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## 6,500 surveillance cameras to boost security in major cities

*The government will also roll out strategic projects including the mandatory vehicle inspection project and the highway speed control project*

By Guardian Reporter

THE government intends to install 6,500 cameras in major roads and public premises in four major cities to boost safety and security.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuf Msauni unveiled this plan in the National Assembly yesterday when presenting budget estimates for fiscal 2024/25, noting that the installation of cameras is part of the safer cities project being rolled out in the next financial year.

Artificial intelligence (AI) cameras will be placed on industries, businesses, public gatherings, city roads, hotels and various community services, he stated, citing other slated areas as hotels and major entertainment places in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza.

"The project will help to stimulate economic and social activities when security is more assured in towns and cities across the country, he said, affirming that the project will also further execution of recommendations of the Criminal Justice Commission, demanding the use of modern technology in operations of security agencies.

The project will be implemented through a concessional loan pegged at \$145.2m from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he said, highlighting that an agreement has already been signed between the police production unit and the project contractor.

Implementation will commence after the signing of the financial agreement between the two governments, he said, upbeat that from July 2023 to April 2024, major criminal incidents reported to police stations decreased from 45,485 to 43,146, a five percent decrease from a similar period for 2022/23.

The decline in criminal incidents arose from collaboration between the police and other security agencies in conducting patrols, raids and detection to prevent, investigate and combat crimes.

Public education on the implementation of the concept of community policing in crime control was ongoing, he said, citing priority areas for the next financial year as building police stations and officer residential quarters, purchasing more modern working tools like vehicles, motorcycles, boats and helicopters to enhance patrols.

The government will also roll out strategic projects including the mandatory vehicle inspection project and the highway speed control project, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (R) speaks with of Oryx Gas (T) director general Benoit Araman (L) in the French capital of Paris, on the sidelines of the international conference on clean energy for cooking. Oryx Gas has promised to support President Samia pursue effective implementation of the clean energy cooking program. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Remove royalties, levies on fisheries, livestock products'

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday raised concern over a chain of royalties and levies on fisheries and livestock products, saying they are a nuisance and should be removed to enable the two sectors to grow.

Ng'wasi Kamani (Special Seats-Youth), representing the chairman of the Industries, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock standing committee of the National As-

sembly, said on Tuesday that the chain of royalties and levies derail efforts aimed at improving the welfare of fishermen and their families.

She made this appeal in reaction to the ministry's budget proposals for fiscal 2024/2025 tabled by the Livestock and Fisheries minister, Abdallah Ulega, referring to earlier cuts on royalties and levies on fisheries products.

This would enable the sector to improve the welfare of those in that occu-

lation, making a better contribution to economic growth, she stated, while a ministerial official remarked that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's resolve to transform the fisheries industry could be frustrated by the chain of royalties and levies.

The fisheries industry could be promoted through the reduction of royalties, he said, noting that some of the levies are imposed on fishing nets, making

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## 'Local financing vital in combating malaria'

*Engaging the most vulnerable groups such as women and children was vital as public and community engagement is vital in cutting malaria prevalence rates*

By Henry Mwangonde

HEALTH researchers have listed down solutions to address existing hurdles likely to hinder the malaria elimination target by 2030.

Dr Patrick Tungu, a senior researcher and head of the Amani Research Centre in Muheza District, Tanga Region, said at

the ongoing annual scientific conference for working under the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), said yesterday that this includes focusing on outdoor mosquito control instead of focusing on treated bed nets to control night time mosquito bites.

Current tools for combating the disease are effective despite being slow in reduc-

ing malaria prevalence, he stated, noting that despite making progress in fighting the disease, Tanzania remains vulnerable to malaria transmission.

Actions based on advanced research are needed to beef up current tools like vector control, resistance and surveillance which are effective but remain slow in controlling malaria prevalence.

"The focus has been on night mosquito bites," he said, affirming that new control initiatives are based on clinical studies showing new trends where daytime bites are now becoming the source of malaria transmission.

Larvae source control must be done to reverse the situation, reducing the pace of malaria prevalence, where mosquito nets distribution needs to be supported by vaccination of children under five years as they are the most vulnerable, he stated.

There is a need to strengthen surveil-

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## SPORTS

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Simba SC eye to extend Ayoub Lakred contract

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Haaland double puts Man City on brink of Premier League history

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Retired referee counsels Tanzania Football Federation

## Villagers relocating to stem dust souring at KIA operations

By Guardian Reporter, Hai

DUST caused by plane engines during landing and take-off at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) brought about the need for relocating inhabitants of eight villages in nearby areas straddling Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions.

Mobhare Matinyi, the chief government spokesman, made this observation when issuing a government statement regarding the land dispute between villagers and the KIA management.

Large amounts of dust from whirlwinds affecting landing and take-off of the plane's flights were impairing plane engines, compelling some airlines to land in alternative airports in neighboring countries.

Human activities involving the destruct-

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## 'Remove royalties, levies on fisheries, livestock products'

FROM PAGE 1

it difficult for fishermen to purchase them.

"The resources are there but the government should take measures to reduce the cost of fishing," he asserted, affirming that other export royalties are imposed on Nile perch, squid, cuttle fish, octopus, prawns head-on and prawns head-less.

The fisheries industry welcomed President Samia's procuring of fishing boats for artisanal fishermen and the provision of cages for aquaculture, he said, asking that the government provides bigger fishing boats that can optimally exploit the territorial sea.

The government should allow trawling in the deeper parts of the territorial sea where small artisanal fishermen cannot fish, he stated.

In his budget estimates presentation remarks, the minister said the government will empower fishermen by acquiring 450 fishing boats and tools using funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) extended credit facility.

