



SMART MONEY
BUSINESS • ECONOMY • MARKETS • HEALTH

GLOBAL MARKETS
Asia stocks improve, China sets cautious goal for GDP growth

Increased palm oil farming to reduce cooking oil prices

Just-overhauled wine laboratory at Makutupora is ready for use

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TAEC spends 29.bn/- on national projects

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Ministry lauds steps to boost horticulture

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ZIC on women's motor vehicle insurance

No more boarding for nursery to Std IV pupils

By Guardian Reporter

BOARDING facilities for pupils in nursery and early primary school level are being abolished countrywide.

Dr Lyabwene Mtahabwa, the commissioner of education in the ministry, unveiled this directive in circular released yesterday, affirming that the services will only be rendered under special permission from the government.

All schools are required to abolish the service by late June for pupils in nursery to standard four, whose presence in such facilities will require a special permit granted by the commissioner after an application from the relevant stakeholder, the circular affirms.

The circular asserts that true development in any country largely depends on the quality of education issued in the respective country, with the criteria for quality of education varying from one country to another.

"In the Tanzanian context, quality education is one that builds the pupil's ability to adopt values that reflect traditions, customs and culture," he said.

Education ought to develop a spirit of love, work to bring about the development of an individual, society and the nation at large, she said in the circular.

Education delivered need to help produce young people who can ably contribute to the country's development, she said, laying emphasis on the view that a child's upbringing and development heavily rely on the family's contribution through the parents or guardians.

School quality controllers and monitoring by the ministry has shown that many schools have invested their efforts in ensuring that pupils perform well in their final examinations instead of equipping them with other life skills, she stated.

The commissioner asserted that it is not allowed for any school to hold academic camps, citing Education Circular No. 3 of 2007 that banned academic camps in primary schools.

Many camps have been found to have a perilous moral environment that poses a threat to the safety and health of pupils.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango contributes to yesterday's discussions in Doha, Qatar, on the "Investment for All People Without Discrimination" agenda. The event involved the Heads of State and Government participating in the ongoing (March 5 to 9) Fifth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries. It is meant to identify actions and partnerships to help LDCs deliver on crucial global development goals by 2030. Left is Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. Photo courtesy of VPO

Visiting boats, local cruiser set to change marine safaris

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government is next week set to launch the first modern cruise boat regular service on the coastline to spur the country's marine tourism. Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, unveiled the new development at a ministerial agencies conference here over the weekend.

The cruise boat launch is slated for Tuesday next week, where tourism agencies will also receive three ships with nearly 400 tourists from an assortment of countries, docking on our seaports as part of wider tour travel, he said.

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Chadema now accepting subsidies, collects arrears

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA, the leading opposition party in the Mainland, has decided to start accepting monthly subsidies provided by the Registrar of Political Parties.

Tundu Lissu, the Chadema vice chairman for the Mainland, said in an online debate with Club House moderators, that with the measures taken by President Samia Suluhu Hassan the party would withdraw its decision taken soon after the 2020 General Election.

This decision is part of a vote of satisfaction by senior party leaders on how President Samia Suluhu Hassan was handling reconciliation and space for peaceful conduct of political activities.

Godbless Lema, the party's northern zone chairman expressed similar sentiments in remarks elsewhere, underlining the feeling that President Samia was a genuine reformist.

The party refused to receive the subsidy amounting to 110m/- monthly on claims of foul play in how the polls were organized, reflecting a tense political situation that began thawing at the time the sixth phase started two years ago.

"The opposition in this country had a difficult period where the majority of its leaders were threatened with being harmed," the vice chairman stated,

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School quality controllers and monitoring by the ministry has shown that many schools have invested their efforts in ensuring that pupils perform well in their final examinations instead of equipping them

TURN TO Page2

Report any adulterated fertilisers, farmers told

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

FARMERS in Njombe Region with proof of having purchased adulterated fertilizer need to report to police stations for investigations and legal measures against the culprits. Hamisi Issah, the

regional police commander, issued the call here yesterday in a telephone interview on police follow up of reports that 776 bags claimed to be of fertilizer but containing sand were found in a Njombe warehouse operated by the Minjingu Fertiliser Co. He urged farmers not to

withhold testimony and should instead report the matter to the police "if it is true they were sold sand instead of fertilizer." Initial investigations suggest that the trader sought to trick his superiors that there was

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
WOMEN'S DAY 8th March

The Guardian Nipashe



The Guardian Limited will publish a special supplement with "The Guardian" and "Nipashe" Newspapers, with a special report focusing on the Women's Day theme

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3 tech startups emerge winners of Vodacom Digital Accelerator

By Guardian Reporter

THREE tech startups have emerged winners of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator season two and walked away with over 200m/- for their potential investment.

Speaking at the Demo Day event, Dr. Amos Nungu the director general of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) commended Vodacom Tanzania PLC for their efforts to support early-stage and growth-stage technology startups with disruptive products and services that have the potential to be brought into the market and scale into profitable, revenue-generating businesses.

"This is a notable initiative to grow Tanzanian tech startups across the country; we all know how advancements in science and technology have impacted communities socially and economically around the world," he said.

Dr Nungu said the objective is to have as many as possible so that we can reach more tech startups across the country, our societies are still facing many challenges that require technological solutions. The Vodacom Digital Accelerator program being sponsored by Vodacom Tanzania Plc and run by SmartLab, is the only corporate accelerator in the Tanzania innovation ecosystem and its Curriculum is tailor-made for startups' growth.

Now in its 2nd season, the accelerator has received over 700 applications since its launch in 2019 with 28 startups being part of the program and receiving assistance in developing their marketing strategies, technical aspects, and connections with potential investors and partners.

In this second cohort, 12 start-ups were selected from different sectors including fintech, health, e-commerce, education, agriculture, and cyber security industries.

Speaking after handing over the prize to the winners, Vodacom PLC Managing Director Phillip Besimire said the program has encouraged the participants to come up with tech-solutions to tackle challenges facing agriculture, education, and transport sectors in the society.

"I am proud to see most of the tech-startups founders are young and energetic with lots of innovative ideas which could benefit a great deal the Tanzanian society in the future. But the highlight of this program is to see a woman top the overall winner something that could challenge the status quo. "It is time to challenge this by either coming up with a special cohort that will feature women only or advocating for diversity in top managerial positions, we need to have inclusivity in a sense that all groups of people have a fair shot in such platforms as people with disability," Besimire said.

The three winners will be supported and empowered in the validation phase of the program, where they will receive equity-free funding, follow-on investment, access to M-PESA for business services, access to industry experts, access to training and tools, regulatory and compliance support, technology support, and go-to-market support for six months.

On the winner's part, one of the founders who emerged among the three winners Founder and CEO of BizyTech through their Kilimo Bando product Isabella Fernandes said it was quite an experience to participate and get an opportunity to present a pitch for our company with other innovative tech startups.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (L) updates journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on preparations for nationwide celebrations to mark International Women's Day - tomorrow. With her is the ministry's permanent secretary, Dr John Jingu. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

400 youth benefit from TAHA horticultural training funding

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 400 youth have benefitted by training on developing skills in the farming sector sponsored by the Tanzania Institute of Education (TEA) and run by the Tanzania Horticultural association (TAHA).

In supporting government's efforts, in 2021 TEA provided 130m/- subsidy to TAHA for the training from its Skills Development

ment Fund (SDF).

Gilliard Daniel, TAHA production officer said at the weekend that through the subsidy, a total of 437 youth have benefitted by the training conducted in various areas of Arusha City and so far 90 per cent of the youth are big fruits and vegetable farmers enjoying both local and foreign markets for their crops.

He said the subsidy given through SDF has brought about

positive results in their institution.

"The project's agreement was to reach to 400 youth until its completion, but we were shocked how the youth became enthusiastic to the opportunity, in the end we had to train 37 more youth," said Gilliard.

He noted that statistics and various publications have been showing that 90 per cent of Tanzania's arable land is cultivated

by small farmers and the farming sector provides employment to 65.5 of them and contributes to 29.1 of the GDP, 30 per cent of the foreign market and 65 per cent of the country industrial raw materials.

Last week, TEA Director General, Bahati Geuzye made a working visit in Arusha City and met with TAHA officials as well as visiting some of beneficiaries of the SDF funded training programme.

During the visit, Geuzye expressed his pleasure in seeing the beneficiaries practicing farming from the expertise provided by TAHA.

"The government recognize the contribution by the youth in developing the country's economy as well as to the farming sector in boosting the country's GDP," he said.

For his part, Lugano Ipyana, one of the programme's beneficiaries thanked the government for valuing them and added that personally he was educated to diploma level and worked in various private firms but was not satisfied with what he was earning, hence he decided to look for another opening to increase his income.

He said in 2021 he came across an announcement for empowering youth in horticultural farming by TAHA and without hesitation I submitted my application and was selected.

TAEC spends 29 bn/- for national projects

By Correspondent

Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

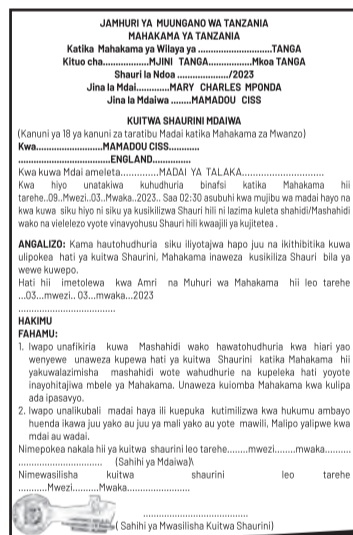
THE Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) has implemented a number of projects worth over 29bn/- until February this year, as part of its efforts to enhance provision of services to the public.

The state-owned commission has been executing a series of diverse national projects in collaboration with development stakeholders, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European Union (EU). These initiatives have so far brought positive results to various sectors including agriculture, health, water, and livestock.

TAEC head of the communication department, Peter Ngamilo, told The Guardian that the successes have been achieved following a great role played by the commission's director general, Prof Lazaro Busagala who held the position since in March 2018.

He said the projects were implemented in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza regions as well as Zanzibar. "The projects include construction of a modern complex laboratory in Arusha at the cost of 10bn/- and construction of a 7.9bn/- multi-purpose irradiator lab in Dar es Salaam that has reached 34 percent," he said. Other projects and their worth in brackets

are construction of TAEC headquarters and laboratory in Dodoma (3.8bn/-), TAEC zonal office and lab in Mwanza (2.8bn/-), zonal office and lab in Zanzibar (3bn/-), renovation of six servants houses and remains of radiation and administration (360m/-).



CHANGE OF NAME
I, VIDYASAGAR (Old name), S/o D.B. Hiriyappa of Dar es Salaam have changed my name as VIDYA SAGAR HIRIYAPPA (New Name) for all purposes vide affidavit dated 06.03.2023 sworn before Advocate Victor Rwamugila.




**High Commission of India
Dar es Salaam**

Date: 04.03.2023

Subject: TENDER INVITING BIDS FOR PERIODIC PEST CONTROL TREATMENT IN THE CHANCERY BUILDING OF THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, DAR-ES-SALAAM

High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced and financially sound Companies registered under relevant Tanzanian Companies Law which can submit bid for **Periodic Pest Control Treatment In The Chancery Building of the High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam.** The Tender document can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> in the What's New Section under the heading "Tender Inviting Bids For Periodic Pest Control Treatment In The Chancery Building Of The High Commission Of India, Dar-Es-Salaam"



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Women workers with the Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority present an assortment of items, including mattresses, sanitary pads, and toothpaste, to Kigwe Primary School (for students with impaired hearing) in Dodoma Region's Bahi District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Agriculture ministry in Z'bar lauds steps to boost horticulture farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock has lauded steps being taken by development partners in boosting horticulture farming through the ongoing projects under implementation.

This was revealed following the ministry's visit to beneficiaries of the AGRI-Connect Tanzania programme under EU sponsorship in Pemba that aimed to assess the programme's implementation.

The visit was led by Dr Suleiman Shehe, the Ministry's principal researcher who said big efforts being taken by the projects under the programme help in adding value to the crops as for a long time they were not being given priority as the nation's important economic sector.

He explained that many people did not see the importance of engaging themselves in horticultural farming for economic gain but through the expertise given by the projects, many farmers have started the cultivation of horticultural crops including fruits, vegetables and spices.

He called upon implementers of the projects to stress in empowering farmers to address challenges facing them, socially infrastructures in order to attain their production targets. "I express my pleasure, we have done a big job in providing farming education and in this visit we have seen that the farmers have adequate education,"

said Dr Suleiman.

Meanwhile, Omar Mohamed, AGRI-CONNECT Zanzibar consultant said there is need for the projects to know strategies to woo youths into farming to make them abandon the concept that farming is a form of cruelty to them.

"As we implement these projects, we should look more into activities that directly touch the youth to make easy for them to be attracted into farming," he said.

Ali Abdallah, an official for following up spices projects said apart from the big efforts being taken by various projects to boost farming in Zanzibar, still more efforts from the government and stakeholders are needed to make research on challenges facing farmers including poor soils and other crops diseases. Among farmers who were visited by the team included Hassan Shante, a banana farmer in Mkoani District, and beneficiary of the spices project.

Shante said through the project, he was given education on better fruit farming, the expertise that has helped him to establish his own one-acre banana and avocado farm. During the visit, a total of 18 areas of AGRI-CONNECT programme beneficiaries were visited.

AGRI-CONNECT, together with the Spices Programme implemented by People's Development Forum (PDF), and Community Forests Pemba are sponsored by EU and Tanzania media women Organisation-Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar).

Add nutritional information for pregnant and lactating women in your application, TFNC told

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

CHIEF Medical Officer Prof Tumaini Nagu has directed the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) to add nutritional information in the mobile application for pregnant and lactating women for easy understanding of the role of nutrients in maternal health, child development and production of milk for infants.

Speaking yesterday when she launched a mobile app dubbed 'Lishe' prof Nagu said nutritional information in the application will make it easier for people in need to be able to access them at the palm of their hands.

Prof Nagu said the health of the unborn child begins at pregnancy hence the need for women to receive necessary education which will help them to give birth to a health child.

She said an ever-increasing number of studies have shown that the nutrition of the mother will have an effect on the child adding that even the risks that the mother is exposed to during pregnancy can also reach the child.

She said that the nutritional information app should not end with one group rather should include all groups including Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

"I have been told that TFNC in collaboration with the World Food Organisation (WFP) has developed a "nutrition app" to increase the speed of building awareness among citizens on the importance of good nutrition as well as stimulating positive changes in healthy eating habits and healthy lifestyles for People living with HIV as they are one of the special groups with nutritional needs", said Prof Nagu.

Prof Nagu said studies have shown that people living with HIV/AIDS also face nutritional challenges adding that a study which was conducted in districts of Kilombero and Ulanga in Morogoro Region in 2019 revealed that

about 66.3 percent of HIV-infected persons aged between 15-50 years suffer from anemia and 27.2 percent have poor nutrition.

In addition, in a 2016 study conducted in Dar es Salaam, it was noted that 16 percent of HIV positive people are overweight and eight percent have abdominal obesity.

World Food Programme, WFP Representative in the country Sarah Gordon said the recent Tanzania Demographic and Healthy Survey report showed that the level of stunting stands at 30-percent which is very high according to World Health Organisation (WHO) classification and only 19 percent

of children aged 6-23 months are fed diverse nutritious diet.

"Together with TFNC we have developed a Lishe app mobile application to disseminate information to the public on Food and Nutrition including assessing nutritional status and diet recommendations leading to healthier behavior as it will complement ongoing social and behavior change interventions," she said.

She further noted that the app can be accessed through Google play store and initially it was targeting people living with HIV/AIDS and has now been expanded to the general population to reach a wider audience.

Nutrition is a critical part of health and development and better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, enhanced cognitive development and school performance, stronger immune system, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non communicable diseases and longevity, she said.

People with adequate nutrition are more productive and can create opportunities to gradually break the circle of poverty and hunger and are more resilient in the face of crisis. In addition returns, from investment in nutrition are high, she commented.



Zanzibar Insurance Corporation CEO Arafat Haji (C) introduces to journalists yesterday the firm's motor vehicle insurance cover specifically meant for women as part of the commemoration of International Women's Day. Dubbed "Queen Motor Insurance", the service is also offered in celebrating the firm's 169 per cent rise in the number of premiums in the last one year. The others include ZIC director of trade and investment Mohammed Ameir (2nd-R), IT manager Bakar Yusuph (R), director of human resources Salma Mwinyi (2nd-L) and company secretary Asha Rashidi. Story on page 6. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Burundi troops arrive in DR Congo under EAC mandate

GOMA

THE first contingent of Burundian soldiers arrived on Sunday in Goma, the capital of North Kivu province in northeast Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), under the mandate of the regional forces of the East African Community (EAC).

General Emmanuel Kaputa Kasenga, deputy commander of the East African contingent who greeted the Burundian soldiers arriving at the Goma International Airport, said the Burundian troops are set to end the violence in eastern DRC.

Last year, the EAC member countries set up a regional force to end the activism of armed groups, particularly the advance of the rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23).

The Burundian troops will join forces with a Kenyan army contingent of about 1,000 men already deployed in and around Goma since last November. The Burundian troops will be deployed in Kitshanga and Kilorirwe, areas occupied by the M23 in North Kivu, as well as Sake, according to local media.

Additional troops, including those from South Sudan and Uganda, are also expected in the DRC.

Since the beginning of 2023, fighting has intensified between the M23 and the army in several areas North of Goma, driving thousands of civilians to flee their homes to seek shelter.

OSHA increases registration of workplaces by 276 percent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

IN the period of two years of the Phase VI Government, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has increased registered work places from 4,336 to 11,953, a 276 per cent increase.

OSHA Director General, Khadija Mwenda revealed this here at the weekend when submitting report on OSHA's activities.

She said that in the same period the number of inspections made has also increased from 104,203 to 322,241, an increase of 132 per cent.

"In addition, there have been a 175 per cent increase of workers who received training on health safety at work places from 32,670 workers to 43,318 workers," said Mwenda.

She added that the training incorporates supervision on issues

of health safety at work places and the formation of health safety committees, and training on environmental issues.

She added that there is also training on first aid, chemicals control at work places, health safety at oil and gas facilities, construction sites and safety of areas with heavy plants and equipment.

Mwenda added that during the same period there has been a 320

per cent increase of workers who had their health statuses examined.

"Workers who had their health statuses examined increased from 363,820 to 1,112,237," she stressed.

She said the increase was contributed by the reduction of various fees charged and improvement to the supervision systems that has enabled many work places to be inspected, health statuses of many

workers examined and various training given.

The OSHA boss said in overseeing the Health safety law aimed at preventing accidents, diseases and death at work places that did not abide by health regulations, various legal steps were taken against the violators including being handed improvement certificates, adding that 1,588 work places were given such certificates and 105 others

were fined.

She said among OSHA's responsibilities is to investigate various accidents happening at work places aimed at identifying their causes and advise on better ways to prevent further accidents.

She said in the two years reported accidents at work places dropped by 13.2 per cent from 2,138 accidents to 1,855.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE

I arrived in Tanzania as the Chief Representative of JICA Tanzania Office in February 2023.

My arrival to this beautiful country came just two months after JICA Tanzania had celebrated the 60th anniversary of its cooperation activities to the country in December 2022.

Despite being a home to over 120 ethnic groups, the country is united and there seems to be no hostile ethnic feelings at all amongst its people. Tanzania is also endowed with rich human and natural resources. Above all, it is a peaceful country. Therefore, the atmosphere I have found in the country is quite inviting. (Hali ya utulivu niliyoikuta hapa nchini kwa kweli inatamanisha).

JICA's longstanding relationship with Tanzania dates back to 1962, just one year after the independence of Tanganyika, when a single Government official was accepted for technical training in Japan. Over the years, such activities continued to grow and expand and now include not only technical cooperation and the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), but also the provision of grant aid and concessionary loans.

In 60 years, the number of trainees JICA has accepted has exceeded 22,000 and we have worked with innumerable Tanzanian people. Our experience,



Chief Representative JICA Tanzania Office Mr ARA Hitoshi

knowledge and various networks we have got through activities of technical and financial cooperation on the ground including JOCV'S activities are our invaluable treasures and assets.

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which place value on

African ownership and international partnership, has also marked 30 years anniversary last year, and JICA is vigorously engaged for further development of Africa and Tanzania.

With such a background, it is both a great honor and a challenge to me to assume this posi-

tion at this moment.

Tanzania has, over the past decade, continued to realize robust economic growth coupled with a stable macro-economic environment that it has been enjoying since the turn of the century despite the change in policy. The country was also able to qualify as a lower middle-income country as of July 2020, five years ahead of targeted year of 2025.

On the other hand, Tanzania faces many challenges towards sustainable development such as industrial diversification, infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, public financial management, climate change response and so on.

In a world of multiple risks such as unstable international situation and unpredictable climate change, necessity to improve fundamental capability to tackle the above challenges and cooperation with international community are becoming more important.

JICA Tanzania Office is committed to accelerate, expand and improve JICA's cooperation based on the trust among us, deepening partnership with not only the Government of Tanzania but also with various stakeholders including the private sectors of Japan and Tanzania, development partners and the Tanzanian people.

ARA Hitoshi

Chief Representative

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tanzania Office

March 6, 2023

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<https://www.jica.go.jp/tanzania/english/index.html>



ZIC unveils motor vehicle insurance for women to celebrate their success

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Insurance Corporation (ZIC) has unveiled a new motor vehicle insurance cover for women as part of celebrations of International Women's Day.

Dubbed "Queen Motor Insurance," the new service is also a celebration of a 169 percent increase in premiums in the last one year.

