



LIVESTOCK



GOVT LURES INVESTORS INTO LIVESTOCK SECTOR PG 3

TRANSPORT



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BUSINESS 2022 Ecobank's fintech challenge starts as \$50,000 cash up for grabs

SMS traffic to EA, international destinations decreases in five years

TCC earnings per share increase by 31.5pct in H1

Oil, gas investors generate \$1.4trn cash flow in 2022

US hails census, counting halfway

Minister: NEMC set to inspect shops, markets for plastic bags

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is launching a nationwide clearing effort over the use of unauthorized plastic bags, especially in butcheries, starting Monday, August 29. Dr Selemani Jafo, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), said inspectors will also visit markets, shops, open markets, among others.

Addressing National Environment Management Council (NEMC) zonal managers and other top administrators, he called on local authorities to ensure the campaign is fully implemented, saying some traders ignore the June 2019 ban on plastic bags, and slowly creeping them back into the market.

Plastic bags approved for packaging are available as shopping bags, he said, noting that alternative bags in the market don't always meet the standards for recyclable bags. The banned ones are single use bags, he stated.

Apart from evading tax, illegal plastic bags cause unfair competition in the market as alternative plastic bags users incur purchase costs dissimilar to illegal plastic bag dispensers. Markets and shop operators in the country need to operate within existing directives, which must be supervised to conserve the environment for current and future generations, he said.

Before the 2019 ban, the situation was not good at all with plastic bags flying almost everywhere in the country but thereafter the situation improved, despite a few traders trying to bring back those bags again. Members of regional and district

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE United States Census Bureau yesterday expressed satisfaction with the ongoing Population and Housing Census, saying it is an exemplary undertaking.

Savy Surumpudi, chief of methodology and software development at the technical assistance office for international programmes in the bureau, is leading the US delegation observing the census. He applauded the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) for the good preparation and conduct of the census exercise.

After a press briefing on the ongoing census, he specifically commended Dr Albina Chuwa, the statistician general, affirming that her office had done a wonderful job. "This is great," the visiting expert remarked.

The US bureau has been working closely with NBS in the planning, preparation and conduct of the sixth nationwide census, with intent to further cooperation between the two institutions.

She said that in the ongoing census, at least 54 per cent of the targeted households had been counted, slightly over two days since the exercise was launched. The process was going on smoothly and all Tanzanians will be counted by the last day of the exercise, she emphasised.

Urging enumerators to observe guidelines set out by NBS, she said her office would not tolerate misconduct. Enumerators in urban areas were required to have counted at least 150 households by the end of the exercise while those in rural areas were given the 100 households threshold, she stated.

"Let me remind census officials on the ground that we shall hold the last installment of their payment if they fail to attain the agreed number of households," the director intoned.

The census exercise has attracted interest among experts in the international community, bringing it under sharp scrutiny, thus enumerators must perform at their best as demanded in the contract, she stated.

The visit by top experts from the US Census Bureau attest to this dimension, she said, affirming that regionally it is Tanzania and Rwanda who launched such exercises in the recent past.

The US delegation would set out an assessment after hearing from their hosts, with the meeting being held after the press briefing in the afternoon.

A nationwide week-long population and

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Samia acts on CAG's report, nine picked to head boards

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has appointed nine individuals lead boards of public organisations (parastatals) in what appears to be measures tied to concerns raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in his last annual report.

In his report for the 2020/2021 financial year, CAG Charles Kichere raised queries on the lack of functioning boards of directors for a number of eligible public institutions, while some chief executives work on an acting capacity.

The lack of supervising boards



The lack of supervising boards was occasioning unaccountable management and exposing public funds to being misused

was occasioning unaccountable management and exposing public funds to being misused, while acting status of CEOs leads to inefficiency for insufficient authority among colleagues in the management, the report affirmed.

A State House statement said yesterday that President Samia has appointed nine board chairmen and CEOs, where Dr Venance Mwase takes over as executive director of the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO).

Ramadhani Nyamka becomes Commissioner General of Prison Services, while

Filbert Mponzi will head the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) as chairman, adding to his functions as head of retail banking at NMB Bank Plc.

Dr Tausi Kida, executive director with the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) becomes board chairperson at the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), while former legislator Victor Mwambalasa takes over as



Josia Sakala, Kahama District's traffic police vehicle inspector, pictured yesterday checking the brake system of one of some 60 buses deployed by private primary schools in the district to ferry pupils. It was in implementation of a recent order by Tanzania Traffic Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa meant to ensure that all such vehicles are perfectly roadworthy, the idea being to reduce the incidence of road crashes. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

IUCN shapes up Z'bar blue economy projects

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Pemba

THE International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has commended Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for supporting the fish and sea cucumber farming project as part of the blue economy project in the Isles. Dr Elinasi Monga, the IUCN coastal and ocean resilience program manager, expressed this

sentiment when inspecting progress of the project in Pemba Island. IUCN is supporting four groups of entrepreneurs working at the grassroots level in salt mining, seaweed farming and mangroves conservation, listed in the Zanzibar government list of groups to be supported. Groups being supported obtain \$12,500 and

entrepreneurship training to scale up existing activities and accelerate similar initiatives in sea-related income generation projects, he said. IUCN is encouraged with President Mwinyi's support for the project, furthering the development of the blue economy while generating long-term conservation of coastal and marine

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IUCN shapes up Z'bar blue economy's farm projects

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biodiversity in Pemba, he said. The programme is aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in piloting ocean ventures within the Tanga-Pemba seascape, the manager noted, asserting that the project is designed to assist Pemba residents in marketing of goods, uplifting working capital and skills acquisition. The project will enable the community to demonstrate the social, environmental and economic impacts of local blue entrepreneurship in Pemba, he stated. The component for the blue economy initiative is part of an international conservation project mainstreaming Isles government efforts in its overall focus, titled "Towards a blue future in the Tanga-Pemba seascape area," implemented in partnership involving IUCN, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Sciences Association (WIOMSA) and Ocean Hub Africa, a South African environmentalist group assisting startup firms working in ocean conservation projects, based in Cape Town. The partnership led by IUCN took up the Tanga-Pemba project as a one-year pilot project funded by the Embassy of Ireland in Dar es Salaam (Irish Aid), the manager explained.

The purpose is to improve livelihoods and participants' socio-economic status in Pemba. The blue economy incubation program (BEI) was launched in Tanga a few months earlier, he elaborated. Dr Salum Mohamed Hamza, a senior official of the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, said that a total of 577 full package fiber boats have been provided on loan without interest charges for fisheries groups. Some boats are seven meters long and priced at 26m/- while the eight meters long boats fetch 33m/-. The president has provided the fiber boats through the Covid-19 relief funds as a major component of the ministry's program, targeting farming of fish, sea cucumber, crabs, seaweed and wider fishing work, he said.

Sea cucumber project beneficiaries are listed as 100 out of whom 50 reside in Pemba, those in fish farmers are 40 where 20 are based in Pemba and crab farming beneficiaries are 60, with 30 similarly resident in Pemba, he said, noting that in Pemba upwards of 215 and 360 groups in fisheries and seaweed respectively are targeted for handling of equipment. The farm entrepreneurs who are venturing into sea-based activities are persuaded that the president is determined to see local communities empowered to engage in the blue economy agenda in meaningful ways.

Raya Ali Machame of the Chokocho-based YatakaMoyo Cooperative said the president's support has come at the right time as fishing needs improved equipment. "We have learnt many things in this project," she said, expressing the hope that this assistance will enable them to achieve their goals.

Juma Said Ali, a leader of the sea cucumber, beekeeping and mangroves conservation cooperative at Mapape village in Chambani area, said the fiber boats will enhance fishing activities. Fatuma Khamis Abdallah, part of the Uvumbuzi salt cooperative society, hailed IUCN for the training on how to scale up salt mining, improving the profit margin. District commissioners Abdallah Rashid Abdallah and Khatibu Juma Mjaja for Chakechake and Mkoani districts respectively, said the project was touching off positive outcomes, with income generation opportunities the key aspect.

IUCN research helps the region to identify challenges facing people and how to address them, the manager noted, citing transport and market issues which are now being tackled, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi gifts Iran's Foreign Affairs minister Dr Hossein Amir Abdollahian (L) a souvenir shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Minister: NEMC set to inspect shops, markets for plastic bags

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security committees must work together in the campaign as Tanzania cannot afford to lag behind in the global agenda of protecting the environment, he declared. Reminding participants that Tanzania has ratified

environment protection protocols in that regard, he said the challenge comes from neighbouring countries, he urged the public as a whole to take responsibility in fighting illegal trading of banned plastic bags. Dr Samuel Gwamaka, the

NEMC director general, said the council conducted a public education campaign on plastic bags in packaging during the run up to the ban in June 2019. NEMC along with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Revenue

Authority (TRA), made far reaching awareness campaigns, moved to control the importation of plastic bags but some consignments are infiltrated through porous border routes. The main challenge was that some neighbouring

countries still use plastic bags in packaging and some local business people take advantage of this discrepancy to make them cheaply available for shoppers and the market in Tanzania, he added.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L) pictured in Nova Scotia, Canada, yesterday exchanging greetings with her Zambian counterpart, Nally Mutti, on the sidelines of the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Samia acts on CAG's report, 9 appointed to oversee parastatals

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board chairman for the Tanzania Tobacco Board (TTB).

President Samia appointed the co-founder of the Tanzania Data Lab (dLab), Omar Bakari to head the board of the Agricultural Inputs Trust Fund (AGITF) and Salum Awadh Hagan to chair the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB). Hagan is SSC Capital CEO, a city financial advisory firm. Other appointees are Prof Andrew Temu, named to head the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) board, Abdulmajid Nsekela to chair the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) board on top of his functions as CEO at CRDB Bank Plc, with Christopher Gachuna taking up the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) chairmanship.

The president similarly appointed Ambassador Mwanaidi Maajar, a prominent lawyer, to head the Council of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) replacing Judge (rtd) Damian Lubuva who has completed his tenure.

Prof William Anangisy, the vice chancellor for the University of Dar es Salaam, was appointed to a second term as National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) board chairman, with all appointments taking effect at the start of this week, August 23, the statement added.

US praises census drive with counting halfway

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housing census digs deeper into personal data than in the past, to identify bona fide citizens, immigrants, refugees,

foreign residents and passing visitors. Employment status and livelihood engagements are also being profiled.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who designated Tuesday as a public holiday for the exercise, was the first to be enumerated

at the Chamwino State House in the capital.

"I have been counted. It is true that there are more questions, but they can be answered," she remarked after the half hour interview, urging citizens to familiarise themselves with the

questions, and where needed use documents like national identity cards.

This year's census is the first to have an extensive digital component, embedding housing and property data in the questionnaire.

Its findings will enable economic planners to modify projected needs in social services and public facilities with more accurate profiling of community and environmental needs.

PIC stresses importance of striking agreement on building grain stores

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Investment Committee (PIC) has directed the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to finalise talks with a contractor working on construction of Silos in eight regions after identifying delays in the project.

The committee also directed the NFRA to ensure the country continues to have food security by all means.

PIC chairperson Jerry Silaa made the remarks yesterday after the committee received the performance of the agency for the past year.

He said NFRA has been working on a project to increase the capacity of food reserves from 251,000 to 500, 0001 under a project funded jointly by the government of Poland worth \$55 million.

The Silos are being constructed in Manyara, Katavi, Njombe, Songwe, Songea, Dodoma, Rukwa and Shinyanga.

"There was a problem with the contractor but the committee has directed that the discussion should reach an end because it has taken a long time," he said.

According to Silaa the contractor opted to return engineers back home in Poland after the outbreak of Covid-19 but they later returned.

Due to the development, various discussions have been ongoing including talks between the two countries on how the project can be finalized.

He said the project was supposed to start in 2016 and the contractor requested for an advance payment and later it was agreed that the project should be implemented jointly by contractors both countries a move which made the project to take time to start.

He added that more of the time was also spent during the Covid-19 pandemic in which the contractor sent experts to Poland who later failed to come back on time because of the border restrictions which were imposed by countries.



Ipilinga Panya (2nd-L, gesturing), legal counsel for 19 disputed Chadema Special Seats legislators, has a word with his clients in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after the Dar es Salaam Zone of the High Court of Tanzania adjourned hearing of the case revolving around their having been stripped of membership of the opposition party. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Tanzanian farmers widely expected to gain from shortage of sunflower oil

By Correspondent Valentine

Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA stands a prestigious opportunity to benefit from the sunflower edible oil supply disruptions caused by the on-going Russia - Ukraine war by tapping into regional markets that heavily depend on sunflower oil imports from Ukraine, namely Kenya and Ethiopia.

This can be achieved if the country can immediately work on measures to address the systemic constraints that prevent the smallholder sunflower farmers from achieving their productive potential, according to a special research report by Farm Africa.

The report, dubbed: "Tanzania sunflower market assessment report" the constraints in question include limited access to loans for investment, lack of adequate supplies of improved seed, working in unstructured and unregulated market systems as well as lack of proper business development services support. Other setbacks haunting the small-scale farmers engaging into the key sector are agro-dealers being largely based in towns and peri-urban areas, but also, inadequate supply of seed during planting seasons.

However, limited access to pro-poor market linkages due to unstructured and unregulated market systems, and inadequate business development services (BDS) support from relevant service providers have also been cited as further challenges upsetting the hapless farmers.

Researcher of the Farm Africa's Tanzanian team, Tumaini Elibariki stated that availability of improved and hybrid seed varieties is essential to growing sunflower yields among smallholder farmers in Tanzania. "The itemized challenges have been aggravated by the war in Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine have been the leading producers and suppliers of sunflower products globally in recent years, but farmers have seen supply chain disruptions and an increase in fertilizer price due to the conflict," said Elibariki, who is also the Farm Africa program manager.

According to him, demand for sunflower products is continuing to soar in Tanzania to meet a growing domestic market for cooking oil, but however, most smallholder farmers are struggling to meet the growing demand due to the myriad challenges. Elibariki added that the

report has also successfully offered some meaningful interventions, necessary to be implemented jointly, by the government and key stakeholders in order to address the challenges troubling the sunflower farmers.

Among the interventions include the need to increase the availability and access to improved seed varieties by smallholder farmers as well as the need to invest in the use of cleaned record seed through local quality declared seed (QDS) production.

"Current initiatives by the government through agricultural research institutions to clean parent stock of record seed for farmers can support such efforts, and stimulate the stock of improved sunflower seed varieties to increase retail and bulk selling by local agro-dealers."

"This can be achieved by fostering partnerships between farmers, farmer organizations (FOs) and Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOS), as well as using farmers' business cases to influence local agro-dealers to stock the seeds and engage in business relationships with local farmers and their respective FO to increase access and availability of seed," Elibariki unveiled.

Ndaki encourages private investors in dairy farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

MASHIMBA Ndaki, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, has encouraged investors in the private sector to invest in the livestock sector including the dairy farming due to the marvelous opportunities found on it so as to grow their capitals and earn more income.

He made the call when he visited and inspected the progress of the Kahama Fresh milk and animal feed processing plant located in Karagwe District, Kagera Region on Thursday.

Minister Ndaki cited an example of the Kahama Fresh investor who started investing in a farm given to him by the government and until now has opened a big factory to process milk and animal feed.

"Let me assure you that the ministry is here to support any investor who will be able to make a smart investment so as to promote development of the dairy sub-sector in which its market is growing locally and overseas," he said.

He added; "Investors who are interested

to establish projects in the livestock sector are assured of close support from the government sector which has continued to improve key infrastructures such as roads, water and energy as well as putting other attractive business conditions to enable them operate smoothly, produce jobs and contribute in the country's economic growth."

The minister further emphasized that through their investment they will be also linked to other breeders who are doing subsistence farming to enter agreements that will stimulate production and increase income.

Josam Mtangeki, Kahama Fresh Factory investor commended the government for putting a conducive business environment but only few challenges are still thwarting their operations.

He named them as shortage of water and access to enough animal pasture especially during the summer asking the ministry to increase the area of not less than 2000 hectares to enable them cultivate pastures for livestock.



TANOIL INVESTMENTS LIMITED

OFFER FOR SPOT PURCHASE OF CONDENSATE FROM SONGOSONGO

Date: 26th August 2022

TANOIL INVESTMENTS, a TPDC subsidiary assigned to sell Songosongo Condensate hereby calls for expressions of interest from eligible firms (local or international) for purchase of 1650MT +/- 10% of condensate uplifted as a single lot. Apart from obtaining the prospective buyer, the Seller intends to update the database of potential buyers and those who need to get EWURA permits/Licences. The proposed uplifting Lay can be September 24th to 28th 2022 subject to change; a confirmed uplifting date will be determined after considering key factors. The most recent product's specification may be shared to interested buyers for reference. Where need be, the successful buyer will be allowed to draw sample and conduct analysis to verify specifications at his/her own cost.

For effective utilization, the seller prefer buyers with export market or local buyers with approved local consumption or re-export (Buyers for local consumption or for re-export, must obtain EWURA permit). For export, TANOIL Investments will process and issue export documents upon receipt of payments.

Fourteen days (14) before loading, inspection and vetting of the Vessel and Tug Boat nominated by the buyer will be undertaken by authorised Marine Surveyor/Engineer, appointed by the Seller. The inspector will also verify certificates, permits and/or approvals of the vessels. The successful buyer must mobilize and ensure the Vessel and the Tugboat are at site 24hrs and 48hrs respectively before the uplifting time for final inspection. Loading plans, arrangements and instructions will be set and agreed in the preloading operations meetings. Proposals from Applicants with pending issues/disputes with the Seller on the same (condensate sale) will not be considered. A Buyer must confirm interest and submit his/her proposal to TANOIL not later than on Monday the 5th of September, 2022 at 11:00 hours. Proposal to be delivered physically, through registered mail or courier and reach the undersigned before deadline. The proposal must be accompanied by the buyers quote in a specific price form indicating price per unit in USD and total value. The proposal should be sealed; marked

"Offer for spot purchase of condensate from Songo Songo" and addressed to:

General Manager,
TANOIL INVESTMENTS,
P.O. Box 77445, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.
gmtanoil@tpdc.co.tz ; operations@tanoil.co.tz; Hard copies to be submitted to TANOIL OFFICES, TPDC ESTATE- MIKOCHENI. Tel: +255-7535 333323.

TERMS OF SALE

TANOIL sells the product on the following terms:-

No	Item	Terms
1	Price	a) FOB (SONGOSONGO) in USD/MT; Buyer's offer must be valid for a 30 days from the date of submission. (FOB quote to be accompanied by EWURA dealership Licence) b) DAP (Export Destination) in USD/MT; Buyer's offer must be valid for 30 days from the date of submission. Buyer to quote either of the two.
2	Mode of payment	Advance payment before delivery or Letter of Credit (Sight LC) issued and confirmed by a first class bank. Other modes of advance payments like Cheques, cash deposits or Telegraphic transfer are acceptable.
3	Local taxes	Will be borne by the buyer.
4	Proposal details	The detailed proposal must comprise necessary information including:- a. Application letter; Company profile; and Price form; b. For qualifications and eligibility; submit operating licences, Registration Certificates, MEMARTS, TIN/VAT Certificates, permits and approvals from relevant bodies (EWURA, SUMATRA and BRELA etc.) and Hospitality/storage agreement; EWURA Condensate dealership licence. c. Product utilization, final destination and evidence of its market; for local consumption, buyer must submit EWURA permit, dedicated storage approved by EWURA & commitment to submit returns to the Authority; d. Evidence of Capacity to perform the task - experience of at least three (3) years in similar business; and financing capacity (Bank statement, and either Letter of Credit or Bank guarantee with validity not less than 30 days as payment security); e. Evidence of hiring/engaging Vessel, mooring and Tugboats and assurance of timely availability at site (Evidence from service providers and approval from their relevant authorities). The buyer can submit proposal of two vessels and tugboats for vetting by the supplier.
5	Confirmation of interest	A Buyer must confirm interest and submit his/her proposal to TANOIL not later than Monday 5 th September, 2022 at 11:00 hours at TANOIL offices located in TPDC ESTATES-MIKOCHENI.

Note1: Songosongo terminal limitation include 4metres draft; two un-lighting buoys distanced at 120m; mooring and berthing is during daylight only; proposed Vessel LOA 105m. Tugboat must have at least 5 ton bollard pull (a pull of >1.0kg per dead weight ton) Buyer will be responsible with health, TRA and TPA clearances and port charges (wayleave and marine bills) all are facilitated by shipping agent- TASAC or Clearing Agent if different from TASAC.

Note2: Buyer's PRICE FORM (in letterhead to evidence Unit price USD/MT and total Value in USD)



Kahama Fresh Company director Josam Mtangeki (gesturing) briefs Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (R) on the now-closed Kahama fresh milk and animal feeds factories as the latter toured a plant being established in Karagwe District on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CCBRT, Equinor join hands on fistula treatment in Lindi region

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM-based CCBRT hospital and Equinor Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to provide holistic care and economic empowerment to women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula from Lindi region.

In the MoU, Equinor will support CCBRT for 3 years with a total of \$250,000.

The support will provide funding for phases III, IV and V of partnership between these two institutions. The first two phases that took place from 2019 to 2022 saw a total of 57 women with fistula from Lindi region treated as well as provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for health providers at CCBRT and Sokoine hospital against COVID-19.

Speaking during the press conference held at CCBRT yesterday, CCBRT's Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi, expressed her profound gratitude to Equinor for their generous support.

"CCBRT is incredibly grateful to Equinor for their generous support. The lives of women suffering from obstetric fistula improve dramatically with treatment at CCBRT because of partners like Equinor. We thank you for supporting building awareness and treatment of fistula, as well as economic empowerment of these women after the treatment in Tanzania particularly in Lindi region," said Brenda.

Equinor's Executive Vice President for exploration and production international, Al Cook, said, "Equinor believes that the way we

deliver is as important as what we deliver. In Tanzania we collaborate with local authorities and civil society to better understand the needs of our host communities to ensure the long-term sustainability of our support. The fistula programme in Lindi through CCBRT provides a platform for Equinor to engage meaningfully with the community in Tanzania alongside other initiatives."

Since 2015, Equinor has been part of the health agenda in Mtwara and Lindi through supporting the men suffering from Hydrocele and Inguinal Hernia which is under Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme (NTDCP).

