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JKT Tanzania looks to jump further away from the drop



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa delivers address during the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day, held at national level in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THREE Form Three students at St. John Paul II Secondary School in Kahama municipality, Shinyanga Region, have died of suffocation in a maize storage tank.

ACP Kennedy Mgani, the acting regional police commander, confirmed the incident here yesterday, saying it occurred on Wednesday close to midday at the school after the students entered the storage tank to take some maize for the school's food. They lacked fresh air and failed to come out, leading to their losing consciousness, he stated.

The students lost their lives while being rushed to the Kahama District Hospital, he said, citing their names as Abdul Ibrahim (17) from Mwanza city, Jonathan Mdbabila (17) from Nzega District in Tabora Region and Paul Emmanuel of Kahama municipality.

Six students accompanied the teacher on duty, Morris Leo (54), to go to the maize storage tank to take the grain but after they failed to remove the maize through a hole down the storage tank, the teacher instructed some students to enter the tank to push the maize.

After giving the order, he left and went to the office to get tea, and three of the pupils climbed and entered the tank using the ladder. After more than 15 minutes elapsed, those outside started to worry why the maize was not coming out.

As the students inside the tank remained silent, the others went

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Everything you need to know about the new UEFA Champions League format

Fishing set to stop for three months in Lake Tanganyika

These species need a period of three to four months to reach the level of being optimally harvested

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

SCHEDULED suspension of fishing activities on Lake Tanganyika for three months starts on May 15, to speed up fish breeding, growth eventually increasing fish catches.

Alexander Mnyeti, the Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister, made this affirmation in the legislature yesterday, respond-

ing to Kalambo MP Josephat Kandege.

The MP had demanded whether there is a scientific study that shows that closing fishing activities in Lake Tanganyika to allow the reproduction of fish can bring long-term productivity.

The deputy minister said that the temporary ban is supported by research in neighboring countries sharing the lake, showing

that during that period fish varieties like shellfish and sardines tend to multiply.

"These species need a period of three to four months to reach the level of being optimally harvested," he stated, underlining that suspending fishing activities allows the species to grow, ena-

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PM reminds top officials of duty to inform the people

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed senior government officials to be mindful of their duty of informing the public on departmental activities via cooperating with media organs.

He PM made the remarks when meeting members of the media fraternity to mark World Press Freedom Day in the capital

We have the responsibility to educate the public about environmental conservation

yesterday, asking them to ensure they remove all barriers that hinder journalists from performing their duties.

Heads of government institutions need to remove bureaucracy on media quests to obtain information for delivery to the general public, he said, affirming that facilitating availability of information that is essential to the public is part of the responsibilities of senior civil servants.

He stressed the safety of journalists when executing their tasks as a matter of paramount importance, in which case the government acknowledges the need for ensuring that journalists perform their duties in a safe environment.

"No journalist will face threats when implementing his or her duties," he said, urging officers responsible for coordinating trips of top officials to ensure that journalists have reliable transportation and are comfortable when carrying out their duties.

He urged the media to properly use opportunity within their reach as well as influence to educate society on the importance of environmental protection, given the wide ranging effects of climate change globally.

"We have the responsibility to educate the public about environmental conservation," he said, pointing at the numerous news outlets, asserting that most

of them do not write information about the environment. "So through your discussions you have to see how environmental information is given the importance it deserves," he emphasised.

Studies show that about 16 million people in the country who live by the sea depend on marine resources, he said, expressing worries that if the environment is extensively damaged their gainful activities will be jeopardised.

Kenneth Simbaya, the Union of Tanzanian Journalists' Clubs (UTPC) director, said that in this year's event, the union addressed various issues, including journalists' adherence to ethics.

Journalists should report to the relevant agencies whenever they come across actions that threaten their safety when carrying out their duties so that action can be taken, he added.

Maternal deaths: UNFPA leads in 31bn/- midwife project on skills

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A JOINT initiative involving the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF), and the Canadian Association of Midwives has initiated a midwifery project to reduce maternal deaths and newborn mortality in the country.

Billed at \$12m (31bn/-), the project is intended to reduce maternal and newborn mortality by increasing the availability of skilled midwives, working with the Tanzania Midwives Association to strengthen their capacity to advance the midwifery profes-

sion. The main part of the project is to develop a robust training program for midwifery tutors, refurbish learning and teaching infrastructure in training institutions such as computer labs, classrooms, libraries, preceptors' corners and skills labs.

Provision of medical equipment and skills training equipment to enable delivery care for maternal health assurance; strengthening midwives' skills to deliver family planning services are especially targeted, the project outline shows.

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Maternal deaths: UNFPA leads in 31bn/- midwife project on skills

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Heightening the competences of in-service midwives and capacity building for midwives to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care are similarly planned, where officials said the project is intended to reach 1,071,852 expectant mothers and 805,945 newborns in 180 health centers, 12 hospitals covering 28 wards with 112 villages, spread in Dar es Salaam and Shinyanga regions.

Albert Chalamila, the city regional commissioner, urged the Health ministry and the regional secretariat to ensure that the project is successful. Regional and district council health teams need to work with teams present to particular places where the project is implemented to supervise the proper use of resources, he stated.

Helen Fytche, the head of cooperation and acting Canadian High Commissioner, said that with the support of midwives along with existing investments in Tanzania, the development partners and the private sector, considerable progress has been made in maternal health in some areas.

Citing data from the Tanzania 2022 Demographic and Health Survey she said that 85 percent of deliveries

had a skilled health care provider, up from 66 percent in 2015. Nine in 10 women received antenatal care from a skilled provider during their last live birth, she stated.

"This is significant progress and we should celebrate the important contributions of midwives. We need to work together to address the challenges remaining," she emphasized.

Key challenges relate to the fact that over 90 percent of maternal deaths occur in health facilities, while many midwife posts are vacant or filled with unqualified midwives, resulting in poor quality of care, the diplomat observed.

Melissa McNeil-Barrett, the UNFPA deputy representative, said that the project is geared to increase the availability of skilled midwives. It will strengthen local capacity to advance the midwifery profession and develop a robust training programme for midwifery tutors, she explained.

Midwives do not only need supplies and equipment. They also require extensive training to safely manage childbirth and to be able to recognize life-threatening complications, she stated.

"Much more investment and support are needed at every level, to support midwifery in terms of skills and equipment," she added



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango receives a book on the 60th anniversary of the April 26 Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar from Tanzania's Ambassador to Italy, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (L), in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

Fishing set to stop for three months in Lake Tanganyika

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bling higher yields.

To ensure that the harvesting of fish resources is conducted in a sustainable way, the ministry in collaboration with other Lake Tanganyika Authority partner states is implementing a commonly agreed measure.

It is the regional agreement

of the member states of the Lake Tanganyika Authority, setting measures for sustainable fishing within the Lake Tanganyika Basin, he said.

Management measures involved include setting up procedures to control fishing activities at the middle of each year for three months to Au-

gust 15, he said.

In a supplementary question, the MP asked how the government intends to fight illegal fishing, to which the deputy minister noted that illegal fishing contributes to decrease of fish yields, thus the security organs have initiated operations to ensure that illegal fish-

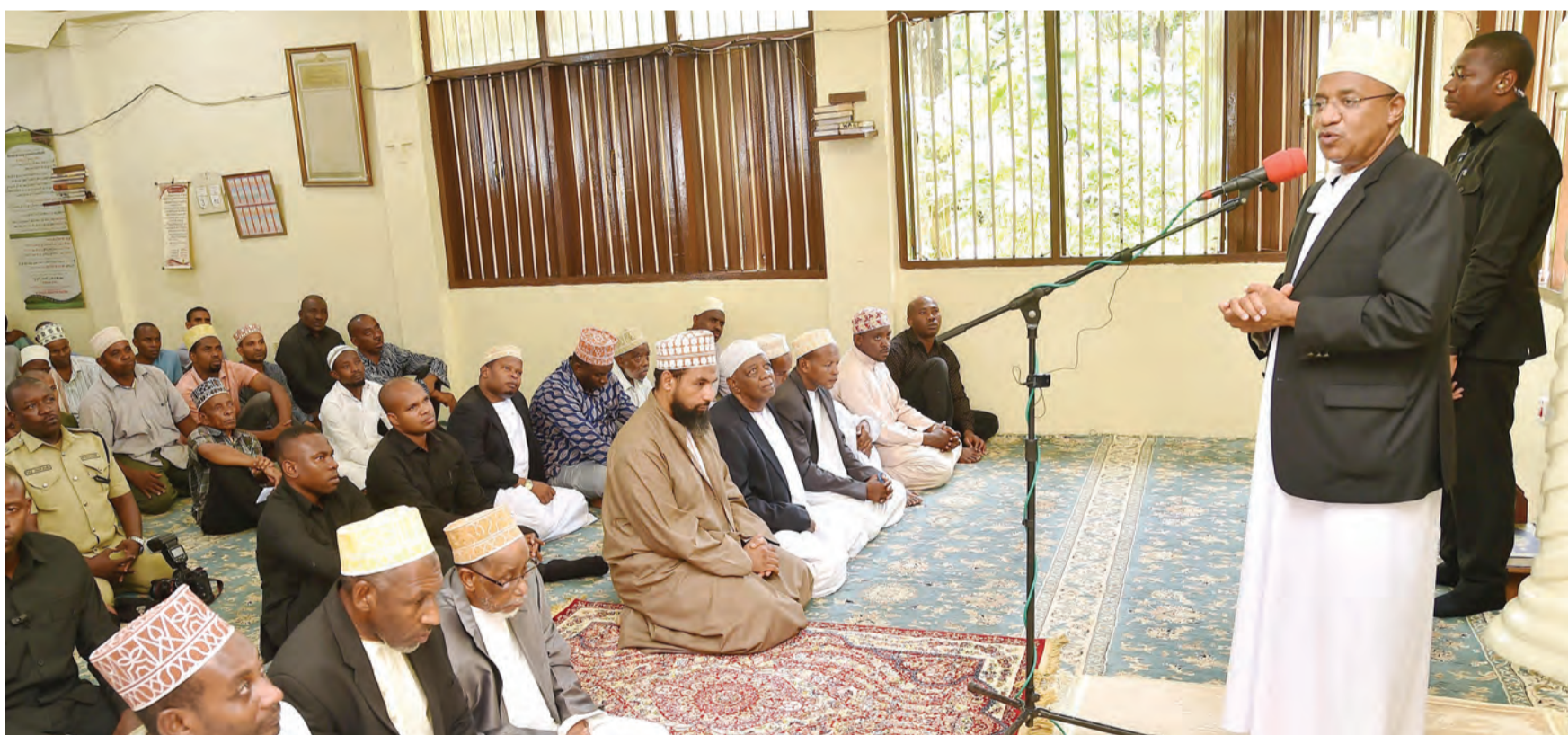
ing is banished.

For example, on the seashore, MPs who come from those areas have seen the government's efforts to contain illegal fishing with bombs by taking appropriate measures, he stated.

The government was sensitizing local residents to take

up fish farming through cages, and with the closure of the lake, the government expects to distribute a number of cages to fishermen, he said.

It is an alternative way for obtaining fish even with periodic suspension of fishing to ensure sustainability in Lake Tanganyika, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with other Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Mchangani Mosque in Unguja District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Three students die in maize tank storage fiasco

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to inform the teacher on the matter, where the school leadership now gathered, he said.

The teachers arrived and checked what was going on there and quickly took the decision to break the tank with an axe, found an opening to get them out and rushed them to a nearby clinic and later to the Kahama District Hospital, where it was confirmed that they were already dead.

Police are holding the teacher Leo, the one who

was on duty, for further interrogations and for his safety, he RPC noted, elaborating that police and medical authorities were examining the bodies.

We need to find out what sort of gas emissions caused them to lose consciousness in the tank, he stated, adding: "Primary and secondary school teachers in the region need to take good care of students to avoid violations of human rights and unnecessary deaths such as those that have occurred."

Tanzania proposed as centre of excellence for sickle cell, oral and dental treatment

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIA has been proposed to be a centre of excellence for East Africa Community (EAC) member countries to emulate the country's expertise and experience in the treatment of sickle cell as well as oral and dental.

Ummu Mwalimu, Minister for Health, gave the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the meeting of the EAC sectoral council of ministers responsible for health

held to deliberate on the development, challenges and strategies to be implemented to ensure the accessibility of health services to the peoples in the EAC.

"We have proposed that the council approve the establishment of two centres of excellence in East Africa in oral and dental treatment, where we have shown that through Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) dental department. We

have experts, equipment and we have the capacity. We want all other experts from the EAC countries to come and learn from MUHAS. We therefore believe that the council will agree to approve Tanzania to be a centre of excellence," she said.

She said: "We have also informed our counterparts on the strides we have made in organ transplants such as bone marrow transplant for children diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia. Tan-

zania is among the top five countries globally with children born with sickle cell. The Democratic Republic of Congo ranks third, Tanzania fourth and Uganda in fifth position."

Mwalimu said that she explained to the other leaders why Tanzania should be a centre of excellence for treatment of the oral and dental health and organ transplant, citing that Benjamin Mkapa hospital had already performed a bone marrow

transplant for 10 children were 6 out of 10 had been proven to be cured from sickle cell.

The health minister said that the key discussion in the meeting is not only on how to address communicable diseases, like Malaria, Tuberculosis, but also to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which have been on the rise.

"As ministers, we saw the need for EAC health ministers to place special strategies to prevent and

combat NCDs. Paramount to these strategies is the motivation for the public to perform physical exercises but also encourage them to have a balanced diet and discourage the excessive intake of alcohol," she said.

"I have given Tanzania as an example to other EAC nations on how the government has implemented various interventions like the sensitization of the public to perform physical exercises, where I have informed leaders

that prime minister, Mwalimu said that Physical exercises have proven to be simple and effective ways to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs) especially diabetes and high blood pressure adding that 70 percent of NCDs patients in the country were diagnosed with diabetes and Hypertension.

Mary Muthoni, principal secretary public health and professional standards from the ministry of health in Kenya, said

that if EAC countries unite they can pass policies that can help reduce the disease within the borders.

"Tanzania and Kenya are closely bordered countries which have a large influx of people crossing the border. Sometimes there might be diseases lurking at the border area, which heightens the need to increase disease surveillance to know the emerging and re-emerging issues related to diseases that can be addressed at the heart," she said



Foreground: Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko in a tête-à-tête with the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and the Persons with Disabilities), Deogratius Ndejemi (R), in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TIC, CMA sign agreement to resolve disputes at workplaces

By Carlos Banda

TANZANIA Invest Centre (TIC) and the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) have signed a collaborative agreement to address workplace disputes between investors and their employees.

This is meant to improve the investment environment, improve the workplace environment, spur economic growth and attract more investors.

Gilead Teri, TIC Executive Director said on Thursday at a signing ceremony that the move is part of efforts to implement the government's directives to ensure local and foreign investors do not face hurdles that impede their investment endeavours.

"This is a historic moment for TIC and CMA as we have agreed to collaborate to raise awareness and understanding on issues related to mediation and arbitration specifically to address conflicts between staff and their employers who happen to be the investor," he said.

"We also want to ensure investors are aware of their rights and obligations through ensuring they have accurate information on the laws, procedures and principles from CMA which are mandatory for every investor."

Teri said that the collaboration targets to inspire dialogue between CMA, TIC and labour union representatives to avoid escalations which could lead to investors being penalized, adding that such discussions will be held within TIC and CMA's systems.

Usekele Mpulla, director of CMA, said CMA's task is to resolve disputes at workplace, adding that their engagement with TIC targets to enable a conducive investment environment.

"It is vital to know that the main goal of labour and employment relations law is to spur economic growth in the country through social justice. That is where we realized that our goals are the same as those of TIC. The more investments we have, the more job opportunities are created," he said.

"However, the rise in both these issues also means there is a high possibility of an increase in disputes. We intervene when conflicts arise between investors and employees. We will do what we can to ensure we create a peaceful environment to attract more investors."

Mpulla, said CMA has key responsibility to ensure all disputes are resolved on time without rights being compromised and ensure both employees and employers use most of their time for production activities to grow the economy instead of wasting time on dispute resolution.

Govt appeals for caution as cyclone Hidaya approaches

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to people living along Indian Ocean coast to take precautions due to strong winds and heavy rains associated with cyclone Hidaya.

Cyclone Hidaya is moving towards the coast of Lindi and Mtwara and it is expected that the speed will be maintained until May 6.

The warning was issued yesterday in the National Assembly by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Jenista Mhagama while giving a statement on the weather phenomenon.

She said the cyclone could affect weather, includ-

ing causing heavy rains and strong winds in some regions bordering the Indian Ocean.

She mentioned the regions as Mtwara, Lindi, Pwani including Mafia islands, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Morogoro, Unguja and Pemba.

Mhagama said that according to a statement issued yesterday by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), the cyclone that was moving towards the eastern coast continued to strengthen and move towards the coastal areas.

She instructed regional commissioners of the cited regions in the TMA statement to continue observing adequate precautions, including providing information on the progress of the cyclone in order to take appropriate measures when the mentioned threats

start.

She directed the disaster management committees at regional, district, ward, mtaa and village levels to continue observing precautions and closely monitor weather authority' information.

"We continue to advise residents of the mentioned areas and all those who are involved in various activities in the ocean to take precautions," she said.

The areas of Mtwara have started to witness rain and strong winds accompanied by large waves in the ocean.

The TMA statement stated that cyclone Hidaya was being tracked on the Indian Ocean's eastern coast of Tanzania, noting that it continued to intensify towards the region.

"By 9:00 am on Friday, it had further strengthened and reached the status of a full-fledged cyclone, approximately 401 kilometres east of the coast of Mtwara," reads part of the statement.

Sustained heavy rainfall could trigger flooding in low-lying areas and those with easily overwhelmed drainage systems.

Localized evacuations, flash flooding, and landslides are possible. The inclement weather could trigger stalled businesses, transport and utility disruptions, rendering some bridges or roadways impassable.

Cyclone 'Hidaya' comes due to low pressure which is associated with strong winds and heavy rainfall.

EU envoys impressed by TB-detecting rats at SUA

By Guardian Reporter

SOME European Union ambassadors in the country have applauded Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) for a project which trains southern giant pouched rats to detect landmines and tuberculosis.

The envoys recently visited SUA and underscored the need for EU to deepen engagement with Tanzania by strengthening bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest.

Speaking on behalf of other envoys, Head of EU Delegation in Tanzania Christine Grau said the project run through a Belgian non-governmental organization Apopo had yielded significant life-saving results in many countries around the world.

Ambassador Grau said that Apopo is a unique initiative that has yielded remarkable life-saving results in many countries around the world which have been affected by land explosives.

The EU ambassadors who accompanied Grau were from Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, France Sweden, Germany and Ireland.

Grau said that in addition to visiting the Carbon Centre, they also had the opportunity to visit a pro-

ject that trains rats to detect landmines and identify tuberculosis pathogens.

The envoy said that the Apopo project particularly impressed them after being briefed on how the rats trained in Tanzania, are deployed to various countries around the world, including Cambodia, which have been affected by landmines and caused harm to humans.

"This is a unique project that has had a significant impact on many countries around the world thanks to the rats trained by the Apopo Centre in Tanzania," she said.

She said that in addition to visiting the two projects, the ambassadors had the opportunity to speak with university students to get their opinions and understanding of climate change in order to provide them with training and build their capacity to contribute to Tanzania's development.

Apopo's Communications Manager Lily Shallom said that the project conducts research and trains African giant pouched rats to detect and identify landmines and explosives, as well as tuberculosis pathogens.

Shallom said a total of 161,085 landmines left underneath during wars have been discovered in vari-

ous countries around the world, including Mozambique, Angola, and Cambodia, using trained rats equipped with advanced technology to detect and identify buried landmines.

She said that over 101,333,974 square kilometers of village land contaminated with landmines has been cleared, enabling residents to conduct their activities safely and rescuing 2,265,648 people who were surrounded by the explosives.

She said that Apopo project, using trained rats, has successfully screened 971,772 tuberculosis samples of which 30,163 samples were detected with the pathogens.

This is due to their superior ability to detect TB pathogens in samples that were missed by hospital laboratories. Shallom said that if the individuals had gone home without being diagnosed and treated, they could have infected over 304,928 more people since each person with the disease can infect 15 or more per year.

Prof Amandus Muhairwa, SUA Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, said that the ambassadors were satisfied with the university's work and were therefore willing to continue their partnership as sponsors of various ongoing projects.



Delegation led by Dr Jim Yonazi (C, in glasses), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), have a first-hand account yesterday of the impact of the recent landslide that left four people dead at Lyakombila village in Moshi Rural District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY NOTIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the general public, and specifically shareholders of Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company that the directors of the company propose a dividend of TZS 390 per share relating to the financial year ended **31st December 2023**, which will be paid on or about **30th June 2024**.

For purposes of this dividend payment, the Register of Members will be closed on **28th May 2024**, and the last day of trading cum dividend will be on **22nd May 2024**.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Alfonso Velez
Alfonso Velez
For: Chairman of the Board
2 May 2024



By his own account, when correspondent Francis Godwin caught up with him in Iringa municipality yesterday, John Magea (L) holds a degree in teaching and has turned to the roasting of maize to earn a living. He gave the going price per piece as 500/-.

Ministry, EACJ chat areas of cooperation

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MINISTER for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana on Thursday paid a courtesy call on President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Justice Nestor Kayobera to strengthen ties between Tanzania and the institution.

The meeting also aimed at exploring avenues for collaborative efforts, particularly in capacity building within Tanzania's legal system and the East African Community (EAC) integration process.

A statement availed to the media yesterday stated that the discussions centred around identifying specific areas of cooperation between Tanzania and EACJ, with a particular emphasis on capacity building initiatives.

This includes development of specialized programmes, lectures and training sessions geared towards equipping Tanzanian legal professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage effectively on EAC integration and navigate procedures of EACJ.

