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President Samia Suluhu Hassan queues at Sokoine area in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, yesterday for a chance to update her personal particulars in the national Permanent Voters' Register and thus qualify for participation in the countrywide local government elections lined up for November 27. Photo: State House

Tourism earnings at US \$3.5 billion till now this year, from 2m+ tourists

By Guardian Reporter

EARNINGS of more than \$3.5bn were obtained in the tourism sector up to the start of the fourth quarter of the calendar year, official data indicates.

The figure was cited by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi when gracing the opening ceremony for the 8th edition of the Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE 2024).

He similarly noted that Tanzania's accomplishments in tourism have earned it the distinction of being the sixth country globally and the leading country in Africa for growth in tourist numbers, on the basis of a

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Africa CDC in \$360m community health plan

By Guardian Reporter

A PLAN for a five year effort drawn up by the Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) for Tanzania requires a total of \$360m for a phased implementation of a community health workers programme.

Dr James Guwani, head of the Community Health Division at Africa CDC, said at a recent international workshop in Dar es Salaam that this plan is vital to advance the goals of universal health coverage.

The first year is being billed at \$40m, a community health acceleration plan, to set out an Integrated and Coordinated Community Health Workers (iCCHW) programme to scale up coordinated community health worker programmes.

This is needed for a nationwide coverage of life-saving interventions, seeking to end preventable maternal and child deaths by 2030, he said, speaking of the mooted plan that runs from 2024 to 2028.

The plan has the blessings of the specific Health ministries of the Union and Zanzibar, along with the President's Office (Re-

Infrastructure, social services ills: Regional visit highlights concern

By Henry Mwangonde, Kahama

A recent tour by the CCM Secretariat, led by Secretary-General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi, has highlighted the urgent need for solutions to infrastructure and social service challenges faced by residents in Simiyu and Shinyanga regions.

Key issues were raised prominently during rallies across various areas. During the tour, Dr Nchimbi directed ministers and government officials, including Regional and District Commissioners, to address urgent community concerns.

Accompanied by Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, Amos Makalla, and Secretary for Politics and



Pupils of Mji Mpya Primary School in Dar es Salaam's Majohe ward march in the school's compound yesterday marking this year's edition of International Day of the Girl Child (Oct 11). Left is Halima Masoud, supervisor of anti-violence clubs operating under the Majohe Information and Knowledge Centre. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

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Kagera Sugar confirm Paul Nkata exit after woeful start

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K-pop star to testify on music industry bullying



Ecosystem in peril: Wildlife populations in sharp decline

WASHINGTON

AFRICA's biodiversity is under threat as the 'Living Planet Report 2024' of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) shows significant declines in the average size of wildlife populations across the continent.

Martin Kabaluapa, the WWF regional director for the Congo Basin, says in the report that Africa has experienced a 76 percent decline in monitored vertebrate wildlife populations between 1970 and 2020.

This rapid decline is primarily driven by habitat loss, overexploitation, pollution and the impacts of climate change, he stated, underlining that this alarming trend highlights the urgent need for transformative action to safeguard Africa's natural ecosystems.

He also emphasised on the livelihoods that depend on the livestock ecosystem, whereas overall global decline stands at 73 percent, he stated, cautioning that the pace of degradation of Africa's ecosystems could push the region past critical tipping points, without immediate interventions.

"As ecosystems cross these thresholds, their ability to support both wildlife and human livelihoods is compromised, with se-

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Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albart Chalamila registers in the Permanent Voters' Register in Dar es Salaam for the local government elections due on November 27. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Africa CDC sets up \$360m community health staff plan

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gional Administration and Local Governments).

Dr Ntuli Kapologwe, the ministerial director of preventive services, said that iCCHW is a top priority in current transformation plans, part of the country's vision of a healthy society with improved maternal, newborn, and child health, better nutrition and sanitation, and a reduction in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

This will, in turn, contribute to individual and national development, he said, pointing out that health financing should be broad, including issues like universal health coverage, which currently stands below the 66 per cent average.

To address this, effective integration and coordination of community health workers (CHWs) is essential, he said, appealing for the use of advocacy tools to attract donors and secure additional funding.

"Learning from successful models and the progress made in Zanzibar can enhance resource mobilization efforts," he said, noting that a system-focused strategy, rather than a disease-focused approach, would help avoid fragmentation.

Dr Barnabas Yeboah, a community health specialist at Africa CDC, called for institutionalizing, integrating and sustaining community health programs. He emphasized the importance of political commitment and leadership at global, continental and national levels.

"There is a need for structured support and sustainable financing to maintain effective community health initiatives," he said, focusing in key recommendations to sustain and

consolidate the gains achieved through the implementation of the plan.

"In Tanzania, high-level advocacy meetings with government and funding agencies, both new and existing, should be held to mobilize resources for the community health acceleration plan," he urged.

The specialist demanded formulation of an investment case for donor agencies and the private sector to guide resource mobilization and advocacy efforts, including resource mapping to support the Integrated and Coordinated CHW Program.

Fast-tracking the rollout of community health worker training for the first three clusters of 28,000 CHWs in ten priority regions must be prioritized, he said, pointing to the need to revise their work package and training curriculum, to align with the national road map and priorities.

Dr Salim Slim, the preventive services and health education director for the Zanzibar Health ministry said that Zanzibar has a training programme for 3,000 community health workers, to which it needs to add high-level advocacy engagements to mobilize resources for CHW kits before the first cohort graduates.

The 3,000 trained CHWs will need to be deployed across Zanzibar upon completing their training, he said, noting that community health workers are key to addressing the shortage of healthcare workers.

"CHWs have been instrumental in advancing antenatal care, and Zanzibar is now measles-free, thanks to their dedicated efforts. The first case of measles in Zanzibar was identified by a CHW, highlighting their critical role in disease detection, prevention, and response. We provide each CHW with the tools to reach 100 community members," he added.

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day tour.

Regions yet to be visited by Dr Nchimbi as part of his inspections related to the 2020-2025 election manifesto include Dar es Salaam, Coast, Mara, Tabora, Iringa, Morogoro, and Dodoma.

The tour began on October 6 in Simiyu, at Lamadi, where discussions covered various sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, water, agriculture, electricity, natural resources, and tourism.

Dr Nchimbi frequently called on local leaders for clarifications and contacted ministers directly, issuing instructions to resolve the issues raised.

Ministers expected to implement the directives include Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko, Minister of State in the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) Mohamed Mchengerwa,

and Ministers Dr Pindi Chana (Natural Resources and Tourism), Innocent Bashungwa (Works), Hussein Bashe (Agriculture), Jumaa Aweso (Water), Prof. Adolf Mkenda (Education, Science and Technology), Jenista Mhagama (Health), and Hamad Masauni (Home Affairs).

Mchengerwa, Dr Pindi, and Bashe are anticipated to face significant challenges. Mchengerwa specifically pointed out the urgent need for a market and bus terminal in Lamadi, along with improvements to local schools and roads under the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA).

A longstanding issue raised by local MPs, including Luhaga Mpina (Kisesa), Kundo Mathew (Bariadi), Leah Komanya (Meatu), and Simon Lusengekile (Busega), is the invasion of elephants into residential areas, which threatens crops. Dr Nchimbi urged Minister Pindi to take immediate action to ensure

the safety of residents and their property.

At a public meeting held at Majengo Grounds in Kahama Municipality, MPs Jumanne Kishimba (Kahama) and Idd Kassim (Msalala) raised concerns about electricity service challenges. They requested that Kahama be upgraded to a Tanesco Regional Service Centre. Dr Nchimbi supported this initiative, citing Kahama's potential as a major mineral refinery hub and home to the significant Bulyanhulu mine.

Dr Biteko assured attendees, "We have received the request from Kahama's MPs, and after analysis, it has been determined that Kahama will become a Tanesco region this financial year."

Concerns about cotton prices and agricultural inputs prompted Dr Nchimbi to instruct Minister Bashe to ensure the timely delivery of quality seeds and fertilizers to farmers, reaffirming the

government's commitment to supporting agriculture.

Prof. Mkenda was tasked with ensuring that the new primary school in Meatu opens by January, supported by a 10 million shilling allocation from the Secretary-General's office. This was in response to residents' concerns about children having to travel long distances to attend school.

Water supply issues were also addressed, with Dr Nchimbi stressing the need for strong oversight of ongoing projects to fulfill the promises outlined in the election manifesto. This is being managed under the Ministry of Water, led by Jumaa Aweso.

In health, MP Kishimba called for regulated medicine prices, citing the high costs that burden citizens. Concerns about arbitrary arrests by police officers were also raised, leading Dr Nchimbi to call for a review of these practices under the Ministry

of Home Affairs, headed by Hamad Masauni.

Road construction and bridge maintenance in Simiyu were another focus of attention, prompting Dr Nchimbi to direct the Ministry of Infrastructure, led by Bashungwa, to ensure effective oversight.

Regional Commissioners Kenani Kihongosi for Simiyu and Anamringi Macha were tasked with addressing the grievances presented by citizens during the meetings. The process for receiving complaints has improved, with grievances now being documented alongside complainants' names and contact information. This information is then handed over to the Regional Commissioner for follow-up.

Dr Nchimbi assured the public that headquarters would monitor each complaint to ensure its resolution and that actions would be taken against those responsible if concerns remained unresolved.

Ecosystem in peril: Wildlife populations in sharp decline

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vere consequences for food security, water availability and climate resilience," he explained.

Asserting that Africa's biodiversity calls for urgent action, he pointed at interlinked crises of nature loss and climate change as pushing African wildlife and ecosystems to their limits, with global tipping points threatening to destabilize entire ecosystems. The catastrophic consequences of losing some of Africa's most precious species, from forest elephants to gorillas, would reverberate across the world, he said, while analysts noted that despite these challenges, the report offers some hope.

It affirms that mountain gorillas in the greater Virunga landscape, spanning Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, rebounded by three percent from 2010

to 2016 in the wake of intense conservation efforts.

Alice Ruhweza, senior director for policy influence and engagement at WWF, insisted that conservation alone is not enough to bend the curve. "We need a systems shift," asserting that the world has the tools, the knowledge and the opportunity to reverse these trends if action is undertaken right away.

She pointed at the need to scale up nature-based solutions across Africa to address interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. "Reforestation, wetland restoration and agroforestry projects not only help preserve biodiversity but also enhance livelihoods by creating jobs, improving food security and increasing resilience to climate change," she stated.

Amani Ngusuru, the



An eye specialist from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)-Mloganzilia, Dr. Anold Ndyamkama (L) conducts an eye examination to one of the residents at a medical camp held at Chalinze Health Center in Chalinze District, Coast Region on Thursday as part to mark the World Sight Day organised in collaboration between MNH-Mloganzilia and the South Korea based Vision Care Institute. Photo: Courtesy of MNH-Mloganzilia

WWF (T) country director noted that the numbers of black rhinos and African elephants have shown an increase in recent years here, but "we are far from reaching a point of confidence in the restoration of our wildlife."

"We are still losing forests, which are essential habitats for both wildlife and people. The quality and quantity of water in our rivers is deteriorating and our marine resources are undeniably affected. It is time to scale up our actions, use resources sustainably and combine our efforts if we are to maintain balance and meet the 2030

targets," he elaborated. He suggested that international biodiversity and climate summits this year present an opportunity for countries to rise to the scale of the challenge, noting that WWF calls for countries to reach nature and climate plans at national and global level.

He also referred to the need for measures to reduce global overconsumption, halt and reverse domestic and imported biodiversity loss while cutting emissions equitably. "WWF urges governments to unlock greater public and private funding to enable large-

scale action and better align their climate, nature and sustainable development policies," he urged.

African countries have already committed to halting and reversing nature loss under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and tackling climate change through the Paris Agreement.

Yet, the Living Planet Report (LPR) warns that national biodiversity strategies and action plans are falling short. Critical tipping points, such as the degradation of coral reefs, savannah ecosystems, and rainforests are still looming, analysts noted.

Tourism earnings at \$3.5 billion till now this year, from 2 million tourists

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September 2024 report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The revenue performance underscores the tourism sector's pivotal role in the nation's economy, he said, pointing at its being a pillar of Tanzania's economy, contributing 17.2 percent to gross domestic product (GDP).

Tourism accounts for 25 percent of foreign exchange earnings and supports over 1.5m jobs, crossing the 2m tourist arrivals for the first time this year. The country received a total of 2,026,378 international tourists, the highest number ever, he said.

This success is explained from government efforts in strengthening the tourism infrastructure, including improvements to Air Tanzania, the national flag carrier, he said, asserting that the government has encouraged international airlines to establish direct flights between Tanzania and key tourism markets.

It has built modern roads and railways connecting tourist attractions while renovated airports to enhance critical tourism services, he said, pointing at these initiatives

as enabling a significant rise in international tourist arrivals and increased revenues.

He remarked that various international awards were received by the country's tourism agencies, which showcase the quality and uniqueness of its attractions. These include the 2023 World Travel Awards, where the Tanzania Tourist Board was named "Africa's Leading Tourist Board," he stated.

Thanda Shungumbili Island in Mafia was prized as the "World's Leading Exclusive Private Island," the Ngorongoro Conservation Area as "Africa's Leading Tourist Attraction," and Serengeti National Park as "Africa's Leading National Park."

Additionally, the Trip Advisor network recognized Serengeti and Tarangire National Parks as "Africa's Top Attractions," while Zanzibar was ranked the "2nd Best Island Destination in the World" for 2024 by the Island Index.

He acknowledged that tourism is a highly competitive sector, thus emphasizing the need for promotional efforts to achieve the set goals, praising the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry and the TTB for promoting tourist attractions locally and abroad.

Summit to mobilise \$120bn for poor states

ABIDJAN

INTERNATIONAL finance actors, policymakers, representatives from the private sector, and civil society have gathered in Abidjan for a summit aimed at supporting the fundraising campaign for the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank institution dedicated to assisting poor countries.

At the opening of the summit, dubbed the Assembly for Africa's Economic Development, Cote d'Ivoire's Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development Kaba Nialé stated that the goal is to mobilize \$120 billion for the development of the world's poorest countries, the vast majority of which are located in Africa.

"This effort seeks to support investments in economic and social infrastructure aimed at accelerating the achievement of sustainable development goals as well as defining financing priorities and ensuring adequate support to address the challenges facing Africa," she declared.

Nialé emphasized that the com-

mitment of international partners and the promotion of private investments are vital to achieving these objectives.

She noted that the replenishment of the IDA's resources, the 21st of its kind, comes at a time characterized by "increasingly complex challenges, including climate change, economic financing, energy access, security crises, and food insecurity."

The summit serves as an advocacy platform for a substantial replenishment of IDA resources scheduled for December in Seoul, South Korea. Founded in 1960 and supervised by 174 shareholder countries, the IDA is primarily funded by contributions from member countries.

Donors meet every three years to replenish the IDA's resources and review its action framework. The last replenishment process in December 2021 resulted in the mobilization of \$93 billion for the 2022-2025 funding cycle.

Over the course of two days, the Assembly for Africa's Economic Development will feature high-level panels and a meeting of heads of



Laizer Sulle (R), an agricultural officer stationed at Gedamar village in Babati District guides farmer Fatuma Iddi on Thursday at a demonstration farm planted with peas and cowpeas. It was in ongoing implementation of a project under the Agricultural Markets Development Trust, which moves to empower farmers to transition from rain-dependent farming to irrigation. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

RUWASA to build tanks to address water woes in Ngara

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngara

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Ngara District, Kagera Region has unveiled plans to construct two mega water tanks to address on-going water shortages in the area.

The tanks, one has a capacity of 25,000 litres and another with 75,000 litres.

RUWASA's district manager, Si-

mon Ndyamkama, made the statement during a public rally at Kumuyange village, hosted by Ngara legislator Ndaisaba Ruhoro.

During the occasion, villagers expressed concerns saying that due to the crisis, they are forced to purchase clean water at 1,000/- per bucket.

Ndyamkama assured residents that the new water tanks would significantly alleviate these issues.

"If one source dries up, the other will continue to supply the community," he said.

The project, which is expected to cost over 1.6bn/-. will also include a 10.8-kilometer water distribution network and a prepaid meter water collection station, aiming to eliminate the need for residents to pay for water by the bucket.

MP Ruhoro emphasized the urgency of the project, directing Ndy-

amkama to ensure that contractor Joseph Buzubona of Buzubona & Sons Co Ltd oversees the construction effectively.

"This project must be completed within six months, as the residents of Kumuyange village have suffered for too long and urgently need this essential service," he said.

He emphasised on President Samia Suluhu Hassan's goal of alleviating the burden on women who

often carry water on their heads.

Some residents from Nyamiaga ward shared their distress over the lack of access to clean water since 1974, which has hindered their economic activities.

They often spend hours searching for water, sometimes resorting to contaminated sources.

Magreth Gwassa, a local resident, lamented: "We have endured this situation since 1974, leading to fre-

quent illnesses among us."

George Ngeze echoed the sentiment, noting that many families have had to use water with larvae from ditches, resulting in various diseases linked to unclean water.

Nyamiaga ward councillor Eustasi Majita acknowledged the ongoing water crisis, stating that lack of the vital resource has severely limited residents' ability to engage in economic activities.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura pictured in Tabora municipality on Thursday exchanging greetings with Tabora regional commissioner Paul Matiko Chacha shortly before they held talks on various issues, including the state of security in the region. Photo: Courtesy of Tanzania Police Force

Come out in large numbers, register for civic polls, DPM urges Tanzanians

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukombe

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy Minister, Dr Doto Biteko, has urged Tanzanians to come out in large numbers and register at voter registration centres for the forthcoming Local Government Elections scheduled for November 27, 2024.

Dr Biteko made the call here yesterday when speaking shortly after registering in the Voter Register at the Bulangwa Primary School Voter Registration Centre in Bukombe District, Geita Region.

"I sincerely thank you all for showing up in large numbers. Registering is a short process, and I trust you will finish on time so that you can continue with your activities," said Dr Biteko.

Dr Biteko, who is also the Bukombe MP, emphasized, "This exercise starts today and will continue until October 20, 2024. Bulangwa residents, come out as the registrars are well-prepared, and we want to see a complete list of all people so that, when the time comes, you can vote."

Geita Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella, commended Dr Biteko for participating in the registration exercise and said that he had set a good example for the people of Bukombe. He urged citizens to use their constitutional right to participate in democratic elections.

"Let us continue encouraging citizens from every neighbourhood to register in the Voter Register, as adequate areas have been allocated to ensure all eligible citizens can take advantage of this opportunity," said Shigella.

Lutengano Mwalyibwa, Bukombe District Council executive director stated that budget and infrastructure preparations for citizens to register had been completed, noting that Bukombe Constituency has 348 centers, and the expectation is to register 109,124 people.

Mwananyamala hospital gets crucial medical tools to boost maternal health

By Guardian Reporter

MWANANYAMALA Regional Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam has received critical medical equipment worth 19m/-. in a significant contribution to improving maternal healthcare.

Donated by Stanbic Bank Tanzania, the medical facilities includes one patient monitor, six vacuum extractors, six Caesarean section sets, and 1,000 Mackintosh disposable sheets, aiming to enhance safe

delivery services and reduce maternal and child mortality.

Receiving the donated items on Thursday, Ayoub Kibao, Coordinator of HIV/AIDS in Dar es Salaam who represented Dr Mohamed Mang'unda, Dar es Salaam chief physician expressed gratitude to the bank, urging other stakeholders to continue supporting the health sector.

"This equipment will significantly improve the quality of care for mothers and their new-borns.

We encourage more partners to come forward and help save lives," he said.

The equipment donation is expected to have an immediate positive impact on the hospital's operations, improving outcomes for both mothers and children.

"This is the gesture sets an inspiring example of how private sector involvement can contribute to improving public healthcare services in Tanzania," he said.

Kibao said that Mwananyamala Hospital, which handles around 800 deliveries per month, had been facing a shortage of critical delivery equipment.

"Before this intervention, the hospital operated with only two vacuum extractors, 10 Caesarean sets, and six patient monitors—four in the wards and two in the theatre—with no disposable Mackintosh sheets available," he said.

The donation significantly bol-

sters the hospital's capacity to safely deliver more babies, particularly those requiring Caesarean sections, which account for about 20 deliveries each month.

Omari Mtiga, bank's director of personal and private banking, expressed the bank's commitment to improving healthcare and highlighted other community-driven initiatives.

"We're deeply involved in supporting various sectors of society. For instance, through our partner-

ship with Vodacom Tanzania in the 'Twende Butiama' program, we planted 50,000 trees across 12 regions as part of our environmental conservation efforts," he said.

Janeth Kimambo, who played a vital role in connecting Mwananyamala Hospital with Stanbic Bank, is a strong advocate for community health and wellness. She emphasized the importance of corporate support in strengthening healthcare systems, especially in resource-constrained settings.



International Commercial Bank staff pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday showcasing their passion for delivering top-notch service in marking this year's edition of Customer Service Week. L-R: Customer Service manager Gloria Magwira, Assistant Internal Audit manager Sylvia Kibasa, Recovery officer George Rwechungura, Marketing officer Alex Mihayo, Swift officer Kelvin Kwesigabo, Credit officer Ivan Kabendera, Recovery monitoring officer Salesia Mpepo and Legal officer Bahati Makamba. Photo courtesy of ICB Bank



Dar es Salaam Port acting director Abed Gallus Abed (L) presents a Customer Service Week gift to one of the Tanzania Ports Authority stakeholders yesterday. With them is TPA's Marketing and Relations director, Dr George Fasha. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Hold on to professionalism, Minister urges civil servants

By Guardian Correspondent, Chalinze

WORKS minister, Innocent Bashungwa has urged civil servants to prioritise patriotism and serve the public with professionalism to achieve development goals.