Speaking during the launch of the new service in which the corporation also announced its annual results for 2022, ZIC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arafat Haji said the Queen Motor Insurance targets to protect private vehicles owned by women in case of different disasters such as road accidents, theft and fire incidents.

"We will also be responsible for the damages caused by our customers to other road users and their properties because this cover is comprehensive," said Haji.

According to him, the launch of the service comes at the time when the insurance company joins the rest of the world in marking the International Women's Day which is celebrated every March 8.

The insurance corporation also formed a specific desk that will serve women in providing the cover and during claims as part of the

celebrations.

"Under this service, ZIC will pay the benefits within seven days after completing the process of filing relevant documents. There are also other benefits including the protection of personal equipment such as mobile phones and computers, emergency medical cover, unlimited payment of vehicle class, payment of the cost of removing the damaged vehicle, condolences to the customer and family and alternative transport during the maintenance period," he said.

Speaking about the performance of ZIC, Haji said the state-run company increased premiums by 169.55 percent to 40.2 billion/- in 2022.

In the previous year, it collected premiums worth 23.7 billion/-, he said.

"We achieved our targets for 2022 by 91 percent, a demonstration of our fast growth and trust from our customers who are available across the country. A total of 40.2 billion/- were collected through direct sales, 14 insurance brokers, 112 agents, 12 banks and through a mobile platform known as Vodabima," he said.

He said the achievement was a result of increased investment which grew by 64.51 percent in 2022.



Abdul Yussuf Maalim, legislator for Zanzibar's Amani constituency, checks tap water for quality at the weekend as part of an inspection tour of water projects and drawing points. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Ackson, 'Sugu' war of words erupts at Mbeya political rallies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

BARELY a week after opposition Chadema national leaders launched public rallies in Mbeya Region, ruling CCM in the region has responded to statements uttered by former Mbeya Urban Member of Parliament, Joseph Mbilinyi 'Sugu' at his rallies.

At Chadema's opening rally last week, Mbilinyi lashed out at the Speaker of Parliament, Dr Tulia Ackson, who is currently Member of Parliament for the constituency say-

ing on her position as speaker she shouldn't have asked the minister for water to provide water to Mbeya City residents.

He further said in regard to the four-lane highways planned to be constructed soon and the Kiwira River water project, he was the one who had fought for them when he was MP for Mbeya Urban.

Mbilinyi also said as for now, he is communicating with President Samia Suluhu Hassan by phone, boasting that just recently he invited her

to one of his functions and she attended.

Last weekend at the function for issuing capital to 1,000 small traders provided by Dr Tulia Ackson, CCM Secretary for Ideology and Publicity for Mbeya Region, Bashiru Madodi said Mbilinyi's statements were misleading and that the ruling party will not remain quiet.

Madodi said all projects going on in Mbeya Region are the implementation of CCM's 2020 Election Manifesto and the push from Dr Ackson

and that during Mbilinyi's period as MP there were no developments attained.

He said the mere fact that Dr Ackson pleaded for water supply services from the minister was very normal within the leadership protocols hence called upon Dr Ackson to continue lowering herself in pleading for various service for the benefit of her constituents.

He added that demolition of houses along road reserve area was an exercise implemented countrywide

with the aim to make expansion to existing roads, hence Mbilinyi's statements that he mobilised the people on that only meant to gain political high ground.

In the same vein, Dr Ackson said when Mbilinyi boasts that he talks with the president by phone, she is being phoned by the president and called upon him to stop using badly the opportunity to communicate with the head of state.

She said it was not wise for any person to brag on rally platforms

that he communicates with her.

However, Dr Ackson said she knows well leadership protocols and that is why she asks for various social services from ministers.

"We will continue responding to them by deeds and I am sure we shall respond to them well in 2025 at the general elections as we are not sure whether they will still be around, we will show the people what we have done for them, but I don't know what they will show," she said.

Z'bar DCU challenged to speed up issuance of building permits

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Permanent Secretary for the Zanzibar Ministry of Lands and Human Settlements Development Dr Mngereza Mzee Miraji has called upon the Ministry's Development Control Unit (DCU) to speed up issuing building permits for various projects so that their implementation should be completed within the time agreed.

Dr Mngereza made the remarks here at the weekend after receiving views from members at the 74th meeting of the Committee held at Unguja West B Municipal Council hall, saying applications for permits should be promptly dealt with to allow timely implementation of the projects.

He also called upon the committee to begin issuing permits electronically to enable it perform better and that there should be a time frame for them.

He stressed that if land is utilised according to its use, Zanzibar's economic development will be attained as better planning in the Lands sector is for residence and economic activities.

The PS added that his Ministry will construct modern houses in various areas set aside for the purpose, adding that the Ministry will soon sign the contract for building low cost houses on loan.

Meanwhile, the director of Land division from Zanzibar Lands

Commission, Mtambua Hamzidi Haji supported steps taken by the Land Forum saying it will help officials of the sector to discuss in-depth on the issue.

"It is better to have the Land Forum because DCU's aim is to collect revenues and forget about better land planning whereas if land is better utilised, income will be accrued according to land uses, as we in the Lands Commission stand by better utilisation of land," said Haji.

Similarly, DCU members complained over the lack of funds for implementing their duties as they collect revenues from issuance of building permits and remit the money to the government consolidated fund that does not go back to them.

The DCU meeting was organised by the director of Zanzibar land planning, Muchi Juma Ameiri.

It is better to have the Land Forum because DCU's aim is to collect revenues and forget about better land planning whereas if land is better utilised, income will be accrued



Women from Anglican, Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran churches in Muheza District stage a peaceful march in Muheza town at the weekend in commemoration of Women's Prayer Day. This is an annual event held across the world. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Farmers urge govt to address shortage of extension officers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DESPITE efforts made by the government in the agriculture sector including budget increase and subsidised fertiliser, shortage of extension officers is still regarded as a challenge that contributes to the sector not benefitting farmers.

The government has also been required to invest in ecological farming that protects people's health as well as the environment and abandon commercial farming that involves great use of chemicals.

The remarks were given at the weekend at the Extension Services and Ecological

Farming Forum for Women organised by Action Aid and involved farmers from Singida, Morogoro, Dodoma and Songwe regions.

Janeth Nyamayahasi, a farmer from Chamwino District in Dodoma Region said the shortage of extension officers in the country is an obstacle to them as they fail to fully benefit from farming.

She said due to the shortage of extension officers in rural areas especially, farmers have been doing traditional farming, the practice that makes them fail to develop themselves economically from the sector.

"For example, Chamwino district has 117 villages with only 50 extension officers and these are stationed at ward level, hence a farmer cannot wait for an extension officer from another district to come to teach him on modern farming practices especially when the rain season cannot wait for him," she said.

Likewise, she added, the agricultural policy says one extension officer is supposed to serve one village and reach to 600 farmers.

She added that another challenge in the farming sector is the shortage of working tools including soil testing equipment.

"A farmer cannot cultivate every year without knowing the soil statuses, hence such equipment is needed, we commend the government for buying soil testing equipment but they are far from sufficient as they are found at the district level, and not in villages with small farmers," she said.

Meanwhile, Torati Buzika, a farmer from Kilosa District, Morogoro Region said the government is supposed to prioritise ecological farming that does not involve the use of chemicals.

"Even if the government subsidises the fertiliser there are still many farmers who

cannot give out 70,000/- for a bag of fertiliser," she said.

She said ecological farming uses organic seeds that have many benefits including protecting the health of consumers as well as the environment compared to modern seeds.

Action Aid Programme Officer, Elias Mtenda said the aim of the forum is to bring together women farmers from the four regions including stakeholders, sectoral ministries and other institutions to discuss challenges regarding shortage of extension officers and appreciate ecological farming practices.

Benjamin Mkapa, Tanga hospitals conduct medical screening camp

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

BENJAMIN Mkapa Hospital in collaboration with Bombo referral hospital in Tanga Region has conducted medical screening camp as part of a campaign to take services closer to the people.

The clinic which attracted more than 400 residents started on February 27 and ended yesterday according to Bombo hospital doctor in charge, Dr Naima Yusuf.

Dr Naima said the services provided included orthopedic and nerve surgery, urinary tract infection, kidney and cardiac treatment for both children and adults.

Others are eye defects, oral and teeth treatment and female reproductive system diseases.

She said the clients of health insurance funds who were from Jubilee Insurance, National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and Strategies Insurance among others.

Mwanaisha Mohamed who had undergone female reproductive health screening hailed the camp by pointing out that she has been facing a pelvic bone problem for a long-time.

“Earlier, my family and I believed that I was bewitched but after attending the camp now I’m happy because I’m cured,” said Mwanaisha.

Alphonse Salahame who was suffering from eye cataract expressed his optimism after surgery.



Earlier, my family and I believed that I was bewitched but after attending the camp now I’m happy because I’m cured



Residents of Suguti in Musoma District pictured at the weekend at the village, on the shores of Lake Victoria, preparing their tomatoes for sale to wholesalers - with some of the traders catering for markets outside Mara Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Plans underway to end water woes and transport challenges in Hanang

By Guardian Reporter, Hanang

THE ruling party’s Secretary General, Daniel Chongolo has pledged to summon the Minister for Water and the one for Works and Transport to chart plans to end water woes and transport challenges in Hanang district, Manyara region.

The move followed complaints of the citizens in Bassotu and Hirbadaw wards over lack of water and

road infrastructures thus failing to take their harvested crops to the market.

During his visit at Bassotu health centre, Chongolo said that CCM is mandated to supervise the government and make sure challenges facing Tanzanians are resolved accordingly.

“This is the mountainous place; it requires proper road infrastructures to be able to transport crops

from farms to the market. I will meet with the minister as well as the regional consultative council (RCC) on possibilities of upgrading the Singida-Hirbadaw-Basodawish-Katesh road so that it is constructed by the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS),” said the SG.

He said the Haydom-Bassotu-Katesh road will also be constructed at tarmac level due to its importance in transporting people and commodities.

Chongolo assured the residents that he will soon meet with the Minister for Water to see how fast water services can reach the people at Bassotu ward.

He said during his recent talks with the Health Minister, Ummu Mwalimu, she promised that the Medical Stores Department (MSD) will until June this year supply all the necessary medical equipment and essential drugs to health centres including the one at

Bassotu in Hanang. He said arrival of the equipment will improve provision of services as the government has already constructed all the needed hospital structures.

Chongolo directed authorities to prioritize construction of classrooms for A Level students because the current capacity of public schools admission is between 25 and 30 percent. He said the aim is to increase the accommodation capacity to 70 percent.

On electricity, the Secretary General pledged that until June 2023, all the villages in Hanang District will be connected to the national grid and that by June 2024; all the divisions will have power services.

Earlier, CCM secretary of Ideology and Publicity, Sofia Mjema insisted on local government leaders to conduct regular meetings to listen to challenges facing people and find solutions.



A Bagamoyo District entrepreneur (L) shows off her products at the weekend to a visiting delegation led by Bagamoyo District Council chairman Mohamed Usinga (2nd-R) as part of the run-up to the climax of International Women's Day celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Norwegian ambassador happy with Dodoma’s BMH services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

NORWAY’S Ambassador to Tanzania, Elizabeth Jacobsen has expressed her satisfaction with services provided at the central zone referral hospital, Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) in Dodoma.

The envoy visited the hospital leading a 23-man delegation from the Norwegian Embassy.

Jacobsen made the remarks during her visit to the City of Dodoma to satisfy herself with the government’s call to embassies to start shifting to country; capital, Dodoma.

“Your services are good, we have witnessed modern medical equipment in some patients’ wards including those reserved for leaders,” she said.

For his part, Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimwari assured the envoy that the government has made a huge investment to the hospital, including boosting services and modern equipment to enable it serve leaders at all levels including foreign envoys representing their

countries. “There are equipment such as MRI and CT-Scan of latest models, x-ray services and other services as you can see,” Shekimwari said.

He called on foreign envoys not to harbour any worries in regard to health services provided by health experts at the hospital.

Earlier, BMH managing director, Dr Alphonse Chandika gave a brief statement of services provided at the hospital including all specialist services.

“We are providing many services, including kidney transplant, heart diseases using special examination laboratories - Cath-lab and brain surgery and nerves,” explained Dr Chandika.

According to him, BMH continues to expand its services, while planning to establish centres for heart diseases, brain surgery, spine surgery, maternal services and a centre for emergency services.

“Future plans including establishing a centre for body parts transplant,” added Dr Chandika.



Your services are good, we have witnessed modern medical equipment in some patients’ wards including those reserved for leaders

SBL injects 380m/- into water project in Handeni District

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has injected 380m/- to bankroll the renovation and construction of the Kwamizi water dam in Handeni district, Tanga region to help address water challenges and facilitate availability of clean and safe water.

The project which is being implemented in partnership with Water Aid and the local government in the district commenced on Feb 28th and is expected to be completed in April this year.

The water project is expected to bring

relief to thousands of residents in the district, following destruction of previous dams, leaving the community in dire need of clean and safe water.

The project is part of SBL’s ‘Water of Life’ initiative, which advocates for provision of free clean and safe water for Tanzanian communities. Through the initiative, the brewer works in partnership with the government and other stakeholders in implementation to ensure maximum results.

Speaking during a site visit of Kwamizi water dam, District Commissioner for Handeni, Albert Msando said the modus operandi of the partnership between the

governments, SBL and Water Aid will be productive in terms of time management and standard, pledging to ensure proper management and execution of the project as well as support from his office.

SBL Director of Corporate Relations, John Wanyacha said the investment in the Kwamizi water dam project in Handeni district is one of over 20 water projects which have been implemented in various regions under the custodianship of SBL in collaboration with Water Aid.

“Under our Water of Life programme, we have been implementing water projects in several regions to ensure availabil-

ity of clean and safe water for local communities, this time around we are going to leave a mark in Handeni upon completion of this project.”

He said, furthermore, upon completion of the Kwamizi water project SBL is planning on engaging the local community in Handeni that would benefit from the water project to start barley farming and sell it to SBL at competitive prices to help empower the farmers and spur economic development in the area.

Group Corporate Relations Director for East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL), a subsidiary of SBL, Eric Kiniti said he was

hopeful that the project will be a success and its implementation would go as planned and as per standards, especially because the DC’s office has involved stakeholders from private and public sectors to ensure that implementation goes smoothly.

Speaking of the long-standing partnership between SBL and WaterAid Tanzania, the latter’s Country Director, Anna Mzinga said the two have been working together for almost five years now saying they have managed to reach local communities in Hanang, Manyoni and Serengeti districts.

The Guardian

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TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Global food, raw materials demand opens up considerable opportunities

ECONOMIC opportunities are changing around the world as many countries become increasingly in demand of energy and even food supplies of various kinds, which in the past used to be taken for granted. Those of who schooled three or four decades ago knew that the rationing of food was something characteristic of a poor country, and at a later stage, associated with faulty policies where production is communal, or handed to state agencies. Market economies were free of all these ills.

This isn't exactly the case at present when people look at international television channels and see empty shelves in UK supermarkets and virtual rationing of vegetables like onions, etc. It was a vivid illustration of what many hear in a rather unclear manner of disruptions of global supply chains during the Covid-19 pandemic, some of whose effects are visibly still around. There are other influences at work including policies, and often it is difficult to fathom the impact of changes in organisation.

Earlier when Asian countries especially the Far East was industrializing as a fast pace, the wisdom was export-led economies, but with the huge success of Asian countries in that regard, this option was in a sense closed off. The world remains hugely interdependent on cheaper imports for industrial goods, but also taking steps to fortify local production and supply networks to withstand demand or supply shocks as in the pandemic or post-pandemic periods. Still other countries are discovering huge opportunities in the current climate, especially for good and energy.

This is one area that Tanzanian diplomats, lately interviewed on local media outlets have noticed, and to a certain extent this recogni-

tion has been there and was being worked upon. Many people have been taking up vegetable and fruit farming, but as they the produce is perishable in a rapid way, it needs fairly good outlays, capital back up and credit supplies. There are other more durable products also in high demand in the global market, needing organized marketing systems and some credit.

There was a time Africa was being invited to see hundreds of products without duties in the European and United States markets, the largest in terms of potential, and many countries used a fraction of that potential. Tanzania was one of them, while some of our neighbours used larger percentage of their possible quotas if supply really became massive, but thing may begin to change. Investment is gradually changing direction with urban areas clogged with unused or poorly used trading space, now.

Top officials of the Lands ministry often castigate the changing of urban 'master plans' as residential zones are turned into commerce. The point however is that officials can guide on land use, not show directly how a plot should be used. Original plans are not lifelong laws on city residents, as people wish for structures with long term benefits, not just houses.

So residential units aren't a priority in that regard as rental space is plentiful. When people are free to choose where to invest economic activity becomes more dynamic. This is why investment in land will be rising especially with the bloc farms that the government is parceling out to youths. But they are soon likely to find those with usable cash, not seeking to eke out a living on land like the youths, want to buy them out.

Africa nations not working fast enough to void worst impacts of climate change

THE countries around the globe have formally committed as part of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to lower their emissions by setting new standards and crafting new policies to meet or even exceed those standards. The not-so-good news is that we're not working fast enough. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, scientists tell us that we need to reduce global carbon emissions by as much as 40 per cent by 2030. For that to happen, the global community must take immediate, concrete steps: to decarbonise electricity generation by equitably transitioning from fossil fuel-based production to renewable energy sources like wind and solar; to electrify our cars and trucks; and to maximise energy efficiency in our buildings, appliances, and industries.

Scientists agree that the earth's rising temperatures are fueling longer and hotter heat waves, more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall, and more powerful hurricanes.

The earth's ocean temperatures are getting warmer, too which means that tropical storms can pick up more energy.

An increase in heat pressure resulting from global warming is projected to affect global productivity and 80 million full-time jobs equivalent to global economic losses of \$2.400 billion by the year 2030, according to a new report released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The report projects that a global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of this century, suggest that in 2030, 2.2 per cent of total working hours worldwide will be lost because of higher temperatures.

The report assumes that work in agriculture and construction sectors will be mostly affected by heat stress.

Dubbed "Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labour productivity and decent work", the report states that agriculture that employs around 940million people globally, is among the sector expected to be affected much. It is projected to account for 60 per cent of global working hours lost due to heat stress by the year 2030.

Other sectors which are also at risk of heat increase, including environmental goods and services; refuse collection, emergency, repair work, transport, tourism, sports and some forms of industrial work with heavy machinery.

Catherine Saget, chief of unit in the ILO's research department and one of the main authors of the report said: "The impact of heat stress on labour productivity is a serious consequence of climate change, which adds to other adverse impacts such as changing rain patterns, rising sea levels and loss of biodiversity".

Heat pressure refers to heat in excess of what the body can tolerate without suffering physiological impairment.

Excess heat during work is an occupational health risk; it restricts workers' physical functions and capabilities, work capacity and thus, productivity. In extreme cases, it can lead to heat stroke, which can be fatal.

According to the report, people in poorest regions will suffer the most significant economic losses. Lower and middle-income countries are expected to suffer the worst, particularly as they have fewer resources to adapt effectively to increased heat.

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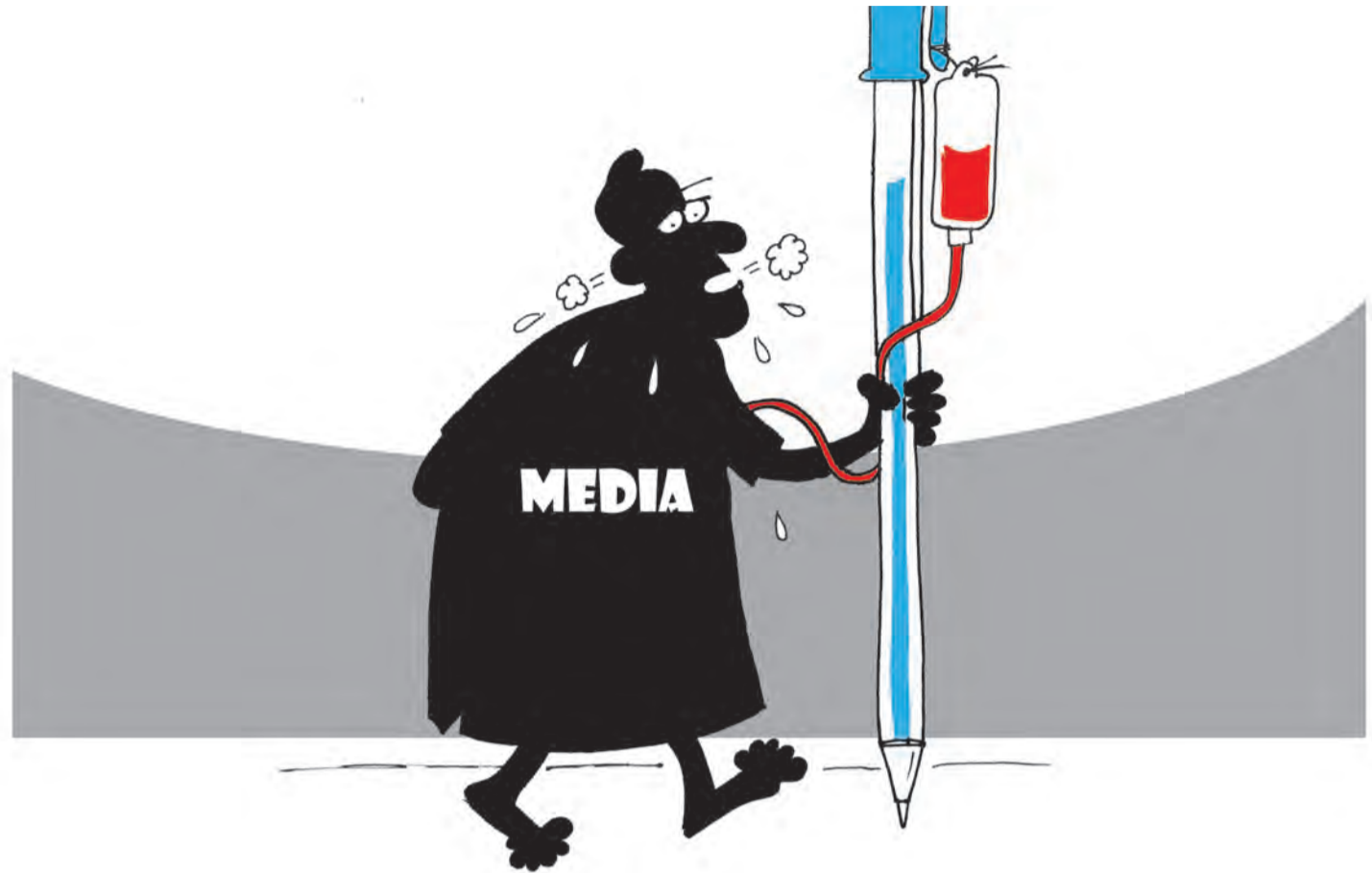
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Meet Martha Ramos, the new President of the World Editors Forum

By Javier Garza Ramos

MARTHA Ramos is Chief Editorial Officer at Organización Editorial Mexicana (Mexican Editorial Organisation). Also known as OEM, her agency is reckoned as the largest print media company in Mexico and the largest newspaper firm in Latin America.