In her remarks, Dr Chana disclosed that Tanzania had embarked on various national reform initiatives, including a review of existing laws.

"In this process, we believe the EACJ can be instrumental in guiding on which judgments and rulings by the regional court call for amendment of national laws to enable us better facilitate the EAC agenda," she said.

The minister urged EACJ to explore modalities of offering capacity building programmes in Tanzania, with particular reference to lectures and specialised training sessions at the Law School of Tanzania and Tanzania Institute of Judicial Administration.

She further said that the regional court has a central role to play in supporting partner states to identify gaps in their national laws that are likely to impede smooth implementation of EAC treaty and its protocols.

"It is time we reviewed our laws and ensured they are sufficient to address all matters pertaining to regional integration while at the same time addressing technological and other social development issues," she said.

Justice Kayobera expressed the court's readiness to support Tanzania in enhancing her legal capacity regarding EAC integration agenda.

He highlighted the significance of mutual cooperation in facilitating a deeper understanding of EACJ's mandate and jurisprudence within Tanzania's legal fraternity. "We have started discussions with the Tanzania Institute of Judicial Administration, and are working towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing our already existing cooperation, particularly in the building of the Court's Judges Capacity as well as that of Judges on the National Judiciary on EAC Integration," he said.

Initiative targets pupils, teachers with problem-solving techniques

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 14,766 pupils and 2,394 teachers from various schools in the country have been equipped with skills and methods of innovating projects that provide solutions to challenges in the society.

The groups were equipped with the techniques through science outreach programmes conducted by Young Scientists Tanzania (YST).

Dr Gozbert Kamugisha, YST Co-founder said this in Dar es Salaam recently when addressing journalists on preparations for this year's YST competition scheduled for September.

He said that pupils who have been trained and directly participated in the YST exhibitions since 2012 are 3,085 and teachers are 1,489.

He added that participation of girls in the science programme also increased from 39 percent in

2012 to 44 percent in 2023.

Kamugisha said that the level of participation is set to increase in this year as 391 teachers have been trained and 732 pupils are currently receiving training on scientific methodologies.

He said a record number of 1,042 project applications have been received this year compared to 979 applications received last year.

He said for the past 13 years, 45 pupils have been awarded university scholarships to study science

and technological innovation.

"I would like to thank the sponsors of the project which has contributed to significantly changing pupils' culture of loving science subjects," he said.

Apart from pursuing their university studies, some of the pupils have improved their innovations to commercialization level, he said.

Dr Kamugisha named some of the innovations as the use of mobile networks for fire alert sys-

tems, Mbigiri salts as animal feeds and the Kivumbasi plant for improving bee keeping.

According to him, the projects are a wide range of categories but some of them focus on issues related to climate change, energy and food production.

Others are food safety, technologies for shaping behaviours of drivers to improve road safety, curbing carbon emissions, tackling misinformation and food safety in schools.

He said that after completion, 55 best projects will be exhibited at the YST 2024 national exhibition scheduled for September in Dar es Salaam.

Caren Rowland, Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) executive officer, said that the strategic collaboration between the foundation and YST was aimed at bringing technological transformation.

She emphasized the importance of inculcating a culture of loving science subjects.

UNDP for rehabilitation, empowerment of inmates

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has expressed readiness to support Tanzania Prisons Service through rehabilitation programmes.

The UN organisation wants to see inmates changing their behaviours to become good citizens and contribute to the country's development after coming back to the society.

Shigeki Komatsubara, UNDP Resident Representative made the affirmation here mid-week soon after visiting Mtego wa Simba, Mkono wa Mara, Wami Vijana and Kingolwira prisons to witness their operations and hear challenges.

According to him, in January this year, UNDP and TPS signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at improving the lives of inmates. "We had a very productive meeting with the Commissioner General of Prisons discussing the vital role of Tanzania Prison Service in assessing needs for empowering TPS workforce. Our partnership promotes collaboration on gender, human rights services, prisoner rehabilitation and environmental protection," he said.

"After visiting the prisons and experiencing the various challenges, we are now ready to sit with them to be able to solve the challenges faced by Tanzania Prison Service in their responsibilities to provide training to prisoners so that when they return to the society, they can make their contribution," he said. The representative said that one of

the areas that he has seen and promised to work on is transportation of remandees from prison to courts due to the wear and tear of the vehicles used.

Komatsubara advised that it is better to use video communication technology so that some cases can be heard without remandees having to go to courts physically and he promised to help the area as well.

UNDP Good Governance Coordinator Godfrey Malisa said they visited the prisons to see how prisoners live in the environment as well as to see what challenges the service faces in the implementation of its activities.

"We have visited a few places of prisons and we have seen places where the prisoners live; we have seen an open youth prison where prisoners learn various skills," he said.

Ramadhani Nyamka, Commissioner General of Tanzania Prisons Service, said UNDP fulfilled its promise to visit prisons to look at various challenges and find solutions after entering into an agreement earlier this year.

He said that UNDP wanted to witness the challenges so that the agreement which was signed some months ago, could help find solutions, including transportation of remandees from courts to the prisons.

"As we know, the condition of our vehicles is very bad for transporting humans; there is one we have been using since 2009. We are thankful that the government has allocated funds for us in the current budget to purchase new vehicles. If we get additional support of UNDP things will be fine," he said.



Hassan Nguruma (R), a senior conservator with the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa), receives a certificate of appreciation from Tanzania Photographers and Videographers Forum chairman Rajab Mchatta in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It was in connection with the agency's sponsorship of training organised by the forum. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister scoffs at bias in some public offices

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) George Simbachawene yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with heads of public institutions and departments who mistreat some workers and promote others based on personal interests, saying it stifles development,

demoralizes others and creates conflicts at workplace.

He warned unscrupulous officers in the ministry who illegally log into the Human Capital Management Information System (HCMIS), block salaries and monthly deductions of their colleagues to punish them.

He wanted officers in the ministry who have been given the authority to access the system to adhere to ethics and good conduct.

The minister warned officers

against revealing information they get in the systems to third parties who are not required to know the same.

Simbachawene said in increasing efficiency in service provision and accountability, the government directed that transfers of public servants be conducted through the e-transfer system.

"It is clear that the transfer of servants through the system will help in getting rid of many challenges, including provision of

false information between the client and the service provider," he said.

The minister said some of the key areas which are being complained about include delay in payments of allowances, use of bad language and failure to oversee the conduct of servants.

Simbachawene also said another challenge was failure to address issues raised by employees who are supposed to be addressed at employers' level, a

situation which makes employees seek remedies from ministers and national leaders which is not the right thing.

The minister was addressing the 11th African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) held at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC).

Simbachawene was addressing civil servants, human resources managers, administrators and other heads of government

departments from all over Africa who attended the meeting.

With about 600,000 civil servants, the government is currently working to ensure that their performances adhere to job descriptions.

Leyla Mavika, AAPAM Tanzania president, said the association has formed three types of networks namely youth professional network, researchers' network and women in governance network so as to effectively

harness their contributions and capabilities.

Mavika said the meeting was aimed at, among other things, sharing knowledge and the use of information communication technology in managing the public service.

AAPAM Africa president Dr John Makabago said it was high time the association members adopted new technologies in their day to day activities to improve service delivery.



Songwe regional commissioner Daniel Chongolo shares a light moment with a Ndola resident during an inspection tour of the village's clinic on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwandangala

Tanzania has no indigenous people, maintains delegation

NEW YORK

TANZANIAN delegation to the 23rd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) concluded in New York City earlier last week stressed that there are no indigenous people in Tanzania.

The delegation was led by the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Prof. Hamisi Malebo and other delegates were from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and UNESCO Tanzania.

Prof Malebo emphasized that Tanzania is home to all people from across the world which were initial residents of the natural areas including those which were invaded and kept under colonialists.

He highlighted that Tanzania prior to its liberation efforts and independence in 1961, once was under Germany and Britain colonialism.

Prof Malebo said before the independence, the country had a diverse of citizens from over 120 tribes who lived in the area that is currently known as Tanzania for over 5000 years.

He said Tanzania after regaining its independence strengthened peace, unity and solidarity among all citizens resulting in to elimination of ethnic discrimination and tribalism.

Prof Malebo said the country further has defined clearly in its constitution that there is no special group of people who are indigenous citizens. "There is no tribe which is better than another and there is no tribalism" Prof Malebo said.

He said all citizens are united under common cultural heritage, custom and values including the Kiswahili language.

Article 18 of the country's Constitution provides for freedom of speech, noting that no citizen faces threats when exercising this right while observing the law.

He insisted that the six-phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been continuing to strengthen the protection of human rights for its citizens, including freedom of speech, freedom of association, and political gathering.

Tanzania has also ratified international and regional conventions on human rights and upholds principles of the rule of law.

LUSAKA

Zambia needs relief food for 14 months

ZAMBIA needs approximately 738,000 metric tonnes of maize to meet food needs for individuals impacted by drought over the next 14 months, according to the nation's disaster response agency.

Gabriel Pollen, the National Coordinator of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit stated in a joint press briefing on Tuesday that the maize is required in the immediate response to provide relief food to about 6.6 million people.

"The target is 84 districts out of 116 districts in Zambia that have been negatively affected by the drought," Pollen said.

He said so far 44,286 metric tonnes of maize has been made available by

the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Reserve Agency for immediate delivery to the affected districts, adding that the devastation caused by the drought has caused food insecurity.

According to Pollen, the government is expected to source about 9.9 million U.S. dollars under the drought insurance cover. The World Food Program was expected to provide 3.3 million dollars in the form of social cash transfers.

In February of this year, the government declared a national disaster and emergency due to the adverse effects of poor rains attributed to climatic conditions.

On Tuesday, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warned that cereal production prospects in Southern Africa have taken a sharp turn for the worse since last February.

The foreseen shortfall in production, especially for maize, is expected to intensify households' food insecurity, push up domestic prices and spur a surge in import needs across the sub-region, according to a new assessment from FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System. White maize accounts for almost 20 percent of calories consumed in the sub-region.

The disappointing forecast comes

after "widespread and substantial rainfall deficits in February, exacerbated by record high temperatures, a particularly damaging combination for crops," the report said, noting that there are scant hopes of a recovery before the harvest period commences in May.

Acute food insecurity in southern Africa, estimated at 16 million people in the first three months of 2024, could deteriorate in late 2024, FAO warned.

Food prices, already rising at annual rates above 10 percent, are likely to rise further and, based on current projections, South Africa and Zambia, typically maize exporters,

will not be able to cover the supply shortfall, and Zambia has started importing maize to meet the shortfall.

This combination of reduced harvests and rising food prices is particularly harmful for agricultural households and restoration of production, as farm incomes are set to be squeezed while more resources will be needed to purchase food, said Jonathan Pound, economist at FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System.

This observed pattern is typical of the El Niño weather phenomenon in the region, FAO noted.

Current forecasts however point a high likelihood of a transition to a

La Niña phase later in the year, with more beneficial precipitation patterns.

That makes it "imperative" to scale up resilience-bolstering measures enabling farmers to prepare adequately for the next agricultural season starting in September 2024, FAO said.

The governments of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe have already declared drought emergencies. Teaming up with the NASA Harvest programme, FAO geospatial observations suggest that key cereal crops will suffer adverse impacts in parts of Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, with Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique expected to see a notable jump in import needs.

Floods in East Africa: UN ready to offer assistance

By Special Correspondent

FOOTAGE of impassible roads continues to come from Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania among other countries in East Africa.

Speaking from New York on Thursday, a spokesperson for the United Nations' chief, Antonio Guterres, reiterated the UN's readiness to provide additional support to national authorities.

Stéphane Dujarrik also extended Antonio Guterres' condolences to those affected.

"The Secretary-General's expressed his deep distress at the news of the hundreds of lives lost and many others affected by the heavy flooding in Burundi, in Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, as well as other parts of East Africa," Dujarrik told reporters.

"The United Nations and its partners are working closely with national authorities to address humanitarian requirements. The Secretary-General stresses that the United Nations stands ready to offer any additional assistance that may be needed during this difficult period. The Secretary-General is extremely concerned about the impacts of El Niño-triggered extreme weather, which risk further devastating communities and undermining livelihoods."

Why are rains so intense?

The devastating rains in the region are a result of a mix of factors, including the

countries' seasonal weather patterns, human-caused climate change as well as natural weather phenomena such as El-Niño. In Kenya's case, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), a naturally occurring climate system has been cited by researchers.

The IOD is a swinging of sea surface temperatures that makes the western Indian Ocean warmer than average then colder than average than those of the eastern Indian Ocean. It has positive, neutral and negative phases.

The positive phase causes heavy rainfall in areas west of the Indian Ocean, such as Kenya, and droughts in Indonesia and Australia.

Joyce Kimutai, a research associate at Imperial College London says it's highly likely that the positive IOD and climate change explain the ongoing flood-inducing rainfall.

Warmer oceans caused by the hotter atmosphere increase evaporation, and air holding more moisture can produce more intense rainfall.

In an analysis in December last year, Kimutai and colleagues from World Weather Attribution, a group of scientists that analyze whether climate change played a role in extreme weather, found that human-caused climate change had made last year's "short rains" season in Kenya and other parts of eastern Africa up to two times more intense.



Health minister Umyy Mwalimu (R) visits a pavilion at an exhibition held in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the sidelines of the Association of Physicians of Tanzania's annual general meeting. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tarura needs 19bn/- to repair damaged roads in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) in Morogoro Region needs 19bn/- for repair of infrastructure damaged by rains.

Addressing journalists here on Thursday, Tarura regional manager Emanuel Ndyamukama

said the agency has already received a total of 2.8bn/- from the government for repair works following disasters caused by heavy rains that hit the region last month.

He said the agency has already sent requests amounting to 19bn/- to the government. However, restoration of infrastructure which com-

menced was halted due to the heavy rains that hit the region and other parts of the country the entire last month.

Ndyamukama said that Tarura was planning to meet all district managers in Morogoro Region to discuss how to implement their budget which is a shoestring given the magnitude of the damage.

"We had a signed contract

to carry out some planned works but the damage has occurred so we will discuss how to implement it so that we have passable roads for provision of various services for development of the region," he said.

He said that Morogoro is a strategic region that produces agricultural and industrial products hence restoring social services such as hospitals,

schools and markets was a matter of urgency to promote development of the region especially the most affected Ulanga, Kilombero, Malinyi and Mlimba districts.

He said that the continual rains have damaged a large part of the infrastructure in the entire region and thus disrupted normal road maintenance that they had planned

this year. Ndyamukama said that for the fiscal year 2023/24, Morogoro Region was allocated 26bn/- for implementation of road improvements from the government through road funds.

He said that when they were about 50 percent of the implementation of the normal road improvement plan, the region faced the challenge of El Niño

rains that caused implementation of the budget to stop.

Speaking about the effects of El Niño rains in Morogoro Region earlier, Ulanga Member of Parliament Salim Hasham blamed Tanzania National Roads Agency and Tarura for failing to strengthen infrastructure, making the constituency inaccessible as roads and bridges were destroyed.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (L), who is legislator for Kavuu in Katavi Region, presents a tricycle to Adela John at Kidira village in the constituency on Thursday. Photo courtesy of the Lands ministry

Committee tasked to negotiate repatriation of looted artefacts

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has formed a special committee tasked with negotiation and repatriation of ancient items and historic artefacts that were looted during colonial rule.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dastan Kitandula told the National Assembly yesterday that the government was eager to see how it benefits from natural resources and historic items that are currently stored in foreign countries.

According to him, the government is aware of the presence of Ivuna meteorite in London.

He said the meteorite with a volume of 0.01 tonnes fell in 1938 in Mbozi District, Songwe Region.

"As I speak, the meteorite is being stored at the Natural History Museum in London," he said.

He said that the ministry values the importance of the artefacts taken from the country before and after independence for various reasons and has started procedures to return them or see how to benefit from them. He was responding to a question by Momba MP Condester Sicalwe who wanted to know measures taken by the government to bring back historic items taken during colonial rule.

"When will the government start procedures of bringing back the Ivuna meteorite which is currently stored in London so that it can be used as tourist attraction?" she asked.

"How will Momba residents in particular and Tanzanians in general benefit from such items?"

She asserted that the area where the meteorite was taken has interesting information for tourism and asked for the ministry's plan of consulting elders to contribute related stories that can make the area one of historical sites that tourists can visit.

Ugandan farmers now 'sleep' in cocoa farms as beans prices soar

KAMPALA

UGANDAN farmers who cannot afford to hire gunmen to protect their cocoa farms now 'sleep' in the fields to guard against thieves who attempt to cash in on the crop's increased value.

Global cocoa prices have reached their highest point in over a decade as dry weather hinders farming in Ghana and Ivory Coast, the biggest producers of cocoa in the world.

According to Mutanga Grace, a

Ugandan cocoa farmer and CEO of Mkulima Exports Uganda, roughly 30 percent of the cocoa beans produced in the East African country is being stolen.

He said that farmers in the country are forking out armed guards and dogs in an attempt to protect their cocoa, which is a key ingredient in products like chocolate, ice creams and cakes.

"Cocoa in the country right now is like a hotcake, someone takes little but pays a lot, a lot of money," she said.

Cocoa prices on the New York commodities market in the United States (US) reached a new all-time high of \$5,874 (£4,655) a tonne on Thursday.

The cost of the key ingredient for making chocolate has now roughly doubled since the start of last year.

Soaring cocoa prices are already filtering through to consumers and squeezing major chocolate makers.

Last week, one of the world's biggest chocolate manufacturers Hershey warned: "Historic cocoa

prices are expected to limit earnings growth this year."

The company's chief executive Michele Buck also did not rule out putting up prices for customers.

"We can't talk about future pricing," she said in a call with analysts but added, "given where cocoa prices are, we will be using every tool in our toolbox, including pricing, as a way to manage the business."

The comments came as Hershey announced its financial results for the three months to 31 December.

The figures showed sales fell by 6.6 percent as inflation-hit consumers cut back spending on confectionery.

Last month, Mondelez, the company behind the Cadbury brand, identified rising costs of ingredients as one of the challenges it faced in the year ahead.

Chief financial officer Luca Zaramella said the firm had seen "significant increases in both cocoa and sugar."

Cocoa prices have been driven up by poor harvests in West Africa,

which produces the bulk of global supply.

The El Niño weather phenomenon has been causing drier weather in Ghana and Ivory Coast, which are the world's two biggest producers of cocoa beans.

Hotter temperatures and shifts in rainfall patterns caused by climate change can also have an impact on harvests.

"Traders are worried about another short production year and these feelings have been enhanced by El Niño that is threatening West

Kenyan president appoints new CDF

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT William Ruto has promoted Lieutenant General Charles Muriu Kahariri to the rank of General and appointed him Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

He now takes over the post left vacant following the death of Gen Francis Ogolla in a helicopter crash last month. At the same time, the current Kenya Army Commander, Maj-Gen John Mugaravai Omenda, has been promoted to the rank of Lt-Gen and named Vice Chief of Defence Forces.

In another first, Maj-Gen Fatuma Gaiti Ahmed has been promoted to Kenya Air Force Commander, becoming the first-ever woman service commander. In 2018, she became the first woman-ranked major-general.

Other appointments include that of Maj-Gen Thomas Ng'ang'a, currently Kenya Navy commander, to the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, at the National Defence University-Kenya.

He will be replaced by Maj-Gen Paul Owuor Otieno, who takes over as the new navy chief.

Brigadier Peter Nyamu Githinji has been promoted to the rank of Maj-Gen and appointed Senior Directing Staff, Air at the National Defence College.

Other promotions are Brigadier Jattani Kampare Gula and Brigadier George Okumu to major-generals and appointed managing directors of Kenya Meat Commission and Kenya Ordnance Factories Corporation and Food Processing Factory, respectively.

Brigadier Samuel Kipkosgei Korir has been named Deputy Commander, Kenya Air Force.

Lt-Gen Jimson Longiro Mutai will remain the Vice Chancellor of National Defence University-Kenya, Lt-Gen David Kimaiyo Tarus (Kenya Army Commander), and Lt-Gen Juma Shee Mwinjikai (Commandant of the National Defence College).



Boniface Shoo (L), manager with the southern highlands zone of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, addresses communication service providers including social media and radio station owners in Iringa municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

AU health ministers for fair pandemic agreement

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders are looking forward to a just and fair pandemic agreement and a high-level ministerial consultation for the intergovernmental negotiating body on the draft of the pandemic prevention, preparedness and response agreement.

Ministers of health of African Union member states met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 April, under the facilitation of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to drive this message home.

"We need African opinion and voice to be heard because this is the only way for us to show that we are together," said Dr Jean Kaseya, the Director General of Africa CDC, opening the meeting in Addis Ababa.

All AU members were represented at the meeting for the first time, and eight health ministers participated online.

"We decided to come and strengthen the voice for the continent and the world," Dr Kaseya said.

The pandemic agreement is a potential international agreement currently being negotiated by the 194 member states of the

WHO, including the US. It is intended to address some of the weaknesses in capacities and lack of international cooperation during the global response to Covid-19.

Africa CDC is not a negotiator; it provides political, strategic, and technical support to negotiators.

Dr Mekdes Daba, Ethiopia's new Minister of Health who took office in February 2024, said the ministers were meeting at a critical time in the global health governance where a pandemic had paused an administrative vacuum to our collective strengths, driving health experts to unforgivingly reflecting

the world's vulnerabilities.

"As we navigate these challenging times, we must learn from our past experiences and share the future of global health security," Dr Daba said.

Sylvia Masebo, Zambia's health minister said the health of 'our' people in our respective countries is a core component of economic and social development, and our collective voices today should foster unity around this common purpose of achieving universal health coverage.

"Our voices today should lead to equitable access to pandemic-related health prod-

ucts, increased access to vaccines and diagnostics, ensuring that no one is left behind, tech transfer, local production capabilities, and strengthening of our health systems," Masebo said.

