s.

The verdict comes a year after Sudanese protesters erupted in revolt against al-Bashir's authoritarian rule. During his three decades in power, Sudan landed on the US list for sponsoring terrorism, and the country's economy was battered by years of mismanagement and American sanctions.

Al-Bashir has been in custody since April, when Sudan's military ousted him after months of nationwide protests. The uprising eventually forced the military into a power-sharing agreement with civilians.

Under Sudanese law, al-Bashir, 75, will be sent to a state-run lockup for elderly people who are convicted of crimes not punishable with death. But he will remain in jail amid an ongoing trial on separate charges regarding the killing of protesters in the months prior to his ouster.

Before the verdict was read, supporters of al-Bashir briefly disrupted the proceedings and were pushed out of the courtroom by security forces. The ex-president appeared in the defendant's cage wearing a traditional white robe and turban. He had arrived in a white Land Cruiser SUV amid tight security at the Judicial and Legal Science



Omar al-Bashir

Institute in the capital, Khartoum.

Sudan's military has said it would not extradite him to the ICC. The country's military-civilian transitional government has not indicated whether they will hand him over to the The Hague.

Anti-government demonstrations erupted last December over steep price rises and shortages, but soon shifted to calls for al-Bashir to step down. Security forces responded with a fierce crackdown that killed dozens of protesters in the months prior to his ouster.

Millions of US dollars, euros and Sudanese pounds were seized in al-Bashir's home shortly after the military removed him from power.

Saturday's verdict could be appealed before a higher court.

In August, al-Bashir told the court that he received through his office manager US\$25 million from Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

He said the crown prince did not want to reveal that he was the source of the funds, so he did not deposit the money in the country's central bank.

He said the money was being used for donations not for his own benefit. At least US\$2 million went to a military hospital and US\$3 million to a university, he said.

Al-Bashir said US\$5 million was given to the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary unit that grew out of the feared Janjaweed militias unleashed during the Darfur conflict.

The RSF is led by Gen Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, who is also a member of the newly appointed Sovereign Council that is to rule Sudan during its three-year transition.

Protesters accuse the RSF of leading the crackdown against them, including the June break-up of their sit-in camp in Khartoum.

Agencies

## Russia, Ukraine complete gas transit talks in Vienna

### VIENNA

THE delegations of Gazprom and Naftogaz of Ukraine have completed negotiations on cooperation in the gas sector in Vienna, a TASS correspondent reported on Friday. The meeting lasted more than four hours and was attended by head of Gazprom Alexei Miller and executive director of Naftogaz of Ukraine Yury Vitrenko.

The main issue in the agenda was the extension of the contract for gas transit from Russia to Europe through Ukraine after 2019, since the current ten-year agreement expires at the end of this year. Earlier, Yury Vitrenko said that December 13 was the deadline for concluding a contract for the long-term reservation of transit capacities of the Ukrainian gas transmission system.

Agencies

## Senior citizens in Macao enjoy meticulous care from whole society

CHINA'S Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) is about to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its return to the motherland, and the region now enjoys a favorable social atmosphere where its senior citizens are well loved, respected and protected, receiving meticulous care from the whole society.

Such achievement is made through the cooperation between Macao SAR government and professional non-governmental institutions and the efforts of voluntary workers with various backgrounds and at different ages.

Luo is a 102-year-old Macao citizen who now lives with his 10th child, and his living expenses are shared by all of his 11 children who always visit him in order to

spend more time with him. Luo needs auxiliary appliances for movement, but he's lucid and eats well. His sound health condition even allows him to play mah-jong with his children.

Macao SAR government started offering "Subsidy for Senior Citizens" since 2005, as a way to show its solicitude for the elderly. This October, about 90,000 eligible and verified seniors were granted a total of 806 million patacas (about \$100.19 million), with each of them receiving 9,000 patacas.

In addition, Macao has also established a series of favorable schemes and systems for the benefit of the elderly, including the Healthcare Subsidy Scheme, affordable housing policy, the Provident Fund Scheme for

workers in public services, and the Central Savings System, thus effectively ensuring stable source of pension funds and sufficient support for infrastructure for old-age care.

In recent years, Macao SAR government has actively promoted the construction of barrier-free facilities, according to Alexis Tam Chon Weng, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR government.

This year, free cataract surgery and movable denture installation were offered for senior citizens at certain ages, and more such services benefiting the lives and health of the elderly would be rolled out, Tam introduced.

Macao SAR government has always attached great importance to its senior citizens' demand for

continuing education. By launching government schemes including the Continuing Education Development Plan, a learning subsidy for senior citizens and the disabled, as well as senior academies and social service agencies for the elderly, the SAR government has created abundant opportunities for the seniors to pursue further education.

Cooperating with non-governmental institutions, the Macao SAR government has kept carrying out diversified services and creating increasing opportunities to have senior citizens continue participating in social affairs in their favored manners, noted Tam.

The ultimate goal is to help the seniors enjoy home-based elderly care, actively take part in social

affairs, and have wonderful lives, Tam said.

Macao is currently in an aging population. As shown by relevant data, the average life expectancy of Macao citizens has reached 83.7 years so far, and senior citizens aged 65 or above account for 10.5 percent of the total population of the SAR. It is expected that by 2036, this proportion will hit 20.7 percent, making the region a "super aged society".