The company owns a large news-wire service alongside 70 Mexican daily newspapers, 24 radio stations and 44 websites.

The widely respected newsroom leader from Mexico, one of the world's most hostile environments for journalists, will lead WAN-IFRA's global community of editors (the World Editors Forum) for the next two years.

Martha Ramos' future was shaped the moment she stepped foot in a newsroom. "The noise, the smoke..." she recalls, adding: "It was a determinant. It was also absolutely misogynist."

It was the mid-1980s and Ramos (pictured) was still in college. She had intended to study Sociology at the National University of Mexico, but switched to Communications. A year before graduating, she landed a job translating telex dispatches at El Universal, one of the largest and most influential newspapers in Mexico City.

That was the beginning of a career that has led her to run the editorial side of OEM, the largest chain of newspapers in Latin America. Now, as a senior editor in Mexico, Ramos is deeply involved in press freedom issues, promoting journalists' protection, and denouncing impunity in crimes against the press.

Ramos has been elected president of the World Editors Forum (WEF), a post to which she brings extensive experience on a wide range of issues affecting journalism - from technological change and violence against journalists, to gender awareness.

She is the third woman to head WEF, following on the successes of Ruth de Aquino from Brazil's Globo and Gloria Brown Anderson from the New York Times in 2000 and 2004, respectively.

Rising through the ranks

Ramos faced obstacles in her chosen career from the start, when she discovered that she was not the newspaper's union-preferred candidate for the translator job. "That was my first taste of labour politics," she reveals.

She took to different beats, and rose rapidly within different sections at El Universal. By the late 1990s she was chosen to lead a new project to launch regional editions of the newspaper in states bordering Mexico City.

She used her first position of authority in the newsroom to instill an awareness of gender issues within reporters and editors, drawing on her own experience of bias and discomfort in the newsroom, when men

saw women as objects, and she had to change the way she dressed to conform to then-existing perceptions.

Ramos has been on the frontline of technological changes in printing techniques, digital publishing and newsroom disruption. She recalls how, at the turn of the century, just before newsrooms began downsizing, she was promoted to Metro editor, with a staff of 22 journalists.

"I had more people in just that section than many newsrooms have in total today," she reflects.

Her last position at El Universal introduced her to the burgeoning new world of digital journalism. In 2006 she became part of the team that managed the fusion of the print and web newsrooms. They had been two separate entities and in their merger she began to see and appreciate the true potential of the internet.

After El Universal, Ramos took a break from the newsroom to work at the Fondo de Cultura Económica, the largest book publishing house in Mexico. Then, in 2010, Raymundo Riva Palacio, one of Mexico's most respected journalists, called her up to join in the launch of a new local daily, 24 Horas.

"He told me to end my sabbatical," she says, admitting that the project attracted her: a free newspaper, heavily curated by editors. The newspaper never really took off though, and Ramos decamped for Publimetro, a mass-circulation tabloid focused on local news - until, in 2016, when the OEM came calling.

Facing new challenges

With 46 newspapers across Mexico, OEM is easily the largest newspaper chain in the country and in Latin America. But it was in a period of transition after the death of long-

time owner Mario Vázquez Raña and the arrival of his grandson, Francisco Torres Vázquez, as CEO.

Ramos was called to implement a New Content Management System - "Nobody understood it or knew how it worked," she explains - and she stayed on as editorial director of the entire chain.

She faced entrenched interests in the regional editors, which she had to break by pushing her goals of streamlining newsroom operations.

She says her advantage is in having a boss - Torres Vázquez - who has "a vision for the future, knowledge of international media, a desire to see that reflected in the company, and also the youth and desire to experiment".

The new CMS she implemented allowed a central newsroom to standardise design across print and digital as well as take over common sections like National, World or Entertainment, thus freeing local editors to focus more on the news in their communities and markets.

Ramos has been a witness to technological changes in the last 35 years, in both printing and digital publishing, when reporters traded the typewriter for a computer and newspapers launched their websites.

She thinks most editors did not take the Internet seriously at first: "There was some arrogance in the media. Editors jumped because everyone jumped but very few bothered to understand it. That lack of vision is why now we don't know how to charge for the content we publish. How can we charge for something we always gave away for free?"

After two decades of intense competition for quantity, meaning readers, page views and subscribers, Ramos says the focus is shifting to quality, because the newspaper in-

dustry had to change its focus from advertisers to readers.

Ramos' role at OEM brought her into contact with WAN-IFRA, and she joined the World Editors Forum in 2017. She has participated actively in the Women in News (WIN), Press Freedom, and Digital Media activities, contributing on issues like women's leadership in the newsroom and the challenges of fighting violence and discrimination. She is also part of the WIN committee for Latin America.

Ramos plans to bring all that experience to her new role at WEF, at a moment when journalism is facing challenges and threats. Having lived through hard times for journalism in México, she is an advocate of press freedom and journalists' safety.

In her role managing the largest chain of newsrooms in the country, she has been in a position to influence the culture of safety.

Bringing that experience to WEF, "will galvanise support and focus our attention on the situation facing colleagues in México", said Andre Heslop, director of Press Freedom at WAN-IFRA, recalling that for years journalists have been targeted in a spiral of violence.

Ramos will certainly now continue and strengthen the energy that WEF has put on press freedom and the safety of journalists. As the first woman from the Global South to chair the Board in almost 20 years, her input will be unique.

* A WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) dispatch. Javier Garza Ramos is an independent journalist based in Torreón, northern México, and an expert on journalists' safety. He is the founder of the local news platform EnRe2Laguna.

A newsroom in wartime

By Jem Bartholomew

To mark the one-year anniversary of Russia's attack on Ukraine, we're revisiting an interview that Jem Bartholomew, of Columbia's Tow Centre for Digital Journalism, conducted with Daryna Shevchenko, the CEO of the Kyiv Independent, in October 2021.

It was just one hundred and one days between the launch of the Kyiv Independent, on November 15 2021, and Russia's February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The newsroom had barely been operating for three months on its new mission "to serve as the true, independent voice of Ukraine." Now it would face its greatest test.

On the morning of Russia's invasion, Daryna Shevchenko slept in. The night before, she had taken a sleeping pill to help her doze off. The blaring sounds that greeted her when she awoke in Kyiv - screaming air-raid sirens, exploding munitions - announced the beginning of a new and terrifying reality in Ukraine.

Shevchenko, whose role as chief executive officer sees her steer the managerial and commercial sides of the newsroom, suddenly found herself working breaking-news shifts. Commercial and advertising revenues dried up overnight. It was frantic trying to produce the quality journalism the world was seeking about the war while trying to ensure the safety of staffers. Shevchenko describes, in those early weeks, the feeling of a newsroom running on pure adrenaline.

After spending the first two weeks in Kyiv, witnessing Kalashnikovs being fired on the streets near her home, Shevchenko made the arduous, three-day journey to western Ukraine.

"On the first quiet night," she said, "you could actually hear your thoughts." She returned to Kyiv five weeks later and has been based in Ukraine's capital ever since.

In September 2022, Shevchenko and I met in the concrete-and-glass Westin Bonaventure Hotel, in downtown Los Angeles, at the Online News Association conference. We spoke the following month (October), a few days after Russia had launched a devastating assault on Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine.

The office from which she spoke to me over video call was emptier than usual, with reporters dispatched to cover the latest Russian missile attacks and report on liberated settlements after the Ukrainian counteroffensive. But, she said, "the newsroom is as busy as ever." Excerpts from the interview, which has been edited for length and clarity:

JB: In recent days Kyiv has been hit with missiles again after a period of relative stability. First of all, how are you doing on a personal level?

DS: It's a complicated question. It was quieter for some time. But Kyiv has been targeted throughout that period as well, just not as massively, and the air defence was working well enough to protect the capital. But a few times missiles hit the suburbs. So this period of relative silence didn't give us a feeling that we were out of war.

The massive attack on Kyiv on Monday created a lot of flashbacks to the first day of war, February 24, for me. It wasn't as scary or as shocking as February 24, but it did give me flashbacks, and disrupted the whole workflow. Basically, when something like that happens, the editorial team has to work nonstop, and for me on the managerial team everything is cancelled or pushed back.

You've just spent three weeks on the road, including being in Los Angeles. Now you're back in Kyiv. That transition must have been abrupt. But you've also spoken about this amazing spirit of unity in Ukraine. What has it been like returning?

A lot of people have asked me whether I feel safer outside the country. But on the contrary, I feel much safer inside Ukraine. It's just a mental feeling. It doesn't have anything to do with objective reality. The feeling of safety is more about being among your people and your community - having your support system in place and knowing that everyone around you understands exactly what you're going through. You meet a barista (an attendant) in a coffee shop and, when you smile at one another, you just know they understand. This is a huge support. So I was relieved to come back home.

On the business side, when the newsroom was launched, back in November 2021, you went for all finance streams - memberships, patrons, crowdfunding, syndication and the commercial and advertising side, which collapsed at the start of the war. How are you handling revenue now after eight months of war?

We are trying to develop all of those and



Inside the GB News newsroom. Picture: Press Gazette



On the first quiet night," she said, "you could actually hear your thoughts." She returned to Kyiv five weeks later and has been based in Ukraine's capital ever since.

think of new ways to make money, develop the brand, increase brand awareness. The funding is essential for our independence and our mission. We've had a lot of progress in developing memberships. We want to get to ten thousand members by the end of the year. We'll be doing online events, flash mobs, calls for action, running different kinds of stories to engage our readers and have them join our community. We are also very active in trying to find syndication deals. As for the commercial side, the market started reviving a few months into the war. It's nowhere near what it used to be, but it's still reviving. Before the invasion, within three months we made around US\$20,000 in commercial revenues. Since the invasion started, in the remaining eight months, we made pretty much the same or maybe even less. We're also very understaffed. It's very hard to find staff for the commercial department.

You spoke about all of these revenue streams trying to support the newsroom's mission. How do you define that mission?

We see our mission as being a bridge between Ukraine and the world. Delivering the truth about what's going on. Essentially, being "the voice of Ukraine's resistance" - that's what we've been called in the media, and what we've kind of internalised.

And to do that, you're obviously tackling a wave of Russian disinformation and propaganda, which you've said is like "trying to cure cancer". How do you go about doing that, and how difficult is that challenge?

It's a complicated question. There are a lot of levels at which Russian propaganda is working. In many senses, Russian propaganda is targeting Russians - to sell the story to their own people so that they won't make waves. And they're obviously successful in that. Then there's the ways Russian propaganda is targeting the rest of the world, and also Ukrainians. We're dealing less with exposing fakes in Ukraine, because we're reporting for a global audience. And generally we're seeing, in my opinion, less fake news distributed by Russian propaganda than in the past - but more fake narratives that have been internalised by Westerners and intellectuals that are based on a knowledge gap about Ukraine, a lack of context. There are a lot of misinterpretations and misjudgments. We launched a special project recently called Explaining Ukraine, which is evergreen content basically like Wikipedia - key data points about the country, history, civil society - that helps our audience look critically about what's said about Ukraine.

Russian propagandists have jumped directly onto small mistakes by the newsroom, and written directly about the Kyiv Independent to further their narratives. What's it like operating under that huge level of scrutiny?

Being a media company means you always work under a huge level of scrutiny. But in our case, we understand it's a huge responsibility. Every mistake we

make is something Russian propaganda can use - not just against us but against Ukraine and the Ukrainian cause. It can also deceive unprepared readers, making them think that we're untrustworthy. Our editors make a solid effort; I can only remember one or two cases when we made a factual mistake and had to apologise and retract it. Which I think is a good track record, frankly. We're all human, and humans make mistakes, especially as we've all barely taken days off since the invasion. So it's a lot of pressure, but our mission is to be as accurate as possible.

As an English-language newsroom, you've said your role is like being in the "diplomacy business", telling the world about what's going on. Can you elaborate on that idea?

When a crisis like this happens in the world, a lot of international media companies - which have a lot more resources than Ukrainian media - tend to send their journalists and reporters. And that's great. I'm a big supporter of that. But what they're missing is the knowledge and understanding of the local context. That's what we have. We are an English-language media company that is Ukrainian. Eighty per cent of our staff is Ukrainian. We know the history, we know what's happening, we know who's who. So often, when someone is interviewed in the international media, like a lawmaker, and is presented as a "freedom fighter," we know who that person is and how that just isn't true. And we write in English; it's not translated. We adhere to all Western journalism practices and standards to produce content at the level of international media, but with the added value of knowledge of the local context. That's unique.

In terms of coverage from Western media outlets, there's been some dissatisfaction, over the months of the war - for instance, calling it a "conflict" or mixing up city names, simple things like that. What advice do you have for editors to get things right in the future?

We recently created a cheat sheet notes for quick reference) for the editors on what wording to use for covering Russia's war against Ukraine. I'm shocked that I still meet people who call Ukraine "the Ukraine," like it is some smaller part of something bigger - which it's not. We have to finally put a stop to it because words matter. Words are something Russian propaganda feeds off. If you're calling it "the Ukraine", how can you call out the Russian propagandists who say it's part of their huge Russian Empire?

It seems like people are still too focused on Russia. For decades, everybody invested in Moscow bureaus. The global news business has a very strong habit of looking at Ukraine - and Central Asia, Caucasus - through a Russian lens. That has created a lot of mistakes. I remember one story - I think it was a German reporter who called me when the Zaporizhzhia power plant was attacked for the first time. She asked me where I was. I said: "I'm in Kyiv."

And she said: "Well, did you hear the explosion?" And I was like: if you just looked at the map of Ukraine you would understand that it is almost six hundred kilometers from here! It's just amazing. There's so much more people need to learn about Ukraine to understand what's going on.

Your job as a newsroom is also to hold the Ukrainian government and president to account, and you've described that quest for truth as "a form of patriotism" in itself. With Ukraine's President Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy becoming something of a rock star in the Western media, are there ever moments of tension in holding power to account?

For us, worrying about Ukraine and its future means being truthful about what's going on in Ukraine. It's not about covering up the mistakes of Ukraine's government. We released an investigation recently uncovering the wrongdoings of International Legion commanders [which alleged that leadership figures were implicated in "abuse, theft and sending unprepared soldiers on reckless missions"], something we advertised in the beginning of the war as one way to help Ukraine. We didn't have any doubts about running it. It was an obligation.

With Zelenskyy, the world met him when the war started. We met him before. We've followed his career into the presidency. I think he stepped up his game. But, also, that is his job. I would expect that of my president, to stay in the country he's living in when it's in trouble. I think his celebrity game is more in the West than in Ukraine, although his polling in Ukraine skyrocketed as well. He's doing well, but he's a representative of the people. And that's something the people of Ukraine remember - and, I do hope, something he remembers. He's doing well for now, but that doesn't mean for a second that we as part of civil society will ever stop watching him.

Finally, we're over eight months into the war, and some Western media outlets are not covering the war in as much detail as they did at the start. How do you combat that war fatigue?

War fatigue is the main danger for us - for our mission, for our business. Ukrainians will keep reading the news about the war because it's a matter of life and death to them. But, for us, the world's attention is crucial for victory in this war. It's a big question: How to keep their attention? We are trying to get more creative, find new formats, and launch new products - new platforms like TikTok, YouTube, documentaries. But I have to say that Ukrainians will not give up the fight, even if it's without the world's attention. It will just come at a higher price. And we're already paying a huge price. And we have to remember this is a proxy war - Ukrainians are not just fighting for Ukraine, they're fighting for democracy across the world. Ukrainians are losing lives for this. So we're asking all our colleagues in the media to keep talking about Ukraine and, if they need help, to contact us and we will answer.

No more boarding for nursery to Std IV

FROM PAGE 1

They are established without following procedures for setting up a dormitory or shared residence for pupils, she stated.

Child upbringing depends much on the family, especially the mother, the father as well as guardians, while the government has noted that there are schools receiving children who are too young, in nursery classes up to standard four, she said.

"Boarding for young pupils, including those in nursery classes, denies children the right to associate with their families and the society, to build relationships with their families," she said.

Studies have shown long term effects of taking young pupils to boarding schools including lack of love for their parents and the wider society thus "failing to be part of the general public," the commissioner intoned.

Boarding facilities should be used by pupils at standard five and above, a directive derived from the school establishment guidelines dated November 2020, she said.

"All schools which offer such services to pupils in the aforementioned classes should stop by the end of the first term of 2023," she said, noting that the ministry will soon form a team to make a follow up, consisting of education quality assurance officers.

School operators must also ensure that buses used by pupils have a female service provider for all movement to go to school and return home, she said.

Cases of failure to implement the directive require notice to be sent to the relevant authorities explaining such failure, she cautioned, noting similarly that school buses should not have indecent music blared.

"They should stop playing music that violates the country's norms and traditions and instead they should play music which encourages patriotism," she emphasised.

A transit schedule for young children is vital so as to have enough time to rest for good health and growth, she further commented, saying school buses should have "bright and motivated employees so that they are fair to schoolchildren."

If any school attendant goes against morals or endangers the safety of the pupil, the school owner should take action against the wrongdoer immediately, she stated.

The third circular requires teachers in schools and colleges to set up a system for reviewing various books and learning materials. The measure seeks to sort out and replace books and materials that are contrary to the country's traditions, customs and cultures.

The Tanzania Library Services Board (TLSB) should put in place a system for reviewing books and other teaching and learning materials such that the books and materials are of worthy content, she added.



Laura Kunenge (L), the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) head of communications and public relations, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an assortment of items to Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) director of nursing Robert Malya. Looking on are Susan Reuben (2nd-L), chairperson of WCF's Women Wing of TUGHE (Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees), and Asha Salum (R), head of social welfare at JKCI. The event was meant as part of the commemoration of International Women's Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Report any adulterated fertilisers, farmers told

FROM PAGE 1

fertiliser inside the warehouse, while there wasn't any but sand packed in fertiliser bags, he said.

While the police and ministerial authorities pursue suspensions that sand had been sold as fertilizer, observers have a feel-

ing that the real fertilizer had already been sold to non-authorised individuals and the trader was waiting for more deliveries.

The sand packed in company bags was thus window dressing in case any checks were conducted on the presence of fertilizer at the warehouse, if it is a rapid inspection without actually looking into the bags.

On Sunday, during an inspection at the warehouse, Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe asked authorities to arrest and interrogate the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) manager for the Southern Highlands Zone and two officials of Minjingu Fertiliser Co. over the presence of 776 bags of sand in the warehouse.

Authorities suspected adulteration of fertilizer by mixing fertilizer with sand, while the RPC, in the interview, suspected that sand was being sold as fertilizer, as there were nearly 800 such bags in the warehouse.

Observers said that investigation had not taken place why such large quantities of sand were in the warehouse, dis-

counting reports that any farmer was sold sand instead of fertilizer, or adulterated fertilizer for the same price.

Others said that adulteration is done with similar materials, for instance adulterating petrol with kerosene in the past when the price differential was too high and kerosene used to be excessively cheap.

Chadema now accepting subsidies, collects arrears

FROM PAGE 1

elaborating that with the situation having stabilised, the party has few reasons not to receive the funds.

The subsidies help the party take up various initiatives including making tours in the regions, holding public meetings and other functions, he said, elaborating that doubts remain whether the party ought to take the funds.

The leadership weighed the pros and cons and opted to take up the monthly subsidy for the wider interest of the party, "so we have started to receive the arrears of the monthly subsidies of the previous months," he affirmed.

He said the president's political approach was good as it is meant to unite different sections of political loyalties, cultivating harmony rather than destroying the opposition as it was in the previous context.

"Her dialogue approach between the government and the opposition will make many people accept her leadership, so we have now opened our hearts and left behind the hurt that we went through," he declared.

The president delivered on a number of proposals that Chadema submitted to her, including allowing political rallies and abolishing pending cases against the party's leaders.

She had earnestly moved in the direction

of reconciliation and undertook other positive measures which Chadema finds to be entirely acceptable, he stated.

During the two years she has been at the helm, President Samia has shown the capacity to lead and create a conducive environment for all political parties to conduct their activities freely, he stated.