While on a tour of Chalinze District in Coast Region on Wednesday, Bashugwa said civil servants have to ensure that all the time they work hard and do not contribute to delays in local development.

The Minister (pictured) laid the foundation stone for new accommodations for heads of departments at the Chalinze District Council, emphasizing that the houses should serve as motivation for enhanced performance and commitment to public service.

He commended the Chalinze Council leadership for its strategic initiatives, including the construction of departmental housing, which he believes will promote timely attendance and diligent work among staff.

Bashungwa also instructed Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Dr Charles

Msonde, to collaborate with the National Buildings Agency (TBA) to assess the design and quality of the new houses.

He urged the TBA to explore ways to work with the council to construct staff housing at affordable costs, starting with the Chalinze Council to ensure sustainability.

Olais Sikoi, head of infrastructure department at Chalinze District Council, reported that construction of six houses began in October 2022, following an allocation of 800m/- from the central government for the 2022/2023 financial year.

He added that for the 2023/2024 financial year, the council has received an additional 320m/- for two more houses, with construction having started in March and expected to be completed this month.

During his visit, Minister Bashungwa also inaugurated the new Bwilingu market, which cost 1.7bn/-, and laid the foundation for Jakaya Kikwete Secondary School.



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Africa urged to develop its own AI technologies for sustainable growth

LAGOS

PROFESSOR Is-Haq Oloyede, the Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), has cautioned African nations against over-reliance on overseas-developed Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

Speaking at the University of Ilorin's Lecture Series Prof. Oloyede delivered a presentation titled "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanities."

He urged African countries to invest in building their own AI capabilities to ensure they are not exploited or sidelined in future technological advancements.

"By being part of AI's global development, Africa can avoid dependence on external powers and secure its place in the evolving digital landscape," said Prof. Oloyede, a former Vice-Chancellor of Unilorin.

He called on regional bodies like the African Union (AU), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), and the Economic Community of

West African States (ECOWAS) to take the lead in crafting AI strategies that cater specifically to the continent's needs. He emphasized that AI should be ethically integrated into sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance.

Prof. Oloyede also stressed the importance of collaboration between African countries on AI research and data sharing to reduce the risk of over-reliance on foreign technologies. He encouraged scholars in fields like Islamic Studies and Law to generate AI content that respects cultural, ethical, and religious principles.

"AI must be developed with sensitivity to ethical and cultural contexts, ensuring it aligns with fundamental human rights values," the prof. added.

The professor reassured the audience that AI would not replace humanity but insisted that humans must remain in control of the technology to safeguard future progress.



Dr Frank Arabi (R) from the Orthopaedic Department of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital pictured yesterday sharing an issue relating to knee osteoarthritis and knee replacement surgery with one of the specialised hospital's physiotherapists, Neema Lukwambe. It was all part of monthly routine under which experts at the hospital CCBRT enhance skills by sharing experiences. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Promising progress on eye health in Africa region, but challenges remain

BRAZZAVILLE

DESPITE important progress towards integrating eye health into primary health care services in African countries, a dire shortage of financial resources, combined with the concentration of scarce human resources in urban areas and low community awareness, continues to threaten the gains.

One in every six blind people globally live in Africa, along with 26 million others grappling with some degree of visual impairment. Yet statistics show that despite the onerous burden, only 14 percent of people who need cataract surgery receive it, while more than 80 percent of people with short sightedness receive no treatment. The comparative figure for North

America, Australasia, Western Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, meanwhile, is lower than 10 percent.

In addition, only 12 percent of people in Africa who need glasses or surgical interventions to address blurred vision will receive the necessary care, at significant economic cost to countries. The global estimated costs of uncorrected refractive errors and cataracts is US\$14.3 billion annually.

World Health Organization (WHO) in the African Region is recording a decrease in vision loss due to Vitamin A deficiency, onchocerciasis and trachoma, but emerging eye health challenges are rising. These are related to ageing populations, unhealthy lifestyles, and noncommunicable diseases.

"The focus on eye care is critical, given

the multiple positive impacts of good vision on all aspects of life, from overall well-being to academic achievements. The contribution to economic growth is also significant, raising the urgency of building on the gains already made, while addressing the emerging challenges," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa, on World Sight Day yesterday.

WHO's current focus in the region is to support countries to integrate eye health services at primary care level, as part of universal health coverage. However, with severely limited human resources, the achievement of Integrated People-Centred Eye Care demands innovative interventions, dedicated community engagement, and cross-sectoral coordination of

services.

Over the past two years, WHO has provided technical support to six African countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and Zambia. The work began with the completion of national situational analyses, followed by the development of strategic plans and monitoring frameworks. Operational planning and costing of interventions and resources was also completed, specifically in relation to workforce needs, and the integration of eye care indicators into existing health information systems frameworks.

To support countries towards the achievement of the global target of increasing the number of people with access to appropriate spectacles (known as effective coverage of refractive error or eREC)

to 40 percent by 2030, WHO launched the SPECS 2030 initiative. Still in its initial stages, Liberia and Mozambique have begun implementation.

Meanwhile, WHO also launched a free self-assessment tool designed to support countries to promote healthy habits and raise eye care awareness. Launched last year, the WHO eyes tool, available in multiple languages, is used to check visual acuity, while also providing educational messaging.

Other support has included the dissemination of strategic documents such as the World report on vision, which outlines WHO's recommendations for integrated, people-centred eye care, and the launch of the WHO's Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for action.



Construction of rapid transit bus stand in progress at New Post Office area in downtown Dar es Salaam, as spotted yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Govt to construct council building, market in Rufiji

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

THE government plans to construct a new council office building and a modern market in Rufiji District, Coast Region with a total investment of 24bn/-, a senior official has announced.

Mohammed Mchengerwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), unveiled this on Wednesday while addressing residents at Ujamaa grounds in Rufiji.

Mchengerwa, who is also the Rufiji MP, highlighted that Rufiji has recently been upgraded to a township council, paving the way for major development projects.

He noted that the construction of the council building will cost 10bn/-, while the modern market will require 14bn/-. Additionally, other projects, including a new bus terminal, are also in the pipeline.

"Now that Rufiji has been upgraded, we are set to receive major projects. President Samia has approved the construction of a three-story council building with 50 offices, which will be built in Ikwiriri at a cost of 10bn/-," he said.

The modern market will be located in Umwe Kati, featuring 122 shops, 102 stalls, parking for 48 small vehicles, over 50 food vendor booths, fish and meat butcheries, a loading zone for 30 trucks, and six warehouses for storage. Construction for both the market and the council building is set to begin in November.

Mchengerwa also outlined plans for a modern bus terminal that will accommodate 76 large buses, 74 small buses, 200 motorcycles and 20 taxis.

The terminal will include 200 shop spaces, a hotel with 25 rooms, an entertainment club, and a supermarket. Restaurants, commercial banks, and garages will also be part of the development, with construction commencing after the completion of a feasibility study, as designs are already finalized.

Chijoriga: Civilisational exchange key for mutual learning between China and Africa

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School (MJNLS), Prof. Marcellina Chijoriga, has emphasized the importance of modernisation exploration as a vital aspect of civilisational exchange and mutual learning between China and Africa.

She made the statement recently during the inauguration of the Renmin University of China- MJNLS Library in Coast Region, where the two institutions also hosted a themed seminar on the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Prof Chijoriga highlighted that the experi-

ence of Chinese modernisation has garnered increasing interest among African nations.

"China has been committed to assisting Tanzania and other African countries in actively exploring development pathways and sharing relevant experiences with young and middle-aged African leaders. This collaboration offers valuable insights into addressing regional development challenges," she said.

She added: "The signing of this agreement will elevate the school's profile, enabling more students to learn from China's development experiences and consider ways to promote their own countries' progress."

Zhang Donggang, Party Secretary of Renmin University of China said that the MJNLS

represents a significant achievement in Sino-African governance exchanges. He noted that the university has maintained strong ties with the Leadership School over the years.

"The signing of this agreement marks a new starting point for cooperation between our institutions, ushering in a new phase of collaboration," he said.

Zhang expressed the university's commitment to fostering various forms of cooperation, including scientific research and academic exchanges between teachers and students, to enhance synergy in research initiatives.

"The two institutions should continue to strengthen an institutional framework based

on openness, inclusivity, mutual learning, joint contributions, and shared benefits. Strengthening dialogue and exchanges will enhance the vibrancy of civilizational learning," he said.

He further emphasized the robust partnership between China, Tanzania and other nations, particularly in development efforts aimed at improving the well-being of their populations.

"I encourage African nations and China to continue working hand in hand to achieve developmental progress, as their unity has already yielded significant successes."

Dr Theresia Dominick from the University of Dar es Salaam, representing the trainers at

the MJNLS, underscored the value of learning from the Chinese, particularly their strong work ethic and discipline.

She highlighted the disciplined approach the Chinese take toward their work and nutrition, emphasizing their focus on maintaining health by carefully weighing the benefits and risks of their food choices.

Dr Dominick also stressed the importance of financial discipline, noting that Tanzanians could benefit from the Chinese approach to money management.

"Even when financially comfortable, the Chinese avoid frivolous lifestyle changes," she said.



Ikungi district commissioner Thomas Apson (R) addresses a meeting at Mpando village on Thursday, mainly underlining the need for public participation in the countrywide local government elections slated for November 27. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Cases of cholera, dengue continue to rise in Sudan

KHARTOUM

THE number of cholera cases in Sudan has climbed to 21,806, including 632 deaths, while dengue fever cases reached 1,329, with four deaths, the Sudanese Health Ministry said in a report on Wednesday, stressing the urgent need to intensify efforts to curb the rise.

According to the ministry, 11 states have been affected by the cholera outbreak. In the eastern Kassala State, which registered the highest number of cholera cases, the health authorities have launched a major campaign to sanitize the environment and combat disease outbreaks.

Mohamed Mustafa Mohamed, health chief of Kassala, attributed the worsening environmental conditions to heavy rainfall and the continued influx of people fleeing violence in nearby states.

In the meantime, the non-governmental Sudanese Doctors Network warned of the surging dengue fever cases reported daily at Kassala Hospital, highlight-

ing a disease spread among the displaced. "We urgently appeal to international and regional organizations and local authorities to quickly address the epidemic in its cradle," the network said in a statement.

The marked increase in cholera and dengue cases is part of a broader health crisis in Sudan, where fighting between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has raged since April 2023. Other epidemic diseases, including malaria and measles, have also spread.

The United Nations estimates the conflict has killed about 20,000 people and displaced millions.

We urgently appeal to international and regional organizations and local authorities to quickly address the epidemic in its cradle,

TARURA wins praise for offering job opportunities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

SOCIAL groups in Ludewa District, Njombe Region have expressed their gratitude to the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) for providing employment opportunities that have significantly enhanced their economic well-being.

They shared their positive experiences during a recent visit by a delegate from Sierra Leone to community members in Lugarawa Ward in Ludewa district, highlight-

ing the benefits they have received from road projects initiated by TARURA.

Manyanya Mkinga, chairman of the 'Tujipime' group, which comprises 22 members living with HIV, emphasized the transformative impact of TARURA's support.

He noted that since signing contracts with the agency, they have experienced considerable economic growth.

"By coming together, we realized we could rise above marginalization and stigma. The opportunities pro-

vided by TARURA have truly transformed our lives. Despite our HIV status, we have excelled in our work, demonstrating our strength and resilience. We are profoundly grateful to TARURA for empowering us to secure these jobs," he said.

Mkinga outlined various benefits gained since 2020, including the construction of housing, the purchase of farms for avocados and beekeeping, funding for children's education, and enrollment in the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Currently, the group is working

on the construction of a vented drift bridge, clearing a 5 km stretch of road, and building 5 meters of drainage and water retention along the Mundindi-Ngogoma road.

Mkinga mentioned that they began this project in September and expect to complete it by the end of October. Gutfred Mbilinyi, chairman of the Twili Lupangala Road Works group, noted that they established their group after being encouraged by TARURA. They have benefited from this initiative by launching projects in farming,

livestock keeping, and acquiring three motorcycles (bodaboda). Their future goal is to purchase a cargo transport vehicle.

Mohamed Kallon, Chief Executive Officer of the Sierra Leone Road Maintenance Fund, expressed excitement at visiting the groups. He stated that the income generated has allowed community members to build houses, purchase motorcycles, and fund their children's education. Kallon commended the group of individuals living with HIV for their commendable efforts in se-

curing their livelihoods.

Engineer Venant Komba, Director for Roads at TARURA, stated that the tour has been highly successful for both parties. He noted that Sierra Leone has been impressed by Tanzania's establishment of a professional institution overseeing district road activities, a specialized system for managing road data, stone technology, community involvement in planning, and the significant contributions of social groups to infrastructure construction and maintenance.

World Bank endorses new partnership framework for supporting Zambia's social, economic growth

LUSAKA

THE World Bank has approved a new five-year partnership framework to support Zambia in achieving sustainable private-sector-led economic growth, according to a statement received on Wednesday.

The framework, which will run from fiscal year 2025 to 2029, is also expected to help the southern African nation enhance climate resilience and improve the well-being of its people.

According to the statement, the framework will focus on three areas including creating more and better jobs, improving human capital, and enhancing climate resilience.

It added that under the framework, the International Finance Corporation will promote sustainable private sector development by working to improve agriculture productivity, deepen financial inclusion, and increase access to cleaner energy.

Despite improvements in education, health, and social protection, the statement noted that challenges remain in access to and quality of services, adding that the framework will support efforts to enhance service delivery to improve human capital outcomes and reduce persistent poverty.

World Bank Country Manager for Zambia Achim Fock said the new framework outlines the bank's engagement to support Zambia during a critical time of recovery from shocks and refocus on inclusive and more resilient growth and job creation.



Singida regional commissioner Halima Dendego (R) updates her personal particulars in the national Permanent Voters' Registry in Singida municipality yesterday ahead of the countrywide local government elections scheduled for November 27. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Officials call for accelerated efforts towards eliminating trade barriers

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

SENIOR officials on Wednesday called for accelerated efforts to eliminate trade barriers and build robust regional value chains to drive Africa's economic integration during the second edition of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Business Forum held in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

Emphasizing the private sector as the engine of growth, officials highlighted the neces-

sity of enhanced cooperation, reduced logistics costs, and the free movement of goods and people to unlock the full potential of the AfCFTA.

Speaking at the forum, branded "Biashara Afrika 2024," Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission Monique Nsanzabaganwa urged African leaders and the private sector to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA.

"The AfCFTA has the potential to create tremendous

wealth while unlocking industrialization on our continent," Nsanzabaganwa said, underscoring the importance of building value chains and supply networks to foster economic growth and development.

Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA Secretariat, reiterated the critical role of trade in alleviating poverty and promoting economic integration across Africa. "Trade and access to new markets are essential for us as Africans to reduce poverty," Mene said.

Reflecting on the progress made since the AfCFTA agreement was signed in March 2018, Mene acknowledged ongoing challenges but emphasized the private sector's crucial role in implementing the agreement.

He highlighted that the AfCFTA offers a clear path to overcoming poverty by intensifying efforts toward economic integration. The agreement has been ratified by 48 countries, marking significant progress. However, he urged

continued action, particularly in eliminating non-tariff barriers, facilitating trade, and enhancing logistics.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame stressed that removing non-tariff barriers and facilitating cross-border movement should remain top priorities for African governments.

"Reducing freight and logistics costs would also be a game changer," Kagame said, noting that Africa has some of the highest freight costs globally.

Discussing the low level of

intra-African trade under the AfCFTA, Kagame identified the lack of free movement as a significant obstacle.

He further stressed the need to address political and governance issues, saying, "We need to fix our politics, our governance, and it all begins with mindset and clarity of vision."

Kagame also reflected on the journey of the AfCFTA, noting its origins in Kigali six years ago and its operational launch in Niamey, Niger, a year later.

"These two historic moments demonstrate our commitment to the economic unity and prosperity of Africa," he said.

Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade, and Industry Salim Mvurya Mgala shared his optimism about the AfCFTA's transformative potential for Africa's economies.

"We believe that AfCFTA is a powerful tool that will transform the economies of Africa and inspire the potential for growth and prosperity," Mgala said.

Kenya hopeful for further IMF funding by year-end

NAIROBI

KENYA expects more money from the International Monetary Fund by the end of the year and is in talks with the fund about combining the seventh and eighth reviews of its support programme, its central bank governor said yesterday.

The country and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement on the seventh review of its \$3.6 billion programme in early June.

But the review is yet to be approved by the Fund's executive board after the government was forced to scrap proposed tax hikes and draw up spending cuts in late June in response to mass protests that turned deadly.

"We are in the final stages of an agreement (with the IMF). The fiscal framework has been agreed," Governor Kamau Thugge told a news conference, a day after the Central Bank of Kenya cut its benchmark lending rate (KECBIR=ECD), opens new tab by another 75 basis points.

Kenya's government has asked the IMF to conduct an official assessment of corruption and governance issues.

While not directly linked to the next disbursement, the assessment is an attempt to build goodwill with the Fund as it tries to get finances back on track.

Thugge also said on Wednesday that the central bank had been buying dollars on the foreign exchange market to boost Kenya's buffers against potential short-term shocks.

The bank has previously said it has no preferred level for the shilling and only intervenes on the forex market to smooth out volatility.

Thugge said the exchange rate was being supported by dollar inflows from agricultural exports, remittances and foreign investor interest in local securities given high interest rates.

He reiterated the bank's forecast for economic growth of 5.5% next year.

On Tuesday the bank lowered its 2024 growth forecast to 5.1 percent from 5.4 percent after slower growth in the second quarter.

Thugge said on Wednesday there could be scope for local interest rates to fall further given that the shilling exchange rate was stable.



Air Tanzania Company Limited managing director Ladislaus Matindi (2nd-L) pictured earlier this week presenting a graduation certificate to one of the airline's cabin crew members who had just completed training at the Dar es Salaam-based ATCL Training Centre. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Three African countries on cusp of death penalty abolition

By Columbus Mavhunga, Harare

THE international human rights organization Amnesty International says three sub-Saharan African countries considering ending the death penalty should do it now and pave the way for others around the world to follow in their footsteps.

There hasn't been an execution in Gambia, Kenya or Zimbabwe in over a decade, Amnesty has said, and all three nations have commuted multiple death sentences during that time.

Lucia Masuka, head of Amnesty in Zimbabwe, said most countries in the world are moving away from the death penalty, and she urged African countries to follow suit.

"It's time for all countries to move away from this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment once and for all," Masuka said. "Zimbabwe's president himself was sentenced to death for terrorism, as a young man, due to his involvement in Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. He narrowly avoided execution. He was below the age of 21 at the time, and was sentenced to 10 years in prison instead."

"The president knows what it is like to be facing the death penalty, and he now has the opportunity to ensure that no one else goes through that."

Addressing Parliament this month, President Emmerson Mnangagwa stuck to his 2017

promise that he would not allow the death penalty to stand in Zimbabwe.

"Parliament has an obligation to expedite the enactment of all bills that, for one reason or another, are outstanding from previous sessions," he said. "You can carry the burden." Bills relating to death penalty abolition "should be passed."

Casten Matewu, a legislator from the country's main opposition party, the Citizens Coalition for Change, and a member of the justice, legal and parliamentary affairs committee, said Mnangagwa should not be worried about the death penalty abolition bill.

"I am for the abolition of the

death penalty, and this must be abolished before December," Matewu said. "This is going to sail through seamlessly through Parliament, because there is a majority of parliamentarians, both from both sides of the house, who are actually in support of this bill."

But not everyone agrees. Zachariah Choga, an attorney who formerly practiced in South Africa and is now practicing law in Harare, said the death penalty "should not be abolished."

"I've had the privilege to practice in the South African legal system," he said. "If you look at statistics since 1994, when the death penalty was abolished in South

Africa, the increase has been a super-increase in heinous crimes, violent crimes and crimes of passion. So I'm actually of the opinion that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. I think the fear of one losing their life can assist, or can be a deterrent, when one considers committing a crime."

Amnesty International's Masuka has a different opinion.

"Countries that still retain the death penalty in their laws often resort to the death penalty, believing the punishment can make their people and communities safer," she said. "However, that is a misconception. The death penalty does not have a unique, deterrent effect, and it violates

the right to life, as proclaimed in the universal declaration of human rights. The small minority of countries that insist on using this punishment must move with the times and abolish the death penalty once and for all."

According to Amnesty International, 24 countries across sub-Saharan Africa have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, while two countries have abolished it for ordinary crimes only. Zimbabwe's last known execution was in 2005, though courts continue to impose death sentences. All of the condemned were sentenced to life imprisonment by Mnangagwa's amnesty in April this year.



John Pambalu, opposition Chadema's youth wing national chairman, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the importance of all those eligible to update their personal particulars in the register in the national Permanent Voters' Register and thus have the right to participate in the upcoming countrywide local government elections. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

UN envoy urges South Sudan to 'make transition extension count'

JUBA

UN Special Representative for South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom held his first press briefing today (9 Oct) after the country's leaders announced an extension of the ongoing transitional period and said, "They must make this latest extension count."

The extension has moved South Sudan's bid to hold its first ever democratic elections back by two years to December 2026.

He said, "As the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has said, the only way forward is for South Sudan's leaders to find the compromises and modes of implementation of a critical mass of the key political, and operational benchmarks set out in the R-ARCS. They must make this latest extension count if they are to retain the trust and confidence of their people and let's be clear - from our perspective, that clock is ticking right now."