## 'Local financing vital in combating malaria'

FROM PAGE 1

lance and monitoring on mosquito resistance, along with resources and financing for the national malaria strategy, he remarked, underlining that funding the national strategy is not satisfactory at present.

The basic requirement is to fund at least up to 50-percent of optimal needs, he said, while Dr Basiliana Emidi, a principal researcher, said there are several challenges impeding efforts to eliminate malaria by 2030, citing the lack of integrated aspirations among stakeholders.

"Studies in science journals have shown that recommendations by scientists are not utilised," she said, insisting that the government needs

to find solutions to finance some local interventions and research.

Dr Emidi, the head of the NIMR Dodoma research centre, pointed at the need for setting out local solutions to local problems, implying a reduction in donor dependency.

"There is a lack of engagement among countries on links to fight the disease together, for example outdoor bites are common in Africa which can be a uniting platform among African countries," she asserted.

Engaging the most vulnerable groups such as women and children was vital as public and community engagement is vital in cutting malaria prevalence rates, she added.

## Villagers relocating to stem dust souring KIA operations

FROM PAGE 1

tion of natural vegetation by cutting trees for charcoal and pasture contributed to the situation, while pressure on the land impeded government efforts to implement existing airport development plans, he said.

Residents of Hai and Arumeru districts entered the area and set up shelters and initiated economic activities from 2007 to 2010, while the area KIA occupies was set out in 1969, part of the Sanya Lelatema Game Reserve, stretching over 800 square kilometres.

"The government set aside 110 square kilometres from the 800 specifically for KIA construction, with the area revalued in 1989 and issued with map number E 5255/18, registered and given the number 231264," he said.

Kaloleni, Samaria, Malula and Mazingo Central border the airport in Arumeru District, Arusha Region while Sanya Station, Tindigani, Chemka and Mtauja border the airport in Hai District, he said.

The dust also occasioned the destruction of biodiversity, as it was tied up with livestock grazing in particular, he said, highlighting that Arumeru District received a 4.042bn/- for relocation and Hai obtained 7.27bn/- to compensate for buildings, tree crops, shifting graves and other occasional.

By Tuesday this week 46 people had not received their compensation cash, he said, citing the lack of bank accounts, different bank account names, plus contentions on lists of eligible to receive the compensation leading to some resident file cases in court.

## Africa's travel Indaba kicks off in South Africa's Durban

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S Travel Indaba (ATI) 2024 kicked off on Tuesday in South Africa's coastal city of Durban, with Patricia de Lille, the country's minister of tourism, urging African countries to improve tourism on the continent.

De Lille made the remarks on Tuesday morning during the official opening of ATI at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Center in Durban.

According to the minister, more than 1,200 exhibitors from 26 African countries and over 1,100 buyers from 55 countries are attending this year's ATI, which is held under the theme "Unlimited Africa" and will end on Thursday.

A total of 344 products from different African countries are being showcased, which is an increase of 14 percent compared to last year's 301 products. Eritrea and Burkina Faso are participating for the first time.

"Whether it's through attending workshops, engaging in discussions, or making business deals, let us all grow our knowledge and networks so that we can fully and positively impact our dynamic landscape of African tourism," said de Lille.

"Together, we represent the story of an Africa with unlimited possibilities. We are confident that Africa's Travel Indaba will continue to be a fertile environment for closing busi-

ness deals that nurture partnerships and drive growth."

The minister called on African countries to remove barriers to travel, adding that South Africa has extended the e-visa system to 34 countries, including India and China.

She also encouraged Africans to cooperate and network with buyers to clinch deals.

"We are confident that Africa's Travel Indaba will continue to be a fertile environment for closing business deals that nurture partnership and drive growth," de Lille said.

"As the tourism industry, let us foster a culture of healthy competition, where businesses and destinations are encouraged to compete on quality and innovation."

In addition, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, premier of KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa, urged ATI participants to explore the area and return to their countries with the experience.

ATI is an iconic African leisure trade show owned by South African Tourism, with the specific objective of creating market access for the vast array of African leisure tourism products.

The trade show, starting Tuesday, was preceded by a dedicated Business Opportunity and Networking Day, which seeks to create a platform for thought leadership, knowledge sharing, and obtaining the latest in global trends and local insights.



Aristid Kanje (R), principal of the Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC) hands over a souvenir to Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during the 16th EAC aviation symposium convened in Zanzibar for May 15 and 16, after the president's opening address. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute -Mikocheni (TARI-Mikocheni) has come up with a coconut research programme meant to attract young people into cultivation of the cash crop.

Dr Fred Tairo, TARI-Mikocheni manager, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when addressing journalists on the institute's strategies to revamp the crop.

He said the government wants to provide productive jobs for youth, so it has allocated more land and money to motivate them to join groups to be registered within their districts and liaise with TARI to be trained on how to run nurseries

## New initiative seeks to lure youth into coconut farming

commercially.

He said that after the young people have been trained, they will be given land in earmarked centres across the country, seeds and financial support for agricultural services until they reach the stage of harvesting and selling for the invested money to be recouped.

"For a long time, coconut production has been forgotten for various reasons, causing its productivity to drop but the government has de-

cidied to revive it to increase productivity, including reviving new farms and developing old ones; we have focused our efforts on producing and distributing to farmers at least 10 million seeds per year. "The challenge facing many young people is that they are not aware of these opportunities that exist. That is why the government has decided to allocate funds to persuade young people to grab these opportunities as a way of employment," he said.

He said that to speed up the distribution of quality seeds to farmers, they collaborate with the council coordinators and agreements with districts to provide areas to establish nurseries for seeds to be distributed to farmers.