In an effort to tackle the challenges brought by its ageing population, the Macao SAR government started implementing the Ten-year Action Plan for Elderly Services (2016-2025) in 2016, to enrich the lives and improve the life quality of seniors through short-term, medium, and long-term policies and services.

Relevant laws have also been introduced by the region to guarantee the protection of interests and rights of senior citizens. In 2009, Macao SAR kicked off the legislation of the Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly, in an attempt to formulate the general framework for the protection of the rights of seniors, integrate existing laws and regulations, and define relevant policies. The bill was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Macao SAR last year.

The Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly is considered the "basic law" for the protection of the seniors' interests and rights, as it integrates all relevant regulations and legal systems concerning interests and rights of the elderly and covers



## Interim leader: Arrest warrant to be issued against Morales

### SANANDITA

BOLIVIA will issue an arrest warrant in the coming days against former leftist President Evo Morales, accusing him of sedition, interim Bolivian President Jeanine Anez said on Saturday.

Morales (pictured) is in Argentina, granted refugee status this week just days after the inauguration of new President Alberto Fernandez. Peronist Fernandez succeeded outgoing conservative Argentine leader Mauricio Macri, who lost his bid for re-election in October.

Morales had spent the previous month in Mexico in the wake of a highly-contested October election in Bolivia. He had proclaimed victory after his government was accused of manipulating the vote results. Morales, who had been in power nearly 14 years, left Bolivia as the controversy grew.

"He can return whenever he wants. He left because he wanted to," Anez told reporters. "The arrest warrant will be issued in the next few days, because we have already brought the charges."

Morales had obtained his fourth consecutive term in the October vote, according to the official count, which was criticized for irregularities by the Organization of American States. Morales resigned under pressure from the armed forces in what he has called a coup d'etat.

Agencies

## Southern Xinjiang boosts winter tourism

FOUR regions in the southern part of Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region have initiated joint project to promote tourism in winter.

The first winter culture and tourism festival of four southern Xinjiang regions - Aksu, Kashgar, Hotan and the Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture of Kizilsu - opened on Tuesday, December 10, in Baicheng County, Aksu.

The four regions are aided by provincial regions of the Yangtze River Delta, including Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

The festival is to echo Xinjiang's strategy to boost winter tourism. It aims to develop ice and snow tourism resources in southern Xinjiang at the same pace as northern Xinjiang and to attract more tourists, according to



a statement the Aksu publicity department sent to the Global Times.

Tours featuring self-driving, caravans and special trains will be promoted in northern Xinjiang to develop the winter tourism market.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the Second Ice and Snow Culture Tourism Festival

of Baicheng, Aksu was also launched at the Baicheng hot springs skiing venue.

The skiing venue opened on December 1, welcoming hundreds of visitors to enjoy snow activities such as skiing, sledding, snowmobiling, as well as dancing and singing.

A total of 12.9 million yuan (\$1.8 mil-

lion) was invested in the venue, which is the largest in southern Xinjiang. Hu Chao, general manager of the Silu Qingyuan tourism development company, which made the investment, told the Global Times.

Professional skiing tracks are expected to be built in 2020 with a further investment of 50 million yuan, Hu said.

Tourism has helped local residents shake off poverty, Keranmu Mehmet, secretary of the Communist Party Committee at Tiereke village, 1 kilometer from the skiing venue, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Now 19 Tiereke villagers are employed at the skiing venue, bringing each of them a monthly salary of between 2,400 and 4,000 yuan.

Global Times



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT

## Tiger Woods caps comeback year by leading emotional team win



U.S. team player and captain Tiger Woods holds up the trophy after the U.S. team won the President's Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019. The U.S. team won the tournament 16-14. (AP Photo)

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The emotions poured out of Tiger Woods, just like they did at Augusta National in the spring, except this felt different.

The Masters was for him.

This was for 11 players – at times his teammates, always under his captaincy – who delivered another American victory in the Presidents Cup and a moment that nearly brought Woods to tears. And when the decisive point was on the board Sunday at Royal Melbourne, Woods celebrated with everyone he could find by hugging them hard enough to take the breath out of them.

“Any time you have moments where you’re able to do something that is bigger than us as an individual, it’s so much more meaningful and so much more special,” he said.

The Americans felt the same way.

Trailing for the first time in 16 years, they followed his lead. Woods, the first playing captain in 25 years, went out in the first of 12 singles matches and outlasted Abraham Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record by winning his 27th match.

It also set the tone for his team.

Patrick Reed, winless in three matches and heckled so badly for his rules violation last week in the Bahamas that his caddie shoved a spectator and was kept from working the final day, was 6 up through seven holes. Dustin Johnson, playing for the first time since the Tour Championship because of knee surgery, was 4 up through seven holes.

Perhaps most inspiring was Tony Finau in the second match. He was 4 down to Hideki Matsuyama through 10 holes when Finau won the next four and earned a half-point that put even more pressure on the International team.

Matt Kuchar delivered the winning point without even winning his match. His 5-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole assured the Americans the half-point they needed to win for the eighth straight time.

The last two matches ended in halves for a 16-14 score. The Americans tied a Presidents Cup record with an 8-4 margin in singles, the largest since the first event in 1994.