Equinor believes that this initiative will improve the lives of the fistula patients and their communities. We are optimistic that once these women recover, they will be able to take part in the social and economic activities that will contribute to the development of Lindi region and Tanzania.

As many as 3,000 Tanzanian women develop obstetric fistula each year, a condition that leaves them incontinent, leaking urine and/or faeces uncontrollably. As a result, they are often excluded from their families and communities.

"Equinor is humbled to be part of this initiative and to partner with CCBRT Hospital. This is important for us as we strive to engage closely with the local community while taking part in supporting initiatives that enhance the community's ability towards social and economic activities".



Brenda Msangi (2nd-R), CEO of Dar Salaam's CCBRT (Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania) Hospital, and Equinor Tanzania manager Unni Merethe Skorstad Fjær exchange documents in the city yesterday. It was shortly after they had signed an MoU under which the firm will support CCBRT for three years with a total of US\$250,000 for extending holistic care to, and enhancing economic empowerment for, Lindi Region women and girls with obstetric fistula. Looking on are Al Cook (L), Equinor's executive vice president for international exploration and production international, and CCBRT hospital's chief of medical services, Dr Cyprian Ntomoka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Be conversant with laws governing transportation of hazardous goods, drivers told

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DRIVERS transporting hazardous goods have been urged to get knowledge of managing and transporting chemicals including observing management and regulations governing it to avoid harming the public and environment.

David Elias, director of Forensic Science at Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) gave the remarks in Dar es Salaam during training for 140 drivers transporting hazardous goods

organised by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) - Eastern zone.

"All transporters of hazardous goods must observe the regulations including all recommended permits needed during transportation from the office of Chief Government Chemist. All these are meant to ensure the hazardous are transported safely and do not bring harm to the people and environment," he said.

He said the training of transporting

hazardous goods should also be given to vehicle owners and companies to know the challenges their drivers face during transportation from one destination to the other.

The director insisted that drivers should abide by the chemical transporting act and regulations to avoid harmfulness to the people, animals and the environment.

GCLA director of Quality Assurance Daniel Ndiyo called on drivers to be aware of the type of chemicals they are

carrying to know its precaution before and during transportation noting that it needs special attention.

Ali Mhina, a driver from Tazama Pipeline commended GCLA for the training adding that it will build their capacity to know regulations, and laws, hence be careful before and during transportation of chemicals.

"I would like to commend GCLA for the training on how we can transport chemicals safely. It is our hope the training will further help us to transport haz-

ardous goods in a more safe way compared to before," he said.

Industrial and Consumer Chemicals Management and Control Act No. 3 of 2003 was established by the parliament and passed to be law by the president on April 05, 2003.

It was established to provide for the management and control of the production, importation, transportation, exportation, storage, dealing, and disposal of chemicals and for matters connected therewith.

GCLA is a number one centre for laboratory analysis of samples/exhibits related to forensic sciences in order to facilitate forensic investigations and hence assurance of justice and rule of law, samples related to agricultural and industrial produce to ascertain safety and quality, samples related to paternity or sex identification in order to address society concerns and samples related to environmental and occupational health for the protection of health and the environment.



Joanes Martin (in blue cap, gesturing), Simanjiro District's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency manager, briefs district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera (2nd-L) during the latter's inspection tour of a water project in Langai ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Govt to provide 12bn/- for TAZARA improvement

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has set aside 12bn/- for improvement of the performance of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) railway.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete revealed this here yesterday when speaking in Mbeya city shortly after visiting the station, workshop, and stone crushing site in the region.

He said that the financial support to TAZARA will be released during the 2022/2023 financial year that started on July 1, 2022, and runs to June 30, 2023.

Mwakibete said the financial support will be used in increasing TAZARA's passengers and cargo movement between the two countries' destinations, covering 1,860 kilometers.

He revealed the release of the financial support to TAZARA when he visited the railway line's workshop in the southern highland region of Mbeya.

He said: "TAZARA is a lifeline for landlocked countries of Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo that import and export goods through the Dar es Salaam port in Tanzania."

Mwakibete said: "In order to increase the number of cargo the government has continued to allocate funds every year to ensure the load reaches consumers on time through better infrastructure."

"Neighbouring countries around us use this railway a lot, and it is very important for these customers to continue to convince them to use this railway through good infrastructure, let's not forget that business is competition, so we must put this improvement as a priority," he said.

Along with the large investment being made, Mwakibete asked TAZARA to ensure that they carry out regular repairs of their stations in the country to reduce the various challenges that currently exist, including the lack of seats for passengers while they wait to board the train.

He also said that in order for the Kongolo mine to operate profitably, it is high time for TAZARA to have a solid business plan to use the equipment purchased productively. Kyela MP, Ally Jembe praised TAZARA for continuing the constant efforts to repair the track and ensure that the trains are there and leave on time.

TAZARA Tanzania Regional Manager Fuad Abdalla said that among the strategies that have been taken to increase efficiency and increase output is the authority entering into special agreements with private companies including the Calabash company to ensure that the railway is used at all times.

Fuad added that TAZARA, despite the challenges of the shortage of locomotives and carriages, the authority has continued to ensure that it makes good use of the existing infrastructure by providing standard services for transporting passengers and cargo on time.

EABC calls for removal of restrictions on trade in services in EAC region

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) CEO John Kalisa has called for the finalization of regulations on Mutual Recognition of Academic and Professional Qualifications and a roadmap for the removal of restrictions to boost trade in services in the EAC bloc.

Under the Common Market Protocol, EAC Partner States made commitments to liberalise seven priority service sectors—business, communications, distribution, education, financial, tourism and travel and transport.

Speaking at the Virtual Launch of the EABC Barometer on Trade in Services in the EAC, Kalisa elaborated that legally all restrictions

in the liberalised seven service sectors that were maintained by EAC Partner States in their schedule of commitment should have been removed by December 2015.

The EABC Barometer shows professional services of legal, accounting & auditing engineering have the highest number of restrictions at 35.

Kalisa said: "The EABC Barometer shows a very positive trend, as EAC Partner States have committed to liberalise 92 new sub-sectors under the revised schedule of progressive commitment. This lays the foundation to build an integrated EAC services market and will result into commercially meaningful trade of services in the EAC bloc once implementation commences," Kalisa explained

The new sub-sectors added are in key sectors like business services (37); transport services (36) and financial sector (10), which are all critical as key sectors in their own right and as intermediate inputs in the manufacture of goods and production of other services.

Kalisa also urged all EAC Partner States to adopt the One Network Area on telecommunication as roaming costs are very high.

Richard Kibowa, EAC Director of Trade said: "Trade in Services are a critical component of the EAC Common Market."

Kibowa said EAC Secretariat is committed to mainstreaming the recommendations of the EABC Barometer on trade in services into EAC policy decision-making to boost the perfor-

mance of the services sector in the region.

The Virtual Launch of the EABC Barometer on Trade in Services was attended by over 85 business leaders and professional service providers from the EAC region and beyond.

The Barometer on Trade in Services in the EAC was undertaken by the East African Business Council with support from GIZ- support East African Market Driven and People-Centered Integration (SEAMPEC) Project to gauge the performance of the Service sector in the EAC

The EABC Barometer on Trade in Services shows EAC region exported services worth \$12.9billion against \$933.6million worth of imports globally (2019). In 2020, due to the COVID impacts dropped by 41% to \$762.2million in

2020, leading the region to become a net importer, with imports worth \$842.2million.

In his closing remarks, Kalisa urged the EAC Secretariat to fast-track finalization of the EAC Common Market, develop a regional time-bound framework and Agree on a timetable for the negotiation of the 5 service sectors not covered under the Common Market Protocol, in order to broaden service integration.

The EABC Barometer also recommends EAC Partner States undertake reforms to align their domestic laws to their commitments under the Common Market Protocol and revised schedule of commitments for progressive liberalization of trade in services.

NSSF, ministry ink pact on diaspora listing and investment promotion

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a database for Tanzanians living abroad.

The MoU signed at the ministry's sub office in Dar es Salaam paves the way for creation of Diaspora Digital Hub—a platform through which NSSF will market its investment projects in housing, land bank and other products and services.

Speaking during the signing event on behalf of the Director General Masha Mshomba, Ibrahim Maftah who is Director of Actuarial and Risk Management and Acting Director General of NSSF pledged to avail 50mn/- to facilitate the establishment of the hub.

Maftah went on to expound that, NSSF decision to support the Diaspora Digital Hub is based on the significance of the activity and to support government effort to ensure that Diasporas are being part and parcel of our national economic development.

"NSSF recognise and value the diaspora's contribution in building the economy of our nation and that NSSF

at all times has been in a forefront to participate in various matters relating to diaspora activities," Maftah said.

Ambassador James Bwana who is also director of the Diaspora Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation articulated that, the intended Diaspora Hub will help to collect and gather key information pertaining to diasporas such as skills, experience and their number which would assist to coordinate government activities to ensure they fully participate in economic activities of the nation.

"This is a key milestone and the Diaspora Hub will help the government to have the right database on the statistics of those Diasporas and more importantly for the stakeholder institutions to easily reach those Diasporas," said Amb Bwana.

On the other hand, the two parties pledged to extend and continue cooperation in other key matters of the state interest which would also lead to mutual benefit among the parties particularly in advancing the country's foreign owned plots available in various countries of the world of which the government is now in the process to effectively utilize them.



Ibrahim Maftah (L), actuarial and risk management director at the National Social Security Fund, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging MoU documents with James Bwana, director of the Diaspora unit at the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry. This followed a pledge by the Fund to sponsor the

Greater Horn of Africa faces 5th failed rainy season

By Special Correspondent

DROUGHT-stricken parts of the Greater Horn of Africa are bracing for a fifth consecutive failed rainy season, which will worsen the crisis that is impacting millions of people.

The forecast for October to December issued at the Greater Horn of Africa Seasonal Climate Outlook Forum shows high chances of drier than average conditions across most parts of the region. In particular, the drought affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are expected to receive significantly below normal rainfall totals through until the end of the year.

"It pains me to be the bearer of bad news, when millions of people in the

region have already suffered the longest drought in 40 years. Sadly, our models show with a high degree of confidence that we are entering the 5th consecutive failed rainy season in the Horn of Africa. In Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, we are on the brink of an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe," said Dr Guleid Artan, Director of the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), which is WMO's regional climate centre for East Africa.

The severity of the situation was echoed by Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). "I solemnly renew our call to national governments, donors, humanitarian,

and development actors to adopt a no-regret strategy and help us weather the worst of this crisis."

The drought is the longest in 40 years. Last month humanitarian agencies and IGAD raised the alarm on the number of people suffering from acute food insecurity in 2022 in the Greater Horn of Africa. This number stands at over 50 million.

The October to December season contributes up to 70% of the annual total rainfall in the equatorial parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, particularly in eastern Kenya.

The rainfall deficits are likely to extend to parts of Eritrea, most of Uganda and also Tanzania as ICPAC es-

timate that the start of the rainy season is likely to be delayed across much of the eastern parts of the region.

Djibouti, the eastern Afar region of Ethiopia, and central to northeastern South Sudan could receive above average precipitation. Temperatures are expected to remain warmer than average across most of the region.

The 62 session of the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum was convened by ICPAC in collaboration with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the region and other partners. It brought together climate services providers and users from key socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, decision-

makers, climate scientists, and civil society stakeholders, among others, to discuss the seasonal outlook, its impacts and mitigation measures for the upcoming season.

WMO supports Regional Climate Outlook Forums throughout the world in order to provide actionable climate information for society.

The exceptional drought underlines the vulnerability of the Horn of Africa region to climate-related risks. These threats are expected to intensify because of climate change. However, hydro-meteorological and early warning services (EWS) have the potential to reduce the negative impacts.

To improve the availability of and access to these services, the Climate

Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) has launched a new US\$ 5.2 million project entitled "Greater Horn of Africa -- Strengthening early warning and early action systems for meteorological, hydrological and climate extremes."

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacities for regional and national entities to produce and use climate, weather, and hydrological services, including early warning systems.

Regional activities will be centered on improvement of regional services to support countries to provide effective EWS and strengthening regional coordination and cooperation for effective EWS and climate services.



Iringa mayor Ibrahim Ngwada (R) congratulates Juli Sawani shortly after the municipality's councillors unanimously elected him deputy mayor. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Unguja South residents commended for taking part in ongoing census

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

UNGUJA South District residents have been commended for their role in facilitating smooth implementation of the ongoing Population and Housing Census PHC).

Unguja South District Commissioner Rajab Yussuf Mkasaba made the remarks on different occasions when he visited various shehias to check progress of the exercise in the district.

During his visit, the DC hailed the people in the district for turning out in large numbers and collaborating with the clerks handling the Population and Housing Census, a step that has facilitated smooth implementation of the national exercise.

He said the gesture by the residents was a great move which will facilitate timely finalisation of the exercise which is vital for national development as well as planning.

Mkasaba appealed to all citizens who have not yet been counted to do so because failure to do the same will make them absent from the national database.

Local leaders in the district at different times explained how the exercise is progressing with great success in line with the existence of peace, security and stability.

Census' clerks explained how the exercise is going well and the good cooperation they get from the citizens, which make it much easier for them to achieve their targets more efficiently.

The clerks appreciated the cooperation they got from the community especially during the sensitization of the public which started on August 21 to 22 this year.

Togo is first country to eradicate 4 neglected tropical diseases

GENEVA / Brazzaville

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has praised Togo for becoming the first country in the world to eliminate four neglected tropical diseases.

WHO presented the West African country with an outstanding achievement award this week for eliminating Guinea worm, lymphatic filariasis, sleeping sickness and trachoma in just 12 years.

"Togo has achieved a major feat," said Mat-

shidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa. "This achievement is an example for the rest of Africa and shows what is possible when health is made a priority."

The country eliminated Guinea worm in 2011, and then became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to stamp out lymphatic filariasis in 2017 and sleeping sickness in 2020. This year, it successfully eliminated trachoma.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of 20 preventable, treatable conditions that are often left out of health budgets and

global funding priorities.

Efforts to control or eradicate the diseases were ramped up in 2012 when 100 donor countries, private philanthropists, pharmaceutical companies, research institutions and civil society organizations came together to endorse the London declaration to control or eliminate 10 NTDs by 2020.

Since 2012, 46 countries have eliminated at least one NTD and more than 14 billion treatments have been donated by pharmaceutical companies. Three months ago, world leaders

meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, reconfirmed their commitments and agreed to eradicate NTDs by 2030.

About 1.7 billion people around the world are still affected by NTDs, which can disfigure and disable, trapping individuals and whole communities in cycles of extreme poverty.

About 40 percent of people affected by NTDs live in Africa. The number of people requiring treatment for at least one disease on the continent is slowly falling. In 2015, 630 million people were in need of treatment; by

2020, the figure had reduced to 598 million.

Thoko Elphick-Pooley, the director of the global partnership Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, said Togo's success was due to "committed country and political ownership."

"I hope that leaders across Africa are inspired by the incredible actions taken by Togo to transform the health of its citizens," she said. Last year, the organization warned that UK government aid cuts could have a devastating impact on progress to tackle NTDs.

Tanzania set to host regional medical exhibition next week

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is set to host an East Africa medical exhibition for the first time next week, with a total of 65 international and regional pharmaceutical companies scheduled to attend and showcase their products.

Dubbed PharmaTech East Africa, the platform is meant for industry players to connect, collaborate, explore and network. It is an opportunity for display of latest products and services as well as comparison of prices and quality.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania President Fadhili Hezekiah said the event will take place in Dar es Salaam from 30th August to 1st September.

He said it will be the gateway to the East African Pharma, medical & healthcare business community in Tanzania adding that it was the premier upcoming trade exhibition in the East Africa Region.

The event will be hosting medical professionals, pharmacies, hospitals, health organisations, importers & exporters, decision makers and medical practitioners of the East African Region in Tanzania.

Furthermore, the medical exhibition was also meant to learn new development, meet unlimited networking and experience first hand interaction with products and services.

President said exhibitors from around 35+ countries will be participating in

this year's exhibition looking to explore the untapped potential of the East Africa Market.

India, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uganda and the host country just to mention will be among exhibitors.

"Our neighboring country of Uganda has already done a similar medical exhibition. Therefore, it is now our time to host it for the first time," he said.

"The exhibition provides an immense opportunity to capture the untapped market of the East African Region through Tanzania. It is one of the shows in the umbrella of upcoming shows being organised in the East African Belt," he added.

PST unveiled a future plan of increasing awareness to ensure the public were more accessible to the services offered by pharmacists.

According to him, the study shows that pharmacists in the country were more accessible especially when it comes to offering services.

Furthermore, the society will contribute to Universal Health Coverage (UHC), fight against chronic diseases and focus on professionalism.

Currently, there are about 700 pharmacists, 550 pharmaceutical technicians and 600 pharmaceutical assistants registered in Tanzania. There are more than 6,000 public and private pharmaceutical outlets countrywide.



Sarah Gibson (R), the World Food Programme's Resident Director in Tanzania, presents a laptop in Dodoma city on Tuesday to Umy Nderiananga, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination). It was part of a 102.7m/- consignment of various equipment including drones meant to support efforts to combat disasters in the country. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Don't tolerate incompetent contractors, RC instructs Tarura

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

MANYARA Regional Commissioner Makongoro Nyerere has instructed the Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) to ensure they supervise all contractors and they do not tolerate any shoddy, incompetent and sub-standard contractors.

The RC made the order yesterday

during the signing of six contracts between TARURA and contractors who were awarded three contracts in Kiteo District, two contracts in Mbulu, and one contract in Simanjiro.

He asked TARURA not to tolerate contractors who run projects without notice with excuses.

RC Makongoro said: "TARURA should give priority to special groups

including women, youth, the elderly, and the disabled. These groups should be given road works in accordance with the guidelines that say they should be given work for 30 per cent of the budget."

He also instructed District Commissioners of all the districts of the region to ensure that they inspect the contractors and do not give them the

chance to work below the standard.

Acting manager for Tarura in Manyara region Eng Salim Bwaya said the six contracts they signed with contractors are worth 2.218bn/-.

The manager explained that the contracts are for the construction of gravel-level roads and bridges in Kiteo and Mbulu districts for gravel-level, but Simanjiro for 1.51 kilometers

of tarmac road.

Byaya said Tarura has planned to implement 68 contracts worth 20.551bn/- for the financial year 2022/2023.

He also said 37 contracts equal to 52.86 per cent of all contracts with a total of 7.898bn/- have been signed so far, explaining that the contractors should start work immediately.

Tarura legal officer Gumba Masunga asked the contractors to consider the aspects of the contracts and review them.

4D's Limited chief executive officer (CEO) Maganira Maganira signed three contracts promising on behalf of other contractors to work professionally.



Hamisi Mwinjuma alias Mwana FA (2nd-R), legislator for Muheza constituency in Tanga Region, is pictured yesterday helping local residents in drawing water from a new shallow well dug by Moo Maji Well Drilling Company Ltd director Mohammed Alnahd (to his right). The firm has so far funded the drilling of more than 60 such wells in Muheza District, where some parts have been experiencing an erratic supply of potable water. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

WHO certifies Africa's first anti-malarial drug

GENEVA

UNIVERSAL Corporation Ltd (UCL), a pharmaceutical group based in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, has obtained the World Health Organization (WHO) quality certification to become the first African manufacturer of a key anti-malarial drug used to prevent infection in pregnant women and children.

Certification will help to support regional efforts to combat malaria through local production of high-quality sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP), with the company's pre-qualification achieved with funding from Unitaid, a global health agency and support from Medicine for Malaria Venture (MMV), a Florida-based United States food and beverages firm.

Experts say that SP is a well-tolerated, effective and affordable medicine used to prevent malaria in pregnant women and infants, where nearly all malaria cases and deaths occur in Africa, and yet until now, the continent was completely reliant on imported quality-assured SP.

This breakthrough responds to the need for local production of quality medicines for use in Africa, a major gap that was critically highlighted when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020 left the continent with limited access to vital health products for a considerable period of time

Local supply of a medicine used to prevent malaria across Africa has thus received a boost with the pre-qualification certification, a service provided by WHO to assess the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products.

Quality assurance of UCL's SP product Wiwal® opens a route for procurement by global scale-up partners that will improve access and help strengthen Africa's ability to combat endemic diseases, Unitaid said in a statement midweek.

Dr Philippe Duneton, its executive director, said that Unitaid welcomes the certification of UCL to produce this quality-assured anti-malarial medicine in Africa, where about 95 per cent of all illness and death from malaria occurs.

"Reinforcing local production of medicines where they are needed most is critical to building stronger and more resilient health responses," he stated, underlining that young children and pregnant women are among the most vulnerable to the burden of malaria, with children under five accounting for 80 per cent of all malaria deaths in Africa.

SP is a generally well-tolerated, effective, and affordable medicine used to prevent malaria, yet adequate delivery and scale-up of these interventions are hampered in part by inadequate and unstable supply and, until now, have completely relied on imported or poor-quality drugs.

Forest stakeholders call for lift ban to export raw charcoal

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

FOREST stakeholders in Morogoro Region have called upon the government to lift the ban of selling raw charcoal abroad by making it easier for traders to certify the product and sell it to bring productivity as well as contribute to the country's development.

Dr Severin Kalonga, forest products certification specialist made the call here yesterday when speaking during the forestry stakeholders meeting which discussed how to carry out the process of verifying forest products, especially charcoal implemented by Conserving Forests through sustainable forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania (CoForEST) with

funding from the Swiss-based local development and cooperation organisation.

He said the ban has continued to affect development of the majority of stakeholders in the sector, noting that charcoal alone currently contributes 40 per cent of the national income to the forestry sector, where if the selling of the raw charcoal, the country will experience more benefits.

The expert said the move will also help prevent illegal production of the product which some people are currently doing and thus denying the government its income.

Dr Kalonga said the forest certification process for Tanzania began in 2006 when forestry stakeholders provided experts and financial

resources and that in 2018 the standards for forest management and forest products were adopted by stakeholders across the country.

During this time, the stakeholders learned a lot including climate change, management and conservation of the environment.

He said that the charcoal product in Tanzania is used by many people and as per the statistics of the Tanzania Bureau of Statistics (NBS), more than 70 per cent of Tanzanians use energy derived from forest resources including charcoal and wood so without setting standards to control it and facilitate sustainable production of charcoal, the challenge of the destruction of the environment and forests will endure.