Vaileth Kiviva, TARI Mikocheni assistant agriculture officer, said that coconut crop is very important for Tanzania because its water is a popular thirst quencher and flakes as an ingredient for cooking.



Justice Rutenge, executive director for the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), and Elibariki Shammy, the country director for Trademark Africa, signing a partnership agreement for an inclusive and greening trade project for the private sector and CSOs in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are representatives of both organizations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ghanaian president appeals to Africans to embrace digital economy for faster growth

ACCRA

GHANAIAN President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has urged African countries to develop financial technology (fintech) and the digital economy to accelerate the pace of transformation.

He made the call while opening the 3i Africa Summit in the Ghanaian capital of Accra on Monday.

The three-day summit, themed 'Unleashing Africa's Fintech and Digital Economic Potential' aims to generate greater momentum and traction for Africa's digital finance

agenda by creating a platform for meetings between finance, policy and technology.

Opening the summit, Akufo-Addo urged African countries to make digital infrastructure the backbone of prosperity for their people, embrace the technologies that are reshaping the global economy, and tailor them to the continent's needs and challenges.

Akufo-Addo said a strong fintech and digital innovation landscape would help Africans fully benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He added that since the AfCFTA has the potential to disrupt the continent's economic landscape and bring about transformation, African countries must embrace digitization and fintech to drive that transformation.

Through public-private partnerships and cross-border cooperation, a seamless and efficient fintech ecosystem can be created to align with the objective of a fully integrated African economy, said the Ghanaian president. "By working together, we can unlock the vast potential of our countries and cre-

ate a rising tide that lifts all boats from the smallest to the largest metropolis. This is possible when we embrace digital transformation."

Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA Secretariat, said in his speech that digital inclusion is crucial for leveraging the vast market potential represented by Africa's 1.4 billion people.

"But if we fail to deploy these digital technologies that all of us are going to be discussing today and tomorrow, it will be difficult for us to achieve our objectives," Mene said.



A motorbike rider negotiates his way on a slippery uphill stretch at Chanika -Mvuti area, Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region during the recent rains. Photo: Correspondent

### Mwinyi wants new ambassador to explore opportunities in Comoros

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has asked the new Tanzanian Ambassador to the Comoros Said Othman Yakubu to look for possible collaboration opportunities in health, education, culture, trade and transport.

Dr Mwinyi said this on Tuesday when he held talks with the envoy who visited him at the State House in Zanzibar.

He said the aim of the talks was to further promote and maintain good collaboration between Tanzania and Comoros.

Dr Mwinyi said that Zanzibar Shipping Corporation has planned to procure new two ships, adding that MV Mapinduzi has been renovated and will soon commence its services to Comoros.

"I have agreed to establish the Comoros consulate in Zanzibar to further promote trade and other collaborations," he said.

He said Zanzibar is prepared for medical tourism, adding that Lumumba Hospital has been dedicat-

ed for out patients from Comoros once its construction is over.

Ambassador Yakubu promised to reinforce areas of cooperation to maintain historic links and blood relations between the people of Comoros and Zanzibar which existed for decades.

On April 13 this year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan appointed Saidi Othman Yakubu as Tanzania's Ambassador to the Comoros.

Yakubu was Ambassador at large in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation under the economic diplomacy portfolio.

He previously served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports and Assistant Regional Secretary for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region.

Yakubu takes over from Ambassador Pereira Silima, whose tour of duty has ended.

Many Tanzanians, particularly those from Zanzibar, have close family and business ties with the Comoros.

By Getrude Mbago

HEALTH stakeholders and experts have underscored the need to increase investment and scale up joint interventions to facilitate access to quality non communicable disease (NCDs) prevention, treatment and care at primary care level.

Reports show that NCDs like hypertension, diabetes and cancer are leading causes of death worldwide, representing an emerging global health threat. The World Health Organization (WHO) has predicted that by 2030, NCDs are expected to become the leading cause of death in Africa.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday during a joint symposium by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and PharmAccess, the experts emphasized investment in public awareness to encourage

## Stakeholders want more investment in NCDs treatment at primary level

people adopt healthy ways of living because many of the diseases are caused by lifestyles.

The symposium was part of NIMR's Annual Joint Scientific Conference which ran from May 14th to 16th.

Dr Mary Mayige, principal research officer at NIMR, said the implementation of WHO Pen Plus strategy has started to show positive outcomes in various areas as patients receive quality care.

She said the strategy urges countries to put in place standardised programmes to tackle chronic and serious non-communicable diseases

by ensuring that essential medicines, technologies and diagnostics are available and accessible in district hospitals.

Dr Mayige said the government in collaboration with local and international stakeholders has put in place a number of efforts to curb the growing burden of NCDs.

The NCD response in Tanzania took a major leap forward in 2019 on World Diabetes Day when a new National NCD Prevention and Control Programme was launched by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.

The NCD strategy has been rolled

out in some primary health care clinics in 26 regions across Tanzania, providing the centres with basic NCD diagnostic equipment and health care staff.

WHO guidelines call for HIV-NCD service integration across the continuum of care as does the 2021 Political Declaration of the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV and Aids.

Faiza Abbas, programme manager at PharmAccess-Zanzibar said that inadequate or unaffordable medications and supplies are among major issues that hinder success of some

integration efforts, particularly for poorer populations.

She said it is important for the government and stakeholders to invest in innovative, community-based NCD care models that harness the potential of digital to enhance patient outcomes in resource-limited settings.

"The fight against NCDs faces a lot of challenges with many patients especially from remote rural areas failing to access quality services due to long distances to reach health facilities but also unavailability of all required medications in the centres,

this needs more interventions to scale up care to remote areas," she said.

IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
 IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
 MOROGORO SUB REGISTRY  
 AT MOROGORO  
 TAXATION CAUSE NO. 1923 OF 2024  
 BETWEEN  
 NDESHUKURWA ABEL SUMARI.....APPLICANT  
 VERSUS  
 CYREKA EAST AFRICA DEVELOPMENT CO LTD.....RESPONDENT  
 NOTICE OF RULING  
 TO:  
 CYREKA EAST AFRICA DEVELOPMENT CO LTD.....RESPONDENT  
 TAKE NOTICE that the above case has been fixed for Ruling on 20th day of MAY 2024 at 09:30 A.M at the High Court of Tanzania at Morogoro.  
 Your required to appear in person or through your Advocate or agents duly authorized to appear on your behalf.  
 TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in default of your appearance on that day and time the court may proceed with the application for mention in your absence.  
 GIVEN under my HAND and SEAL of the COURT this 13th day of MAY 2024.

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# Minister warns employers who hold social security deductions

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said it will no longer tolerate private sector employers who deduct their employees' contributions without remitting the same to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Deogratius Ndejemi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labor, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), said this during the official visit to NSSF offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said as this is an offense according to the law and deprives workers of their rights because they fail to receive their benefits on time upon retirement.

Ndejemi urged employers with such behaviour to stop immediately because those found guilty will not be spared. Deducting money from employees without remitting it to respective social security fund causes inconvenience to workers when they retire, he said.

"Some employers only remit 10 percent of the employer's contribution to the funds but they do not remit the employee's 10 percent which is contrary to the law which require employers to remit full 20 percent," he said.

The minister said some of the grievances of retirees, especially those waiting for their benefits for a long time, are caused by some employers who fail to remit their employees'

contributions on time.

"Now we will be very strict with all employers who do not remit contributions on time because this issue is according to the law that established these social security funds to ensure that employers remit their contributions on time," he said.

He hailed NSSF for its performance, noting that the fund's growth has increased since 2021. The value of the NSSF was 4.8trn/- but within three years, its value has reached 8.1trn/-.

He said despite the achievement, there are fundamental issues they want to see happening, including enhancing quality customer service for Tanzanians who contribute to the social security funds to ensure they are served promptly and their challenges are being received and addressed.

He said that in improving its services, NSSF has developed ICT systems to ensure that members receive services more quickly.

Regarding investment, Ndejemi said he will ensure that Tanzanians' remitted contributions in the social security funds are invested properly and fairly in projects that yield positive results.

NSSF director general Masha Mshomba said NSSF continues to focus on improving customer service, which is in the fund's strategic plan, adding that they are currently focus on using ICT.



A batch of 39 government officials attend a capacity building course on project and risk management for public works under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme at the National Centre for Good Governance, in the Indian city of Missouri. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**swissport** 

## NOTICE OF THE 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of **Swissport Tanzania Plc**, in respect of the year ended **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**, will held on **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024** physically at **Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam, The Kilimanjaro**. The meeting will start at **11:00 hours**.

### AGENDA:

1. Notice and Quorum.
2. Confirmation of the Agenda.
3. To confirm the minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting.
4. To discuss matters arising from the previous meeting.
5. To receive, consider and adopt the Directors' Report, Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
6. Appropriation of Profits.
7. To fix directors' remuneration.
8. To appoint External Auditors for the financial year 2024.
9. Any other business.

### NOTES

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting must come with a copy of his/her original Depository Receipt. For those who wish to attend the meeting virtually, are required to submit a copy of his/her share certificate together with his/her personal identification (Passport, National ID or Driving Licence) to **info@cadsecurities.com**. Registration will be closed at 16:00 hours on **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. Login credentials will be emailed to individual shareholders after successful registration.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a **PROXY** to attend and vote on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Articles and of Association of the Company.
3. A proxy form and identification of the proxy must be deposited at the registered office of the Company or emailed to **info@cadsecurities.com** before registration is closed at **16:00 hours** on **Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.
4. For clarifications please call on **+255 777 787845** or **+255 742 691 550**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Dated at Dar es Salaam this **16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024**



**KW KAPINGA & PARTNERS**  
COMPANY SECRETARY

*From landing to take-off: we care !*

## India shows interest in fifth oil and gas licencing round

By Getrude Mbago

TOP officials from the High Commission of India in Tanzania have met and held talks with Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) leadership about auction of petroleum exploration blocks in Tanzania Mainland scheduled for later this year.

According to a statement availed to the media yesterday, the talks took place on Tuesday at PURA offices in Dar es Salaam and attended by the Second Secretary to the High Commissioner (Commerce) Narender Kumar and Danstan Asanga, PURA acting director general alongside other officials from both sides.

Speaking during the meeting, Kumar said that upon learning of the government's plan to auction oil and gas blocks through the Ministry of Energy budget estimates speech for the year 2024/25, the Indian High Commission deemed it necessary to meet with the relevant authority to thoroughly understand the matter to enable it provide comprehensive information to companies and stakeholders in India.

"We hope that companies from India will be interested in this information which is why we have decided to seek further details that can enable them make decisions to participate in the forthcoming bidding round and ultimately invest in oil and gas exploration and production activities in Tanzania," he said.

Providing details about the fifth licencing round, Asanga said that PURA, on behalf of the government, has continued with preparations for the event and that several activities have been completed, including preparation of model production sharing agreement which has been submitted to the Ministry of Energy for further action.

Other activities include demarcation of the blocks to be auctioned after obtaining approval from the Ministry of Energy and preparation of petroleum data packages.

Additionally, Asanga noted that a review of the Petroleum Act of 2015 was underway to identify sections requiring amendments and that PURA was participating in the review.