The UN is prioritizing support in achieving concrete outcomes by working with political parties at national and state levels to raise awareness on what is required from them to hold elections.

These include enabling them to have considered responses to the 10 questions that were asked of the political class over one year ago.

To date, these questions remain unan-

swered.

Haysom said, "These questions examine foundational matters such as the nature and kind of elections that the country wants to hold; electoral participation by refugees and internally displaced persons; issues related to proportional representation, which means that subgroups of the larger electorate are reflected comparably so that all votes cast truly reflect the will of the people."

Through political forums across different states, the UN and partners are helping to create an enabling environment for elections—an environment where all citizens can cast their vote without intimidation or fear of reprisal; where politicians have a level playing field to express their opinions without inciting hatred or violence; where the media can keep people informed without censorship; and a vibrant and vocal civil society can thrive and have positive dialogue which will produce, positive outcomes.

Haysom said, "Let me give you an example: a positive outcome from the political forum in Bor was an agreement between civil society and the national security apparatus and its representatives to sit together and understand each other's perspectives. Such local collaborations are a lynchpin of a united South Sudanese society."

Central African countries strengthen effective response to health emergencies

N'DJAMENA

A YEAR after the regional meeting held in Burundi in 2023, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) continues to advocate for and to review the progress made in the establishment and strengthening of National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs).

Africa CDC organized a regional meeting from 16 to 17 September 2024 for the directors of NPHIs and technical experts from the Ministries of Health of Central Af-

rica to take stock of progress 12 months later.

Fully functional national public health institutes play a crucial role in the detection and rapid, effective response to health threats and emergencies. In line with its priorities outlined in the New Public Health Order for Africa and its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, Africa CDC has made the creation and strengthening of national public health institutes a priority pillar to bolster health systems in Africa.

"For several years, Africa

CDC has been providing expertise to member states for the establishment of national public health institutes, as part of strengthening the continent's health security and consolidating key public health assets," said Dr Yam-madji Aliace Djitaingar, Director General of Health at the Chadian Ministry of Public Health. "To achieve this objective, technical and financial support has been provided to member states at various stages of NPHI development, helping to strengthen existing institutions."

During the Bujumbura meeting in July 2023, an action plan to accelerate the development of national public health institutes in Central Africa was adopted. Member states committed, among other things, to finalize legislative and legal frameworks for the institutionalization of NPHIs, develop annual plans to mobilize resources, and strengthen collaboration across sectors in line with a "One Health" approach. Africa CDC, for its part, committed to increasing advocacy with African Union Heads

of State and Government, enhancing regional collaboration, and facilitating peer exchanges and experience sharing between institutions. Chad, São Tomé and Príncipe, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Central African Republic (CAR) have already benefited from these exchanges.

"Africa, and our region in particular, is facing numerous health challenges and an increase in public health events, as evidenced by the ongoing Mpox outbreak in 15 African countries, which

Africa CDC declared a public health emergency of continental security on 13 August 2024. These recurring health crises on our continent demand that we accelerate our efforts," said Dr. Brice W. Bibaba, Director of the Central Africa Regional Coordinating Center of Africa CDC. "Effective national public health institutes act as scientific hubs to promote disease prevention and infectious disease surveillance to ensure the health security of our populations." In February 2018, Africa CDC held its first

meeting of national public health institutes to promote collaboration, coordination, and exchanges between NPHIs and partner organizations. In Central Africa in 2018, only the Republic of Burundi had a national public health institute.

By October 2023, thanks to Africa CDC's multifaceted support, the DRC and Chad established their NPHIs. Furthermore, two countries, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, are in the process of establishing their NPHIs.

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Travel restrictions inopportune in Africa's latest disease outbreaks

SALUTARY advice is being heard from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), a continental version - if you will - of the key United States federal agency, for countries to refrain from implementing instant travel bans or movement restrictions targeting African countries.

This is being directed at Europe and elsewhere, given the likely artificial construct that most of Africa is engulfed in mpox and marburg virus outbreaks and would thus pose a risk of contagion elsewhere. It is in a sense a natural reaction but, as the multilateral agency says, it is exaggerated.

While it is likely that the target of this caution is firstly trading partners abroad, it is evident that even within the continent many decision makers are scratching their heads hard and long as to the ambit of prevention measures being taken.

Nonetheless, the picture will likely be different on this side, as we all have little outbreaks time and again and none can be the wiser locking out entrants by shutting borders.

Travel bans or movement restrictions imposed by Africa CDC would have negative consequences on public health responses in the countries affected, seemingly in seeing such measures as prejudging the situation in Africa.

This stand to create a sense of crisis that is unwarranted even in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where mpox numbers are particularly high. Yet this nowhere compares with Covid-19 numbers where infections were far more rapid and generalised, as even there is generally a handful of cases in some countries and a few thousand in DRC.

There was surely a reference to international health guidelines to which Africa CDC said brusque reactions would undermine pub-

lic health responses.

However, there is a counter perception arising from the global Covid-19 pandemic at the start of the decade.

UN agencies, especially the World Health Organisation breathed hard on Europe and North America regarding the locking out of Chinese travellers. Many say that this expedited contagion as checks were not being done exhaustively enough, ostensibly to avoid stigmatisation.

But if UN agencies had reason to worry about stigmatisation in relation to travellers from China, how much easier would it be for such attitude to be directed at Africa with the sort of outbreaks it is now experiencing?

That is precisely why policy makers abroad ought to desist from taking the Africa CDC view at face value where the key issue is that the spread of either of the two contagious diseases is not fast.

Phrased a bit differently it is that if these diseases are not affecting substantial numbers of local populations, then they may qualify to be described as outbreaks - but not necessarily as pandemics.

That is why there were misstatements when Africa CDC argued that curbing the flow of African travellers bound for abroad would deepen economic challenges and reignite the sort of inequities or mistrust as surfaced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is to walk into the trap of inaction delaying or resisting to act happened when the outbreak was hit China and it soon enveloped the rest of the world.

The reasons need to be more precise and scientifically valid and precise, like low risk of contagion and receptivity to drugs as well as with a high recovery rate so long as medication starts early enough.

Scholarships to train workers is far more worthy migration

TORN between unemployment at home and 'boat people' dying while trying to cross to Europe, meanwhile as Europe genuinely needs youthful and trained people for various service sector and even industrial jobs, policy makers are converging.

Finland has just had talks with our Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister for talks in that regard and on a slew of other topics on Tanzania, Africa and the larger world.

There was a clear impression that the current labour demand in Europe makes this an opportune moment to offer scholarships to train such youths, among them nurses, in Finland.

Our minister held talks with Finland's Foreign minister and her two deputies, which implies that they all needed to get an intense perception of policy thinking in Tanzania as part of what that country can expect of Africa generally.

It is currently difficult for anyone, be it a policy maker or a plain observer, to say with certainty what comes next in any particular African country. That is why open-ended talk on development, security or trade can be captivating, even fully engaging. Just as with any other country, the government would be glad to send young people to study in any field where job openings are likely to emerge afterwards.

This is not a local strategy but it arises from these areas, besieged with declining populations where service sector low-paying jobs have few takers among their own youths.

Again, Europe is belatedly learning to be selective about immigration,

seeking out those embracing 'European values' like peace and love.

In that context, there will be some debates in Europe how they go about accepting migrants, which often proceeds from landing either a scholarship or a family-paid study opportunity abroad.

It will not be easy for them as there will be strenuous efforts not to engage in prejudices of any sort, making collective judgments on good and bad candidates for emigration.

But there is a sort of insurance policy that is likely to be embedded in emigration policy outlooks in Europe, especially with the recent poll gains for the far right in most of that continent.

They are especially vocal against emigration but have few answers as to catering for labour needs where local recruitment is hard to make, and scholarships make sense.

There are thus chances that some scholarships be extended for disciplines like nursing to help plug gaps in European countries. Meanwhile, this concern may just have been an undercurrent to more strategic issues on Africa's attitude as of now.

In that respect, our minister stressed the non-aligned character of the government's approach to fostering business cooperation and investment with friendly countries, and that doesn't mean allies in the east-west sense of the term.

Just what the various big powers and their allies wish on this particular score is hard to say or tell, as they work overnight to cut the influence of ideological 'adversaries'.

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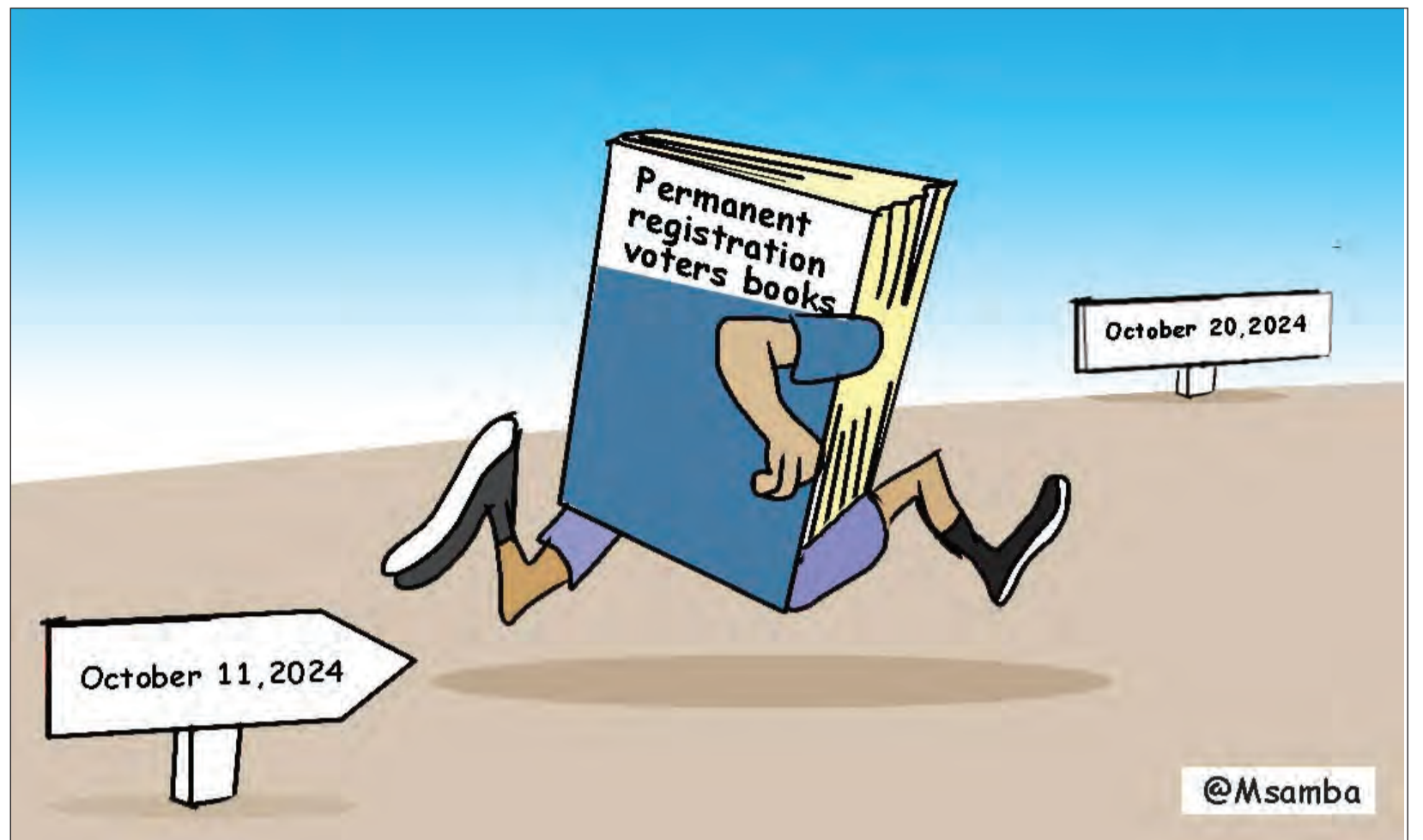
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



China-Tanzania relations affirm Tanzania's policy of facing East

By Abdul Hassan

TANZANIA continues to stand out among the East African darlings of Chinese mutual relations that go beyond infrastructural development.

Chen Mingjian, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania, recently reaffirmed the importance of the growing co-operation and friendship as well as bilateral relations generally between the two countries.

Currently in her third year in office, the ambassador has played a primary role in influencing and strengthening the bilateral relations that are visible in many other sectors of development.

The significant cooperation between China and Tanzania has been on a roll since former Tanzanian Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan took over the reins of power - as President - in March 2021 following the death in office of Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

Under Samia, whose current tenure has coincided with ambassador Cheng's term (the latter's tour of duty took effect in December 2021), the two nations have increased their trading ties significantly - with China widely believed to have become Tanzania's largest source of foreign investments.

The scope of the two countries' bilateral engagements in the public domain includes investments in infrastructural projects such as roads, an electric standard gauge railway transport service and ports - all deemed crucial to Tanzania's transport development.

China has also fostered education in Tanzania by offering Tanzanian students scholarships to study in Beijing and other parts of the Far Eastern nation while facilitating programmes to market Chinese culture in Tanzania.

International relations pundits cite the visibly good relationship between President Suluhu and Ambassador Chen as the spark behind the accelerated bonding of the two countries.

Ambassador Chen's background as Deputy Director General of the Department of External Security Affairs at the Chinese Foreign Affairs ministry in Beijing apparently places her in good stead from her home country to fast-track joint projects with Tanzania.

Many political observers in East Africa are of the view that, thus far, President Samia may not necessarily have achieved the political clout of her predecessors.

However, they are near unanimous in suggesting that she could be the one who has attracted the biggest infrastructural development of all, and this courtesy of her 'Looking East' policy.

The visibility of modern development spurred by cordial political and other relations between the two nations is widely acknowledged.

But many older generation Tanzanians who grew up during the Ujamaa (or African socialism) years of founding president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere feel that China could be striking the socialism tune in a subtle way to warm itself into Tanzania's body politic and



Mwalimu Julius Nyerere



President Samia Suluhu Hassan



Former president John Magufuli



Chinese President Xi Jinping

establish a more strategic presence in the East Africa region.

It might not be obvious to the young generation, who are a majority, but there are those who feel that their understanding of socialism is being used to turn Tanzania into

one of China's strongest strategic allies in Africa.

Tanzania was modelled into a socialist state of sorts allied to the East during the over 25 years' rule by literary scholar Mwalimu Nyerere. But long after Nyerere died (in a London hospital on October 14, 1999, aged 77), and despite his having once expressed regret at the political path he took, Tanzania's social fabric still exudes nostalgia from Ujamaa.

Says Bradley Ouna, a law graduate from Tanzania's own 'flagship' University of Dar es Salaam: "Ujamaa was tenderly asserted but kind of forceful in making Tanzanians live together and work interdependently, which helped subdue tribalism, though at a high economic cost caused by sluggish production and no business competition."

"Towards the end of his presidency, Nyerere admitted that it had failed because it had dire financial implications which required a lot of financing by the state."

The scholar argues that China is basically, but subtly, counting on the factor of the same structures of the governance of yesteryear, like there being no difference between state and ruling party in Tanzania and China, to implant its model in Dar es Salaam.

As for Tanzanian lawyer Mutatina Oswald, Chinese investments show the good side - like creating a lot of employment opportunities for Tanzanians in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo central business district market zone, where a lot of factories have been set up.

Oswald further notes: "Though I can't say for sure that it is the Chinese who are running the (Tanzanian) economy, they (the Chinese) are huge contributors in technologies, infrastructure and business. What we don't like is maybe seeing them want to have a footprint in every strategic sector, which will apparently see Tanzanians repaying huge loans."

While China's presence in Tanzania is said to enhance help in protecting maritime trade routes, there might be growing discomfort among other Eastern African nations feeling that Tanzania's clout could exceed that of the neighbours.

Another diplomatic source says China's presence is often accompanied by significant economic investments. However, while this is beneficial, it could also have other impacts.

Diplomatic observers say - and there is little news in this - that only time will tell how deep the political, economic and other links between China and Tanzania will go in the years and decades ahead.

For most, though, there will be hardly any major change in direction or intensity with the ruling CCM as strong, vibrant and popular as it has long been.

• **Abdul Hassan is an international studies scholar who regularly comments on diplomatic relations.**

By Telesphor Magobe

Concerted efforts needed to win fight against sexual stereotyping

YESTERDAY, Tanzania joined other countries across the world to mark International Day of the Girl Child 2024 with the theme "Girls' vision for the future". Target 4.1 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 states that "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes." Goal 5 states "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

Girls especially in Africa face more challenges than boys because many societies are patriarchal in which men are regarded as superior to women and also boys are regarded as superior to girls. As a result, in some families boys are given more opportunities to excel in life than girls. The girl's workload is also heavier than the boy's. This situation restricts girls from realising their potential.

As the UN puts it with the right support, resources and opportunities, the potential of the world's more than 1.1 billion girls is limitless and when girls lead, the impact is immediate and wide reaching: families, communities and economies are all stronger, our future brighter. Therefore, it is time to listen to girls, to invest in proven solutions that will accelerate progress towards a future in which every girl can fulfil her potential.

As we mark International Day of the Girl Child we should remind each other that both boys and girls are equal and should be given equal opportunities to excel in life. As the Constitution of the United Republic of Tan-



zania (R.E. 2005) and other regional and international human instruments stipulate no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex

Article 13(5) of the Constitution states that: "For the purposes of this Article the expression 'discriminate' means to satisfy the needs, rights or other requirements of different persons on the basis of...sex...in life such that certain categories of people are regarded as weak or inferior and are subjected to restrictions or conditions whereas persons of other categories are treated differently or

are accorded opportunities or advantage outside the specified conditions..."

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action unanimously adopted 1995 advances the rights of not only women, but also girls. It is the first declaration to specifically stipulate girls' rights. On December 19, 2011, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as International Day of the Girl Child to recognise girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face across the world.

Girls are often stereotyped and ex-

cluded, and this starts in childhood and they grow up in society in which they find themselves disregarded in many aspects. Yet, when both boys and girls are given equal opportunities they grow up experiencing gender equality and equal respect.

Meanwhile, Tanzania joined the world on October 10 to mark World Day against Death Penalty. It was a day to call for the abolition of the barbaric and inhuman punishment to be practised in civilised societies. In Tanzania, murder and treason are two criminal offences that attract the death penalty under section 197

of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) and a person convicted of any or both of them is subjected to death by hanging.

Death penalty both in Tanzania and across the world has been fought against by human rights activists and there are calls to replace it with life imprisonment. Based on Amnesty International (AI) Global Report of 2023, there were 1,153 executions in 2023, an increase by 31 per cent (270) from 883 known executions in 2022.

Thus, last year recorded the highest figure since the exceptionally high number of 1,634 in 2015, and the first time since 2016 (1,032) that the known total was over 1,000. This number excludes the number of thousands of people believed to have been executed in some countries which do not disclose the number of persons executed in their countries. It also excludes extrajudicial killings by state agents.

According to AI, in 2023 Tanzania recorded at least 3 death penalty sentences and 691 people were under the sentence of death by the end of 2023. Tanzania was also among the 23 abolitionist in practice, meaning countries that retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder, but can be considered abolitionist in practice in the sense that they have not executed anyone at least 10 years ago and are believed to have a policy or established the practice of not carrying out executions.

The World Coalition against Death Penalty suggests that the global campaign against death penalty is a vital component of a broader campaign of advocacy for a more humane and effective justice system that truly protects and serves all members of society.

It says by rejecting the death penalty and embracing a holistic approach to security that addresses the root causes of crime and violence, advocates, politicians, and lawmakers can together build a world where justice is restorative rather than retributive, and where the justice system promotes the safety and dignity of all. "The abolition of the death penalty is not only a moral imperative, but a necessary step toward creating a safer, more just, and more equitable world."

Today's inspiring quote: "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney.

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

The Law and You



Geoff Fox: A pioneer of tourism investment and transformation in Ruaha National Park

By Correspondent Francis Godwin

Geoff Fox, a trailblazer in the tourism investment sector within Ruaha National Park, is a living testament to the growth and transformation of the park.

This year marks 60 years since the establishment of Ruaha National Park. However, a good number of people through tourism, work, or investment have played a role in shaping its sustainability.

Among these pioneers is Geoff Fox, a key figure in the development of tourism through hotel investments in the park.

Now aged 86, Fox recalls the early days of the area, dating back to the time of German colonial rule when a small game reserve known as the Saba River Game Reserve was established west of what is now Ruaha National Park.

In 1959, Fox began exploring the area, which was then called the Rungwa Reserve (previously Saba River Game Reserve), and is now Ruaha National Park.

Fox explains that a large area between the Chunya-Itigi road and the Ruaha River was later designated as a wildlife reserve by the British, becoming Rungwa Game Reserve. The reserve took its name from a small village on the Rungwa River Bridge along the Itigi road.

During this time, Fox visited the area frequently where fishing and hunting along the eastern bank of the Ruaha River were popular.

"In late 1963, my wife Vicky and I stayed at a campsite run by an old gold prospector named Scotty, near the current Ruaha River Bridge. During one of our wildlife trips, we explored the area, discovering a few tin houses at Mbage on the Mwangusi River, where a game warden named Stevenson had established the headquarters of the now Ruaha National Park," he recalled.

According to Fox, the headquarters were abandoned at the time, and after their visit, they noted in the guestbook that they had not seen any wildlife.

"Stevenson later wrote to us, saying elephants were outside his house as he wrote. On our first visit, however, we only saw a single rhino," Fox said, comparing the wildlife scarcity of that time to the abundant wildlife that can be seen today.