“It was really cool being part of this team and having Tiger as captain,” Kuchar said. “We had a roomful of some of the greatest golfers in the world, and when he speaks, we listen. I think all of us will look back and have these pictures hanging on our walls and say, ‘We played for and alongside Tiger Woods, the greatest player ever.’ It was awesome.”

It was crushing for the Internationals, hoping to end two decades without a victory.

Ernie Els, who has finished second to Woods more times than anyone in golf, assembled the youngest International team ever and inspired them with equal doses of purpose and analytics. It had the lead going into Sunday for the first time since 2003, the tie in South Africa.

“I just didn’t have enough to cross the line. I followed a plan, and it didn’t quite work out, but we came damn close,” Els said. “If you compare our team on paper with other teams in other sport, you would have

laughed us out of the building. But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time.”

That team included the greatest player of his generation. Woods was appointed captain in March 2018 and suggested he might be a playing captain, which he later said was a joke.

And then he won the Masters, his 15th major and first in 11 years, to cap off a comeback from injury made even more meaningful by the hugs he shared with family and those who never left his side.

Two weeks before he filled out his team with four captain’s picks, Woods won in Japan for his 82nd career victory, leaving him no choice but to be the first captain to pick himself.

He was the only player to go undefeated at Royal Melbourne, winning twice with Justin Thomas and on his own ball against Ancer, one of seven rookies for the Internationals.

“We were very inspired to play for Tiger – with Tiger – and it’s so satisfying to win this cup because of that,” Finau said.

Emotions were raw on the golf course as the Americans celebrated their first comeback since the four-point deficit at Brookline in the 1999 Ryder Cup.

In his TV interview, Woods was fighting back tears, yet another indication to his players how much it meant.

“I love seeing other people cry, especially Tiger Woods,” said Steve Stricker, one of three vice captains who allowed Woods to hold dual roles at Royal Melbourne. And then Stricker had to hold back tears of his own.

The International team at least kept it close, unlike two years ago at Liberty National when it was one putt away from being eliminated on Saturday.

Even with so much American red on the scoreboards, the Internationals still had a chance in the final hour. Matsuyama lost a 1-up lead with a three-putt from 25 feet that led to the halve with Finau. Adam Hadwin had a 15-foot birdie putt to beat Bryson DeChambeau on the 18th hole, but had to settle for a halve when he missed on the high side.

Louis Oosthuizen lost a 3-up lead at the turn against Kuchar, who caught up on the 15th hole and set off the celebration two holes later. Their matched ended in a halve.

At the closing ceremony, the Internationals stood with their arms crossed. The frustration was evident, even among the seven rookies.

The Americans now lead the series 11-1-1, the only International victory coming at Royal Melbourne in 1998.

“I’m disappointed. That’s all I can say,” said Adam Scott, who has played nine straight Presidents Cups without winning. “But I like what’s happening in the future. I can’t wait for another crack at it.”

The Internationals likely will want Els to return as captain. As for Woods?

“We are going to have those conversations in the future, but not right now,” Woods said. “We are going to enjoy this one.”

AP

## Tiger Woods and US team rally to win Presidents Cup again

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

HIGH emotions, fierce hugs from Tiger Woods, this time as a winner both ways in the Presidents Cup.

Woods capped off a big year that began with his 15th major at the Masters by playing and leading his U.S. team to another victory in the Presidents Cup on Sunday at Royal Melbourne.

The first playing captain in 25 years, he opened the 12 singles matches by beating Abraham Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record with his 27th match victory, and set the tone for the rest of his team.

The scoreboard was filled with American red scores all day as they rallied from a two-point deficit to win the Presidents Cup for the eighth straight time against an International team that faltered at the worst time.

Matt Kuchar delivered the clinching putt, a 5-footer for birdie that assured him a halve against Louis Oosthuizen and gave the Americans the 15 1/2 points they needed to win.

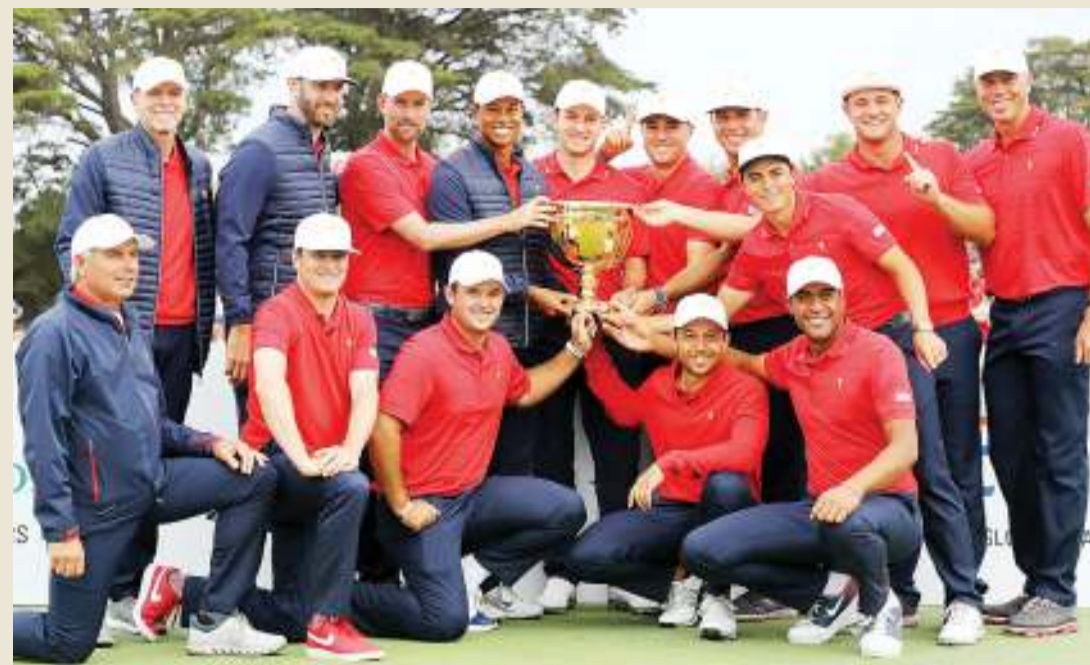
“For us to be in a hole, to come back and win this thing ... to win it as a team, but to do it with Tiger Woods as our captain was just a huge thrill,” Kuchar said.

