

Local News

Farmers in lugari urged to plant Artemisia plant.

Farmers in lugari district have been urged to plant *Artemisia* plant which is mainly used for manufacturing of malaria drug.

Speaking to Fish FM during a meeting with farmers in Lumakanda, Frigoken manager Mr. David Ndegwa said the plant has more benefits compared to other cash crops like maize.

Mr. Ndegwa however added that one acre of land can produce more than 1000kg of the crop where 1 kg is sold at 42sh adding that the least amount a farmer can get in one acre is 42000/=

On expenses he said the cost of growing the crop can only be up to 18,000/= for planting and weeding and that after selling the product one will get a profit of more than 24,000/=

The manager also revealed that the plant is not affected by insects and when planted with other plants, it protects them.

By Duncan Wanga

Millie Adhiambo, Alago receive threats.

Two Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs have been allegedly threatened over their stand on the controversial judicial nominations. This as the committee works to beat tomorrow's deadline for a report to be presented before parliament tomorrow alongside that of the Okemo led committee.

Nominated MP Millie Odhiambo and Kisumu Town West MP Olago Aluoch on claimed that they had been threatened that the government would withdraw their security detail. The two legislators said they suspected the threat had something to do with their stands taken during the on-going deliberations by the committee that was meeting at the Windsor Golf Club. Odhiambo claimed that two other top legislators had also received the same threats. The Kisumu Town West MP on the other hand said the timing of the threats was suspicious.

NGO's pressure parliament over ruling

The civil pressure groups are now calling on house speaker Kenneth Marende to consider ruling that the judiciary posts be advertized. The groups calling themselves National Civil Society Congress, led by Morris Odhiambo say regardless of the reports by the committees tomorrow, the ruling by Marende should accommodate Kenyans. They termed the appointments by the President unconstitutional and proposed that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) should also be involved in the nomination process.

This was another way of opening up the process to public participation. It would also promote merit and inclusion in public service, they added. Besides being termed as unconstitutional, the nominations of Court of Appeal Judge Alnashir Visram, Professor Githu Muigai and lawyer Kioko Kilukumi to the key judicial positions have also raised furore from women who have argued that gender equality was not factored in.

Mr Odhiambo also scoffed at the appointments saying that if the intention was to show that the country was putting in place an effective local judicial process, then it failed miserably.

Kenya worried over rising ivory demand

A slowdown in the increase of Kenya's elephant numbers is raising fears among conservationists that hard-fought gains in saving the animals may be reversed amid growing demand for ivory.

An aerial census conducted in the country's largest elephant sanctuary last week showed a drop in the population's growth rate from a previously recorded four percent to two percent.

A total of 12,572 elephants were counted in the expansive Tsavo ecosystem, which may mark a slight increase from the previous count in 2008 of 11,696 but also represents a decline in the growth rate.

Julius Kipng'etich, the director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, said the slowdown might reflect "increased demand for ivory and the subsequent rise in poaching."

Kenya has lost dozens of elephants in recent years and authorities say the one-off sale of ivory stockpiles granted to four southern African states in 2008 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has increased demand in Asian countries.

African News

Thousands of protesters leave Egypt's Tahrir Square

Thousands of demonstrators have left Cairo's Tahrir Square after Egypt's new military rulers said they would dissolve parliament and suspend the constitution. The higher military council has also said it will stay in power for six months or until elections can be held. The announcements were welcomed by many of the protesters as a clean break from the old regime.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak quit on Friday after 18 days of mass rallies. The country has meanwhile declared Monday a bank holiday in an attempt to return the country to normal, after workers disrupted operations at the country's main state banks. The military is expected to ban meetings by labour unions or professional organisations, effectively banning strikes, and to tell all Egyptians to get back to work, according to Reuters news agency.

Correspondents say some employees have been emboldened by the success of protesters and are now seeking the removal of the bosses they blame for what they consider to be huge earnings gaps in their companies. On Sunday, a statement was read out on state TV from the higher military council, saying it would suspend the constitution and set up a committee to draft a new one, which would then be put to a popular referendum.

Tunisia rejects Italian call to send immigration police

The Tunisian government has condemned calls from Rome to deploy Italian police in Tunisia to tackle a sudden wave of migration. Spokesperson Tayeb Baccouche said Tunisians rejected the idea of foreign troops on their soil, but said the cabinet would debate the issue.

More than 4,000 migrants are reported to have arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa in the past few days. Italy has declared a humanitarian emergency and called for EU assistance. Last month, Tunisia's long-time President, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, quit amid a popular uprising later dubbed the Jasmine Revolution.