Fox shares how his family grew to love Ruaha, with their first son, Christopher, born just three months after their initial visit. The family, which grew to include three more children, frequently visited the park.

Initially staying at government camps, they later camped by the river, particularly at Mwayangi, now known as Ruaha River Lodge, where they enjoyed tiger fishing.

After Stevenson's tenure at Ruaha, John Savage took over as park warden, charged with recruiting game rangers, building park facilities, and constructing a network of roads.

"I helped recruit two of my best trackers, one of whom is still alive today," Fox recalls. Savage later moved the park's headquarters from Mbage to Msem-



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (3rd-R) presents a certificate of appreciation to Nico Fox on behalf of the family of Geoff Fox for their contribution to development of Ruaha National Park at the climax of the park's 60th anniversary celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

be after realizing that Mbage lacked adequate water resources.

However, the park faced significant challenges in the 1970s and 1980s, with severe poaching threatening its wildlife. Poaching devastated the elephant population, and the destruction of the forest exposed the park's original structures.

Despite this, developments such as airstrips and improved infrastructure helped the park evolve into what it is today.

Fox notes that various Tanzanian leaders succeeded Savage as head of Ruaha National Park. In 1980, Horace Nasiri was appointed as park's head, followed by Charles Kibasa and later Ole Moirana in 1985, who served for a decade.

Moirana's leadership was followed by Mtango Mtahiko, who led the park from

1995 to 2005, along with other notable leaders like Hando, Qorri, Chris Timbuka, William Mwakilema, Msindai, and Godwel Meng'ataki.

Reflecting on those early days, Fox recalls the strong support from Tanzania's first president, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, for wildlife conservation and the establishment of national parks. However, tourism did not fit with Nyerere's socialist vision, and for many years, the Fox family was the only one involved in business in Ruaha.

During Tanzania's economic hardships, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) struggled with funding, and poaching reached critical levels.

"I remember Ben Kanza, the regional head of parks, telling me he couldn't ask his rangers to risk their lives when they hadn't been paid for months and lacked the equipment to face well-armed

poachers," Fox shares.

In response, Fox and his family founded the Friends of Ruaha Society, which provided rangers with equipment and incentives for catching poachers as well as materials needed for park maintenance. In 1981, they sought permission to build a tourist camp near the Mwayangi kopje, which eventually became part of Ruaha River Lodge.

Vicky Fox, Geoff's wife, played a central role in running the camp while also educating children, including those of other families, without pay. The family expanded their tourism ventures through Foxes Safari Camps and Safari Air Link (SAL), developing many tourism facilities throughout Tanzania.

Fox's children have each contributed to the growth of Ruaha and Tanzania's national parks. Chris Fox runs Mwangusi Safari Camp, attracting visitors to Ruaha,

while Peter Fox managed Ruaha River Lodge for over two decades, volunteering his plane for anti-poaching efforts.

Alex Fox successfully lobbied for the expansion of Ruaha National Park making it Africa's largest at the time. Bruce Fox has been a staunch advocate for sustainable water use in Ruaha's upstream areas and co-founded the Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust, alongside his brother Nico.

As Ruaha National Park celebrates its 60th anniversary, it's important to remember the pioneers like Geoff Fox, whose dedication has helped preserve Tanzania's natural heritage for future generations.

Their efforts have safeguarded the park's biodiversity, boosted the tourism industry and laid the foundation for conservation efforts that continues today.

By Manal Khalil and Ethar Shalaby

WHEN an Israeli air strike hit her employer's house in southern Lebanon, Andaku (not her real name) found herself all alone, locked inside and terrified.

The 24-year-old Kenyan woman has been working in Lebanon as a domestic worker for the past eight months, but she says the last month has been the toughest as Israel's military has intensified its bombardment of what it has said are Hezbollah targets across the country.

"There were a lot of bombings. It was too much. My employers locked me in the house and left to save their own lives," she tells BBC News Arabic.

The sound of explosions has left Andaku traumatised. She has lost track of how many days she was left alone in the house before her employers returned.

"When they came back, they threw me out. They never paid me and I had nowhere to go," she says, adding that she was lucky enough to have enough money to catch a bus to the capital, Beirut.

Andaku's story is not the only one.

Last Friday, UN officials said most of Lebanon's nearly 900 government-organised shelters were full following the escalation of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, and expressed concern for the tens of thousands of mostly female domestic workers in the country.

According to the International Organization for Migration, there are around 170,000 migrant workers in Lebanon. Many of them are women from Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

"We are receiving increasing reports of migrant domestic workers being abandoned by their Lebanese employers, either left on the streets or in their homes as their employers flee," Mathieu Luciano, the IOM's head of office in Lebanon, told a press briefing in Geneva.

Many migrant domestic workers move to Lebanon to be able to provide financial support for their families back home.

The average monthly salary for African domestic workers is estimated to be around \$250 (£191), whereas Asian housekeepers could earn up to \$450.

Migrant domestic workers have to abide by the Kafala (sponsorship) system in Lebanon, which does not guarantee protected rights for migrant workers, and allows employers to confiscate their passports and withhold their wages. They find work through local agencies.

"The lack of legal protections within the Kafala system, combined with restricted movement, means many can become trapped in exploitative conditions. This has resulted in instances of abuse, isolation, and psychological trauma among migrant workers," says IOM spokesman Joe Lowry.

"Furthermore, we are aware of cases of migrants being locked into houses of Lebanese citizens who are fleeing, to look after their properties," he adds.

No place to go

Mina (also not her real name) is from Uganda and has been a domestic worker in Lebanon for one year and four months.

She tells the BBC she was mistreated by the family she worked for and decided to escape and return to her agency. Hoping she would receive help, Mina said she was shocked to learn that she had to work for another family on a two-year contract before she could return home.

"When I returned to the agency, I told them I had worked enough to be able to pay for my ticket and return back home. They took my money and asked me to work in a house for two years to be able to travel home," the 26-year-old says.

Having to live with the continuous sounds of explosions led to Mina's mental health being affected. She was

'My employers locked me in the house and left when the bombings started'



Many foreign domestic workers in Lebanon have nowhere to go for help



Around 170,000 migrant workers live in Lebanon, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

not able to do her assigned domestic tasks properly, so she asked her new employer to leave.

She had been working for a family in Baalbek, a city in the Bekaa Valley in north-

eastern Lebanon.

"[The family] had beaten me, pushed me and thrown me out... There were so many bombs at that time. When I left, I had nowhere to go," she says.

Another domestic worker from Kenya, Fanaka, 24, says her agency would send her to work in different homes every two months and that she suffered from continuous headaches.

"I have been trying to do my best at work, but nobody is born perfect," she says.

The women say they faced many challenges while living on the streets, as many shelters refused to take them in, claiming they were reserved for displaced Lebanese and not foreigners.

All three managed to reach Caritas Lebanon, a non-governmental organisation that has been providing help and protection for migrant workers since 1994.

In audio recordings, migrant workers from Sierra Leone said dozens of them remained stranded on the streets of Beirut and were in desperate need of food.

Others told local media that they were denied entry to government-organised shelters in schools because they were not Lebanese.

Local authorities denied any form of discrimination.

Sources from the ministry of education said: "No specific centres have been designated for foreign domestic workers, but at the same time, they have not been refused entry."

It is understood that some workers are avoiding official shelters, fearing repercussions over their incomplete legal documentation.

Hessen Sayah Korban, head of the protection department at Caritas Lebanon, says her NGO is currently sheltering around 70 migrant domestic workers, who are mainly mothers with children.

She says more funding is needed to be able to provide shelter for up to 250 domestic workers who have either been abandoned by their employers or are homeless and had their official documents confiscated.

"We are trying to provide them with all the help needed; it can be legal, mental or physical."

She adds that many domestic workers require help with their mental health because they have been traumatised.

Since the beginning of October, the IOM has received more than 700 new requests from people seeking help to return to their countries of origin.

Ms Korban says Caritas, along with other NGOs, is assisting the abandoned domestic workers wanting to leave by co-ordinating with the IOM, various embassies and consulates, and the Lebanese security services.

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

UN Rights Council says human rights in DR Congo on a downward spiral

GENEVA

HUMAN rights experts warn the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, already troubled for decades, is on a downward spiral again as armed clashes, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence and other forms of abuse escalate.

Kicking off a discussion of the DRC at the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk urged the international community to pay more attention to the plight of Congolese civilians victimized by a "volatile mix of escalating violence, regional and international interests, exploitative businesses and weak rule of law."

He said the number of victims of human rights violations is growing, with armed groups fighting in the eastern provinces responsible for most of these violations, including "deadly attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals."

He said sexual violence is spreading despite efforts to prevent and investigate cases.

"The armed groups take people prisoners, subject women and girls to sexual slavery. Many of them have been killed after being raped. These cases, of course, have not all been reported. This is atrocious," he said.

"Human rights violations committed by the defense and security forces during their military operations against armed groups,

also remain of concern," he said noting that hate speech and other incitement to discrimination and violence "are fueling the conflict and increasing political tensions across the country."

Türk appealed to countries of influence to use their power to ensure the fighting stops, stating that "any role played by Rwanda in supporting the M23 in North Kivu, and by any other country supporting armed groups active in the DRC, must end."

Responding to Türk's comments, DRC Minister of Human Rights Chantal Shambu Mwavita said her government has made great progress in protecting human rights, in spite of challenges posed by the war in the east.

Alluding to Rwanda, she pointed her finger at so-called "negative forces" supporting the armed groups from the outside. She "called on the international community to condemn these actions strongly and to impose targeted sanctions on Rwanda for its destabilizing role."

Mwavita said the war in the eastern provinces is closely linked to the seizure and illegal exploitation of her country's natural resources by Rwanda and other countries.

She also demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Rwandan troops from DRC territory.

North Kivu and surrounding provinces of the eastern DRC have been wracked by violence for decades, as armed groups battle for control of the region's rich natural resources.

Rwanda has denied support-



A UN vehicle drives along a road, in Beni territory, North Kivu province, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

ing the M23 rebels, with Foreign Minister Olivier Nduhugirehe renewing that denial on Saturday. The minister, who was attending a two-day "Francophonie" summit in Paris, accused his Congolese counterpart of refusing to sign "an agreed deal" to resolve the M23 rebel conflict in the DRC.

On Tuesday, Rwanda's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, James Ngango, also expressed concern about the escalation of abuse and human rights violations in the eastern DRC, "particularly sexual violation and violation against children in the region affected by armed conflict and inter community conflicts," he said.

He said Rwanda remains committed to dialogue and the regional peace processes. He said,

"No military solution can address the root causes of the conflict in eastern DRC."

It is unclear whether the DRC's demand for the withdrawal of Rwandan forces will be met, nor is it clear if and when MONUSCO, the U.N.'s peacekeeping force, will withdraw from the country as demanded by the government of Felix Tshisekedi.

The U.N. says the peacekeepers, who were supposed to leave by the end of the year, apparently have been given a reprieve. Several thousand soldiers remain in North and South Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Bintou Keita, special representative of the secretary-general in the DRC and head of MONUSCO, made little reference to the po-

tential consequences for the stability of the DRC once U.N. peacekeepers leave the country.

However, she painted a worrying picture of human rights in the DRC due to "the deteriorating security situation" in the eastern provinces from attacks on civilians, "causing loss of human lives and mass displacements of peoples towards Kinshasa and Kisanangani."

"The M23, in the quest for territorial gains, extended its hold on territories towards Lubero Kanyabayonga, which was captured in late June after intense fighting. Hospitals and IDP sites were deliberately targeted by M23. Several civilians fled their homes, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis," she said.

She affirmed that MONUSCO "will continue to provide its support to the DRC ... in strict conformity with the U.N. human rights due diligence policy, including support for the establishment of the human rights compliance framework."

Keita added, "The return of peace to the DRC will come about through pooled military and non-military efforts to find lasting solutions, both national and regional."

Conflict in the DRC has come at a high price. The United Nations said the country is struggling with twin humanitarian crises – an internal displacement crisis and a food crisis. It reports that 7.2 million people currently are internally displaced, and nearly 26 million face acute hunger.

African farmers benefit from regenerative agriculture

By Special Correspondent, Rome

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Africa benefit from regenerative agriculture through a diverse set of practices but need better access to technology. This is the key outcome of the second Roundtable of African Farmers, co-organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Bayer, Global Farmer Network, World Farmers' Organization, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Sub-Saharan Farmers from Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia discussed with international policy makers and other key stakeholders about the importance of policies that enable smallholders to apply regenerative agricultural practices more broadly and to improve food security in Africa.

They called for governments to develop policies that promote an outcome-driven, technology-neutral, and evidence-based approach to agricultural solutions. Bringing this together with enhanced farmer training and support for regenerative agricultural practices could be a big step towards more productivity while benefiting the environment. This can be achieved through a diverse set of practices and technologies that combine modern and traditional tools – all of which tailored to the farmers' specific needs. Most importantly, the farmers state that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to this endeavour.

"The vast majority of food in Africa is being produced by smallholder farmers. It's important to listen to them and to learn about the big challenges they face in light of climate change," said Debra Mallowah, Head of Africa region for Bayer's Crop Science Division. "We have heard today how many farmers are contributing to the socio-economic and environmental

development of the Sub-Saharan region. The private sector, together with governments and policy makers, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society are to develop infrastructures, build capacity, carry out research and invest in innovations to create an enabling environment for those farmers to thrive and ultimately benefit all of us."

Elisha Lewanika, a Zambian farmer, stressed the importance of regenerative agriculture and the need for proper farming techniques to improve soil health and crop yields: "Crop rotation, particularly alternating between nitrogen-fixing crops and cereals, is a way to maintain soil fertility and ensure sustainable yields. Reducing tillage and other forms of soil disturbances preserve soil structure, minimize erosion and protect soil microbes."

For Matente Kethisa from Lesotho, soil health and conservation are key to tackle climate change challenges: "In my community of Nikito, soil is the foundation of agricultural efforts. We focus on preserving and enhancing its quality through crop rotation, mulching, no-till farming, and nutrient management."

Nigerian farmer Stella Thomas agreed and added: "While hybrid seeds and open-pollinated varieties are already available, GMO crops are the way forward for us in Nigeria, especially to address drought and pest infestations. With GMO crops, farmers can use fewer herbicides and insecticides, enhancing both productivity and sustainability."

Amadou Sidibe from Mali highlighted the benefits of greenhouse technology in mitigating climate change effects: "While heavy rain, fall and flooding were impacting many parts of West Africa, our greenhouses remained unaffected. During dry periods, my greenhouses use 90 percent of available water in a very efficient manner, making them a powerful tool for



Smallholder farmers in Africa benefit from regenerative agriculture through a diverse set of practices but need better access to technology.

managing agriculture in times of an increasingly unpredictable climate."

Despite the proven benefits of diverse approaches, the farmers highlighted the barriers that they face to access the tools they need to fully realize the potential of regenerative agriculture. Low public and private R&D investments, high upfront costs for modern technologies, limited access to insurance and credit policies and lack of infrastructure hinder many smallholder farmers to contribute to agriculture's transition towards higher productivity with a reduced

impact on the environment.

To promote regenerative agriculture, the African farmers are urging governments to revise policies, allowing access to diverse technologies tailored to farmers' needs. Financial institutions should offer low-interest loans, grants, and insurance products especially for smallholders, encouraging investment in modern technologies and sustainable practices. According to the farmers, expanding education and training through demonstration farms, digital platforms, and extension services remains essential. Furthermore, increased

public and private investment in R&D, alongside collaboration between companies, farmers, and research institutions, is vital to develop region-specific solutions and make both traditional and innovative practices accessible and affordable.

Agriculture supports over 50 percent of Africa's population and contributes 35 percent to its GDP, reaching up to 60 percent in some countries. Despite this, Africa faces rising food imports and persistent food insecurity due to low productivity, low value added per worker, and subsistence farming below ef-

ficient scales with an average farm size of 1.3 hectares. Despite having 65 percent of the remaining arable land of the world, only 10 percent is utilized.

For Bayer, regenerative agriculture is an outcome-based production model which has improving soil health at its core and strengthening resilience as a key objective. Other principal aims include mitigating climate change, maintaining or restoring biodiversity, conserving water as well as increasing yields and improving the economic and social well-being of farmers and their communities.

By Adonis Byemelwa

Power crisis: Unkept promises, growing frustrations stalls development progress

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) is commemorating the Customer Service Week amid widespread public dissatisfaction regarding the quality of service, particularly among regular consumers.

Speaking on ITV's 'Kumekucha' programme, TANESCO Director of Customer Service, Martin Mwambene, emphasized that the company strives daily to provide uninterrupted service to its clients. He highlighted that Tanzania has a power generation capacity of 2,800 megawatts, but only 1,700 megawatts are currently in use.

Mwambene was confronted with numerous questions from the audience, where he also claimed that Tanzania has the most affordable electricity rates in East and Central Africa. He announced the company's ambitious plan to generate 5,000 megawatts by 2025, with an increased focus on solar energy projects in Shinyanga.

However, his assertions of stability were contradicted by persistent complaints from customers about frequent power outages, particularly in Shinyanga. Two weeks ago, the Shinyanga Press Club hosted a forum discussing the recurrent blackouts in the Region.

At the forum, Patrick Mabula, Vice Chairperson of the Shinyanga Press Club, underlined the need for a structured debate on the frequent outages to help resolve the issue for the economic benefit of Tanzanians.

Reverend Meshack Kulwa of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania advocated for private sector involvement in electricity distribution, suggesting the government break Tanesco's monopoly.

Another participant, Kulwa Maduhu, an advocate of clean energy, stressed that Tanzania must reduce its dependence on hydropower, particularly given the uncertainties posed by climate change. He warned that while the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project is expected to generate 2,115 megawatts, the nation's reliance on water sources remains risky, especially as the precious liquid's levels are highly vulnerable to environmental changes.

Elias Turnbull, Tanesco's Acting Regional Manager for Shinyanga and Kishapu District Manager, echoed these concerns, stating that the increase in electricity demand across the country has far outpaced the supply. He explained that although the national demand stands at 1,485.8 megawatts, production barely reaches 1,000 megawatts.

If all available sources were optimized, Tanzania could generate up to 1,570 megawatts, but this still falls short of addressing the country's power needs. Shinyanga alone consumes 70 megawatts, with constant shortages causing disruptions even in critical government institutions like the police and the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

In response to customer's complaints, TANESCO Public Relations Officer in Shinyanga, Sarah Libogoma, apologized for the frequent power interruptions, which she



Journalists listen as Tanesco spokesperson, Martin Mwambene, announces the restoration of normal power supply following the completion of upgrades at the Songosongo gas processing plant in Kilwa, Lindi Region, in 2022.

attributed to infrastructure damage caused by fluctuating water levels in the Ruaha River.

The rising water had compromised transmission lines, but she assured that repairs had been made and promised more efforts to improve service reliability. Libogoma urged customers to report issues promptly and protect the infrastructure from further damage.

Despite assurances from TANESCO leadership, citizens continue to express dissatisfaction with the company's operations, particularly when it comes to new service connections. Delays in site surveys, control number issuance, and connection processes have led to widespread frustration.

A Dar es Salaam resident, speaking anonymously, urged Tanesco to prioritize customer service, warning, "Without serious improvements, Tanesco

will never hit its target of expanding the customer base with reduced connection fees. It's a ticking time bomb."

While Tanesco celebrates Customer Service Week, the energy sector in Tanzania faces deeper, systemic challenges. The company's Power System Master Plan envisions a diverse energy mix by 2044, with hydropower (28 percent), natural gas (33 percent), coal (26 percent), wind (4 percent), solar (4 percent), and geothermal (5 percent).

Current developments show a preference for hydro, wind, and solar power sources over the more reliable coal and natural gas, raising concerns about the long-term stability of the energy supply.

Tanzania has seen tremendous benefits from gas-fired power plants over the last 30 years, with the Songas and IPTL plants helping to stabilize the grid and reduce costs. According to the 2021 Wentworth Resources Report, Songas alone saved Tanesco \$16 billion between 2004 and 2020.

The underutilized gas capacity at Ubungo and Kinyerezi could further stabilize Tanzania's power sector, yet recent decisions have sidelined these resources in favor of more volatile energy sources.

In contrast, the country's coal reserves, particularly in the southern region, offer significant economic potential, particularly for projects like the Mtwara corridor. Yet, global resistance to coal-based projects due to environmental concerns has limited investment in this area, despite coal being a key resource for many developed nations like China and Germany. This discrepancy leaves Tanzania at a crossroads, where the pursuit of clean energy must be balanced with the need for reliable power generation to fuel its growing economy.

A 2016 World Bank report identified a lack of coherent planning, inefficient public and private investment allocation, and flawed competitive bidding processes as major obstacles to Tanzania's energy sector development. Independent Power Projects (IPPs) have also been problematic, with some contracts priced six to eight times higher than ideal, draining Tanesco's finances.

The solution, according to energy experts, lies in attracting well-structured IPPs that offer competitive unit charges, sustainable growth, and clear procurement processes. However, the recurring power shortages and unmet promises have left many Tanzanians weary.

Former political leaders have long promised an end to power blackouts, with the late President Magufuli and former ministers like Prof. Sospeter Muhongo and January Makamba each assuring citizens that Tanzania would soon be an energy exporter. Yet, these ambitions remain unrealized, and the nation continues to grapple with unreliable electricity supply.

Mwambene highlighted a critical imbalance in Tanzania's energy consumption, revealing that some regions use less than 20 megawatts, while major industries like the Geita Gold Mine are demanding up to 40 megawatts for their operations. This disparity underscores the urgent need for regional energy-sharing agreements that could enable Tanzania to export and import electricity as needed, thereby enhancing the nation's power reliability.