Charles Leonard, Tanzania Natural Forest Conservation (TFCC)'s project manager urged leaders at village level in the district in 35 villages where the CoForEST project is being executed to increasingly control producers including charcoal, and ensures all procedures for the sustainable management of forest products are followed to avoid products not meeting the expected certification criteria.

He said that lack of sustainable management of forests will lead to the availability of poor-quality forest products and thus failing to meet the required certification criteria.

Leonard said the CoForEST project is implemented in seven districts which are Kilosa and Mvomero in Morogoro region, Kilolo in Iringa

as well as Nachingwea and Ruangwa in Lindi.

Yuvonal Pantaleo, Forest Certification Manager through the Mpingo Conservation and Development Organization (MCDD) advised the government to remove the ban on selling raw charcoal abroad and enable stakeholders to certify their products as this will help in environment conservation.

Pantaleo said forest certification is one of the important measures that support conservation as it requires players to follow all the required procedures and laws in production which include being subjected to an annual inspection through the World Forestry and Forest Products Certification and Management Organisation (FST).

Dar woman car mechanic conquers man's world

By Special Correspondent

"THERE is nothing like man-dominated occupations in my vocabulary. Car mechanics has for a long time been viewed as a man's world," said Jane Goodluck Isowe, a woman who runs her car repair workshop at Magomeni Mwembechai in Dar es Salaam.

Isowe, 49, has been running her own car repair workshop since 1994, attracting both female and male customers who visit her place to repair their cars.

"Our communities think that there are occupations, including car mechanics, for men only. To me, that is daydreaming. Women can do any occupation thought to be male-dominated if they decide to do so," the soft-spoken Isowe said.

"My team, mostly of trainees, and I repair one to two cars a day. We fix brakes, clutches, engines, and differentials," said the woman mechanic as she was busy repairing a car. "Most of my customers trust me and they always appreciate my work."

Isowe said until now she has trained three women that have graduated as qualified mechanics and are now employed in different car repair workshops.

Apart from the three women, Isowe said she

has also trained more than 50 young male mechanics who have secured employment in various workshops.

She said her journey to becoming an accomplished car mechanic started in 1989 when she moved from Marangu in the Kilimanjaro region to the business capital Dar es Salaam.

"But before I moved to Dar es Salaam I started cultivating an interest in cars when I was very young. I made cars out of plastics," she said.

In Dar es Salaam, she stayed with her brother-in-law who was teaching at the Ardhi University, she said. "My brother-in-law had a car and I used to ask him about the functions of different parts of his car."

Her brother-in-law and his family later moved to Canada and Isowe decided to join a religious secretarial college until in the early 1990s when she bumped into a car repair workshop.

She asked the owner of the workshop she named Eugene Mushi whether she could join the workshop and train as a mechanic.

"The owner was surprised and asked me how come a woman like me wanted to learn mechanics," said Isowe, proving again that mechanics was an odd career choice for women to venture into.

Isowe was determined to break such stereo-



Jane Isowe works at her car repair workshop at Magomeni Mwembechai in Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital of Tanzania.

types and claim her place in the male-dominated sector of car mechanics.

"I put on a T-shirt, a pair of trousers, and training shoes and started learning how to re-

pair an engine," said the woman car mechanic who was clad in a blue overall. She said at first she

worked with four male car mechanics who after a short time all wanted to work with her.

"After my bumpy beginning as a car mechanic, people are now happy seeing me working as a mechanic," said Isowe, adding that she was looking forward to securing a spacious place so that she could expand her workshop.

She said she was also looking forward to securing modern tools to improve her business but they are very expensive.

Isowe mentioned a catalog of achievements that she has acquired from her business, including building a decent house, buying a personal car, and training more than 50 mechanics.

Some of the people she had trained joined universities, the National Institute of Transport and vocational and education training centers to acquire academic credentials.

Incubation hub to inject money into agribusiness

By Moses Omusolo

THE Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) is targeting more than 2,400 women and youth-led agribusiness enterprises countrywide with a share of KSh5.1 billion through the "Vijana na Agribiz competition".

Aiming to provide decent jobs for youth and women in agricultural value chains in Kenya, the third annual contest is funded by the European Union (EU) and the Danish Interna-

tional Development Agency (Danida).

It is being implemented jointly with eight selected county governments of Machakos, Kisii, Uasin Gishu, Isiolo, Bungoma, Meru, Kiambu, and Kilifi. "Business Incubation Hubs (BIHs) have been set up in eight counties to provide training, business advisory and financing to enable women and youth to gain the requisite skills needed to scale their agribusinesses," said KCIC in a statement.

The initiative was rolled out on

March 6, 2020, by the European Union, Danida, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and KCIC, a World Bank's, infoDev, "initiative to support the development and scale-up of locally relevant climate technologies. "It is projected to create 17,000 job opportunities. It addresses key challenges that hinder youth and women from tapping into the immense potential in the agricultural sector," said KCIC.

Over a million smallholder farmers

are set to be reached in five years.

Agribiz has since incubated over 1,500 small businesses, where the innovations that have since been celebrated include the Agri Soko application for farmers in Narok County, Jiko Kul, an innovative solar cooker for mass cooking, Eco-Floor, which comes from recycling tyres to make rubber flooring material, as well as Eco Bana, biodegradable banana fibre sanitary pads.

With the deadline set for August

31, KCIC said successful applicants will benefit from agribusiness entrepreneurship opportunities available within their localities together with the services offered within the BIHs.

"We welcome youth and women in agribusiness in different parts of Kenya to apply for incubation into AgriBiz. Applying in a county that is too far from your enterprise will lead to automatic disqualification," noted the World Bank agency

KCIC said applicants from Macha-

kos, Makeuni, Kajiado, and Kitui counties can apply to the Machakos BIH. The Kisii BIH will incorporate Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, Kisumu, Migori, Homabay, Bomet and Narok counties.

Those from Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Turkana, and West Pokot counties can apply to the Uasin Gishu BIH while those from Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu can apply to the Isiolo BIH.



Tanga district commissioner Hashim Mgangilwa presents a Bajaj to Mariam Malumbo (L) in Tanga city yesterday after she won a Vodacom M-Pesa Imeitika raffle. Looking on is Vodacom Northern Zone senior sales manager Stratton Mchau. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South Sudan to create jobs with strategy on fruits and vegetables

JUBA

FRUITS and Vegetables Sector Strategy implemented by ITC to boost GDP in South Sudan, and create jobs for women and youth

On 8 August 2022, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan officially launched its first development strategy for the fruits and vegetables sector to boost the country's agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and create jobs for youth and women.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has provided technical assistance in designing the strategy as part of its Jobs Creation and Trade Development Project, an EU-funded project focusing on creating quick-win economic and employment opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the fruits and vegetables value chains. The strategy will ultimately foster vibrant, resilient and sustainable food systems, inclusive growth, and job creation.

South Sudan's Fruits and Vegetables Strategy is a five-year roadmap that addresses the sector's constraints and defines opportunities through a detailed Plan of Action.

"This strategy provides a clear market-oriented vision, a framework for collaborative action and pragmatic and realistic recommendations. But it is only the first step: a good strategy is one that gets implemented and generates results," said Darius Kurek, Senior officer for export strategy at the International Trade Centre.

The global production of fruits and vegetables has increased consistently over the last few years to cater to the growing world demand. In 2020, the

worldwide production of fruits was estimated at approximately 887 million tonnes, while the production of vegetables was estimated at approximately 1.14 billion tonnes. With South Sudan's conducive climatic and soil conditions for fruit and vegetable cultivation, the sector has potential for development, offering market opportunities in the region and globally, especially for women and youth who are forced to move to urban areas in search of jobs.

During the launch, Jacob Bandasi, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture said that, "the strategy spreads a positive message about using the resources available, especially the soil of South Sudan. With the help of the strategy, (South Sudan) will be able to produce (its) own products and hence have minimal reliance on getting products from outside and the ability to contribute to the neighbouring countries."

Hon. Ocum Genes Karlo, First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Sudan went on to say that "with the goal of creating jobs and reducing poverty, our government is pleased to place this project among its priorities and will take every possible step to achieve maximum implementation of the fruits and vegetable strategy. The government is convinced that the sector has great potential for creating jobs as it opens opportunities to improve livelihoods."

This strategy also paves the way for invigorating the private sector. Hon. Mary G. Muortat, the CEO of the South Sudan Bureau of Standards encouraged "the private sector to take this strategy and run with it. The strategy is important for the women and youth of South Sudan."

TICAD to shore up Japanese-African economic cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group will play a key role in the eighth edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) taking place in the Tunisian capital, Tunis, this year as Japan—a long-time development partner of Africa—continues to lend its economic weight to the continent's progress.

Running from 27 to 28 August, TICAD8 will bring together delegates from across the continent, including the African Development Bank Group.

Japan is expected to offer further support to strengthen the development of communi-

cation infrastructure on the continent and to help address food security. Through continued cooperation with Japan, the African Development Bank Group continues to promote strong, inclusive, and sustainable growth in Africa. The event is co-organized by the Japanese government, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Union Commission, and the World Bank.

The African Development Bank Group is co-organizing several official side events during TICAD8, some of which will be virtual. All main TICAD8 events will be in-person gatherings.

African Development Bank Group Presi-

dent Akinwumi Adesina will deliver a keynote statement during TICAD8 plenary on Economy. Adesina will also deliver keynote remarks at TICAD8 Business Forum.

Dr Adesina will meet with senior Japanese government officials, African leaders, and business participants. Discussions will cover partnership opportunities to increase support for Africa's transformation as the continent builds back better from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Japanese government and the African Development Bank Group enjoy a privileged relationship. Japan is one of the largest contributors to the institution. It recently participated in the 15th replenishment of the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's conces-

sional lending arm, and in the African Development Bank's 7th General Capital Increase.

Japan and the African Development Bank spearheaded the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa initiative. It is the largest and longest-standing bilateral partnership that the African Development Bank Group has with any of its member countries. The four components of this assistance are: accelerated co-financing; non-sovereign loans; the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance, and the Private Sector Investment Finance scheme. These four components support the implementation of the African Development Bank's private sector development strategy.

The Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for

Africa initiative has been successfully implemented over three phases from 2007. Over the years, the African Development Bank Group and Japan—through the Japan International Cooperation Agency—have contributed approximately \$5.2 billion to investments in sovereign operations and non-sovereign operations. They have also invested \$86.9 million in technical assistance and capacity building. The fifth phase of EPSA is being negotiated and will be announced during TICAD8.

The African Development Bank Group promotes development agendas aligned with the Japanese government to facilitate food security, climate change, health, digitalization and debt management across Africa.

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Survey on tax sentiments was rather lax but helpful

CONTRADICTIONARY sentiments were visible in a report on what people feel about paying taxes and especially for mobile money transaction levies, with seemingly high levels of readiness for voluntary compliance with taxation, but just that. These apparent civic attitudes were acutely stifled by feelings that the rates are often too high and many would skip taxes if they had a choice. Nothing new in that finding.

The results weren't too helpful for policy, as taxation has never been based on an actually voluntary compliance premise. While tax administrators stress that aspect of reality, that one pays taxes without having to be followed up with reminders and even legal measures, if the compulsion aspect is removed, voluntary compliance would plummet. And similarly it wouldn't be taxation but offerings, as in temples.

At times the problem is what the survey is designed to find out, for instance in this case it was to test whether mobile cash transactions are popular or not, and to what extent.

That looks easy to test until someone raises a different issue, of what to put in place where a jumble of confused assertions on the use of our plentiful natural resources start coming up. Taxation by definition aims at the widest number to be effective, as narrowly angled taxation is likely to kill a sector or branch of industry, services, if it is deserted by investors. Policy makers must design workable taxes.

There are other areas of ineffective policy or administrative initiatives which are available for testing but they are left out for fear of embarrassing tax administrators or even running afoul of the law by

simply posing the question. Everyone knows that electronic fiscal devices or cash registers are used at designated points like supermarkets or petrol stations, but people are supposed to ask for receipts for virtually any transaction. People go to shops to obtain good, not enforce taxation.

At the same time, it is logical in terms of tax philosophy that taxation that can't be monitored is a bad tax. In that case shops where even the owner needs a device to keep record of the flow of goods is relevant for that purpose, while imposing hand receipts when a buyer doesn't need is unworkable initiative. Buyers will need such receipts for items where some guarantee is presumed like electronics, just in case.

Taxes are too high as the public sector takes from the public rather than add to its coffers. Tanzania has more than 70 per cent of its inhabitants still in rural areas; it must grow at the rate of 10 per cent a year for upwards of ten years consecutively to become industrialised and ditch poverty. We think of development as services to rural areas, whereas the issue is to change them. Land and capital aren't dynamic enough; the state isn't selling Big Brother utility shares dominating the economy.

A heavy public sector has driven down the South African economy to just above Nigeria, which is more dynamic despite its countless woes in civic unrest and crime. It is fewer statist, less regulatory in various areas and thus has more land, labour and capital transactions. Tanzania is more statist than Kenya; as a result the Kenyan economy nearly doubles on Tanzania, despite land, resource imbalances.

TICAD and other dialogue forums won't change Africa without internal aspirations

ANOTHER international palaver where African countries will be exchanging notes with Japan and other global development stakeholders takes place this weekend, as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will represent President Samia Suluhu Hassan in the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). What is a bit surprising is that it is being held in Tunisia, which is only marginally an African country, geographically so rather than culturally as well. It also matters.

Compared with how European countries and the United States sketched out basic strategies of co-operation and changed history after 1945, little can be said on how far dialogues with developed countries have helped to change reality in Africa. The two-day conference on Saturday and Sunday will be setting out clear cooperation strategies for Japan-Africa links in the short and medium term. This dialogue has been taking place for 30 years or so, supplanted by other 'group-lateral' forums.

There are discussions with China that also involve the majority of African countries, apart from exchanges with France, Britain (via the Commonwealth in particular), and lately Russia, Turkey and Germany have initiated such dialogues. It isn't possible for these meetings to have the logical focus that their titling suggests, as development cooperation, as that can't be set out on a dozen forums.

Lacking such centralised and focused strategy, the meetings become aid explorations, just. Looking at official preparations for the meeting and even media language on the next dialogue event, it isn't as if the government expects to table anything on how to govern the economy, or wait to hear if Africa as a whole has any new ideas. A preliminary assessment said that Tan-

zania has been participating in the conference since its establishment in 1993, due to growing relations with Japan via the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Tanzania has been benefiting from various projects in infrastructure, energy, water, education, health and agriculture.

In other words it is business as usual, where no one is expecting to have learned anything new on how Asian economies, which looked pretty much like African countries in the early 1960s, adopted 'overnight' economic strategies that largely catapulted them out of poverty in two or three decades. Africa's seventh decade after independence has just started, and most of Africa is dirt poor.

This will persist until there is a change in aspirations, thus in political outlook, but up to that point we risk infinite levels of suffering; huge social dislocations are being experienced.

Perhaps one area where the participants could exchange notes is whether the whole idea of globalization isn't a reversal of nationalism. There is a new Commonwealth being dreamed with freedom of movement for people, capital and goods. There are varying degrees of acceptance of that principle as people think of free trade while keeping watch on their borders for unwanted strangers, and ferocious guarding of national assets against foreigners.

When economies are strained, climate change displaces people and industry doesn't exist to absorb them, they plot migrations where they take their cultural baggage of detesting Westernism, etc.

As a result Europe is closing doors while Africa, the Middle East and South America implode by the inside, struggling for democracy but stifle altering communal structures. The communal spirit at village level rhymes with state ownership at the higher level, fostering implosion for lack of jobs.

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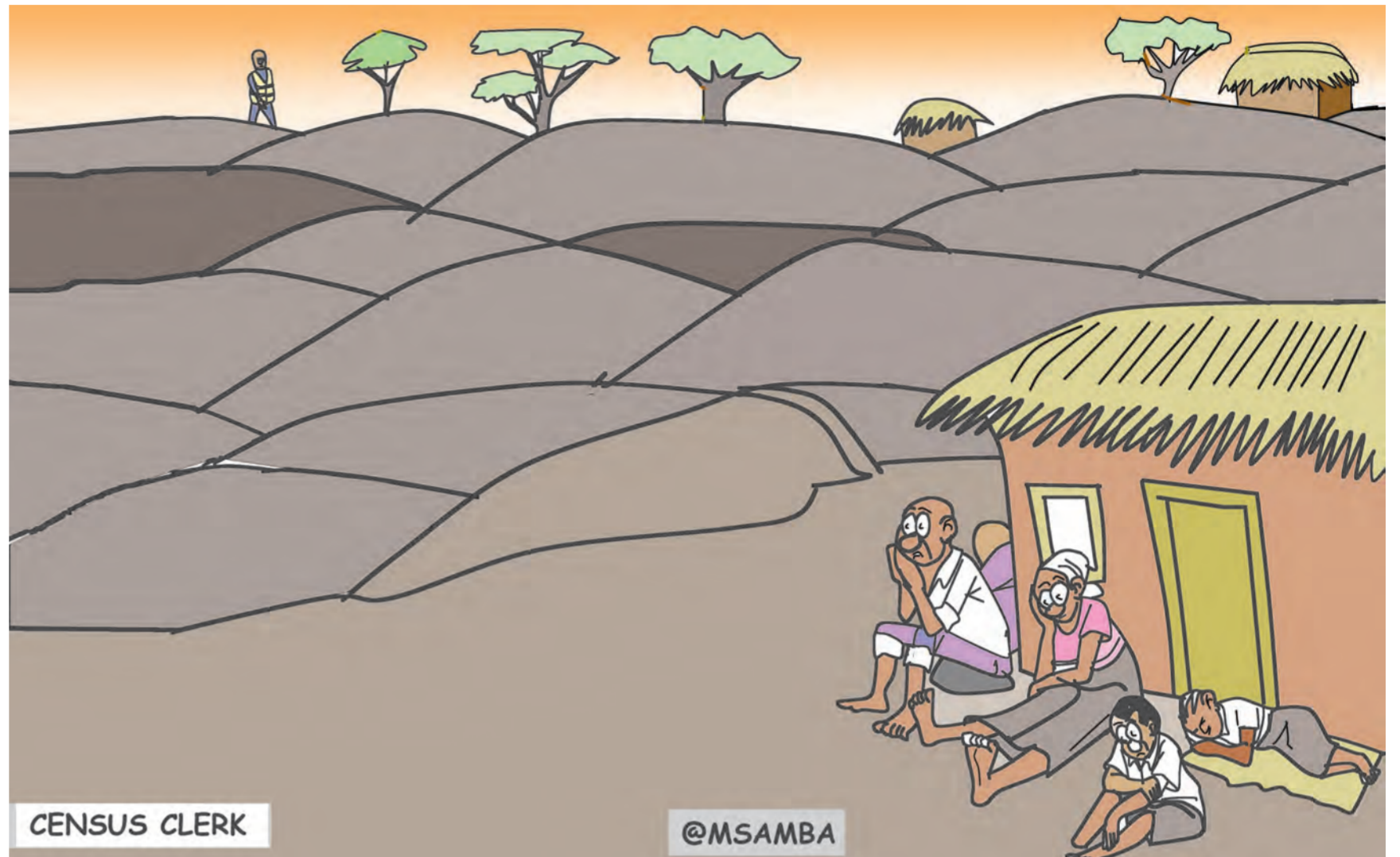
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Stagflation: From tragedy to farce

By Anis Chowdhury and Jomo Kwame Sundaram

HALF a century after the 1970s' stagflation, economies are slowing, even contracting, as prices rise again. Thus, the World Bank warns, "Surging energy and food prices heighten the risk of a prolonged period of global stagflation reminiscent of the 1970s."

In March, newspapers reported, "With surging oil prices, concerns about the hawkishness of the Federal Reserve and fears of Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, the mood on Wall Street feels like a return to the 1970s".

Stagflation in the 1970s

Worse, it seems few lessons have been learnt from the last stagflation episode. There is no agreed formal definition of stagflation, which refers to a combination of economic stagnation with high inflation, e.g., when unemployment and prices both rise.

When growth is weak and many are jobless, prices rarely rise, keeping inflation low. The converse is true when growth is strong. This inverse relationship between economic activity and inflation broke down with supply shocks, particularly oil and other primary commodity price surges during 1972-75.

Non-oil primary commodity prices on The Economist index more than doubled between mid-1972 and mid-1974. Prices of some commodities, e.g., sugar and urea fertilizer rose more than five-fold!

As costlier energy pushed up production expenses, businesses raised prices and cut jobs. With higher food, fuel and other prices, rising costs, coupled with income losses, reduced aggregate demand, further slowing the economy.

Fed chokes economy to cut inflation

Years before becoming US Fed chair in 2006, a Ben Bernanke co-authored paper noted, "Looking more specifically at individual recessionary episodes associated with oil price shocks, we find that ... oil shocks, per se, were not a major cause of these downturns".

They concluded, "an important part of the effect of oil price shocks on the economy results not from the change in oil prices, per se, but from the resulting tightening of monetary policy". Their findings corroborated others, e.g., by James Tobin.

Following Milton Friedman and Anna Schwartz, other economists also found "in the postwar era there have been a series of episodes in which the Federal Reserve has in effect deliberately attempted to induce a recession to decrease inflation".

The US Fed began raising interest rates from 1977, inducing an American economic recession in 1980. The economy briefly turned around when the Fed stopped raising interest rates. But this nascent recovery soon ended as Fed chair Paul Volcker raised interest rates even more sharply.

The federal funds target rate rose from around 10% to nearly 20 per cent, triggering an "extraordinarily painful recession". Unemployment rose to nearly 11 per cent nationwide - the highest in the post-war era - and as high as 17 per cent in some states, e.g., Michigan, leaving long-term scars.

Interest rate hikes reduced needed investments. Outside the US economy, these sharp and rapid interest rate hikes triggered debt crises in Poland, Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, South Korea and elsewhere.

Earlier open economic policies meant "the increase in world interest rates, the increased debt burden of developing countries, and the growth



slowdown in the industrial world... contributed to the developing countries' stagnation".

Countries seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) financial support had to agree to severe fiscal austerity, liberalisation, deregulation and privatization policy conditionalities. With per capita incomes falling and poverty rising, Latin America and Africa "lost two decades".