Ministers of health eventually agreed that the current Pandemic Agreement should ensure equity.

In a 27 April communique, the ministers said multilateral pathogen access and benefit sharing system (PABS), which provides legal certainty for both users and providers and ensures improved access to pandemic-related health products, technologies with

Flights to Dubai disrupted after heavy rains hit UAE

DUBAI

SEVERAL flights to Dubai were cancelled and diverted since Thursday, airport authorities announced, as heavy rains hit the United Arab Emirates for the second time in a month.

An airport authority spokesperson said five inbound flights were diverted overnight, while nine arriving and four departing flights were cancelled.

In April, heavy thunderstorms dumped the heaviest rains ever recorded in the UAE in a span of hours, flooding portions of major highways and Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel and a hub for the long-haul carrier Emirates. The airport ended up needing 22 tankers with vacuum pumps to get water off its grounds.

Authorities warned residents to stay home ahead of Thursday's rain, announcing that they should work remotely, and that schools will hold classes online.

Although Thursday's rain did not cause major problems or flooding, authorities still issued warnings on Wednesday and took precautions.

The flooding two weeks ago quickly overwhelmed the UAE's drainage systems, flooded out neighbourhoods, business districts and even portions of the 12-lane Sheikh Zayed Highway, which links Dubai and the neighbouring emirate of Abu Dhabi. Many residents lost their belongings when their homes flooded, and many cars were destroyed.



Authorities warned residents to stay home ahead of Thursday's rain, announcing that they should work remotely, and that schools will hold classes online



Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children minister, Riziki Pembe Juma (R), exchanges ideas with deputy minister Anna Athanas (C) and permanent secretary Khatib Mwadin Khatib at a meeting with members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives' Social Welfare Committee when reviewing the ministry's draft budget for financial year 2024/2025 on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New easily spreading form of monkeypox found in Congo

BRAZZAVILLE

CONGO is struggling to contain its biggest mpox outbreak, as scientists say a new form of the disease detected in a mining town might spread more easily among people.

Since January, Congo has reported more than 4,500 suspected mpox cases and nearly 300 deaths, numbers that have roughly tripled from the same period last year, according to the World Health Organization. Congo recently declared the outbreak across the country a health emergency.

An analysis of patients hospital-

ized between October and January in Kamituga, eastern Congo, suggests recent genetic mutations in mpox are the result of its continued transmission in humans; it's happening in a town where people have little contact with the wild animals thought to naturally carry the disease.

"We are in a new phase of mpox," said Dr Placide Mbala-Kingebeni, the lead researcher of the study, who said it will soon be submitted to a journal for publication. Mbala-Kingebeni heads a lab at Congo's National Institute of Biomedical Research, which studies the genetics of diseases.

The lesions reported by most patients are milder and on the genitals, Mbala-Kingebeni said, making the disease trickier to diagnose. In previous outbreaks in Africa, lesions were mostly seen on the chest, hands and feet. He also said that the new form seems to have a lower death rate.

In a report on the global mpox situation this week, WHO said the new version of the disease might require a new testing strategy to pick up the mutations.

With experts pointing out that fewer than half of people in Congo with mpox are tested, Mbala-Kingebeni said: "The risk is that unless pa-

tients themselves come forward, we will have a silent transmission of the disease and nobody will know."

Mbala-Kingebeni said most people were infected via sex, with about a third of mpox cases found in sex workers. It was not until the 2022 global emergency of mpox that scientists established the disease was spread via sex, with most cases in gay or bisexual men. In November, WHO confirmed sexual transmission of mpox in Congo for the first time.

There are two kinds, or clades, of mpox, which is related to smallpox and endemic to central and west

Africa. Clade 1 is more severe and can kill up to 10 percent of people infected. Clade 2 triggered the 2022 outbreak; more than 99 percent of people infected survived.

Mbala-Kingebeni and colleagues said they have identified a new form of clade 1 that may be responsible for more than 240 cases and at least three deaths in Kamituga, a region with a significant transient population traveling elsewhere in Africa and beyond.

Dr Boghuma Titanji, an infectious diseases expert at Emory University who is not connected to the research, said the new mutations are

concerning.

"This suggests the virus is adapting to spread efficiently in humans and could cause some pretty consequential outbreaks," she said.

Although the mpox epidemics in the West were contained with the help of vaccines and treatments, barely any have been available in Congo. Congo's minister of health has authorized the use of vaccines in high-risk provinces, said Cris Kacita Osako, coordinator of Congo's Monkeypox Response Committee. He said officials are in talks with donor countries like Japan to help buy the shots.



Fried fish on sale at the Magogoni International Fish Market in Dar es Salaam earlier this week - with little consideration for hygiene. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Govt, partners for malaria-free future

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts to tackle the spreading of malaria by 2030, the government has emphasised the need for increased innovative collaborations between the public and private players and stakeholders.

Chief Medical Officer, Prof Tumaini Nagu made the call in Dar es Salaam recently during opening of the 2024 Malaria Forum organized by Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in partnership with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) and Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Programme (ZAMEP).

Under the theme 'Malaria-Free Future: Integrated Strategies for Malaria Elimination,' this year's forum was a hub of collaboration and innovation as stakeholders from government ministries, research institutions, academia and innovative sectors came together to shape the path toward a future free from malaria.

Prof Nagu said that Tanzania has made steps in the fight against malaria but death cases have continued to occur due to climate change impacts. "Tanzania has made significant strides in scaling up affordable and cost-effective preventive and curative interventions for malaria control and elimination, resulting in a notable shift in the country's malaria epidemiological profile, but more efforts are needed to ensure to meet the 2030 goal," she said.

She pointed out the success of recent interventions, citing data from 2023 School Malaria Parasitological Survey (SMPS) which revealed a decline in malaria prevalence among primary school children, dropping from 21.6 percent in 2015 to 11.3 percent in 2023. She said despite the achievements, there is need for intensified efforts to address emerging challenges, including climate change impacts, floods, insecticide and drug resistance, and the spread of specific mosquito strains carrying malaria namely, *Anopheles stephensi*.

"Despite the progress we have made, there is still a lot of work ahead to solidify these achievements and speed up our journey toward a malaria-free society...these obstacles have been slowing down our efforts to eliminate malaria, and it's vital to address them with the right tools and approaches," she said.

IHI chief executive director Dr Honorati Masanja said. "As we convene in this esteemed gathering, we unite in our shared commitment towards a common goal - the elimination of malaria from our communities and the realization of a malaria-free future," he said.

Kenya evacuates tourists from flooded Maasai Mara reserve

NAROK

KENYAN officials said on Wednesday that they had begun evacuation of tourists marooned by floods in the world-famous Maasai Mara National Reserve in the southwestern county of Narok.

Narok County governor Patrick ole Ntutu said two helicopters had been deployed to rescue tourists and workers in Maasai Mara.

Dozens of tourists and locals working at hotels, lodges and tents inside Maasai Mara narrowly escaped death at dawn

on Wednesday when Talek River, which runs through the wildlife sanctuary, burst its banks after torrential rains, causing widespread destruction. Ntutu said all the visitors and workers had been evacuated safely and transferred to nearby hotels and camps

where there was no flooding. "We are implementing plans and mobilizing resources to respond promptly to distress calls and ensure the safety of our residents. We are remaining dedicated to fulfilling our duty to protect and serve the people during these challeng-

ing times," Ntutu said in a statement issued in Narok town.

Witnesses said visitors and workers were forced to climb trees on Tuesday night after the camp was marooned in water; dining halls were waterlogged, and the water level continued to rise.

Kenya is grappling with floods that have claimed 179 lives and displaced more than 190,000 people, according to government statistics.

In a recent briefing, Alfred Mutua, Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary, urged hotels and camps adjacent to rivers in

the major national parks and reserves to put in place evacuation measures in case of flooding. "Several camps have been affected by flooding, prompting our coordinated efforts to evacuate visitors, and we have been successful so far," he said.

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DNA technology links matter in efforts meant to combat cancers

EVEN before demanding who can be trusted with leading in efforts to combat cancer, which kills thousands of people in the country annually, one preliminary issue is if the right measures can be taken - and which those measures are. These issues were raised by a senior cabinet minister at the recent launch of Cancer Care Centre (CCC) initiative, part of the Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) at a major private hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The fact that the centre is a collaborative effort with the Ocean Road Cancer Institute gives an idea that it is essentially curative or chiefly palliative.

An online entry dated April 2020 speaks of DNA repair pathways performing the essential role of correcting the DNA lesions that occur from DNA damaging agents or carcinogens, thus maintaining genomic stability.

It says that inefficient DNA repair is a critical driving force behind the rise of cancers in the body and that much of this repair of DNA lesion pathways is largely out of reach here as yet.

But with cancer now confirmed as a rising killer, methods need to be found to pair local institutions with quality research institutions abroad to obtain an infrastructure for planting repair genes, etc.

It is further noted that palliative medicine or informing the public on the need to change lifestyles won't do much good, for eating can have close links with sentimentality, etc.

The whole issue of taking the prevention parameter as decisive with the number of patients diagnosed with cancer tending to increase in the country shows the difficulties our country faces.

Fewer diseases strike more fear in anyone's mind than does the likes of cancer and kidney failure, with many people having by and large learned to live with HIV/AIDS - which is not by any means to even remotely suggest that this no longer a threat.

The most that hospitals can do is often to offer the usual diagnostic services and an array of palliatives.

The Aga Khan Health Services, which has set up the centre, has deservedly been hailed for its efforts to improve access to the latest radiotherapy and chemotherapy services for cancer cases.

But even with this arsenal of tools, cancer cells tend to be stubborn and radiating them or quelling them with chemicals seldom amounts to their elimination.

Worse, once the body starts 'producing' cancer cells rather than normal cells in certain sequences, battling the disease without affecting the DNA mechanism is especially complicated.

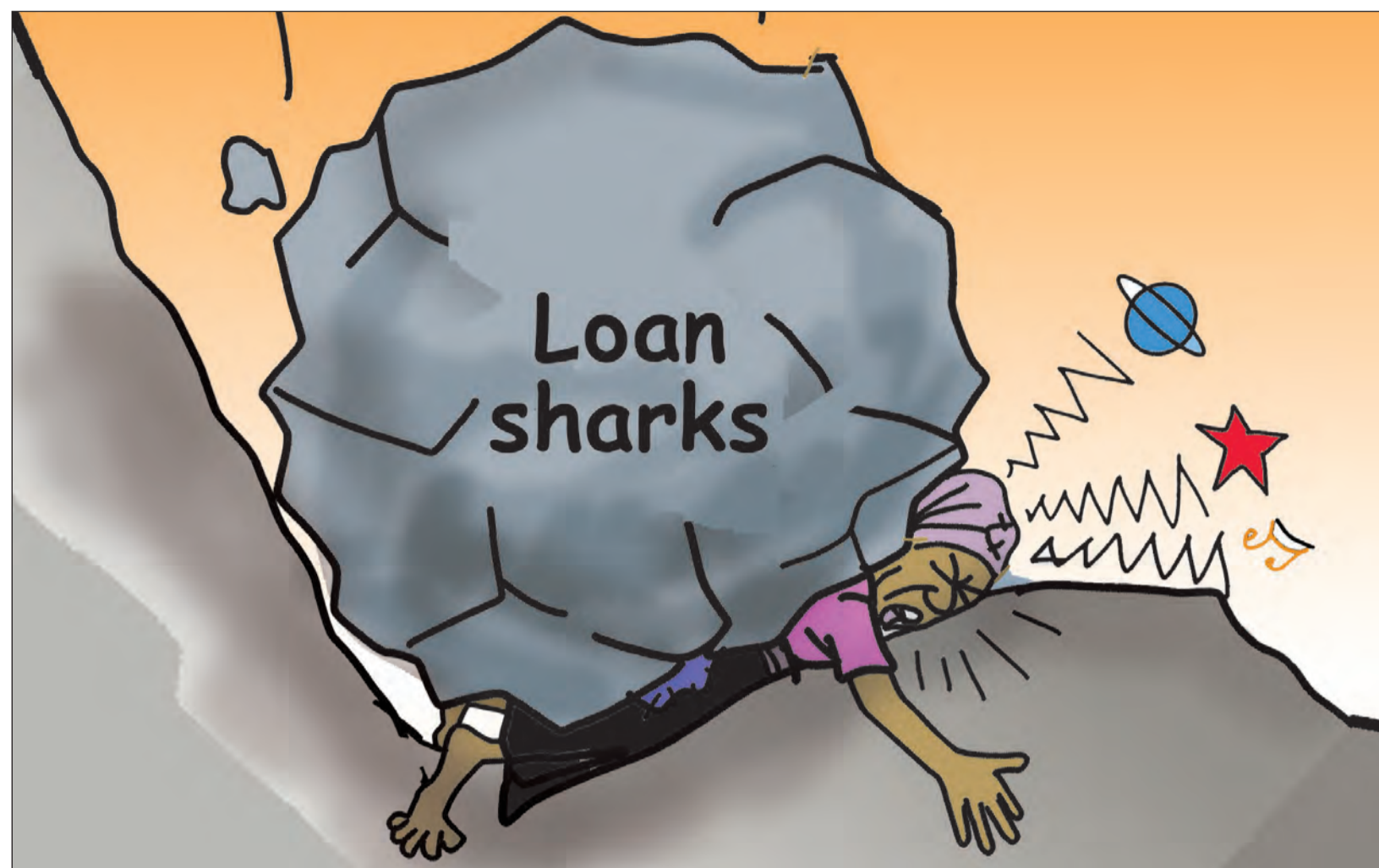
It was reported at the launch of the CCC initiative that the number of cancer-induced deaths in Africa would likely rise appreciably between now and the year 2030.

This shows the urgency for tertiary health institutions to pair up with developing DNA technology in Western countries.

Yet we have a culture burden to put aside for this to work, as we have rejected DNA science to improve protein quotient in basic grains, favouring sweet traditional seeds with low protein and open to attack by pests.

Indeed, it is highly risky preferring showy events of educating people about cancer while none of us is really free from the threat but still not opening our doors to the requisite technology.

Just as was the case with Covid-19, many talked of this or that control measure but it was vaccines which ultimately really worked, disrupting the chain of infections by multiplying resistances in individuals. While we have not definitively stated that refusal of crop DNA alteration has to do with rates of stunting in children, we could put up the same brave faces of negligence as cancer infections pick up. That would be foolhardy - and we only hope that things won't run that way.



The coming population collapse - and factors behind the decline

By Subhash Kak

A generation ago, magazines and journals were full of dire warnings about runaway global population, a future of hunger and starvation for millions, and population-induced climate change that would worsen the problem of feeding humanity.

The reality has turned out to be different. The world population is decreasing in many parts of the world and it is expected to begin falling everywhere in the coming decades.

There are scenarios that the world population a hundred years on may only be one-tenth of what it is now. If this were to happen, the world will change in unimaginable ways: whole regions will be depopulated, current political systems will be replaced, and in a world with very few children, the idea of the family will disappear.

There are several reasons for the decline in population. Technology has made birth control easy and artificial intelligence (AI) raises the spectre of machines replacing humans at virtually all jobs so that parents do not want to have children who will have dim prospects in life.

With the breakdown of the extended family, taking care of the child for many working parents has become unaffordable.

There is also a deeper reason. If the same spirit is within each person, all humanity is family and the old idea of extending one's biological lineage does not hold the same power it did for earlier generations.

Falling fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) - the number of live children the average woman bears in her lifetime - has been falling since the 1970s. It has dropped under the 2.1 threshold (the "replacement rate", to account for infant mortality and sex imbalances), below which the population will fall, in more and more countries. This decline in the fertility is perhaps the most remarkable trend of our times.

The decrease of the TFR below the replacement threshold of 2.1 has proceeded for over half century. In the US, the TFR fell below 2.0 in 1973, and in the UK, in 1974.

In South Korea TFR was above 2.0 until 1984; in China until 1991. The current fertility rate in Iran is 1.6 and in India it is 2.0.

It takes a generation after TFR falls below 2.1 for population to start tapering or thinning down and, with another generation, the population collapse is in full swing.

South Korea's current fertility rate is 0.68. This means that if the fertility rate doesn't change across generations, a cohort of 100 Koreans will have 34 children,



who in turn will have about 12, and in yet another generation it will be down to 4.

In three generations (90 years), the survivors will be 48 in number of which 34 are 60-year-olds, 12 who are 30-year-olds, and four who are young. In another generation, their number will be further down to 16, of whom 12 are 60-year-olds and 4 are 30-year-olds.

Despite incentives to women to have more children, the South Korean fertility rate has kept on decreasing for the past 16 years.

Demographers call it the "low-fertility trap" in which once a country's fertility rate drops below 1.5, it is virtually impossible to turn it around. Incentives have also been tried by France, Australia and Russia with similarly disappointing results.

If the South Korean situation is an outlier, let's consider Japan where TFR fell below replacement in 1976 and in 2008 the population began shrinking.

The current Japanese fertility rate of 1.37, which has held steady for some time, is perhaps more representative of where the rest of the world is going.

So, a cohort of 100 Japanese now will have 68 children. In the second generation, this will lead to 48 children and in three generations to 33 children. Counting each generation to be about 30 years, the population of Japan that will have babies will approach one-third of the current figure in about 90 years.

The Indian TFR is currently 2.0 and, in the low scenario, the country's population will shrink by nearly 500 million in the next 75 years. China could fall to 1.1 billion people in 2050 and 400 million people in 2100, which will be a loss of about a billion people in a mere

eight decades.

Although sub-Saharan Africa fertility rates remain well above the replacement rate, even in this region the fertility is expected to fall rapidly in the future. The global TFR was projected to fall from 2.3 in 2021 to 1.8 in 2100 and the more radical projections estimate the global population to fall to about 4 billion by 2100.

Another longer-term projection by Austria's Wittgenstein Centre for Demography sees global fertility approaching 1.3 by the end of the 21st century, with male and female life expectancy both near 100, and the median age over 60. The population will fall to 250 million by 2200 and it will be under 100 million by 2300.

The future of society

Projections of future world population are based on assumptions on future mortality, fertility, migration and other factors.

Demographers leave out of their equation the fundamental changes in society due to the permanent disappearance of jobs caused by robots and AI machines and the impact it will have on the human psyche.

In my view, the AI factor points to an even more drastic population decline than forecast by demographers.

The fragmentation of the traditional family, pervasive voluntary childlessness, the rise in single-parent homes and the new normal of co-habitation and unmarried motherhood have made child-rearing very hard. We live in the age of narcissism where people are not as much thinking about raising children in extended kinship networks as about personal fulfilment and sense-gratification.

In East Asia, more and more women are choosing to marry later or not marry at all. Many Japanese youths

show no interest in sex. There is a rise in the number of cases of living together outside of marriage, but illegitimacy and single parenthood are severely stigmatised.

Only 2 per cent of births occur outside of marriage, compared to between 30 and 60 per cent of births in Europe and North America. As populations shrink, the price of housing will fall. In Japan, the average value of real estate is less than half what it was in the 1980s and 1990s.

There are more than 8.5 million 'akiya', or abandoned homes, in rural Japan - while other estimates peg the number closer to 11 million. Spain has meanwhile about 4 million empty homes, while the numbers in Italy are similar. This is the future for various other countries as well.

One can also see national retirement systems becoming insolvent. Typically, pension systems take a portion of annual tax revenue and distribute it to the retired people.

This works fine when there are three or more working-age people for each retiree, for one can tax one-fourth of the income and get three-fourths of one person's salary to distribute to the pensioner.

Japan is approaching one working-age person for each pensioner, while China will soon have one working-age person for two pensioners - and clearly these ratios are unsustainable. The rest of the world will face the same problem soon.

The social compact on which modern political and economic arrangements rest is already facing severe pressures. As the population fall becomes extreme, current banking and political systems will be unsustainable.

* A medium-com dispatch. Subhash Kak is a scientist and an author.

Rational credit systems vital for durable agro-sector jobs

IN a situation where our legislature was preoccupied with the problem of loan sharks and the impoverishment of large numbers of people rushing to take harsh loans with no assurance of payment ability, thinking of agro-sector lending for rising numbers of impatient youths brings up problems.

Yet this is unavoidable in the wake of affirmations by the Agriculture minister that fiscal 2023/2024 saw nearly 500,000 jobs created in the sector, with the 'building a better tomorrow' (BBT) and irrigation programmes contributing massively to the feat.

Trouble with such jobs data is that one can't quite figure out what happens when funding for the projects in question runs out.

A major problem is that most of this uptake of job openings or occupational moves is tied up with what can easily be called spoon feeding.

This suggests the absence of a substantial - or substantive - link with private sector credit systems which create the sort of synergies where initial empowerment cash is anchored in a positive growth environment.

It presumes a situation where the youths being initiated into agriculture, so to speak, will remain there either as a career choice, as a viable proprietorship or for labour earnings on a continual basis.

None of that is assured as it is unclear as to the market scope of fattening cattle for onward sale in

foreign markets, where there could be cut-throat competition.

Less enthusiastically, it can be demanded how many jobs were needed last year and what gap agro-sector openings filled - what with the roundabout half a million job openings, even without sorting out prospects for durability, and indeed if this pace of job creation can be maintained in the following years.

The sore issue is that there is gross dependency on agriculture budget allocations both for the BBT programme as well as for irrigation.

Other value chain projects or prospects will meanwhile depend on specialised lending, with agriculture not likely to get much from banks and other financial institutions, meaning that those 'enabled' and creating jobs could remain few and far between.

The good minister said when delivering the ministry's 1.28trn/- Budget estimates for fiscal 2024/2025 that guidance would be provided under the Agricultural Transformation Master Plan geared towards 2050. This focuses on higher production and the further widening of the scope for creating decent jobs. It seeks to promote the participation of youth and women in the agriculture value chain.