The ongoing challenges faced by TANESCO are emblematic of deeper systemic issues within Tanzania's energy sector. The country's heavy reliance on hydropower, combined with the underutilization of natural gas and coal, continues to threaten energy security.

Other nations, such as Ghana and Kenya, have effectively confronted similar challenges. Ghana, once plagued by severe power outages, diversified its energy investments and engaged the private sector to stabilize its grid. Meanwhile, Kenya turned to geothermal energy, significantly reducing its dependence on weather-sensitive sources like hydropower.

Tanzania must adopt a bold and decisive approach, drawing lessons from these success stories to transform energy diversity from a mere aspiration into a concrete reality. The time for empty rhetoric has passed; Tanzanians deserve a transparent roadmap that delivers affordable, sustainable power without delay.

The repercussions of inaction are dire; failure to address these issues will stifle economic growth and inhibit development, while proactive measures could unlock significant opportunities for progress.

According to the World Bank Enterprise Survey (2022), power outages in Tanzania cost businesses approximately 15 percent of their annual sales. In stark contrast, a reliable electricity supply often correlates with increased income and job creation.

Take South Korea as an example: despite its small size, it generates much electricity as the combined total of 48 Sub-Saharan African nations.

South Korea exemplifies the true essence of energy innovation and reliability, a stark reminder of the potential that remains untapped in Tanzania. It is high time that Tanzanian politicians move beyond empty promises and take meaningful action to ensure a prosperous energy future for all.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 184 00 -

Across:

- a rounded underground storage organ present in plants
- situated in the east
- go slowly in Kiswahili
- take away from a total
- a particular period in a person's life
- Citrus fruit
- on the leeward side of a ship
- Native of Namibia
- less than eleven

Down:

- Ottawa is her mother city
- fully prepared
- torture in Kiswahili
- Natural Environment Research Council
- half of two
- Unhappy
- corn meal made from maize
- opposite of No
- means "to shoot" in Genesis 21:20
- in good order
- a unit of heredity
- the fifth month of the year

Yesterday's Solutions

1. DIE 2. MTE 3. CARE 4. C
 5. NEDOM 6. T 7. OPEN 8. R
 9. CHAIN 10. N 11. MEAN 12. LE
 13. STEADY 14. ESCOLAR
 15. DODGER 16. RBOMB
 17. COVERED 18. SEEL 19. I
 20. T 21. NWAR 22. DEMI

S I T

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

KENYA ANELE
 NOT TANAPA
 POT TANKER
 ARA PET
 SIT ORE
 ERA :TEN ELAN
 NAY SWINE

Felix: 0789437309 / felixmagezi@gmail

RADIO One **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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BUSINESS

SA rand sturdier as US data fuels Fed rate cut bets

CAPE TOWN

South Africa's rand strengthened against the dollar on Friday, after U.S. data firmed up bets on another interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve next month.

At 0809 GMT, the rand traded at 174575 against the dollar ZAR=D3, about 0.4 percent stronger than its previous close.

The dollar index was last down 0.04 percent against a basket of currencies.

Bets for a 25-basis point Fed rate cut increased after US inflation data on Thursday came in slightly higher than expected and jobless claims rose, leading markets to moderate expectations of bigger cuts by the Fed.

"Inflation did come down yesterday, but... it is the jobless claims that have helped the ZAR back to 1750," said Adam Phillips, treasury specialist at Umkhulu Treasury.

The local currency has tracked the dollar and U.S. economic data points this week in the absence of major domestic events.

South African investor focus will now turn towards an inflation-linked bond auction (ILB) due later on Friday.

"The ILB auction today will provide further insight into inflation expectations in South Africa," said Andre Cilliers, currency strategist at TreasuryONE.

On the stock market, the Top-40 index was up 0.4 percent

South Africa's benchmark 2030 government bond was stronger, with the yield down 7 basis points to 9.07 percent.

South Africa's rand edged higher against the dollar on Thursday, ahead of local mining and manufacturing data and a U.S. inflation report.

At 0727 GMT, the rand traded at 176275 against the dollar, 0.13 percent stronger than its previous close.

The dollar index was steady against a basket of currencies. It had gained earlier following the release of minutes from the Federal Reserve's September meeting on Wednesday, which confirmed the central bank would take

a cautious approach to monetary easing.

The rand has lost some steam after rallying against the dollar in late September and much of its recent weakness can be attributed to the resurgence of the greenback, analysts said.

South African investor focus is now on the release of August mining and manufacturing data, while a U.S. consumer price index report looms later in the day.

"Even if (U.S.) CPI comes in lower than expected, the market seems to have largely priced in the Fed's cautious approach, meaning that significant ZAR recovery against the USD is unlikely in the near term," said Andre Cilliers, currency strategist at TreasuryONE. On the stock market, the Top-40 index was up 0.2 percent.

South Africa's benchmark 2030 government bond was marginally weaker, with the yield up 1 basis point to 9.18 percent.

There are several factors that could South Africa's economic event, equity and currency market.

The South African rand firmed against the dollar on Thursday after data showed a slight decline in U.S. inflation in September, keeping the Federal Reserve on track to cut interest rates again next month. On the Johannesburg stock market, the Top-40 index closed little changed.

At the global market, Asian shares were headed for their first weekly loss in five on Friday as a stunning rally in Chinese shares took a breather, although all eyes are on the details of much-anticipated fiscal stimulus from Beijing this weekend.

Wall Street's main indexes closed lower on Thursday as investors looked to higher-than-expected inflation and unemployment claims for indications on the health of the U.S. economy and the path for interest rates.

Gold prices climbed on Friday after recent data firmed bets for a Federal Reserve rate cut next month, while market participants awaited the U.S. Producer Price Index (PPI) report for further direction.



Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, ATE chief executive officer, plants a tree along Coca-Cola road in Mikocheni industrial area, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Assisting her is Nelson Edger, Mikocheni 'B' street chairperson. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

Employers' association lauds tree planting set to reduce urban carbon emission effects

By Francis Kajubi

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has encouraged its members in urban areas to align their economic activities strategies with tree planting programmes as a way of mitigating high temperatures.

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran, ATE chief executive officer, pleaded for its over 9,000 members to focus on climate mitigation measures when she took part at a tree planting event held yesterday in Mikocheni suburb of Dar es Salaam.

She said that ATE is much concerned with the tremendous rise in urban heat island (UHI) attributed to growth in infrastructure development and high-tech industrialization investments taking place in urban areas.

According to her, if all employ-

ers are to convince their employees to fully engage in planting and taking care of trees, urban areas, where over 60 percent of economic activities take place could be turned evergreen thus saving the world from global warming.

Doran asserted that Mikocheni 'B' is an industrial area where carbon emissions are produced in large quantities on a daily basis. Planting plenty of trees could help reduce environmental and health threats arising from carbon emission.

"As we celebrate the climax of the Customer Service Week I would like to call upon employers and employees from the factories to act effectively on their environmental protection and sustainability commitments," said Doran.

She encouraged employers to plant at least five trees at their office premises and encouraged their employers to do the same in

their residential premises.

Doran who also took part in a city trenches cleaning exercise emphasized on the well-coordinated collection and investments in recycling of post-consumer plastic bottles, including colored ones from beverage companies to conserve the environment.

"Cleaning of beaches is another important aspect that the business community must take into consideration in keeping the environment clean and safe. There must be regular cleaning of beaches by employers and their employees," she said.

Nelson Edger, Mikocheni 'B' Street Chairperson, commended ATE for taking the lead in encouraging its members to embrace environmental conservation in the line of their duties.

"Keeping environment clean complements other environmental initiatives such as planting of

trees for the intention of containing climate change crises. People should be asking themselves: what do they do in conserving the environment on a daily basis?" said Edger.

According to him, urban areas are exposed to climate change effects such as extreme heat and floods due to human and industrial activities that jeopardize normal weather patterns.

Adam Mrutu, Mikocheni Ward Environment and Health Officer said that keeping the environment clean could keep communities safe from the outbreak of diseases that are a result of poor hygiene.

"The government is ready and willing to collaborate with public and private employers in conserving the environment and in executing projects that are meant to contain climate change crises," said.

NAIROBI

Demand remained skewed to the shorter term 91-day paper as investors continue to assess possible duration risks. However, with the downward trend on the yields, the dynamics might change towards longer dated papers.

The 91-day paper attracted bids worth KSh18.5 billion against the KSh4 billion on offer. The 182-day and 364-day papers received bids worth KSh28.9 billion and KSh25.7 billion respectively against the KSh10 billion on offer in the tenors.

Yields on all the tenors declined, extending the downward trend that set in after the CBK began the easing cycle in August. Yields on treasury bills typically decline ahead of expected interest rate cuts and drop further after rate cuts.

The accepted average yields fell below the 16.35 percent mark coming in at 14.99 percent for the 91-day paper, 16.095 percent on the 182-day paper and 16.34 percent on the 364-day paper. Compared to the last week of July, the 91-day, 182-day and 364-day papers saw 6.3 percent, 4.5 percent and 3.4 percent declines respectively.

"Discount rates have been on a moderate decline across all tenors over the past month, allowing for lower cost of public debt while minimizing refinancing and liquidity pressures," noted Ronny Chokaa, an economist and investment analyst.

Yields on the longer dated 364-day paper fell slower than yields on the 91-day paper mirroring a yield curve normalization in the medium term. The bid-to-cover ratios similarly recovered with investors keen on maximizing their real yields.

Even with the reduced Central Bank Rate (CBR), the high fiscal needs by the government is likely to slow down efforts by CBK to push rates lower in an attempt to

Investors flood T-Bills amid interest rate cuts



Central Bank of Kenya

lessen borrowing costs.

The CBK has cut rates by a total of 100 basis points in the last two monetary policy meetings on the back of easing inflation and a slowdown in economic activity. Inflation is well contained closer to the lower bound target, with September numbers slowing down to 3.6 percent.

On Tuesday the CBK cut the benchmark lending rate by 0.75 percent to 12.00 percent, as expected, to support economic activity.

The Kenyan Shilling has remained stable, appreciating by 17.4 percent since the beginning of the year from lows of 160 in February.

The gain is attributable to a blend of factors including long term transitory effects of the tightened monetary policy in the hindquarter of 2023, the suc-

cessful Eurobond buyback in February and the subsequent settlement of the June sovereign maturity and increased foreign direct inflows.

Previous stubborn inflation and a weakening shilling prompted the CBK to raise the key lending rate from 10.5 percent to 12.5 percent in December 2023, before hiking it to 13 percent in February.

This decrease marks the beginning of an easing cycle, mimicking other emerging economies including South Africa, Ghana and Uganda.

The move comes weeks after the US Federal reserve delivered a 50 basis points cut with anticipation of further rate cuts. The European Central Bank similarly delivered a 25 basis points rate cut in September in response to softening inflation and a slowdown in the economy.

In August, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) cut the benchmark lending rate by 0.75 percent to 12.00 percent, as expected, to support economic activity.

"The MPC also noted the sharp deceleration in credit to the private sector, and the slowdown in growth in the second quarter of 2024, and concluded that there was scope for a further easing of the monetary policy stance to support economic activity, while ensuring exchange rate stability," noted the MPC in a statement.

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Nigerians spend \$10 billion annually on petrol, generator maintenance

LAGOS

Nigerians spend a staggering \$10 billion annually on petrol and generator maintenance, according to a new report by Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

This exorbitant expenditure underscores the country's heavy reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation, despite significant challenges and environmental concerns.

According to the report in partnership with the Lagos State Government, the high cost of fuel and generator (genset) maintenance places a heavy burden on households and businesses, hindering economic growth and development.

"Nigerians reportedly spend \$10 billion (N7.6 trillion) annually on fuel and maintenance for small petrol genset," SEforALL said in its latest report entitled, "Beyond Gensets: Advancing the Energy Transition in Lagos State."

The report explained that the average small business in Africa's biggest economy spends N20,000 to 40,000 per month just on fuel.

"This is the largest cost to many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in their operations," SEforALL said.

Nigeria, one of Africa's largest economies, has long struggled with an unreliable power supply, forcing its citizens and businesses to resort to self-generated electricity.

The West African country faces critical energy challenges from the lack of access to electricity and clean cooking to the scarcity and price hike of petrol.

"The cost of electricity for petrol generators is 83 percent higher than the cost of electricity from the grid," SEforALL said.

The report noted that Lagos State's heavy reliance on diesel-powered generators has resulted in an alarming environmental toll, with estimated annual carbon emissions reaching 39 million tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), higher than three other African countries such as Rwanda, Gabon, and Togo.

The study revealed that emissions from Lagos' residential, commercial, and market sectors are overwhelming.

The residential sector alone accounts for 21 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, while the commercial sector contributes 17.8 million tonnes, with markets adding a further 141,125 tonnes.

"Together, these emissions amount to 39 million tonnes of CO₂, a staggering figure when compared to emissions from other nations," SEforALL said.

The report further states that Togo emits approximately 9.8 million tonnes of CO₂ annually, Rwanda 10.6 million tonnes, and Gabon 10.2 million tonnes.

The report estimates that Lagos State alone has a genset capacity



A market place in the outskirts of Lagos city.

of around 19 gigawatts (GW), far exceeding the national grid's installed capacity of 12.2 GW.

"This dependency has not only placed Lagos at the forefront of Nigeria's power generation challenges but has also contributed to a substantial environmental burden," the report said.

The report notes that the city's dependence on gensets is largely a consequence of Nigeria's unreliable electricity grid, which has long struggled to meet demand due to inefficiencies, underinvestment, and maintenance issues.

Despite having an installed capacity of 13,014.14 megawatts (MW),

Nigeria's national grid frequently operates below optimal levels, with outages and inconsistent power supply forcing residents and businesses to rely on alternative power sources like generators.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is a leading environmental risk factor, responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year.

The SEforALL report stressed the importance of transitioning to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources in Lagos and across Nigeria.

Biodun Ogunleye, commissioner of energy and mineral resources, Lagos State, highlighted the need for

Lagos to lead Nigeria's energy transition.

"By understanding and working to mitigate the impacts of diesel and petrol generator sets, we are taking decisive steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future for Lagos and Nigeria as a nation," he said.

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) has expressed concern over the increase in petrol pump prices in Lagos and Abuja.

Dele Oye, National President, NACCIMA, made this known in a statement on Wednesday in Lagos.

Oye said that the prices, which had reached N998 and N1,030 per litre respectively, were placing a strain on businesses and households across the country.

He spoke on the potential economic consequences of the price hike, warning that the increase could lead to higher transportation costs, exacerbate inflation and severely impact small and medium-sized businesses.

He said that the decision, influenced by several underlying factors, warranted careful examination of its potential repercussions on the economy, particularly in the realms of pricing for goods, services and transportation.

"With transportation costs directly tied to fuel prices, this increase will serve as a catalyst for higher freight charges.

"Given that fuel is a primary driver of inflation, the rise in petrol prices will exacerbate the already high inflation rate in Nigeria.

"Households will find themselves paying more not only for fuel, but also for everyday goods and services, prompting a vicious cycle of rising costs and economic hardship.

"The recent fuel price increase will have a profound impact on micro and nano businesses, many of which rely heavily on petrol generators to power their operations," he noted.

According to him, the overall economic landscape for SMEs can shift from potential growth to survival.



Dr Stephen Amoah (3rd from right), Ghana's Deputy Minister of Finance, with Kwaku Dua (2nd from right), Chief Executive Officer, Financial Intelligence Centre; Kodjo Atisso (3rd from left), Regional Advisor for Anti-Money Laundering, Countering of Terrorism, and some dignitaries after the meeting.

Illicit financial flows destroying African countries, says FIC boss

ACCRA

Africa loses about 3.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually to illicit financial flows, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), Kwaku Duah, has revealed.

Such a phenomenon, he said, had negatively affected the economies of African countries.

He, therefore, called on law enforcement agencies on the continent to deepen their collaborations to ensure that criminals did not profit from nefarious activities such as corruption, fraud, money laundering and drug trafficking.

"There is the need for us to come together to stop criminals in their tracks. This is important to help take profit out of crime," he said.

Duah was speaking at the 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency for West Africa (ARINWA) in Accra.

The ARINWA, formed in Accra more than a decade ago, is a network of law enforcement agencies, assets recovery agencies, state prosecutors

and other stakeholders from West Africa, focused on working together to curb illicit financial flows.

The four-day AGM includes an array of activities such as capacity-building workshops, discussions on activities of the network, as well as the election of a new President and the selection of a host city for the 12th AGM.

Duah stressed the importance of asset recovery by law enforcement agencies in the fight against illicit financial flows to serve as a disincentive for people engaged in criminal activities.

"Asset recovery is the legal process of identification, freezing, confiscating and repurposing assets obtained through unlawful activities," he said.

Using Ghana as an example, he explained that the country had a policy that had embedded assets recovery in the criminal justice system to ensure that people did not enjoy the proceeds of crime.

"The policy not only disrupts criminal enterprises but also serves as a mechanism for restoring public funds which, ordinarily, would have

been lost through various acts of financial malfeasance," he added.

A Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr Stephen Amoah, underscored the importance of curbing illicit financial flows to protect the integrity of the financial system while helping governments to get access to the necessary resources for development.

"Illicit Financial Flows remain a crucial impediment to Africa's ambition for development, reduce foreign exchange, stifle trade and microeconomic stability while worsening poverty and inequality," he said.

To address the challenge, he said the country had strengthened its legal framework such as the passage of the anti-money laundering law, and the new Companies Act, while implementing many initiatives to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

"Moreover, our Financial Intelligence Centre is focused on working with all relevant internal and external stakeholders to support efforts to trace, freeze and recover stolen

assets. Ghana is further committed to the automatic exchange of information to tackle tax evasion and other financial crimes," he added.

Dr Amoah stated that one of the biggest financial crimes also facing African countries which needed urgent attention was tax evasion; he, therefore, called on the public to help authorities bring to book those who engaged in such crimes.

He further called on African countries to further deepen their laws and systems to ensure that their jurisdictions did not become safe havens for criminals who engaged in financial crimes.

For his part, the President of ARINWA, Dr Jacinto do Canto, said the network had made tremendous strides since its establishment to combat financial crimes.

He mentioned some of the milestones as assisting 11 countries in the sub-region to enact laws creating assets recovery agencies, creating a secure platform for the exchange of information and creating a platform for countries to successfully engage in combating illicit financial flows.

Govt suspends US \$2.43 price floor on tea as glut intensifies

NAIROBI

The rising pile of unsold tea in the Mombasa auction has forced the government to drop the minimum reserve prices set in 2022, which aimed to cushion the market from falling prices of the beverage.

"The Secretariat wishes to inform the trade that the minimum reserve prices which was imposed on Kenyan teas by the government in 2022 with the aim of stabilizing the market and cushioning the declining tea prices has been suspended," the association said.

The latest data indicates that more than 100 million kilograms is yet to be sold. The longer they remain at the auction, the quicker the loss of their quality.

The Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) has been blamed for poor management. The agency handles almost 90 percent of Kenya's tea. On the other hand, officials from the agriculture sector have noted that high unsold volumes of tea can be attributed to depreciating quality in production.

This comes even as competition from other producers heightens, with Rwandan tea fetching higher prices at the auction, surpassing Kenya.

The removal of the minimum price is intended to allow trading flexibility and hopefully give buyers the opportunity to clear the stocks from the second-largest black tea auction in the world. However, the association has called upon producers to prioritize better agricultural and processing practices to uphold the quality delivered at the auction.

As buyers continue rejecting tea from certain regions over quality issues, lower bonus payouts and farmers' dissatisfaction inevitably follow. In the latest auction, massive volumes came from KTDA factories east of the Rift Valley, with

those from the western side facing higher rejection rates.

Kenya is a net exporter but industry critics have questioned whether the auction method of selling the beverage aligns with the dynamic market. Some of the experts have called for the country to embrace aggressive marketing strategies that will require a uniform quality assurance system for the beverage.

Data from the latest weekly Mombasa Tea auction reveals that KTDA factories located west of the rift valley continue to fetch low prices and sale volumes compared to their eastern counterparts.

According to the data, eastern-based factories like Kimunye, Theta, Kagwe, Ikumbi, Kanyenyaini, Igembe, Imenti, and Mataara registered the highest values of tea sold. Those in the Rift Valley like Kapset, Kolel, Litein, Kaptumo, Chebut, Boito, Morigo, and Mogogosiek fetched lowest values.

Last month, tea farmers from various regions in the western-based factories complained about poor bonuses with some factories like Nyamachae, Mogogosiek and Kapset declaring payouts worth KSh 20 per kilogram. Others paid little or no increments despite earlier promises by their respective factories.

On the flip side, factories in the central region all the way to Meru, paid their farmers as high as KSh 60 per kilogram, with many prices ranging in the fifties and forties. The stark differences in bonuses led to the eruption of riots in many tea factories where farmers were dissatisfied, accusing their directors of cheating them.

The violence that ensued in some areas across the South Rift led to the destruction of factories' properties and disruptions in activities. Police responded viciously, killing one person and injuring scores of other protesting farmers.



Draft law seen as key to boost private sector

XINGTAI

China's long-awaited legislation on promoting the private economy made decisive progress on Thursday as authorities started soliciting public opinions on a draft law, marking a major step forward in reinvigorating a sector key to the growth of the nation, experts said.

They said the move reflects the government's emphasis on and support for the private economy, which will not only provide legal protection for private enterprises, but also clarify the government's responsibilities in promoting the healthy development of the private sector.

The draft law, jointly released by the Ministry of Justice and the National Development and Reform Commission, will be open for public comments until Nov 8.