Stagflation reprise

The IMF chief economist recently reiterated, "Inflation is a major concern". The Bank of International Settlements has warned, "We may be reaching a tipping point, beyond which an inflationary psychology spreads and becomes entrenched."

Central bankers' anti-inflationary efforts mainly involve raising interest rates. This approach slows economies, accelerating recessions, often triggering debt crises without quelling rising prices due to supply shocks.

Economic recoveries from the 2008-09 global financial crises (GFC) remained tepid for a decade after initially bold fiscal responses were quickly abandoned. Meanwhile, 'quantitative easing', other unconventional monetary policies and the Covid-19 pandemic raised debt to unprecedented levels.

GFC trade protectionist responses, US and Japanese 'reshoring' of foreign investment in China, the pandemic, the Ukraine war and sanctions against Russia and its allies have reversed earlier trade liberalization.

Higher interest rates in the rich North have triggered capital flight, causing developing country currencies to depreciate, especially against the US dollar. The slowing world economy has reduced demand for many

developing country exports, while most migrant worker remittances decline.

Interest rate hikes have worsened debt crises, particularly in the global South. The poorest countries have seen an \$11bn surge in debt payments due while grappling with looming food crises. Thus, developing country vulnerabilities have been worsened by international trends over which they have little control.

Lessons not learned

Supply-side cost-push inflation is very different from the demand-pull variety. Without evidence, inflation 'hawks' insist that not acting urgently will be costlier later.

This may happen if surging demand is the main cause of inflation, especially if higher costs are easily passed on to consumers. However, episodes of dangerously accelerating inflation are very rare.

Acting too quickly against supply-shock inflation can be unwise. The 1970s' energy crises sparked greater interest in energy efficiency. But higher interest rates in the 1980s deterred needed investments, even to reverse declining or stagnating productivity growth.

Raising interest rates also accelerated recessions. But similar commodity price rises before the 1970s' and imminent stagflation episodes - involving energy and food respectively - obscure major differences.

For instance, 'wage indexing' - linking wage increases to price rises - enhanced the 1970s' inflation spiral. But labour market deregulation since the 1980s has largely ended such indexation.

The IMF acknowledges globalization, 'offshoring' and labour-saving

technical change have weakened unionization and workers' bargaining power. With both elements of the 1970s' wage-price spirals now insignificant, inflation is more likely to decline once supply bottlenecks ease.

But the wage-price spiral has also been replaced by a profit-price swirl. Reforms since the 1980s have also enhanced large corporations' market power. Greater corporate discretion and reduced employees' strength have thus increased profit shares, even during the pandemic.

In November 2021, Bloomberg observed the "fattest profits since 1950 debunks wage-inflation story of CEOs". Meanwhile, the Guardian found "Companies' profit growth has far outpaced workers' wages".

Corporations are taking advantage of the situation, passing on costs to customers. The net profits of the top 100 US corporations were "up by a median of 49%, and in one case by as much as 111,000%".

Meanwhile, many more consumers struggle to meet their basic needs. Interest rate hikes have also hurt wage-earners, as falling labour shares of national income have been exacerbated by real wage stagnation, even contraction.

Hence, policymakers should ease supply bottlenecks and address imbalances to accelerate progress, not raise interest rates causing the converse. Thus, they should rein in corporate power, improve competition and protect the vulnerable.

Allowing international price rises to pass through, while protecting the vulnerable, can accelerate the transition to more sustainable consumption and production, including cleaner renewable energy.

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other week we briefly looked at the disputed provisions of the Media Services Act, 2016 in relation to the judgment of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) delivered in Arusha on June 9, 2020. The idea was to appeal to media stakeholders invited by the government to give their views on what could be amended in the Act to take into account their deliberations as per the directives of the EACJ to the respondent state.

The EACJ directed Tanzania to take such measures as are necessary to make the Media Services Act, 2016 comply with Articles 6(d) and 7(2) of the Treaty establishing the EAC.

In my opinion, if this opportunity is well-utilised and the media stakeholders are listened to, it will make the Media Services Act not only friendly to the practice and vibrancy of journalism in Tanzania, but also protect to a considerable extent, the right to freedom of opinion and speech.

Besides this, it will distinguish Tanzania from other African countries as far as respecting regional court judgments and complying with both regional and international treaties are concerned. Let's hope that the deliberations will result in positive outcomes.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the right to acquire, hold, use and deal with land in Tanzania. Section 3(2) of the Land Act, 1999 (RE 2019) states that "The rights of every adult woman to acquire, hold, use and deal with land shall, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, be treated as a right of any man." This provision means that men and wom-

Both men and women are entitled to equal land ownership rights



en have equal rights and are subject to the same restrictions where those restrictions are imposed by law on land issues.

Generally, men regard women as 'subordinate to them' although the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) in Article 13 establishes equality before the law.

Article 13(4) further states that "No person shall be discriminated against by any person or any authority acting

under any law or in the discharge of the functions or business of any state office."

Furthermore, Article 13(5) prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, sex or station in life. It is against a belief or attitude that certain categories of people are weak or inferior and are subjected to restrictions or conditions whereas others are treated dif-

ferently or are accorded opportunities or advantages outside specified conditions or prescribed necessary qualifications.

Although there are notable efforts especially from the government, activists and persons of goodwill to fight against gender inequality as a form of discrimination on the basis of sex say not all persons are on the same wavelength because of negative stereotypes.

We might have come across land or property dispute cases after the death of husband and how his relatives start tampering with matrimonial property (assets) to deprive the widow of land ownership rights, including eviction from the matrimonial home and apportioning blame for the sickness and death of her husband on her. What a painful experience for the widow!

There are always sad stories told as in most cases the death leaves both the relatives of the husband and the widow in deep conflict which in some cases takes longer to resolve and in other cases there is no way of resolving it. This just shows how big the problem can be when a family loses the father.

In the case of Ephrahim v Holaria Pastory and another (Civil Appeal No 70 of 1989), the High Court of Tanzania in Mwanza heard of a case against Holaria Pastory who had inherited clan land from her father by a valid will. Realising that she was advancing in age and had no one to take care of her, she decided to sell it to Gervazi Kaizilege, a stranger to her clan.

Bernardo Ephrahim, a member of the clan filed a suit in the Primary Court at Kashasha in Muleba District, praying for a court declaration that the sale of the clan land was void under the Haya customary law for women had no right to sell clan land as was stipulated in the Haya Customary Law (Declaration) (No 4) Order of 1963, especially paragraph 20.

It stipulated that: "Women can inherit, except for clan land, which they may receive in usufruct [the right to enjoy the use of it], but may not sell. However, if there is no man of that clan, women may inherit such land in full ownership."

The Primary Court ruled in the complainant's favour and so Holaria lost in the case. She appealed to the District Court in Muleba and the Primary Court's decision was dismissed on the ground of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) which guarantees equality of both men and women.

Bernardo Ephrahim was not satisfied with the judgment and so he appealed to the High Court of Tanzania in Mwanza, but the District Court's decision was upheld on the ground that the Haya customary law was discriminatory on the basis of gender, thus inconsistent with Article 13(4) of the Constitution. This judgment was delivered a few years before the enactment of the Land Act, 1999 and the Village Land Act, 1999.

Before reaching the decision, the High Court Judge (Mwalusanya) referred to Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's words on discrimination against women in a booklet entitled "Socialism and Rural Development" in which he says: "Although we try to hide the fact and despite the exaggeration which our critics have frequently indulged in, it is true that women in traditional society were regarded as having a place in the community which was not only different, but was also to some extent inferior."

"This is certainly inconsistent with our socialist conception of the equality of all human beings and the right of all to live in such security and freedom as is consistent with equal security and freedom from all others. If we want our country to make full and quick progress now, it is essential that our women live in terms of full equality with their fellow citizens who are men."

Therefore, discrimination against women or others has no legal basis in Tanzania and this sets a fertile ground for equality before the law as well as gender equality.

Today's proverb: "Sympathy without relief is like mustard without beef."

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

Japan's conference on African development may be upstaged by China, but remains crucial

By Peter Fabricius

JAPAN is often overshadowed by its massive neighbour China in its African engagement. But Africans tend to forget that Japan's association with collective Africa dates back to 1993 – seven years before either China or the European Union (EU) launched their forums.

Perhaps China upstages Japan because of the big financial packages of \$60-billion it likes to announce at every Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (Focac). Japan's forum, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (Ticad), is less ostentatious but still valuable, particularly for its emphasis on sustainable development assistance.

The eighth Ticad meeting takes place this weekend in Tunisia. The venue was chosen long ago and has become something of an embarrassment for Japan.

Ticad puts heavy emphasis on democracy, yet Tunisian president Kais Saied has been steadily dragging the country towards authoritarianism. He suspended Parliament, fired the prime minister and dissolved the Supreme Judicial Council, which maintains judicial independence.

A Japanese official told ISS Today: "Japan is watching with keen interest the series of reforms that Tunisia is undertaking and expects it to address the most pressing issues in a manner that ensures transparency and broad public support."

Japan expects nearly 50 African leaders, 200 civil society organisation representatives, 108 heads of regional and international agencies, and 120 business leaders to attend Ticad8. The forum is co-hosted by the United Nations (UN), UN Development Programme, World Bank and African Union Commission.

Japan said because of the pandemic and the Ukraine war, the meeting would "discuss how to create a sustainable world together." It would aim to accelerate Japanese investment in Africa, especially in supporting start-ups and green businesses.

It also aims to build stronger universal health-care and measures to fight Covid-19. And the forum would support Africa-led efforts to achieve sustainable peace and stability, including strengthening the UN through Security Council reform, among other things.

Given that Japan has placed the summit in the context of the global situation and Russia's war against Ukraine, it will be interesting to see how much this influences the debate and outcomes.

At a ministerial meeting in March to prepare for the summit, Japan firmly stated that 'Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine' required the international community to defend UN Charter principles prohibiting the use of force against another country.

It also referenced China when it expressed its determination to cooperate with Africa under the vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

This is a direct response to China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, including claims on disputed islands that it's using to control maritime passages. This is bringing China into ever more direct confrontation with Western powers – and Japan.

Africa has tended to stick to its old Cold War posture of non-alignment in the growing tensions



Then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) speaking as former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta (L) looks on during a press conference to wrap up the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (Ticad VI) in Nairobi, Kenya, 28 August 2016. File photo

between the West on one side and Russia and China on the other. So it is unclear how far Japan will go in seeking African support for its Russian or Chinese positions.

Perhaps it's hoping to have them only implicitly endorsed as general principles – i.e. support for the UN Charter principles and support for freedom of maritime passage.

It seems unlikely that Tokyo will allow either to become deal breakers. By including them as outcomes of the ministerial meeting, it was perhaps just laying down a bargaining position for the summit – or announcing its positions to its Western allies.

Japan's general approach to Ticad also differs from China's Focac. China has financed and built many infrastructure projects, including railways, highways and government buildings.

Though Japan has previously financed some large infrastructure projects in countries like Ghana, Ticad – rather like the EU

– emphasises improving the underlying determinants of development and prosperity.

These include peacebuilding, constitutional development, justice reform and democracy. Japan sees this as a more sustainable model.

Education and training figure prominently in the Ticad engagement. During the 29 years of the forum's existence, it has trained thousands of African engineers, entrepreneurs and educators. It also supports Africa's peacekeeping efforts with financial, technical and training assistance. Ticad's New Approach to Peace and Security in Africa focuses on supporting institutional and policy reform, including boosting elections.

Another significant difference between the Japanese and Chinese approaches emerged at that ministerial Ticad meeting. Japan "reiterated the need for the UN Security Council reform and its clear sup-

port for the Common African position." So Japan – which is seeking a permanent seat on a reformed council – reaffirmed its support for Africa's bid for the same. China vaguely supports Africa having a greater voice in the UN but has never explicitly supported any other countries getting permanent seats.

Other differences are the greater inclusiveness of Ticad, which involves multi-lateral institutions and civil society, while China keeps it all in government. Japan also emphasises the private sector as the driver of growth and stresses Africa's agency in the partnership, aiming at 50:50 financing of projects.

There is also some overlap between Ticad and Focac, particularly in encouraging investors to focus on value addition rather than just raw materials in Africa, thereby boosting African returns on its exports.

According to the Africa Center for Stra-

tegic Studies (Acss), Hannah Ryder, a former Kenyan and British diplomat who advises African countries on Southeast Asian partnerships, said African governments should draw inspiration from what independent Africa-China working groups did ahead of Focac8, by pushing Africa's own agenda more.

Jean-Claude Maswana, an economics professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, proposes that Japan gradually phase out Ticad summits and focus instead on linking African and Japanese businesses and professionals. This is the Southeast Asian model, he told the ACSS, noting that the region's economic transformation was driven not by governments but by business.

It is rare for anyone to remind the world that development aid should put itself out of business in favour of business. A rare but necessary message.

By Li Ya'nan

Ancient village in Xinjiang embraces new vitality in cultural tourism

At dusk in Yueliangdi village, cooking smoke rose high from several houses with greyish blue tiles and yellow walls, diffusing a scent of freshly cooked food. In the yards surrounding the houses, vegetables were growing prosperously. A few elderly villagers played traditional Chinese music instruments, attracting a number of tourists.

Yueliangdi village sits in Mori Kazakh autonomous county, Changji Hui autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. It boasts a history of over 100 years.

Today, it has been developed into a hot tourist destination with traditional local residences, folk customs, handicrafts and natural scenery. It is one of the best-preserved ancient villages in Mori Kazakh autonomous county.

In 2014, Yueliangdi was selected as one of the third batch of traditional Chinese villages, a title jointly given by seven ministries. Ever since, the village has become a hotspot tourism destination, receiving numerous visitors all year round.

Folk houses are an important part constituting the picturesque view of Yueliangdi village. Today, house groups built over a century ago are still well preserved in the village. The houses are constructed with all wooden frameworks, and have wide porch eaves to keep rainwater from infiltrating the walls and windows.

In recent years, the village has made constant efforts to maintain the original appearance of the folk houses while improving its living environment. A characteristic tourist attraction with profound agricultural culture has been built.

Since 2016, the local government has invested 30 million yuan (\$4.42 million) in upgrading folk houses, enhancing the road network and internet infrastructure, renovating ancient



Photo shows Yueliangdi village in Mori Kazakh autonomous county, Changji Hui autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

stages of traditional operas, and building the village archive and an agricultural museum.

Enjoying rich water resources and fertile soil, the village boasts a profound agricultural culture. In

the village, tourists can not only take a close look at local folk houses, but also watch the production

of handmade vinegar and other local techniques. On holidays, they can also experience local customs activities such as wedding ceremonies.

The local agricultural museum introduces to tourists the whole development of the agricultural culture in the village. Traditional Chinese opera and folk songs in Xinjiang are always presented on the ancient stages.

Wang Shuqin is an octogenarian in the village who has been making handmade vinegar for nearly five decades. Her handmade vinegar was taken from wheat, highland barley, sorghum, black beans and other natural ingredients after a month of process.

However, the market for the handmade product, which has been passed on for generations in Wang's family, once shrank significantly due to the industrialized production of vinegar.

A few years ago, the village upgraded the vinegar workshop and invited Wang to instruct women in the village to make vinegar. Thanks to the prospering local tourism, the well-known vinegar workshop has brought many tourists to the village.

At present, a number of handicrafts in the village are re-emerging, such as tiger-head shoes, embroidered slippers and handmade dried noodles. They have not only carried forward traditional skills, but also improved the income of villagers. Now, apart from tasting local dishes in Yueliangdi village's folk houses, tourists can also cook food together with local villagers.

Today's Yueliangdi village is home to over 30 agritainment facilities and B&Bs with unified standards. Hu Jian'gang, who started a B&B a few years ago, told People's Daily that the B&Bs in the village all maintain the original appearance of the local folk houses, and they are equipped with flush toilets, showers and standard kitchens. Every agritainment facility is booked full on holidays, the man said.

People's Daily

By Yifan Xu in Washington

AFTER two decades of bloodshed in Afghanistan, the United States' haste to end the country's longest war came with little thought on both the plight of the Afghans and on what Washington policymakers got wrong, military experts say.

The withdrawal of US forces simply marked the end of a failed policy and, over the year that has passed since the chaotic scenes in Kabul, not much reflection has gone on in the US about Afghanistan, said Jack Midgley, the principal of global consultancy Midgley & Co.

"The withdrawal ended a failed policy, a failed war," Midgley, who is also an adjunct associate professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University, said in an interview with China Daily.

In 2001, the US military entered Afghanistan in the name of anti-terrorism. On Aug 30, 2021, the Pentagon announced that it had completed the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. During their ignominious departure, many of them, as well as Afghan soldiers and civilians, were killed in a series of bombings and other terrorist attacks. The Taliban had seized power in Kabul in mid-August, immediately before the US-led foreign forces withdrew.

"If the interest of the United States requires, it will add any group to its list of terrorists. And if its interest requires it to exclude a group from the list, it will also do that," Abuzar Khapalwak Zazai, a professor at Kabul University, told Xinhua News Agency. The US left the Afghan people in a difficult position, and one they are still trying to get out of, the academic said.

Midgley said that for the US, the troop withdrawal meant that it cut its losses in money and

the lives of personnel. The exit benefits the US "in the short run" and "in a very narrow way", while "the long-run effects will be very hard to see", he said.

"There are so many weapons and military equipment left in Afghanistan, so many people who may be driven to extremism by the pressures they've been put under," he said.

Midgley said that Afghanistan has been experiencing "a total disaster". According to a World Bank report, the country's GDP has shrunk 45 percent since the US exit.

The US and other Western nations hastily evacuated more than 120,000 people, both foreigners and Afghans, during the exit in August last year, The Associated Press reported.

"They've lost almost all of the basic services including healthcare, education, but also law enforcement, the prison system, the correction systems ... The money's gone, and those services and the experts that deliver them are all gone no basic services," Midgley said.

"They can't get hard currency because of anti-money-laundering rules. So, about 70 percent of the people in Afghanistan don't have enough money to pay for food. This policy has been a failure right from the start."

Several dozen prominent US and international economists urged the United States earlier this month to hand over to Afghanistan \$7 billion in frozen central bank reserves.

Midgley said that the US government should have learned good lessons after the troop pullout.

"There are some tactical lessons about the withdrawal," he said. "Things could have been done much better in terms of planning the withdrawal. But that's a relatively minor point."

For Midgley, the hard questions have yet to be answered in the US.

So much blood, so little learned in US



An Afghan family leave a food distribution center in Kabul on Feb 16 after receiving humanitarian aid. File photo

"The real lessons that have to be learned are about why we were there for 20 years to begin with," he said. "Why was this policy never systematically reviewed? Why did policymakers tell themselves that things were succeeding in Afghanistan when clearly they were not? When was the Taliban making the advances and being successful?"

"No one on the US side was prepared to step out and say this is a failure and we need to get

out until the very last minute. And then the withdrawal was handled poorly."

'Lessons not studied'

He added: "So, I would not say that those lessons have been learned. I'm not sure that the lessons have even really been studied."

The top Republican on the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee released a report on Aug 16 criticizing the admin-

istration of US President Joe Biden for the "chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal". The report claimed that about 100 US citizens were stranded in Afghanistan after the withdrawal and the administration failed to help the thousands of Afghans who aided the US during the 20 years of occupation.

However, Midgley describes this report as "a set of cheap political shots". He said it is time for policymakers to reflect on the extent to which the US leads with military policy and not with economic development or humanitarian assistance.

"May I say the China model of investment and economic development that we see in countries like Saudi Arabia has been extremely successful," Midgley said. "The main American relationship with many countries in the Middle East is the military."

"The example of Afghanistan tells us that when the Americans try to create a new government or a new system by focusing on military intervention, it doesn't work; it failed."

He said that the US has been spending too much on the military rather than on basic infrastructure, education, healthcare, and issues that matter to people in the US today.

Midgley sees worrying signs as the US shovels billions of dollars in military assistance for Ukraine during the conflict with Russia. **Agencies**

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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

New factory benefits 300+ dairy farmers in Mvomero

By Getrude Mbago

PRICE instability, increase of milk production, shortage of quality storage facilities and lack of a profitable market have all been big setbacks for many pastoralists and dairy farmers in Tanzania as they have been struggling to find a consistent market for their milk and other dairy products.

It is, however, different for pastoralists in the Mvomero District, Morogoro Region as they have started to reap big from the dairy business after the Sustainable Agriculture of Tanzania (SAT)'s Holistic Group Ltd opened a milk collection and processing facility in Vianzi village to ensure access to reliable market and milk value addition.

Launched in February this year, the facility supports over 300 pastoralists in Lubungo and Mangae villages in the district.

Latifah Mreta, dairy unit supervisor at SAT said the factory, which was constructed with support from Switzerland-based Biovision Foundation, helps in value addition and boost earnings for livestock keepers.

She said the facility was constructed as part of the implementation of the Farmers and Pastoralists Collaboration (FPC) which works to create mutual benefits for both farmers and pastoralists through agro-ecology farming.

"The advantages of this factory are numerous. They include, for example, providing jobs for the surrounding community, growing the market for organic milk in the country, and enhancing pastoralists' income by providing them with reliable market access. Another significant and unique benefit of this factory is that pastoralists will later be able to be the shareholders of the business through SAT Holistic Group Limited," she noted.

Mreta said the factory now benefits farmers in two cooperative unions of Namayana and Ereto among the Maasai community in Mvomero.

"Since it was launched in February, Namayana cooperative union has sold to the factory a total of 29.92 million litres of milk pocketing 29.7m/-. Ereto as well sold 15.38 million litres getting 14.42m/-."

She further said in order to ensure both the factory and the livestock keepers benefit from the business, SAT meets with the producers to discuss and conduct price negotiations every month as per changes in the market.

She noted that milk production by the smallholder farmers in the country is increasing but only a minor portion of the locally produced milk enters the commercial sector owing to the marketing constraints, infrastructures and lack of processing techniques.



Some of the dairy farmers at Lubungo village in Mvomero District, put milk ready to transport to a newly established factory in Vianzi village, Mvomero District which is 15km far from the village.