While the focus of the minister's remarks was widening the scope of engaging in regional and global agricultural produce markets, the crucial issue is how far this approach is warranted.

Tanzania's readiness for participation in global digital economy

By Telesphor Magobe

STUDIES in digital technology show that the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), which is characterised by a fusion of emerging fast-evolving technologies (also called frontier technologies), is changing the way people think, live, work and interact (OECD, 2018; UNIDO, 2019; Akileswaran and Hutchinson, 2019). These technologies include, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things (IoT), virtual and augmented reality (VAR), robotics and cloud computing.

While countries that invest in emerging technologies have a competitive edge over those that lag behind, there are nevertheless "unique opportunities for 'late-comer' countries to catch up with more advanced countries," according to UNIDO (2019).

This point is also reflected in the United Nations' Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-border data flows and development (For whom the data flow). The report puts it in this way: "Rapid digitalisation is affecting all aspects of life - including the way we interact, work, shop and receive services - as well as how value is created and exchanged. In this process, data and cross-border data flows are becoming increasingly crucial to development."

"In the era of the 4IR, latecomer developing countries that are active and quick learners have more opportunities than ever to exploit the advantage of their late arrival by tapping into affordable 4IR technologies and creating new products and services, rather than having to reproduce previous technological trajectories."

Africa in particular still lags behind in digital transformation and this challenge is reflected in Oke et al. (2020)'s article entitled "Innovations in Teaching and Learning: Exploring the Perceptions of the Education Sector on the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR)".

The authors see that the education sector's challenge is "on how to produce graduates with creative ideas and relevant skills to operate in this digital world, while contributing to the organisational functioning and productivity if the education sector is not receptive to 4IR."

To address this challenge they recommend shifting debate from computer technology and focus on the transformation of the teaching and learning process, including the transformation of the education sector



through digitalisation. "This shift in focus will not only allow the education sector to benefit from the technology revolution, but will also provide an opportunity to address the dilemma regarding the roles and effectiveness of digital technology in teaching and learning."

Tanzania adopts a learner-centred (competence-based) pedagogy and integrates information communication technology (ICT) into education starting from pre-primary education. This is in line with a new paradigm shift in education. The traditional teacher-centred pedagogy makes schoolchildren passive learners and unable to develop critical and problem-solving skills because almost everything is done for them. The learner-centred pedagogy instils in schoolchildren active learning and develops in them critical thinking and problem-solving

skills.

Technologies help people advance, but it also divides when some people lag behind. "As the data-driven digital economy has evolved, a data-related divide has compounded the digital divide. In this new configuration, developing countries may find themselves in subordinate positions, with data and their associated value capture being concentrated in a few global digital corporations and other multinational enterprises that control the data. They risk becoming mere providers of raw data to global digital platforms, while having to pay for the digital intelligence obtained from their data" (United Nations, 2021).

Learner-centred education is internationally recognised as the best pedagogical practice (Schweisfurth,

2019). Early childhood education and care (ECEC), including pre-primary education, lays the foundation of formal education.

Paragraph 14 of Agenda 63: The Africa We Want states that "Africa's human capital will be fully developed as its most precious resource, through sustained investments based on universal early childhood development and basic education, and sustained investments in higher education, science, technology, research and innovation, and the elimination of gender disparities at all levels of education." It also states that "access to post-graduate education will be expanded and strengthened to ensure world-class infrastructure for learning and research and support scientific reforms that underpin the transformation of the continent."

Thus, when children starting from an early age are exposed to quality education, including ICT literacy, have an advantage over those, who may be exposed to such education at a later stage. Preparing Tanzanians for the global digital economy starts with exposing Tanzanian schoolchildren to quality education. "Digital literacy is a basic prerequisite for [learners] to develop adaptive capabilities to participate in the global digital society, to benefit from the digital economy, and to derive new opportunities for employment, innovation, creative expression, and social inclusion" (Kayembe and Nel, 2019).

UNESCO (2018) suggests that "it is essential that teachers have competencies to integrate ICT into their professional practice to ensure the equity and quality of learning. Teachers also need to be able to harness ICT to guide learners in developing knowledge society skills such as critical and innovative thinking, complex problem-solving, the ability to collaborate, and socio-emotional skills."

It is in line with this that Tanzania emphasises the learner-centred pedagogy and the integration of ICT into all levels of education starting from pre-primary education, which reflects Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 which focuses on inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. In this way,

Tanzania grooms schoolchildren and future adults for their readiness and participation in the global digital economy.

Battling human trafficking: From shadows to spotlight

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a daring collaboration between the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF) and Community Health and Social Welfare Africa (COMHESWA), a trailblazing study titled 'Estimating the Prevalence of Forced Labor Among Domestic Workers in Tanzania' has thrust the grim reality faced by these workers into the spotlight.

Through rigorous investigation employing two distinct estimation methods, this initiative has uncovered a chilling truth: a multitude of domestic workers, once abroad, are ensnared in a web of exploitation and coercion, robbed of their fundamental freedoms and rights.

In a groundbreaking study utilizing advanced sampling methods, it has been revealed that over half of Tanzanian domestic workers abroad are subjected to domestic servitude. With sample sizes reaching 1,052 and 788 through Stratified Random Simple Random Sampling (STSRs) and Multi-Wave Snowball or Link Tracing Sampling (LTS) methods, respectively, the findings shed light on the widespread exploitation faced by Tanzanian workers overseas.

In response to this alarming revelation, Tanzanian immigration authorities have launched a week-long nationwide crackdown on illegal immigrants. Commissioner General Anna Makakala announced the aggressive operation, vowing to spare no effort in detecting and apprehending aliens. Makakala issued a stern warning to Tanzanians involved in human trafficking, declaring that offenders will face the full force of the law.

"Tanzanian human traffickers are significantly contributing to the influx of illegal immigrants entering the country without valid travel documents," Makakala emphasized during a recent press conference in the Morogoro region. She further disclosed that the immigration authorities have obtained a permit to recruit 820 new immigration officials, bolstering efforts to combat illegal immigration in the future.

With the government's decisive action and commitment to upholding the law, Tanzania is sending a clear message: human trafficking will not be tolerated, and those involved will be held accountable.

Dr. Angela Mbilinyi, lead researcher of the study, emphasized the significance of these findings, stating, "Our study sheds light on the pervasive exploitation faced by Tanzanian domestic workers overseas. It highlights the urgent need for action to protect the rights and well-being of these vulnerable individuals."

Despite discrepancies in population size estimates between the two sampling methods, both proved effective in providing insights into the scope of domestic servitude among returning workers. While the simplicity of STSRs made it a more feasible option operationally, the study cautioned against the use of multi-wave sampling designs for estimating the size of hidden domains within highly mobile populations.

Former Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Jenista Mhagama, addressed the issue during a parliamentary session, affirming the government's commitment to rectifying the situation. Mhagama stated, "The government is dedicated to improving the engagement with foreign workers and upholding the rights and welfare of Tanzanians abroad. We



Anna Makakala, Commissioner General of Immigration.

have identified agencies not performing satisfactorily and are taking concrete steps to address the issue."

The study revealed that the majority of domestic workers facing exploitation abroad are women. Mhagama's remarks echoed this gender disparity, highlighting the disproportionate impact on women in the labor market and emphasizing the government's determination to rectify this injustice.

The study further debunked misconceptions regarding marital status, parental responsibilities, and education as protective factors against exploitation. Regardless of these factors, individuals remain equally susceptible to forced labor, underscoring the complex dynamics at play and the need for comprehensive interventions.

Trafficking in persons casts a dark shadow over Tanzanian society, with internal victims comprising 97 percent of cases, and a staggering 74 percent being female. Youth between 12 and 17 years old are particularly vulnerable, often trafficked for domestic servitude. Despite legislative efforts, the reality on the ground remains grim.

In response, community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and government bodies are rallying together to combat trafficking and support survivors. Through education, advocacy, and targeted interventions, efforts are underway to empower individuals and communities to recognize the signs of trafficking and take action against this heinous crime.

As Tanzania stands at the forefront of this fight, united in its commitment to eradicate trafficking in persons, let us not falter in our resolve. Let us stand together, recognizing that behind the statistics lie the stories of individuals stripped of their dignity and subjected to unimaginable hardships. Together, we can build a future where every individual is free to live with dignity and without fear.

The scourge of trafficking in persons casts a dark shadow over our society, trapping vulnerable individuals in a web of exploitation and cruelty. Lured by false promises of a better life, countless men, women, and children fall prey to traffickers who profit from their suffering.

Tanzania's ratification of international conventions and the enactment of legislation to combat trafficking have not dispelled a stark reality: women and children are trafficked both domestically and internationally, facing forced labor and sexual exploitation in distant lands like South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom.

The statistics paint a chilling picture: 97 percent of trafficking cases in Tanzania involve internal victims, with a staggering 74 percent being female. Youth between 12 and 17 years old are particularly vulnerable, often lured from rural areas to urban centers for domestic servitude, only to find themselves trapped in a cycle of abuse and exploitation.

Yet, amidst this darkness, glimmers of hope emerge. Community-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and government bodies are uniting to combat trafficking and support survivors. Through education, advocacy, and targeted interventions, there's a growing momentum to empower individuals and communities to recognize the signs of trafficking and take decisive action against this heinous crime.

Dr. Angela Mbilinyi, lead researcher of the study, reflects on the urgency of the situation, stating, "These statistics underscore the gravity of the issue we face. It's imperative that we join forces to combat trafficking and protect the most vulnerable in our society."

Former Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Jenista Mhagama, echoes the sentiment, emphasizing the government's commitment to addressing the root causes of trafficking. "We cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering of our people. We must work tirelessly to eradicate trafficking and ensure a future where every Tanzanian lives with dignity and freedom," she asserts.

Tanzania is taking a bold stance

against human trafficking, rallying its citizens to stand united in eradicating this pervasive crime. With nearly 21 million people subjected to forced labor globally, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2018, the reality of human trafficking is stark, with Africa alone accounting for 3.7 million victims. This figure is based on data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2018.

This lucrative industry, ranking third in profits for organized crime, generates up to \$10 billion annually worldwide, as estimated by the Council of Europe. Despite international efforts, developing countries like Tanzania bear a significant burden, contributing to 23 percent of global trafficking cases, as reported by Blagbrough in 2018.

In Africa, human trafficking is compounded by socio-political and economic challenges, fueling large-scale illegal migrations. Recognizing the threat it poses to national security, Tanzania emphasizes the protection of vulnerable populations, especially internal cases involving youth. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2015, 97 percent of trafficking cases in Tanzania are internal, with 74 percent of victims being female.

In Arusha City Council, a bustling commerce hub, trafficking routes thrive along the borders with Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, with 97 percent of cases being internal and 74 percent of victims being female. This data is based on a study conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2015.

Efforts to combat human trafficking must be comprehensive and collaborative. As the urgency to address this global challenge intensifies, transnational cooperation is essential to dismantle the complex networks behind this crime. Tanzania stands as a beacon of hope in this fight, calling on the world to join hands in securing a future where every individual can live free from fear and exploitation.

Highlighting this commitment to action, the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum (PRIF) and Community Health and Social Welfare Africa (COMHESWA) conducted a trailblazing study titled "Estimating the Prevalence of Forced Labor Among Domestic Workers." This research sheds light on the gravity of the issue and underlines the importance of innovative approaches to tackling human trafficking. With dedication and collaboration, there is hope for a brighter future, where the dignity and freedom of every individual are upheld.

By Orlando Milesi

WATER AND SANITATION

Drought and unequal water rights threatening family farms in Chile

LACK of water threatens the very existence of family farming in Chile, forcing farmers to adopt new techniques or to leave their land.

The shortage is caused by a 15-year drought and exacerbated by the unequal distribution arising from the Water Code decreed in 1981 by the 1973-1990 dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet, which turned water into a tradable commodity and gave its owners rights in perpetuity.

In addition, there are problems such as the accumulation of water rights in the hands of large agro-export companies and real estate speculation with the land of small farmers who are forced to sell.

"We have no water for human consumption," Julieta Cortés, 52, president of the Rural Women's Association of the municipality of Canela, said. "In Canela, more than 80 percent of the population depends on the water truck that delivers 50 liters of water per person per day. It's hard to get by with that amount."

Located in the Coquimbo region, 400 kilometers north of Santiago, Canela, with a population of just over 11,000, was known for its goat herds, now reduced by half. Local farmers also used to grow wheat and barley. Today, the fruit trees are drying up and the livestock are dying of thirst.

In contrast, the extensive plantations of avocados for export are irrigated and green on the slopes of the dry valleys.

Chile's agro-exports are one of its major sources of income, together with mining. In 2023, the agro-export sector accounted for 3.54 percent of GDP, or 10.09 billion dollars.

Water problems are concentrated in isolated rural areas that lack technical, economic, and infrastructure capacities.

"Family and small farmers do not have access to water rights controlled by those who have money and can buy and transfer them," Cortés said in a telephone interview.

"The lower part of the Choapa River flows through my municipality and none of us who live here have access to the water that is used upstream in the Los Pelambres mine and the large agro-industries along the way," she said.

The issue is not lack of water, but inequality

In the publication *Guardianas del Agua* (Guardians of the Water), published by the German Heinrich Boll Stiftung Foundation, Macarena Salinas and Isaura Becker reported that 47.2 percent of the rural Chilean population had no formal drinking water supply or irrigation.

In this South American country, some 950 communities are not part of the Rural Drinking Water Program (RWP) and obtain water from informal sources such as wells, springs and water trucks.

"We have a privatized water model where the focus and priority has always been to maintain the right to property over the human right of access to water." -- Evelyn Vicioso

The publication reported that between 2016 and 2021, the State invested 150 million dollars to use water trucks to supply the areas suffering from scarcity.

"While the RWP committees and cooperatives need drinking water and are supplied through emergency measures, there are individuals and companies that have surplus water and can profit from the sale of water using tanker trucks," write Salinas and Becker.

Therefore, they point out, "rather than a lack of water, there is an unequal distribution of the resource."

The drought in Canela has been repeated in other areas of this long, narrow country of 19.5 million people living between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

The shortage of rainfall has lasted for 15 years, with a brief respite in 2023. It is unclear what will happen in 2024.

In Canela, farmers survive by using recycled water from washing machines and bathrooms, water harvested from rooftops or with fog catchers, systems used to capture or trap microscopic water droplets from mist, which are widely used in Chile.

"We have been reinventing ourselves. We have even rescued water from the dew. Many of us have adopted new techniques; others have moved away," Cortés said from her community, Carquindañá.

Rosa Guzmán, 57, and her three brothers own a 40-hectare property in San Pedro, a community of some 5,000 inhabitants in the municipality of Quillota, 126 kilometers north of Santiago in the Valparaíso region.

They only grow four hectares of vegetables and 2.5 hectares of avocados because they do not have the money to expand their crops.

"Sometimes we run out of water for the house because the wells are 10 meters deep. They are filled from two canals that rarely have water," she said during a tour of



Rosa Guzmán harvests tomatoes on her family farm in San Pedro, in the municipality of Quillota, 126 kilometers north of Santiago, the Chilean capital, where she is unable to extend her crops due to lack of funds, which prevents her from drilling deeper wells to obtain water and combat the drought. Photo: IPS



Water stored in a small reservoir allows the Guzmán siblings to maintain vegetable production on their 40-hectare plot of land, of which only 10 percent is planted due to a lack of resources. It is one of the few surviving family farms in the municipality. Photo: IPS

the family's farm with IPS.

Guzmán is director of the National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women (Anamuri) and president of her community's environmental organization, San Pedro Digno.

Anamuri is an organization founded in 1998, composed solely of women, which organizes and promotes development among rural and indigenous women in this country. It also builds relationships of equality, regardless of gender, class, and ethnicity, on the basis of respect between people and nature.

"I used to collect medicinal herbs on the banks of the canal, but now there are none. The natural springs have dried up. This is a serious problem, and there are people who have no water to drink, which is a grave issue," she said.

According to the rural activist, the State has abandoned small-scale agriculture.

"It would be very different if the State were to put more of a priority on small-scale agriculture and give us soft credits or subsidies. It has to pay attention to what is happening because, at this rate, it pains me to say it, family farming could disappear in Chile," she said.

Agro-export model in the spotlight

Water scarcity directly affects farmers' livelihoods and way of life and often leads to complex environmental problems.

"The lack of safe water impacts household and community economies, especially for families who depend on small-scale family farming for their food," write Salinas and Becker.

Guzmán criticized the agro-export model and called for a return to planting wheat, lentils and chickpeas, products that form part of Chile's food security. But, she stressed, in order to do so, soft loans or subsidies are needed.

"We need food sovereignty. But if small farmers suffer losses every year, many end up selling their land. We want to live well without losing our identity and our know-how," she underlined.

Sociologist Evelyn Vicioso, executive director of Sustainable Chile, criticized the agro-export model because "it is super intensive in water use and is extremely irresponsible with regard to crops. But above all, because it does not solve a problem nationally: the availability of water for many communities," she said.

"We particularly depend on small-scale family farming for food, and if it disappears, we have a problem of costs and distribution. The big farmers think about ensuring food sovereignty for any country except their own communities," she said.

Watershed management slow to take off

To advance climate justice in a scenario of water scarcity, many experts agree on the need to manage watersheds with representative councils.

"Our country has a gigantic mass of mountains, but today we do not have a management system that allows us to link what happens in the headwaters with what is happening further downstream," said Vicioso.

She listed a string of failures to create watershed councils, as there have been 25 attempts since 1994 and only one is functioning.

There is no will to create them, especially among water rights owners.

"We have a privatized water model where the focus and priority have always been to maintain the right to property over the human right of access to water," said Vicioso.

Salinas and Becker regret that the 2005 reforms to the Water Code are not retroactive.

"This generates the conditions for the holders of water use rights to exploit the water with a strictly economic focus, thus discouraging the development of uses not involving extractive industries, such as ancestral and ecological uses," they argue.

The regulation hinders integrated management of the water cycle, as it does not consider the river basin as the minimum unit, does not establish mechanisms to jointly manage surface and groundwater, and allows rivers to be sectioned off.

Land speculation

In Quillota there is a growing sale of agricultural land to real estate companies that resell it as non-productive family recreational plots.

Thus, native trees disappear and the hope of reviving family farming is waning.

"Land has become a business. It sells for 60 million pesos (60,000 dollars) per half a hectare that sometimes does not even have water. That value attracts people to sell," Guzmán said.

These plots will increase the demand for water and deforestation because the government's Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) has no oversight capacity.

"All the hills are being parceled out and water is brought to these people with water trucks," said Guzmán.

Migration from the countryside has been driven by climate change.

In Canela, said Cortés, it used to be young people who moved away. But now it is entire families who go to nearby cities in search of access to water.

According to Guzmán, "young people do not want to stay in the countryside and women say that it is not even profitable to raise chickens."

Cortés is grateful for the water from trucks, but stresses that the underlying problem is restoring watershed management.

"To rebuild this, resources must be allocated. And for that, we need forestation to make barriers to retain the scarce rainfall and restore the hydrological system," she said.

Vicioso complained that "there is a lack of protection of the glaciers, which are the headwaters of the basins where the water comes from."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

WHO, IDIA renew collaboration in enhancing health innovations

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Development Innovation Alliance (IDIA) have agreed to renew their strategic Collaborative Agreement to support the scaling of health innovations to the end of 2025 to jointly accelerate health impact.

"This partnership demonstrates a convergence of diverse expertise, pooling resources to bolster governmental efforts to scale-up innovative solutions, leveraging each other's strengths. As a Member State organization, WHO can help governments identify public health demand in countries, while IDIA's unique network of innovation funders supplies a pipeline of demonstrated, impactful innovations," says Jeremy Farrar, the chief Scientist at WHO.

The collaboration was established in the beginning of 2021 to create a shared agenda and enable close collaboration and complementarity between the two entities to promote and facilitate the demand, supply, assessment and scale-up of proven health innovations for the benefit of low-and middle-income countries.

"We are excited to advance on our excellent collaboration with the International Development Innovation Alliance. Together, we promote an equity focused innovation ecosystem that is driven by what governments and their people need. The Call to Action for Health Innovation Scale-Up by the Public Sector, which we co-created, provides a concrete guide for governments in taking this vision forward," said Louise Agersnap, Head of WHO Innovation Hub.

WHO supports its 194 Member

States to link impactful innovations to where they are most needed in countries. Given IDIA's unique experience and status as a key collaboration platform for innovation funders around the world, the collaboration accelerates collective impact in tackling the greatest challenges in global health.

"We have seen many exciting milestones achieved through this partnership, including the co-design of the first ever World Health Innovation Forum in India in November 2023, which really helped to put the importance of scaling up innovations through public health systems on the map," said Thomas Feeny, Director of the IDIA Secretariat at Results for Development.

He added: "Continuing to facilitate this collaboration between IDIA and the WHO is now more important than ever in order to start meeting the demand for assistance on this challenge that we are seeing from more and more governments around the world."

Dr Karlee Silver, IDIA founding member and CEO of Grand Challenges Canada, said: "We are very pleased to renew the strategic partnership between IDIA and the World Health Organization. WHO plays an essential role in supporting governments to identify national health needs and priorities. As innovation funders, we see WHO as having the potential to help health innovations to reach impact at scale, and we look forward to working with them as they realize that potential."

Collaboration between IDIA members and WHO covers the following five areas of innovation demand where they jointly collaborate in support of WHO



Member States to enhance the identification and articulation of demand for innovation responding to national health needs and priorities and global targets;

On innovation supply, IDIA member agencies will contribute relevant innovations from their collective pipelines to meet the demand and innovation in health priorities articulated by WHO Member States;

Innovation assessment: WHO and IDIA will share expertise and tools to support the efficient assess-

ment and clustering of scale-ready innovations surfaced through the supply pipeline;

And on innovation scale-up, they work together to identify specific opportunities to support the demand-led scale-up of health innovations for the benefit of WHO Member States in collaboration with non-state actors and members of the international development community, as appropriate; and

The two will also join forces to support the continuous development of innovation and scaling knowl-

edge and skills among WHO staff (HQ, regional and local), Member States and development partners as may be appropriate.