Regarding the timing of the bidding process, Asanga said that the auctioning of blocks will take place shortly after the completion of preliminary preparations including the review of the Petroleum Act of 2015 and that the government plans to launch the fifth licencing round later this year.

In addition to discussing the fifth licencing around, the High Commission of India in Tanzania and PURA also explored the possibility of establishing cooperation between oil and gas exploration and production regulatory authorities in the two countries.

They also discussed the possibility of collaborating in capacity building programmes for personnel in the field of oil and natural gas through funding from the government of India.



**We hope that companies from India will be interested in this information which is why we have decided to seek further details that can enable them make decisions to participate in the forthcoming bidding round and ultimately invest in oil and gas exploration and production activities in Tanzania**



Ambassador Ali Bujiku, the Africa Department director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, speaks to journalists on preparations for the 61st anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Ambassador Mindi Kasiga, the ministerial director for government communications, and right is Dr Ahmada El Badaoui Mohamed, the Comoro ambassador to Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Kwala dry port set to handle 300,000 containers annually

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Port Authority (TPA) has said that Kwala dry port located in Coast Region is expected to handle 300,395 cargo containers per year destined to neighbouring countries.

This is according to a statement issued yesterday by TPA director general Plasduce Mbossa on the progress of the construction of the port which has already started receiving cargo containers.

The statement said that the dry port will have the capacity to serve 823 containers per day and 300,395 containers per year equal to 30 percent of all containers currently served by the Port of Dar es Salaam.

It said that to ensure that TPA has already obtained a dry port license issued by Tanzania Shipping Agency and a customs license issued by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

The advisory said that up to February 10 this year, there were a total of 232 cargo containers and 78 empty containers at the Port of Dar es Salaam for more than 50 days that were transferred to Kwala dry port and more than 100 containers have been taken by customers.

In addition, the statement said procedures for moving more containers from the Port of Dar es Salaam to Kwala were ongoing as part of reducing congestion.

It mentioned the benefits of starting operations of the dry port as increasing efficiency and amount of cargo served at the Port of Dar es Salaam and increasing the government's income through services provided at the two ports.

The inland port is expected to reduce operating costs thus attract

more customers to use the Port of Dar es Salaam hence increase competitiveness of the Indian Ocean port regionally.

"It will help improve economic and business activities in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions by reducing the current traffic congestion and improving road safety as a large number of Dar Port cargo use rail transport," reads the statement.

"This will help increase long life of the main road infrastructure between Dar es Salaam and Coast region and expand employment opportunities for residents surrounding the dry port."

**It will help improve economic and business activities in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions by reducing the current traffic congestion and improving road safety as a large number of Dar Port cargo use rail transport**

# Nigeria suspends cybersecurity levy

LAGOS

NIGERIA has suspended the proposed cybersecurity levy on domestic money transfers, Information Minister Mohammed Idris announced yesterday.

"The implementation has been directed by the government to be put on hold," he said.

"The new levy was planned as authorities clamp down on

cryptocurrency, which they have blamed for Nigeria's currency weakness." "The cybersecurity tax policy implementation has been directed by the government to be put on hold, so it has been suspended," reiterated Idris.

Civil society groups had earlier kicked against the introduction of the levy. The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) on Thursday, expressed concerns about the

timing of the recently introduced 0.5 per cent cybersecurity levy on electronic transactions by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Subsequently, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on Monday was reported to have issued a circular to various financial institutions, including commercial, merchant, non-interest, and payment service banks, announcing the cybersecurity levy.

The NESG, in a statement, urged the federal government to reconsider the levy due to concerns over multiple taxation and inflationary pressures burdening Nigerians.

The group pointed out that, amidst escalating inflation and financial exclusion, the timing of the cybersecurity levy is inappropriate given the current cost of living crisis and increased currency circulation.

# Team states end of wild polio in Southern Africa

LILONGWE

FOLLOWING thorough assessments in Malawi and Mozambique, an independent Polio Outbreak Response Assessment Team (OBRA) yesterday announced the end of the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) outbreak in Malawi and Mozambique, marking a significant milestone in the fight against polio in the African region.

The last WPV1 case in the African Region, linked to a strain circulating in Pakistan, was reported in Mozambique's Tete Province in August 2022. A total of nine cases were detected in Mozambique and neighbouring Malawi, where the outbreak was declared in February 2022. In a coordinated response, more than 50 million children were vaccinated against the virus in five countries in southern Africa.

The meticulous evaluation carried out by OBRA team included two in-depth field reviews and supplementary data review, concluding that there is no evidence of ongoing wild polio transmission.

The assessment considered quality of the outbreak response, including the overall population immunity, supplementary immunization campaigns, routine immunization coverage, surveillance systems, vaccine management practices, and the level of community engagement.

The successful stopping of this outbreak reflects the unwavering commitment and collaborative efforts of African governments, health workers, communities and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, including the invaluable support of Rotarians on the ground. Through robust surveillance, quality vaccination campaigns and enhanced community engagement, both countries have effectively controlled the spread of the virus, safeguarding the health and well-being of their children.

"This achievement is a testament to what can be accomplished when we work together with dedication and determination," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "I commend the governments of Malawi and Mozambique, as well as all those involved in the response, for their tireless efforts to contain the outbreak. It is now imperative that we continue to strengthen our immunization systems, enhance surveillance, and reach every child with life-saving vaccines."