"In Tanzania, dairy cooperatives are playing a significant role in the development of the dairy sector. Most of these cooperatives guarantee dairy farmers a profitable price and consumers a reasonable price for milk and its products. The same is true for Mvomero's milk cooperatives, which play an important role in milk collection and connecting pastoralists to reliable marketing channels," she said.

Mreta said the facility processes the milk producing various products such as pasteurized milk, yoghurt, and cheese as well as selling fresh milk to Shambani Milk Company Ltd.

According to her, apart from providing close support to facilitate production of quality milk, SAT also trains farmers on production of pastures which can last for years feeding their livestock even during dry season.

Janet Maro, executive director of SAT said with adequate training from facilitators, pastoralists learn about proper milk produc-

tion, quality checks, and collection, allowing them to produce at a higher quality and quantity.

"The establishment of the milk processing factory has helped to bring together livestock keepers and farmers leaving aside their differences and later on they will be made shareholders of the factory. This strengthens relations between the two groups and thus addresses unnecessary conflicts which were previously arising due to land issues, she said.

SAT Holistic Group Ltd acts as a catalyst for this market segment by creating incentives for producers, processors, and retailers to join this field. With a growing organic demand in the country, more farmers will join us in protecting Tanzania's soil, water, and biodiversity. To further push the organic movement, and keep rural life attractive, the farmers gain a voice in the food system. We foster the growth of a strong and well-organized farming community.

"We link our farming communities to a premium market for organic products. Thus, we create incentives for organic farming. We empower our consumers to protect the environment and their health. We enable Tanzanians to access healthy, ethical and sustainably produced food and to act as agents of change," she said.

The company also helps to raise the demand for organic products in the country by investing in awareness programmes to reach more groups in the country.

"To achieve this, we incubate businesses which work with organic products for the domestic or international market. We enable farmers to go beyond producing. Our farmers are involved in multiple steps of the value chains, as producers, processors and proud shareholders," she added.

Kiromwai Sekemi, one of the beneficiary pastoralists from Namayana Cooperative Union in Lubungo ward village commended SAT for implementing the project that has brought together farmers and livestock keepers to recognize and depend on each other without conflicts.

"We however face a transport challenge due to poor road infrastructures from our village to reach Vianzi which is about 15km, we are calling on the government to construct the road so as to make it easy for us to transport the milk," he said.

He said the majority of the pastoralists who were previously counting losses from the dairy business are now reaping big due to the presence of the factory in Vianzi.

"Our lives have greatly improved, because we are pocketing profits almost every week from the milk that we sell, previously a good amount of milk was decaying due to lack of market and storage facilities," he added.

He said SAT supports the farmers closely while providing them with required training to improve their dairy farming and increase income.

Drought in Africa threatens millions of children – UN

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has warned that children in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions "could die in devastating numbers unless urgent support is provided."

That's as the number of drought-stricken people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia – without access to adequate supplies of water – rose from 9.5 million to 16.2 million in the space of just five months, according to the relief agency.

"When water either isn't avail-

able or is unsafe, the risks to children multiply exponentially," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said. "Across the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, millions of children are just one disease away from catastrophe," she added.

UNICEF said drought and conflict in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria were driving up water insecurity, resulting in 40 million children facing extremely high levels of water vulnerability.

According to UNICEF's figures, 2.8 million children in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions



UNICEF said that drought and conflict were driving up water insecurity leading to high levels of water vulnerability

are already suffering from severe acute malnutrition, meaning that they are at risk of dying from waterborne diseases at a rate 11 times higher than well-nourished children.

Nearly two-thirds of children affected are under the age of 5. The organization said that as natural water sources dried up, the knock-on effect was significant increases in the price of water. In parts of Kenya prices had risen by as much as 400% while in parts of Somalia increases of up to 85% were reported.

Climate change and extreme weather events have increased

natural disasters over the past 50 years, according to the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The rainy season for much of sub-Saharan Africa is April through June. Not enough rain fell during that period.

This year would be the third consecutive year where the East African and Horn of Africa regions have not received enough rain.

Although droughts are common in this region, they have become more severe. There is growing scientific evidence that climate change has exacerbated the effects of droughts.

Belt and Road Initiative transforming Africa's development infrastructure

KIGALI

EXPERTS and scholars said that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has contributed immensely toward transforming Africa's developing economies through infrastructure development, unemployment reduction and improved trade, among others.

They made the remarks while speaking at a one-day virtual forum, titled "The importance of China's Belt and Road Initiative to Africa."

"China is not here to exploit Africa as the western world perceives, because looking at the African infrastructure development side, the BRI is helping Africa to transform itself. China comes with the help Africans need," said Frederick Golooba Mutebi, a Ugandan independent researcher and analyst.

He believed that China is significantly contributing to Africa's infrastructure development which is one of the major constraints of economic transformation on the continent.

"China through Belt and Road Initiative has come at the right time when Africa is in critical need of infrastructure development and improved global trade opportunities," said Mutebi.

He pointed out that Africa's traditional development partners with a long history of exploiting Africa will find it difficult to compete with the China-proposed BRI because the initiative is based on mutual cooperation

and friendship, not exploitation.

Speaking at the forum, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute, said that BRI has introduced a wide range of projects that are currently beneficial to African economies.

"Through Belt and Road Initiative, roads, railways, bridges, hospitals, schools and airports among others, have been constructed in Africa, which has boosted trade, increased job creation, improved transport services and education and health among African countries," he added.

BRI has positively impacted local residents by providing them with job opportunities, especially those employed in the construction projects, said Sayed, adding that BRI is a global development initiative based on cooperation and multilateral development, not a debt trap as termed by the western world.

Speaking at the meeting, Zha Daojing, professor of international political economy at the School of International Studies and Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development with Peking University, China, said that BRI is focused on facilitating international trade and enabling a smooth global supply chain.

"China's Belt Initiative has provided a platform to low and middle-income economies in Africa to register significant growth in terms of infrastructure development, job creation and



Train conductor Joseph Mwangi waits for confirmation of departure information at Mtito Andei Station on the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in Kenya.

improved trading opportunities," he added.

Adhere Cavince, a Kenyan scholar of international relations with a focus on China-Africa relations; however, said that the BRI has enabled China to share its development experience with African developing countries. "The Kenyan government has worked closely with China, which yielded

great results like the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, which played an important role in boosting Kenya's economic growth," he said.

Cavince said that the BRI has delivered jobs and opened avenues for increased digital cooperation, adding that the initiative has the potential to move the entire continent of Africa forward.

Speaking at the forum, George Nsamba, an independent risk management practitioner based in Johannesburg, South Africa, said that China through BRI has introduced a lot of construction projects in southern Africa which has improved the lives and incomes of many people in southern Africa.

"BRI made a significant improve-

ment in developing Africa's infrastructures and launched projects that lead to the growth of agricultural productivity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese doctors provided medical support to hospitals and a wide range of hospitals were constructed in southern African countries to accommodate COVID-19 patients," he said.

Nsamba explained that BRI has led to an increase in infrastructure projects in Africa through the construction of shopping malls, bridges, railways, schools and hospitals, which has boosted Africa's social and economic transformation.

Mweusi Karake, former head of public relations/corporate communication at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), however, said that BRI has a huge potential for African countries to improve intra-African trade and boost global import and export supply chains.

"It is easy for Africans to relate to Africa because if China has made it, Africa can make it. The fact that the Chinese were able to build their country from scratch and get where it is today, should inspire African countries," Karake stressed.

Proposed by China in 2013 to promote common growth and gain shared benefits, the BRI involves infrastructure development, trade and investment facilitation and people-to-people exchanges aimed at improving connectivity on a trans-continental scale.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for more than a dozen years. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, the two sides have multiplied their efforts to cooperate.

BUSINESS



SMS traffic to EA, international destinations decreases in five years

By Guardian Reporter

The traffic of Short Text Messages (SMS) sent by Tanzanians to East African countries and other international destinations have fallen dramatically over the last five years ended in 2021, data have shown.

Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) data show SMS traffic to East African countries fell by more than 80 percent while to other international destinations fell by more than 50 percent.

According to data, off network SMS from Tanzania to other East African countries fell to 1.4million last year from 7.6million recorded in 2017 while SMS traffic to other international destinations fell to 3.1 billion last year from 7.8 billion in 2017.

However, the report shows the increased number of SMS from East African countries in other international destinations during the reviewed period.

In 2017 SMS sent by Tanzanians to EA and other international destinations

were lower than incoming SMS from two destinations, but the trends turned vice versa as the traffic of incoming SMS are more than outgoing ones.

Data shows incoming SMS from EA last year increased to 89.7 million from 31 million recorded in 2017 while incoming SMS from other international destinations increased to 4.599 billion from 3.188bn recorded in 2017.

The quarterly communications statistics for June this year shows Vodacom Tanzania has the largest share of international SMS accounting for 42 percent, followed by Airtel Tanzania with 22 percent, Tigo Tanzania with 17 percent, Halotel Tanzania by 10 percent and TTCL has 9 percent share.

During the quarter, the report show outgoing off network SMS traffic to East Africa amounted 349,879 while SMS traffic sent to other international destinations amounted 926,503.

Incoming SMS traffic from East African countries amounted 9.895million while those coming from other international destinations amounted 861.6 million, according to TCRA data.

Oil, gas investors generate \$1.4trn cash flow in 2022

LONDON

Oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) firms globally could generate combined cash flows of a record \$1.4 trillion this year, thanks to high prices in the ongoing readjustment in the energy markets, Deloitte said in a new report.

High oil and gas prices and financial discipline have turned the tide for the global upstream industry, and its efforts at capital discipline have paid off, Deloitte said.

Capital discipline has resulted in the oil and gas industry being "in one of its healthiest periods currently, with its lowest ever leverage ratio (20pct) and one of its highest ever dividend yields (6pct), compared to other sectors," according to Deloitte.

The consultancy estimates that the industry will see its highest ever free cash flow of \$1.4 trillion in 2022 if Brent Crude price averages \$106 per barrel.

Big Oil and US shale producers alike reported record or close to record earnings and cash flows for the second quarter amid soaring commodity prices and multi-year high refining margins.

Global upstream is set to generate up to \$1.5 trillion in surplus cash by 2030, possibly with 70 percent of this surplus generated by 2024. This additional cash could be enough to fund and balance both low-carbon and core oil and gas priorities this decade, Deloitte said.

Moreover, the US shale industry could potentially become debt-free

by early 2024 if prices stay strong and discipline prevails.

Shale producers, which generated negative cash flows in nine out of the last ten years, will likely see record-high free cash flows in 2021-2022 that could overcome the decade-long loss of \$300 billion, according to Deloitte.

Strengthened with massive cash flows, the global upstream industry could raise low-carbon capital expenditures to 30 percent of total capex by 2030 in certain scenarios, up from 5 percent currently, the consultancy said.

"The oil and gas industry has faced real disruption over the past few years, some of which originated long before the Covid-19 pandemic began to make its impact. However, the unexpected result of this volatility is that the industry seems to be in a relatively strong position," Amy Chronis, vice chair, U.S. Oil, Gas and Chemicals Leader, Deloitte LLP, said, commenting on the report.

"Those who invest in new business models and remain resilient to the changing market dynamics will be more likely to sustain, lead and win throughout this energy transition."

Meanwhile, oil prices recovered on Friday, and were set to end the week higher as the prospect of production cuts by the OPEC+ offset concerns over an Iran-led supply glut.

London-traded Brent oil futures rose to \$100.07 a barrel, while crude oil West Texas Intermediate futures rose to \$93.21 a barrel.

2022 Ecobank's fintech challenge starts as \$50,000 cash up for grabs

By Guardian Reporter

Early stage and mature start-ups in Tanzania and other 32 African countries will have a chance to win overall cash prize of \$50,000, after Ecobank Group announced the launch of fifth edition of its continental fintech challenge.

According to the press release issued by Ecobank Group, African fintech entrepreneurs are encouraged to enter into a competition as application is open until September 16 this year.

"Fintechs that are aligned with the Bank's strategic objectives stand a chance to win the said cash for the top winner and the opportunity to partner and scale their solutions across Ecobank's 33 African markets," the release says.

Fintech companies and developers originating from any of Africa's 54 countries, as well as global Africa-centered Fintechs, are eligible to enter the Fintech Challenge by visiting the challenge's website.

It is now four years since Tanzanian Benjamin Fernandes, founder of Nala, a simplified mobile money application that allows users to make faster, smarter and safer transactions without an internet connection, was named winner of the challenge walking away with US\$10,000 in prize money.

Ten finalists for this year edition will be inducted into the Ecobank Fintech Fellowship after the finals and awards ceremony which will take place in October 2022.

In addition, the release says all fellows will qualify to explore an opportunity to pursue integration with Ecobank and potentially launch products in all or part of Ecobank's pan-African 33-country ecosystem.

Ecobank may also select some Fintechs as pan-African service partners within the Bank's ecosystem.

According to the release, fellows will be given access to Ecobank's APIs to test and improve their products for the pan-African market and given



Nala founder Benjamin Fernandes (L) from Tanzania, receives 2018 Ecobank Fintech Challenge top prize of \$10,000. PHOTO/FILE

priority access to Ecobank's Venture Capital partners for funding exploration.

Ade Ayeyemi, Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Group, said "Ecobank

believes that the only way to transform financial services in Africa is for Pan-African banks like Ecobank to continually support and collaborate with innovative

Fintechs and start-ups. We invite and welcome Africa's best Fintechs to work with us through the 2022 Challenge."

Dr. Tomisin Fashina, Operations and Technology Executive, Ecobank Group said, "The uniqueness of the Challenge is that it welcomes both early stage and mature start-up Fintechs alike and seeks to align them

with different kinds of partnership opportunities within Ecobank that match their differing levels of maturity."

The Ecobank Fintech Challenge was designed in partnership with international advisory firm, Konfidants and is supported by partners across Africa and globally.

So far 46 Fellows have been admitted into the Ecobank Fintech Fellowship programme since it was launched in 2017.

The Ecobank Group employs about 13,000 people and serves over 32 million customers in the consumer, commercial and corporate banking sectors across 33 African countries.

TCC earnings per share increase by 31.5pct in H1

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed Tanzania Cigarette Company Limited (TCC) Plc earnings per share, both basic and diluted, increased by 31.5 percent to 314/- during the first half of this year from 239/- earned during similar half of last year.

Unaudited company's financial results for the six months ended June 30 shows profit after tax also gained by 31.5 percent to 31.4bn/- from 23.8bn/- respectively.

The company board chairman Paul Makanza noted in the report profit before tax increased by 23.5 percent to 52.6 billion due to strong volume performance and operating costs efficiencies.

He said that give strong results to June 30, short to medium term operational and investment needs to sustain top-line growth, the board of directors has recommended an interim ordinary grow dividend of 300/- per share payment.

The proposed dividend per share is higher than 250/- paid during similar half last year.

Makanza said the proposed interim dividends payment will be subjected to 5 percent withholding tax and will be paid on October 11, this year.

The company share will therefore be traded cum-dividend until September 2022.

"The directors expect solid first-half volume momentum will continue I the second half of 2022," he said. "The management is on track to deliver on its full-year commitment, aided by a more conducive business environment, a robust strategy and a committed team."

The results show the company operating cash flow before movement in working capital increased to 61bn/- from 47bn/- while cash flows from operating activities went up to



TCC board chairman Paul Makanza

64.8bn/- from 43bn/- respectively.

Revenue increased by 10.8 percent to 168.1bn/- during the first half of this year from 151.7bn/- recorded during the first half of last year while cost of sale was up by 6.4 percent to 71.5bn/- from 67.7bn/- respectively.

The increase of revenue, according to the chairman driven by strong domestic and exports volume performance as overall volume increased 14.2 percent compared to similar period in 2021.

The results shows the company total assets slowed to 260.9bn/- from 270.1bn/- respectively due to decrease in both assets and current assets.

Assets shrunk to 83.9bn/- from 86.5bn/- due to decrease of right-of-use assets and property, plant and equipment.

Total current assets decreased to 176.7bn from 183.38bn/- respectively due to shrink of cash ad bank balance and inventories amid rising trade receivables.

The company total liabilities went down to 106.69bn/- from 117.38bn/- respectively as a result of fall of current liabilities despite of slight increased non-current liabilities.

Total current liabilities went down to 88.9bn/- from 100.3bn/- respectively

due to fall of inter-company borrowing from 20.7bn/- to 7.1bn/- and provisions to 4bn/- from 8bn/- amid rising trade and other payables and income tax payables.

The DSE market report shows TCC share price closed at 17,000/- on Thursday this week, the highest than share prices of all listed companies, with the market capitalization of 1.7trn/-, the fifth largest.

The DSE report shows during the day, the company recorded a turnover of 225mn/- from a block trade of 45,000 shares.

Mobile money operators transact 11.6trn/-

By Francis Kajubi

QUARTERLY mobile money transactions value topped 11.6trn/- by the end of second half of the year ending June, from 10.70trn/- recorded during the end of the first quarter of this year in March.

Quarterly communications statistics by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) shows the amounts were recorded from 343,639,879 transactions at the end of June from 330,148,997 transactions during the end of March.

The report shows number of transactions per user during the second quarter of this year were 28, while the value of transaction per user amounted 890,914/-.

TCRA report shows during last year total of 3.7 billion transactions valued 137trn/- were recorded, with an annual average value of transaction per user amounted 3.88mn/- an increase from 3.4 billion transactions valued 127.9trn/- with annual average transaction value of 3.9m/- per user recorded in 2020.

The report shows that number of mobile money accounts also increased to 37.41 million as of June this year up from 35.75 million as of March this year.

TCRA statistics shows that Vodacom Tanzania Plc M-Pesa leads the market share of mobile money services by 39 percent followed by TigoPesa (26 percent) and Airtel Money (22 percent), Halopesa has nine percent and TTCL takes the remaining four percent.

During similar quarter last year, Vodacom market share was 41 percent, followed by TigoPesa with 24 percent, Airtel Money had 21 percent, Halotel 10 percent, TTCL 3 percent and EzyPesa had 1 percent.

According to the Q2, 2022 statistics, M-Pesa subscriptions increased to 14,521,150 in June from 13,614,862 subscribers in June last year while AirtelMoney subscribers increased to 8,158,826 from 6,957,978 subscribers in June last year.

TigoPesa subscribers slowed to 9,741,757 in June from 7,922,731 subscribers in June last year. TCCL had registered 1,510,036 subscribers in June compared to 948,446 subscribers in June last year while HaloPesa had 3,475,464 subscri-



TCRA headquarters in Dar es Salaam

ers from 3,267,426 respectively.

On telecom services subscriptions by region as of June 2022 showed Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Arusha, Mbeya and Dodoma were leading the list.

Dar es Salaam has continued to lead all regions in terms of mobile telecommunication subscribers with active simcards with 9.1 million people, followed by Mwanza region with 3.38 million telecom subscribers.

Other leading regions with the highest num-

ber of subscribers according to the report are Arusha with 3.26 million active subscribers and Tabora with 3 million subscribers.

The report shows Mbeya follows with 2.96 million subscribers, followed by Dodoma with 2.95 million active subscribers.

During the quarter ending June this year, Tigo has attracted 1,104,726 additional subscribers, Airtel attracted 547,063 additional subscribers, Vodacom attracted 455,146 additional subscribers and Smile attracted 968 additional subscri-

ers as of June this year.

On the other hand, a total of 77,941 consumers unsubscribed from Halotel telecom services while the state-owned TTCL had seen 90,053 consumers unsubscribing from its services.

During the corresponding quarter of June 2021, TTCL had attracted 211,843 new subscribers while Halotel attracted 179,327 new subscribers while Airtel had registered 337,006 new subscribers while Tigo saw 518,886 subscribing from its services.

Consulting firm, Tantrade plan for textile exhibition

By Beatrice Philemon

EUPHRATES Consulting Company in collaboration with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) are planning to establish an international exhibition to showcase locally produced textile products. Euphrates founder Abraham Mafurunga said that he had already discussed with TanTrade's Director General, Ms Latifa Khamis to set up such exhibition after learning such experience in India.

"I'm very glad for what has been achieved so far because the meeting has brought in positive results, and we have agreed to establish permanent exhibition that will be conducted every year similarly to Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair," he said. The event aims to provide a platform to visitors and exhibitors in forming new business relations, exports promotion and international partnerships between local investors and foreign investors. Currently, representatives from India based chamber- Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) have agreed to come in Tanzania to have face-to-face discussion with the government on how Tanzania and India will establish an international textile exhibition.

"While in India, I got a chance to visit in different companies including textile industry and I learned that their economy is largely dependent on the textile manufacturing and trade in addition to other major industries; that's why I encourage Tanzania to have exhibition that will help Tanzania to be well-known for what its endowed with in textile industry," he said. Currently, he said, India is ready to support Tanzania on how to establish it to strengthen business links between two countries. Indian high Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said that India will continue to strengthen the good relationship with Tanzania. He said Indian investors are now positioning to invest in sea port, agriculture, oil and gas, small industries, hospitals and education sector. "India will continue to support the aspirations of the people of Tanzania in- terms of training, through exchange of expertise and other support to help Tanzania have enough skilled labour force and attain a semi-industrialized economy," he said.



While in India, I got a chance to visit in different companies including textile industry and I learned that their economy is ...

Moi family shifts Sh520mn StanChart ownership

NAIROBI

The family of late Kenyan President Daniel Moi has restructured its ownership in Standard Chartered Bank, with his son appearing among the top individual owners of the listed lender.

Regulatory filings with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) show 3.884 million shares worth Sh520 million have been transferred from Kabarak Limited to Shawmut Limited.

Kabarak Limited, which was associated with the former president, has held a 1.03 percent stake in Standard Chartered for years.

The shares have been transferred to an investment vehicle labelled Shawmut Limited whose face as director is Eunice Kibiwot Moi, the spouse of John Mark Moi- the second-born son of the former President.

The market regulator did not explain the reasons behind the share transfer, but analysts believe it was linked to the reorganisation of the Moi family empire whose full will and wealth remains a top secret.

The filings have also listed Philip Moi and his son, Alexander Kibet, as owners of 424,100 Standard Chartered shares currently worth Sh60 million-making him the third-largest local individual shareholder in a bank



Standard Chartered Bank branch on Kenyatta Avenue

owned 73.82 percent by the British parent company.

This pushed the family ownership to 1.14 percent in a stake that generated dividends worth Sh60.312 million following the bank's profits of Sh9.04 billion for the year ended December.