IDIA is a unique collaboration platform that brings together the senior leadership from the innovation teams, labs, and departments of some of the world's leading development agencies.

Unlocking Africa's agricultural powerhouse needs public, private joint commitment, says Dr Adesina

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina has urged for a coalition of public commitment and private sector finance to awaken Africa's "staggering" agricultural potential, setting the stage for the continent to feed itself and contribute to global food security.

Adesina made his call during Monday's World Economic Forum "Food and Water for All" panel discussion in Riyadh. He made an impassioned plea for greater cooperation between governments, public and private sector to transform agriculture production in Africa to allow it to "feed the world."

During the panel, co-organized with CNN International, global leaders and experts agreed Africa has the land and water to achieve this lofty ambition but lacked significant investments and regulatory frameworks to properly develop abundant unused land and vast water resources.

The Bank Group president stressed Africa needed a major across the board increase in infrastructure investment in this sector to around \$78 billion by 2050.

"The potential is undeniable, but nobody eats potential...we have to unlock that potential," he declared. For that, he said private sector was essential but coupled with the creation of well-run and administered public regulatory bodies.

Overall, Africa has plenty of water but some of it is underground. Tapping into that potential and making far wider use of modern irrigation techniques, included those offered by AI (artificial intelligence) are key strategy targets.

"We need more of the private sector, we have weak and poorly functioning utilities, we need to improve governance," he said, adding that significant concerted



action will help create an agricultural sector worth some 1.3 trillion dollars by 2030.

The panel delved into how targeted investment and advanced technologies could address the pressing needs of 2.4 billion people without adequate food and 2.2 billion lacking safe drinking water across the world, showcasing Africa's role in this global challenge.

Adesina also stressed the importance of small-scale farmers and the need to provide them with new varieties of heat-tolerant and water-efficient varieties. "Access to new technologies

comes at a price but we have shown at the Bank the amazing effect climate efficient varieties can make," he said.

The Bank President said the Bank has invested \$3 billion in water projects alone in the last three years, connecting 15 million people to water and 17 million to sanitation, but millions still faced shortages. He drew attention on initiatives like the African Water Facility and called for more similar approaches. The African Water Facility, hosted by the Bank, provides grants and expert technical assistance to prepare bankable innovative water projects ready

to attract private investment throughout Africa.

Situmbeko Musokotwane, Zambia's Minister of Finance and National Planning, appealed to global investors: "We have the land. We also have abundant water. What we need are financial resources and management expertise to transform these assets into productive agriculture."

Musokotwane highlighted the vital role of technology in maximizing resource use, particularly in agriculture, to secure food for the world.

Echoing this sentiment, Jai Shroff, CEO of UPL Ltd, shared

insights from recent agricultural innovations in Zambia. "We introduced a shift from corn to sorghum, which is more drought-tolerant. The results were outstanding with sorghum achieving 100 percent yield while surrounding corn crops perished," Shroff explained.

He further advocated for large-scale farming as a vehicle for economic transformation, as witnessed in Brazil, emphasizing the need for secure land rights to attract long-term investments.

However, Adesina provided a caveat, reminding attendees of the importance of smallholder farms,

which produce a significant portion of Africa's food. "While we push for modernization and scale, we must not overlook the smallholder farmers who are the backbone of our rural economies," Adesina stated.

The panel also addressed the economic and environmental costs of securing water through non-traditional means.

Lina Nouredin, president of Lamar Holding, discussed the high cost and energy demands of desalination, a critical technology for water-scarce regions. "Desalination is currently 2-3 times more expensive than accessing surface or groundwater. Despite this, it's essential for regions like North Africa where water stress levels are exceedingly high," Nouredin explained.

Pivoting from the topic of environmental sustainability, the panel shifted focus to economic resilience and potential.

Adesina challenged misconceptions about investment risks in Africa, highlighting a recent Bloomberg analysis which found that the default rate on infrastructure loans in Africa is significantly lower than other regions. "The perception of risk often overshadows the reality. Africa's actual default rate is comparatively low, and we have mechanisms like partial credit guarantees to mitigate risks further," he clarified.

The panellists decried the premium Africa pays for water security and agricultural productivity due to outdated infrastructure, climate challenges, and underinvestment. They called for a paradigm shift in how investments are channelled into the continent, advocating for innovative financing models, better risk management, and enhanced support for technological adaptation.

As the session concluded, the call to action was clear: "Let us move beyond discussing potential and focus on actionable investments and collaborations that will unlock Africa's agricultural capabilities," Adesina urged.



EAA, Brisk Solutions, and TMA Ethiopia officials sign e-Phyto system contract. Photo: Agencies

Ethiopia embarks on transformation of its agriculture with new certification system

By Guardian Correspondent

ETHIOPIA has embarked on a transformation of its agricultural sector by launching the development of Integrated Export and Import Certification System (IEICS), commonly referred to as the e-Phyto system.

A statement released to this paper yesterday revealed that this digital initiative, a partnership between the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA) and TradeMark Africa (TMA), seeks to enhance the efficiency of the agricultural trade process for exports and imports.

The European Union, through the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), has funded the project with ETB 9.1 million (€149k). This digital shift will replace traditional paper-based certification processes, significantly reducing transaction costs and ultimately carbon emissions.

The e-Phyto system, poised to replace archaic manual and paper-based certification processes, represents a significant leap forward for Ethiopia's agricultural sector.

By embracing digital solutions, Ethiopia seeks to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and foster transparency across the entire agricultural value chain.

Through seamless integration with international phytosanitary certificate systems, the e-Phyto system will provide end-to-end paperless services for both import and export certification, from application submission to certificate issuance.

EAA Deputy Director and Head of Ethiopian NPPO, Ato Wondale Habtamu, expressed that the Ethiopian agricultural sector's transition to an e-Phyto system aligns with global trends towards more sustainable and inclusive economic practices.

"By integrating digital solutions into agricultural trade, Ethiopia not only boosts its export competitiveness but



By integrating digital solutions into agricultural trade, Ethiopia not only boosts its export competitiveness but also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)

also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9) and responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)," he said Habtamu.

Adding: "This partnership marks a significant milestone in Ethiopia's agricultural development. By digitising the certification process, we are setting the stage for enhanced efficiency, transparency, and global competitiveness in our exports. We are committed to empowering Ethiopian farmers and exporters with the tools they need to thrive in the global market."

The EU delegation represented through Abiy Tesfaye said: "The introduction of the e-Phyto system, funded by the European Union, marks the readiness of Ethiopia to use state of the art systems to fully participate in global trade."

Abiy further said: "This digital certification tool opens a gateway for Ethiopia to compete on the global stage, driving economic growth and sustainability in agriculture. We are proud to support this initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the EAA that not only enhances Ethiopia's trade competitiveness but also establishes a foundation for enduring economic empowerment and environmental stewardship."

For the TMA Ethiopia Country Director Ewnetu Taye, believes that TMA is thrilled to support the EAA through this innovative digital transition.

Adding: "Our collaboration is designed to build a sustainable and inclusive trade environment that will ultimately benefit the entire region. By adopting advanced technologies, we are setting a new standard for agricultural trade across Africa and to make the continent to gain a global competitive advantage."

The e-Phyto system is also designed to connect with the e-Phyto hub, facilitating the sharing of issued certificates with international counterparts, thereby streamlining the export process.

Three implementation options are currently under consideration: adopting the GENS platform, customizing solutions used in Kenya, or developing a bespoke system tailored to Ethiopia's specific needs. Consultations with agricultural ministries in Kenya and Uganda are ongoing to refine these options.

As Ethiopia embarks to transform its trade in agricultural products, the collaboration between government stakeholders, industry players, and international partners will be crucial in ensuring the success and sustainability of the e-Phyto system.

It is essential that Ethiopian farmers and exporters are empowered to catalyse economic growth and pave the way for a more resilient and prosperous agricultural sector in Ethiopia and across the Eastern African region.

Conservation revives fish stocks in Kilombero river

By Correspondent Beatrice Philimon

Fish stocks in Kilombero River, located in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, are on the rise due to the efforts of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA).

In an exclusive interview with this reporter, Gabriel Malisa, the Environmental Officer of Ifakara Town Council, emphasized that TAWA's patrols have effectively curbed illegal fishing practices and overfishing in the river, resulting in a notable increase in the fish population.

Malisa elaborated on the current status of fish stocks, highlighting a significant surge in populations, notably among key species like *Bagrus orientalis* (a large fish in Kilombero river), *Clarias gariepinus* (African mud catfish), and other economically important fish species.

These fish serve as vital income sources for both local fishing communities and the government.

"As a district, we are extremely pleased with the progress made by TAWA. They have implemented effective measures to combat illegal fishing gears and overfishing, which were significant issues in the Kilombero River, resulting in the depletion of fish species. This marks a stark improvement from the situation in the past," he expressed.

"It has been made possible through regular patrols conducted by TAWA to keep out encroachers who enter illegally to fish and utilize illegal fishing gear," he said. "Currently, no fishermen are allowed to fish or conduct fishing activities in the river without obtaining a permit or fishing license from TAWA."

He commended TAWA for taking serious measures that will help artisanal fishermen engage in sustainable fishing activities and protect fish resources available in the river.

Marietha Mnazi, Managing Director of the Women and Children Organization-Ifakara, stated that before TAWA's intervention, fish species in the Kilombero River and other small rivers flowing



A fisherman seeking his fortune in the Kilombero River. File Photo

directly into it had declined due to overfishing, illegal fishing gear, and environmental damage.

She listed fish species in the Swahili version as Njeje, kitoga, ngundu, ngogo, kambale, and njuju.

"Artisanal fishers are taking more fish out of the water than can be reproduced, which is very dangerous for fish resources. That's why TAWA has embarked on initiatives to curb illegal fishing activities, prevent fishers from catching immature fish, and later allow communities and the government to benefit from fish resources," she said.

Fish prices have risen in Ifakara Town Council, with prices ranging from 2000/- to 45,000/- depending on the size of the fish, a situation that was not the case in the past.

"Currently, *bagrus orientalis* fish is sold at retail prices of 10,000/-, 15,000/-, 25,000/-, 30,000/-, and 45,000/-, while Njeje fish is sold at retail prices of 10,000/-, 15,000/-, and 20,000/- per fish. Before river damage and overfishing, fish were sold at retail prices of 2000/- and 10,000/- per fish," she said.

Regarding livestock grazing and irrigation farming around the rivers, she stated that Ifakara residents are seeking government intervention due to overgrazing in village land forest reserves and

irrigation farming around the rivers, which has led to the destruction of rivers and water sources essential for domestic use and other activities.

She named the rivers that have been destroyed as Lumemo, Idete, Mngeta, and Lwipa rivers, calling for government intervention and engagement with other stakeholders in environmental conservation to educate livestock keepers and villagers on the importance of environmental conservation. Livestock keepers are invading the rivers for farming activities and cattle grazing near the riverbanks.

Additionally, the forest ecosystem and forest reserve in the Ifakara area are severely damaged because livestock keepers cut down trees for grazing land for their cattle, while others cultivate around the rivers, thereby destroying water sources.

She warned that if encroachers continue to invade village forests for livestock grazing and rivers for farming activities and other human activities illegally, drought and environmental degradation will worsen.

According to her, lack of pastures and water are the main factors causing livestock keepers to shift from one area to another, thereby increasing the population within Ifakara town.

Before the rainy season this

year, Kilombero river was in danger of drying up due to livestock grazing and irrigation farming around the rivers.

Apart from that, the forest ecosystem in the village land forest reserve is extremely damaged because livestock keepers cut down trees for grazing land for their cattle, while others cultivate around the rivers, which in turn destroys water sources. The government and other stakeholders engaged in environmental conservation should take serious measures to address these challenges because as livestock keepers continue to damage water sources and forests, people will be affected due to lack of water and food as they depend on those rivers for domestic use and other purposes.

Removing cattle from the village land forest reserves and stopping people from cultivating around the rivers will provide stable stream banks, better water quality, healthier streams, and protect water sources in our village," she said.

According to her, they don't know where the livestock are coming from, they just see them within their localities.

Mnazi was of the view that, lack of pastures and water are the main factors causing livestock keepers to shift from one area to another, thereby increasing the population within Ifakara town.

Collaborative workspaces to dominate across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

IN response to the increasing demand for shared workspaces driven by a burgeoning community of tech-savvy entrepreneurs seeking flexibility, KOFISI and Workshop17 have collaborated to provide innovative workspaces in Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Mauritius.

In a joint statement shared with this journalist yesterday, the duo highlighted that demand in Africa is escalating more rapidly than globally. Fueled by the expanding working-age population, expected to increase by over 450 million people, nearly 70 percent of the continent by 2035.

According to the statement, Africa will become a key contributor to the global workforce and has already started to gather momentum. Some of the largest global technology companies Google, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft, have already deployed into Africa to capitalise on this talent surge.

The talent focus on Africa is the predicted spike in the working population over the next 20 plus years - an increase that would comprise a third of the global working population.

The partnership between KOFISI and Workshop17, Africa's top workspace providers, now offers members access to 22 locations and 60,000m² of collaborative workspace in seven countries across the continent.

It is noted that this collabora-



A productive shared workspace. File Photo

tion creates the largest independent network of serviced offices and workspaces in Africa, ensuring reliable quality and consistency across all environments.

The two brands have established a reputation for offering a premium workday experience in their respective countries, offering hospitality services, wellness, quality aesthetic and customised office design in their collective portfolios.

While KOFISI operates 10 locations in Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and is opening in Rwanda and Mo-

rocco this year. Workshop 17 has 12 locations with eight in South Africa and four in Mauritius.

Therefore, this will empower businesses to access a shared community of enterprises and SMEs with local knowledge and infrastructures already operating across the continent.

On the other hand, with Africa expected to contribute a significant portion of the global workforce by 2030, a focus on productive workplace solutions is crucial for the continent's economic growth.

Instead of looking outward, traditionally to countries like Russia, China, UAE, USA and France, Africa will be looking inward to boost entrepreneurial economies that can boost their local economies and tackle poverty and unemployment.

This will be done through new, flexible business SMEs that will draw on connections with neighbouring infrastructures.

"This partnership aims to meet evolving expectations for global standards in workplaces across Africa and driving hospitality service standards, supporting improved productivity, collaboration, and wellbeing," says Michael Aldridge CEO and co-founder of KOFISI.

"The combined strength of KOFISI and Workshop17, with their extensive client base, continental knowledge and expertise, will create a fertile ground for innovation and growth, appealing to all enterprises operating or entering the African market", adds Paul Keursten CEO of Workshop17.

Together, they are set to establish a new industry benchmark, revolutionising the workspace sector and shaping the future of work in Africa.

As the global workforce industry turns its attention towards Africa, productive workplaces are key to economic growth, attracting multinational corporations as well as supporting entrepreneurial ventures, creating jobs and boosting local economies.

Using industrial waste to fight pollution in Brazil

CHAPECÓ, Brazil

Biogas sounds like redemption, the conversion of the sinner. Its production involves extracting energy from filth, from the most disgusting environmental pollution, and at the same time avoiding the worsening of the global climate crisis.

The Industrial and Commercial Solid Waste Treatment Center (Cetric) is dedicated to extracting biogas from the waste that abounds in the municipality where it is based, Chapecó, in southern Brazil.

With a population of 255,000 and numerous meat processing plants, Chapecó is a main hub in the western part of the state of Santa Catarina, the largest national producer and exporter of pork and also a major poultry producer.

For this reason, biogas production is proliferating in the region, using manure from pig farms, partly due to pressure from environmental authorities to prevent animal waste from continuing to contaminate rivers and soil to the detriment of the environment and human health.

On Apr. 3, the Federation of Santa Catarina Industries launched the Decarbonization Hub program, with the goal of treating 100 percent of swine manure in the next 10 years, among other challenges to meet the agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It does not seem feasible, but it points in the right direction.

The Cetric group of companies was founded in 2001 with a specific mission: to take care of waste from nearby agribusiness and other smaller sources, from its evaluation and collection to its transportation, processing and disposal.

It then expanded nationally. Today it is active in 12 of Brazil's 26 states, with four Bioenergy Ecoparks, including the first one in Chapecó, 17 transshipment units with warehouses and 19 emergency teams at strategic points.

"Making use of industrial waste is an important and innovative niche in Brazil, opening up new paths for the emerging biogas market," said Heleno Quevedo, an energy engineer and creator of the news portal Energia e Biogás, in a telephone interview



Loana Defaveri, technical manager of Cetric, is photographed at the bioenergy ecopark in Chapecó in southwestern Brazil. The aerial photo in the background shows the various components of the complex, which receives industrial waste and produces biogas, electricity, biomethane and other by-products. CREDIT: Mario Osava / IPS

with IPS from Santo André, a city neighboring São Paulo, also in the south.

Industrial waste as a business
Cetric's business is the management of waste wherever it is, not

just landfills, chemical engineer Loana Defaveri, the company's technical manager, told IPS. Guidance on the handling of this material in industries is part of their activity.

The company also acts in emer-

gencies, such as accidents with dangerous loads on highways, cities or production sites. It is a kind of firefighter in these cases and deploys specialized personnel with the necessary tools and vehicles for prompt assistance, dispersed throughout 19 locations in the country.

In mid-April, a team dealt with a spill of propionic acid, used to preserve food, when a truck overturned in Paraná, a neighboring state. The most frequent are accidents involving trucks carrying fuel such as ethanol and diesel, Defaveri said at the company's facilities.

A Command Center, a rotating team of four people, monitors by video the fleet of more than 200 Cetric trucks 24 hours a day from the company's headquarters and the emergencies addressed.

But the ecopark in Chapecó is the heart, the center of innovations and the circular economy of the Cetric Group, which is involved in a range of activities.

Bioenergy production began in 2005, but was suspended due to the scarcity and low durability of biogas equipment. It resumed

15 years later and now has five covered lagoon biodigesters and a continuous stirred tank reactor, known as CSTR.

Only organic material is used for this purpose. The waste collected by the company is class 1, hazardous waste, generally chemical, and class 2, which includes inert waste such as iron scrap or concrete, and waste that degrades, such as organic waste, which is the bio-energy part.

Biogas from landfills and biodigesters

From the large landfill covered with impermeable black tarpaulin, which accumulates most of the garbage, biogas is extracted that only serves to generate heat, because it contains little methane, Defaveri explained. Burning this biogas reduced 80 percent of the firewood previously consumed in the ecopark.

For electricity generation and the refining that converts it into biomethane, the biogas that comes out of the biodigesters, which has 71 percent methane, and the reactor, with 73 percent, is used, she said.

In this energy sector, four biogas generators produce one megawatt of power, electricity estimated to be sufficient for the company's consumption.

Kenyan firm bolsters regional influence over QuickBus acquisition in Nigeria, South Africa

By Guardian Reporter

BUUPASS, Kenya's leading digital intercity multimodal travel solutions provider, finalized its acquisition of QuickBus, a major player in the bus ticketing service industry in Nigeria and South Africa.

A statement issued yesterday and shared to this journalist, indicates that the acquisition brings BuuPass's active user accounts to 650,000 monthly users, solidifying firm's position as the largest intercity transport booking platform in Africa.

BuuPass is a B2B2C mobility marketplace that enables users to search, compare, and book their tickets across different channels, including websites, apps, and USSD.

Founded in 2016, the platform has sold over 6 million travel tickets and generated over \$100 million in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV). Its platform covers national and cross-border routes in East and Southern Africa and has served over 16 million passengers.

The strategic expansion into South Africa and Nigeria is set to add over 5,000 new routes to BuuPass's platform, significantly enriching the network and service offerings for African consumers.



BuuPass team. File Photo

It was also noted that BuuPass will also onboard over 100 bus operators and several high-profile online distribution partnerships, including FNB, Voda, and MTN. The platform enables transport operators to digitize their operations, minimize cash leakages, access data-driven business analytics, and convert more sales from

online bookings.

Quickbus is a leading bus booking platform in Nigeria and South Africa with 5,200 intercity routes. Starting today, BuuPass users can access international routes across 16 African countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Malawi, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Major routes, such as Johannesburg to Cape Town and Durban to Cape Town, can be found on the platform today, with more to be added by the end of Q2.

The firm is planning continued innovation on its platform, including new features such as multi-modal travel options that integrate bus,

train, and flight bookings into one platform.

Additionally, it is rolling out enhanced travel analytics for personalized journey planning and a loyalty program that rewards frequent travelers with discounts and special offers.

Commenting on the acquisition, BuuPass Co-Founder Sonia Kabra said, "We are excited to expand our footprint in Africa as we actively look for more opportunities to bring our platform to new African markets. BuuPass aims to create a comprehensive, continent-wide network of interconnected transport options for seamless global and continental travel, and this acquisition is a significant milestone toward that goal."

Co-founder Wyclife Omondi added, "We are thrilled to integrate QuickBus's routes in Nigeria and South Africa and onboard major partners such as MTN, Voda, and FNB. These partnerships will help us reach new customers and enhance connectivity and convenience for millions."

"As an early investor and backer, Founders Factory Africa is proud to see BuuPass expand to Nigeria and South Africa. BuuPass is already changing the daily lives of its customers as it moves closer to fulfilling its vision of being a pan-African travel booking platform. We look forward to supporting BuuPass in achieving future milestones," says Eunice Wambui, Investment Principal at Founders Factory Africa.

BuuPass is a B2B2C platform that enables long-distance transport operators to digitize their operations and connects them to travelers to book their tickets online.

An all-inclusive book elaborating on simulation of Islamic financing launched by ISDB

By Guardian Reporter

THE Islamic Development Bank Institute (ISDBI) has released a new book detailing application of agent-based simulation in Islamic Finance.