Health authorities, with high-quality technical support from GPEI, have put in place national prevention strategies in Malawi and Mozambique, as well as in all districts bordering other countries involved in the response. These include Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

To date, more than 100 million vaccine doses have been administered in the most at-risk areas. The strategy to get ahead of this outbreak and stop it before it got out of hand relied on detailed micro-planning, including mapping of cross-border communities, migratory routes, cross-border entry or exit points, and transit routes for each of the cross-border facilities. Synchronization and

coordination of vaccination plans across five countries, as well as the monitoring of vaccination activities, proved key to identifying and reaching all eligible children in the cross-border areas, to avoid the risk of paralysis due to the virus.

"The official closure of the outbreak is truly a success due to unfaltering determination and strong collaboration between the governments of Mozambique, Malawi and neighbouring countries, as well as between all partners and health workers. I want to particularly recognise the strong efforts of the vaccination teams working on the frontline to reach every last child," said Eteleva Kadillil, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. "Going forward, routine immunisation must remain high up the priority list; no child is safe from polio until all children are vaccinated."

To enhance polio surveillance, over the past two years, 15 new wastewater surveillance sites were established in the affected countries. These sites have a critical role to play in detecting silent circulating poliovirus in wastewater, ensuring that quality samples are sent to laboratories for timely confirmation and response to poliovirus presence.

Additionally, countries have scaled up efforts to protect children in high-risk areas by strengthening surveillance, and data and information management. World Health Organization (WHO) in the African Region's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Centre has analysed spatial and geographic data on visual maps, providing geographic real-time coverage information, including locating missing settlements, to improve vaccination coverage.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) ARUSHA

MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL CAUSE NO. 1 OF 2024 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT (CAP 212) R.E. 2002, AND IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR WINDING UP OF THE AFRICAN WALKING COMPANY LIMITED ..... PETITIONER

WINDING UP PETITION

(Made under the provision of Section 279(1)(a)(b), Section 281 of the Companies Act, Cap 212 R.E. 2019 and Rule 99 (1)(2)(b) of the Companies (Insolvency) Rules of 2005.)

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

The above Petitioner address for purposes of service in this Petition is in the care of: ASCEND LEGAL SOLUTIONS, AICC Building, Kilimanjaro Wing, First Floor, Office No. K-135, P.O. Box 5342, Arusha, Cell: 0684 582485

The Petition was filed by the Petitioner on 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 and it fixed for Hearing on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 before Hon. A. Genzi, Judge at the High Court of Tanzania (Commercial Division) at Arusha. During the hearing of this matter, necessary orders were made including advertisement of this Petition in accordance with the provisions of the Companies (Insolvency) Rules of 2005. Next hearing date of this Petition will be announced by this Court on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

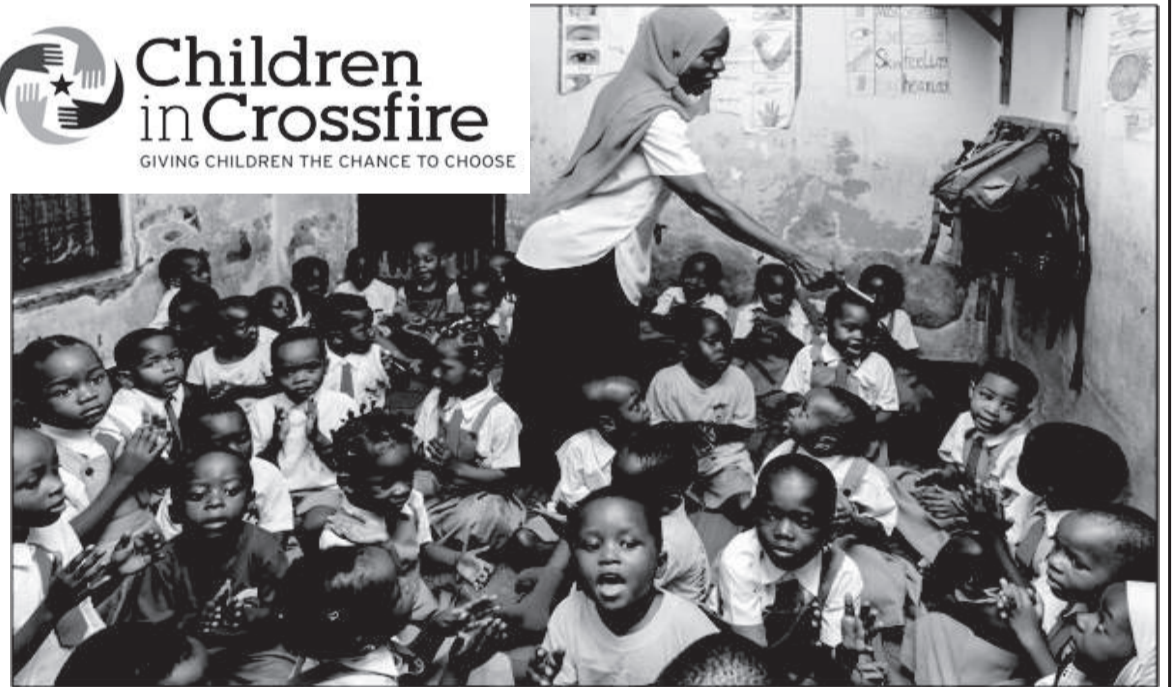
Any person intending to appear at the hearing (whether to support or oppose the Petition) must give notice of his intention in accordance with procedures stipulated in the Companies (Insolvency) Rules of 2005.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024

DEPUTY REGISTRAR ARUSHA

## EXCITING CONSULTANCY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

**Situational Analysis to understand the participation of Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in ECD/E Daycare in high-density areas of Dar es Salaam, and to scope the potential of subsidy products to reduce barriers of MVC access to private Daycare**



Children in Crossfire is an Irish-based international NGO whose purpose is to respond to the rights and needs of young children caught in the crossfire of global poverty and injustice. Children in Crossfire Tanzania focuses on increasing access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) supporting children's developmental needs and giving them a chance to reach their fullest potential. For more info visit: [www.childrenincrossfire.org/tanzania/](http://www.childrenincrossfire.org/tanzania/)

Children in Crossfire Tanzania currently implements ECD programmes with a particular focus on early learning. We are piloting a new programme to support improved quality and equitable access to ECD/E daycare in high-density low income areas of Dar es Salaam City (Dar). The private market for ECD/E daycare in Dar is thriving especially in the informal economy. Children in Crossfire is supporting these ECD/E daycare centres to improve the quality of early learning provision, support more sustainable profitable business models, and meet minimum regulatory requirements. Importantly, the programme places priority on equitable access to ECD/E daycare.