Stanchart has in recent years emerged as a top dividend payer among firms listed at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

The share has witnessed little trad-

ing at the Nairobi bourse on few investors willing to exit the counter that traded 8,600 shares on Wednesday compared to 2.09 million shares for Equity Bank and 226,500 shares for Absa Bank.

Last year, the company paid a record dividend of Sh7.1 billion or Sh14 per share after reporting a 66.2 percent jump in net profit to Sh9.04 billion, the highest in five years.

The improved profitability put the

bank in a position to pay the larger dividend - the most generous in the banking industry at nearly 80 percent of net earnings - while remaining well-capitalised to pursue growth.

The bank has reported a 10.9 percent jump in net profit to Sh5.4 billion for the six months to June, helped by an increase in interest income and foreign exchange earnings.

Its steady dividend payouts over the years have generated hundreds of mil-

lions of shillings for the Moi family.

The Moi family is arguably one of the richest in Kenya, based on the business empire it has built over years, with a net worth estimated at tens of billions. This is wealth accumulated before, during and after the former President's 24-year rule (1978-2002), with his children, among them outgoing Baringo Senator Gideon Moi, expanding the family dynasty further.

Kenya's second President remained powerful years after he exited State House, with his businesses playing a major role in the economy.

According to official and non-official records, the family's business empire spans real estate, transport, education, hotel industry, banking, aviation, manufacturing, media, agri-business, security and construction.

Moi left behind the vast wealth to his daughters and sons.

According to a section of his will, he left a 931-hectare parcel to be held by the Trustees of Kabarak University for the benefit of his five sons.

The sons are listed as Jonathan Kipkemboi Moi, Raymond Moi, John Mark Moi, Philip Moi and Gideon Moi.

The former President gave Sh100 million to each of his daughters - Jennifer Chemutai Moi, Doris Chekorir Moi and June Chebet Moi.

Xiaomi in talks with BAIC on making of electric cars

BEIJING

Smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp is eyeing an electric vehicle (EV) production tie-up with Beijing Automotive Group Co (BAIC), as it faces delays in acquiring a licence to make cars on its own. Bloomberg News reported on Friday.

Such partnership among EV startups and traditional carmakers has become increasingly common in China, as state planners have been limiting the issuance of manufacturing licences to new EV makers in a bid to contain excessive investment. Chinese EV maker Nio

Inc, for example, has been partnering with Anhui government-owned Jianghuai Automobile Group (JAC) in vehicle production.

Under the deal, Nio cars, developed and manufactured by the startup, had to bear JAC's nameplate initially, and both later agreed to drop the nameplate over additional fees.

Xiaomi and BAIC are exploring various options including Xiaomi buying a stake in Beijing Hyundai No. 2 plant, which has a licence to make cars in China, the Bloomberg report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

The collaboration could see vehicles built by Beijing Automotive's EV brand, BAIC BluePark New Energy Technology Co, and co-branded with Xiaomi, the report said.

Xiaomi and BAIC declined to comment. An executive at Beijing Electric Vehicle Co, BAIC's EV unit, told Reuters that he is not aware of such talks between Xiaomi and BAIC, declining to be named because he is not authorised to talk to media.

A Hyundai spokesperson said the claims reported in the story concerning the South Korean firm is "groundless." Beijing Hyundai, the joint

venture between Hyundai Motor Co and BAIC, has three manufacturing plants in Beijing.

Xiaomi started construction on its first auto factory in Beijing earlier this year after declaring its ambition last year to enter the competitive EV sector and challenge established brands and newer tech companies.

The plant will have annual capacity of 300,000 units. Xiaomi committed to bringing its cars to mass production in the first half of 2024. Earlier this year, the company started construction on its first auto factory in Beijing.



Xiaomi's new Scientific and Technological Park in Beijing

Outgoing governors to earn Sh1.3bn in send-off packages



NAIROBI

Outgoing governors will earn more than Sh1.3 billion in send-off packages after 37 county chiefs were replaced in the just-concluded elections.

Voters sent home 16 governors in the August 9 General Elections while 21 did not defend their seats after serving their second and final term in office.

Each exiting governor is entitled to a gratuity equivalent to 31 percent of their annual basic pay for every year served. Governors earned a basic monthly salary of Sh924,000 while their deputies pocketed Sh621,250 a month in the last year of service, according to the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) circular.

This means taxpayers will pay each of the county chiefs Sh17.2 million in gratuity equivalent to 31 percent of their annual basic pay for the five-year term served while their deputies will walk home with Sh11.55 million.

The 16 one-term governors will cumulatively get Sh275.2 million while the 21 retiring county bosses will pocket Sh721.83 million. This brings

the total cost to Sh997.03 million.

Deputy governors who served under the 16 county chiefs will take home a cumulative amount of Sh77.28 million while those who served under 21 governors will receive a total of Sh201.6 million.

Voters sent parking Meru governor Kiraitu Murungi, John Lonyangapua (West Pokot), Francis Kimemia (Nyandarua), Nderitu Muriithi (Laikipia), Wycliffe Wangamati (Bungoma) and James Nyoro (Kiambu) among others.

They will be leaving office before the conclusion of a court case where they are seeking Sh2.3 billion annually in retirement perks.

The SRC, which advises the government on wages of public sector officials, has opposed the payments arguing it is not sustainable and is an extra burden to taxpayers.

Governors and their deputies are seeking a lifetime monthly pension of Sh739,200 and Sh700,000 respectively in line with the payouts offered to retired presidents, deputy presidents, chief justices and parliamentary speakers.

Besides the monthly payments, they are seeking a lump sum payment

equivalent to their one-year pay, a 3,000cc four-wheel-drive car, fuel allowance, a driver, a personal assistant and medical covers for local and overseas treatment. The case filed by the Council of Governors is pending in court.

Taxpayers also face multi-million shillings in gratuity payments to county executive committee members, chief officers, county secretaries, and county assembly speakers who are set to exit with their first or second-term governors.

County governments' wage bill stood at Sh176.03 billion as at June 2021, according to data by the Controller of Budget.

A number of the third-generation governors were sworn-in yesterday and are expected to come in with new CEOs, chief officers, secretaries and chiefs of staff who are loyal to them.

First term governors who assumed office include Nairobi's Johnson Sakaja, Mutula Kilonzo Jnr (Makueni), Patrick Ole Nititu (Narok), Lati Lelelit (Samburu), George Natembeya (Trans Nzoia), Fatuma Achari (Kwale), Susan Kihika (Nakuru), Abdi Hassan (Isiolo) and Kimani Wamatangi (Kiambu).

Fertiliser makers cut output on escalating energy prices

OSLO

The energy crisis throttling fertilizer output is deepening as European producers again curb operations because of rising prices of gas -- a key feedstock.

More than a quarter of the region's nitrogen fertilizer capacity is thought to be lost already.

The cuts highlight the impact that Europe's gas crunch is having on industrial users as well as consumers' energy bills.

Shrinking fertilizer supplies also threaten to force the world's farmers to cut back on the nutrients crucial for growing crops, risking smaller harvests as the world grapples with soaring food prices.

Yara said it is cutting its ammonia utilization to about 35 percent, with the latest reductions bringing total curtailments to an equivalent of 3.1 million tons of ammonia and 4 million tons of finished products across its production system in Europe.

Gas is the top input for most nitrogen fertilizer, including ammonia.

"Yara will where possible use its global sourcing and production system to optimize operations and meet customer demand, including continued nitrate production using imported ammonia when feasible," the Oslo-based company said.

Even before Yara's latest cuts, CRU Group estimated that 41% of European ammonia production capacity outside Ukraine would be curtailed or running at heavily reduced rates based on recent announcements. It's currently much cheaper to import ammonia into Europe than to make it there, according to CRU.

CF Industries announced Wednesday it will stop ammonia production at its remaining UK plant, while Grupa Azoty, Poland's largest chemical company, has also trimmed ammonia output and Anwil, a unit of oil company PKN Orlen SA, halted production.

Wholesale fertilizer prices soared to multi-year highs after Russia invaded Ukraine, roiling commodity markets. Russia is a big supplier of every major type of crop nutrient.

Recently, prices had been dropping, but that trend reversed as surging gas prices result in sweeping cuts to European production.

European fertilizer makers have been hit hardest by high gas prices. The global sector has also contended with US and European Union sanctions on potash sales from Belarus and China's move to rein in shipments.

Plus, trade in Russian nutrients has suffered from many shippers, banks and insurers self-sanctioning and difficulties in servicing Russian exports.

BASF

The world's largest chemical company said in July it was cutting ammonia production further.

It had already cut output at its headquarters in Ludwigshafen and at its large chemical complex in Antwerp, Belgium, in September last year.

CF Fertilisers UK

The UK subsidiary of CF Industries Holdings Inc, said on Wednesday it would temporarily halt ammonia production at its Billingham Complex due to high natural gas and carbon prices.

Grupa Azoty

Poland's biggest chemicals firm said on Monday it was halting production of nitrogen fertilisers and cutting ammonium output to about 10% capacity at its Pulawy subsidiary.

It reduced fertiliser production at its Kedzierzyn subsidiary to 43% of capacity as of Wednesday.

PKN Orlen

The Polish refiner's Anwil subsidiary said on Monday it had temporarily halted production of nitrogen fertilisers.

It said it will perform maintenance and other work during the standstill and plans to resume production once the gas market stabilises.



Yara said it's cutting its ammonia utilization to about 35 percent



ITV	10:00	10:55	11:00	11:55	12:00	12:30	12:55	13:00	13:40	13:55	14:10	14:40	14:55	15:00	16:30	17:00	18:00	18:10	18:15	18:30	19:30	20:00	21:05	21:15	21:40	22:10	22:50	23:40	01:15																																																	
SATURDAY 27 Aug	Watoto wetu	Habari za saa	ITV Top Ten	Habari za saa	Al Jazeera	Jungu kuu	Habari za saa	Mjue Zaidi	Art and Lifestyle rpt	Habari za saa	Soap rpt: Rebecca	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	Habari za saa	Meza Huru:	Watoto Wetu	The Base	Jiji Letu	Aibu yako rpt	Igizo: Mizengwe	DWTV: Kesho leo	Afya ya Jamii	Soap: I Plead Guilty	Habari	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	Igizo: Rebecca	Art and Lifestyle	ITV TOP 10	Hawavumi lakini wamo	Soap: Uzalo rpt	DWTV																																																
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera	9:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Shika Bamba 5	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:40	Usafiri Wako rpt	13:10	Korean: Jumong rpt	13:50	Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt	16:10	Igizo: Mizengwe	16:30	Igizo: Rebecca	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Korean: Jumong	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:30	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15	Igizo: Rebecca	21:40	Art and Lifestyle	22:10	ITV TOP 10	22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	01:15	DWTV																								
SUNDAY 28 Aug	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:25	Jagina rpt	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Afya ya jamii	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Ripoti Maalum	13:40	Shikabamba	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Shikabamba	14:15	Igizo rpt: Rebecca	14:40	Igizo: Mizengwe	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Mapishi	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	23:00	Habari						
MONDAY 29 Aug	5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	10:00	Bongo Movie rpt	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	15:30	Mwangaza	16:30	ITV Top 10	17:20	Kipindi cha Kikristo	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Mapishi	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	19:30	Igizo: Rebecca	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Reflexology	21:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	22:15	Bongo movie:	23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt	02:05	Al Jazeera																										
TUESDAY 30 Aug	5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:25	Jagina rpt	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Afya ya jamii	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Ripoti Maalum	13:40	Shikabamba	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Shikabamba	14:15	Igizo rpt: Rebecca	14:40	Igizo: Mizengwe	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Mapishi	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:30	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	21:45	Chetu ni chetu	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	23:00	Habari				
WEDNESDAY 31 Aug	5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:25	Uchumi wetu	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Bundesliga rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:40	Mapishi	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	18:30	Kipindi maalum: TBS	19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00	Habari	21:05	Aibu Yako	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:40	Ripoti Maalum	22:30	Soap: Uzalo	23:00	Habari	23:30	The Base	00:30	Al Jazeera	02:00	DWTV
THURSDAY 1 Sept	5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:30	Shamba lulu	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Kipindi maalum: TBS rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi maalum: TBS rpt	13:30	Igizo rpt: Rebecca	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Chetu ni chetu	14:20	Kipindi maalum rpt: NSSF	14:40	Igizo: Mizengwe																														
FRIDAY 2 Sept	5:00	Igizo rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:55	Habari za saa	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	13:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	14:30	DWTV rpt: Kesho leo	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza Huru	16:30	Watoto Wetu	17:00	The Base (DJ Show)	17:30	Kisiam	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	18:30	Uchumi wetu	19:00	Shamba lulu	19:30	Soap: I Plead Guilty	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipima Joto	23:00	Habari	23:30	The Base	00:30	Al Jazeera	02:00	DWTV		
SATURDAY 3 Sept	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera	9:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Shika Bamba 5	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	11:10	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo																																																										
SUNDAY 4 Sept	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Watoto Wetu	11:00	ITV Top 10	16:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Mapishi	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	19:30	Igizo: Rebecca	20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10	Kipindi maalum: Reflexology	21:15	Igizo: Mizengwe	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	22:15	Bongo movie:	23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt	02:05	Al Jazeera																																						

CAPITAL

Sat 27 Aug

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: Hwarang
14:30	Telenovela rpt: Laws of love
17:15	EcoAfrica
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Korean Drama: Hwarang
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Music : Club 101 rpt

WORLD

WHO launches project to curb spread of COVID across Somalia

MOGADISHU / WINDHOEK

THE World Health Organization on Thursday launched a new project to prevent the community spread of COVID-19 across Somalia.

WHO Representative to Somalia Mamunur Rahman Malik said the project will address existing gaps in coordination, surveillance, vaccination, and the operational response to COVID-19 and help the country's health system recover from the pandemic toward a more inclusive and equitable system.

Malik said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, that the WHO in collaboration with partners including the Somali government will ramp up measures to contain and suppress the spread of COVID-19.

"This would prevent the resurgence of the virus. It would also minimize adverse effects of the pandemic on other life-saving essential health services, such as routine immunization for children, which has already slid back substantively in the last two years," he added.

According to WHO, Somalia had 27,137 laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, and 1,351 related deaths as of Wednesday

and the country's disease surveillance system remains fragmented and weak.

Currently, only 62 percent of health facilities in Somalia are reporting through the early warning and alert and response network, WHO said.

It also said the country could vaccinate only 15 percent of its population against COVID-19 fully, leaving many high-risk populations unvaccinated.

Malik said WHO will work to limit communities' exposure to COVID-19 and reduce mortality and morbidity among vulnerable populations.

He said this will be accomplished by supporting the government and federal member states to maintain active surveillance for early case detection, laboratory confirmation, and contact tracing, and improve information and data sharing, including innovation and research.

According to WHO, an effective and robust response to COVID-19 outbreaks will be crucial to save lives, reduce the disease burden, and protect the general population's health.

Somalia's fragile health system has been struggling to sustain the progress



Mothers wait for high nutrition foods and health services at Tawkal 2 Dinsoor camp for internally displaced persons in Baidoa, Somalia on Feb 14, 2022. File photo

made in containing and mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations, especially among around 47 percent of people who live in hard-to-reach areas, where disease reporting is weak and incomplete.

This results in underreporting and the actual magnitude and size of the COVID-19 epidemic in the country may not represent the true burden of the disease, the UN agency said.

Namibia

Namibian Minister of Health and Social Services Kalumbi Shangula on Thursday said people visiting Namibia will no longer be required to produce a vaccination certificate or a negative PCR test result at the ports of entry.

Shangula said in a statement that the current epidemiological situation no longer supports the retention of this requirement.

"Consequently, the entry requirement into Namibia by foreign travelers of vaccination license and a negative PCR test result has been scrapped," he said.

The ministry last month decided to cease daily updates on COVID-19 and replaced them with weekly reports on Thursdays.

Shangula added that the weekly COVID-19 updates will be discontinued immediately, given that COVID-19 cases have exponentially

decreased.

US

US top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci in an interview decried the political polarization that impeded the country's response to COVID-19, Bloomberg reported on Thursday.

In a taped interview that would appear at noon US Eastern Time on Bloomberg, Fauci said he would advise his successor -- who has yet to be named -- to stay out of politics.

"The country has come to a state where even politicians are saying things that are triggering thoughts of violence and harassment against me and my family, but that's just the state of our nation," he said in the interview, adding that "I accept that. I don't like it."

Fauci said he expected the country would have moved past the COVID-19 pandemic after the first year of the Biden administration, but the disruption from the virus has lingered longer than the infectious disease expert anticipated, Bloomberg reported.

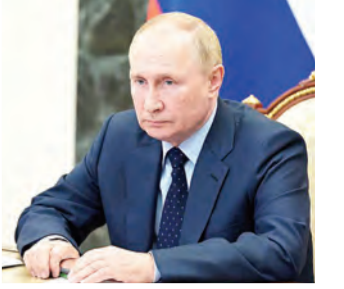
The United States needs to learn the lessons of COVID-19 to be ready for future outbreaks, Fauci said in the interview, calling the culture at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "not optimal" for responding to a global pandemic.

Agencies

Poll shows 81% of Russians trust Putin

MOSCOW

THE level of the Russian public's confidence in President Vladimir Putin rose by 1.2 percentage points to 81.2% in the past week, according to a poll published by the All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center yesterday.



The poll involving 1,600 respondents over 18 years of age was conducted on August 15-21.

"When asked if they trusted Putin, 81.2% of the poll's participants said yes (a 1.2 percentage point rise from the week before). The share of people approving of the way the president is handling his job was 78.4% (0.6 percentage points higher than last week)," the pollster said.

A total of 52.6% of those polled said they approved of the Russian government's work (a 0.4 percentage point increase) and 50.9% approve of Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's work (a 1.2 percentage point drop). As many as 62.9% of respondents said they trusted Mishustin (a decline of 0.9 percentage points).

As for the leaders of parliamentary parties, 36.7% of those surveyed trust leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennady Zyuganov (a 3.1 percentage point rise from the previous week), 31.5% trust leader of the A Just Russia - For Truth party Sergey Mironov (a 0.3 percentage point increase), 10.2% said they trusted Chairman of the New People party Alexey Nechayev (0.4 percentage points higher than last week) and 17.5% of the poll's participants trust leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky (a 1.1 percentage point drop).

The level of popular support for the United Russia party stood at 39.3% (a 0.1 percentage point decline from the week before). The level dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 10.7% for the Russian Communist Party and declined by 0.1 percentage points to 4.3% for the New People party.

The Russian Liberal Democratic Party saw a 0.8 percentage point rise to 8.6%, while popular support for the A Just Russia - For Truth remained at 5.4%.

Agencies

German FM to visit Morocco amid warming relations

RABAT

GERMANY'S Foreign Affairs Minister, Annalena Baerbock, is set to arrive in Morocco today for a two-day working trip.

Baerbock's visit will be the first of its kind since Berlin and Rabat decided to restore their diplomatic relations after a year-long feud over what Morocco's foreign ministry described as "fundamental disagreements" on a wide range of strategic issues.

Katja Isabel Leikert, an MP for the Christian Democratic Union party, will be part of Baerbock's delegation during her visit to Rabat.

Commenting on the context and significance of the trip, Leikert pointed to Berlin's readiness to deepen diplomatic ties with Rabat, as well as Morocco's pioneering leadership in the management of irregular migration and the growing worldwide shift toward renewable energies.

"Morocco is a key country for Germany and Europe. In the future Morocco will play an important role both on migration issues... and in the production of renewable energies," the MP said.

During their visit, the German officials' talks with their Moroccan counterparts will cover the exchange of ideas on different challenges and cooperation, including human rights.

As they emerge from the fog of months-long tensions last year over a range of issues, notably Morocco's displeasure with Germany's stance on the Western Sahara dispute, the two countries appear to have ultimately decided to give a new impetus to their bilateral cooperation.

Last year in May, Morocco recalled its ambassador to Germany for consultations amid deepening diplomatic tensions.

In a statement, Morocco's Foreign Ministry said the decision was due to Germany's "antagonistic" activism following former US President Donald Trump's proclamation recognizing Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara.

In December, however, Germany's new government issued a statement that signaled the country's desire to mend ties with Morocco. Notably, Berlin expressed support for the Moroccan Autonomy Plan for Western Sahara as a viable contribution to the UN-led political process to find a mutually acceptable solution to end the decades-long territorial dispute.

As well as subtly but significantly embracing Morocco's Western Sahara stance, the German statement highlighted the North African country's regional leadership in sustainable development and its efforts to preserve peace and stability in the MENA region.

Agencies



CIIE a boost for China's wider opening-up, mutual benefits - experts

BEIJING

THE China International Import Expo (CIIE) is not only an annual economic and trade fair, but also an event that boosts China's high-quality economic development, promotes wider opening-up and helps achieve mutual benefits and win-win results, according to experts.

A symposium on the fifth anniversary of the CIIE was held in Beijing on Thursday, gathering officials, academics, and enterprise representatives to discuss

related topics.

The CIIE has given full play to its role as a window for building a cooperation platform for those engaged both at home and abroad, and has become a place for exhibitors to debut their new global products, cutting-edge technologies and innovative services, said Vice Minister of Commerce Sheng Qiuping, at the symposium.

Sheng added that the expo had played a positive role in promoting China's industrial upgrading, effectively improving domestic

supply, promoting consumption upgrading, and establishing a new development pattern.

According to Ministry of Commerce statistics, from 2018 to 2021, exhibitors at the four import expos launched more than 1,500 new products, technologies and services, with an accumulated intended turnover exceeding 270 billion U.S. dollars.

Hong Junjie, vice president of the Beijing-based University of International Business and Economics, said the fair not only plays a significant role in at-

tracting investment, driving the implementation of high-level innovation projects, but also builds a platform for domestic enterprises to explore their overseas markets.

"Hosting the CIIE is a major initiative by China to open its market to the world," said Dong Yu, executive vice president of the China Institute for Development Planning at Tsinghua University.

Dong added that, since the first CIIE was held, China had achieved great results in aspects including speeding up its institu-

tional construction and improving its business environment through opening-up.

"Panasonic signed up for the fifth expo last September," said Zhao Bingdi, president of the Panasonic Corporation of China, adding he looks forward to further showcasing the company's environment-friendly products and technical support solutions for energy conservation and emission reduction at the expo.