They result was 16-14, and at least this one was a contest. The U.S. victory two years ago at Liberty National was so resounding that it nearly ended on Saturday.

International captain Ernie Els was determined to turn it around. He created a new logo for the International team. He relied heavily on analytics. It still wasn’t enough.

“I followed a plan, and it didn’t quite work out, but we came damn close,” Els said. “If you compare our team on paper with other teams in other sport, you would have laughed us out of the building. But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time.”

Els thought back to Friday, when the Americans won two matches with birdies on the 18th hole and



rallied to halve another to keep the International lead from growing.

On Sunday, all he saw was U.S. momentum that couldn’t be stopped.

“We gave you everything we had,” Els said to Woods at the closing ceremony. “You were the better team.”

Woods hugged everyone hard, players and vice captains alike, wearing a smile not seen since he walked off the 18th green at Augusta National after becoming a Masters champion again after injuries that nearly ended his career.

“We relied on one another as a team, and we did it – together,” Woods said, his voice choked slightly with emotion. “This cup wasn’t going to be given to us. We had to go earn it. And we did.”

Els fashioned the youngest International team from a record nine countries from everywhere outside Europe and took a 10-8 lead into the final day, the first time it had the edge in 16 years.

It wasn’t enough.

Patrick Reed, whose caddie was benched for shoving a fan who had cursed Reed from

close range Saturday, built a 6-up lead through seven holes before eventually putting away C.T. Pan to win for the first time this week.

Webb Simpson, who played with Reed as they lost all three team matches, never trailed in beating Byeong Hun An. Everyone on the U.S. team contributed something.

With so much red on the board, Tony Finau might have been his team the biggest boost. He was 4 down through 10 holes against Hideki Matsuyama, won the next four holes and earned a half-point.

It came down to the final hole in South Korea four years ago. This time, the Americans were assured of a tie if the Internationals were to win the last three matches, creating at least a little drama.

But it was a familiar ending. The Americans now are 11-1-1 in an event that began in 1994.

“It’s hard to digest,” said Adam Scott, who has played in nine Presidents Cup without ever winning. “It’s incredibly disappointing but ... I like where this team is going, and I’ll be working really hard now to be on the team in two more

years.”

The only International victory was in 1998 at Royal Melbourne, and several players from that team came to Australia this week to conjure up good vibes. It only worked for so long.

The Americans won the singles session for the first time since 2009. Most years, their lead was so big it wasn’t critical. This time it was. They hadn’t trailed since 2003 in South Africa, the year of the tie.

So inspired was the American play that none of their six singles victories made it to the 18th hole.

The last two matches were halved, and the 8-4 advantage in singles matched the record for the largest Sunday margin since the Americans won 8-4 in the inaugural Presidents Cup in 1994.

The next Presidents Cup is in 2021 at Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina. In the meantime, the Americans will try to get on another team and win back the Ryder Cup, which gives them far more trouble.

AP

## Antetokounmpo, Middleton lead Bucks to 18th straight win

MILWAUKEE

GIANNIS Antetokounmpo displayed his remarkable skills early and often as the Milwaukee Bucks continued their quest to break a franchise record that has stood for nearly half a century.

The reigning MVP sank a 3-pointer for his first points of the game, then followed with a spinning layup, a wide-open dunk and a step-through slam for nine quick points to give Milwaukee an early lead.

And when the Cleveland Cavaliers made it close in the second quarter, Antetokounmpo streaked down the court, received a feed from Donte DiVincenzo and threw down a one-handed dunk as the Bucks began to pull away.

Antetokounmpo and the Bucks went on to beat Cleveland 125-108 Saturday night, their 18th consecutive win.

“You can try to game plan for Giannis and you can try to game plan for a team like that, but they’re very long, they can shoot the ball and they can play inside out,” Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. “They are on a major winning streak right now and they’re playing some of the best, if not the best, basketball in the NBA.”

The Bucks have won 22 of their last 23 and improved to 24-3, one-half game ahead of the idle Los Angeles Lakers for the best record in the league. The Bucks have not lost since Nov. 8 at Utah.

The streak is the second longest in franchise history. The Bucks won 20 consecutive games in the 1970-71 season on the way to winning their lone NBA championship.