Correspondents say that since then, there have been strikes and clashes on the streets, and many police officers have abandoned their posts, leaving what some describe as a state of lawlessness. Italy's Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said on Sunday that Europe was not doing anything to help stop the flow of migrants and that he would request permission from Tunisia for Italian authorities to intervene.

International News

China overtakes Japan as world's second-biggest economy

China has overtaken Japan as the world's second-biggest economy. Japan's economy was worth \$5.474 trillion (£3.414 trillion) at the end of 2010, figures from Tokyo have shown. China's economy was closer to \$5.8 trillion in the same period. Japan has been hit by a drop in exports and consumer demand, while China has enjoyed a manufacturing boom.

At its current rate of growth, analysts see China replacing the US as the world's top economy in about a decade. Japan played down the significance of the shift in the economic league table, and the fact that it has been replaced as the second-largest economy for the first time in more than four decades. The minister added that China's booming economy was welcome news for Japan as a neighbouring country.

China is now Japan's main trading partner and is increasingly important to companies such as electronics firm Sony and carmakers like Honda and Toyota. However Mr Yosano said that Japan needed to closely watch "risks from overseas economies and currency moves".

Japanese women sue to keep maiden names

A group of Japanese women filed a challenge Monday to a 19th century law that compels almost all females to drop their maiden names and assume their husbands' surnames when they marry. The landmark case, launched before the Tokyo District Court, is seen as a test for the rights of women, who continue to struggle against gender stereotypes and remain under-represented in politics and corporate boardrooms.

Japan's Civil Code stipulates that married couples must share one surname -- in practice almost always that of the husband, although some men have assumed their wives' names, often if the women come from noble families. The plaintiffs -- four women and the husband of one of them -- argue that the civil code clause dating back to 1898 breaches the constitutional guarantee of equal rights for both spouses.

The individuals from Tokyo, Kyoto and Toyama are also demanding a total of six million yen (\$70,000) in damages for their emotional distress, a higher amount than the group had announced earlier, their lawyers said.

Sport News

Sofapaka make Confed Cup progress

Sofapaka booked their place in the second round of the Confederation Cup on Sunday after defeating Angola's AS Aviação 5-4 on penalties. The second leg match ended goalless in Nairobi before the home side went on to win the shoot-out. Tiko United eased into the second round after a 3-1 win over Central African Republic.

The Cameroonians advanced on the 3-1 aggregate on Saturday after the first leg ended goalless. It was the visitors who broke the deadlock on 32 minutes when Gourrier Junior converted a penalty. But second half goals from Alain Nkafu, Clovis Ngalame and Edwin Mbon Ayuk sealed the win for Tiko. Foullah Edifice of Chad also advanced despite losing 1-0 away to Ela Nguema of Equatorial Guinea on Saturday.

SuperSport United advance in Champions League

South Africa's SuperSport United are through to the second round of the Champions League despite losing 2-1 away to Matlama of Lesotho on Sunday. The Pretoria-based side advance 3-2 on aggregate after winning the first, round first-leg tie 2-0 two weeks ago. SuperSport will now clash with Al Ahly, Egypt's record six-time winners in the next round.

Fikru Lemessa broke the deadlock for the visitors on 19 minutes to ignite hopes of an easy progression. But the home side rallied after the break and drew level in the 55th minute through Litsepe Marabe. Four minutes later, Motlalepula Chabeli put the home side in the lead but they could not score the vital goals to overturn the deficit.

Niger reach CHAN quarter finals, Ghana crash out

Niger made history at the African Nations Championship in Sudan on Sunday when beating Ghana 1-0 to reach the quarter finals in their first appearance in a major continental. The Menas beat the 2009 finalists Ghana 1-0 to finish second in Group B of the tournament for home-based players. Niger, who had never previously contested a Confederation of African Football tournament, secured the stunning victory thanks to a late strike by Gambo Tukur.

South Africa finished top of the group thanks to a 2-1 victory over Zimbabwe in Sunday's other game. The Warriors were second in the group before action started but despite taking an early lead, goals from Leonard Shabangu and Already Mkwanazi saw the South Africans home. Niger finished second in the group on six points, three behind the leaders who won all their group matches.

Business News

Kenya says domestic borrowing below target

Kenya said on Monday it borrowed 54.5 billion shillings, or 2 percent of gross domestic product, from the domestic market during the first half of the 2010/11 fiscal year, below its 90 billion shillings target. The government plans to borrow at least 120 billion shillings from the domestic market in the year ending June and had been expected to front-load most of that debt.

Total gross domestic debt rose 9.1 percent to 720.3 billion shillings at the end of December, the Treasury said on its website. External debt stood at 599.9 billion in December. Taxes collected were 29.2 billion shillings below target at 294.9 billion, the government said.