He cited the matter of dual citizenship as a priority agenda once the party commences discussion on the new constitution, he further noted, airing the view that addressing challenges of the Union must also be taken up.

Chadema had submitted a detailed proposal to the government that carries recommendations of various issues that should be included in the new Constitution.

A comprehensive reform of the election system that will facilitate fair election has been tabled, since it is likely that the process of getting a new constitution will not be completed before the 2025 polls, he said.

The northern zone chairman expressed gratitude to the president for enabling him to come back, appealing for a re-focusing on the judicial system drawbacks.

He made this remark in a rally at Karatu in Arusha Region, as part of his ongoing zonal tour to address rallies, the first task since returning to the country late last month from exile in Canada.



Former Treasury Registrar Mgonya Benedicto (R) hands over office to his successor, Nehemiah Mchechu, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Before his February 24 presidential appointment to the new position, Mchechu was National Housing Corporation director general. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Visiting boats, local cruiser set to change marine safaris

FROM PAGE 1

Ships expected ships are Corals Geographic Cruise arriving tomorrow with 120 tourists, Le Jacques Cartier-Ponant with 105 visitors and Le Jacques Cartier A & K Luxury Expedition, docking next Tuesday with 138 tourists, he stated.

The locally made cruise boat is operated by the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), fitted with

equipment to enable the tourists to engage themselves in various ways during cruising trips, he said.

The boat is built with transparent glass alloys having a lenses mechanism enabling tourists to see various sea creatures closely from inside the ship, he elaborated, lauding President Samia for finding the funds to purchase the boat.

Describing it as of international standards, he said the

ministry is hopeful that efforts to promote tourism will enable opening up the country through marine tourism. Tourists have already started flocking to see the various attractions on the coastal waters, he specified.

The TAWA cruiser boat was fitted by Songoro Marine Transport Ltd, a local firm, having the capacity to carry 50 tourists, with its procurement tied to the president's effort in uplifting the sector.

Decisions by the government to manufacture its own tourist boat is expected to promote local tourism, where holidaymakers will be able to visit spectacular sea life and marine environment the country is endowed with, he said.

Marine tourism will many people to see attractions like rare species, some which are listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as endan-

gered and not for commercial transaction.

The coastline and territorial waters have a rich biodiversity with beautiful coral gardens marked by numerous fish species, where several protected marine reserves are found.

These are Mafia Island marine reserve, Mnazi Bay marine reserve, the Ruvuma River inlet reserve area in Mtwara Region and the Coelacanth Marine Park (TCMP) in Tanga Region, he added.



Chadema had submitted a detailed proposal to the government that carries recommendations of various issues that should be included in the new Constitution



A newspaper with the headline "Artificial Intelligence" | Photo: Adobe Stock

Is AI software a partner for journalism, or a disaster?

By Mathew Ingram

NOVEMBER (2022) saw OpenAI, a company that develops artificial-intelligence software, release ChatGPT. This is a programme that allows users to ask conversational-style questions and receive essay-style answers.

It soon became clear that, unlike with some earlier chat-software programmes, this one could, in a matter of seconds, generate content that was both readable and reasonably intelligent.

Unsurprisingly, this caused consternation among humans who get paid to generate content that is readable and intelligent.

And their concerns are reasonable: companies that make money creating such content may well see AI-powered tools as an opportunity to cut costs and increase profits, two things that companies that make money from content like to do.

AI in the media is, more broadly, having a moment. Around the same time that ChatGPT launched, CNET, a technology news site, quietly started publishing articles that were written with the help of artificial intelligence, as Futurism reported last month.

A disclaimer on the site assured readers that all of the articles were checked by human editors but, as Futurism later reported, many of the CNET pieces written by the AI software not only contained errors, but in some cases were plagiarised.

After these reports came out, Red Ventures - a private-equity firm that owns CNET and a number of other online publications, including Lonely Planet and Healthline - told staff that it was pausing the use of the AI software, which it said had been developed in-house.

As CNET pressed pause, media companies announced plans to expand their use of AI. The Arena Group, which publishes Sports Illustrated among other magazines, is now using AI to generate articles and story ideas, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Arena said that it doesn't plan to replace journalists with AI, but to "support content workflows, video creation, newsletters, sponsored content and marketing campaigns". This is according to Ross Levinsohn, the CEO and a former publisher of the Los Angeles Times.

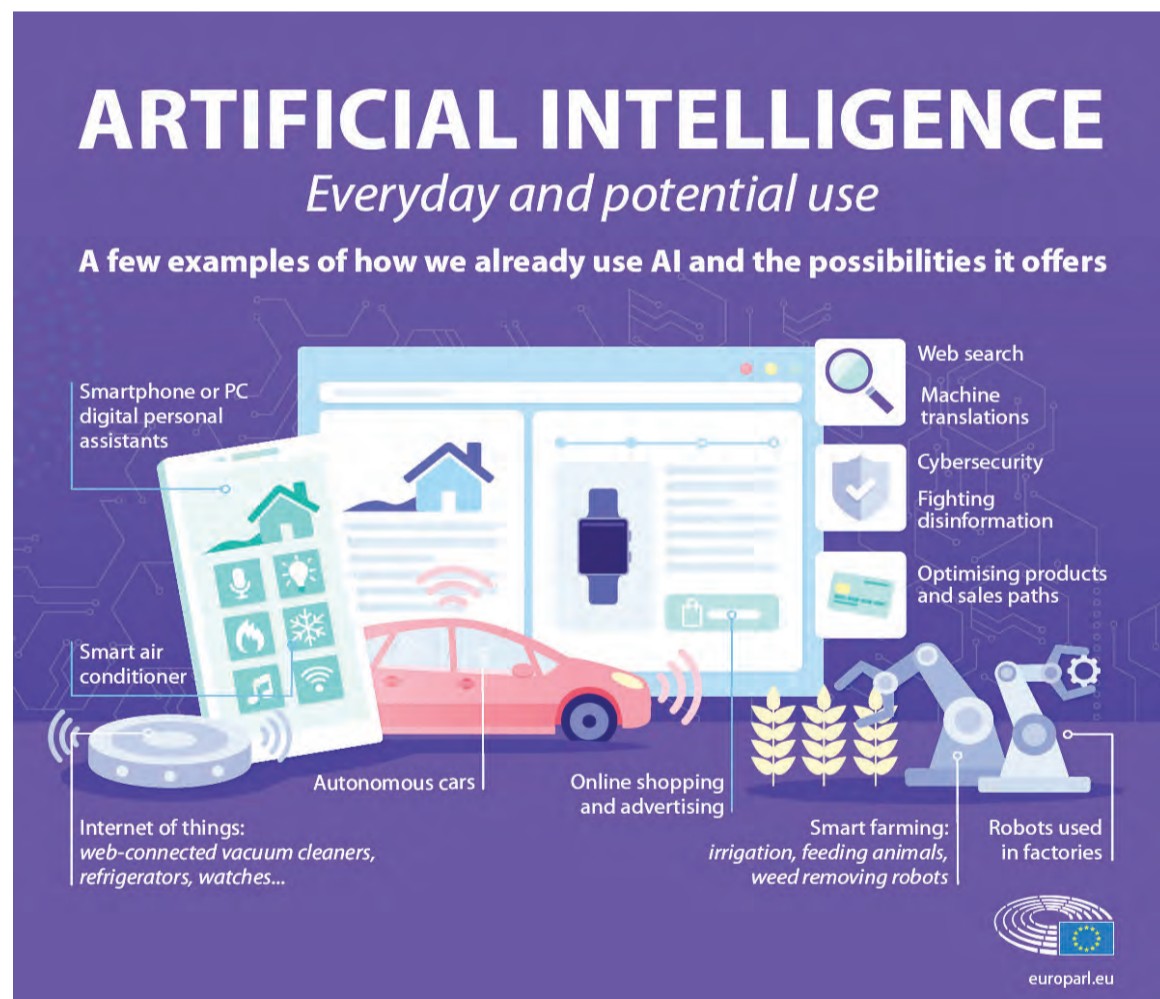
BuzzFeed, meanwhile, said that it plans to use OpenAI's software to develop quizzes and personalise content for readers.

After that news broke, BuzzFeed's stock more than doubled in price, a move reminiscent of the crypto and blockchain craze five years ago when shares of a company would surge when it announced a potential partnership or entry into the popular sector", Bloomberg's Alicia Diaz and Gerry Smith wrote.

Jonah Peretti, BuzzFeed's CEO, told staff that the use of AI was not about "work-



As Karpf notes, the phenomenon appeared to spell disaster for journalism, but it was ultimately short-circuited when Google changed its search algorithm to downrank "low quality" content.



place reduction", according to a spokesperson quoted by the Journal. (The Journal also reported that BuzzFeed "remains focused on human-generated journalism" in its newsroom.)

The use of AI software to create journalism didn't begin with the rise of ChatGPT. The Associated Press has been using AI to write corporate earnings reports since 2015, since such reports are often so formulaic that they don't require human input.

Incidentally, the AP also recently asked ChatGPT to write the (US) president's State of the Union speech in the style of various historical figures, including Shakespeare, Aristotle and Mahatma Gandhi.

Cleopatra: "Let us continue to work together, to strive for a better future, and to build a stronger, more prosperous Egypt." And Yahoo and several other content publishers have been using similar AI-powered tools for several years, to generate game summaries and corporate reports.

While the practice may not be as new as some of the commentary around it may have you believe, however, the popularity of ChatGPT, and the quality of its output, have led to a renewed debate about its potential impact on journalism.

Jack Shafer, a media columnist at Politico, is relatively sanguine (that is, upbeat) about the possibilities of AI-powered content software to improve their work.

Journalism "doesn't exist to give reporters and editors a paycheck," Shafer wrote, adding: "It exists to serve readers. If AI helps newsrooms better serve readers, they should welcome its arrival."

This will be difficult if the technology does also lead to widespread job losses, however. Max Read, a former editor at Gawker, wrote recently in his newsletter that "any story you hear about using AI is fundamentally a story about labour automation," whether that involves adding tools that could help journalists do more with less or replacing humans completely.

Both paths, Read wrote, "suck, in my opinion". Indeed, those who fear the ChatGPTisation of journalism don't see the problem merely as one of labour rights.

Kevin Roose, of the New York Times, described AI-generated content as "pink slime" journalism on a recent episode of the Hard Fork podcast with Casey Newton, using a term that more often refers to low-quality meat products.

The term "pink slime" has been used to describe low-quality journalism before, as Priyanjana Bengani has documented exhaustively for CJR. By using it to refer to AI-powered content, Roose and others seem to mean journalism that simulates human-created content without offering the real thing.

Experts, meanwhile, have said that the biggest flaw in a "large language model"

like ChatGPT is that, while it is capable of mimicking human writing, it has no real understanding of what it is writing about, and so it frequently inserts errors and flights of fancy that some have been referred to as "hallucinations".

Colin Fraser, a data scientist at Meta, has written that the central quality of this type of model is that "they are incurable, constant, shameless bullshitters - a every single one of them. It's a feature, not a bug."

For his part, Gary Marcus, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at New York University, has likened this kind of software to "a giant autocomplete machine".

Newton wrote in a recent edition of his Platformer newsletter that some of the functions for which ChatGPT and similar software will be used probably aren't worth journalists worrying about.

"If you run a men's health site, there are only so many ways to tell your readers to eat right and get regular exercise," he said.

He wrote in a different edition of the newsletter, however, that these software engines could also potentially be used to generate reams of plausible-sounding misinformation.

Dave Karpf, a professor of internet politics at George Washington University, wrote that the furor over ChatGPT reminds him of the hysteria around "content farms" in 2009 and 2010, when various companies paid writers tiny sums of money to generate content based on popular search terms, then monetised those articles through advertisements.

As Karpf notes, the phenomenon appeared to spell disaster for journalism, but it was ultimately short-circuited when Google changed its search algorithm to downrank "low quality" content.

"Relying on platform monopolists to protect the public interest isn't a great way to run a civilisation," Karpf wrote, adding: "But it's better than nothing."

Unfortunately, in this case, Google isn't casting a skeptical eye towards AI-generated content. It is planning to get into the business itself; this week, it unveiled a new chat-based model called "Bard".

Nor is it just Google: Microsoft is also getting into the AI software game, having recently invested ten billion dollars for a stake in OpenAI, the ChatGPT creator.

This raises the possibility that search engines - which already provide answers to simple questions, such as What is the score in the Maple Leafs game? - could offer more sophisticated content without having to link to anything, potentially weakening online publishers that are already struggling. Then again, Bard made a mistake in its trial demo.

While there are some obvious reasons to be concerned about the impact of AI software on journalism, it seems a little early to say definitively whether it is bad or good.

ChatGPT seems to agree: When I asked it to describe its impact on the media industry recently, it both-sideded the question in fine journalistic style.

"ChatGPT has the potential to impact the media industry in a number of ways because it can generate human-like text, potentially reducing the need for human writers," it wrote, adding: "But it may also lead to job loss and ethical concerns."

World leaders, private sector urged to establish international green bank to win climate change

By Joyce Chimbi

As the effects of climate change escalate and natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts become more frequent and severe, threatening lives and livelihoods, humanity is losing the climate battle.

A sharp decline in the variety and the number of both wild animals and species, severe food insecurities, high levels of malnutrition, disappearing streams, springs, and rivers in some areas, and dangerous rises in sea levels that threaten island nations are alerting the world to a climate-driven catastrophe.

Yet even as the world stares at unprecedented climate disasters, experts such as Hafez Ghanem caution that existing international institutions are not delivering on climate change mitigation and finance and are now calling for renewed efforts through the establishment of a Green Bank.

Hafez Ghanem says the creation of a Green Bank to solely address climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts is long overdue.

Ghanem, former regional Vice President of the World Bank Group and a current nonresident senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution, Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, and Distinguished Fellow at the Paris School of Economics tells IPS that “the creation of a Green Bank as a new international institution to solely address climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts is long overdue.”

“Everybody is looking at how to finance investments in climate change. The estimate is that USD 2 trillion is needed every year for countries in the global South alone to address climate change.”



A family take shelter on the roof of their small house. Due to climate change, incessant rainfall has flooded nearby houses. The photo was taken from Jatrapur Union in Kurigram district.

Today's development assistance, he says, is about USD 200 billion per year, “so we need to multiply that figure 10-fold and only use the funds for climate change and forget about critical social sectors such as health and education.”

Choosing the climate agenda over critical social sectors or vice-versa is a lose-lose situation because they are both matters of life and death. This has led world leaders to a critical crossroads.

To meet the climate financing gaps, Ghanem says many of the developed countries are asking existing multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, to reform and invest more in climate change.

Ghanem says reforms within

existing institutions will not work and recommends a different approach: the establishment of a singular international institution that concerns itself solely with climate-related matters. An institution that would be a repository for global knowledge on climate change and advice governments on climate policies.

He says a Green Bank would also develop green projects across the Global South and support their financing and implementation. As currently constituted, multilateral development banks are yet to open up space for Global South to be heard at the same level as those in the North.

At the World Bank, for instance, he says, the voting power is such that the G7 countries control 39.8

percent of the World Bank while other donors control another 14.9 percent.

“Despite the World Bank conducting most of its business in Africa, the largest ten African countries control only about 3.5 percent of its voting power. A development bank that is controlled by its borrowers is not a good idea; neither is a development bank where beneficiaries feel that they don't have enough voice,” he expounds.

A waterfall is on the verge of drying out. High temperatures and prolonged droughts are blamed on the devastating impact of climate change. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

Ghanem further emphasizes that the absence of the private sec-

tor will continue to curtail efforts to raise much-needed funds. “I believe that the Green Bank should be a public-private partnership where private corporations, foundations, and civil society organizations are invited to participate in its capital together with sovereign states. I am calling for a tripartite approach where countries of the Global South have the same voice, same voting rights as those in the Global North and the private sector.”

The need to attract much-needed funds from the private sector cannot be over-emphasized, he says as it is now, “there is no voice from the private sector because the owners of, say, the World Bank and the African Development Bank are all sovereign states.”

The Green Bank would, therefore, primarily support private green investments through equity contributions, loans, and guarantees at the national, regional, or global level. The new institution would also free existing multilateral banks to direct scarce resources to social and development assistance.

This would significantly boost progress toward the delivery of critical social sectors services such as health and education, particularly in poorer, more vulnerable nations such as those classified as Least Developed Countries.

As such, the proposed Green Bank will not be in competition or opposition to existing multilateral banks but an instrument to partner with other institutions and complement their projects.

“Climate change is an external threat facing all of humanity, and all of humanity needs to unite to face it. But a major share of humanity and particularly the Global South lacks the necessary resources,” he says.

“There are many international meetings and summits at which resources are pledged, but the pledges are for much less than what is needed to deal with climate change. Moreover, not all pledges materialize as actual commitments and disbursements.”

As governments in the Global North face tighter budget constraints and competing interests, limiting their ability to provide much-needed finance for climate projects in the South even as climate catastrophes increase, Ghanem says a new approach in the form of a Green Bank that is a private, public partnership would be an important contribution to the solution. You can read his full policy brief on the subject here.

IPS UN Bureau Report

The future is equal: Gender equality in the technology industry

By Zaituni Njovu

JAMILA is a 17-year-old high school student who aspires in future to become an innovator and tech enthusiast with a mission to offer solutions that make life easier for her community. Since her early age, she has been quite a site to see from her extraordinary character and unwavering interest in machinery and any form of electronic device that is within her reach.

Unlike her peers, who use time for self-studying and browsing on social media for amusement; for Jamila, however, it is quite a different story. Most of the time, you will find her busy with a screw driver from her father's tool box disassembling a broken device, trying to figure out what went wrong. And, well, if it's not the case of a device that malfunctioned, she will, in the same manner, try to figure out what makes a device work.

Although her daily activities seem to be odd in the eyes of her two older brothers - the first born being an already established entrepreneur while the other pursues a reputation as a freelance communications consultant - they fully support their young sibling with the understanding that women need to be helped in order for them to have a place in the engineering and innovation sector.

As the world marks 2023's International Women's Day, the United Nations (UN) and UN Women are celebrating this memorable day under the theme DigitALL: innovation and technology for Gender equality in a bid to ensure both men and women share and utilize equal opportunities which are made available by the increasing global digitalization.

According to the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report, across low- and middle-income countries, 59 million additional women started using mobile internet in 2021. It further showed that women remained 7% less likely to own a mobile phone compared to men and are 16% less likely to use mo-



bile internet. This means that there are still 264 million fewer women than men with access to mobile internet. The percentage of women graduates in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is 1.7%, compared to 8.2% of men graduates.

The Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa CIPESA indicated that in Africa there were only 19% of women using the internet in 2022, compared to other men. The slow rate of internet access and adoption has been linked to the mobile gender gap where women in low and middle-income countries are 16% less likely than men to use mobile internet as found in GSMA report in 2020. For women and young girls, having access to the internet opens doors to increased opportunity, knowledge and resources.

For Tanzania, various initiatives by the government and non-government organizations have been placed to ensure that wom-

en are empowered morally and materially via sponsored education programs such as the Samia Scholarship program overseen by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Vodacom Digital Accelerator program which is a partnership program between Vodacom Tanzania and Smart Labs; and other initiatives that are aimed to make women become digitally savvy and have equal opportunities.

In the bid to ensure equality and inclusion is realized in the digital space, Zaina Foundation, a non-profit organization which promotes the state of digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania has been pioneering initiatives that aim to empower women in technology through different projects that are tailored to support women's Internet use in socio economy as well the utilization of safe and secure tools for browsing the Internet.

Accessibility and Affordability of networks in Tanzania is a main challenge facing marginalized

women. Digital Voice is one of the famous projects in Tanzania ran by Zaina Foundation that is designed with the sole purpose of empowering young women to use the internet in order to expand the civic space in Tanzania.

According to Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) report, until December 2022, Tanzania had a total of 31.1 million internet users, whereas only 18% were women. This shows that few women and girls in Tanzania participate in the field of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT). As a result, only 25% of women hold technological jobs and only 10% of students are learning degrees in computer science.

Digital gender gap in innovation and technology is caused by different reasons, according to the OECD 2018 report, hurdles to access and affordability of internet and digital devices, lack of education and digital skills, as well as inherent biases and socio-cultural

norms and online gender based violence have been listed as the common reasons that discourage women and girls' ability to benefit from the opportunities offered by digital transformation.

In addition, girls' relatively lower educational enrolment in disciplines that would allow them to perform well in a digital world such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as information and communication technologies coupled with women's and girls' more limited use of digital tools could lead to widening gaps and greater inequality.

Digital gender gap in technology and innovation has social, cultural and economic impact as follows. Lack of new avenues for the economic empowerment of women and can contribute to the gender inequality. Low or no opportunities to earn additional income from the internet, digital platforms, mobile phones and digital financial services offer

“leapfrog”, decrease employment opportunities, as 90% of jobs are in technology, decrease chances of knowledge access and general information. Low level of civic engagement to women and opportunities to be accountable and responsible in the community in different areas including political leadership positions, social activist and advocacy programs. Holding back girls and women in this area affects every aspect of their lives including the ability to speak out and campaign on issues that affect them. Without equal access to technology and the internet girls and women are not able to equally participate in society.

At Zaina Foundation, we advocate for equality on Digital Technology in Innovation and Creativity through promoting the state of Digital Rights and inclusion in Tanzania. In order to close the Gender gap in innovation and technology, it is paramount that measures such as the implementation of digital inclusion policies, programs and tools are incorporated with affordable broadband internet service, investment in digital technology initiatives and expanding of equal access to technology.