“When we run and our pace is really fast, everyone gets easy ones, and everyone gets open shots,” Antetokounmpo said. “It just makes the game fun. And when the game is fun, I think everyone defends, also.”

Kevin Porter Jr. had 15 points and Jordan Clarkson scored 13 for the Cavaliers, who grabbed a brief lead in the second quarter on a jumper by Clarkson but were then outscored 34-14 to close the period.

The Bucks’ lead grew to as many as



Milwaukee Bucks’ Wesley Matthews and Cleveland Cavaliers’ Collin Sexton chase a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, in Milwaukee. (AP Photo)

28 points in the third quarter, and they cruised the rest of the way for their 13th straight win at home.

“They’re explosive in offensive transition,” Cleveland coach John Beilein said. “We have to do a better job there collectively. That lead can explode on you in a minute.”

Cleveland, which had ended an eight-game losing streak with an overtime win over San Antonio on Thursday night, committed 18 turnovers that the Bucks converted into 21 points.

“Our turnovers are killing us right now,” Beilein said.

Love had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland. Antetokounmpo, who missed his first game of the season Wednesday night against New Orleans, played just 24 minutes, while Middleton, who had 26 points on Friday night, played 23.

The Bucks’ lead grew to as many as

las crowd stunned by Luka Doncic’s ankle injury and the big deficit that followed was standing with the Mavericks in position to win late.

Still, a huge comeback without the young phenom came up short.

Doncic left in the opening minutes with a sprained ankle and the Mavericks rallied from 24 points down to take a lead into the final minute of regulation before falling to the Miami Heat 122-118 in overtime Saturday night.

Bam Adebayo put Miami in front for good on a put-back dunk with 1:15 remaining in overtime and finished with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double in three games.

“Anytime you lose your best player, the way he’s been playing, it’s rough,” said guard J.J. Barea, a big part of the rally with 12 points in 13 minutes. “But yeah, I think we did a

great job. Everybody that came in stepped up and we put in a great effort.”

Doncic’s right foot landed on the foot of Heat guard Kendrick Nunn on a drive less than two minutes into the game.

The reigning rookie of the year lost control of the ball for a turnover and limped off the court before going down behind the basket while play continued at the other end. He got up a short time later but went straight to the locker room. The team said X-rays were negative, but he didn’t return.

Doncic was playing two nights after the 20-year-old dazzled the crowd in Mexico City with a pre-game speech in Spanish before scoring 41 points with 12 rebounds and 11 assists in a 122-111 victory over Detroit. It was his NBA-leading eighth triple-double of the season.

AP



## Champions League expansion plan angers Klopp

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has reacted angrily to a proposal that could see the Champions League group stage transformed into a 32-team division.

Reigning European champions Liverpool already have a packed fixture programme, with the run-away Premier League leaders due to fly to Qatar for the Club World Cup less than 24 hours after Saturday's 2-0 win over Watford at Anfield.

Indeed so congested is their schedule that Liverpool have two games in as many days next week, with Klopp set to field a youth side for the English League Cup quarter-final against Aston Villa on Tuesday before the senior team plays in Doha on Wednesday.

Against this background, it was no surprise that Klopp was decidedly unimpressed by talk of an increase in Champions League matches that would lead to a fresh fixture pile-up.

"Today I read the top clubs want more games in the Champions League -- I am not involved in these plans but that is absolute bollocks,"

he told reporters after the Watford game.

"The fixtures are like they are. You all like watching us suffering. That is how it is."

The German added: "You (the media) always look concerned but no-one cares. We speak about it and no-one else speaks about it."

"We have to do what we do and are quite positive about it."

Klopp's mood was not improved by that fact that the Khalifa International Stadium in Qatar will host five matches -- including two semi-finals, a third-place playoff and the final -- in as many days during the Club World Cup because the Education City Stadium is not ready for the tournament.

"It think it is raining there. It doesn't help the one pitch we are all playing on -- sensationally good organising," said Klopp sarcastically.

"All the games are on one pitch and it is raining, I am not sure the people in Qatar are used to a lot of rain."

"We will see how the one pitch will be but that is a bit of a problem."

AFP

## 'We're just too safe': Lampard lashes Chelsea after shock loss

LONDON

FRANK Lampard urged his Chelsea players to prove they have the courage to cope with adversity after Bournemouth snatched a shock 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Lampard's side were beaten for the fourth time in their last five Premier League games as Dan Gosling netted a VAR-reviewed winner with just six minutes left.

It was a bitter blow for Lampard after Chelsea once again failed to deal with a team intent on defending deep and attacking on the counter.

Not for the first time this season, the Blues dominated possession on home turf without showing the cutting edge needed to break down stubborn Bournemouth, who had arrived in freezing west London on a run of five consecutive defeats.

Lampard believes the root cause of Chelsea's malaise is their inability to kill teams off, and he puts that down to a lack of conviction in the final third.

Questioning the personality of a young team on the rocks for the first time following their fine start in his first season in charge, Lampard said: "Now we have the reality. If we are not at our best, if players can't find the quality to beat teams that are organised then we have to find another way."

"We didn't get the fans excited enough. If we play 10 balls across our back four that's not surprising. If I'm a fan sitting there today I would say 'too slow'. I don't want to blame them for that."