The fifth CIIE will take place in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10.

Xinhua

Macron urges France-Algeria future beyond 'painful' history

ALGIERS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron indicated France and Algeria should move beyond their "painful" shared history and look to the future on Thursday at the start of a three-day visit to the North African country.

The trauma of French colonial rule in Algeria and the bitter independence war that ended it in 1962 has haunted relations between the two countries for decades and played into a diplomatic dispute that erupted last year.

"We have a complex, painful common past. And it has at times prevented us from looking at the future," Macron said after meeting Algerian counterpart President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Standing alongside Macron in front of the intricate North African tilework of the palace where they met, Tebboune said: "We hope the visit will open up new perspec-



tives for partnership and cooperation with France".

Ties with Algeria have become more important for France because the conflict in Ukraine has increased demand in Europe

for North African gas, and because of surging migration across the Mediterranean.

Algeria is meanwhile seeking to capitalize on higher energy prices to lock in European investment.

Macron has long wanted to turn the page with Algeria and in 2017 he described French actions during the 1954-62 war that killed hundreds of thousands of Algerians as a "crime against humanity".

That declaration, politically controversial in France, won him popularity in Algeria when he last visited five years ago and he was celebrated by young Algerians.

Macron will again reach out to Algerian youth on this visit with scheduled stops focused on youth culture including breakdancing and North African "Raï" pop music. France is home to more than four million people of Algerian origin.

However, Macron's hopes of moving beyond the fraught history of the colonial era

have proven premature before.

Last year he was quoted as suggesting that Algerian national identity did not exist before French rule, and accusing Algeria's leaders of rewriting the history of the independence struggle based on a hatred of France.

The comments provoked a storm in Algeria, where the ruling elite is still dominated by the generation that fought for independence and where that struggle occupies a central place in national identity.

Algeria withdrew its ambassador for consultations and closed its airspace to French planes - complicating the French military mission in the Sahel.

Before his meeting with Tebboune, Macron visited a monument to Algerians killed in the war, placing a wreath there. He said the two governments would establish a joint committee of historians to study archives of the colonial era.

Agencies

THERE is only one China in the world and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. This is the essence of the one-China principle and the status quo of the Taiwan question. It has been widely recognized by the international society.

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region upgraded the substantive exchanges between the U.S. and Taiwan and seriously violated the one-China principle. It was a provocative action that changed the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

The one-China principle clearly defines the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. To violate and challenge this principle is to change the status quo.

US the one changing status quo in Taiwan Strait

Before and after Pelosi's visit, the U.S., on the one hand, claimed that the visit "in no way contradicts the long-standing one-China policy" and it "opposes unilateral efforts to change the status quo" in the Taiwan Strait. However, on the other hand, it smeared that Beijing is "trying to change the status quo through force" and "Beijing's provocative actions are significant escalation and its long standing attempt to change the status quo."

This is like a thief crying "stop thief." It cannot cover up the fact that the U.S. is indeed the one viciously changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Pelosi's visit itself was a deliberate action aiming at undermining peace and

stability in the Taiwan Strait.

In the Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U.S., the U.S. has made a clear promise to maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan. However, the visit to Taiwan by Pelosi, the third-highest ranking figure in the U.S. government, was by no means unofficial. Even Pelosi herself admitted it was an "official visit" in a public statement, which was a blatant violation of the Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. Besides, the U.S. politician has frequently called Taiwan a "country" in public. These wrongful practices of Pelosi exactly explain to the world

that the American politician herself is indeed deliberately changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

The White House's connivance is also holding a candle to the devil.

The U.S. said immorally that "the change to the status quo that prevailed with regard to Taiwan for more than 40 years is coming from Beijing, not from the U.S." However, the fact is that the U.S. has broken its commitments made in the three China-U.S. joint communiqués and is going further and further on the way of fudging, hollowing out and distorting the one-China principle.

The U.S. issued the so-called New Guidelines for U.S. Government Interac-

tions with Taiwan Counterparts, which relaxed the restrictions on interactions between the U.S. and the Taiwan region and connived in U.S. senior officials' visits to Taiwan.

Besides, it also broke its commitment to "gradually reduce its sale of arms to Taiwan, leading over a period of time, to a final resolution," continuously enhancing its arms sales to Taiwan in both scale and performance. So far, the total value of American arms sales to Taiwan has exceeded \$70 billion. The incumbent administration alone has signed arms deals worth \$1.1 billion with Taiwan.

The U.S., claiming it has no intention of pursuing a policy of "two Chinas" or "one

China, one Taiwan," is blatantly helping Taiwan expand the so-called "international space." Such practice of saying one thing but doing the opposite exactly indicates that the U.S. is deliberately changing the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Together with a few other countries, the U.S. issued a so-called statement, in which they reaffirmed that "there is no change in the respective one China policies" and "basic positions on Taiwan," but suffixed the "one China policies" with "where applicable." This marked another piece of iron-clad evidence that the U.S. is trying to change the status quo.

Over the recent years, the U.S. has been fudging, hollowing out and distorting the one-China principle in different tricks, modifying it with increasingly more pre-conditions.

People's Daily

EU reaffirms support for 'mutually acceptable' solution to Sahara issue

RABAT

THE EU reaffirmed its position in support of a fair, lasting, political, and mutually acceptable solution to the Sahara issue and welcomed Morocco's "credible" efforts to that end.

The European Union (EU) remains committed to its position on the Moroccan Sahara dispute, recalls loud and clear that it takes "positive note of the serious and credible efforts led by Morocco" and "strongly supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to achieve a just, realistic and lasting mutually acceptable political solution to the Sahara issue."

The position was reiterated by EU spokeswoman for foreign affairs Nabila Massrali, who said the EU backs a solution based on compromise in line with UN Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2602, of October 29, 2021.

Resolution 2602 of the UN Security Council confirms the "continuum" of the round-table process - with its modalities and its four participants: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Polisario - as the "one and only" framework for the settlement of the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara.

With this statement, the EU makes its position clear and dissipates the illusions of many separatist circles who were intent on misinterpreting isolated statements by EU officials that do not reflect the EU's position.

Morocco's foreign minister Nasser Bourita welcomed the statement, noting that Morocco has always been in favor of a UN solution and has backed the latest UN Security Council resolution which lauded the autonomy plan as serious and credible.

He recalled, at a press conference with his German peer Annalena Baerbock, that Algeria is actually the party that rejected the latest Security Council resolution. Baerbock reaffirmed Germany's position in favor of UN efforts, describing the autonomy proposal as a "good basis" to reach a political solution to the Sahara conflict.

The King in his recent speech mentioned Germany among the countries that back the autonomy plan in a pro-Moroccan territorial integrity momentum that led some 30 countries to open consulates in the Sahara territory, in tangible support for Rabat. **Agencies**

Russian embassy slams US accusations of war crimes as another fake

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON'S accusations of war crimes against Moscow are nothing more than "another fake aimed at discrediting the Russian special military operation", the Russian embassy in the US said yesterday.

"The State Department continues to disseminate speculation about the 'filtration camps' allegedly set up by us in the DPR, as well as the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the destruction of educational, medical institutions and cultural facilities in the LPR.

This is another fake aimed at discrediting the Russian special military operation," the embassy's press service said in a statement.

The Russian diplomatic mission noted that "Russia is committed to observing the norms of International Humanitarian Law."

In turn, the embassy stressed, "back in 2014, representatives of Kiev announced the use of 'special measures' against residents of southeastern Ukraine, aimed at identifying persons who allegedly 'could be associated with separatists.'"

"In other words, it was about purging everyone whom the Ukrainian special services would suspect of disloyalty to the neo-Nazis who had settled in Kiev.

Since then, the actions of the Ukrainian authorities have become more and more brutal. The United States chose to take no notice of that for eight years. Even now, they don't see it from point-blank range," the embassy said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on February 24 that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation.

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories, noting that the operation was aimed at the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry reassured that Russian troops are not targeting Ukrainian cities, but are limited to surgically striking and incapacitating Ukrainian military infrastructure. There are no threats whatsoever to the civilian population.

Uganda intensifies border surveillance after Ebola outbreak in eastern DR Congo

KAMPALA

UGANDA has intensified surveillance on its western border following a reported Ebola case in the neighboring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a senior government official said on Thursday.

Emmanuel Ainebyoona, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, told Xinhua by telephone that they have also intensified risk communication in the border districts. "We have already intensified our surveillance system and risk communication in the border districts to ensure there is no importation of Ebola," Ainebyoona said.

Allan Muruta, the commissioner in charge of epidemics at the ministry, told local media that the risk of disease spread was high in 21 bordering districts. The World Health Organization announced a resurgence of Ebola in the North Kivu Province of DRC which borders Uganda.

Xinhua

BRI puts developing nations on right track for growth, says US scholar

CHICAGO

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) puts developing nations on the right track to achieving their long-term development goals, a scholar has said.

Khairy Tourk, professor of economics with the Stuart School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, has studied the BRI for years and published the book "The Belt and Road Initiative - Chinese solution to a deficient global order" in January 2022. He has long been concerned about the Western media's unrelenting attempts to tarnish the BRI over the last few years.

"During writing my book on the BRI, I was struck by how the international media is spreading falsehoods about the BRI ... There has been a lot of negative reporting on the subject," he said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

In a letter to the Financial Times in early August, while agreeing with the British publication's opinion view that the BRI is building "worthwhile infrastructure in developing countries," Tourk disagreed with its statement that the initiative is "morphing into a financial fire-fighting operation on a grand scale" for China.

"We should guard against blaming China for the difficulties some BRI nations are having in paying off their sovereign debts."

Taking Sri Lanka as an example, Tourk said the island country owed only 10 percent of its total sovereign debt to China, whereas 47 percent is the country's market borrowings from Western hedge funds and banks.

"Sri Lanka's recent default has nothing to do with the Chinese loans," he said.

Tourk attributes the primary reason for the distress to recent changes in U.S. monetary poli-



A Chang'an China-Europe freight train leaves for Kazakhstan from Xi'an International Port in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, July 29, 2022. (Xinhua/Li Yibo)

cies. "For developing countries, from Sri Lanka to Argentina, the greenback's rise has made servicing dollar-denominated debts essentially impossible." "In addition, there is no need to exaggerate the problem of debt distress. The BRI loans do not represent a threat to the global economy," he said.

Furthermore, infrastructure has not been the main focus of post-1945 multilateral institutions for decades. "The BRI has drawn world attention to the importance of infrastructure as an essential pillar of economic develop-

ment," he said.

China has done its best to help countries in distress, Tourk said, referring to measures including "rescue" loans to many BRI countries.

There are two ways to look at the BRI in the world at present, Tourk told Xinhua. Western countries look at the BRI through a geo-strategic lens, he said. "We are back to the Cold War, zero-sum game mentality."

Bashing China "is fashionable in many quarters in the West," Tourk said. Whenever the Western media re-

port on the BRI, they are used to portray the initiative with skepticism.

Developing nations, on the contrary, consider the BRI the best hope for development, he said.

For decades, these countries couldn't modernize their antiquated infrastructure, he said. "Now China is providing them funds, the construction expertise to build modern infrastructure, and this is the basis for sustained development, and bodes well for the economic future of developing nations."

In the long term, developing nations will need to borrow until their economies become productive enough to earn foreign exchange through exports and climb the technology ladder, Tourk said.

"The BRI represents their best hope for achieving their dreams of industrialization and improving the quality of life of the people," he added. **Xinhua**

Residents: Fighting flares for 2nd day in northern Ethiopia



Ethiopian government soldiers ride in the back of a truck on a road near Agula, north of Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 8, 2021. File photo

NAIROBI

FIGHTING flared for a second day in northern Ethiopia, residents said on Thursday, an outbreak of violence that has shattered hopes for fledgling peace talks between the government and forces from the Tigray region.

"We are frequently hearing the sound of heavy weapons, more than the previous days," a farmer in Amhara's Kobo area who did not wish to be named told Reuters. "More troops including those from Ethiopian National Defense Force, local militias and Fanos (volunteer militia) are heading to the front."

A second resident confirmed his account.

Leul Mesfin, medical director of Dessie Hospital, the largest medical facility in the vicinity of the fighting, said that as of Thursday the facility had not received any casualties from the fighting, which is in Amhara region just to the south of Tigray.

Reuters was unable to reach the nearest hospital on the Tigrayan side as the region has been cut off from phone communications for more than a year.

It was not clear if the troops moving through Kobo were going to offensive or defensive positions, or who started the fighting.

Both sides blamed each other for breaking the four-month-old ceasefire between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the party that controls Tigray.

Ethiopian government spokesman Legesse Tulu, military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane, the Amhara regional spokesman Gizachew Muluneh and the prime minister's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum did not respond to requests for comment on the fresh fighting. TPLF spokesman Getachew Reda also did not respond to a request for comment.

The ceasefire had allowed badly needed humanitarian aid to reach Tigray, where more than 90% of people need food aid.

On Wednesday, the United Nations said Tigrayan forces had seized 12 fuel tankers from a ware-

house in Mekelle. The government has heavily restricted fuel supplies from entering Tigray, and the tankers were supposed to have been used for distributing humanitarian aid.

On Thursday, the TPLF issued a statement saying the fuel had only been lent to the United Nations and they had needed to reclaim it.

The war in Tigray started in November 2020 after Tigrayan forces seized control of military bases in their region, saying they believed an attack by the military was imminent after the region held regional elections in defiance of a government order to delay them because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government has denied it was planning to attack Tigray, whose leaders dominated the government until Abiy swept to power in 2018.

The conflict has already displaced millions of people, pushed parts of Tigray into famine and killed thousands of civilians.

Cost-of-living crisis could exacerbate social divide in UK, scholar warns

LONDON

THE cost-of-living crisis in the United Kingdom (UK) could exacerbate social division, furthering the divide between the country's rich and poor, a leading London-based academic has warned.

"There is a lot of evidence that the cost-of-living crisis is becoming more prolific and more serious," public policy expert and associate professor Dr. Patrick Diamond from Queen Mary University of London told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

It is less clear whether the crisis will change society, but it is certainly going to accelerate and deepen some of the divisions in the country, Diamond said.

"It doesn't necessarily directly change society, but obviously it does raise a lot of questions about social cohesion when you have some groups who are facing these kinds of cost-of-living pressures, the rise in poverty and so on," he said.

Inflation in Britain has hit successive new highs since the winter of 2021. The latest figures show that the consumer price index (CPI) surged by 10.1 percent in the 12 months to July, the highest level in 40 years, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

But wage increases have failed to catch up. After taking inflation into account, real pay among employees between April and June this year fell at the fastest pace in more than two decades, the ONS said.

On a day-to-day basis, some people are already spending less on goods and services, eating out less or using fewer leisure facilities, Diamond said, noting that there are lots of anecdotes about greater use of food banks and child poverty in terms of children not getting access to school meals.

An ONS survey published last month said three-quarters of adults in the UK have reported

being very or somewhat worried about the rising cost of living.

"Certainly, the cost-of-living crisis is growing in its visibility, and no doubt this will continue over the next few months. We haven't yet hit winter."

Indeed, the situation may get much worse this coming winter due to a widely anticipated huge increase in the energy price cap in October.

Higher energy prices are expected to push the UK's inflation to 13 percent in the fourth quarter of the year and inflation is likely to remain at very elevated levels throughout much of 2023, the Bank of England said earlier this month.

Pensioners, who rely more on energy use in winter to heat their houses, and benefit claimants will be the hardest hit by the soaring energy costs, Diamond said.

He underlined that two-parent households on middle to high incomes with children also face significant pressure because their discretionary budgets are not that large, and the huge increases in energy costs will eat into their family budgets.

An analysis conducted by the charity Citizens Advice last week showed that one in four people in the UK will not be able to afford their energy bills in October, and the figure could jump to one in three people next January.

Diamond also stressed the importance of more targeted support for low-income people in London due to the much higher housing and living costs there.

"This is going to have a disproportionate impact on London," he said. "There needs to be a recognition that there are many low-income people living in London and the energy crisis is going to hit them hard."

To tackle the worsening cost-of-living crisis, the UK government announced a support package in May, including sending a one-off payment directly to the lowest-income households. **Xinhua**

Professionalizing Mainland Premier League with data training vests

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOMETHING is changing on the technical benches of Premier League sides, starting with the more ambitious Msimbazi Street outfit, Simba SC, which has introduced training vests that collect data on what the player is doing on the pitch.

Pundits say it collects data when a player runs and stops when he walks, and presumably, the intervals are similarly recorded. It is a fact sheet on a player's run.

Reportedly, the first casualty of this training method is veteran Simba SC forward and captain, John Bocco, whose data flow began to show a clear inability to move at the tempo sought by the head coach, Zoran Manojlovi.

It is a situation that is likely to draw either the wrath or chagrin of several conservative insiders, who had expected that player's fate - to stay or not to stay - to be decided by advisors thronging members of the management. It is this advisory cum management role that is being checked.

Not just Bocco but several other veterans are either on their way out or likely to remain on the bench for good periods if the contracts for this year have largely been finalized.

Especially with the confirmed arrival of Cesar Lobi Manzoki to join the club, after a tug of war with Vipers SC of Kampala.

There are names like Shomari Kapombe put on the question-laden risk players, where things can happen before the current window is either closed or at mid-season, in the January short registration bar.

The reason for introducing this method is easily the motion of technology, as admittedly it is just during the past season that some of us were seeing vests that look like ladies' bras, and until the matter came up in Dar es Salaam, that



Simba SC striker John Bocco. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

feature of the dress was not being given any particular reflection.

Now it comes up as a training field gadget that is in the process of revolutionizing how soccer is organized in the city of Dar es Salaam and elsewhere. Plenty of what builds loyalty bases is vaporizing.

Ordinarily, there is a lot of club 'politics' at times about player recruitment and more so when it comes to offloading, as pundits and technical bench insiders would be sharply divided as to the skills of a player, or mistakes on the pitch.

There were also other weaknesses - now largely eclipsed even at their next street archrivals Young Africans SC 'Yanga' in the wake of full coverage sponsorships - of player patronage by specific club leaders.

Coaches were being lobbied by stakeholders and interest groups on which players should feature on the lineup on a particular day.

Club hangers-on for which street language these days likens with 'lice' had their preliminary basis in controlling gate entrances to check tickets and allow those permitted by some management echelons.

This need started to be eclipsed with electronic ticketing and fewer fake tickets as a business.

Player registration has of late been a crowd puller, a sort of loyalty base for instance at the Jangwani Street club, moving up from player finding and patronage to taking up registration or recruitment as a whole.

The change now is what player to keep and indeed what sort of data to look after in seeking out a player, moving from stylistics to a more informed format of checking out quality.

This prunes the business of influencers and advisers to retain the more professional work of watching the range of performance in the fitness and other delivery issues.

What remains to be seen is how far Premier League sides will be taking up this method and the graded manner in which they will be using the data, the criteria to figure out what player can remain, via the training vest quotations they will be seeking after.

Whatever the differences in range they will adopt, for instance, variations in quotations or citations for first team choice and the reserve bench, and indeed simply for registering a player, it is unavoidable that this method will spread out and be used by most premier league sides in the not so distant future.

Club management in particular will see how it helps to cut long stories short, use an equitable measure of player ability and reliability on the pitch, how far he can be involved in the pressing and for how many minutes, etc. Advisers are silenced.



Simba Queens' Kenyan midfielder Corazone Aquino celebrates with fellow footballer Asha Djafary (L) after netting for the side when it took on Rwanda's AS Kigali Women Football Club during a last-four tie of the 2022/23 CAF Women's Champions League qualifier for the CECAFA Zone held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Simba Queens to face She Corporate FC in CAF Women's Champions League Qualifiers' final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENYA'S Harambee Starlets midfielder Corazone Aquino scored twice as Simba Queens ran riot, thrashing Rwanda's AS Kigali 5-1 to storm into the final of this season's CAF Women's Champions League qualifier for the CECAFA Zone.

The Tanzania club will on Saturday lock horns with Uganda's She Corporate FC in the final with the CECAFA region's slot at the 2022/23 CAF Women's Champions League at stake.

Last year, Vihiga Queens of Kenya trounced Simba Queens 2-1 in the qualifiers' semi-final at the Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi, making it to the final of the CAF Women's Champions League Qualifiers.

Simba Queens who are playing in front of their home fans in Dar es Salaam will take on Uganda's She Corporate FC in the final.

The Ugandan Women Premier League champions stunned pre-tournament favourites Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) Women's Football Club 2-1 in the other semi-final.

CBE WFC who lost last year's final to Vihiga Queens had qualified for the semi-finals whilst boasting of an unbeaten

run.

Phiona Nabbumba scored the winning goal for She Corporate in the 75th minute, less than a quarter of an hour after CBE WFC's Loza Abera had cancelled out Anitah Namatta's 20 minutes opener with the Ethiopian forward's 10th goal of the season.

It should be noted that an outfit that will triumph in regional qualifiers earns a slot to represent CECAFA in the CAF Women's Champions League scheduled for September in Morocco.

After getting the complete picture of the final, CECAFA's president Wallace Karia disclosed that through the great contribution of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, various cash prizes will be presented in the final of the qualifiers.

The prizes will be 30,000 U.S dollars (69m/-) to be handed over to the qualifiers' champions, 20,000 U.S dollars (46m/-) for runners-up, and 10,000 U.S dollars (23m/-) for second runners-up.

The showdown best scorers, the best goalkeeper, the best midfielder, the best defender, the most disciplined player as well as the most disciplined team will also receive prizes.

Yanga should give Mshery playing time, says Mohamed

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Yanga goalkeeper, Said Mohamed, has advised the outfit to continue giving its promising keeper Abdultwalib Mshery a chance to play regularly to boost his confidence.

The experienced shot-stopper, who last season played with Mshery at Mtibwa Sugar, said that for the youthful goalkeeper's competence to improve, Yanga should give him more opportunities to play.

The goalkeeper said that if Mshery is given a chance, his confidence will increase.

Mohamed has also turned out for Simba SC, Coastal Union, CDA, Mainland Tanzania's squad 'Kilimanjaro Stars', and senior national squad 'Taifa Stars' in his career.