These above solutions should be complimented by the provision of quality technical support that will enable and encourage self-sufficiency, media advocacy in promoting gender equality, conducting more research to provide actual data on digital gender gap, investment in provision of ICT knowledge at primary education level and multi stakeholder collaboration.

All the above solutions should work in sync for Tanzania to be able to realize the dream of closing the existing digital gender gap if we are to fulfill the quest of having socio-economic digital equality.

Zaituni Njovu is the Chief Executive Officer of Zaina Foundation, a non-profit organization which promotes the state of digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania.



All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate Bola Tinubu (C-L) and his wife Oluremi Tinubu (C-R) arrive to vote at a polling station in Lagos on February 25, 2023, during Nigeria's presidential and general election.

By Uche Igwe

Linking Nigeria's stagnant anti-corruption war with nation's growing insecurity

THERE have even been instances where victims of kidnap spoke of collaboration between the state security agencies and the kidnapers.

The report reveals a clear connection between violence and corruption, something that is obvious but often rarely interrogated. The Nigerian experience confirms that governments plagued by corruption increasingly lack the capacity to protect the people and witness several forms of criminality and insurrection. Despite spending billions of dollars (eight trillion naira in seven years) ostensibly to fight insecurity both at the national and sub-national levels, insecurity in Nigeria continues to worsen.

Last month, the global anti-corruption watchdog, Transparency International, released its annual corruption perception index (CPI), which ranks the perceived level of public sector corruption across 180 countries worldwide. This year's report paints a grim picture that reveals that many countries are yet to make progress in the fight against corruption since 2017. Nigeria is one of those countries that fell into this category, despite being led by a government that promised radical reforms and a president with perceived anti-corruption credentials. Muhammadu Buhari, a former military ruler, was elected in 2015 after he defeated incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan, partly because he promised to stamp out corruption from Africa's biggest economy endowed with enormous natural resources. Interestingly, Buhari continues to receive accolades across the continent as an anti-corruption icon, while the reality at home remains pathetically different. However, despite the tough rhetoric and grandstanding, corruption continues to grow in leaps and bounds, while the president sits helplessly as the anti-corruption struggle has become a weapon deployed towards partisan ends. The verdict is that corruption is waxing stronger under President Buhari.

CPI Links Corruption and Security Challenges, Throwing Light On Nigeria's situation

The report reveals a clear connection between violence and corruption, something that is obvious but often rarely interrogated. The Nigerian experience confirms that governments plagued by corruption increasingly lack the capacity to protect the people and witness several forms of criminality and insurrection. Despite spending billions of dollars (eight trillion naira in seven years) ostensibly to fight in-



President-elect Bola Tinubu (C), with his wife Oluremi Tinubu and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman Mahmood Yakubu at a ceremony in Abuja, Nigeria on March 1, 2023. BEN CURTIS / AP



Muhammadu Buhari, a former military ruler, was elected in 2015 after he defeated incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan, partly because he promised to stamp out corruption from Africa's biggest economy endowed with enormous natural resources.

security both at the national and sub-national levels, insecurity in Nigeria continues to worsen. In 2022 alone, media reports insist that about 4,545 persons were killed, while another 4,611 were kidnapped by non-state actors. Gunmen have successfully attacked several government buildings and churches across the country, killing many. The young people are very angry, partly as a result of the government's inability to protect lives and properties, thereby leaving citizens to their fates. Terrorists, bandits and criminal organisations across the country have been emboldened, while citizens, regardless of their location, live in constant fear, as corrupt officials thrive in impunity. So far, the fight against insecurity has yielded limited results. There are accusations that some security personnel have converted the existing state of affairs into a flourishing enterprise and conflict economy that instead provides incentives for the beneficiaries of the status quo. Furthermore, the Government Defence Integrity Index published in 2020 reveals that Nigeria faces

Nigeria's poor performance was not unexpected

To many analysts, the grim performance of Nigeria was unsur-

prising and it clearly points to the unsavoury situation in the country. In 2022 alone, media reports insist that about 4,545 persons were killed, while another 4,611 were kidnapped by non-state actors. Gunmen have successfully attacked several government buildings and churches across the country, killing many. The young people are very angry, partly as a result of the government's inability to protect lives and properties, thereby leaving citizens to their fates. Terrorists, bandits and criminal organisations across the country have been emboldened, while citizens, regardless of their location, live in constant fear, as corrupt officials thrive in impunity. So far, the fight against insecurity has yielded limited results. There are accusations that some security personnel have converted the existing state of affairs into a flourishing enterprise and conflict economy that instead provides incentives for the beneficiaries of the status quo. Furthermore, the Government Defence Integrity Index published in 2020 reveals that Nigeria faces

a high risk across its defence institutions, with minimal controls in operations. The country ranks 143 out of 163 on the Global Peace Index in 2022, alongside nations like Iran, Cameroon and Columbia.

With Nigeria's presidential elections only a few days away, many observers are keen on whether and to what extent the eventual outcome could speak to citizens' frustration about how growing public sector corruption has impacted the livelihoods of ordinary citizens... A section of the population led by vocal, media-savvy young people remains adamant and hopeful that its votes will count and the long-awaited change may be on the way. Its optimism is anchored on amendments of the Electoral Act, which introduced a technology that transmits votes electronically. On the other hand, the established politicians are said to be doing everything necessary to ensure that the status quo prevails, including stashing away billions of naira to buy votes on election day. The stage is set and the time is ticking. How either of these mutually opposing efforts will fare remains a subject of speculation for now.

A Three-Point Drop Under the Current Administration Is No Big Deal

Some sections of the media and civil society who misunderstood the CPI results have tried to engage in efforts capable of hoodwinking the unsuspecting public to misinterpret the change in ranking as an improvement in Nigeria's fight against corruption.

This inference is not only false but also misleading. In measuring the perception of corruption using CPI, a change in ranking is an inconsequential factor dependent on the number and performance of other countries ranked. A change of ranking from 154 to 150 does not amount to progress in any way. The CPI score for Nigeria remains the same at 24. This is a clear reduction from the average score of 27 that it used to be during the Jonathan administration. The score rose to 28 in 2016 and later dropped to 24. For the score to drop by three points under an administration that was elected under the assumption that it would fulfil its promise to fight corruption speaks a lot about the level of failure that has led to general disappointment, lingering scepticism and growing restlessness among citizens. Applauding the score is like a child repeating the same class and celebrating that he is now two seats closer to the teacher. Even Afghanistan, under the Taliban regime, improved its score from 16 to 24, while remaining on the same ranking.

Presidential Elections As a Referendum

With Nigeria's presidential elections only a few days away, many observers are keen on whether and to what extent the eventual outcome could speak to citizens' frustration about how growing public sector corruption has impacted the livelihoods of ordinary citizens. At least two of the top contenders for the office of the president allegedly have pasts linked to corruption and drug peddling. Historically, these issues do not matter much in a country whose desperately poor citizens are content with crumbs that fall off from the exotic dining tables of the rich but dubious politicians, whose lifestyles are likely funded by stolen public resources. A section of the population led by vocal, media-savvy young people remains adamant and hopeful that its votes will count and the long-awaited change may be on the way. Its optimism is anchored on amendments of the Electoral Act, which introduced a technology that transmits votes electronically. On the other hand, the established politicians are said to be doing everything necessary to ensure that the status quo prevails, including stashing away billions of naira to buy votes on election day. The stage is set and the time is ticking. How either of these mutually opposing efforts will fare remains a subject of speculation for now.

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GLOBAL MARKETS

Asia stocks improve, China sets cautious goal for GDP growth

SYDNEY

Asian shares edged up on Monday while bond markets held their breath ahead of an update on the US rate outlook from the world's most powerful central banker, and a jobs report that could decide if the next hike needs to be super-sized.

There was some disappointment that Beijing chose to lowball its growth outlook with a target of 5 percent, rather than the 5.5 percent-plus favoured by the market, but the recent run of actual data has been strong enough to keep investors optimistic.

Chinese blue chips slipped 0.5 percent, having gained 1.7 percent last week. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was still up 0.7 percent.

Japan's Nikkei climbed 1.2 percent to a three-month top, while South Korean stocks added 1.0 percent helped by a softer reading on inflation.

EUROSTOXX 50 futures firmed 0.5 percent, while FTSE futures held steady. S&P 500 futures gained 0.2 percent and Nasdaq futures 0.4 percent, after rallying on Friday as bond yields eased back a little.

Yields on 10-year Treasuries stood at 3.94 percent, after last week's spike to 4.09 percent proved tempting enough to attract buyers.

Markets have become resigned to more rate rises from the Federal Reserve but are hoping it will stick with quarter-point moves rather than switch back to half-point hikes.

San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly on Saturday reiterated rates would have to go up but set a high bar for moving to half-point increases.

Futures imply a 72percent chance the Fed will go by 25 basis points at its meeting on March 22.

All of which sets the scene for Fed Chair Jerome Powell's testimony to congress on Tuesday and Wednesday, where he will no doubt be quizzed on whether larger hikes are needed.

Much, however, might depend on what the February payrolls report reveals on Friday. Forecasts are centered on a more modest increase of 200,000 following January's barnstorming 517,000 jump, but risks are on the upside.

And that will be followed by the February CPI report on March 14.

"Powell's testimony comes before the payrolls and inflation numbers, therefore, he is likely to avoid committing to a policy path," said Jan Nevruz, an analyst at NatWest Markets.

"Payrolls are due on the final day when Fed officials can publicly discuss monetary policy, but CPI will be released during the blackout period," he added. "If we end up in a situation where the jobs and inflation numbers present a conflicting view, the outcome of the Fed meeting could become even harder to predict."

The Fed is hardly alone in warning of further tightening.

In an interview released over the weekend, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said it was "very likely" they would raise interest rates by 50 basis points this month and the bank had more work to do on inflation.

Australia's central bank is expected to lift its rates by 25 basis points on Tuesday, while the Bank of Canada is seen pausing having raised rates at a record pace of 425 basis points in 10 months.

Friday marks the final policy meeting for Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda before Kazuo Ueda takes the reins in April, and all eyes are on the fate of its yield curve control (YCC) stance.

"No change is expected but we should not completely rule out the chance of Kuroda going out with a bang via the BoJ announcing another tweak to the 0% YCC tolerance band," noted analysts at NAB in a note.

The BOJ jolted markets in December when it unexpectedly widened the allowed trading band for 10-year bond yields to between -50 and +50 basis points.

So far, Ueda has sounded dovish on the outlook for policy which has kept the yen on a softer trend. The dollar was last at 135.61 yen after touching a three-month peak of 137.10 last week.

The euro held at \$1.0643, just off its recent seven-week low of \$1.0533, while the dollar index was a fraction lower at 104.430.

Friday's pullback in bond yields helped gold recover some ground and it was trading at \$1,855 an ounce.

Oil prices dipped, with investors perhaps disappointed that China did not set itself more ambitious growth targets.

Brent eased 62 cents to \$85.21 a barrel, while US crude fell 59 cents to \$79.09 per barrel.



Increased palm oil farming to reduce cooking oil prices

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

CONSUMERS in Tanzania may see the prices of edible oil come down as the government has started its intensive engagement with local farmers in massive cultivation of palm oil in rich producing regions to end the costly importation of edible oils.

Currently, Tanzania is a net importer of around 400,000 tonnes of palm oil from Malaysia. The annual cooking oil demand is estimated at 600,000 tonnes. Under the move, the government has directed district and regional authorities and other leaders of political parties to use their platforms to spearhead the exercise so as to boost the production of crop to halt the importation of edible oil in the country.

The initiative also reinforces the engagements of palm oil stakeholders such as seedling producers, village leaders, financial institutions leaders, council leaders mostly in Kigoma Region which leads in palm cultivation.

Tanzania has for years been grappling with perennial shortage of cooking oil, thus sending a fluctuation of prices to go up in the local market whose great share is being dominated by imports at 70 percent level.

Data show Tanzania is spending a total of 500bn/- annually to import cooking oil. Despite being the leading among the EAC countries, it is very unfortunate to see that the country is lagging behind in terms of having investors for edible oil



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects Tanera palm oil seedlings developed by Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI). File photo

processing plants to enable increase the production in order to satisfy the local demand.

Annually the government spends around 470bn/- (US\$ 200 million) of its foreign reserve on importing assorted cooking oil brands from countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as from some neighboring countries within East African Community (EAC) regions.

Recent studies conducted by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) have established that, challenges such as poor farming technologies in the country has been hampering cooking oil production.

The study recommended that the government must in-

crease its commitment in promoting the production of edible oils in its rich production regions so as to stop spending foreign money to end massive imports.

Six months after the study, the government rolled out a strategic program aimed to empower smallholder farmers on agricultural crops into supporting edible oil production with the ultimate goals to ensure self-sufficiency and end the recurrent shortage of the essential commodity in the East African nation.

Under the program, the government vowed to transform the agricultural production of both palm crops and sunflower for being key oil produc-

ing plants in efforts to enable farmers have a wide choice of cultivation so as to ensure self-sufficiency.

To fast track the program, the government has set aside Tshs. 10 billion to be spent for financing production of palm oil crops and many others used for edible oil processing to farmers. The country's Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa said recently during stakeholders' meeting that, a strategic approach adopted by the government would end production bottlenecks which have become a cause of low production of edible oil in the country.

According to the premier, the initial step by the government intends to support potential

small, medium and large scale farmers from district to regional levels by motivating them so that they fully engage in cultivations.

The meeting was also aimed at discussing the challenges facing farmers' engagement in the cultivation of crop, and ways to ensure the country has a sufficient amount of palm oil a move that the country's Premier noted that would help the nation to avoid importing large amounts of edible oil.

The government's strategy in reviving the crop is meant to save huge foreign currency spent annually to import edible oil from outside the country, so as to meet the growing demand for local consumption.

Just-overhauled wine laboratory at Makutupora is ready for use

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has finalized the installation of the highly advanced technological machines, after general overhaul of its Makutupora wine processing laboratory.

The project which gobbled up to 398mn/-worth upon completion, places Tanzania on a better side to bridge the existing gap in the wine making sector and thus, enabling the country to start bottling advanced wine varieties that would compete highly in the world market.

Currently, Tanzania ranks second after South Africa for producing the best wines in Africa.

Procured from France, Italy and South Africa, the state-of-the-art wine bottling facilities are projected to enable the center (which is designated for research and promotion of grapes) to strengthen its research capacity, wine production and training farmers and wine makers on how best to

produce quality wine varieties. Speaking during an exclusive interview to The Guardian recently, the director of TARI Makutupora Centre, Dr. Cornel Massawe unveiled that the equipped lab was now ready for use and what is waited is to start receiving tenders from wine makers.

Apart from hailing the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) for financing the project, he observed: "Among others, the core target of the lab is to not only ensuring additional value chain for grape products, but also, to scale-up conduction of diverse wine research and trainings."

He asserted that installation of the world-best high-tech facilities at the famous center's lab was a serious milestone which will see the country stand at the helm of the continental wine making corridor in the near future, saying they have prepared to make effective use of the renovated facility.

Divulging more details, Dr. Masawe disclosed the lab has been installed with the latest digital wine making facilities,



worth around 200mn/- which include wine tank with capacity to absorb up to 10,000 liters, basket press, a crusher machine, a digital abullimeter for measuring wine quality, screw capping machine and wine pump. Others, according to him are the digital PH meter, digital refractometer as well as a special wine cooling unit.

"The lab also incorporates the modern walk-in solar drier to facilitate professional production of raisin (drying of grapes) and apart from generating wine varieties, we're determining to expand the use of grapes by producing other products, including raisins, jam as well as grape juice," the TARI Makutupora boss, Dr. Masawe observed.

The development will see grape farmers within the semi-

arid region effectively trained on how best to produce grape bulk juice, but also, all vital processes involved in wine making, from fermentation, packaging as well as professional preservation of wine.

"The introduction of the new technologies at the center will help to empower the grape farmers to produce grape fruits with needed sugar content and thus, fetching good prices for their produce," he expressed.

Principally, he observed that wine grapes required possessing from between 20 to 26 brixes of sugar content in order to produce best wine and with high alcohol of around 14percent.

Research has so far proved that grapes grown in Tanzania (Dodoma) are more wine-

worthy, in terms of good taste and aroma, than all other parts of the world where the crop is grown.

Though placed second after South Africa for brewing best wines within the continent, there are only two wine grape varieties grown in Tanzania, Makutupora Red and Chenin White, a situation which limits the country's ability to produce wider varieties of wines.

Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma region is currently with at least three major wine factories- Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CENTAWICO), and Dane Holding Company (DHC), and five other small scale plants scattered at different locations under ownership of farmer's associations.

GWI's data snapshot for January 2023

GWI's data for January 2023 is out - showcasing social media trends and behaviors across the world and specifically in Tanzania. Overall more people are using social media than ever before.

But why are they using these platforms and for what purposes is the greater questions that will help marketers understand and construct appropriate content for their brand for each of these platforms. Let us look at the most common platform's percentage of active users aged from 16 to 64 years of age.

Facebook - GWI tells us that the reason why people use this platform is for "MESSAGING FRIENDS AND FAMILY" and the reason over 3 billion people across the world use it, which still categorizes it as a social media platform, but don't get it wrong there are users that use it for other purposes as well. Such as posting pictures, comments and likes and following up on their friend's and family's posts.

TikTok - tells us that the majority of users go there for "FUN and ENTERTAINMENT". Well that's not

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mtatya

Founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics



new to us considering the platform is made up of short videos posted to amuse or keep people entertained whether it is dancing, or giving advice, or demonstrating etc. we will spend time watching. It is critical to also understand what motivates this usage.

Instagram - with over 2 billion monthly active users and the real reason why the majority spend their time here is to follow brands and for research purposes apart from posting content as the normal norm.

Twitter - need to keep up to date with current affairs and ongoing

news this is where you need to be. This is what 62.1 percent of their subscribers do based on GWI's data.

The State of Digital in Tanzania

The GWI and Data.ai report is vast and very detailed but here is a summary of the status ending January 2023 of the state of digital adoption (social media) and its use in Tanzania. Tanzania is home to 4.9 million social media users up to January 2023. Which is 7.4 percent of the total population.

A total of 57.42 million cellular mobiles connected which is 86.4 percent of the total population.

This is the state of digital in Tanzania, we do need to go a bit deeper to make sense of the digital trends and behaviors. At the time after this data collection 39.8 percent of social media users in Tanzania were females and 60.2 percent were males. Tanzania has a total population of 66.46 million people (GWI data) of which 50.6 percent are female and 49.4 percent are male.

As of January 2023, there were approximately 3.8 million Facebook users in Tanzania. For a more detailed analysis one can compare the usage base between the surrounding East African countries and Tanzania. Facebook's ad reach was equivalent to 18.1 percent of the total internet user base in Tanzania regardless of the age as of January 2023. Instagram's total ad reach of 3.7 percent of the total population visa vie the gender reach of 39.2 percent females compared to 60.8 percent males.

Compared to year 2022 reach, it decreased by 22.2 percent. Numbers published in Twitters resources shows that there are 594.8

thousand users in Tanzania as of early 2023 and twitter's ad reach was 0.9 percent of the population. Data also indicates that 12.8 percent of Twitter ad audiences for females was 12.8 percent and 87.2 percent for males.

Web traffic referrals from social media sites in Tanzania - Facebook is leading with 45.63 percent followed by Twitter with 21.73 percent. This is summarized data from the GWI and Data.ai sources for the popular platforms used in Tanzania.

Social Listening

Facebook is more of a platform for communicating, sharing and posting (social environment) so you may want to prioritize your ads more towards content that will inspire sharing and conversations between users, but also bear in mind the user segmentation dynamics. For users that share their interests and passion more often Instagram is where a marketer should be.

It is a great place for brands to learn about the users. For fun and

entertaining content TikTok is where you want to be, despite not yet being too popular in Tanzania but it is the third most popular platform globally. As a marketer keep in mind how you will craft your content and message.

There is no need to be on all platforms, but you can use more than one platform need be. You will see better results if you tailor your content and approach to specific behaviors and motivations of your audience that relate to each platform.

Individually, each platform has its own takeaway and its own value, but when you look at the differences between these behaviours and motivations.

The fundamental finding becomes more clear: users or people visit each platform to get a different kind of value and they do so at different times and for different reasons.

Conclusion, put behaviors and motivations at the core of your digital marketing plan! Alley Mtatya is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics

Kibowavi's marketing project transforms the lives of entrepreneurs

By Correspondent Deus

Bugaywa

Bertha Mwaipopo had a dream for success; but she didn't have the sense of how it would work out into reality.

To her, it seemed very far-fetched dream; until she joined the Kibowavi project.

Kibowavi, a Kiswahili short form for empowering women and youth in horticulture production and marketing, is a project supervised by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation under European Union (EU) funded program, Agri-Connect, aspiring to contribute towards inclusive economic growth, promote private sector development and job creation in the horticulture sector and increase food security and nutrition in the southern highlands of Tanzania.

In 2018, Mwaipopo set on a spice processing business to make a livelihood, like many small business entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

However, she faced several challenges including lack of essential entrepreneurial skills, limited awareness of the regulations and standards, lack of financial support, poor understanding of consumer needs and weak networking.

Under Kibowavi project, she went through numerous training on entrepreneurship, processing and marketing skills, before being introduced to Mbeya Food Processing Park, which was a game changer for her career.

"Formerly I was doing pure subsistence activity. I had a very limited knowledge on what I was doing. I used to park 20 to 50 packets of spices per day and struggling for the market. After Kibowavi introduced us to Mbeya Food Processing Park, everything changed for better," she said during an interview with The Guardian.

Mbeya Food Processing Park (MFPP) is a strategic project conceived and financed by the Mbeya City Council and HELVETAS Tanzania under the KIBOWAVI project.