"Some responsibility is on the players to take the ball and have the balls to excite the fans."

## Klopp: I don't celebrate goals because of VAR

LONDON

LIVERPOOL boss Jurgen Klopp has said he no longer celebrates when his team scores a goal due to the delay caused by VAR.

Liverpool extended their unbeaten run in the Premier League with a 2-0 win over Watford but VAR overruled a second-half Sadio Mane strike for offside, while there was a long wait before Mohamed Salah's second goal was awarded.

"I don't celebrate goals anymore, obviously, because we have to wait until somebody says it is a goal," he said at a news conference after the game.

Salah's two goals moved Liverpool 10 points clear at the top of the league after second-place Leicester were held at home to Norwich City.

The Egypt international has scored his last three goals with his weaker right foot and admitted he has been practising in training.

"I've been practicing with my right foot," he told BT Sport afterwards. "I had good luck with the

"We have to have some personality. When a team wants to defend against you, that's another test. We haven't done well with that."

- Nerves and stress -

Chelsea have scored only 11 goals at home this season and Lampard acknowledged his players are struggling to deal with the pressure that mounts the longer a game goes without a goal for his team.

"With that comes nerves and stress in the team and the stadium. We need urgency in our play, transfer the ball quickly, get at people, do things that are positive, don't play safe, we generally play too safe during games," he said.

"I don't know about fear but in front of our home fans it's evident we aren't playing well enough. We aren't taking our chances and we have given away some silly goals."

Chelsea remain in fourth place despite their recent slump but they will have to improve dramatically to stay there.

With London derbies looming at Tottenham and Arsenal over the Christmas period, Lampard could be forgiven for giving his players an intensive training period in a bid to shake them out of their lethargy.

But the former Chelsea midfielder insisted he couldn't fault their effort.

Asked how he would have responded to this kind of slump in his glittering playing career, Lampard said: "I don't want to talk about my days. I'm not going to get the players in for training tomorrow and go over the video."

"I can't find anyone wanting with how they apply themselves but what we do on the pitch is being found wanting at the moment."

first goal. It was a counter-attack, got a good pass from Sadio, and I think we scored at the right time.

"We played against a tough team. I think they should be in a better position than what they are. Hopefully, we keep winning in the next few games."

Klopp was also adamant that he knew nothing about reported plans that clubs wanted more Champions League matches.

"I read an article today that the top clubs want more games in the Champions League -- I'm not involved in these plans, so that's absolute bulls--- as well," he added.

"We can talk about everything, but we have to cut off games, not put more in. We are quite positive about doing what we do, but it's clear we need each point we can get, because it is a tough and long season."

Liverpool will travel to Qatar next week, where they will look to win the Club World Cup for the first time in their history.

(Agencies)

## Salah stretches Liverpool lead to 10 as Leicester stumble

LONDON

LIVERPOOL tightened their grip on the Premier League title race thanks to two Mohamed Salah goals in a 2-0 win over Watford which extended their lead at the top to 10 points as second-placed Leicester were held 1-1 at home by Norwich.

Chelsea were also shocked 1-0 at home by Bournemouth to see their lead over the chasing pack in fourth further cut, while Sheffield United moved into fifth with a 2-0 win over Aston Villa.

At Anfield, Liverpool kept their first clean sheet at home this season but only thanks to Watford's wastefulness in front of goal as the Hornets showed why they are the lowest scoring side in the league.

Abdoulaye Doucoure and Ismaila Sarr both failed to make a proper connection with the goal gaping in the first half and the 40-point gap between the sides in the table was shown only in the difference of quality in the finishing.

Salah struck twice as he rounded off a rapid Liverpool counter-attack from a Watford corner eight minutes before half-time.

The Egyptian then settled the home crowd's nerves a minute from time when he cheekily flicked home Divock Origi's mishit shot.

"In December and January especially, you need to show resilience -- that's the most important thing and we showed that," said coach Jurgen Klopp, whose side are seven games into a 15-match stretch across five competitions in 50 days.

"We had to fight, that's what we did and that's why we won."

- Leicester lose ground -

Leicester will be Liverpool's next opponents in the Premier League on Boxing Day after the European champions head to Qatar for the Club



Bournemouth's Dan Gosling bagged the shock winner at Chelsea (AFP Photo)

World Cup.

The Foxes had the chance to cut the gap at the top to just five points ahead of that meeting had they beaten Norwich and Manchester City next weekend.

However, a club record run of eight straight Premier League wins for Brendan Rodgers's men came to an end against the Canaries.

Teemu Pukki broke clear and finished calmly for his ninth goal of the season to put the visitors in front.

Leicester levelled before the break when Jamie Vardy's header from James Maddison's corner was turned into his own net by Norwich goalkeeper Tim Krul, but the hosts could not press home their dominance in the second half.

"The players have been brilliant. When you are on that winning run you believe you are going to win every game but of course it does not work like that," said Rodgers.

"We were not 100 percent on it. We

need to set the reset button."

- Reality check for Chelsea -

Chelsea's hold on the fourth Champions League place could be down to as little as two points should Manchester United beat Everton on Sunday as their poor run continued.