The shot-stopper revealed: "Yanga should continue to give him a chance, when I was turning out for Simba SC and

later Yanga I was sitting on the bench a lot, my competence decreased, and the bench is destroying one's competence."

"If the other one (Djigui Diarra) is fielded in the next three matches, Mshery should also be given a chance to improve his confidence, he is a very good goalkeeper," he said.

He issued reasons for Mtibwa Sugar to produce good keepers, noting: "The side is lucky to have goalkeeping tactician Patrick Mwangata who knows a goalkeeper's training."

The shot-stopper said he still gives either Simba SC or Yanga a chance to win the 2022/23 NBC Premier League silverware due to the type of squads they have.

"What makes this season's Premier League interesting is that a player can play for a modest club and be paid the same salary that Simba SC, Yanga and Azam FC players earn, this is a big step in our football," the shot-stopper, who also played for Ndanda FC of Mtwara, stated.

Dar rapper closes in on producing album

By Correspondent Saboto Kasika

TANZANIA'S up-and-coming rapper, Maneno Paschal, has released a new hit titled 'Uzembe' as he closes on coming up with his first album.

The budding rapper that recently stated he wants to work with popular domestic rapper Emmanuel Elibariki, alias 'Nay wa Mitego', noted he wants to complete the first album this year.

Paschal, nicknamed 'Harmoboy Tz', pointed out he believes his song 'Uzembe' will win him fame in new generation music.

"I started with the songs titled 'Umama', 'Tunaishi Nao', 'Wanapagawa', 'Hunitima', and 'Utapasi Kiatu', and now I have come up with track titled 'Uzembe'," he said.

He noted he dreams of scaling great heights in new generation music, and he believes his dream will come true by composing good songs.

"But I can also achieve success if I get great artists that will feature in my songs," he said.

'Harmoboy Tz' recently disclosed that he wishes to work with popular domestic new generation musician, 'Nay wa Mitego', and other artists.

The musician was adamant that popular musicians can help him make progress in the music industry.

"I'm still young, I'm fighting for my dream of becoming a prominent artist in the new generation of music so I must seek support from senior musicians including 'Nay wa Mitego'," the artist disclosed.

'Harmoboy Tz', an artist that hails from Geita, revealed that he is currently in Dar es Salaam trying to continue his talent as he has released several songs.

The artist disclosed: "There are songs such as 'Tunaishi Nao', and 'Wanapagawa' that are available on my YouTube channel known as 'Harmoboy Tz', new generation music fans can enter there" the artist noted.

He disclosed that he wishes to work with 'Nay wa Mitego', claiming that he is attracted to the latter's songs and his unwavering stance.

The youthful performer pointed out that 'Nay wa Mitego' is one of the most confident rappers.



Tanzanian rapper Maneno Paschal, alias 'Harmoboy Tz'.

Benzema with sights set on Ballon d'Or and World Cup after winning UEFA prize

ISTANBUL

FOR Karim Benzema, the UEFA men's player of the year prize is unlikely to be the last recognition he receives for his role in Real Madrid's memorable run to Champions League glory last season.

The Ballon d'Or will surely follow in October, before he heads to the World Cup in Qatar with France in November and December with the aim of completing a truly remarkable career renaissance.

It is not long ago that Benzema, who will turn 35 the day after the World Cup final in December, was a pariah, frozen out of the France team for five and a half years because of his involvement in a blackmail scandal over a sextape involving his former teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

The Lyon native went on trial late last year and was handed a one-year suspended prison sentence along with a fine of 75,000 euros (\$74,659).

In June he decided not to appeal his conviction, eager to turn the page and keep the focus on football.

Benzema scored an astonishing 44 goals in 46 games for Real last season, including 27 in La Liga as he ended the campaign as the top scorer in Spain's top flight by a distance.

But his very best form came in the Champions League, in which he was also the leading marksman with 15 goals in just 12 appearances.

Wearing the captain's armband, Benzema scored five times in the group stage for Carlo Ancelotti's side, but the best was to come in the knockout rounds.

He scored a stunning hat-trick in 17 second-half minutes in the spectacular last-16 comeback win over Paris Saint-Germain, and another away to Chelsea in the quarter-final first leg.

It was also his extra-time goal in the return leg of that tie that nipped a Chelsea comeback in the bud, and he then scored three more goals over both legs of the semi-final against Manchester City, including an extra-time spot-kick in the return leg at the Santiago Bernabeu which secured Real's spot in the final.

"Football is difficult, there are moments when you are dominated and have to hang in there. At Madrid we never give up," said Benzema.

He was not the standout player in the final itself, with Vinicius Junior scoring the only goal of the game and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in inspired form at the other end.

Courtois was also nominated for the UEFA prize, along with Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne, but there was little question of anyone other than Benzema being crowned.

"What is most important to me is to win collective trophies. If you do things well on the field, individual awards will follow," said Benzema.

This season has already started with Benzema -- who was a prodigious young talent at hometown team Lyon before moving to Real aged 21 in 2009 -- scoring as Real beat Eintracht Frankfurt to win the UEFA Super Cup in Helsinki.

The Ballon d'Or should be next, and then Benzema will set his sights on the World Cup, a trophy he missed out on winning with France in 2018 during his long international exile.

Meanwhile, being crowned the UEFA player of the year for the second season running may be scant consolation for Alexia Putellas after the Spain star finished the campaign with the agony of a Champions League final defeat and then sat out Euro 2022 due to injury.

The 28-year-old is currently in the early stages of a long rehabilitation after suffering an anterior knee ligament tear in training in early July, just before Spain started their European Championship campaign in England.

Her club Barcelona said Putellas would be out for up to 12 months as a result and so she is set to miss the entirety of the coming season.

"I'm very happy to win this prize for a second year and even more at this moment," said Putellas. "It's wretched that I cannot do what I most love. This is motivation to get back to this place."

It was a painful way for Putellas to be cut down in her prime, after she became just the third ever winner of the women's Ballon d'Or last year, succeeding Ada Hegerberg and Megan Rapinoe.

There was no question she deserved that honour, after captaining Barcelona to victory in last year's Champions League, scoring a penalty in the final as her side hammered Chelsea 4-0.

Putellas, who grew up in Catalonia and joined Barcelona as a teenager, then picked up the FIFA Best women's player award for 2021 and has now been rewarded for her performances in helping Spain's dominant club win another domestic league and cup double.

On top of that, she was the top scorer in last season's Champions League with 11 goals, including three in a quarter-final trouncing of Real Madrid and two more in the first leg of the semi-final at home to Wolfsburg, a 5-1 victory watched by a women's world record crowd of 91,648 at the Camp Nou.

"I completed a dream that all male and now female Barcelona fans have, which is to play in a full Camp Nou," said Putellas.

That attendance sums up how much Putellas and her Barca teammates have captured the imagination locally, although they were unable to offer their supporters a second consecutive Champions League crown.

The attacking midfielder, wearing the captain's armband, scored in the final against Lyon in Turin, but by that time Barcelona were already 3-0 down and there would be no comeback.

Lyon have now won six of the last seven Champions Leagues and it remains to be seen if Barcelona can reclaim the title in the season ahead if Putellas is unlikely to play any part.

AFP

Transfer window Q&A: Everything you've always wanted to know

By Tor-Kristian Karlsen

EVER wondered what really goes on in a transfer window? What add-ons are? Or how much an agent gets in commission when a player moves clubs? Our Q&A with Tor-Kristian Karlsen, a Norwegian football scout and executive and the former chief executive and sporting director at AS Monaco, answers these queries and more.

Q. Where does the money come from? Why are soccer clubs able to spend millions to sign a player?

A. Substantial media contracts represent the majority of the income for clubs in the biggest European leagues and in most cases dwarf other (commercial) revenue. Some clubs also have exceptionally wealthy owners -- either through outright private means or in the shape of various financial entities such as hedge funds, private equity or even national sovereign wealth funds (like Saudi Arabia have done with Newcastle) -- who often bolster the transfer spending in an effort to fast-track the club to success, eventually opening new lucrative income streams.

However, even seemingly rich clubs such as Barcelona can have issues (as explained here). Top European sides are still spending big, but UEFA's financial fair play (FFP) is designed to try and level the playing field a bit.

Q. How much of a player's transfer fee actually goes to a club? What's the typical fee for an agent and how is the money transferred?

A. The biggest slice ends up with the club from which the player departs, though it's common that the player's previous club retains a stake of their next transfer fee. The size of this varies from every transfer, but a 10%-20% cut of the next fee is fairly normal (typically calculated on the basis of the profit made from the transfer fee rather than the full amount.)

In the case of players aged 22 or younger, a solidarity payment of 5% of the total transfer fee is also due. The solidarity fee is then in turn distributed -- by the destination club -- among the clubs which held the registration of the new signing while the player was aged between 12 and 22.

Agents are remunerated differently across Europe and beyond. In certain countries they may receive up to 15%-20% of a player's salary (or the transfer fee), whereas other places have more rigid legislation in place which doesn't allow payments of more than 5%-7% to the agent.

FIFA, meanwhile, in response to clubs worldwide paying in excess of \$500 million in intermediary fees in 2020 (a year in which transfer spending was compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic), is set to cap intermediary expenditure to a maximum 10% of the transfer fee (when representing the club) and 3% of a player's salary (when representing the player.)

The money from a player's transfer is wired



Manchester City have had a great summer in the transfer window so far and landed Erling Haaland for €60m from Borussia Dortmund.

between the two clubs' official, assigned bank accounts -- as indicated in the FIFA TMS (Transfer Matching System.)

Q. What are examples of some add-ons to a fee? And why are they included in seemingly every transfer deal now?

A. Add-ons are additional payments that kick in once a certain objective is reached. The objective can be the player winning trophies, qualifying for Europe or reaching a set number of appearances for the new club. Those are the most common examples, but other more creative ideas -- national team call-ups, goals scored, or even winning the Ballon d'Or -- can also end up in the transfer agreements. And there is no limit, meaning that when Bayern Munich signed an 18-year-old Renato Sanches from Benfica for an initial €35m in 2016, the add-ons (including if he was named in the World Team of the Year or FIFA World Player of the Year) made the total deal worth €80m.

Add-ons are usually a means to smooth things right at the end of negotiations when the two parties are close enough to agree in principle, but not quite near enough to close the deal.

Q. What sort of bonus payments do players usually get?

A. At the highest level, bonus payments are usually performance related: games played, matches won, goals scored, etc. While some clubs operate with a strict, team-defined bonus system, others are inclined to offer additional terms or the odd perk to make a big-name signing extra happy.

Players are well taken care of by their clubs, with player liaison officers handling a lot of their personal business such as finding houses, schools or even fixing windscreen wipers. So once they are part of the squad, there isn't much they need to focus on outside of the pitch.

Q. What role does the

CEO, manager and board play in recruiting a player? And who are some of the key people behind the scenes?

A. Ideally, the selection -- from the initial spotting and scouting of the player, to requesting the initialisation of the signing -- should be made by the head coach, scouting staff and sporting director (where such a role is in place.) The CEO would normally start work when finances start to enter the frame (though preparatory negotiations are typically handled by the sporting director), while the board or owner will have the final word in approving the move.

There are tons of other people involved during the process, with lawyers and agents scrutinising the contracts in the final stages of the deal, plus plenty of club support staff doing their bit. Though transfer agreements and personal contracts are getting progressively standardised these days, there are always minor details to be thrashed out -- such as the wording of the text, or resolving small technical matters.

While the paperwork is being prepared, the club's medical team will be performing an extensive in situ check on the prospective signing (having already checked over their prior injury record.) All being fine, the club's media and communications officers will ensure a smooth (and preferably slick) presentation of the new signing,

usually beginning with social media.

Q. How long can clubs spend scouting a player before they decide to sign them?

A. At the highest level, players are increasingly signed on the back of a rigid, lengthy process which entails months of preliminary scouting with the target having featured on both short and long lists. In certain cases, a player may even have been spotted years before, with regular checks being made -- physical scouting, data analysis and via video streams.

In other scenarios, opportunities may arise due to injuries or a change of priorities (a sudden departure being a common reason.) Those cases might necessitate a tweak to a club's strategy, leaving aside certain elements of the preferred modus operandi to move swiftly. Even then, however, the player would almost invariably have appeared on the scouting team's radar at some point. Though they may not have undergone all the standard scouting steps, an extensive dossier on the player would, in most cases, already be in place.

Q. What is the hardest thing when it comes to transfer negotiations?

A. Negotiating transfer fees with the clubs (unless there's a release clause) and wages with the player pose the most challenges. In principle, one should be willing to walk away

from any negotiation, but if your No. 1 target has signalled the intention of joining your club -- and an agreement with the other club might be doable too -- closing the deal can be become costly, with demands increasing almost by the hour.

Language barriers can come into play, but the player usually ensures they are represented by someone who can make themselves understood internationally. Things like working out tax issues can be tricky, but in most cases it's chiefly the player's concern more than the club's and most high-level agents would have prior experience or a deep knowledge of the matters at hand.

Q. What are some of the key reasons a transfer falls through?

A. Extremely few transfers today would ever be jeopardised due to slow or incompetent handling of paperwork. All international transfers are uploaded to FIFA's exceptionally simple and practical TMS, and the registration documents are effortlessly uploaded to the national FAs digitally. Moreover, during the year's two transfer periods, club staff (and FAs) would be on standby to handle any incoming paperwork or be ready for most eventualities.

David de Gea may be pleased to know that the days of faulty fax machines are numbered! When a transfer breaks down, it is predominantly down to

money -- the player or the club, or in few cases the agent's fee, failing to agree on the numbers -- or a sudden change of heart from one of the three parties. On rare occasions, there could also be something in the player's medical that a club isn't happy with.

Q. Why are some clubs opting to terminate a player's contract early -- like Arsenal with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang? Is it better for them in the long run?

A. In most cases, it's a matter of getting the player off the books, as the termination settlement is often significantly lower than the total outstanding wages if the contract was left to run down. Especially with a player on an expiring contract -- with an extension ruled out -- one might be better off agreeing to an early termination if the head coach has made it clear that player is no longer likely to feature, or is perceived to have a negative influence on the team.

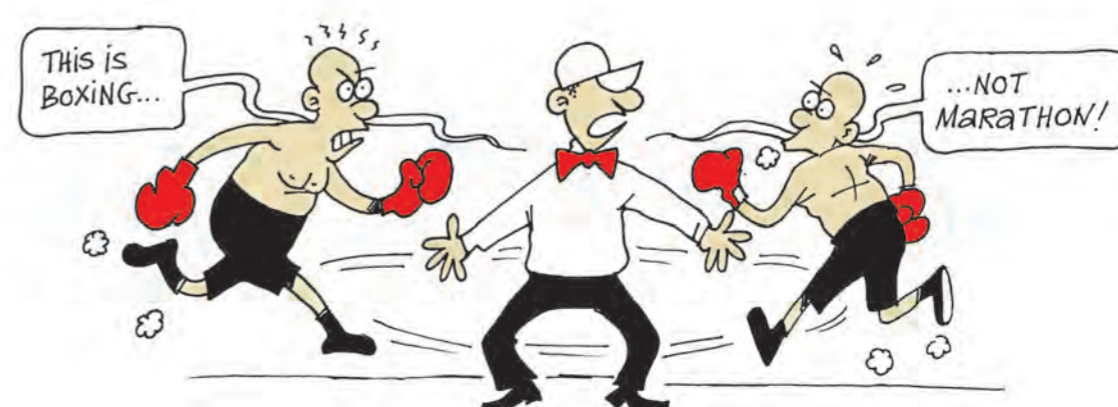
Q. Why do some clubs leave it so late until deadline day to do their business?

A. There are several reasons. Sudden injuries or departures -- where the club received an offer too tempting to turn down (again, especially relevant when the player is in the last year of contract) -- can precipitate last-minute transfer moves. Though it might not be in line with the club's long-term strategy or best practice, starting the season badly can also force some last-minute activity in the transfer window. As much as it can be an expensive way to paper over the cracks, being seen to strengthen the team is often the only way to appease disgruntled fans or media questioning the club's ambitions.

Certain opportunities may also arise right at the end of a transfer window, with previously unavailable players suddenly being open to join due to previously unforeseen circumstances, or as a result of "transfer dominoes" elsewhere. Some clubs -- especially those who aren't desperate to let a player leave -- know that they're likely to fetch a greater transfer fee as the deadline looms, so will only start listening to offers with just a day or two to go. On the other side of the coin, a club may feel it's easier to put pressure on another club or player as the time ticks down, so they may end up with a cheaper deal than if they had made a move months earlier.

ESPN

GWiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Transfer window Q&A:
Everything you've always
wanted to know

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EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Azam FC to face Taifa Jang'ombe in friendly today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NBC Premier League's giant, Azam FC, will today evening face Zanzibar's Taifa Jang'ombe in a friendly game in Zanzibar.

Thabit Zacharia, Azam FC Information Officer, said the Dar es Salaam side is set to depart for Zanzibar this morning and play the friendly match in the evening.

He said the match will help the club prepare for this season's NBC Premier League games, as well as present its players, who have not played the opening two top-flight games, with a chance for getting match fitness.

The team has so far played two Premier League games against Kagera Sugar and notched a 2-1 victory, as well as posting a 1-1 draw with Geita Gold FC.

The Azam FC official said: "Our team will on Saturday play against Taifa Jang'ombe. The game will help our outfit's technical panel to prepare well ahead of the Premier League."

"It will also allow the players who have not tested any Premier League game this season to improve fitness," he said.

The side is next week expected to lock horns with Djibouti Premier League giant AS Arta Solar 7 now in Tanzania for a one-week training camp.

The match against AS Arta Solar 7 is expected to give Azam FC a perfect test as the Djibouti side has a lot of experienced players that have successfully plied their trade in popular football leagues.

The performers include Ivorian Solomon Kalou who once played for England Premier League (EPL) giants Chelsea FC, Cameroonian Alex Song who played for EPL's Arsenal, and Spanish giants Barcelona.

AS Arta Solar 7 a few weeks ago recruited defensive midfielder Taddeo Lwanga of Uganda who had successfully plied his trade in Mainland Tanzania's top flight with Simba SC.

Meanwhile, Simba SC arrived in Sudan where the outfit will play two international friendly games against Asante Kotoko of Ghana and Al Hilal of Sudan.

Simba SC is also expected to play another international friendly match against AS Arta Solar 7 in Dar es Salaam next week.

Simba Queens SC eyes regional qualifiers glory, CAF Women's Champions League slot at stake



Simba Queens' footballer, Aisha Juma (L), seeks to block AS Kigali Women Football Club's attacker during a last-four clash of this season's CAF Women's Champions League qualifier for the CECAFA Zone played in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S representatives Simba Queens will come up against Uganda's She Corporate FC in the final of the CECAFA Regional Qualifiers for the second edition of the CAF Women's Champions League.

The two will be in action in the final set to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today afternoon.

This will be a re-match, considering the two teams faced each other in the group stage, with Simba Queens coming out top with a convincing 2-0 victory.

Simba Queens, on the one hand, booked their final spot after humbling Rwanda's AS Kigali WFC 5-1 while the Ugandan girls edged out

favourites Commercial Bank of Ethiopia 2-1 in the semi-finals

played on Wednesday evening at Benjamin Mkapa stadium.

Going into the final, Simba Queens' head coach Sebastian Leonard Nkoma's footballers

won all of their four matches since they played in this

tournament.

They brushed aside Djibouti's Garde Republicaine FC 6-0, stopped She Corporate FC 2-0, and defeated Yei Joints Stars (South Sudan) 4-0.

Speaking ahead of the final, Nkoma said having missed their target in the inaugural

edition held in Kenya, they want to make amends this time.

"Last year we stopped at the semi-final stage, but this time the team is highly motivated

to win and qualify for the CAF Women's Champions League," Nkoma disclosed.

Coach Nkoma will rely on the services of Kenyan import Vivian Corazone Aquino, who has four goals to her name including a brace in the semi-final, but is six goals shy of tournament's leading goal scorer Geinore Loza Abera of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

On the other hand, the Ugandan side started their campaign with a 6-0 win against South Sudan's Yei Joint Stars and suffered defeat to Simba Queens.

They recovered to beat the Djibouti side 8-0 to book their semi-final ticket where they advanced past heavy favourites Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

She Corporate coach Charles Lukula Ayiekoh believes they have a chance to win the title despite losing to Simba Queens in the group stage.

The tactician revealed: "We are not in the final by mistake, but we have worked hard and still stand a chance to lift the trophy. We need to get our tactics correct well knowing we shall face a team that beat us in the group stages."

The winner of the final will represent the Eastern Africa region in the second edition of the CAF Women's Champions League, an African women's club football tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The continental finals will be held in Morocco between October and November this year.

Chaneta leader lauds Taifa Queens' participation in Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national netball team "Taifa Queens" will return home on Tuesday morning from South Africa where it competed in the 2023 Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers.

Rose Mkisi, Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) Secretary-General, stated the team will depart on Monday evening and arrive in Dar es Salaam Tuesday morning.

The team suffered a loss in all of its matches in the tournament.

Taifa Queens first conceded a 58-40 loss to Namibia, later lost 58-30 to South Africa, and went down 31-22 to Zimbabwe. Taifa Queens went on to lose 54-45 to Botswana.

The Tanzania squad moreover went down 58-42 to Eswatini.

The clash against Eswatini was the first of the three matches to determine teams that will finish seventh-ninth.

The match against Eswatini was very important and both teams were looking for a first win.

According to Rose, in the first 15 minutes, Eswatini was good as the period ended 15-6 in favour of the Southern Africa squad.

In the second quarter, Taifa Queens reorganized and managed to connect the defense and attack, the quarter culminated with Eswatini leading 31-19.

Rose revealed in the last quarter, Taifa Queens were in good form but lost by a one-goal margin, given Eswatini took a 14-13 lead.

As we went to press, Taifa Queens was playing the second classification clash against Namibia.

"The team is coming back home on Tuesday, the tournament was tough but we did well and we have gained a

lot of experience and exposure," Rose noted.

Taifa Queens' head coach, Hafidh Tindwa, stated in an

interview yesterday some technical mistakes cost his team

but promised to work on them.

"For now I cannot go into

more details, but we did not do well due to some technical mistakes which we made," the tactician stated in a brief reply.



Dar es Salaam youths take part in football at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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WHAT ABOUT FOLLOWING-
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