It aims at addressing the problem of insufficient value addition to the Tanzanian horticultural products, by equipping small scale processors in Mbeya, with the necessary processing and marketing capacity.

It is now contributing



Bertha Mwaipopo displays some of her products

greatly in enhancing the targeted processors' incomes and stimulates the overall regional economy across horticulture value chain.

The Mbeya Food Processing Park supervisor, Suzan Julius said the park is playing significant role in maintaining the quality and nutrients of the processed food and thus making consumers of their product gain all the nutritional value of the products.

"Our role is ensuring quality without contamination of the food we process here to maintain the nutritional value of all the food that passes through our park," the supervisor said.

She said the park processes horticultural products, and urges all farmers around Mbeya and beyond to use the park for processing their foods, instead doing it locally.

"We have taken all necessary measures by using the technology we have, from receiving the products, cleaning, drying, storage and processing. We all do this professionally, so that we can maintain quality and avoid food waste," she explained.

The park has turned Mwaipopo, a mother of three, has graduated from a petty

trader into the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lintu Product and General Supply, which is processing 16 types of spices, with the capacity of producing 2,000 pieces of each product per week.

"The market is now expanding I now have customers beyond Mbeya. I supply to Katavi, Songwe, Mwanza, Arusha, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam and many of my clients are super markets and groceries," she says.

"Thanks to Kibowavi project as it has opened the world for me and I am leading a comfortable and quality life. I have managed to put my kids in best schools and the elder one is pursuing an undergraduate degree at Mzumbe University, Mbeya Campus," she said.

Located at the old Mbeya Airport in Lyela ward, the Mbeya Food Processing Park is equipped with buildings, milling machines, washing, drying and storage facilities, laboratory as well as a spacious super market.

Its existence gives huge industrial and entrepreneurial support to small and medium processors engaging in processing of horticultural crops, with shared high

standard machinery and other supporting facilities.

"The park enables small and medium producers and entrepreneur improve quality of their products, comply with food safety standards, expand their businesses and access local, regional and international markets through common marketing," says Daniel Kalimbiya the program director, Helvetas Tanzania.

Kalimbiya says the park is serving as a platform for training and learning on various processing, packaging and marketing techniques, business management and strategies. It also enables easy access to the dedicated group of processors at one location by various government and non-government institutions for consultation and other engagements.

"The standardized processing environment will warranty certification by quality standards bodies in the country like Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and others thus enhancing marketability within local and foreign markets", adds Kalimbiya.

In order to complement the food park and fulfill the intended mission, the Kibowavi project launched out into the deep by building capacity for farmers on good agricultural practices, climate smart agriculture and post-harvest management, where 21,334 farmers were trained surpassing the target of 15,000.

Others were trained on organic farming, where 78 were trained, while the target was 50 farmers.

On processing standards, 132 were trained out of 150 targeted farmers while the nutrition sensitive practices attracted 280 trains exceeding the 250 target and 16,478 farmers were capacitated.

According to him, on access to finance, group management and business management skills beneficiaries went beyond the targeted 15,000.

Together with government efforts and other intervention like Kibowavi project, there have been significant changes in the region especially on improved nutrition because of food diversification and behavior change that lead to reduction of stunts amongst children.

According to Tanzania Healthy Demographic Survey 2022/2023, Mbeya has reduced stunts from 37.7 percent to 31.5 percent, Songwe from 37.7 percent to 31 percent while Katavi managed to lessen stunting from 38.8 percent to 32.2 percent.

Oil prices decrease on China economic outlook

SINGAPORE

OIL prices slipped on Monday after China set a lower-than-expected target for economic growth this year at around 5 percent and as investors cautiously awaited US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's testimony this week.

Brent crude futures were trading down 53 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$85.30 a barrel at 0735 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were also down 0.6 percent at \$79.21.

"Crude remains in a tug-of-war between optimism over Chinese reopening and nervousness over a hawkish Fed hurting the US economy," said Vandana Hari, founder of oil market analysis provider Vanda Insights.

China's closely watched growth outlook, announced on Sunday, was lower than its 5.5 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth target last year. GDP grew last year by just 3 percent. Policy sources had told Reuters a range as high as 6 percent could be set for 2023.

Premier Li Keqiang said

on Sunday the foundation for stable growth in China needed to be consolidated, insufficient demand remained a pronounced problem, and the expectations of private investors and businesses were unstable.

However, analysts at UBS Investment Bank upgraded their forecasts for China's GDP growth to 5.4 percent for 2023 and to 5.2 percent for 2024 from 4.9 percent and 4.8 percent respectively.

"Economic re-opening is proceeding better than we had expected earlier - the feared 'second-wave' of COVID did not materialize and there was little sign of supply disruptions," Tao Wang, Head of China economic research at UBS Investment Bank, said in a note.

Both crude benchmarks settled more than \$1 higher on Friday after two sources told Reuters a report that the United Arab Emirates was considering leaving OPEC was inaccurate.

Hari said the rebound was bigger than the slump on the original news and put crude prices in "over-

bought territory, so (it's) hardly surprising that prices are correcting downwards this morning".

At the same time, oil prices are likely to be impacted by rate hikes across the world as global central banks tighten policy over fears of increasing inflation.

Traders have started factoring in rate hikes across the world, but are hoping for smaller increases than last year.

The United States Federal Reserve's Chair Jerome Powell will testify to Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday, where he will likely be quizzed on whether larger hikes are needed in the world's largest oil consuming country.

The United States' future rate hikes are also likely to depend on what the February payrolls report reveals on Friday, followed by the February inflation report due next week.

Over the weekend, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said it was "very likely" they would raise interest rates this month to keep a lid on inflation.

CURRENT NEWS



Sahara Energy employees join environmental sustainability efforts for real

SINGAPORE

Volunteering and partnerships can help ensure an effective response to the challenges posed by climate change across the globe. This is according to Yomi Benson, CEO of Sahara Energy International Pte Limited, Singapore.

Benson, who spoke at the weekend during a beach clean-up operation embarked on by employee volunteers at the Punggol Promenade Nature Walk in Corney Island, Singapore, said all stakeholders must be involved in the task of keeping planet earth sustainable for all.

He said Sahara Energy employees were delighted to join the initiative as volunteers in collaboration with the National Environment Authority, which is vested with the responsibility of managing the park located off the coast of Punggol in northeastern Singapore.

"Sahara Energy here in Singapore is replicating the commitment of our parent company, Sahara Group, towards promoting environmental sustainability across our locations," said.

He added: "The sheer amount of trash, including plastic bottles and bags we have retrieved today, is mind-boggling. We know they are very harmful to the marine ecosystem and we all have a collective duty to protect our aquatic habitats," he said.

Benson said that the volunteering gave Sahara Singapore employees an opportunity to raise awareness on the need for people to stop littering the beach, adding that it also reinforced Sahara's belief in the critical role of volunteering and partnerships in achieving sustainable development.

"The well-being of the planet we call home can only be safeguarded when we all get involved and join forces," he noted, adding: "Volunteering is a way of life for us at Sahara and we will continue to seek ways of contributing to making the world cleaner, safer and energized responsibly for the benefit of future generations."

Chweeyin Tan, Finance Manager, meanwhile urged beachgoers to dispose of trash responsibly, while Marc Ong, Trader, said people are duty-bound to work towards keeping the environment clean, regardless of where they live.

"They are oceans and not dustbins," administrative officer Nicole Ng stated.

Sahara Energy International Pte Ltd (SIL) is a Sahara Group company established to develop the energy conglomerate's oil and gas trading business in the East of Suez and Far East markets in Asia.

Sahara Singapore has been active in Asia since its inception in 2008, further extending its energy trading reach into the APAC region.

This has been largely by focusing on South-East Asia markets such as Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Japan, Vietnam, Myanmar, Brunei, Singapore, Bangladesh, Philippines, Hong Kong, and China markets, respectively.

Sahara Singapore is a recipient of numerous certificates of appreciation from various bodies in recognition to the company's corporate citizenship interventions, majorly targeted at children.

It has made donations to several children-based charities and homes including, Children Wishing Well, Club Rainbow, and Chen Su Lan Melodist Home. These donations greatly benefit children in homes where they enjoy a nurturing environment, protection from harm, secure emotional ties, and education.

Sahara Energy Singapore is a member of the Sahara Group, a leading energy and infrastructure conglomerate with operations in over 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.



Volunteers collect waste materials at a park

By Rebecca Lake

As you invest for retirement, becoming a millionaire might be a reasonable goal. Yes, millionaire status is no longer rarefied air, and depending on your income needs, having at least \$1 million in the bank might be necessary to last you through retirement.

So let's say you've gotten to a point where you've got \$100,000 saved. Can you turn that into \$1 million? The short answer is that it's possible, but it won't happen overnight. If you're interested in maximizing your investment returns, consider working with a financial advisor. The steps below are a great place to start.

1. Assess your starting point.

The first step in growing \$100,000 into \$1 million is taking stock of where you are right now. If you've got at least \$100,000 to invest you might be doing pretty well in the savings department.

But you should also take into account things like how much debt you have your income and earning potential and your overall financial goals.

Also, you should be tuned into your time horizon for investing.

2. Gauge your risk tolerance.

Risk tolerance and risk capacity are two factors to consider as you determine your investing approach. Generally, taking on more risk brings the potential to earn higher returns. But you're also accepting a higher potential for losses.

That's what risk tolerance is - how much risk you're comfortable with. Risk capacity, on the other hand, is the amount of risk that's necessary for you to meet your goals. Knowing how the two balance one another out is important to determine which investments you'll use to turn your \$100,000 into \$1 million.

Cash, bonds and certificates of deposit, for example, are all safe investments. The potential to lose money is usually very low. But you're not going to see spectacular growth from those investments. Stocks, on the other hand, can deliver much better returns, especially if you're investing in small-cap companies with great potential for growth.

3. Run the numbers.

The next step in reaching \$1 million in investment wealth is doing some math using different scenarios. Specifically, there are three things to keep in mind here: how much you can add to your invest-



How to turn \$100,000 into \$1 million through investing

ments monthly; how long you have to invest; and the rate of return your investments will earn.

So, let's say you're 35 years old and plan to retire at age 65. You have \$100,000 to invest in the market thanks to a combination of diligent saving and receiving an inheritance windfall. You have an additional \$100 per month to invest over the next 30 years.

Using SmartAsset's investment calculator, your initial investment would grow to just over \$930,000, assuming a 7% rate of return.

That's not bad! But you can't necessarily count on a 7% rate of return, and even that assumption puts you around \$70,000 short of your \$1 million goal. So how can you bump up your odds of hitting your goal?

There are two approaches you could take. The first is increasing the amount you invest monthly. Bumping up your monthly contributions to \$200 would put you over the \$1 million mark.

The other option would be to try to exceed a 7% annual return with your investments. That's harder to do, and trying to "beat the market" could leave you with losses if you're not as good at picking investments as

you thought.

4. Allocate your assets wisely.

Whether you have a shorter or longer window for growing your investments to \$1 million, it's important to be mindful of asset allocation. This simply means the balance of assets in your portfolio and how those correspond in terms of risk and return.

How you allocate assets may depend largely on whether you prefer an active or passive investment strategy. If you're a more active, hands-on investor then you may want to spend more time trading individual stocks, mutual funds or exchange-traded funds to try and get the best returns. On the other hand, if you prefer to be more hands-off you might be focused on investing in passive mutual funds, such as index funds.

The key with both is to stay on top of your asset allocation, rather than just setting and forgetting it. That means rebalancing periodically to make sure your asset allocation is on track to meet your goals. For example, if you're aiming for an 80% to 20% split of stocks to bonds, you'd need to check your portfolio at least once a year to make sure you're not

drifting too far away from those numbers.

5. Minimize taxes and fees.

While you might focus exclusively on growth when it comes to how to invest \$100,000 to make \$1 million, don't forget that there's another side to the coin. Keeping your investment costs and tax liability as low as possible are crucial for hanging on to more of your investment returns.

In terms of taxes, your tax liability is often determined by whether you're investing in a taxable brokerage account versus a tax-advantaged retirement account, as well as how long you hold investments. In a tax-advantaged account, such as a 401(k) or IRA, you're deferring taxes on investment growth until you make withdrawals in retirement. A Roth IRA would allow for tax-free distributions in retirement.

With taxable accounts, you pay short-term or long-term capital gains tax on investment gains, depending on how long you hold the investment. The long-term capital gains tax rate applies to investments held longer than one year and it's generally the more favorable of the two.

By Guardian Correspondent

Halotel supports Kisutu girls-led blood donation campaign



Halotel Tanzania's head of marketing, Sakina Makabu (5th L front row), presents various items including t-shirts, foodstuffs, soft drinks and snacks to the Kisutu Girls' Secondary School headmistress Ms Chiku Mhando, during the launch of the blood donation campaign held at the school premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Centre with black t-shirt is the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute public relations officer Patrick Mvungi and others are students. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

initiating this exercise is also a gesture of company's love to Tanzanians who are also its customers".

The blood donation campaign is expected to attract more than 40 schools that will bring an estimated 2,000 students.

She noted that the Company's policy on the CSR it is not only business-oriented but also cares about giving back to the community as part of supporting the government's efforts in improving people's welfare in different sectors.

According to Ms Sakina, during this year, the company mainly focuses on supporting efforts in both health and education sectors.

Speaking during the event yesterday, MOI Public Relations Officer Patrick Mvungi said the institute was pleased with the response from Halotel to facilitate Kisutu girls' blood donation campaign.

"This shows how Halotel Tanzania endlessly values the health of citizens and the efforts being made in improving health sector in the

country. This is a big step for us towards further strengthening cooperation with Halotel in improving the health sector," he stated.

The Kisutu girls' Secondary School headmistress, Ms Chiku Mhando, thanked the Halotel for being the sponsor of the important event.

She appealed to other individuals, companies and different institutions to come forward to donate blood to address shortage of blood in the national blood bank.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Nine years on, families urge new search for missing MH370

KUALA LUMPUR

FAMILIES of those on board Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which disappeared mysteriously nine years ago, called on the Malaysian government on Sunday to allow US seabed exploration firm Ocean Infinity to mount a new search for the missing plane.

The fate of flight MH370 became one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries when it disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014.

In 2018, Malaysia engaged Ocean Infinity to search for the aircraft in the southern Indian Ocean, offering to pay

up to \$70 million if it found the plane. But its operation came up short.

The firm's search came after Malaysia, China and Australia ended a fruitless two-year, \$200 million (\$135.36 million) underwater hunt in January 2017 after finding no trace of the plane.

On Sunday, Voice370 - a grouping of relatives of those aboard the plane - said Ocean Infinity hoped to embark on a new search as early as this summer and urged the Malaysian government to accept any proposals from the firm on a conditional fee basis, such that the firm would only be paid if successful.

"Ocean Infinity, over the last 12 months have made real progress work-



In this file photo taken on March 3, 2019, a volunteer gives out balloons printed with MH370 during a Day of Remembrance for MH370 event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (PHOTO / AP)

ing with many people to further understand... the events in 2014," Voice370 said in a statement, following a memorial event to mark the ninth year since MH370's disappearance.

"Ultimately, this has greatly improved their chances of conducting a successful search."

Ocean Infinity and Malaysia's transport ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But in a message to families read out at the memorial event, Transport Minister Anthony Loke vowed not to "close the book" on MH370,

adding that due consideration would be given to future searches if there was "new and credible information" on the aircraft's potential location.

Debris confirmed or believed to be from the MH370 aircraft was washed up along the African coast and on islands in the Indian Ocean.

Malaysian investigators previously drew no conclusion about what happened aboard the flight, but did not rule out the possibility that the aircraft had been deliberately taken off course.

Agencies

Tunisian president denies racism accusation

TUNIS

TUNISIA'S president denounced racism on Sunday and pointed to possible legal consequences for perpetrators 10 days after announcing a crackdown on illegal migration using language the African Union condemned as "racialized hate speech".

During a statement on Feb 21 telling security forces to expel all illegal immigrants, President Kais Saied called migration a conspiracy to change Tunisia's demographics by making it more African and less Arab.

Police detained hundreds of migrants, landlords summarily evicted hundreds from their homes and hundreds of others were fired from work, rights groups say.

Many migrants said they had been attacked, including being pelted with stones by gangs of youths in their neighborhoods, and rights groups said police had been slow to respond to such assaults.

While Saied denied racism in a statement on Feb 23, he repeated



People take part in a protest against president Kais Saied policies, in Tunis, Tunisia, on Sunday. (PHOTO / AP)

his view of immigration as a demographic plot. Before Sunday, Saied had not publicly warned of any legal consequences for the attacks.

In Sunday's statement he described the accusations of racism as a campaign against the country "from known sources", without elaborating.

But he added that Tunisia was honored to be an African country and announced a relaxation of visa rules for African citizens, al-

lowing stays of up to six months instead of three without seeking residency, and of a year for students.

He said migrants who had overstayed could leave without penalty after many of those authorities sought to deport had proven unable to pay fines for late stays.

He painted his crackdown on illegal migration as being a campaign against human trafficking and pointed to a law passed in 2018 against discrimination to say that any verbal or physical attacks on foreigners would be prosecuted. Opposition parties and rights groups have said Saied's crackdown on immigrants, which coincided with arrests of senior opposition figures, was aimed at distracting from Tunisia's economic crisis.

Saied seized most powers in 2021, shutting down the elected parliament, moving to rule by decree and rewriting the constitution, steps his foes including the main political parties call a coup.

He has said his actions were legal and needed to save Tunisia from chaos. **Agencies**

Sydney swelters through autumn heatwave, bushfire threat looms

SYDNEY

PARTS of Australia's east including Sydney recorded their hottest day in more than two years yesterday with temperatures hitting more than 40 C, raising the risk of bushfires.

Firefighters are working to contain nearly 40 bushfires across New South Wales, the home state of one-third of Australians, with crews on the ground supported by aircraft.

One fire near Mudgee, more than 250 kms northwest of Sydney, is at emergency warning level. Emergency crews urged residents there to seek shelter as it was too late to leave.

Total fire bans are now in place for multiple regions across most of New South Wales, while 35 public schools, mostly in inland regions, have been closed due to the severe heat.



"If a fire does start, it's going to be burning under those difficult conditions... (it's) harder for our firefighters to get around them, and fire can spread very quickly, particularly in grassland," Angela Burford, operational of-

ficer at the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Dry thunderstorms are also possible across eastern NSW, leading to conditions that could see lightning ignite new fires, the Bureau of

Meteorology said. The hot and dry conditions are likely to persist until Wednesday.

Penrith, a suburb in western Sydney, recorded 40.1 C on Monday afternoon - the hottest day since Jan 26, 2021 - while some inland towns reached nearly 41 C.

Australia's east coast has been dominated by the La Nina weather phenomenon - typically associated with increased rainfall - over the last two years, which brought record rains and widespread flooding. In 2022, Sydney recorded its highest annual rainfall since records began in 1858.

But the weather bureau last week said its climate models suggest La Nina was "likely near its end" and neutral conditions, which is neither La Nina or its opposite El Nino, were likely to prevail through the southern hemisphere autumn.

Prince Harry 'invited to King Charles's coronation'

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry and his wife Meghan have received an invitation to his father King Charles's coronation but will not yet confirm publicly whether they will attend, a spokesperson for Harry said on Sunday.

Preparations for the event in May have been overshadowed by the couple's damning revelations about the King, Harry's elder brother Prince William and other royals in his recent memoir, a Netflix documentary and a series of TV interviews.

His recent high-profile and stinging criticism of his family had led to speculation over whether Harry, who stepped down from royal duties in 2020, would be invited to the coronation and, if he was, whether he would attend.

"I can confirm The Duke has recently received email correspondence from His Majesty's office regarding the coronation," a spokesperson for Harry said.

"An immediate decision on whether The Duke and Duchess will attend will not be disclosed by us at this time."

Buckingham Palace is yet to respond to a request for comment. **Agencies**



Britain's King Charles III (R) walks with his son Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex as they arrive at St George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle on Sept 19, 2022, ahead of the Committal Service for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. (PHOTO / AFP)

Burundi troops arrive in DR Congo - army

GOMA

THE first contingent of Burundian soldiers arrived Sunday in Goma, the capital of North Kivu province in north-east Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), under the mandate of the regional forces of the East African Community (EAC).

General Emmanuel Kaputa Kasenga, deputy commander of the East African contingent who greeted the Burundian soldiers arriving at the Goma International Airport, said the Burundian troops are set to end the violence in eastern DRC.

Last year, the EAC member countries set up a regional force to end the activism of armed groups, particularly the advance of the rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23).

Xinhua

US forces EU to finance Kiev regime, but incurs lower costs - Russian official

MOSCOW

THE United States is forcing European countries to finance the Kiev regime to the detriment of its citizens, but Washington itself allocates only 0.37% of its share of GDP for these purposes, Chairman of the Russian State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) Vyacheslav Volodin wrote in his Telegram channel on Sunday.

"The US is forcing European countries to fund the Kiev regime at the expense of their own citizens' well-being. However, as it turns out, they incur far lower costs than others. In terms of the cost of maintaining the Kiev regime, the United States ranks 12th, accounting for 0.37% of GDP," Volodin (pictured) stated.

According to him, this is 5.7-fold less than militarization and regime maintenance costs by Poland at 2.1% of GDP. "Estonia, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Malta, Norway, Romania, and Cyprus are putting pressure on Washington to increase spending," Volodin added. He emphasized that Washington has once again showed that "the main principle of its policy is to use other countries to pursue its interests."

"Furthermore, the EU countries bear additional costs as a result of anti-Russian sanctions, which have destabilized their economies.