"The draft law not only confirms the key role of the private economy, but also provides institutional guarantees and support through legislation," said Liu Dian, a researcher at

Fudan University's China Institute.

"It marks the country's latest push for improving the market economy system. Once implemented, it will effectively stimulate the vitality of private enterprises and encourage them to participate in competition and cooperation across a broader range of sectors, thereby promoting overall economic growth in the long run," he added.

According to experts, the draft law marks China's very first basic legislation regarding the development of the private economy, and it aims to create a better environment that fosters fair competition, facilitates private investment, supports technological innovation, and protects the legal rights and interests of private businesses.

In a statement posted on its official website on Thursday, the NDRC said the move will help stabilize market expectations and boost business confidence, reflecting China's commitment to ensuring long-term, high-quality growth of the private



A view of the digital production line of a tire manufacturer in Xingtai, Hebei province.

economy.

Comprising 77 articles across nine chapters, the draft law seeks to codify into a legal framework key policies and practices aimed at fostering the development of the private economy. It underscores equal treatment and protection for

private enterprises while promoting their regulated and healthy growth.

According to the draft law, in areas outside the negative list, all types of market entities including private enterprises are legally allowed equal market access. It also calls for the

promotion of fair participation by private enterprises in market competition and their equal access to production factors.

Hong Yong, an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said the draft law high-

lights comprehensive coverage of all aspects related to promoting the development of the private economy.

There are "clear provisions" in the draft law, "from ensuring the correct direction of development to specific implementation measures", he said.

Citing specific measures to improve the investment and financing environment for private businesses and support their technological innovations, Hong said that such steps will help reduce operational costs and encourage these enterprises to participate in technological advancements and industrial upgrades.

Under provisions included in the draft law, China will encourage private enterprises to play an active role in the development of new quality productive forces, ensure their legal involvement in setting standards as well as in the development and use of public data resources, and strengthen the protection of their intellectual property rights.

Shen Bing, director-general and a senior research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research's market and price research institute, said that implementing a private economy promotion law is essential for ensuring fair competition among enterprises of different ownership structures, as it helps provide an enabling business environment.

Efforts to implement the law will work with other ongoing policy moves, such as improving relevant regulations to guarantee payments to small and medium-sized enterprises, in easing the burden on enterprises, improving their operational conditions and vitalizing the broader economy.

Marketers cleared to lift petrol from Dangote Refinery

LAGOS

The federal government has approved a new system allowing petroleum marketers to lift petrol directly from the Dangote Refinery, bypassing the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC).

In a statement on Friday, Wale Edun, the minister of finance and chairman of the Naira-Crude Sale Implementation Committee, provided insights into the progress of crude purchases and refined product sales conducted in naira.

According to Edun, the implementation committee held its second post-commencement review meeting on October 10, where it assessed the success of the Crude Oil and Refined Products Sales in the Naira initiative.

"The committee is pleased to announce a seamless transition to the new framework following the Federal Executive Council's directive. This new model establishes a strong system for the domestic production and distribution of crude oil and refined products, all sold in naira for local consumption," the statement read.

Edun emphasised that with the mechanism now fully operational and local production underway, Nigeria is poised to shift towards a fully deregulated petroleum market.

"Petroleum product marketers can now purchase Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) directly from local refineries, without the need for NNPC as an intermediary. This allows for direct negotiations between marketers and refineries, fostering competition and improving market efficiency," he added.

The government expressed confidence that these measures would create a more favourable market environment over time, benefiting Nigerians in the long run.

Early this month it was reported that marketers in Nigeria will purchase premium motor spirit (PMS), also known as petrol, directly from Dangote Petroleum Refinery, but they face some pricing hurdles.

This is because there is a price disparity between Dangote petrol and imported PMS.

While Dangote refinery can supply a substantial portion of Nigeria's domestic petrol needs, the government's strict control of petrol pricing has created a major hurdle for marketers.

Marketers from the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) and Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) have begun efforts to buy petrol directly from the \$20 billion Dangote Petroleum Refinery, bypassing the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited.

At the time of filing this report, the NNPC is the sole buyer of petrol from the Lekki-based refinery. Other marketers rely on the national oil company to obtain the product from the large-scale refinery.

In a conversation with BusinessDay, IPMAN referred to the state-owned oil company as a competitor, stating that efforts are underway to meet with Aliko Dangote, president of the Dangote Group, or some senior management members of the company.

Although no specific date has been set for the meeting, IPMAN leaders stressed that purchasing directly from the refinery is the correct approach rather than buying through another marketer.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	7.30	8.00	9.00	9.30	10.00	10.30	11.00	11.30	12.00	12.30	13.00	13.30	14.00	14.30	15.00	15.30	16.00	16.30	17.00	17.30	18.00	18.30	19.00	19.30	20.00	20.30	21.00	21.30	22.00	22.30	23.00	23.30	
SATURDAY 5 Oct	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kipindi maalum: Historia	Maisha ya Mwl. Nyerere	Watoto wetu	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	Chetu ni chetu rpt	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Art and Lifestyle	Shamba Lulu	Soap rpt: Laws of love	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	16.10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17.00 Shamsam za Pwani	18.00 Hapa na Pale	18.10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19.00 Jungu kuu	19.30 Shika Bamba	20.00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45 Supa Min Jackpot	21:55 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera					
SUNDAY 13 Oct	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	Igizo: Haikufuma	Watoto Wetu	Mjuzi Zaidi	Chetu ni chetu rpt	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Art and Lifestyle	Shamba Lulu	Soap rpt: Laws of love	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	16.10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17.00 Shamsam za Pwani	18.00 Hapa na Pale	18.10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19.00 Jungu kuu	19.30 Shika Bamba	20.00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45 Supa Min Jackpot	21:55 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera					
MONDAY 14 Oct	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	Igizo: Haikufuma	Watoto Wetu	Mjuzi Zaidi	Chetu ni chetu rpt	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Art and Lifestyle	Shamba Lulu	Soap rpt: Laws of love	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	16.10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17.00 Shamsam za Pwani	18.00 Hapa na Pale	18.10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19.00 Jungu kuu	19.30 Shika Bamba	20.00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45 Supa Min Jackpot	21:55 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera					

WORLD

UN inquiry accuses Israel of seeking to destroy Gaza healthcare system

GENEVA

A United Nations inquiry said it found that Israel carried out a concerted policy of destroying Gaza's healthcare system in the Gaza war, actions amounting to both war crimes and the crime against humanity of extermination.

A statement on Thursday by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay that accompanied the report accused Israel of "relentless and deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities" in the war, triggered by Hamas militants' deadly cross-border attack on southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023.

"Children in particular have borne the brunt of these attacks, suffering both directly and indirectly from the collapse of the health system," said Pillay, whose 24-page report covering the first 10 months of the war will be presented to the UN General Assembly on Oct 30.

Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva rejected the report's findings, calling them outrageous.

"(The report) is another blatant attempt by the CoI to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel and obstruct its right to protect its population," it said, referring to the Commission of Inquiry.

Israel says Gaza's militants operate from the cover of built-up populated areas including schools and hospitals and that it will strike them wherever they emerge, while also trying to avoid harming civilians. Hamas denies hiding militants, weapons and command posts among civilians.

The UN inquiry's statement also accused Israeli forces of deliberately killing and torturing medical personnel, targeting medical vehicles and restricting permits for patients to leave the besieged Gaza Strip.

It cited the death of a Palestinian girl, Hind Rajab, in February along with family members and two medics who came to rescue her from under Israeli fire as they evacuated. The report said the ambulance was hit by a tank shell while within 50 meters of the family despite its route having been coordinated in advance with Israeli security forces.

'Irreplaceable loss'

The World Health Organization says over 10,000 patients requiring urgent medical evacuation have been prevented from leaving Gaza since the Rafah border crossing with Egypt was shut in May. The Palestinian health ministry says nearly 1,000 medics have been killed in Gaza in



Displaced children walk through a dark streak of sewage flowing into the streets of Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on Aug 29, 2024. AP

the past year in what the WHO called "an irreplaceable loss and a massive blow to the health system".

In cases where four hospitals were asked to evacuate by Israeli forces, the inquiry found that the orders were "not feasible" since they did not give medics the time to evacuate hundreds of patients and Israeli forces did not assist them.

It also said the treatment of both Palestinian detainees in Israel and hostages seized by Hamas fighters in the Hamas-led Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel had been investigated and it accused both sides of involvement in torture and sexual violence.

The Inquiry has a broad mandate to collect evidence and identify suspected perpetrators of international crimes committed in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. It bases its findings on a range of sources including interviews with victims and

witnesses, submissions and satellite imagery.

The commission has previously alleged both Israel and Hamas committed war crimes in the early stages of the Gaza war, and that Israel's actions constituted crimes against humanity because of the immense civilian losses. The term is reserved for the most serious international crimes knowingly committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians.

Israel has not cooperated with the inquiry, which it says has an anti-Israel bias. The commission has accused Israel of obstructing its work and preventing investigators from accessing both Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The evidence gathered by such UN-mandated bodies has sometimes formed the basis for war crimes prosecutions and could be drawn on by the International Criminal Court.

Russia's BRICS chairmanship plan already 80% fulfilled – Kremlin aide

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S BRICS chairmanship plan for 2024, which includes around 250 events, has been 80% implemented so far, according to Russian Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov, who heads the organizing committee for preparing and overseeing Russia's chairmanship in the association.

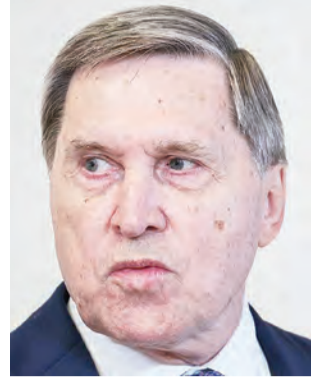
"The schedule of events for the year includes about 250 meetings, forums, and other thematic events. The plan has been 80% implemented," Ushakov said, noting that approximately 200 events have taken place in 13 Russian cities.

"The plan was primarily focused on ensuring the smooth integration of the new BRICS member states into the cooperation within our association and their adaptation to the established BRICS culture," Ushakov emphasized. On January 1, 2024, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia officially joined BRICS.

Ushakov highlighted the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the High Security Representatives' Meeting as some of the most significant political and security events that have taken place.

He also noted the meetings of ministers in the areas of economy, energy, education, science, culture, and sports. Additionally, he mentioned the BRICS Games, the BRICS Film Festival, the Fashion Forum, the first-ever Tourism Forum, and discussions on environmental issues.

"The sixteenth BRICS summit scheduled for 22-24 October in Kazan is the culmination of the Russian shift in BRICS, in this crucial international association," the Russian leader's aide pointed out. He added that the Kazan summit will be the first such event for the expanded association.



Burundi reiterates unconditional support for Morocco's territorial integrity & sovereignty, hails king's Atlantic Initiatives

BUJUMBURA

BURUNDI reiterates unconditional support for Morocco's territorial integrity & sovereignty, hails king's Atlantic Initiatives

Burundi's Foreign Minister Albert Shingiro has reiterated his country's consistent position in favor of Morocco's territorial integrity and unconditional support to the Kingdom's sovereignty over its entire territory, including the Sahara region.

This came during a meeting the Burundian official held in Rabat on Thursday with his Moroccan peer Nasser Bourita.

Albert Shingiro also reiterated Burundi's support for the Morocco-proposed Autonomy Plan as the only credible and realistic solution to resolve the Sahara regional dispute.

Shingiro further praised the efforts of the United Nations as the exclusive framework for reaching a realistic, practical, and lasting solution to the dispute over the Sahara.

During the meeting, the Burundian official praised King Mohammed VI's leadership for a prosperous and stable Africa and the Royal Initiatives for the benefit of the Atlantic African States.

These initiatives, he said, seek to make the African Atlantic space a geostrategic framework for united and active cooperation, and give Sahel States access to the Atlantic Ocean by linking them to the transport and communication networks of their regional environment.

Bourita, for his part, praised President Évariste Ndayishimiye's major role in the search for peace and stability in Africa.

During their talks, the two ministers praised the exemplary nature of relations between the two countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to make every effort to develop, intensify, and diversify their cooperation in several fields.

The meeting was highlighted by the signing of a joint communiqué, and agreement to sign the roadmap 2025-2027 at the meeting of the coming Joint Cooperation Commission, to be held in Burundi. **Agencies**



This came during a meeting the Burundian official held in Rabat on Thursday with his Moroccan peer Nasser Bourita

Wang urges France to play constructive role in China-EU consultations

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday expressed his hope that France will view China-EU economic and trade relations with a positive and open attitude and encourage the EU side to work with China in playing a constructive role through consultation and negotiation between the two sides.

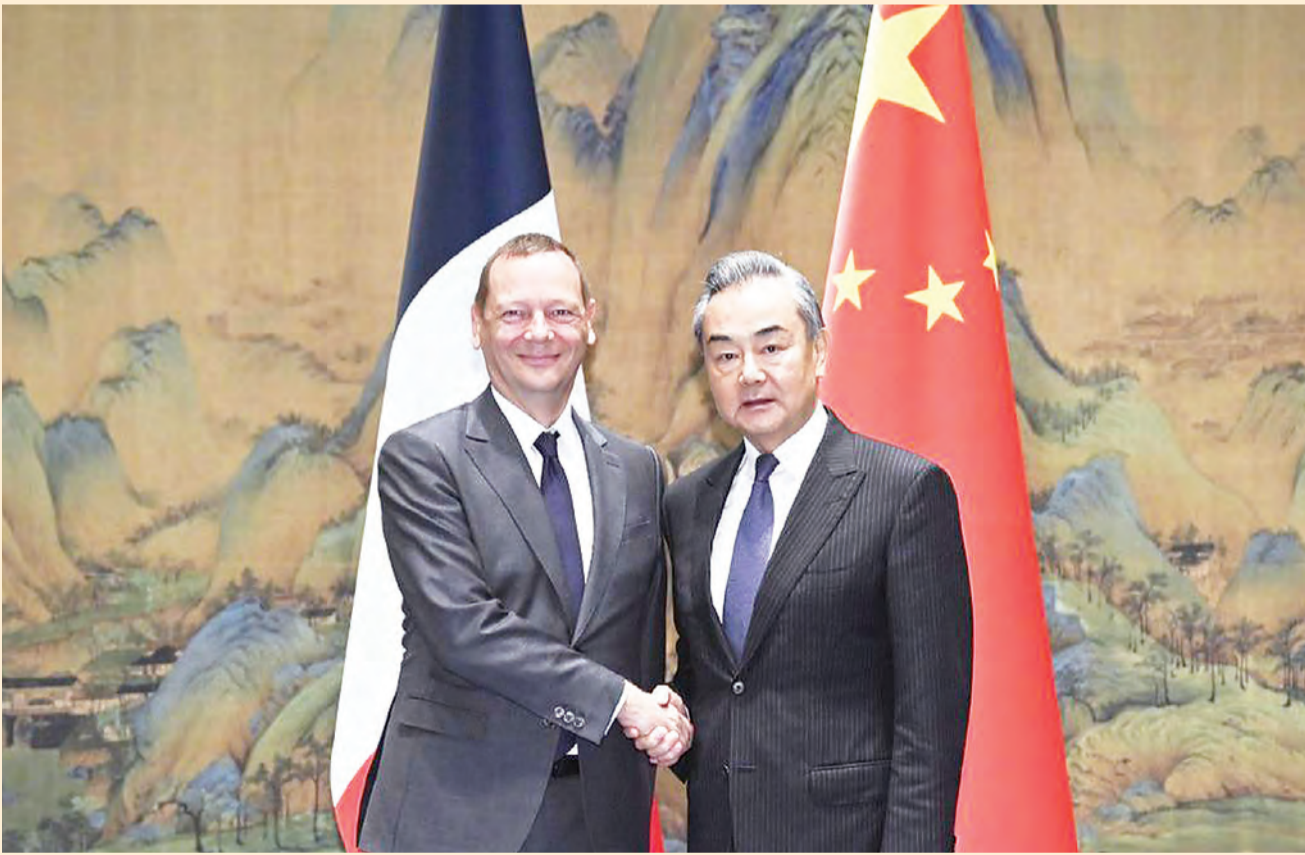
Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, made the remarks Thursday during phone talks with the French President's Diplomatic Counselor Emmanuel Bonne.

For his part, Bonne expounded France's views and concerns on the recent EU-China economic and trade relations, saying that France attaches great importance to the cooperative consensus reached by the two heads of state.

Europe adheres to its strategic independence, aims to foster a fair business environment, and does not intend to exclude Chinese companies and products from the European market, he said, expressing the hope for finding a proper solution through consultation.

Noting that France is an important economic and trade partner of China in the EU, Wang said healthy China-EU economic and trade relations serve the common interests of both sides.

He recalled the in-depth discussions between him and Bonne on China-EU trade frictions during the UN General Assembly, saying they both agreed that China and the EU should avoid a trade



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and French President's Diplomatic Counselor Emmanuel Bonne shake hands before co-chairing the 24th China-France Strategic Dialogue in Beijing, China, Oct 30, 2023. XINHUA

war and resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiation.

China and France are comprehensive strategic partners, and the two heads of state have provided strategic guidance for bilateral ties, he said, adding that in the face of the evolving international situation, China-France relations have demonstrated unique strategic value and global significance.

The top Chinese diplomat expressed his confidence that both sides have sufficient political wisdom to properly

handle differences in specific areas, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect and win-win cooperation as well as the need to maintain communication, dialogue, and coordinated efforts to maintain the development momentum of bilateral relations.

He also reiterated China's principled stance on the Taiwan question. Bonne said that France respects China's sovereignty and will continue to pursue the one-China policy, assuring that this position will not change. **Xinhua**

China promotes high-quality development of service trade via high-level opening up

CHINESE President Xi Jinping recently sent a congratulatory letter to the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), in which he announced important measures China will take to expand high-level opening-up in service trade.

He said China is ready to work with all countries to jointly share opportunities, discuss cooperation and promote development in line with the general trend of economic globalization, to contribute to promoting global economic growth and the wellbeing of the

people of various countries.

The CIFTIS, having been successfully held for ten years, is a vivid portrayal of the high-quality development of China's service industry and service trade. In the new era, China has vigorously promoted high-level opening up, accelerating the innovative development of the service industry and service trade, and achieving remarkable results.

From 2012 to 2023, the average annual growth rate of China's service trade stood at 6.2 percent in U.S. dollar terms, higher than the global average

growth rate and the growth rate of China's trade in goods over the same period. Besides, knowledge-intensive service trade increased to 41.4 percent of total service trade in 2023.

China recently released a set of guidelines to promote high-quality development of trade in services with high-standard opening up, calling for pushing forward institutional opening up of trade in service, facilitating the cross-border flow of resources, advancing innovation and development in key areas, and expanding the international market layout of services

trade. These guidelines are expected to further promote high-quality development of service trade and provide more and better Chinese services for the world.

The expanding "circle of friends" of the CIFTIS exactly showcases the enduring charm of China's service industry and service trade.

The 2024 CIFTIS was themed "Global Services, Shared Prosperity." Around 800 guests joined the Global Trade in Services Summit, a sub-event of the 2024 CIFTIS. Eighty-five countries and international

organizations set up exhibition areas. Thirteen of them hosted offline exhibitions at the event for the first time. Over 450 Fortune 500 enterprises and companies taking the lead in their respective industries participated in the event, which released over 200 innovative achievements.

Georgia's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Levan Davitashvili said the CIFTIS provides an important platform to promote global service trade exchanges, cooperation, and explore new opportunities.

The rapid growth in service trade reflects China's determination and efforts to further comprehensively deepen reforms and continuously improve the business environment.

Xi said in the letter that China will promote high-quality development via high-level opening-up, improve institutions and mechanisms for high-level opening-up, innovate and upgrade trade in services, actively align itself with high-standard international economic and trade rules, promote interoperability and compatibility of

rules, regulations, management and standards in the service sector, open its service market wider to the outside world in an orderly manner, enhance the functions of the service sector and service trade as platforms of opening up, and forge a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment.

These measures will help expand the supply of high-quality products and services, and create more opportunities for the development of multinational companies in China. **People's Daily**

China builds huge underground transparent sphere to trap 'ghost particles'

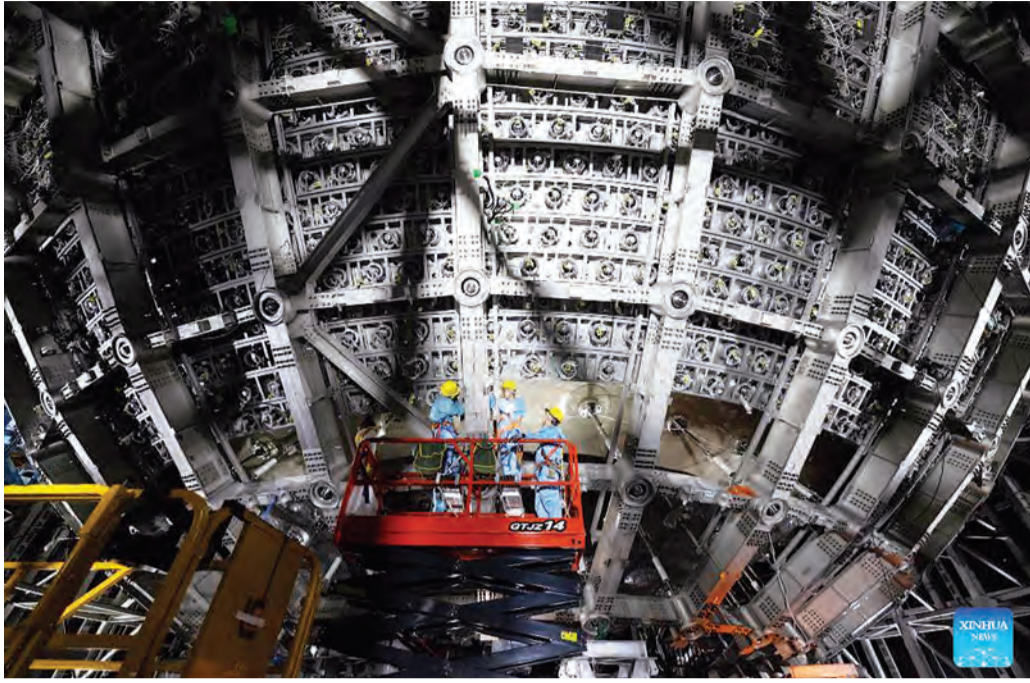
GUANGZHOU

CHINA has constructed the world's largest transparent spherical detector 700 meters underground to capture elusive neutrinos, often dubbed "ghost particles," to unravel the secrets of the infinitesimally small and the infinitely vast in the universe.