Titled "Applications of Agent-Based Simulation in Islamic Finance", the book is an edited collection of papers authored by students who graduated from the Islamic Financial Engineering Laboratory based in Rabat, Morocco.

A statement made available to this paper yesterday, indicates that the laboratory was established in 2013 by Mohammed V University in Rabat and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB). Former heads of the Laboratory, Prof. Rajae Aboulaich and Prof. Mohamed Tkiouat, edited the new book.

The book explores the different aspects of Islamic finance and modeling, highlighting the importance of agent-based modeling and mathematical modeling in the context of Islamic finance. It also examines the growing role of fintech and its impact on financial inclusion within the Islamic framework.

The objective of the book is to provide an in-depth perspective of the theoretical foundations and practical applications of agent-based and mathematical modeling in the field of Islamic finance.

By exploring the different models and approaches, the authors highlight the advantages and limitations of these methodologies while emphasizing their relevance for decision-making and risk management in the Islamic context.

Dr. Sami Al Suwailem, Acting Director General of ISDB Institute, said: "The book is a result of close collaboration between the professors and graduate students of the Lab and experts from the ISDBI. The support of the ISDB has helped IFE Lab students in the development of the modeling of complex problems and the structuring of innovative financial products using high-performance simulation approaches such as agent-based modeling, discussed in this book."

Prof. Rajae Aboulaich, one of the book editors, said: "This book is the fruit of research carried out over the past eight years within the IFE Lab at Mohammed V University in Rabat. It presents selected research carried out as part of the theses produced within the IFE Lab. The book documents also some of the success stories of the IFE Lab, and so, we hope it will serve as a reference for future generations to lead the development of Islamic finance to the next level."

Firm inks farm-in deal for Namibia's offshore

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL energy company Azure Energy has officially farmed-in to Namibia's offshore block 2914A with the signing of an agreement with exploration company Rhino Resources Namibia.

A statement released yesterday by Azure Energy and shared to this reporter, indicated that the transaction marks the firm's entry into the country as well as its first international deal.

Representing the voice of the African energy sector, the African Energy Chamber (AEC), stands in support of Azure Energy's venture into the Orange Basin, recognizing the value of the transaction in unlocking the full



A map depicting Namibia's Orange Basin. File Photo

potential of the country's oil and gas resources.

The deal is a testament to the prospectivity of the basin as well as the high level of international

interest in Namibia's offshore oil and gas opportunities.

Under the terms of the agreement, Azure Energy has secured a 42.5 percent interest in Block

2914A - located in PEL 85.

Following the completion of the acquisition, the firm plans to drill two high-impact exploration wells as part of a work program in the area, with the initiation of the first well anticipated as early as Q4, 2024.

These wells are anticipated to play a crucial role in unlocking the hydrocarbon potential of the Orange Basin, thereby supporting Namibia's energy security and economic growth.

Additionally, the agreement provides Azure Energy with an option to become the operator of PEL 85, showcasing the company's commitment to responsible resource management and operational excellence.

The current contractor group

consists of Rhino Resources Namibia as the operator with an 85 percent interest, Namibia's national oil company NAMCOR with a 10 percent interest and indigenous company Korres Investments with a 5 percent interest.

This consortium represents a diverse range of expertise and resources, ensuring a well-rounded approach to exploration and development activities in the Orange Basin.

"It is an exciting moment for exploration in Namibia. This farm in further confirms Namibia as one of the world's most prospective, underexplored hotspots, with billions of barrels of oil yet to be found," stated NJ Ayuk, the Executive Chairman of the AEC.

88 pct of women have felt unsafe travelling solo

London

An analysis of recent research by the specialist accommodation finder Monasteries.com reveals solo women travellers outnumber solo male travellers by 67 per cent to 37 per cent. That's despite the fact that 88 per cent of females feel somewhat threatened travelling alone, whether in the UK or Europe. It seems solo women travellers are prepared to feel the fear but do it anyway.

Lily Smith, a leading travel expert from Monasteries.com, says: "Women are increasingly setting off on their own adventures, with 27 per cent of British women saying they are considering a holiday alone. 81% of solo female travellers are over 45 years old. There are many factors that may have influenced this statistic - a newfound confidence as you get older, children leaving home, divorce, or just a desire to experience new things."

"Naturally, safety is an important consideration for many solo travellers or, for that matter, for groups of maturer women travelling together. While 37 per cent of women feel safer in a holiday property rental and 35 per cent in a large hotel, according to recent research from the women's



A recent study reveals that 88 percent of women have experienced feelings of insecurity while traveling alone. File Photo

travel resource JourneyWoman, that still leaves many women who don't feel secure in traditional holiday accommodation. For that reason, many women are surprised but delighted to discover they are able to stay in monasteries and convents both here in the UK and in many countries across Europe. That might be a surprise to

some people but, remember, monasteries have offered sanctuary to pilgrims and travellers for centuries, with a vow of "hospitality" a feature for many religious orders. Furthermore, the abbeys, convents and monasteries at Monasteries.com, for example, start from as little as €40 a night and provide low-cost city centre

stays in some of Europe's most-visited cities. For example, the Casa Il Rosario in Rome is opposite the Roman Forum and close to the Piazza Venezia and Trevi Fountain, with ensuite double rooms available for less than €50 per person. "The good news is that abbeys and convents are likely to be centrally located, often close to

historical churches or religious landmarks and in cities such as Rome with a clear religious connection. For the spiritually minded, courses and retreats are another attraction. For an increasing number of women travellers, explaining the security and ease of monasteries, convents and abbeys is like preaching to the choir.

Agritech startup iProcure placed under supervision

Nairobi

AGRITECH startup iProcure, which raised millions of dollars in funding, was placed under administration on April 26, the administrator said in a notice published in local dailies on May 1st.

"Following the appointment, all the affairs and business and properties of the company are being managed by the administrator. The directors of the company no longer have any power or authority to deal with these matters," firm's administrator, Makenzi Muthusi of KPMG Advisory Services, said in the notice.

The company raised more than \$17m in five funding rounds, according to global startup data platform Tracxn. In May 2023, the startup received \$1.2m from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of grants worth \$5.5 million to seven firms in the agricultural sector. The grants were meant to support food production. While it was not im-

mediately clear why the company collapsed, a former employee who requested anonymity told The Kenyan Wall Street that the startup has been struggling with cashflow constraints and a high burn rate, amidst other issues. The firm appointed former Novastar Ventures partner Niraj Varia as Group CEO in a management change in 2022. "I left iProcure last year, so have no more information than is in the public domain," Varia told The Kenyan Wall Street.

iProcure was founded a decade ago by Stefano Carcoforo, Nicole Galletta, Patrick Wanjohi and Bernard Maingi. It connects suppliers and retailers in the agricultural sector, and provides both inventory management and credit facility services. The firm raised \$10.2m (KSh 1.2bn at the exchange rate then) in Series B funding and conventional debt in August 2022 to fund its expansion across East Africa.

Agencies

BK capital scales up MTN Rwanda stock target by 48 pct

Kigali

BK Capital has initiated coverage of MTN Rwanda-cell Plc with a price target of Rwf250, from the current Rwf170 per share at which its stock is trading at on the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE), while affirming its Buy rating on the stock.

This means that BK Capital analysts believe the stock price of MTN Rwanda is likely to increase in the future to reach Rwf250, a 48 per cent potential upside. With a Buy Rating, therefore, they recommend investors to buy MTN shares.

This comes on the back of increased cost pressures from both cost of sales and finance costs which led to a 28.9 per cent decline in MTN's net profit to Rwf1.5 billion in 2023, despite the company registering an increase in revenue by 11.2 per cent to Rwf246.5 billion.

The firm's analysis suggests that despite the slow growth in 2023, MTN Rwanda is expected to perform better in the medium-term boosted by solid demand in its key products such as data and mobile money services. Analysts are bullish that MTN's strong brand and infrastructure, as well as demand for its data connectivity and mobile financial services will reduce their operating costs which would increase profits, and consequently increase cash flow.

"We analysed MTN as being uniquely positioned to leverage its strong market position to continue growing its subscriber base mainly for data due to an increase in smartphone penetration boosted by initiatives such as Macey Macey," Lina Muganwa, Investment Research Analyst at BK Capital told The New Times.

Muganwa also indicated that MTN is positioned to leverage its infrastructure and market position to address the growing demand for mobile financial services in Rwanda.

BK analysts suggest that they expect MTN's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA), a key metric for core operations, to grow faster than their investments in new equipment otherwise known as Capital Expenditures (CapEx), leading to more available cash.

Last year, EBITDA improved by 6.8 per cent to Rwf15.6 billion. However, the EBITDA margin - percentage that shows how much of a firm's revenue is left as profit after core expenses - dipped by 1.9 percentage points to 46.4 per cent.

The company attributed the negative growth in EBITDA margin to the new mobile interconnection rules introduced by the Rwanda Utility and Regulatory Authority (RURA).

Muganwa said despite the negative EBITDA margin growth seen last year, MTN's ability to manage its topline gives them a positive view of the trajectory of EBITDA growth in the future.

Meanwhile, analysts expect average revenue per user (ARPU) to rise, suggesting that MTN will earn more revenue from each customer it services, potentially due to increased internet usage, mobile financial services, or higher service fees.

If MTN spent a smaller portion of its sales revenue on capital expenditures over time, BK Capital said, this could free up more cash flow.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 4 May	SUNDAY 5 May	MONDAY 6 May
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:00 HABARI
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	6:40 Kumekucha
8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera	7:00 HABARI
9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu	7:30 HABARI
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	10:00 Shika Bamba	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi	8:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu	9:00 Habari za saa
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	10:00 DWTV
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	
15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	
16:10 Igzoo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igzoo: Slay Queen	
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	
21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10	
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	

9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt	9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt	9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt
9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Habari za saa	10:05 Habari za saa	10:05 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt	11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt	11:00 ITV Top Ten rpt
11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Ai Jazzeera	12:00 Ai Jazzeera	12:00 Ai Jazzeera
12:30 Jungu kuu	12:30 Jungu kuu	12:30 Jungu kuu
12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle	13:40 Art and Lifestyle
13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle	14:00 Art and Lifestyle
14:20 Soap rpt: HakuKuma	14:20 Soap rpt: HakuKuma	14:20 Soap rpt: HakuKuma
14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru
16:10 Watoto Wetu	16:10 Watoto Wetu	16:10 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base	17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle	18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle	18:15 Kipindi maalum: Vuna Delle
18:30 DW: Afrimaa	18:30 DW: Afrimaa	18:30 DW: Afrimaa
19:00 Aya ya Jami	19:00 Aya ya Jami	19:00 Aya ya Jami
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	19:30 Soap: Laws of love	19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Dalka 45	21:05 Dalka 45	21:05 Dalka 45
22:00 Kipindi maalum: NHF	22:00 Kipindi maalum: NHF	22:00 Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:15 Bundesliga na DW	22:15 Bundesliga na DW
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji letu	23:00 Jiji letu	23:00 Jiji letu
23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera

21:35 Kipindi maalum: Nishati na mazingira	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Nishati na mazingira	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Nishati na mazingira
21:50 Chetu ni chetu	21:50 Chetu ni chetu	21:50 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji letu	23:00 Jiji letu	23:00 Jiji letu
23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base	23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera

WEDNESDAY 8 May	THURSDAY 9 May	FRIDAY 10 May
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:00 HABARI
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	6:40 Kumekucha
8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera	7:30 HABARI
9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba	8:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi	9:00 Habari za saa
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu	9:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	10:00 DWTV
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	
15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	
16:10 Igzoo: Slay Queen	16:10 Igzoo: Slay Queen	
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	
21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10	
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:05 Shika Bamba
10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu	11:15 Chetu ni chetu
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma	16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma	16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	7:00 Habari
8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera	8:00 Ai Jazzeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu	9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:05 Shika Bamba
10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi	10:05 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu	11:15 Chetu ni chetu
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:20 Shamba lulu
13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe	15:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma	16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma	16:10 Igzoo: HakuKuma
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma	21:05 Igzoo: HakuKuma
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera	00:30 Ai Jazzeera

13:30 Aljazeera	13:30 Aljazeera	13:30 Aljazeera
14:30 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty RPT	14:30 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty RPT	14:30 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty RPT
17:15 Eco@Africa	17:15 Eco@Africa	17:15 Eco@Africa
17:45 Bundesliga kick off	17:45 Bundesliga kick off	17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt	18:15 Capchat rpt	18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe	19:15 Mizengwe	19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor
19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor
20:00 Ripoti Maalum	20:00 Ripoti Maalum	20:00 Ripoti Maalum
20:30 Tomorrow Today	20:30 Tomorrow Today	20:30 Tomorrow Today
21:00 Out n' About	21:00 Out n' About	21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Capchat Rpt	21:30 Capchat Rpt	21:30 Capchat Rpt
22:00 Ai Jazzeera	22:00 Ai Jazzeera	22:00 Ai Jazzeera
23:00 Ai Jazzeera	23:00 Ai Jazzeera	23:00 Ai Jazzeera

12:45 Filter doc	12:45 Filter doc	12:45 Filter doc
13:00 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty Rpt	13:00 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty Rpt	13:00 Telenovela rpt Plead Guilty Rpt
14:00 Business Edition Rpt	14:00 Business Edition Rpt	14:00 Business Edition Rpt
14:30 Ingood Shape	14:30 Ingood Shape	14:30 Ingood Shape
15:00 Shamba Lulu	15:00 Shamba Lulu	15:00 Shamba Lulu
15:30 Bundesliga Kick off	15:30 Bundesliga Kick off	15:30 Bundesliga Kick off
16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt	16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt	16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt
16:30 Capchat rpt	16:30 Capchat rpt	16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation	19:00 Innovation	19:00 Innovation
19:30 Our Earth	19:30 Our Earth	19:30 Our Earth
20:00 Decor Rpt	20:00 Decor Rpt	2

WORLD

Students erect pro-Palestinian encampments across major Canadian universities

TORONTO

QUEBEC Premier Francois Legault said on Thursday the encampment at Montreal's McGill University should be dismantled as more students erected pro-Palestinian camps across some of Canada's largest universities, demanding they divest from groups with ties to Israel.

The Canadian protests come as police have been arresting hundreds on US campuses and the death toll in Gaza has been mounting.

While McGill had requested police intervention, law enforcement had not stepped in Thursday to clear the encampment and said in a statement Thursday evening it was monitoring the situation.

Students also set up encampments at Canadian schools including the Univer-

sity of Toronto, the University of British Columbia and the University of Ottawa. "We want the camp to be dismantled. We trust the police, let them do their job," a spokesperson for Legault said.

There was also a pro-Israel counter-protest in Montreal Thursday. The two sides were kept separate.

On Thursday morning, students at the University of Toronto set up an encampment in a fenced-off grassy space at the school's downtown campus where some 100 protesters gathered with dozens of tents.

According to a statement from organizers the encampment will stay until the university discloses its investments, divests from any that "sustain Israeli apartheid, occupation and illegal settlement of Palestine" and ends partnerships with some Israeli academic insti-



Pro-Palestinian activists gather at their encampment on the McGill University campus, in Montreal, on Wednesday. AP

tutions.

Israel says it does not participate in apartheid and that its assault on Gaza does not constitute genocide.

A university spokesperson told Reuters it was "in dialogue with the protesters" and that, as of midday, the encampment was "not disruptive to normal university activities".

University of Toronto graduate student and encampment spokesperson Sara Rasikh told Reuters they will remain until their demands are met.

"If public disruption is the only way to get our voice heard, then we are willing to do that," she said.

Some Jewish groups have accused protesters of being antisemitic. Organizers deny that charge, noting that

some protesters are Jewish.

Asked to comment on the encampments, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office pointed to a statement he made on Tuesday, saying "Universities are places of learning, they're places for freedom of expression ... but that only works if people feel safe on campus. Right now ... Jewish students do not feel safe. That's not right."

The protests follow the deadly Oct 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip, which killed 1,200 people and saw dozens taken hostage, and an ensuing Israeli offensive that has killed about 34,000 and created a humanitarian crisis.

Agencies

Violence against environmental journalists rises, UNESCO says

SANTIAGO

JOURNALISTS who report on environmental issues face increasing violence around the world from both state and private actors, UNESCO said on Thursday, highlighting that 44 of these journalists have been murdered between 2009 and 2023.

More than 70 percent of the 905 journalists the agency surveyed in 129 countries said they had been attacked, threatened or pressured, and that the violence against them had worsened - with 305 attacks reported in the last five years alone.

UNESCO, the UN cultural agency, listed in its report physical attacks such as injuries, arrests and harassment, as well as legal actions, including defamation lawsuits and criminal proceedings, among others.

At least 749 journalists, groups of journalists and media outlets have been attacked in 89 countries across all regions, its report said, with state actors being responsible for at least half and private for at least a quarter.



A person walks past an art installation outside a United Nations conference on plastics on April 23, 2024, in Ottawa, Ontario. AP

"State actors - police, military forces, government officials and employees, local authorities - are responsible for most of the attacks

for which perpetrator information is available," the report said.

These journalists were covering a wide range of topics, including protests, mining and land conflicts, logging and deforestation, extreme weather events, pollution and environmental damage, and the fossil fuel industry.

Men were more frequently attacked in general and women more frequently digitally, the report said.

Of the 44 journalists that were murdered in 15 countries while reporting on environmental issues, the report said only five cases resulted in convictions. Perpetrators remain unidentified in 19 of the 44 murders.

At least 24 journalists survived murder attempts. Agencies

Xinhua, ATV agree to enhance cooperation across broad fields

BUDAPEST

CHINA'S Xinhua News Agency and Hungary's ATV Media Group on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), agreeing to strengthen cooperation at multiple levels and across broad fields including exchanges of news and information products and personnel communications.

President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua and ATV CEO Tamas Kovacs jointly signed the MoU.

Fu said this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Hungary, and in a few days, President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Hungary.

Following the strategic guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, Xinhua is willing to work with ATV to consolidate "the bridge of friendship" of China-Hungary cultural exchanges, enhance cooperation in the application of new technologies in media, and jointly tell well the stories of high-quality development of bilateral ties to foster a favorable public opinion environment for China-Hungary friendly exchanges and cooperation, Fu noted.

Kovacs said that he hopes to take the signing of the MoU as an opportunity to deepen ATV's cooperation with Xinhua and to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

ATV, the first Hungarian private TV channel, has led Hungarian news channels in viewership. In recent years, Xinhua and ATV have continuously engaged in translation, publishing, and marketing cooperation, achieving significant results.

Xinhua



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua and CEO of Hungary's ATV Media Group Tamas Kovacs jointly sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU), agreeing to strengthen cooperation at multiple levels and across broad fields including exchanges of news and information products and personnel communications, in Budapest, Hungary on Thursday. Xinhua

Africa's fertilizer consumption rising, but below target - AU

NAIROBI

FERTILIZER consumption in Africa has risen to 18 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha) from 8 kg/ha in 2006, but is still below the target of 50 kg/ha, the African Union (AU) said on Thursday.

Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, commissioner for agriculture, rural development, blue economy and sustainable environment (ARBE) at the AU Commission, said that despite producing around 30 million metric tons of mineral fertilizer annually, many African countries still heavily rely on imports, particularly non-phosphate-based fertilizers, leaving them vulnerable to market shocks.

"As a result, African soils have reached a tipping point with low levels of soil organic matter and nutrient stocks," Sacko said during a virtual media briefing held in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, on the upcoming Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit that is scheduled to take place on May 7-9.

Sacko said that the optimized use of mineral and organic fertilizers, along with complementary inputs, can drive higher productivity, profitability, soil health improvement, and climate resilience.

In June 2006, the African heads of state and governments endorsed the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the Africa Green Revolution, to boost fertilizer use in Africa.

Paul Ronoh, principal secretary for the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, said that Kenya has introduced a fertilizer subsidy program aimed at increasing fertilizer usage among smallholder farmers.

Ronoh noted that Kenya seeks to provide 7 million bags (50 kg per bag) of subsidized fertilizer to farmers, in order to improve the productive capacity of the soils and enhance food and nutrition security in the country.

Xinhua

India, Nigeria agree for early conclusion of local currency settlement system treaty to strengthen economic ties

NEW DELHI

A seven-member delegation from India held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts in Abuja and identified several areas of focus for enhancing bilateral trade and mutually beneficial investments.

The two sides agreed for an early conclusion of the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to further strengthen bilateral economic ties.

During the discussions held on April 29-30, the delegation from India led by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce of the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry, Amardeep Singh Bhatia was accompanied by High

Commissioner of India to Nigeria, G Balasubramanian and Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Priya P Nair, the ministry said.

The JTC was co-chaired by Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, Nigeria, Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, and Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce.

In a press release, the Commerce ministry said, "In a comprehensive dialogue, both sides undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. To this effect, both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial

investments."

"These include resolving of market access issues of both sides, and cooperation in key sectors such as Crude oil and Natural Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Local Currency Settlement System, Power Sector and Renewable Energy, Agriculture & Food Processing, Education, Transport, Railway, Aviation, MSMEs, Development etc. Both sides agreed to early conclusion of Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to further strengthen bilateral economic ties," it added.

The official delegation from India included officials from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), EXIM Bank of India, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The offi-

cial of the two sides actively engaged in the proceedings of the JTC.

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and were fruitful and according to the Commerce Ministry there was enthusiastic response towards greater cooperation, addressing pending issues, boosting trade and investment, greater people-to-people contacts.

During the discussion, India and Nigeria committed to expeditiously addressing all issues impeding bilateral trade and facilitate trade promotion between the two nations.

The business delegation led by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) also accompanied the official delegation which included representatives from various sectors like

power, fintech, telecommunications, electrical machinery, pharmaceuticals among others.

The deliberations of the 2nd Session of India-Nigeria JTC were "cordial and forward-looking, indicative of the amicable and special relations between the two countries."