Frank Lampard's men have now lost four of their last five Premier League games and had only themselves to blame as they had 18 shots on goal without finding a way past Aaron Ramsdale.

Bournemouth had lost five on the spin but got their reward for staying in the game when Dan Gosling skilfully flicked a loose ball over Kefa Arrizabalaga five minutes from time and VAR overturned a wrongly-raised offside flag against the midfielder.

"Some responsibility is on the players to take the ball and have the balls to excite the fans," said Lampard after a fifth home defeat of the season.

"In front of our home fans it's evi-

dent we aren't playing well enough. We aren't taking our chances and we have given away some silly goals."

Sheffield United for now are the Blues' closest challengers as they moved ahead of United and Tottenham into fifth as John Fleck scored twice in the second half to inflict a 2-0 defeat on Aston Villa, while Jack Grealish missed a late penalty for the visitors.

At the other end of the table, West Ham eased the pressure on Manuel Pellegrini with a 1-0 win at fellow strugglers Southampton.

Sebastian Haller's first goal in nine games was the difference between the sides as the Hammers moved four points clear of the bottom three in 15th, while Southampton remain in the relegation zone.

Burnley were also 1-0 victors over Newcastle, thanks to Chris Wood's close-range finish in a game of few chances at Turf Moor.

AFP

## Barcelona's disputed draw adds fuel to upcoming 'clásico'

MADRID

A DISPUTED decision not to award a late penalty may have cost Barcelona the Spanish league lead entering Wednesday's "clásico" against Real Madrid.

Barcelona was held to a 2-2 draw at Real Sociedad on Saturday, giving Madrid a chance to go into the midweek match at Camp Nou Stadium with a two-point lead if it beats Valencia on Sunday.

Barcelona was expected to file a formal complaint to the Spanish soccer federation over the non-call, which came after Real Sociedad defender Diego Llorente appeared to pull down Gerard Piqué by his jersey in stoppage time.

Neither the referee nor video review thought there was enough to award a penalty. Barcelona was especially upset because Real Sociedad's first goal came on a penalty awarded in a similar situation after Sergio Busquets grabbed Llorente's jersey in the first half.

"The one on Gerard was clearer than mine," Busquets said. "If the referee saw the first one, he had to see that one as well. I think he saw it, but didn't want to make the call."

Spanish powerhouses Madrid and Barcelona will meet for the first time this season in a match postponed from October because of a separatist rally in the Catalan capital.

"We don't know whether we will still be leaders or not, that's out of our hands now," Busquets said. "But we will enter the match with good momentum. We have been improving and we'll be playing at home."

Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde didn't rest any of his top players, using Lionel Messi, Luis Suárez and Antoine Griezmann in the attack. Messi didn't play in the team's Champions League match at Inter Milan on Tuesday.

Barcelona, which had won nine of its last 10 league games, was outplayed during most of the match at Reale Arena. Fifth-place Sociedad creating most of the scoring chances and restrained Barcelona, which was in control for short periods of the game but couldn't capitalize on its chances to seal the victory.

"We are upset despite a draw against a team like Barcelona," Real Sociedad coach Imanol Alguacil said. "We did



Real Sociedad's Mikel Merino, right, leaps to block a header from Barcelona's Lionel Messi during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Sociedad and Barcelona, at Anoeta stadium, in San Sebastian, Spain, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019. (AP Photo)

more than they did, we could have taken the three points."

Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring for the hosts by converting a 12th-minute penalty kick after Busquets was caught grabbing Llorente inside the area.

Barcelona recovered with two fast breakaways, one late in the first half and another soon after the break.

Griezmann equalized in the 38th by flicking the ball past goalkeeper Alex Remiro from inside the area. Griezmann, who

played nine seasons with Real Sociedad, didn't celebrate his goal.

"I have a lot of respect for those who have given me everything," said Griezmann, who has scored three goals in his last five matches.

Suárez put the visitors ahead in the 49th with a strike into the open net after a short pass by Messi.

The hosts equalized in the 62nd with a close-range shot by striker Alexander Isak after Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen couldn't fully clear

a cross.

Oyarzabal had also scored the last time Real Sociedad beat Barcelona, in a league match back in 2016.

Barcelona had won seven straight matches against Real Sociedad in all competitions.

Real Sociedad has won only one of its last five league matches. It had lost its last five league games against Barcelona.

**ATLÉTICO MOVES UP**  
Atlético Madrid beat Osasuna 2-0 at home to end a three-match winless

streak in the league.

Álvaro Morata and Saúl Ñíguez scored a goal each in the second half to lift Atlético back to fourth place, the last qualification spot for the Champions League.

Diego Simeone's team had won only one of its last six league games.

Tenth-place Osasuna had lost one of its last seven matches in the league.

**ATHLETIC STALLS**

Athletic Bilbao was held by Eibar to a 0-0 home draw in a match between two Basque Country teams.

It was the second winless game in a row for sixth-place Athletic, which hadn't been held scoreless in four straight league games.

Eibar, sitting in 16th place, had lost four straight league matches.

**LEVANTE REBOUNDS**

A late winner by North Macedonia midfielder Enis Bardhi gave Levante a 2-1 win at Granada, ending the team's two-game losing streak.

Bardhi scored with a shot from outside the area in the 89th minute.