The 12-story-tall acrylic sphere with a diameter of 35.4 meters, buried deep in a granite layer of a hill in Kaiping, Jiangmen City in south China's Guangdong Province, is the core part of the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), a gigantic and complex scientific facility. The construction of the challenging project, launched by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Guangdong government in 2015, has entered the final stage. Installation of the entire device is expected to be completed by the end of November, and the full operation of the facility is scheduled for August 2025, according to the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the CAS, the project's leading institution.

As one of the world's most powerful experiments to uncover neutrino mystery, JUNO is expected to operate for at least 30 years. The observatory is designed to help scientists better understand the neutrino mass hierarchy by detecting reactor neutrinos from the nearby Yangjiang and Taishan nuclear power plants with an unprecedented 3 percent energy resolution, said Wang Yifang, chief scientist of JUNO and head of the IHEP.

Understanding the neutrino mass hierarchy could have huge implications for physical models of the universe and for the research on cosmic evolution, said Wang. The facility will also help scientists conduct other cutting-edge studies such as observing supernova, atmospheric and



Staff members install photo-multiplier tubes of the central detector of the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) in Jiangmen, south China's Guangdong Province, Oct. 10, 2024. China has constructed the world's largest transparent spherical detector 700 meters underground to capture elusive neutrinos, often dubbed "ghost particles," to unravel the secrets of the infinitesimally small and the infinitely vast in the universe.. (Xinhua/Jin Liwang)

solar neutrinos.

GHOST PARTICLES

Neutrinos, the smallest and lightest among the 12 elementary particles that make up the material world, are electrically neutral and travel at a speed close to that of light. Since the Big Bang, they have permeated the entire universe, generated in various phenomena, such as nuclear reactions inside stars, supernova explosions, the operation of nuclear reactors and the radioactive decay of substances in rocks. Since neutrinos rarely interact with ordinary matter, they can easily zip through our body, buildings or the entire Earth without being felt, hence earning the nickname "ghost particles."

Due to their elusive nature, neutrinos are the

least understood fundamental particles, requiring massive detectors to capture their faintest traces.

Scientists have found that neutrinos can be classified into three types, which are capable of transforming into one another, a phenomenon known as neutrino oscillation. Under the standard model of particle physics, neutrinos shouldn't have any mass.

The phenomenon of neutrino oscillation proves that neutrinos have tiny masses, which is an experimental phenomenon that exceeds the standard model, pointing to new physics to enhance our understanding of the universe, Wang said. Scientists around the world have studied neutrinos for over half a century, yet numerous

mysteries about the tiny particles remain unsolved, such as how do the masses of the three known types of neutrinos compare to one another? Are neutrinos and their anti-particles the same particles? Are neutrinos part of the cause of the asymmetry between matter and antimatter in the universe?

Despite their extremely small mass, neutrinos are one of the building blocks that make up the material world. They carry crucial knowledge about the universe, offering profound insights into the fundamental structure of the microscopic world and the origin and evolution of the macroscopic universe. "By studying neutrinos, we can understand why the universe has become what it is today, and what will be the future of the universe," Wang said. Neutrino research is at the forefront of particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology. Several significant breakthroughs in neutrino research have been honored with the Nobel Prize.

UNPRECEDENTED EXPERIMENT

A hill in Kaiping, 53 kilometers from both Yangjiang and Taishan nuclear power plants, was chosen to be the site of JUNO, where the oscillation effect of neutrinos from the reactors of the power plants is most pronounced. Additionally, the rocks of the hill serve as a shield against interference from cosmic rays, according to Cao Jun, deputy director of the IHEP. The gigantic sphere, weighing approximately 600 tonnes, composed of 265 pieces of 12-centimeter-thick acrylic panels, has been meticulously assembled from top to bottom by the construction team. "Compared to the sphere's enormous size, the 12-centimeter thickness is proportionally as thin as an eggshell," said Yang Changgen, deputy general manager of JUNO.

The sphere is fixed by a steel frame in the center of a 44-meter-deep cylindrical water tank. The interior of the acrylic sphere will be filled with 20,000 tonnes of liquid that can "flash" when detecting neutrinos. The water tank outside the sphere will be filled with 35,000 tonnes of ultra-pure water, which is used to shield cosmic rays and radioactive background radiation from rocks. The main component of the liquid inside the sphere is alkyl benzene, a key ingredient in detergents, which is non-toxic, easily biodegradable, and has a low risk of fire hazard, Cao said. When passing through the sphere, neutrinos have a small chance of bumping into the hydrogen nuclei in the liquid, triggering extremely faint flashes, which can be detected by the surrounding photo-multiplier tubes.

In order to construct this massive and complex scientific device, the team of scientists and engineers have overcome a series of unprecedented technological challenges. The team excavated and built an underground cavern to accommodate the facility with its arched roof spanning 49.5 meters, setting a record in China. To make the sphere and the liquid inside as transparent as possible, the total amount of dust in the 20,000 tonnes of liquid must not exceed 0.008 grams, said Yang. The team have developed photo-multiplier tubes with independent intellectual property rights, boasting the highest photon detection efficiency. They have also created an underwater explosion-proof system for photo-multiplier tubes, and conducted over 30 underwater explosion-proof experiments. They have innovated the design of the underwater electronic components, achieving aerospace-level reliability with a requirement of a failure rate of less than 0.5 percent within six years.

UK gov unveils employment rights bill to enhance workers' protection

LONDON

THE government of the United Kingdom on Thursday unveiled a new Employment Rights Bill, outlining reforms aimed at boosting economic growth and upgrading workers' rights across the country.

Presented to Parliament just before the Labour government marking its first 100 days in power, the bill is an attempt by the party to fulfill one of its election pledges.

The bill comprises 28 separate employment reforms, including the introduction of the rights to bereavement and parental leave from day one, boosting statutory sick pay, and making flexible working the default where practical.

It also proposes banning "exploitative" zero-hour contracts - which provide no guarantee of minimum working hours, as well as ending "bullying" fire-and-rehire practices - where employees are sacked and then reemployed under worse terms and conditions.

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner said the UK's present employment laws are "out-



A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaking during the weekly session of Prime Minister's Questions at in the House of Commons, central London, on Oct 9, 2024. AFP

of-date", blaming them of holding the country back and failing businesses and workers.

Calling the bill "the biggest upgrade to rights at work for a generation", Rayner added that the government's plans would boost pay and productivity, contribute to economic growth, and "make working people better off".

Businesses and employee groups have generally welcomed the bill, saying that it benefits workers, employers and businesses as a whole.

Paul Nowak, general secretary of the

Trades Union Congress (TUC), said that driving up employment standards would "give workers more predictability and control", and "stop good employers from being undercut by the bad".

However, the trade body UKHospitality said that protecting access to zero-hour contracts is essential for sectors like hospitality, which employ millions of people.

It added that such contracts are "crucial" for those who do not want fixed hours, allowing for flexibility to suit employees' lifestyles, as well as aligning with

business demands.

"Rushing to introduce measures too quickly would be the wrong thing to do and would increase the chances of inflicting damage to sectors like hospitality," said Kate Nicholls, chief executive of UKHospitality.

She added that such changes "are not without cost" and close consultation with businesses is needed to "avoid unintended consequences".

Subject to consultation, the new measure will not take effect until 2026 at the earliest.

All US steps in Asia-Pacific region aimed at isolating Russia, China - Lavrov

VIENTIANE

THE United States and its allies are making all possible efforts to isolate Russia and China in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (pictured) said at a press conference following his participation in the 19th East Asia Summit.

"All practical steps of the United States and its allies [in the Asia-Pacific region] are aimed at isolating themselves from Russia, isolating themselves from China, drawing as many members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN-TASS) to their side as possible," the top diplomat emphasized.

The foreign minister pointed to the paradoxical nature of the slogan promoted by the United States about the creation of the so-called free and open Indo-Pacific region.

"Of course, there is no question of

an open Indo-Pacific region in the concept that the US is now guided by," he underscored. "And when the US and its allies today unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to the central role of ASEAN in the development of cooperation in this region, they were, of course, to put it mildly, deceiving everyone, because everything they are doing is aimed at containing China and Russia," Lavrov pointed out.

According to him, "the achievement of this task includes everything that has been accumulated over many decades within the framework of the ASEAN-centric format, which was convenient for everyone, which took into account the interests of everyone". "Thus, the destructive nature of US actions in this part of the world is obvious," the top Russian diplomat concluded.

Agencies



Coal-rich province Shanxi makes progress in energy revolution

At 12:28 p.m., Aug. 27, solar power generation in the power grid of north China's Shanxi province surpassed 20 million kilowatts for the first time, setting a new record and accounting for 63.9 percent of the province's electricity load.

In response, coal-fired power plants proactively reduced their output to make room for renewable energy, ensuring safe and stable operation of the power grid throughout the day.

Shanxi, a major coal-producing province in China, has over 48.3 billion tons of proven coal reserves, accounting for 23.3 percent of the national total.

The province has reaped

some early fruits in recent years in the pilot programs of comprehensive energy reform. Advanced capacity of coal production now makes up 82 percent of the total, and the province accounts for 43 percent of all in-service intelligent mining faces in China. From 2021 to 2023, the province achieved a 10.9 percent reduction in energy consumption intensity, among the highest in China.

In its push to advance the energy revolution, Shanxi is driving its traditional coal industry toward higher-end, higher-quality, and more efficient operations.

At the No.2 coal mine of Shanxi Huayang Group New

Energy Co., Ltd., coal shearers 300 meters underground started working after a staff member had a few clicks on a mouse in a dispatch and command center. Real-time footage of mining, tunneling and coal transportation was shown on a high-definition screen.

A miner with 28 years of mining experience told People's Daily that mining relied heavily on manual labor in the past, and a single mining team could only extract 50,000 tons of coal per month.

"Now, the entire process is mechanized, with robots performing inspections. It saves manpower, allowing a team to mine 300,000 tons a month," said the miner, Xue Biao, head

of the mining team one of the No.2 coal mine.

Shanxi is also promoting safer production in coal mining enterprises, with a total of 133 intelligent coal mines now in operation. There are 756 operational intelligent mining faces across the province, and the share of advanced coal production capacity in the province has risen from 68 percent in 2019 to 82 percent this year.

To address the environmental challenges posed by coal mining, Shanxi is employing green mining technologies such as backfill mining, water-conserving extraction, and co-mining of coal and gas. The province has established

30 pilot demonstration green mines, which have effectively reduced waste rock emissions, surface subsidence, and water damage, helping improve the ecological environment of mining areas.

Accelerating technological upgrades and promoting the clean utilization of coal are also key components of Shanxi's energy revolution.

At Shanxi Ruiguang Power Co., Ltd., coal must undergo a comprehensive "health check" upon entering its factory.

Coal samples are automatically sent through pipelines into a robotic intelligent testing system, where it takes eight hours to analyze 30 parallel samples. The system tests for

parameters such as calorific value and chemical composition, with the results automatically recorded and uploaded, providing science-based data for power generation.

According to reports, the company officially launched an intelligent combustion optimization system at the end of October last year. This system utilizes advanced monitoring and intelligent control technologies to dynamically adjust key data like boiler temperature and air distribution, optimizing coal combustion for maximum efficiency.

The launching of the system could save approximately 3,000 tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide

emissions by 7,920 tons per year.

In addition, Shanxi is speeding up energy-saving and efficiency-improving upgrades for coal-fired power units, as well as modifications for heating and operational flexibility. The province's coal power structure is continuously optimized and upgraded. Between 2021 and 2023, Shanxi eliminated 2.45 million kilowatts of outdated capacity of coal-fired power units and completed upgrades on over 65 million kilowatts of existing units, resulting in a reduction of 12 grams of coal consumption per kilowatt-hour compared to 2020.

People's Daily



In this courtroom sketch, Sean "Diddy" Combs, right, in shackles, gestures to his mother, seated in the audience far left, who is blowing kisses to him following his hearing in federal court in New York, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. (AP)

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial set for May

NEW YORK

A MAY 5 trial date was set Thursday in Sean "Diddy" Combs' sex trafficking case, and a prosecutor argued that the jailed hip-hop mogul's lawyers were trying to exclude a "damning piece of evidence" by claiming it was leaked by the government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Johnson struck back against the defense's claims during Combs' first appearance before Manhattan federal court Judge Arun Subramanian, who will preside over his trial. Combs' mother flew in from Florida for the proceeding, sitting behind him with his children and other family members in the courtroom gallery.

Johnson took issue with the defense lawyers' argument in a submission late Wednesday that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security leaked a video to the media of Combs punching and kicking his former protege and girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, in a Los Angeles hotel hallway in 2016.

Combs' lawyers said the video, aired by CNN in May, and other alleged government leaks "have led to damaging, highly prejudicial pretrial publicity that can only taint the jury pool and deprive Mr. Combs of his right to a fair trial."

But Johnson urged the judge to see through the defense claims, calling them "baseless and simply a means to try to exclude a damning piece of evidence" from the trial.

"Not a single one of those alleged leaks are from members of the prosecution team," Johnson said.

Still, Subramanian told defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo to write a proposed order that he would sign instructing lawyers on both sides to comply with rules prohibiting them from publicly disclosing information that could taint a jury.

The prospective order would also restrict what both sides can publicly say about the case – something Johnson said was necessary after Agnifilo characterized Combs' indictment in a TMZ interview last month as a "takedown of a successful Black man."

Combs, 54, has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

Johnson reasserted that the indictment could be updated to add charges or defendants.

Combs, wearing a beige jail jumpsuit, was more engaged and animated during Thursday's hearing than he had been at two earlier court appearances. When he entered the courtroom, he gave a hearty hug to each of his lawyers and smiled as he spoke with them.

During the proceeding, he turned to attorney Anthony Ricco and whispered in his ear, as Johnson spoke about electronic materials seized from his residences and from him during his arrest.

Ricco said outside the courthouse af-

terward that Combs is making the best of a difficult situation.

"Dr. King called it the law of unintended consequences," he said, referring to civil rights leader Martin Luther King. "Sometimes the more you push a person down, the stronger they get."

Johnson said 96 electronic devices were seized in raids in March on Combs' residences in Miami and Los Angeles and at an unspecified private airport in Florida. She said another four devices were seized when Combs was arrested last month.

She said eight devices seized in Miami contained over 90 terabytes of information, which she labeled as "extraordinary" as she explained delays in extracting some information for technological reasons.

The judge said Combs can return to court in December unless lawyers agree that hearing is unnecessary.

Much of the hearing featured arguments by lawyers about what is needed to protect an eventual jury from bias, highlighted by Johnson's claims about the hotel video.

After the video was broadcast, Combs posted a social media video apologizing, saying: "I was disgusted when I did it" and "I'm disgusted now."

Responding Wednesday night in a court filing to defense claims that the federal government had leaked the video to CNN, prosecutors told the judge that the government was not in possession of the video before it was aired on CNN.

After the video aired, Combs apologized, saying, "I was disgusted when I did it." His lawyers have described the episode as a lovers' quarrel. In Combs' indictment, prosecutors allege he tried to bribe a hotel security staffer to stay mum about the video.

Combs' lawyers have been trying unsuccessfully to get the Bad Boy Records founder freed on bail. He has been held at a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest.

Two judges have concluded that Combs would be a danger to the community if he is released from the Metropolitan Detention Center, a facility that has been plagued by violence and dysfunction for years. At a bail hearing three weeks ago, a judge rejected a \$50 million bail package, including home detention and electronic monitoring, after concluding that Combs was a threat to tamper with witnesses and obstruct a continuing investigation.

In the meantime, Agnifilo said: "We're making a go of the MDC. The MDC has been very responsive for us."

In an appeal of the bail rulings to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, lawyers for Combs on Tuesday asked a panel of judges to reverse the bail findings, saying the proposed bail package "would plainly stop him from posing a danger to anyone or contacting any witnesses."

They urged the appeals court to reject the findings of a lower-court judge who they said had "endorsed the government's exaggerated rhetoric and ordered Mr. Combs detained."

Joshua Mutale vows to overcome criticism, fight for Simba's success

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club midfielder Joshua Mutale has reassured fans of his commitment to the team's success, despite facing recent criticism over his performances.

After joining Simba from Zambia's Power Dynamos, where he earned a reputation for his standout displays, Mutale (pictured) initially made a strong impression.

However, his recent form has been questioned by some sections of the fanbase.

In response to the criticism, Mutale remained positive, stating: "I understand that criticism is part of life, especially in football. For me, it's a good thing because it pushes me to be better. I don't take it personally; instead, I use it as motivation to work harder."

Acknowledging that it's impossible to win the approval of every fan, Mutale emphasized that his focus remains on helping Simba achieve its goals, which include winning titles.

"It's impossible to be loved by everyone, but I fight for every opportunity I get to make the fans happy and help Simba win," he said.

Mutale is aware of the expectations that accompanied his transfer to Simba and remains determined to overcome the challenges he faces.

"I know why I was brought to Simba, and I have to work through any challenges. My goal is to help the team succeed, and I am determined to make that happen," he added.



Despite the criticism, Mutale remains a key figure in head coach Fadlu Davids' plans.

Davids, known for his fast-paced, attacking football, values Mutale's ability to transition between defense and attack.

However, the midfielder faces stiff competition for his position, particularly from Kibu Denis, who has recently regained form, and new signing Elie Mpanzu, a Congolese winger known for his

speed and creativity.

Mutale's battle for a spot in the starting lineup has intensified, and his response to the competition will be critical as he looks to replicate the performances that made him a standout at Power Dynamos.

Simba SC's Board of Directors member Salim Abdallah, known as 'Try Again', recently commented on the club's transfer strategy, noting the high expectations

placed on the team's new signings.

Simba registered 14 new players during the last transfer window, and Try Again emphasized that these players need to prove their worth.

"We've made significant investments in young players with potential, and we believe they will help Simba achieve its objectives. However, if we are not satisfied with their performances, we will not hesitate to make further changes during the upcoming transfer window," Try Again stated.

The addition of Mpanzu to Simba's squad further increases competition for positions, as the club continues to strengthen its lineup in pursuit of domestic and continental success.

Mpanzu is expected to replace one of the club's foreign players during the mini-transfer window, which opens on December 15.

For Mutale and the rest of Simba's squad, the coming weeks will be critical as the club pushes forward with its season ambitions.

Many of the new signings have already made an impact, while others are still finding their place within the team.

For Mutale, this period represents a pivotal moment to prove his value to the club and its passionate fanbase.

K-pop star to testify on music industry bullying

By Mark Savage

South Korean pop star Hanni has made a surprise announcement, saying she will testify to the country's National Assembly in a hearing about bullying in the music industry.

The singer, who is part of the girl group NewJeans, said she had made the decision without telling her managers or her record label, Ador.

"I believe going forward is the right thing to do, no matter how much I think about it," she wrote to fans on social media.

It comes after she and the other four members of her band raised concerns about their treatment by Ador during an impromptu YouTube livestream on 11 September.

The group were the eighth biggest-selling act in the world last year, scoring international hits with feathery, throwback songs like SuperShy and OMG.

However, their mentor and record label chief executive, Min Hee-Jin, was removed earlier this year over allegations that she had planned a hostile takeover that would make NewJeans and Ador independent of their parent label, Hybe. Min has denied the accusations against her.

In the band's YouTube video, which has since been deleted, they demanded Min's reinstatement; and made claims of workplace harassment.

Hanni said that when she greeted the members of another band at their record label offices, their manager had instructed them to "ignore her".

The 20-year-old reported the incident to Ador's new chief



Hanni, from the band NewJeans, has previously raised concerns over workplace harassment. Agencies

executive, Kim Joo-Young - but said her concerns had been brushed off.

"She told me it was too late and that I had no evidence. Seeing her ignoring the issue made

me feel like there was no one to protect us," Hanni alleged during the livestream.

The accusation sparked a war of words between fans of NewJeans and the girl group Il-

lit - who were rumoured to be the antagonists.

As the row escalated, the agency managing Illit, Belift Lab, was forced to issue a denial.

"Illit's managers never instructed anyone to 'ignore' NewJeans members, and the Illit members have always greeted NewJeans when passing by," the agency said.

Belift said they had reviewed a video that showed Illit's members bowing to Hanni on the day of the incident - but that footage of their subsequent interactions was not available.

The agency also denied claims from the parents of NewJeans members that this later footage had been deleted on purpose.

The row eventually caught the attention of South Korea's Environment and Labour Committee, who have summoned both Hanni and Kim Joo-Young to testify to an audit on workplace harassment later this month.