Nigeria is a major partner-the second largest trading partner of India in Africa region. Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria stood at USD 11.8 billion in 2022-23.

In the year 2023-24, the bilateral trade stood at 7.89 billion showing a declining trend. With a total investment of USD 27 Billion, approximately 135 Indian companies are actively engaged in Nigeria's vibrant market.

ANI

Chinese MOOCs share China's digital education achievements worldwide

THE spring semester of the Peking University Global Open Courses has kicked off as scheduled. Students from China, Azerbaijan, Japan, Türkiye and other countries gathered in virtual classes at Peking University, waving hello to each other via video link.

Allowing students from different countries to share the same class is exactly the attractiveness of China's massive open online courses, also known as MOOCs.

XuetangX and iCourse, renowned MOOCs platforms in China, offer over 1,000 online courses in 14 languages for univer-

sity students and learners worldwide.

They have created over 340 global hybrid classrooms and are working towards mutual credit recognition among prestigious universities.

Starting from 2013, China's MOOCs platforms have launched over 76,800 courses and attracted 454 million registered users. Serving nearly 1.28 billion learners in China and extending their reach internationally, they have not only empowered Chinese students but also contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to global higher

education.

By increasing their global outreach, these platforms disseminate knowledge and, more importantly, showcase China's educational philosophy and promote the diversified development of cultures around the world.

For instance, Tsinghua University launched a global open course named "China's Approach to Poverty Eradication," providing a panoramic picture of China's endeavor on poverty reduction and its contributions to the world. China Academy of Art introduced MOOCs such as

"Chinese Painting: The History and Comparison of Chinese Figure Painting" to highlight eastern aesthetics in the exchanges and mutual learning of world civilizations. Shanxi University of Chinese Medicine launched a MOOC on acupuncture in both Chinese and English, which was picked by XuetangX for promotion in Indonesia.

The rich and diverse online courses offer a window into understanding China. Through this window, more and more people can appreciate the profound

heritage of Chinese culture and gain a more authentic, multi-dimensional, and comprehensive understanding of the real China.

With a global outlook, Chinese MOOCs are sharing China's digital education achievements and promoting exchanges and cooperation among institutes of higher education worldwide.

For example, Southwest Jiaotong University developed MOOCs related to the Belt and Road Initiative, which have trained more than 5,000 rail transit professionals from over 80 countries and benefited

over 200 universities and more than 100,000 online learners home and abroad.

Southern University of Science and Technology helped bring smart classrooms to 13 Asian and African countries such as Cambodia and Kenya, providing local students with access to cutting-edge educational concepts and knowledge.

By sharing high-quality MOOCs, promoting teaching collaborations, and deepening international exchanges, China has transitioned from a major importer of educational resources to a major exporter of quality course resources,

contributing to the development of a more open, inclusive, and shared educational environment.

At the 2024 World Digital Education Conference, the World Digital Education Alliance was established, joined by 104 institutions from 41 countries and regions. Besides, China's national smart education platform has introduced its international version, providing round-the-clock services for learners worldwide.

Education shapes the future, and MOOCs are opening up more possibilities in education. *People's Daily*

Multiple achievements made in China-Hungary BRI conference

BUDAPEST

MULTIPLE achievements were made on Thursday at a conference focused on cooperation between China and Hungary under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework.

Under the guidance of China's State Council Information Office, the conference was co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and Hungary's ATV Media Group in Budapest.

Xinhua has always been committed to concentrating efforts and contributing to the joint building of the Belt and Road between the two countries, President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua said while addressing the event.

The conference aims to further implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and promote pragmatic cooperation at various levels across the board so as to make new and greater contributions to the Belt and Road cooperation between the two countries with more innovative results, Fu said.

At the conference, the Belt and Road Economic Information Partnership (BREIP), which was initiated by Xinhua News Agency, inaugurated an Eastern European liaison office.

The China NGO Network for International Exchanges launched a non-governmental Belt and Road cooperation project with Hungary.

The official website of the BRI introduced a dedicated sector for industrial cooperation between China and Hungary.

A report on investment and cooperation between the two countries under the Belt and Road framework was also released.



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua addresses a conference focused on cooperation between China and Hungary under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework in Budapest, Hungary, on Thursday. Xinhua

About 200 people, including government officials, representatives from chambers of commerce and the business sector, as well as heads of major media outlets and think tanks from both countries joined the event.

Fu noted that Xinhua will continue to provide in-depth coverage of high-level interactions between the two countries and present major achievements of the two countries' high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in an all-

round and multi-perspective manner.

Stressing efforts to strengthen exchanges with Hungarian think tanks, Fu also urged making full use of platforms and mechanisms including the World Media Summit and the BREIP to roll out even more tangible results.

Fu also stressed the importance of providing services for China-Hungary cooperation in various areas and better promoting the in-depth integration of the BRI cooperation and

Hungary's "Opening to the East" policy.

Hungary and China have achieved fruitful results in Belt and Road cooperation, Hungarian Minister for National Economy Marton Nagy said at the conference, citing the Hungary-Serbia railway project as an example.

Hungary sees China's economic development as an important opportunity, Nagy said, stressing that investment from Chinese companies including Bank of China, CATL and BYD has been driving the development of related industries.

Nagy said Hungary is willing to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with China in areas such as infrastructure and high-tech, and act as a link between China and Europe.

Liu Hongcai, deputy head of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, called for efforts from various sectors of the two countries to thoroughly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and further promote people-to-people exchanges and mutual

learning between civilizations.

More momentum for future-oriented cooperation should be fostered and cooperation platforms at all levels should make full use of their advantages to respond to global challenges, Liu said.

Liu voiced his hope that people from all walks of life in the two countries will make active contributions to promoting bilateral relations.

During the past years, economic ties and trade between the two countries have flourished, said Tamas Kovacs, CEO of ATV.

Based on the extensive cooperation between ATV and Chinese media outlets, the audience is able to have a better understanding of the fruitful achievements of the two countries' joint efforts, Kovacs said, adding that such cooperation will be carried on to help the two peoples to better understand each other's culture and values.

Participating guests also visited a photo exhibition on the pragmatic BRI cooperation between China and Hungary.

Xinhua

Kenya faces devastating losses as heavy rains trigger widespread flooding

NAIROBI

KENYA is facing significant losses as heavy rains, reaching up to 200 mm a day, continue to inundate the country, leading to widespread flooding that has killed at least 188 people and displaced tens of thousands more.

The impact of the rains extends across various sectors, affecting everyone from small-scale traders to major businesses.

The Kenyan capital of Nairobi has been particularly hard hit, with many once-thriving businesses now left in ruins due to flooding. In Mbagathi, some 12 km from Nairobi, a once-busy fuel station remained underwater for the second day on Thursday.

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has directed affected fuel stations to remain closed until they can ensure the safety and quality of their products.

"Any fuel station that is flooded should remain closed and monitored. Operators should assess the situation, clean up, and ensure the quality of their products before reopening," the EPRA said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that fuel station operators should anticipate and mitigate any environmental impact their



People pull a car submerged in flood water along Thika Road in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on Wednesday. Xinhua

businesses may cause due to the flooding.

The floods have also disrupted the operations of industries, such as the Karatasi paper factory in Nairobi Industrial Area, which was flooded, forcing workers to be stranded for hours and the factory to close indefinitely.

In the transportation sector, commuter buses, known as matatus, are facing losses due to impassable roads, increased maintenance costs and reduced passenger numbers.

Many roads in Nairobi have been closed, including major routes like the Thika Superhighway, Kangundo Road and Namanga Road.

"I really hope the rain will end soon. It is bad for business. Before the rains, we would

make at least 12,000 shillings (about 89 U.S. dollars) a day after deducting our expenses, but even collecting 59 dollars now is a challenge," said John Kariuki, a matatu driver.

As floods continue to affect homes and residential areas, families are grappling with the loss of household items and the need to find new accommodations. "All my household items were destroyed when my house was flooded.

I will also have to rebuild my fence and repair the house and some structures in my compound. For now, I am happy that we are safe as a family," said Jared Kuya, a resident of Kitengela, located 30 km south of Nairobi.

Many landlords are also facing challenges as tenants move away from flood-prone ar-

reas, leaving behind empty houses. "We were 20 families at the flat where we were staying in Utawala, each paying 222 dollars.

Three-quarters of us have moved due to floods," said government worker Rose Okoth. More than 200,000 people across Kenya have been displaced from their homes by floodwaters, seeking shelter in schools, churches and other public facilities.

The tourism sector is also feeling the impact, with game parks, tourist camps and reserves being flooded. Masai Mara National Reserve, a popular destination for tourists, has been temporarily closed after the Talek River burst its banks on Wednesday.

The rains have also caused significant damage to critical infrastructure, including roads, schools and bridges, cutting off access to many areas.

Despite the challenges, the government remains committed to addressing the situation. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has announced funds for the construction of bridges and roads destroyed by the floods.

The forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Department and the Climate Prediction and Applications Center of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development indicates that the rains are expected to continue until July, with most parts of the country likely to experience near-average to above-average rainfall.

Freedom of the press dying in West, any dissent snuffed out – MFA

MOSCOW

FREEDOM of the press is under attack in the West, where the authorities stamp out any dissent and repress journalists, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement dedicated to World Press Freedom Day on May 3.

"Unfortunately, World [Press Freedom] Day, which was conceived as a global celebration, is gradually degenerating into a meaningless date. This situation can change only if there is an honest assessment of the situation surrounding freedom of the press and journalist safety that is not distorted by Western propaganda," the ministry pointed out.

"We once again draw attention to the deplorable situation regarding freedom of expression and equal access to information in the countries of the collective West," the ministry noted, adding that "the so-called democratic countries continue destroying every pocket of dissent in violation of all international obligations."

"Investigative journalist Julian Assange and other prisoners of conscience continue to languish in London's dungeons," the report said. "So far there has been no reaction from international human rights organizations on the death of journalist Gonzalo Lira in a Ukrainian prison this January. He was rejected by both of his countries of citizenship, the United States and Chile," it added.

Abuses against the Russian media

The Russian Foreign Ministry also pointed to the "incessant arbitrariness committed by the Western authorities against the

Russian media and journalists, who have fully felt the repressive machine of the neoliberal West."

"Special attention should be paid to the appalling situation regarding freedom of the media in the Baltic republics and Moldova.

Their authorities, under the pretext of combating 'Russian propaganda,' with the silent consent of their Western curators, have organized persecutions against representatives of Russian-language media," the ministry explained.

"In Ukraine, the criminal regime of [President Vladimir] Zelensky has annihilated freedom of speech once and for all by banning all opposition media outlets and closing access to thousands of Internet resources," the Russian Foreign Ministry continued.

"The indulgence of Kiev by its overseas masters has also led to the continuation of brutal massacres against Russian journalists.

The list of national media representatives who were killed by Ukrainian militants was recently expanded to include Semyon Yermine, a military correspondent for Izvestia, who was murdered by neo-Nazis using a UAV while performing his professional duties," the ministry noted. "UNESCO Director General Audrey Azouly has not yet condemned the cold-blooded murder of Semyon Yermine, as well as other Russian journalists (Daria Dugina (Platonova), Vladlen Tatarsky (Maxim Fomin), Oleg Klokov, Rostislav Zhuravlev, Boris Maksudov)," the ministry added.

Agencies

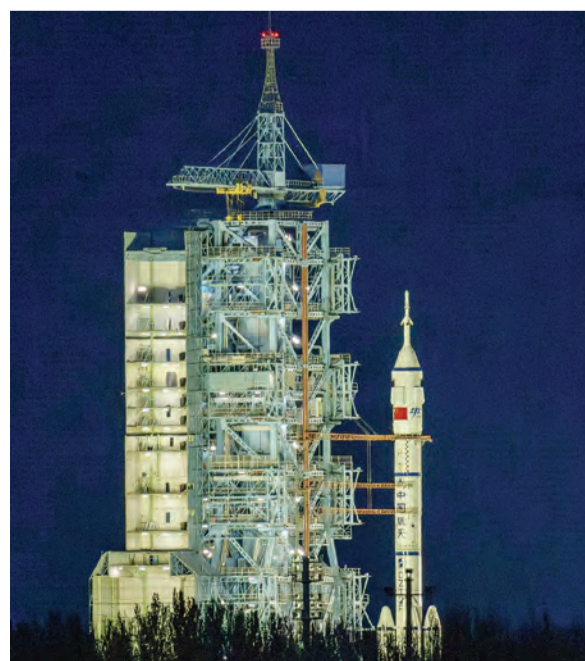
China's Shenzhou-18 manned spaceship successfully launched

AT 8:59 p.m. (Beijing Time) on April 25, China's Shenzhou-18 manned spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. About 10 minutes after the launch, the Shenzhou-18 spaceship separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit, marking the success of China's first manned mission in 2024.

The Shenzhou-18 crew members are Ye Guangfu, Li Cong and Li Guangsu, with Ye as the mission commander. The Shenzhou-18 mission is the third manned mission during the application and development stage of China's space station and the 32nd flight mission of China's manned space program.

The Shenzhou-18 crew will rotate with the Shenzhou-17 crew in orbit and stay in the space station for about six months, during which they will carry out space science and application experiments, extravehicular activities (EVAs), and cargo transportation, space debris shelters installation, extravehicular payloads and equipment installation and recovery, and popular science education and public welfare activities, to further improve the operational efficiency of the space station.

During the crew's stay in orbit, they will witness the arrival of the Tianzhou-8 cargo craft and Shenzhou-19 crewed spaceship. The Shenzhou-18 crew are scheduled to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region in late October this year. China Manned



The Shenzhou-18 manned spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, April 25, 2024. (People's Daily Online/Chen Kun)

Space Agency (CMSA) spokesperson Lin Xiqiang said the Shenzhou-18 crew will manage and care for the space station and its payloads during their stay in orbit, and conduct maintenance, repairs, and status inspections to ensure the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the space station.

The crew will utilize the scientific experiment cabinets and extravehicular payloads to carry out more than 90 experiments in the fields of basic physics in microgravity, space material science, space life science, space medicine and space technology.

For instance, they will implement China's first in-orbit aquatic ecological research project. Using zebrafish and coontail to establish a self-cycling aquatic ecosystem in orbit, the project aims to make to a breakthrough in the cultivation of vertebrates in space.

The crew will also make the world's first in-orbit stem cell study on the plant's stem tips to explore plant evolutionary adaptation to gravity and provide theoretical support for space cropping.

So far, China has carried out more than 130 scientific research and application projects in its orbiting space station, and more than 300 scientific experiment samples have been brought back from space by manned missions in five batches. The Shenzhou-18 astronauts will carry out two to three EVAs and implement six cargo outboard deliveries via the station's cargo airlock module. During the EVAs, based on the existing space debris protection mechanism at the station, the astro-

nauts will install debris protection reinforcements for extravehicular piping, cables, and critical equipment. They will also carry out extravehicular inspections, as appropriate, to further ensure the safety of the space station.

According to Lin, some of the solar panel cables on the space station were damaged by space debris impacts, leading to a partial loss of power supply capacity. The problem was solved by the Shenzhou-17 crew during two spacewalks, which marked China's first extravehicular maintenance and proved that manned spacecraft can better deal with unexpected issues in orbit.

In 2023, China initiated the lunar landing mission of its manned lunar exploration program, aiming to realize a manned lunar landing by 2030. All component systems are under research and development as planned.

The project development of major flight products, such as the Long March-10 carrier rocket, the manned spacecraft Mengzhou, the lunar lander Lanyue and the lunar landing suit, has been completed, and their prototype production and tests are being carried out.

The development of mechanical and thermal test products for manned spacecraft and landers has been basically completed; rocket engines of various types are under ground tests; and the Wenchang manned lunar exploration launch site is under construction. The proposals for manned lunar rovers and lunar surface payloads solicited from the public are under selection.

People's Daily

Dar set to host 2024 Sinza Kwa Wajanja Marathon next month

Dodoma athletes gear up for 2024 Tulia Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

DODOMA athletes are today set to go jogging to prepare for the 2024 Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon that will take place at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya from May 10-11.

The athletes had yesterday visited the race's founder, Tulia Ackson, in Dodoma and explained how they have planned to participate in the seventh season of the famous race to raise funds to improve health and education infrastructure in Mbeya and neighbouring regions.

Athletes who perform well in today's jogging will be presented with the champions' flag and the Tulia Trust organization's flag, ready to join more than 5000 others from various places in Mbeya.

Betika Tanzania's information officer Rugambwa Juvenalius said they have, this season, added more incentives including paying for 460 runners to participate in the race.

"The race's participation costs- including travel, accommodation, and participation fees- are on us, we aim to increase motivation, as per our slogan that focuses on supporting the efforts put in place by Speaker of the Parliament, Tulia," he said.

He said that preparations for the race have already started in Mtwara, with the region's athletes taking part in jogging to stay in great shape before participating in the Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon.

The official noted the build-up will today continue in Dodoma, adding there will be another jogging, and participants that do well in it will be handed a flag by Tulia, ready to travel to Mbeya. The athletes' costs will also be paid for by Betika Tanzania.

Rugambwa noted that the build-up will further happen in Morogoro and the occasion will be led by the region's Municipal Mayor, adding it will then move to Iringa and Rukwa before taking place in Dar es Salaam.

Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hamis Mwinjuma will on Monday grace the occasion, and

all runners who will do well will join other runners to participate in the coming marathon.

"May 8 will be a busy day, considering there will be a big event in Mbeya- preparation for the seventh season of the race," Juvenalius noted.

The race- sponsored by Betika Tanzania- is set to feature athletes battling it out in marathon (42km), half marathon (21km), and 5km and track races of 100m, 200m, 400m, and 1500m. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will grace the marathon which aims to collect funds to improve health and education infrastructure in Mbeya and other areas in the country.

Tulia Trust' representative, Leonard Mwinuka, said the motivation is, this season, high as they expect more than 5000 runners to participate.

He said, apart from the road races that will be led by the Prime Minister, there will be track races slated to start on May 10.

"Preparations are in the closing stages in collaboration with our sponsors, the Betika company, which is successfully sponsoring this race for the second year," he said.

Last year, the company sponsored the marathon and added motivation by fielding popular athlete Gabriel Geay in the showdown. He took part in the marathon and the 1500m race he once ran before moving to the marathon.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) vice president William Kallaghe said Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon is a unique race in the country that also involves athletes battling it out in track races.

The AT official remarked: "Many do marathons, but the Betika Mbeya Tulia Marathon has distinguished itself as the only race that allows tracking races' athletes to compete."

"It is a big event in Southern Highlands and we thank the organizers and sponsors for designing this procedure, if we continue this way, we will expand the showdown's scope and bring out the track races' talents," Kallaghe noted.



Kinondoni Municipal Mayor, Songoro Mnyonge (2nd R), launches the 2024 Sinza Kwa Wajanja Marathon in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Kijitonyama Ward Councillor Dama Lusangija (2nd L), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Soty Mtaki from Kijitonyama Police Station (R), and famous social media influencer Dotto Magari. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Correspondent

THE maiden edition of the race, termed 'Sinza Kwa Wajanja Marathon', has been scheduled to take place at the Posta grounds in Dar es Salaam on June 16.

The event will feature athletes competing in 21 kilometers, 10 kilometers, and five kilometers- according to Friends of Sinza Chairman Geoffrey Mhando.

Mhando noted that registration for the event has already begun and urged sports stakeholders to register to participate in the historic event.

He emphasized that apart from promoting sports development, the event aims to raise funds to support Dar es Salaam's Palestina Hospital

maternity ward.

"We are committed to promoting good health in the country, which is why we have decided to organize this event. Some of the funds raised will be used to purchase health materials for the hospital's maternity ward," Mhando remarked.

"We recognize the significance of Sinza Palestina Hospital in Kinondoni District, covering not only the local area but also neighboring regions. It's essential to support it," the official noted.

He clarified that the race is open to all athletes nationwide and called upon them to participate in it.

"The race serves to not only unite Sinza residents from various areas but also facilitate the exchange of ideas. Therefore, former Sinza residents and oth-

ers from within and outside the country are invited," he added.

Mhando also said before the race gets underway, there will on June 15 be an exhibition of entrepreneurs at the Posta grounds, accompanied by various entertainment activities.

Kinondoni Municipal Mayor Songoro Mnyonge praised the organizers for coming up with initiatives that promote sports development and good health.

He encouraged sports stakeholders in the country to collaborate with the organizers to achieve their objectives.

"This is a brilliant idea, especially for the Sinza Kwa Wajanja Marathon, which is happening for the first time. I urge all stakeholders to support the organizers and participate in the

event," Mnyonge, who launched the event, noted.

Kijitonyama Ward Councillor, Dama Lusangija, disclosed the race will encourage residents of the areas and its neighborhoods to adopt exercising and maintaining good health.

"We are grateful to the organizers for arranging these races, which are happening for the first time for the residents of Sinza and its environs," Lusangija remarked.

"This is a historic moment that will not only promote good health but also foster sports development," Lusangija noted.

Meanwhile, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Soty Mtaki from Kijitonyama Police Station stated that they are prepared to provide security for all participants before and during the showdown

TCA lines up more cricket promotion initiatives

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) has expressed a desire to step up its effort to develop the game at the domestic level via, among others, empowerment of players off the field.

Atif Salim, TCA Media Officer, had, in a recent interview with a local television station, shed light on several significant initiatives and events shaping the cricket landscape in Tanzania.

One of the highlights was the discussion about the English course introduced for the senior national women's cricket team.

Spearheaded by TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar in collaboration with the International School of Tanganyika and the American Embassy in Tanzania, SalimAccording to the revealed, this initiative aims to empower the players by enhancing their language skills, thereby opening up new opportunities on and off the field.

The official noted the initiative was implemented following the senior national women's team's successful outing in the 13th African Games and the Nigeria Invitational T20 Women's tournament, highlighting TCA's commitment to the players' holistic development.