Levante moved to 11th, one point behind Granada.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Salah stretches  
Liverpool lead to 10 as  
Leicester stumble

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Tanzania's athletes step up preps for 2020 Olympics



Tanzania's athlete, Failuna Abdi, will represent the country in the 2020 Olympics, which will take place in Japan.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**ANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) will organize a one-month camp for domestic athletes to prepare for the next year's Tokyo Olympics.

TOC secretary general, Filbert Bayi, said the camp will help to shape the athletes before the Games, which will be held in Japan from July 24 to August 7.

Currently two local athletes Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Abdi have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. TOC through its assistant treasurer, Juma Zaidi, said the com-

mittee is looking for 97m/- to successfully host the camp.

Zaidi said from 2017 to 2020 the Olympic Solidarity gave the TOC 471m/- for the latter's activities and operations.

He disclosed due to many activities, which TOC has for next year, the committee, though has a deficit of 97m/-.

He disclosed that next year TOC will need money to prepare the squad for Tokyo Olympics, the committee's elections and other expenses.

"Budget for next year is 640,882,723.70/-. This money will be used to meet, among other things, expenses for one-month camp for our athletes to prepare for the Tokyo Olympics," Zaidi disclosed.

"TOC general assembly and elections which will use almost 70m/- and they will also be elections for Olympians (TOA) which almost 37m/- will be used" he said.

The Tokyo Olympics is upcoming international multi-sport event that is scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 9 in Tokyo, Japan, with preliminary events in some sports beginning on July 22.

This will be the second time that Tokyo has hosted the Sum-

mer Olympic Games, the first being in 1964.

It is also the first city in Asia to host the summer Olympic Games twice, and overall the fourth Olympics to be held in Japan, which also hosted the Winter Olympics in 1972 (Sapporo) and 1998 (Nagano).

The 2020 Games will be the second of three consecutive Olympics to be held in East Asia, the first being the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang County, South Korea, and the next being the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

These Games will see the introduction of new and additional competitions at the Summer Olympics, including 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX and Madison cycling, as well as further mixed events.

Under new IOC policies that allow the host organizing committee to add sports to the Olympic program to augment the permanent "core" Olympic events, these Games will see karate, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding make their Olympic debuts.

There will also be the return of baseball and softball, both removed from the summer program after 2008.

**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**UJENZI**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAI (LIVE)  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:00 UTAKA  
16:30 KHASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKI  
17:55 KURASA  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 MUSIC  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 BONGO HITS

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.

**eastafrica 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**

## Dar chess players set for 2019 African Youth Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's junior chess players will compete in the African Youth Chess Championship in Windhoek, Namibia, this week.

The junior chess team, made up of Kahil Walli and Mikail Walli, will compete in U-8 and U-12 categories respectively.

The duo departed for the tournament on Friday. The competition started yesterday and is expected to end on December 22.

Tanzania Chess Association (TCA) Chairman, Geoffrey Mwanyika, said the junior players were selected because of their outstanding performance in domestic events.

Mwanyika said he is confident that the two will perform well at the championship.

He thanked chess fraternity in the country for facilitating the players' trip to Namibia.

"We are thankful for the partnership and support from chess fraternity in the country, the African Youth Championship is very important," he said.

He said the association is making strides in promoting chess at grassroots level.

"We are making strides in exposing the youth to international events, our aim is to see to it that many juniors are competing at international tournaments so that they can gain experience and exposure" he said.

Tanzania's participation in the African Youth Championship comes after the country had successfully managed to send the national U-16 team to Kenya to battle it out in Zone 4.4 Championship and Light Chess tournament.



Dar es Salaam junior chess players, Kahil Walli (L) and Mikail Walli, will represent Tanzania in the African Youth Chess Championship 2019, which will take place in Windhoek, Namibia, from tomorrow to December 22. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA



Kenya's renowned gospel singer, Sarah Mwangi, aka Sarah K (2nd L), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam last weekend on a night vigil, which is set to take place at Tanganyika Packers ground in Kawe. Various gospel artistes from within and outside the country will perform in the event. Also in the picture (L-R) are gospel artistes, Jeremy Kitiku, Paul Mwangosi and Gwamaka Mwakibete. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

## Para swimming coaching course garners boost

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A five-day para swimming coaching course, which gets underway today in Dar es Salaam, has continued attracting support from the cooperate world as Gold Star Paints Company has supported it financially.

This is the first time that Tanzania is having a course for Para swimming coaches and the training is taking place at Nor-

dic School.

Course coordinator, Ramadhan Namkomveka, yesterday expressed his gratitude to the company for supporting the course and described the support as timely.

Namkomveka, who stopped short of disclosing the sponsorship's amount, also thanked Managing Director of Gold Star Paint Company, Ali Mawji, for the financial

support.

He said the financial support from the company will enable the course to run smoothly.

"We are very grateful to Gold Star Paint for this timely financial support, this has come at a good time," he disclosed.

"We still have a gap in our budget and I'm asking other companies, organizations and individuals to emulate this good

gesture," he said.

The course has been organized with the aim of having many qualified Para swimming coaches who will in turn identify, nurture and train domestic Para swimmers.

Currently the country has only one Para swimmer, Gerald Sokolo, who is recognized and classified by the International Paralympic Committee.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