In her statement, Hanni told fans: "I've made my decision. I'm going to go the National Assembly. A parliamentary inspection!"

"I'm going alone. They still don't know... neither my managers nor the company."

The singer thanked fans for their support, and reassured them that they don't "need to worry".

"I'm doing this for myself and for the members [of NewJeans], and also for the Bunnies [fans]," she added.

"No, it's not difficult. I want to do this."

BBC

Brazil has away win over Chile in World Cup qualifying and Lionel Messi's Argentina draws

By MAURICIO SAVARESE SAO PAULO

AN 89th-minute goal by substitute Luiz Henrique gave Brazil a 2-1 away win over Chile on Thursday in a 2026 World Cup qualifying match.

The win meant under-pressure Brazil coach Dorival Júnior's team will finish the ninth round of the round-robin competition in fourth place in South American qualifying.

Earlier, Lionel Messi's Argentina drew Venezuela 1-1 in a match that was delayed for 30 minutes due to a wet pitch at Monumental Stadium in the Venezuelan city of Maturín.

Argentina, which leads the 10-team competition, has 19 points after nine matches. Colombia, with 16 points, remains in second place after losing 1-0 at Bolivia. Uruguay is third with 15 points and has a chance to add more in a match against Peru on Friday. Brazil has 13 points.

*Brazil has dramatic comeback

Chile, one of the worst-performing teams in South American qualifying, opened the scoring seconds after the kickoff at the National Stadium in Santiago. Veteran striker Eduardo Vargas headed past goalkeeper Ederson, with the ball gently touching the back of the net.

Brazil struggled to create clear chances, but managed to equalize in added time with a header by its new striker, Igor Jesus, who came in as a replacement for injured Vinicius Júnior. The visitors kept most of the ball possession in the second half, but still failed to get clear chances.

In the final minutes, Henrique decided to take his chances from the edge of the box. The winning goal made several Chile players throw themselves to the ground in anguish.

Brazil's next match will be against Peru in Brasilia. Chile will travel to Colombia.

"This shirt means a lot. It is a great feeling for us to wear it. We know what is happening, but we wanted to change it," said Henrique. "Our fans can be sure we will fight always for this team. We are the only five-time World Cup champions, we will play with passion."

Dorival Júnior said that his team will continue to have ups and downs as the coach tries out new players.

Advertisement

"We will have a very strong team two years from now," Júnior said, in a reference for the next World Cup. "But it is only in the dictionary that success comes before work."

*Messi returns for Argentina

Defender Nicolás Otamendi opened the scoring for Argentina in the 13th minute. He pushed the ball to the empty net after a cross by Messi and a mistake by goalkeeper Rafael Romo.

Salomón Rondón equalized in the 65th minute with a header for the only South American team that has yet to play in a World Cup.

"The pitch did not help us do what we wanted to do," said Messi, who returned to the national team after missing the two previous rounds of South American qualifying due to ligament damage in his right ankle.

Venezuela defender Jon Aramburu said his team wanted a win to show its ambition.

"The rain affected the match, we couldn't play well," he said. "We drew against a team that everyone knows of its potential. But this team is here to beat them, to compete."

*Bolivia in the clouds to beat Colombia

Colombia, which had been the last unbeaten team in South American qualifying, was shocked at Bolivia in the Municipal Stadium in the city of El Alto, more than 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level. Bolivia moved into fifth place with 12 points after its first win in 21 years against the Colombians.

Miguel Terceros, also known as Miguelito, scored the winning goal for Bolivia in the 58th minute with a powerful shot after dribbling through two defenders.

Bolivia had lost Héctor Cuellar to a straight red card in the 21st minute after a gruesome tackle that forced the substitution of striker Roger Martínez, but the team remained competitive until the end of the match in its high-altitude stadium.

"We are a young team that wants to change history," Terceros said. "Now we will travel to Argentina thinking about winning."

Bolivia hasn't qualified for a World Cup since the 1994 edition in the United States.

England loses to Greece as Carsley experiment backfires and France wins without Mbappé

By STEVE DOUGLAS

LEE Carsley ran into the first problems of his tenure as England's interim coach after a bold team selection backfired in a 2-1 home loss to Greece in the Nations League on Thursday.

Erling Haaland became Norway's record scorer at the age of 24 with a double in his country's 3-0 win over Slovakia, while France – playing without Kylian Mbappé and the retired Antoine Griezmann – still had far too much for Israel in a 4-1 victory.

After leading England to back-to-back victories since becoming temporary coach after the European Championship, Carsley felt emboldened enough to field a team without a recognized striker in the absence of injured captain Harry Kane.

The lineup looked interesting and exciting on paper but resembled a mess on the field as Greece repeatedly picked off England and got in behind

a stretched defense.

Vangelis Pavlidis scored the opener for the visitors at Wembley Stadium in the 49th, Jude Bellingham equalized in the 87th, only for Pavlidis to take advantage of more sloppy defending to grab Greece's winner in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Greece's players, who also had three goals disallowed in the game, celebrated one of their most famous wins by gathering together and holding up the No. 2 jersey of George Baldock, the Panathinaikos defender who was found dead in his Athens home on Wednesday at age 31. Baldock played 12 matches for Greece and there was a period of silence in tribute to the right back ahead of the game, with players wearing black armbands.

"We gave everything for him," Pavlidis said in a tribute to Baldock, who he described as a "special guy."

It was England's first loss to Greece, which is ranked No. 48 in the world ranking, in 10

matches between the teams and deals a major blow to Carsley's hopes of becoming coach of the national team on a permanent basis.

It was meant to be fluid set-up, with in-form Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer starting a competitive international for the first time for England and deployed in central midfield, with Phil Foden and Bellingham splitting time as the furthest player forward in an attack filled with midfielders.

It didn't work.

"We never really gave ourselves a chance to see whether it was the right decision or wrong," said Carsley, who insisted it was not an "experiment."

"With the players we've got, we've got to be courageous at times with our systems and be creative. I thought it was important to try something different. I never at any point thought I've got it cracked. It was a case of, let's try something different."

*Haaland's record

Haaland scored twice to move onto 34 goals for Norway, one more than the previous record-holder Jorgen Juve from the 1930s.

Haaland, who has already scored 11 goals for Manchester City this season in all competitions, was captaining Norway for the first time in his 36th international appearance.

Alexander Sørloth also scored for Norway.

*Coping without Mbappe

Mbappé wasn't called up by France because of a minor injury, even though he has since played for Real Madrid, while the surprise retirement of Griezmann – a stalwart for coach Didier Deschamps for the past decade – gave it the feel of a new era for Les Bleus.

Goals by Matteo Guendouzi in the 87th and Bradley Barcola in the 89th wrapped up France's win against Israel, after Eduardo Camavinga and Christopher Nkunku netted in

the first half.

The game was played in Budapest, with Israeli teams having played home matches in neutral countries such as Hungary and Cyprus for security reasons since the Hamas attacks one year ago.

*Red card

Italy forward Lorenzo Pellegrini's red card proved decisive as his team squandered a two-goal lead and drew with Belgium 2-2 in Rome.

Italy went in front after barely 60 seconds, through right wing back Andrea Cambiaso, and striker Mateo Retegui made it 2-0 in the 24th.

Pellegrini was sent off for a foul on Arthur Theate that initially earned him a booking but was upgraded to a red card in the 40th after a VAR review.

From the resulting free kick, Maxim De Cuyper tucked away a fine finish from a well-worked move and Leandro Trossard equalized in the 61st.

AP

England's failed experiment gives one answer to Lee Carsley - but asks another about him

By Miguel Delaney

A FAILED experiment, which will doubtless lead to the first calls over whether that should be said of Lee Carsley. The interim England manager himself said he wouldn't describe his tactical approach to this first senior defeat in that way, only to also say it was something worth trying. He then actually refused to confirm he wanted the job, but talked around it so much he started to tie himself in knots.

There was even an unfortunate slip where he said "hopefully" he'd be returning to under-21s, but that was surely just on the condition he doesn't end up with the senior job. The scrutiny that comes with the latter was perhaps getting to him for the first time. There were moments when his explanations seemed as confused as his formation. Against that, Greece had such a clear focus. Their 2-1 away win was all the worse since the brilliant Vangelis Pavlidis scored both of their goals to show Carsley the value of a forward on a night when he took the historic step to go without one.

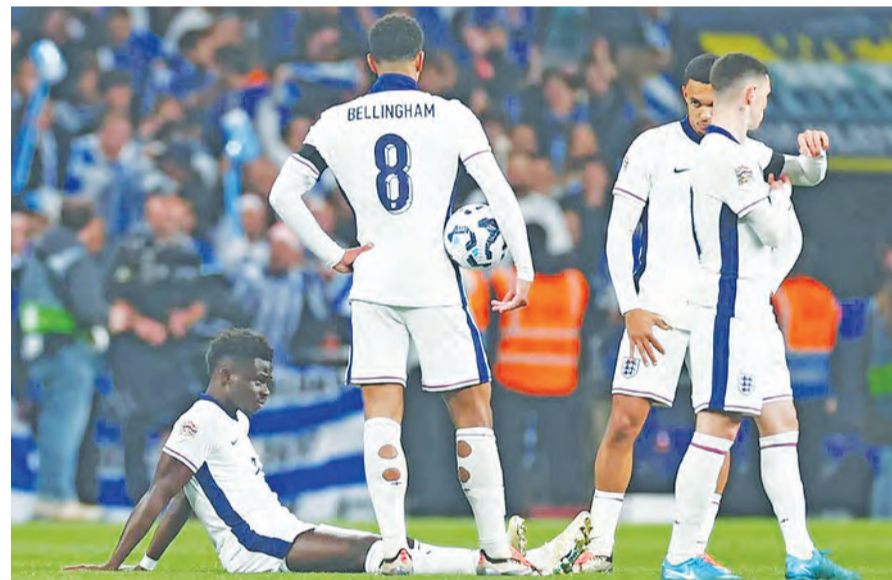
A line that goes from Dixie Dean to Harry Kane was broken, for a false nine that will instead bring talk of a false dawn.

Another little twist on the night was that Jude Bellingham did score England's only goal, but that after he had been moved back from the forward position after a formation that clearly failed, Carsley was no doubt doing his own thing – how else to describe this approach? – but he still looked like he was appealing to popular sentiment by putting all his stars in the same side. Bellingham led a strange team that also included Cole Palmer, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka.

"It was a case of, 'let's try something different'," Carsley explained afterwards. "I'm happy to take the blame for that. It was totally my idea. I thought about it long and hard in terms of how it might look, how it might feel. It probably didn't come off tonight... it definitely didn't but I don't think we give up on having that opportunity to try something different."

There was still one familiar issue, though. This is maybe where there is a touch more concern than just over the formation, especially as Carsley later clarified they had only actually worked on it for 20 minutes. The manager trying this approach once was fair enough, and where better to give a competitive test than in a mere Nations League game where you have already won twice. England could maybe have done with more forgiving opponents than Greece for that, mind. The visitors were up for it, and clearly emotionally emboldened by the tragic passing of former international George Baldock. Before getting into the tactical and technical discussion, it is worth recognising how touching it was that the Greek players had tears in their eyes when celebrating Pavlidis's goals.

Those strikes didn't just come from the formation, though. They came from something that has been a more concerning characteristic from Carsley's team, and is maybe where more focus should be. That is a porousness through the centre. Both Ireland and Finland created chances in those initial wins, and Greece did much more than that here. "The expectancy is that we're a big team who will beat Greece comfortably at Wembley," Carsley said. "You have to take into consideration that the opposition are highly-motivated and will try to



Saka went off injured and Foden was anonymous. Agencies

stop you."

They were instead getting through England so easily that it led to sheer panic in the defence, with accomplished defenders ending up desperately trying to kick the ball while prone on the ground. "I thought all of the goals were poor," Carsley said of his own players' errors. It said much that both of Pavlidis's goals ended up looking so similar, albeit with the two being crowned by classic striker's finishes.

It was remarkable, especially for a team and a manager who are supposed to be about tactical control. The tone had nevertheless been set by Jordan Pickford coming out to almost immediately give the ball away, before flapping at a corner. The goalkeeper was spared by Levi Col-

will's initial clearance and then the offside flag. Greece just kept coming, though. They sensed something was on.

That was because England's stars were so off it. While this wasn't all about the formation, it's impossible not to focus on it.

It got so extreme, with England so lacking in control or balance, that it was hard not to muse whether it was one of those Jose Mourinho line-ups that is part political point. Will anyone ever ask Carsley about playing all of the star attackers again?

Well, probably. It will likely only take one dull half for the clamour to start, and even this display should be caveated with the fact this was just one game and it was these players in just one approach, with that after

20 minutes' work. Carsley actually made a point of saying it's an option to try again in the future. He also explained: "I thought it was a creative way of trying to play... getting some of our attacking players on the pitch, to see what that would look like."

It didn't look great, with some long-obvious problems. Foden and Bellingham again got in each other's way, in situations that looked such a repetition from the summer. That was despite Bellingham playing in that different role as a false nine. It was maybe no surprise he got his goal when he was moved back.

Palmer meanwhile may be one of the most tactically versatile players in England for his technique and game intelligence, but that

doesn't mean it isn't a waste putting him in this midfield role. It led to the most conspicuous element of England's performance. That was a huge gap in the centre of the pitch, and often between the attackers.

After years when Southgate teams were criticised for not having enough creativity, Carsley here went too far in the other direction. His team were crying out for more of Southgate's order.

Carsley did eventually introduce it, and it was ironic – and maybe somewhat logical – that one of England's most expansive ever formations actually finished up as something closer to a traditional 4-4-2.

That defensive porousness still remained, though. Greece had a goal-line clearance, the initial Pavlidis goal, and three goals disallowed. It was all building to something, and that wasn't Carsley conjuring an intervention to make the job his.

Greece were instead going to make the night theirs. By the 93rd minute, the same issues played out, as the same forward scored. It was no less than Greece deserved. It will raise the first big questions over whether Carsley should get a job that looked like it was his to take.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

England loses to Greece as Carsley experiment backfires and France wins without Mbappé

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Morocco vows improvement as Taifa Stars prepare for crucial second leg



Taifa Stars attacking midfielder Feisal Salum 'Feitoto' (L) in action during their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations Group H qualifier against the Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday held at the Pentecost Martyrs Stadium in Kinshasa. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat in their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Group H qualifier against the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Thursday.

The match, held at the Pentecost Martyrs Stadium in Kinshasa, was tightly contested, leaving the Tanzanian side with a crucial task ahead as they prepare for the second leg.

Taifa Stars head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman acknowledged the team's shortcomings in his post-match interview, emphasizing the need to refocus and improve before the upcoming fixture.

"We lost due to a lapse in concentration. The goal we conceded could have been avoided, but we must now shift our mindset to the next game," he said.

"We have three days of preparation before facing them again, and I'm confident we will put in a stronger performance for the entire 90 minutes."

Despite the setback, Coach Morocco remained optimistic about the team's chances in the home leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"We still have a good opportunity to win at home and improve our position in the group," he added.

"The technical mistakes today cost us, especially in attack, but we will work on sharpening our play in the final third."

The match unfolded like a tactical battle, with Tanzania opting for a defensive approach while DRC dominated possession and pressed forward in search of control.

From the opening whistle, DRC launched a series of probing attacks against a well-organized Taifa Stars defense. Despite their commanding play, DRC was unable to convert their chances in the first half.

Tanzania's strategy was clear: absorb pressure and strike on the counter. In the 17th minute, DRC nearly broke the deadlock when Samuel Essende latched onto a pass from Théo Bongonda.

Essende's powerful shot seemed destined for the back of the net, but

Taifa Stars goalkeeper Ally Salim made a crucial save to keep the scoreline level.

Tanzania's best chance in the first half came in the 36th minute. Team captain Mbwana Samatta unleashed a powerful shot from outside the box, but the ball narrowly missed the target, skimming just past the post and sending a wave of anticipation through the stadium.

The first half ended goalless, but the intensity on the field hinted that either side could produce a game-changing moment in the second period.

As the second half began, DRC returned with renewed energy and pressed high, testing Tanzania's de-

fense.

The breakthrough came early in the half when DRC won a corner. The ball was delivered into Tanzania's penalty area with precision, and in a stroke of bad luck for Taifa Stars, Tanzanian forward Clement Mzize misjudged the ball's flight, deflecting it into his own net.

Goalkeeper Salim, caught off guard, had no chance to prevent the unfortunate own goal.

The crowd at the Pentecost Martyrs Stadium erupted in celebration, as DRC took the lead. For Taifa Stars, the own goal was a bitter blow, shifting the momentum in favor of the home team.

DRC's confidence surged following the goal, with Bongonda becoming a constant threat on the wings.

Bongonda's quick feet and dribbling ability caused problems for Tanzania's defense, and he created several dangerous opportunities for his team.

In the 80th minute, DRC almost doubled their lead when Arthur Masuaku fired a powerful free-kick from just outside the box.

The shot crashed against the crossbar, leaving the stadium in stunned silence before the crowd erupted in disbelief that they hadn't scored again.

Despite Tanzania's efforts to regroup, they struggled to create meaningful chances in the closing minutes. Their sporadic attacks lacked precision, and DRC held on to secure the 1-0 win.

Taifa Stars now have three days to prepare for the return leg in Dar es Salaam, where they will need a positive result to keep their hopes of advancing to the 2025 AFCON finals alive.

Coach Morocco remains confident that his team can bounce back at home, with the support of their fans at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"The key will be to capitalize on our chances and tighten up our defense to avoid costly mistakes," Morocco said. "With our home support, I believe we can turn things around and keep our Afcon dream alive."

Tanzania's fate in Group H now hinges on their ability to rally and secure a victory in the second leg against DRC, a game that will be critical for their qualification hopes.



Kagera Sugar confirm Paul Nkata exit after woeful start

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KAGERA Sugar has confirmed the departure of head coach Paul Nkata after just two months at the helm, following a poor start to the 2024/25 Premier League season.

In a statement released late Thursday evening, the club announced the mutual termination of Nkata's contract.

The Ugandan coach's departure follows a disappointing run of form, with Kagera Sugar struggling to find success in the early stages of the campaign.

"The Kagera Sugar Club management has reached a mutual agreement to terminate the contract of Head Coach Paul Nkata," the statement read.

The club confirmed that assistant coach Marwa Chamberi and fitness coach Eduard Kaziba had also been dismissed.

"We have also reached a mutual agreement to terminate the contract of Assistant Coach Marwa Chamberi and Fitness Coach Eduard Kaziba.

"The management thanks the coaches for their contribution to our club and wishes them all the best in their new roles," it said.

Nkata (pictured) was appointed in August and oversaw seven league games with the club this season, losing five, drawing one and winning one.

He started the season by suffering a 1-0 home defeat to Singida Black Stars.

It was a harsh defeat coming at the last minute when everyone thought the two sides had shared spoils at Kaitaba Stadium.

The hosts dominated proceedings with 55% of the ball while managing five attempts on target, without seeing the back of the net.

Young Africans heaped more misery on Kagera Sugar, as Miguel Gamondi's side defeated the Millers 2-0 to condemn them to back-to-back home defeats.

Tabora United extended Kagera Sugar winless streak to three games with a 1-0 victory. A goalless home draw with JKT Tanzania earned them their first point of the season.

A 2-0 victory over rock bottom Ken Gold followed before the team returned to losing streak with 3-1 defeat on the road to Fountain Gate.

A narrow 1-0 loss to KMC condemned Kagera Sugar to their fifth loss and spelled the end of the Ugandan coach's time at the Missenyi club.

As a result, Kagera Sugar are sitting in the relegation zone and faced with a mountain to climb to revive their campaign, which resumes with a visit to Pamba Jiji in Mwanza after the FIFA international break next week.

Young Africans return to training, eyeing derby triumph and CAF Champions League success

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans have resumed training sessions as they prepare for upcoming fixtures, including the highly anticipated derby against Simba SC and the CAF Champions League.

Under the leadership of coach Miguel Gamondi, the team is focused on fostering cohesion between players returning from international duty and those who have stayed behind.

Coach Gamondi has previously noted the difficulties posed by the international break, especially with many of his players involved in AFCON qualifiers, which can disrupt the team's rhythm and tactical preparations. Despite these challenges, the team re-

mains committed to maintaining their strong form.

Team manager Walter Harrison expressed confidence in Young Africans' ability to continue their winning streak in the Premier League while preparing for the CAF Champions League group stage.

"After our recent Premier League match against Pamba Jiji, we've taken a short break to regroup. Training has resumed as we gear up for the upcoming derby against Simba. All players who are not on international duty are currently training under Coach Miguel Gamondi.

"We aim to smoothly reintegrate our players returning from international

duty with the rest of the squad, helping us create a unified team ready for the start of the domestic league," said Harrison.

Young Africans are poised to capitalize on their position in the Premier League standings, having won all four of their games. Their rivals, Simba SC, have played one more match, with four wins and one draw, leaving the teams closely matched.

The fierce rivalry between Young Africans and Simba will be renewed when they face off in the Mainland Premier League. Their last encounter was in the season opener for the Community Shield, where Young Africans secured a 1-0 victory, thanks to Maxi

Nzengeli's first-half goal.

Looking ahead to their CAF Champions League campaign, Young Africans face a tough group featuring TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo, MC Alger of Algeria, and Al Hilal of Sudan. This marks the club's third appearance in the tournament and their first consecutive qualification.

Last season, Young Africans reached the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League but were knocked out by Mamelodi Sundowns in a dramatic penalty shootout.

This season, the team is aiming to go even further, with the semifinals set as their primary goal.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