To this end, we are looking for a consultant team that brings together experience and expertise for a joint consultancy to conduct a **situational analysis** of the prevailing status of MVC participation in private daycare centres of high-density Dar, and to conduct a **scoping study** of subsidies and other financial interventions that reduce barriers to uptake of social services in comparative urban market settings, with a view to inform a subsidy pilot for MVC access to private Daycare of high-density Dar.

A detailed Terms of Reference can be downloaded from: <https://www.childrenincrossfire.org/stay-connected/join-our-team> The Terms of Reference sets out the scope of work, deliverables and timelines; as well as the required experience and qualifications of the consultants, and tendering procedures and selection criteria.

A proposal should be submitted by email to Children in Crossfire at: [jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org](mailto:jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org) with the subject line: "Proposal - MVC SitAn in Dar Urban ECD daycare setting". A short cover letter should indicate the candidate's availability to undertake the assignment within the proposed timescale. **Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.**

The closing time for receipts of applications is **23:00hrs Wednesday 5th June 2024**, local time in Tanzania.



# Chamber of mines wants CSR projects to benefit communities

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TANZANIA Chamber of Mines (TCM) has called on mining companies to support development projects at community level through corporate social responsibility (CSR) to bring positive impact.

Benjamin Mchwampaka, TCM executive secretary made the remarks here yesterday when wrapping up a two-day visit at Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region.

Mchwampaka who led TCM's committee on communications, community relations and sustainability, visited various projects implemented by the mine through CSR, including improvement of Bugarama Health Centre which offers services for residents of wards surrounding the mine.

He said that mining companies have been doing a great job, especially in health, education, modern markets and environmental protection.

He also lauded the mine for implementing social responsibility policy in practice by ensuring that CSR funds are used to bring development to the people around the mine.

"I'm pleased with the projects you have implemented and residents get better services," he said.

Dr Silas Kayanda, medical officer in charge of Bugarama Health Centre, said that health services offered at the centre have been improving steadily and reduced deaths of pregnant women and children whereby in the past the situation was bad due to poor health services.

"But now things have improved and we have an ambulance we use to take referred patients to other hospitals," he said.

Agapiti Paul, the mine's community relations manager, thanked TCM for paying a visit to inspect various projects implemented through CSR funds and promised that the advice and instructions given by the committee after the visit will be worked on.



Judge Jacobs Mwambegele (C) the chairman of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), speaks to journalists in Unguja yesterday on the launch of the permanent voter register updating exercise starting on July 1. Ramadhan Kailima (R) - the director of elections and Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk, the NEC vice chairman, sit beside him.



## SWISSPORT TANZANIA PLC AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Commentary

The Board of Directors of Swissport Tanzania Plc. is pleased to publish the audited financial results for the year ended 31 December 2023. During the year revenue increased by 7% from TShs 38,290 million to TShs 40,934 million and total operating costs increased by 4%, from TShs 33,817 million to TShs 35,079 million. The increase in revenue was attributed to the 4% rise in cargo volumes handled as well as the impact of revenue increase strategies implemented during the year. Operating expenses remained in line with the growth of revenue and general rise of price levels. As a result, the Company achieved a net profit of TShs 3,696 million.

### Dividend to Shareholders

The Board is delighted to announce a final dividend of TShs 1,848 million or TShs 51.33 per issued and fully paid share. No interim dividend was declared and paid during the year.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS For the year Ended 31 December	2023 TZS M	2022 TZS M	% Change
Revenue	40,521	37,881	7%
Other operating income	413	409	1%
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>40,934</b>	<b>38,290</b>	<b>7%</b>
Total operating expenses	(35,079)	(33,817)	4%
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>4,473</b>	<b>31%</b>
Finance costs	(397)	(511)	-22%
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>3,962</b>	<b>38%</b>
Income tax expense	(1,762)	(1,356)	
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>3,696</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Earnings per share</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>42%</b>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION For the year Ended 31 December	2023 TZS M	2022 TZS M	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Intangible asset	9,034	10,900	-17%
Property and equipment	17,925	14,827	21%
Right of use of assets	2,374	3,029	-22%
Staff receivables	169	264	-36%
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>29,502</b>	<b>29,020</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories	486	686	-29%
Trade and other receivables	8,944	6,093	47%
Income tax recoverable	888	1,983	-55%
Cash and cash equivalents	5,232	6,719	-22%
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>15,550</b>	<b>15,481</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>45,052</b>	<b>44,501</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	360	360	0%
Retained earnings	33,023	30,827	7%
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>33,383</b>	<b>31,187</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities (IFRS 16)	1,735	2,732	-36%
Deferred tax liability	1,181	567	108%
Retirement benefit obligations	1,752	1,914	-8%
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>4,668</b>	<b>5,213</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Related party loan (short term)	-	378	-100%
Trade and other payables	6,471	7,290	-11%
Lease liabilities (short term)	530	433	22%
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>7,001</b>	<b>8,101</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>45,052</b>	<b>44,501</b>	<b>1%</b>

### Future Outlook

A strong performance is anticipated from Ground handling and Cargo handling services in year 2024 because Air Tanzania the National Carrier and other airline customers, are strategically increasing frequencies and network coverage to capitalize on the growing air travel market. We are also foreseeing various Government initiatives, including the 'Royal Tour', ongoing investment in Air Tanzania export promotions as well as improved business environment to play an important role in fostering the number of air travellers, flight frequencies and volume of cargo.