Responding to the players' request for English language training, the TCA organized immersive learning sessions at the association's headquarters from April 22-26.

The courses, conducted by teachers from the International School of Tanganyika, aimed to enhance the players' communica-



Tanzanian Cricket Association (TCA) vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia (sitting 2nd R), and the association's CEO Hamisi Abdallah (sitting 2nd L) are pictured with International School of Tanganyika's English teachers and senior national women's cricket squad players when the cricketers participated in the opening day of English course that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

tion skills.

He disclosed that recognizing the importance of continuous learning, TCA ensured that the players would continue their English language classes online.

All players, Salim remarked, have further been registered in the American Embassy English class database, further expanding their access to resources.

Ashish Nagewadia, the TCA vice-chairman, and CEO Abdallah marked the conclusion of the

five-day course by expressing gratitude to the teachers for their invaluable contributions.

This collaborative effort underscores the power of partnerships in driving positive change within the Tanzanian cricket community. Salim noted that the female cricketers will, after the course's completion, not only possess improved English language skills but also symbolize the future of women's cricket in Tanzania.

By investing in their develop-

ment, he disclosed, TCA lays the groundwork for a brighter tomorrow, whereby Tanzania's female cricketers excel both on and off the field.

Salim further made an exclusive revelation regarding the resignation of senior national men's cricket side head coach Jimmy Kamande.

While bidding farewell to Kamande, Salim expressed gratitude for the coach's outstanding contributions, particularly in

guiding the senior national men's team to qualify for the 2023-2026 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League.

According to the TCA official, the Kenyan coach's departure marks the end of an era, but his legacy will undoubtedly endure within Tanzanian cricket.

The interview delved into other significant topics, offering insights into the future direction of Tanzanian cricket and the ongoing efforts to elevate the sport to

new heights.

Recently, TCA's CEO Hamisi Abdallah also revealed various developments in the cricketing landscape of Tanzania.

Addressing the recently concluded TCA U-17 Women Easter Series, Abdallah expressed satisfaction over the tournament's overall success.

However, he acknowledged the challenges brought about by inclement weather, which resulted in the cancellation of some matches.

Despite facing such a setback, the event served as a platform for young female cricketers to showcase their talent and passion for the sport.

Reflecting on the significance of Tanzania's participation in the 13th African Games, Abdallah emphasized the importance of both men's and women's cricket teams representing the nation on such a prestigious stage.

With cricket making its debut at the African Games, Tanzania had a unique opportunity to demonstrate its cricketing prowess and foster international recognition.

Looking ahead, Abdallah outlined plans to enhance regional infrastructure and association initiatives targeting to provide better ground facilities and practice opportunities.

Salim revealed TCA aims to, through investing in these resources, cultivate a thriving cricketing community across Tanzania, nurturing talent from the grassroots level.

CAF committee confirms RS Berkane's qualification for Confederation Cup final

RABAT

THE Clubs Committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) meeting on Wednesday to discuss the match between Renaissance Sportive of Berkane and USM Alger in the semi-final second leg of the CAF Cup, confirmed RS Berkane's qualification for the final of this continental competition, following the withdrawal of the Algerian club.

In a press release, the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMF) said on Thursday it had received a copy of the CAF Clubs Committee's decision concerning the USM Alger-RS Berkane match in the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final second leg, in which the Committee officially confirmed RS Berkane's qualification for the 2023-2024 CAF Cup final.

According to FRMF, the Committee unanimously decided to sanction USM Alger with a 0-3 forfeit, and to submit the case to the Disciplinary Jury for possible additional sanctions.

In the CAF Confederation Cup final, RS Berkane will face Egyptian club Zamalek on May 12 in Berkane for the first leg, and on May 19 in Cairo for the second leg.

Agencies

Postecoglou admits Spurs have 'lost belief' as top four bid fades

LONDON

ANGE Postecoglou admitted his Tottenham flops have "lost belief" after a dismal 2-0 defeat against Chelsea left their hopes of Champions League qualification in tatters.

Postecoglou's side needed a win at Stamford Bridge to close the gap on fourth-placed Aston Villa in the race to finish in the Premier League's top four.

But instead they slumped to a third successive loss after goals from Trevoh Chalobah and Nicolas Jackson fired Chelsea to victory over their London rivals.

Fifth-placed Tottenham are seven points behind Villa with four games left, while Unai Emery's men have three to play.

With their Champions League hopes fading, Postecoglou conceded his players are no longer playing with the confidence that infused their performances earlier this season.

Taking the blame for Tottenham's untimely slump, the Australian said: "It wasn't good enough and I have to take responsibility for that, it is on me."

"I am the manager and I am the one putting them out there and it was not good enough."

"When we put in a performance like we did in the first half it meant my message wasn't getting through."

Tottenham's issues with defending set-pieces were decisive again, leaving former Celtic boss Postecoglou to bemoan his side's collapse in the final weeks of his first season in charge.

"I feel like we've lost a bit of belief and conviction in our football and that is on me to change that," he said.

"It wasn't about conceding the first goal, it was our approach to playing football and we were nowhere near good enough. That is on me."

"We've been in a bit of a grind for a while now, that is part of our challenge and part of our growth. We have to go out there and perform and sometimes you have to grind out. We were poor today." - Pochettino plea -

Asked if Tottenham's top four bid was over, the downcast Postecoglou added: "I don't know how to answer these questions. We were poor today, what is the point of thinking about anything else?"

"There's no major formula. We will work hard and make sure we get it right. My responsibility is to make sure we play better next time."

Chelsea boss Mauricio Pochettino has masterminded two wins over his former club Tottenham this term.

But those successes have been rare bright spots in a difficult first season in charge for the Argentine.

Eighth-placed Chelsea could still salvage their campaign by qualifying for Europe, but even that is not guaranteed to save Pochettino from the club's demanding co-owner Todd Boehly.

Boehly has already sacked Thomas Tuchel and Graham Potter since taking charge in 2022, with Pochettino responding to recent reports about his future by pleading for time to revive the club.

"Maybe today because we won I can explain a little bit better. I want to say enough is enough. I think all managers need time to translate their ideas and their philosophy. We need to have time, but it is not my decision," Pochettino said of his future.

"If we want to match the history of Chelsea I think there is a lot of work to do. We will see if we have time to build this way."

"It's difficult to see every single week that I am under scrutiny and judgement. Yes, it's not my decision to be here or not to be here."

AFP

Premier League leaders Arsenal hope for Manchester City slip-up in title race

LONDON

ARSENAL resume their quest for Premier League glory against Bournemouth this weekend knowing they have no margin for error with Manchester City hot on their heels.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners are a single point above Pep Guardiola's men with three games left but City, who host Wolves, crucially have a game in hand.

Newcastle can pile the pressure on Manchester United in the battle for a Europa League place if they win at Burnley, who are plotting a great escape.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the action.

***Can Wolves stop City juggernaut?**

Arsenal have hit a rich vein of form since their 2-0 defeat by Aston Villa last month, but are competing against a City side who are now unbeaten in 31 games in all competitions.

The Gunners have a chance at least to apply some pressure by beating Bournemouth in the early kick-off at the Emirates today.

Bournemouth have registered their highest-ever points tally in a Premier League season to climb to 10th spot but have only beaten Arsenal once before.



Can Arsenal deny Manchester City a fourth straight Premier League crown? Agencies

City were not at their best against Nottingham Forest last weekend but still found a way to win and are strong favourites to wrap up an unprecedented fourth straight English title.

Arsenal will cling to the hope that Wolves can complete a rare double against City after they won 2-1 at home earlier this season.

Guardiola, for his part, does not believe his side can afford to drop any points in the run-in.

"With four games left, it's like climbing a mountain," he said. "They are very tough games... If we draw a game, we are not going to win the Premier League. It is what it is."

*Man Utd seek to stop rot Manchester United's sorry season could plumb new depths unless they kick their costly habit of conceding late goals.

Erik ten Hag's chaotic team have won just two of their past nine Premier League matches and have tricky games to come against in-form Crystal Palace, Arsenal and Newcastle, who are their closest rivals for a Europa League spot, before they face Brighton on the final day.

United have two potential routes into the Europa League, either by beating Manchester City in the FA Cup final or finishing sixth in the Premier League.

Seventh place could also be enough for UEFA Conference League football next season.

The Red Devils have never finished below seventh in the Premier League but that is far from certain to remain the case given their poor form.

West Ham and Chelsea are within striking distance but have been hampered by their own inconsistency in recent months.

*Burnley's escape attempt Burnley appeared dead and buried just weeks ago but they have lost just one of their past eight league games to remain in the battle for survival.

Vincent Kompany's team are still second from bottom of the table but are just two

points from safety with three matches to play.

The first of those is at Turf Moor against Eddie Howe's Newcastle, who have lost 10 times on the road this season.

Burnley's final game is on May 19 against Forest, currently one place above the drop zone, and Kompany wants his team to be still alive when the teams meet.

"For us, the biggest thing is, can we give ourselves a game against Forest where we have something to look forward to?" said the Belgian.

"We don't need much more. We just want that opportunity on that one day. That's enough for us to rally to something special."

Forest will hope to pull away from the danger zone when they travel to already relegated Sheffield United.

***Fixtures**

Today (1400 unless stated) Arsenal v Bournemouth (1130), Brentford v Fulham, Burnley v Newcastle, Sheffield United v Nottingham Forest, Manchester City v Wolves (1630)

Tomorrow (1300 unless stated)

Brighton v Aston Villa, Chelsea v West Ham, Liverpool v Tottenham (1530)

Monday (1900) Crystal Palace v Manchester United

AFP

Everything you need to know about the new UEFA Champions League format

By Charlotte Coates

FOOTBALL is always evolving and Europe's most prestigious competition, the Champions League, is no different.

From next season, a new format will be in play after Uefa approved the changes in May 2022.

It is the first time since 1992 that Europe's elite competition has seen such a revamp.

Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin said qualification will be "based on sporting merit".

***What is the new Champions League format and how does it work?**

The Champions League group stage is currently set up with 32 teams in eight groups of four - with the top two sides from those groups qualifying for the last 16.

However, this format will be replaced by one league table where 36 clubs will participate in the new league phase - giving four more sides the chance to compete.

Clubs will no longer play three teams twice, but will take on eight different sides with four home games and four away games.

To determine fixtures, the teams will be ranked in four seeding pots and each team will then be drawn to play two opponents from each of these pots.

They will play one match against a team from each pot at home, and one away.

***How will the knockout stages work?**

Teams who finish in the top eight will qualify automatically for the last 16, while those who place ninth to 24th will compete in a two-legged knockout play-off for the chance to join them.



Manchester City won their only Champions League trophy in 2023. Agencies

Whoever finishes 25th or lower will be eliminated and will not be entered into the Europa League.

From the last 16 onwards, the Champions League will continue to follow its existing format with the final taking place at a neutral venue.

***How many more games will be played and when will they be played?**

The number of matches in the new format will increase from 125 to 189.

Each team will play a minimum of eight - instead of six - and a maximum of 17.

In standard weeks, Champions League matches will still be played on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

In the Champions League exclusive weeks - when no other European competitions are played - games will be played across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The league phase will now end at the end of January instead of during December.

***Will there be a fifth Champions League place in England? When will we find out?**

For Premier League clubs, the situation is

now clear. The top four will go into the Champions League with the fifth-placed team going into the Europa League.

If Manchester United win the FA Cup, they will go into the Europa League. If Manchester City win the FA Cup, the sixth-placed team in the Premier League will go into the Europa League.

The next team that has not qualified for Europe will be in the Europa Conference League play-offs - so that will be either sixth or seventh place.

***How do the coefficient places work?**

Germany and Ita-

ly are the nations to have secured a fifth automatic spot in next season's tournament.

The coefficient places, otherwise known as 'European Performance Spots', go to the associations who have the best collective performance by their clubs in the previous season.

Germany and Italy could even have six representatives in Europe's premier competition.

That will happen if Dortmund win the Champions League and finish outside the top four in the Bundesliga, or either Atalanta or Roma win the Europa

League.

The winners of both tournaments qualify automatically for the following season's Champions League.

***How has the Champions League format changed?**

Europe's most notable football competition began during the 1955-56 season as only a six-team invitational tournament, initially known as the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

From 1967, the competition grew to 32 teams, was called the European Cup and featured four two-legged rounds prior to a single-match final -

this model would last for more than 20 years.

The Champions League as we know it began in 1992.

A group stage was added with the last 16 entering a knockout phase.

There was a brief spell with two group stages, but this was reverted back to the single group-stage format for the 2003-04 tournament.

***Are the Europa League and Europa Conference League going to change too?**

Yes. Both competitions will see similar changes to those of the Champions League.

The Europa League will follow the same format as the Champions League from next season.

Europe's third-tier competition, the Europa Conference League, will be rebranded as the Uefa Conference League and teams will play six matches against six different opponents in the league phase.

Both the Europa League and Uefa Conference League will also feature 36 teams.

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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Yanga in urgent negotiations to retain defenders

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC's management has commenced urgent negotiations with defenders Bakari Mwamnyeto and Kibwana Shomari to secure contract extensions.

The Jangwani Street squad, alias Yanga, has opted for the move, seeking to maintain its defensive prowess and potential gains for the club's rivals.

The looming departure of these key players poses a triple threat to the club, highlighted by the scarcity of native defenders with high potential and experience.

"The positions these players play in are crucial for our team's stability and competitiveness. Allowing them to depart would not only benefit our rivals but also weaken our squad," a Yanga official who opted to remain anonymous stated.

While negotiations with Mwamnyeto and Shomari are underway, discussions with other players, including Denis Nkane and Farid Mussa, have yet to commence.

However, the urgency to retain Mwamnyeto and Shomari stems from their indispensable roles in fortifying Yanga's defensive line.

"We have ample options for positions occupied by Nkane and Mussa, but the defensive line requires special attention to maintain its integrity," the official added.

Rumours have swirled regarding Mwamnyeto's potential departure to long-time rival Simba SC, who are reportedly eyeing reinforcements for their defensive lineup.

Despite offers from both domestic and foreign clubs, Mwamnyeto's manager, Carlos Sylvester, expressed optimism about Yanga's prospects of retaining the talented defender.

"I can confirm that there are offers from various clubs, both locally and internationally. However, Yanga has shown a keen interest in retaining Mwamnyeto, and negotiations are progressing positively," Sylvester revealed.

Mwamnyeto's impressive track record, including leading Yanga to multiple triumphs, underscores his value to the team.

Meanwhile, Shomari's versatility in playing multiple defensive positions has made him a sought-after asset for Yanga.

"Yanga's interest in extending Shomari's contract demonstrates their recognition of his contributions to the team. While offers from other clubs exist, Yanga remain his priority," Shomari's manager, George Job, affirmed.

However, challenges remain for Shomari, as the arrival of Ivorian defender Kouassi Yao has limited the former's playing time.

Despite this, Shomari remains committed to Yanga, as evidenced by ongoing negotiations with the club.

The impending expiration of contracts for other players, including Joyce Lomalisa and Mahlasi Makudubela, signals a potential squad overhaul for Yanga.

While Lomalisa's future with the team remains uncertain, Mwamnyeto and Shomari's negotiations take precedence due to their instrumental roles in the team's defensive strategy.

As negotiations unfold, Yanga faces a critical juncture in maintaining its defensive stronghold amidst stiff competition from rival clubs.

The outcome of these negotiations will not only shape the team's roster for the upcoming season but also determine its competitive edge in domestic and continental competitions.

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Yanga's interest in extending Shomari's contract demonstrates their recognition of his contributions to the team. While offers from other clubs exist, Yanga remain his priority

JKT Tanzania hosts Geita Gold FC today, looks to avoid the drop



JKT Tanzania

By correspondents Michael Mwebe & Nassir Nchimbi

JKT Tanzania and Geita Gold FC come together at the Major General Isamuho Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday afternoon, with both teams looking to ensure their survival in the NBC Premier League before the end of the season.

The hosts come into this match on the back of five league games without defeat, while the visitors have lost one of their last five.

It has been a topsy-turvy season for JKT Tanzania with them now occupying 10th place after previously sitting outside the top half of the table for chunks of the season.

Notching only their fifth league win of the season to beat fellow strugglers, Mtibwa Sugar, in the previous week was what the doctor ordered for the army boys, who are not entirely out of the woods

in the survival battle.

JKT Tanzania now sits two points above Geita Gold FC, who reside in the promotion/relegation play-off spot and will be hoping to extend that gap with their first back-to-back victory of the season.

JKT Tanzania has won five matches and recorded a draw in four - including a goalless draw against Yanga, the army outfit is heading into this match with a morale boost after beating bottom-placed Mtibwa Sugar.

George Mketi, JKT Tanzania assistant coach, said they are aware of the experience Geita Gold FC boasts, with the types of players the latter has and its competence heading into this game.

"Looking at their trend in their last three games, we saw how defensive strong

they are with experienced players like Kevin Yondan at the back, they have found ways to stop teams from notching goals, knowing that at home we have to find ways to unlock them," Mketi noted.

"Our main focus in the remaining league games is to win every home match because games are becoming difficult to approach with every team ambitious in their ways, concerning that we have prepared to win," he revealed.

"They are coming from playing in the CRDB Federation Cup last eight, they lost to Coastal Union, I know they will want to make amends against us, something that we are aware of, and aim to make our run for our record and survival," Mketi disclosed.

JKT Tanzania is currently positioned 10th in the

league log with 26 points, with five wins, 11 draws, and eight losses.

Geita Gold FC head coach Denis Kitambi disclosed the league log speaks about how his outfit should approach the clash against JKT Tanzania, adding his team is struggling to score goals despite creating many chances.

"All my players know the brand of football they should play, we have achieved that now the only thing missing from the puzzle is turning created chances into goals, that is what we want to achieve and become effective," Kitambi revealed.

"When you look at the league log, if you win one game, you jump two to three places. That's how the nature of competition is at the current league log, we want these three points just

as how ambitious they are," the tactician remarked.

As for the visitors, they find themselves in the relegation zone, leaving them desperately fighting for points in an attempt to avoid playing in the relegation playoffs.

Geita Gold FC is coming into this one having won just once in the club's last six matches, drawing four in that time. Last weekend's goalless encounter with Tabora United was the third stalemate in a row for the Geita squad.

Like most teams in the bottom half of the table, Geita Gold FC has registered more draws than wins.

They now desperately need to fight hard to convert some of the draws into wins to avoid the drop.

Geita Gold FC's head coach Denis Kitambi will be aiming to repeat the 1-0 success they had over Saturday's opponents in their last encounter which took place in Geita in November.

However, Geita Gold FC's away form leaves little to be desired ahead of Saturday's trip as they have so far won two of their 11 league matches on the road this term while losing five.

Geita Gold FC will be looking to promising striker Valentino Mashaka to provide the goals, with the striker currently boasting six goals for the season.

Gamondi acknowledges increased competition in NBC PL

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC, the reigning champion of the NBC Premier League, is in the thick of a thrilling title race.

The outfit's sights are firmly set on securing the 30th league trophy, a landmark achievement that would solidify the squad's position as Tanzania's most decorated football club.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi has instilled a laser focus in his squad, alias Yanga. Their strategy is refreshingly simple - win every remaining game and let the chips fall where they may.

"We have to play well and avoid dropping points, every match is crucial, and securing three points needs to be our sole objective," Gamondi emphasizes.

He further elaborates on his approach, stating: "The past and my opponents hold no relevance at this stage. I only focus on maximizing my team's potential. It's a period that demands unwavering belief in our capabilities."

Gamondi, aiming for his first championship with Yanga, acknowledges the league's increased competitiveness.

"There's a noticeable im-



Yanga's footballers are pictured training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League matches. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

provement in all teams compared to the first half of the season. This fierce competition pushes us to fight harder," he declares.

Currently perched atop the league table with 62 points after 24 matches, Yanga's title defense hinges on securing just 11 points from their remaining six fixtures.

This calculation guarantees them the trophy even if their closest competitors, Azam FC and Simba SC, win all their remaining games.

Yanga's advantage lies in the upcoming clash between Azam FC and Simba SC. A draw in the match would significantly tilt the race for the title in Yanga's favour.

Mathematically, even if Yanga loses all away games and wins only the next four

matches (against Mashujaa FC, Kagera Sugar, Mtibwa Sugar, and Dodoma Jiji FC), they will still reach 73 points.

This surpasses Azam FC's potential total of 72 points and Simba SC's 71 points, assuming both teams win all their remaining matches.

The Jangwani Street-based side home record serves as another cause for optimism. They remain undefeated at home this season, boasting a 100% win record.

Three of their remaining six matches are scheduled at home, making a clean sweep highly probable. Even their away record is not a cause for concern, showcasing an impressive ability to perform consistently.

Yanga presents a compelling case for championship

glory. They've lost only two games this season, winning 20 and drawing the remaining two. Their offensive prowess is undeniable, with 55 goals scored - the highest in the league.

Stephane Aziz Ki emerged as the outfit's top goal scorer with 15 goals and seven assists, while Maxi Nzengeli and Pacome Zouzoua have contributed significantly with 11 goals apiece.

Gamondi's men have displayed a remarkable fighting spirit, emerging victorious irrespective of the playing field. Records reveal a favorable trend in their upcoming encounters.

A potential victory in the next four matches would see Yanga crowned champions at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodo-

ma, amidst the cheers of their home fans, Dodoma Jiji FC.

This would mark the second consecutive championship announcement in front of Dodoma Jiji FC and the first away title declaration in the past three seasons.

The stakes are high for Yanga as the club embarks on this crucial phase of the season.

Their unwavering determination, coupled with a strategic approach and impressive on-field performance, makes them strong contenders for a well-deserved 30th NBC Premier League title.

The coming weeks promise to be a nail-biting spectacle for Tanzanian football fans, with Yanga poised to etch their name even deeper into the annals of the league's history.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