The total amount of support for Europe's energy industry reached 570 bln euro. It cost Germany 7.2% of GDP," Volodin said, emphasizing that "EU leaders are acting contrary to national interests at the expense of European citizens" by continuing to supply weapons to Kiev.



Residents in northern Lebanon fear homes collapse after massive earthquake

BEIRUT

IN the past weeks since the massive earthquake hit Türkiye and Syria on Feb. 6, Ebtisam Antar, a mother of two children in Lebanon neighboring Syria, goes to bed every night with intense fear that the roof of her 50-year-old house may fall over her head.

She told Xinhua that the quake on Feb. 6 caused cracks in the wall of her balcony before another one two days later led to more fissures in her daughter's bedroom.

"I was scared to death, so I moved from the house on Feb. 6 with my two kids. But I had to return 20 days later

because I can't stay at my brother's crowded house forever," said Antar, who lives in a poor neighborhood in the northern Mediterranean city of Tripoli.

The situation is even worse for Mustafa el-Wahesh, as the quake added new cracks in the iron columns of his 50-year-old building which has long been severely troubled by its poor sewage systems.

"My family and I are so scared that we sleep with our clothes on," el-Wahesh told Xinhua.

"But I could not even leave the house as I have nowhere to go," the father of two lamented.

Antar and el-Wahesh's plight reveals the fragility of aging buildings in Tripoli because of decades of neglect, especially after the deadly earthquake that killed over 47,000 in Syria and Türkiye.

Even before the 2019 financial collapse, residents in the Mediterranean impoverished Lebanese city lacked the financial resources to maintain their buildings.

Mohammad Dabab, a third resident in Tripoli, said his building was "dancing right and left" during the earthquake and he can still feel it moving even if there is no quake.

"Walls and iron columns cracked.

Architects who came to check our building said the situation is dangerous," he told Xinhua.

The Order of Engineers and Architects in Tripoli has visited and checked the buildings damaged by the earthquake in the northern Lebanese city, hoping to submit a report to authorities for support for the buildings at risk of collapse, explained Fadi Obeid, an engineer and member of the local organization.

Hundreds of complaints are now filed every day by residents in Tripoli who worry about the safety of their homes, according to Obeid and Ahmad Amareddine, the head of

Tripoli's municipality.

Amareddine told Xinhua that about 700 to 800 buildings in Tripoli were cracked at different degrees even before the earthquake but are not at risk of collapse in the absence of new natural disasters.

He puts the number of constructions at risk of collapse from the recent earthquake at 20, while Obeid believes the real figure is much higher through the field visits by the teams of his organization.

Mohamad Kheir, the secretary general of the Higher Relief Committee in Lebanon, told Xinhua that the government plans to provide hous-

ing allowances for owners whose houses risk collapsing from the earthquake.

Last month, the Order of Engineers and Architects of Tripoli, in cooperation with the Association of Arab Architects based in the capital Beirut, issued a series of recommendations during a conference held in the city, where conferees agreed on the urgency to launch a survey of cracked buildings in Tripoli that pose a threat to public safety, calling on the authorities to secure funding dedicated to restoring and strengthening those buildings.

Xinhua

Russia signs memorandum on development of coal energy sector in Afghanistan – envoy

MOSCOW

ENTREPRENEURS from Russia's Tatarstan Region signed a memorandum on development of the coal thermal power sector in Afghanistan, Russian Ambassador to Afghanistan Dmitry Zhirnov said in an interview for IZVESTIA published yesterday.



"One month ago, businessmen from the Republic of Tatarstan signed a memorandum on development of the coal thermal power sector in Afghanistan in Kabul. It is a trilateral project with Iran and Pakistan," he said.

The envoy noted that Russian pipe producers are ready to join the construction of the Afghan part of the gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India. Earlier, Russian companies ensured quality construction of the Turkmen part of this pipeline.

In addition, Russian engineers inspected Kabul boiler houses, heating networks, water supply systems, power substations and prepared a plan for restoration of the utility system. Russian experts also participate in the technical group on construction of a railway from Uzbekistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan.

"A project on establishment of modern medical laboratories for the public in Afghan cities is being prepared. Our businessmen may also take part in the modernization of the Salang tunnel. The business council on cooperation with Afghanistan is also at work," Zhirnov told IZVESTIA.

All this affects the trade volume between Russia and Afghanistan. According to the envoy, the trade volume between the two countries has increased by 40% in one year.

"The cooperation in the economy goes on, it is market-driven, based on commercial contracts. Our approach implies that this cooperation must be mutually beneficial, and interesting for the business circles from the return standpoint," Zhirnov noted, answering a question regarding a proposal put forth by an Afghan minister to exchange Russian oil for Afghan minerals.

Despite tensions, Morocco looks to maintain ties with EU

RABAT

ON January 23, Morocco's parliament held a session dedicated to discussing and responding to the recent European Parliament resolution against the country, at the end of which Moroccan MPs called unanimously for re-evaluating the parliamentary ties between Brussels and Rabat.

The EU resolution, which condemned Morocco for alleged abuses against human rights and freedom of speech, was received negatively by various Moroccan institutions who branded it as an attempt to unjustly interfere in the country's affairs.

Since the start of 2023, Morocco's relations with some parties in Europe and the EU's lawmaking body has been marked with tensions: from the European Parliament resolution, to continuing tensions with France over the ongoing visa crisis, its rapprochement with Algeria and Tunisia, and Western Sahara dispute.

Regardless, one sentiment has persisted throughout the ordeal, as Moroccan politicians during the parliament sessions stressed the importance of maintaining relations with EU parties that did not approve of the hostile resolution.

More specifically, the Party of Authenticity and Modernity's representative Ahmed Touzi thanked Spain's socialists for not voting on the resolution. This, he argued, showed some EU countries' commitment to further developing their friendly relations with Morocco.

Even as the hostile resolution widened a perceived rift between Morocco and the EU, both parties have appeared to be willing to continue their diplomatic relations.

The EU has particularly seemed poised to remain a key Moroccan partner in trade and cooperation, despite the North African country's diversification of its international partnerships.

Towards the end of January, as tensions over the European Parliament resolution were still high, Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita held a phone call with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Policy, Oliver Varhelyi.

The ministry described the call as "productive and constructive," and announced that Varhelyi would be visiting the North African country in late February.

The call and the announcement of the visit's timing were hard to miss, as they constituted a strong indication that the country was determined to develop its ties with the EU despite the tensions.

Furthermore, the visit itself - coming at the start of March instead of the originally announced date - saw the signing of several cooperation agreements in the fields of social protection, agriculture, financial inclusion, public administration reform, and migration.

These programs, covering sectors that are considered priorities for both Morocco and the EU, came in the tune of €500 million (MAD 5.5 billion). This is in addition to the expected adoption of new programs under the 2022 annual action plan for Morocco worth over €100 million.

The increased cooperation could signal the country's continuing relations with the European body despite lingering hostilities in some EU quarters. Further evidence of the two parties' desire to maintain their relationship is the announcement of more visits to Morocco by EU officials, including one by a large Austrian delegation to Morocco on March 28.

The North African country could also be drawing a line between its cooperation with the EU, and how it plans to deal with the European countries and parties that it sees as hostile or uncooperative, namely France.

From the Moroccan point of view, the increased cooperation and new programs also send a message to the parties that are alleged to be behind the hostility, that any attempts to undermine the relations between the country and the

Why does China's 'two sessions' matter to the world?

BEIJING

IT is China's annual "two sessions" time again. In the following week or so, for anyone interested in observing and understanding China, the political event is something they don't want to miss.

I am an American who has been living in China for four decades. From my point of view, the "two sessions" is an important window to learn about China's current development, understand China's political system and forecast its future path.

During this period, foreigners can find out what hot topics are being discussed on the ground, which issues concern Chinese leaders the most, what development objectives have been set, how China interacts with other countries, etc.

The "two sessions" refers to the annual sessions of China's National People's Congress and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. They are known as the country's top legislature and national political advisory body, respectively.

The "two sessions" is a platform on which different regions and groups voice their opinions and reach a consensus. Lawmakers submit motions and suggestions, while political advisors offer proposals and insights.

The origins of many significant laws, regulations and policies that concern various sectors and groups - such as those in the areas from environmental protection to poverty alleviation, from education to health care, from urban issues to rural issues - were in the motions and proposals handed by lawmakers and political advisors to the "two sessions." The "two



The opening meeting of the first session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. (Xinhua/Zhai Jianlan)

sessions" also works as a platform that facilitates the resolution of practical problems faced by ordinary Chinese, such as building roads in the countryside, easing extracurricular burdens on students, and protecting the rights of deliverymen, among others.

China is the world's second largest economy after the United States. To some extent, to observe China's "two sessions" is actually to observe Chinese economy.

One of the major tasks of the "two sessions" is to map out China's annual economic development, set the growth target, and announce macroeconomic policies. And a document called the government work report gives answers to all of them. Although the prospects for the global economy may not look bright this year.

China has expressed its confidence by saying that the country's economy will "expect an upturn on the whole, and there is a high probability that the growth rate will hit its normal level."

Many of my foreign friends, including those living in the United States, are closely watching what economic target the Chinese government will set for 2023, and what policies and measures will be taken accordingly.

The Chinese economy has grown so titanic and so intertwined with the rest of the world that we can't talk about

the prospects of the world economy without talking about China. I've heard some Americans argue for decoupling from the Chinese economy, but I think it will come at a great cost.

The fact is that China is the world's most promising market, with a middle-income population of over 400 million. Some agencies predicted that this middle-income group will surpass 800 million in the next 15 years, which is definitely an astonishing figure. Recently I noticed that the IMF lifted its forecast of China's economic growth rate for 2023 to 5.2 percent.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said it is highly likely that China's development will be the most important factor in driving global growth in 2023. You would agree with this point if you have seen Beijing's packed restaurants, shopping malls and cinemas.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the country's ruling political party, was convened in October last year. The key congress stressed "to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization."

As this year marks the first year of this new journey, the new measures that will be unveiled at the "two sessions" not only matter to China, but to other countries as well. I am also

attracted to topics on China's rural areas. I have been to China's countryside many times.

After China announced that it eliminated absolute poverty in 2021, I am eager to find out what on earth has happened in the countryside and how it will get better in the future.

That is, how will China push forward its rural revitalization? In the past decades, especially in the past ten years, great transformations have happened in China's rural areas, which may shed light on the path of narrowing the rich-poor gap for other countries. After living in China for such a long time, one thing that I can't ignore is the bluer sky and clearer water. Green development is transforming China.

China has been striving to develop new energy industries such as photovoltaics and wind energy after it announced ambitious plans to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Since China has become a world leader in tackling climate change, its future efforts to support new energy development are without doubt under the world's spotlight.

In fact, any changes that happen in China will affect other countries directly or indirectly. It is no exaggeration to say that for many American multinational corporations, they have to take Chinese consumers and policies into consideration before making any big decisions.

And the "two sessions" is a key opportunity to find out valuable information.

Xinhua

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area sees solid development over past four years

A series of policies have been rolled out and implemented since the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) was released four years ago, deepening the synergistic development of rules and mechanisms in the three areas and taking the GBA into a new era of high-quality development.

Recently, the first national-level science park for future industries in the GBA was launched, which focuses on the development of frontier technologies such as electronic technology, biomedicine and futuristic automobiles.

Mainland cities in the GBA have started piloting a new policy of issuing endorsements for six categories of talents working in the mainland. Holders of the travel endorsement can travel to and from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Macao SAR unlimited times within the validity period.

Besides, Hengqin and Qianhai, two cooperation zones in Zhuhai and Shenzhen, two mainland cities in the GBA, have each released 30 measures to boost financial cooperation, which cover a wide range of aspects from financial market interconnection and promotion of cross-boundary trade to strengthening financial supervision.

Visions in the Outline Development Plan for the GBA have been turned into reality over the past four years.

Hong Kong is writing a new chapter of transitioning from stability to prosperity and telling the world about new stories of its development. Macao is striving to develop an appropriately diversified economy and working to further speed up development. The nine mainland cities in the GBA reported total foreign trade of 7.94 trillion yuan (\$1.15 trillion) last year, which accounted for 95.6 percent of Guangdong's total.

As of the end of 2022, the aggregated economic volume of the GBA neared 13 trillion yuan, increased by 3 trillion yuan since 2017. The number of permanent GBA residents exceeded 86 million, people's sense of gain, satisfaction and happiness has enriched.

As technologies, talents and industries in the GBA are seeing better and better integrated development, a world-class bay area that features infinite possibilities and huge vitality is taking shape.

Recently, Chief Executive of the HKSAR John Lee paid visits to multiple cities including Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Macao, during which he said the HKSAR will join



Photo shows the Qianhai & Shekou Area of Shenzhen, China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone in south China's Guangdong province. (Photo by Wang Meiyuan/People's Daily Online)

hands with other GBA cities for closer cooperation in major sectors such as sci-tech development, finance, trade as well as culture and tourism.

Guangdong province has always been following the requests of the central government and doing its best to contribute to the GBA and meet the demand of the Hong Kong and Macao SARs.

With concerted and coordinated efforts, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao have taken solid steps toward building a world-class bay area and a world-class city cluster.

Over the past four years, the three areas have constantly promoted "hard connectivity" of infrastructure, "soft connectivity" of institutions and rules, as well as "heart-to-heart connectivity" among GBA residents, enhancing the appeal of the GBA.

A quality living circle with excellent public services for living, working and travelling is in the formation. The three areas of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao share similar cultures and enjoy strong social cohesion. The prospering development of key and core industries, vitality and good livelihood are new signatures of the GBA today.

A "one-hour transport circle" has been established in the GBA upon the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Shenzhen-Zhongshan Bridge, the Huangmaohai sea-crossing Bridge and the Shiziyang Channel will form a "golden corridor" in the GBA. Besides, a series of measures have been issued to facilitate Hong Kong and Macao residents living in the mainland in terms of living and employment.

Through promoting the complementarity and integrated development of industries, the GBA has comprehensively improved its international competitiveness. Hong Kong and Macao's advantages in modern finance and professional services, together with Guangdong's strong manufacturing sector and huge market are expected to produce a multiplying effect for the GBA and attract more and more transnational corporations and emerging tech firms to the megalopolis.

At the end of 2022, the first Global Investment Promotion Conference for the GBA was jointly hosted by the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. A total of 853 cooperation projects were signed at the event, with total investment of 2.5 trillion yuan.

Multiple transnational corporations have chosen the GBA as an investment destination, including ExxonMobil, Siemens, AstraZeneca and Hyundai Motors, which indicates enterprises' confidence in the prosperity of the GBA.

People's Daily

Jokowi backs appeal against court ruling calling for poll delay

JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S President Joko Widodo said on Monday he supports the country's election commission in mounting an appeal against a controversial court ruling that calls for the 2024 presidential and general elections to be delayed.

His comments come after a Jakarta district court last week ordered the national poll body (KPU) to halt all election preparations on the back of a procedural complaint by an obscure party.

The court's decision has reignited a debate in the world's third-largest democracy about extending the president's time in office, which is limited to two five-year terms by the constitution.

Some senior political figures have backed the idea while others have warned it could roll back twenty years of democratic reforms brought in after decades of authoritarian rule.

Jokowi (pictured), as the president is commonly known, said on Monday the government hopes that election preparations are going ahead as planned.

"This is a controversy that has elicited pros and cons, but the government supports the KPU to file an appeal," he told reporters in a video uploaded by the presidential secretariat.

He has previously said he rejects the idea of extending his tenure. The Constitutional Court also said in a separate case last week there could be no extension.

The election commission has said it will forge ahead with organizing the polls and chairman Hasyim Asy'ari told Reuters on Monday it will "attempt a legal next step" in a higher court.

The Central Jakarta District Court's ruling has been criticized by legal experts who say the judges acted beyond their jurisdiction.

A copy of the ruling seen by Reuters last week showed the judges concluded the complainant, Prima party, was unfairly denied the chance to submit documents required to contest elections, due partly to glitches with KPU's software.

Multiple surveys show most Indonesians are against extending Jokowi's time in office.

Agencies



Govind stars for Aces B outfit in crushing victory over Estim B squad

By Guardian Reporter

BHAVESH Govind starred with the bat to catapult the Aces B outfit to a 129-run victory over the Estim B team in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division B League clash, which took place at Annadil Burhani oval in the city on Sunday.

Govind made full use of his experience, ending the innings with the best batting figure and seeing to it that the Aces B outfit posts a convincing total.

Aces B outfit won the toss and elected to bat in the Group A duel, recording 230/8 in the allotted 30 overs, thanks to Govind's blistering 70 runs.

The opener was in good form at the crease, nailing four fours and as many sixes whilst pushing his outfit's score to 148 runs when he was sent back to the pavilion with two balls left.

His fellow opener, Imran Khan, also put in good knocks to make his way back with 29 runs which consisted of five boundaries.

Except for Hamza Ally that suffered an early exit with three runs to his name, the top order, overall, had a significant contribution to the Aces B side's acquisition of the massive total.

Raza Baloch ended with 38 runs and the other top-order performer, Ally Hassan, scored 28 runs for the batting squad.

Middle-order batsman Ajith Shetty and Hemedi Abbas also ended with two-digit figures, posting 15 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Darpan Jobanputra and night-watchman Jatin Prajapati made their way back with the bat in hand, much as they could not reach two-digit scores, given they ended with three runs not out and five runs not out respectively.

Estim B squad's Hitesh Gorasiya and skipper Kishor Varsani had good figures during their outfit's bowling sting, taking three wickets apiece.

Chasing 231 runs to emerge victorious happened to be a daunting task for Estim B side, given the squad was skittled for 101 runs in 23.5 overs.

Purshotam Gorasiya (19 runs), Vinod Jesani (19 runs), Avinash Kerai (17 runs), and Khushal Gorasiya that ended with 13 runs not out were the performers with notable contributions at the crease.

Aces B side's performers are lately leading Group A following last weekend's victory. They have featured in two outfits, posting the 4.2026 net run rate after recording 315 runs and giving away 184 runs.

Aga Khan SC B is hot on the group leader's heels, occupying the second spot with two points given the side emerged victoriously in the only tie

it has taken part in.

The second-place team has a 1.1333 net run rate having notched 144 runs and given away 110 runs.

Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) B squad is sitting third, having emerged victoriously in one tie and suffered a loss in one clash.

The SKLPSC B outfit has posted 162 runs and leaked 162 runs to settle for the -0.2421 net run rate.

Fourth-placed Caravans B team has yet to register a point, given it lost the only tie the team took part in, settling for a -1.1333 net run rate from 110 runs scored and 144 runs given away.

Estim B side is occupying the bottom place in Group A with the -3.7024 net run rate, having posted 178 runs and 309 leaked runs.

Gupta Upanga SC B side leads the rest of the pack in Group B having registered a 3.5000 net run rate, followed by the second-placed Estim A squad that has notched a 2.4727 net run rate.

The GP outfit is sitting third in the group, having posted the 0.1000 net run rate from one win and one loss, staying above the fourth-placed Annadil Seifee outfit that has amassed a -3.5000 net run rate.

The Gymkhana B team is positioned at the bottom of the group, having posted a -4.7240 net run rate after losing the one tie the squad has participated in.

In Group C, the Patel Brotherhood A squad is enjoying the driver's seat after amassing the 1.9271 net run rate from two wins, whereas Dar Cricket Club (DCC) comes second having posted the 0.7507 net run rate after notching two wins and one defeat.

Tamil Nadu Sports Club is positioned third as the side has posted a -0.3705 net run rate, followed by fourth-placed Unisoft Rising Stars which has amassed a -1.3275 net run rate, having succumbed to defeat in the one tie they have honoured.

Specialized K&P A's squad is placed last in the group with the -1.5823 net run rate from two losses, having posted 261 runs and given away 263 runs.

Union Sports Club leads the rest in Group D after recording a 1.8620 net run rate from victory in two games.

Annadil Burhani is sitting second in Group D as the side has notched the 1.4347 net run rate, scoring 204 runs and leaking 209 runs.

Lions B's team is positioned third after amassing the -0.3670 net run rate from one victory and one defeat.

Caravans C side (-2.4599 net run rate) and Sandy's Super Strikers (-3.4745 net run rate) occupy the fourth and fifth places respectively in the group.



Taifa Stars' new head coach Adel Amrouche

Amrouche set to restore Taifa Stars' 2023 AFCON finals hopes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has hired former Algeria international, Adel Amrouche, as the new head coach for the country's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars'.

In a letter signed by the federation's information officer Clifford Ndimbo, Amrouche's record has been sighted as having the needed qualification.

The federation stated in the statement: "The tactician has, among others, an impeccable career that includes guiding Kenya to their CECAFA Challenge Cup win and having gone for 20 matches without a loss."

Amrouche, the holder of a UEFA Pro license, will be paid by the Tanzanian government, the federation said.

With pressure being the word to describe any coach taking Taifa Stars' job, Amrouche will debut his duties on the occasion of Taifa Stars' match against Uganda, slated for March 24 at the Suez Stadium in Ismailia.

It will be match day three day on Group J of the qualifiers for the 2023 African Cup of Nations finals.

Tanzania currently occupies third place in Group J with a point along with Uganda, Algeria leads the rest with six points followed by Niger with two points.

The 58-year-old Belgian of Al-

gerian descent also previously managed Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Botswana, Libya, and Yemen.

Initial reports had indicated Yanga's tactician, Nasreddine Mohamed Nabi, was lined up for the appointment.

The federation however went ahead to make an unexpected pick, announcing Amrouche to be the best fit.

Amrouche fell out with the Football Kenya Federation officials in 2014 because of poor performance shown by the country's national team ' Harambee Stars', especially in African Cup of Nations qualifiers' fixtures against Lesotho.

The results saw Kenya miss out on the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

At the time of playing Lesotho, Amrouche was serving a one-year ban imposed by CAF following the alleged indecent assault of the match officials during Kenya's second leg of the first preliminary round match against Comoros.

He later sued Kenya for wrongful dismissal and demanded to be paid Ksh 108 million.

Tanzania did not have a head coach since the end of last year after the then Taifa Stars interim head coach, Zambian Honour Janza, left for a Technical Director job at Zesco United in his home country.

Janza had taken the reigns of Danish gaffer Kim Poulsen who was handed Tanzania's national junior squads.

Nabi all out to solve Yanga's defensive weaknesses



Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Nasreddine Nabi has noted he will work on set-pieces play against his team, which results in conceding goals in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage.

Jangwani Street-based Yanga, 2022/23 NBC Premier League defending champion, will welcome AS Real Bamako of Mali

at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday for round four of the CAF Confederation Cup's Group D.

In their three CAF Confederation Cup Group D matches, Yanga has conceded a goal in each match and the goals have come from free kicks, a weakness Nabi has noticed as he aims to improve the aspect.

In Yanga's 2-0 loss to US Monastir away in Tunisia, the first goal came from a free kick and

the second came from a corner kick.

Sloppiness continued when Yanga beat DR Congo's TP Mazembe 3-1 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on February 19.

The DR Congo club's consolation was scored by Zambian attacker Alex Ngonga, whose well-taken free-kick went over Yanga's defenders and into the net, beating goalkeeper Djigui Diarra.

Yanga failed to record their

first away win of the competition when they allowed an equalizer netted by AS Real Bamako in added-on time.

The hosts had won a corner kick that was connected in by center-back, Émile Koné, and the clash ended in a 1-1 draw.

Nabi revealed: "I am aware of the goals that we are conceding from those kinds of situations, I can't blame my players because things like that happen in the game and I know it hurts each one of us."

"The only way forward is, therefore, working as a unit from the training ground to the match day."

"Many times we have been looking for a way to prevent this kind of goal, it is something that is in progress and we will continue to work on it to make sure it stops completely and does not happen again in future matches," Nabi stated.

"Those kinds of balls lead to a lot of blame on defenders being short but that is not a big problem. The problem is in the way of playing those kinds of balls," the gaffer noted.

"High balls often require a sense of urgency, projection, and location, if a player has all of that he will be able to play high balls no matter how tall his opponent is."

From a set-piece coaching view, these kinds of plays are hardly defended since no team prepares for the deliveries of the opposition team as plays change per zones of the area of occurrence.

Yanga is sitting second in Group D with four points behind US Monastir which leads with seven points.

Third-placed TP Mazembe has three points and AS Real Bamako is placed last with two, having taken part in three matches each.



Aces B outfit's cricketer, Hamza Ally (C), gets the Man of the Match prize from a domestic senior cricketer upon completion of a recent Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) competition's match between the side and Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) played at Leaders Club venue in Kinondoni. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

A force awakens: Liverpool demolition a platform to build Jurgen Klopp's next empire

BY CHRIS BASCOMBE

WELCOME to Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool 2.0. The strike force awakens.

A new chapter begins with Cody Gakpo and Darwin Nunez assuming their status as emblems of the next generation, with Mohamed Salah reprising his role as the ultimate goal scoring weapon.

There have been many performances during the Klopp era of greater importance for title bids than this historic dismantling of Manchester United.

There have been many others worthy of exhibits in the club museum as they facilitated European glory.

But when the day comes for a retrospective on Klopp's Liverpool career, it is doubtful there will be many so symbolic for a manager seeking to remedy the only glaring omission from his decorated CV.

Wherever he has coached, Klopp has always built one team capable of reaching its ceiling. He is yet to do it twice at the same club. That is the challenge he accepted when signing a new Liverpool contract 12 months ago, although the expectation then was he could evolve the team so casually and effectively the disturbance would be minimal.

Not so. This has been a turbulent campaign. Sadio Mane is long gone. Roberto Firmino is reduced to glorious cameos as he begins his farewell laps of appreciation. Luis Diaz is still injured. Diogo Jota has been on the hunt for match sharpness all season.

Salah remains reassuringly constant, now celebrating more Liverpool goals than anyone in the Premier League era.

"A special player. A special boy. He should be really proud," Klopp said.

Salah has earned many lavish descriptions during his decorated career; prolific, clinical, fiercely ambitious and record-breaking.

Now add another. Leader.

If the burden of responsibility in Klopp's first legendary attacking trio was shared, Salah has carried most of it since last summer. Despite occasionally compromising positions, and often trying to contribute more assists, his goal potency has been unaffected.

We are now seeing Salah as a mentor to his young apprentices rather than a rival for top billing, Gakpo a particular beneficiary as Manchester United were submerged under the tidal wave of attacks towards the Kop throughout the second half.

Gakpo moved to Anfield two months ago. On Sunday he truly became a Liverpool player.

We can even identify the precise moment it happened. Some will say it was after 43 minutes when he opened the scoring in the 7-0 victory, cutting inside Raphael Varane before stroking into the bottom corner past David de Gea. That was an exceptional goal, but the real statement followed.

A more compelling argument is Gakpo announced himself completely two minutes into the second half when he received Salah's cute pass before delicately chipping De Gea from an seemingly impossible angle. If Gakpo's first was all about poise and technique, the second added swagger, cheek and cunning, with a celebration in front of the Kop that screamed, 'Here I am'.

With that, there is no debate as to who is the natural Firmino replacement.

Then there is Nunez, described by Klopp as a 'force of nature', still prone to deviate between the absurd and the absurdly effective. He lacks the measured subtleties of Mane. It's hard to imagine him ever possessing such, but when he takes possession the natural reaction of defenders is to retreat.

"No one was doubting Darwin's future impact," said Klopp.

And yet for all the obvious euphoria around Anfield, Klopp was balanced in his appraisal, describing the result as a 'freak' and even restraining himself from the usual fist pumping to the Kop as he signalled the team had further to go to guarantee Champions League football.

It is worth noting that although no-one imagined such a margin of victory, behind the scenes there was confidence that such a performance was in the post.

Last week, Liverpool's outgoing director of research, Dr Ian Graham, argued that anyone who thinks the team have been terrible this season has been deceived.

"The underlying numbers or underlying performances aren't as bad as results would suggest," Graham said.

Klopp was similarly upbeat despite the state of the league table, pointing that until two weeks ago Liverpool still had second most possession in the Premier League and enough shots on goal to suggest they should be in a title challenge.

THE TELEGRAPH



Erik ten Hag's

Manchester United's worst result in 91 years - the records the Liverpool loss smashed

By IAN WHITTELL

ERIK ten Hag's efforts in re-building Manchester United this season had supporters dreaming of their club adding to their impressive and long list of records.

In their worst nightmares, they could not have imagined it would be a record for the worst defeat in the club's 145-year history.

Technically, although it will not come as any consolation to those stunned supporters, the mauling at Anfield 'only' equalled the club's worst-ever result, and marked the fourth time they had been on the receiving end of a 7-0 thrashing.

It was the third 7-0 loss in the top-flight, and the first for over 91 years, since losing 7-0 at Wolves, in the old second division, on Boxing Day 1931.

A year earlier, Aston Villa had inflicted the same result on United; as had Blackburn in April 1926 - all over a period in which a newly-promoted United side was struggling to stay in the top division.

The loss also, obviously, represented United's worst defeat against their Merseyside rivals although they did concede seven, while scoring once, in the fixture in October 1895 in the second tier of English football.

But 128 years on, this result set a new mark although not one which ten Hag, who has already presided over the highest-scoring Manchester derby defeat in history, when

his team was beaten 6-3 at City in October, will enjoy seeing next to his name.

To add further perspective, only 18 previous times in history had United lost a fixture of any kind by a margin of six goals or more, and only two of those had been since World War II - a 6-0 defeat at Leicester City in 1961 and a 6-0 reverse suffered by Dave Sexton's United team at Ipswich Town in March 1980.

To trace the last time a United side had conceded seven in a game, one has to turn the record books back to the eve of the last World War, and February 1939, when United were beaten 7-1 at Charlton.

It was a sobering afternoon in which Mo Salah continued his own personal ascent on Liverpool's goalscoring records, becoming his club's highest ever Premier League scorer with 129 goals.

But the Egyptian striker also added to United misery in the record sections with his two goals.

Salah now has 12 career goals against United and became the first Liverpool player to score in six consecutive appearances in all competitions against them.

Salah already was, before kick-off, Liverpool's record goalscorer against United, in all competitions, while he now has 10 Premier League goals against them, matching Alan Shearer's 10, the most scored by any individual against them in the Premier League era.

And defeat means United have lost more Premier

League matches against Liverpool - 19 - than they have against any other side in the competition's history, while the last eight visits to Anfield have ended in three draws, five defeats and United scoring just one goal.

Indeed, the last 15 goals to have been scored in Liverpool-Manchester United league games at Anfield have all been scored by the home side.

Having not lost to United at Anfield in the league since January 2016, Liverpool are also enjoying their longest unbeaten home run in the fixture since a spell between 1970 and 1979.

One record that recalls happier times for United, however, came via the fact that Salah, Cody Gakpo and Darwin Nunez all scored two goals each - just the fourth time that has happened in Premier League history and the first since United legends Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer did so in a win over Nottingham Forest 24 years ago.

Yesterday's defeat also marked just the third in the last 33 league and cup games for ten Hag, a run dating back to that record derby defeat at the Etihad in October.

But while much of the records set at Anfield were about history, it was also a galling personal experience for the new manager ten Hag who suffered the biggest defeat of his managerial career in his 481st game, across all competitions.

THE TELEGRAPH

Chelsea's expensive recruits face moment of truth

LONDON

CHELSEA have one final shot to save their season when Borussia Dortmund visit Stamford Bridge in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday defending a 1-0 first leg lead.

Despite an all-time record investment of over £500 million (\$603 million) in one season by the Blues' new owners, Chelsea are languishing in 10th in the Premier League and crashed out early in both domestic cups to Manchester City.

Graham Potter stopped the rot with a 1-0 victory over Leeds on Saturday to end a six-game winless run.

But the manner of victory failed to quash doubts that Potter's job could be on the line against the German giants.

Dortmund travel to London on the back of a 10-game winning run that has taken Edin Terzic's men into a share of the Bundesliga lead alongside Bayern Munich.

Chelsea, by contrast, are looking up at Brentford, Brighton and Fulham after three wins in their last 16 games.

Scoring goals has been the biggest problem for Potter's men, with the pressure on their expensive new recruits to start delivering.

Champions League rules meant only three of Chelsea's January signings could be registered for the knockout stages

with the attacking trio of Enzo Fernandez, Joao Felix and Mykhailo Mudryk making the cut.

- Missing Mudryk - Fernandez broke the British transfer record when he joined from Benfica for £107 million.

But the Argentine World Cup winner is yet to have the desired impact in providing a creative spark from midfield and was found wanting by Karim Adeyemi's searing pace for Dortmund's winner in the first leg three weeks ago.

Chelsea spent £10 million just to have Felix on loan for the final few months of the season, but there will be little left to play for should they fail to turn the tie around.

At least Potter has tended to use Fernandez and Felix when available, unlike Mudryk.

Chelsea gazumped Arsenal to sign the Ukrainian from Shakhtar Donetsk for an initial 70 million euros (£62 million, \$74 million), rising to 100 million euros in add-ons.

But Mudryk has not started in the last three games and was an unused substitute against Leeds despite Potter making all five available changes.

Chelsea scored a first goal in four games at the weekend, but it came from a defender in France centre-back Wesley Fofana, who powered home a corner.

"We have to attack

better as a team," said Potter. "That's my responsibility. It's too easy to zoom in on individuals and blame them. It's a collective, we have to create more, do better, and that starts with me."

"Helping the team get better chances, more chances. I don't doubt the quality of the players."

Despite an injury-disrupted first season at Stamford Bridge, Raheem Sterling remains Chelsea's joint top scorer this season with six in all competitions.

Sterling has not netted since January 1, but Potter believes he could provide the spark his side need against Dortmund.

The England international scored 24 goals in 67 games for Manchester City in Europe's premier club competition prior to his £50 million move last summer.

"His goalscoring record in the Champions League speaks for itself,"

added Potter.

"He's a proven campaigner in that competition. We're delighted with that, we're looking forward to having him on the pitch on Tuesday, hopefully enjoying his football."

Meanwhile, if Borussia Dortmund's remarkable 2023 run is to continue at Chelsea today, midfielder Jude Bellingham, 19, will need to be front and centre.

Dortmund travel to London as European football's most in-form team, having chalked up ten wins from ten games to start 2023.

Nine points behind leaders Bayern Munich at Christmas, Dortmund have closed the gap and now sit second on goal difference.

A hard-fought 1-0 win in the opening tie means Dortmund will make it through to the Champions League quarter finals if they avoid defeat on Tuesday evening.

While Marco Reus'

likely inclusion means Bellingham, captain in Dortmund's first leg victory, may not wear the armband at Stamford Bridge, the English teenager will unquestionably be one of the side's on-field leaders.

In what has been a breakout season for the English teenager bookending an impressive Qatar World Cup showing, Bellingham has saved his best performances for the biggest stage.

In six Champions League games this season -- two of which as captain -- Bellingham, has scored four goals and laid on an assist.

A starring performance in his Champions League debut in London, and just his third club match on English soil since arriving in Dortmund, will be the next milestone in an astonishing run for the policeman's son from Stourbridge.

- Dortmund's bridge to success -

While Bellingham's playing style has attracted no shortage of accolades, the teenager's leadership for club and country has been given particular praise.

When England captain Harry Kane missed a late penalty which would have drawn the Three Lions level with France in the World Cup quarter finals, Bellingham was the first to console the Tottenham striker, despite being the youngest member of the 26-man squad.

Bellingham's performances on the world stage for England also earned him the rare honour of having a bridge in downtown Birmingham named after him.

Designs for the 'Bellingham Bridge' were unveiled on Saturday, with the local council saying the construction would contribute "positively to the city's identity both during the day and night."

AFP



SPORT

Manchester United's worst result in 91 years – the records the Liverpool loss smashed

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Yanga SC foreign stars called up for international duty

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

At least four Yanga players are expected to be on national duty during the coming March FIFA international break.

All four Yanga players have enjoyed some game time with the Jangwani Street giants since the start of the season.

Striker Fiston Mayele, Kennedy Musonda, goalkeeper Djigui Diarra and midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki are the four Yanga players who are set to represent their countries as the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers group stage is set to resume at the end of this month.

DR Congo national team coach, Sebastien Desabre, included Mayele in his provisional 42-man squad that will take on Mauritania in a Group I double-header.

The 2022/23 NBC Premier League leading scorer faces tough competition to make it to the DR Congo final squad from high-profile forwards playing in Europe.

Simba SC's defender Henock Inonga is also part of the provisional squad.

January signing Musonda is part of the Zambia squad which is scheduled to battle it out with Lesotho on March 23 and March 26 respectively in Group H matches.

Aziz Ki is in the Burkina Faso squad that will take on Togo on March 24 and March 28 in Group B games.

The promising attacking midfielder has scored five times and assisted twice in 18 league games for Yanga so far.

He joined Yanga from Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas at the start of the season.

Diarra is among four goalkeepers who were named in Mali's squad which will face Gambia in a Group G doubleheader.

The shot-stopper has been in and out of the Mali squad since he joined Yanga from Mali's Stade Malien at the start of last season.

He was the first-choice goalkeeper for Mali during the 2019 African Cup of Nations in Egypt but has since fallen down the pecking order.

He was the NBC Premier League best goalkeeper last season and he is well on course to defend his crown with only six games to go before the end of the current campaign.

With Tanzania and Uganda yet to unveil their squads, Yanga will see more players reporting for international duties.

Bakari Mwamnyeto, Dickson Job, and Kibwana Shomari have been part of the Taifa Stars while Khalid Aucho continues to be a very important player for Uganda's Cranes.

Tanzania and Uganda will meet in back-to-back African Cup of Nations qualifiers' ties on March 24 in Egypt and March 27 in Dar es Salaam in Group F.

Both teams need victories to retain any hope of making it to Ivory Coast behind group leaders Algeria.



Yanga's newly signed Zambian forward, Kennedy Musonda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Simba hosts Vipers in pivotal 2022/23 CAF CL clash



Tanzania's Simba SC players take part in training in Dar es Salaam yesterday to prepare for the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C clash versus Uganda's Vipers SC slated for today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba SC welcomes Uganda's Vipers SC on matchday 4 of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam this evening.

The hosts are looking for a second win against the Ugandans to keep their quarterfinal hopes alive.

Simba SC bounced back from the opening rounds' losses to Horoya Athletic Club and Raja Casablanca by beating Vipers SC in Kampala to earn their first three points in Group C.

Defender Henock Inonga's header made the difference in what was an evenly-matched contest on Ugandan soil.

With three games in the books, Simba SC occupies third place, six points behind leaders Raja Casablanca and one shy of second-placed Horoya Athletic Club in the group.

Simba SC coach Rob-

ert Oliveira's troops do not want to drop the ball against the group underdogs here with the fixtures against Horoya Athletic Club (home) and Raja Casablanca (away) remaining.

A win over Vipers SC could take Simba SC to the coveted second place, depending on the results of the other Group C match at the stade du 26 Mars, Bamako in Mali where Horoya Athletic Club hosts Raja Casablanca the same day.

Talking about confidence going into a crucial game, the men in red and white grabbed a comfortable 4-0

victory against Championship League side, African Sports, to progress to the quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) on Thursday.

Few changes are expected to be made from a winning team, with coach Oliveira, alias 'Robertinho' likely to make either one or two alterations.

Dennis Kibu had to be substituted against Vipers SC after suffering an injury, and the winger is seemingly a doubt for the game though he is back in training.

On the flip side, five-time

Ugandan champion, Vipers SC, needs a victory to revive its continental campaign, having managed only a point from the three group-stage games.

Vipers SC will again be missing experienced center-back, former Simba SC player Murushid Juuko and midfielder Bright Anukani, both nursing injuries.

The other notable absentees include midfielder Marvin Youngman, Disan Galiwango, and forward Karim Ndugwa, the latter is cup-tied.

Team captain Milton Karisa is also unavailable

due to the hamstring injury he picked up in the reverse fixture- however, he is part of the squad to provide a morale boost to the troop.

Forward Yunus Ssentamu, midfielder Siraje Ssentamu, and pacey winger Martin Kizza will be expected to step up for tactician Roberto Bianchi's side which is struggling for goals.

Vipers SC has not scored a goal in their last six games in all competitions that includes three CAF Champions League games as well as two Uganda Cup matches against lower-tier oppositions.

Kilimanjaro Marathon leaves mark in Moshi

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 21st season of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon reached its climax in Moshi on February 26, this year, leaving behind great memories to those who were lucky enough to attend the event, in one way or another.

In the aftermath of the event, which is now one of the best athletics events in Africa, participants lauded the input of the organizers and sponsors especially the main sponsor, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager.

Speaking during the event which drew one of the biggest numbers of participants, the Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Managing Director, Jose Moran, disclosed the institution is proud to be the main sponsor of the event which has now become an annual date to remember for both participants and other sports supporters.

"This year's marathon was such a big and good event which drew many participants, organizers and supporters, something which made the event to be described as one of the best in the history of the Kilimanjaro International Marathon", he revealed.

"We have been the main



Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Mary Masanja (front row R), and Tanzania Breweries Limited's Managing Director, Jose Moran, are pictured beginning the 2023 Grand Malt 5km Run, which was one of this season's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon events, at MoCU Stadium in Moshi last month. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

sponsors since the beginning of this competition in 2003 and together we have made great strides until today when we are celebrating the 21st season of the event's great success", he said.

According to him, consistency by TBL in organizing a famous international event for more than 20 consecutive

years was another factor that made the event popular.

Moran noted: "It has been an exciting journey as this is now the biggest athletic competition in the entire African region as it brings together more than 12,000 runners from more than 50 countries."

"This is a great success, espe-

cially because we started with less than 750 participants 20 years ago", he said.

Moran noted that this event has already attracted more than 160,000 participants in the last 21 seasons, which is amazing.

He stated the main motive of TBL sponsoring the event for more than two decades now, is to bring people who share common views and interests in sports, through the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon.

The event started with some organized events which took place some days before the marathon day, among others including several concerts which drew popular local artists like 'Harmonize' and 'Mario' among others who did a thrilling performance at the Moshi Club ad MoCU Stadium during the entire marathon event.

The Kili Expo was also another major attraction as sponsors ad other exhibitors displayed their products and services for four consecutive days, making the MoCU Stadium a bee hive of activity as participants and other Moshi residents streamed to collect their numbers.

The colourful road shows in all the streets of Moshi town

which were accompanied by music ad performances livened the town for the entire week.

The events, as well as the marathon, contributed to improving the economy of Moshi and Kilimanjaro in general because it boosted many business entities, including those in the hospitality industry whereby hotels and other accommodation facilities were full some weeks before the event day.

Moran further thanked other sponsors he noted they, in collaboration with the main sponsor Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, contributed a lot to the now great achievements of the marathon. The other sponsors include Tigo- 21km, Grand Malt-5km.

Kilimanjaro Water was the marathon's water table sponsor alongside TPC Sugar and Simba Cement.

The showpiece's official suppliers were Surveyed Plots Company Limited (SPC), GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel CMC Automobiles, and Sal Salnero Hotel.

Kilimanjaro Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated my Executive Solutions Limited.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