Delivering of safe operations will remain a top priority in our strategic initiatives in year 2024. This coupled with investments in human resources, technology, training, ground support equipment, and cargo infrastructures will be pivotal to handle the expected business growth and delivering high quality services which meets customers' expectations. Furthermore, a focus on product innovation, customer retention, and securing new profitable business opportunities will be paramount to sustaining and expanding operations in 2024.

### Appreciation and commitment

The Board would like to thank all customers, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and its authorities and other stakeholders for their continued support and our employees for their hard work throughout the year. The Board is committed to implement appropriate strategies to ensure the business remains sustainable.

Dirk Goovaerts  
Board Chairman

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the year Ended 31 December	2023 TZS M	2022 TZS M
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit before income tax	5,458	3,962
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation of property and equipment	2,819	2,438
Amortization of intangible assets	2,008	2,253
Depreciation of right of use assets	732	727
Provision for retirement benefit obligations	191	246
Gain on disposal/write-off of property and equipment	(1)	(35)
Unrealized exchange loss on lease liability	56	-
Interest expense on lease liabilities	393	387
Interest expense on loan	4	124
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Inventories	200	(282)
Trade and other receivables	(2,756)	(2,285)
Trade and other payables	(819)	160
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>8,285</b>	<b>7,716</b>
Retirement benefits paid	(337)	(179)
Interest paid on lease liability	(393)	(387)
Income tax paid	(1,227)	-
Income tax refund	1,412	-
WHT Utilised	(243)	-
Interest paid on loan	(4)	(124)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>7,025</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	1	35
Acquisition of property and equipment and intangible asset	(6,059)	(2,291)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(6,058)</b>	<b>(2,256)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of Loan	(378)	(2,233)
Dividends paid to the Company's shareholders	(1,512)	(2,880)
Payment of lease liabilities	(1,035)	(638)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(2,925)</b>	<b>(5,751)</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,490)</b>	<b>(982)</b>
<b>Movement in cash and cash equivalent</b>		
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,490)	(982)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	6,719	7,688
Effects of movement in exchange rates on cash held	3	13
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January to 31 December</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>6,719</b>



From landing to take-off: we care!

Dirk Goovaerts  
Board Chairman

Mrisho Yassin  
Chief Executive Officer

Joshua Jonas  
Chief Financial Officer

## Economic empowerment initiative targets special groups in Morogoro reg

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has launched a new programme designed to empower women, youth and people with special needs economically.

Dubbed 'Imarisha Uchumi na Mama Samia' (Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia), it aims at enabling women, youth and special groups to join economic platforms to foster social and economic development in the country.

Beng'i Issa, NEEC executive secretary, said that during the launch of the programme in Morogoro Region earlier this week that it aims to uplift beneficiaries based on opportunities in the region.

"This region has various great opportunities in agriculture due to massive fertile land because most of its people are engaged in agriculture and other entrepreneurial activities which are recognized by government institutions and other stakeholders," she said.

Issa explained that her council has coordinators in various regions who assist groups by registering them in databases so that they can finally benefit from empowerment projects provided by the programme.

She said that the programme intends to improve people's agricultural and entrepreneurial activities they already engage in, adding that the goal is to enable beneficiaries to improve their standards of living.

She reminded women engaged in various economic activities to remember to inculcate the culture of saving through banks and other institutions so that they can expand their businesses.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner Adam Malima said the launch of the programme was an important step for the region, urging the target groups to grab that opportunity and expand their economic activities.

"Our region has received this project and we will do everything possible to ensure it strengthens the economy," he said.

Sebastianana Mbagi, Mvomero District Women's Platform Secretary, said the coming of the programme is one of the initiatives meant to assist women and other groups economically.

She said that in the district, women are already involved in various entrepreneurial activities in various sectors including agriculture, especially value addition of agricultural products.

The launch was attended by representatives of financial institutions who provided education on the importance of opening bank accounts and inculcating a saving culture.



**This region has various great opportunities in agriculture due to massive fertile land because most of its people are engaged in agriculture and other entrepreneurial activities which are recognized by government institutions and other stakeholders**



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS  
ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BOARD**



**AT ITS 107<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2024 WITH ENG. MENYE D. MANGA (Adv.) ON THE CHAIR, THE BOARD APPROVED, SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF RELEVANT FEES, THE REGISTRATION OF THE FOLLOWING: -**

A. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS		B. TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS		C. CONSULTING ENGINEERS		D. INDEPENDENT CONSULTING ENGINEERS		E. TEMPORARY CONSULTING ENGINEER		F. LOCAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING FIRMS		J. FOREIGN ENGINEERING CONSULTING FIRM		H. GRADUATE ENGINEERS	
1. Abass Pembe	139. Revina T. Rutinda	1. Ahmed A. Elghnam	1. Ahmed A. Elghnam	1. Aponius M. Traseas	1. EPAX Consulting (T) Limited	1. Ghods Niroot Engineering Company (GNEC)	1. Aaron G. Simfukwe	1. Abass Pembe	1. Park S. Sanyonpark	1. EPAX Consulting (T) Limited	1. Ghods Niroot Engineering Company (GNEC)	1. Ghods Niroot Engineering Company (GNEC)	1. Aaron G. Simfukwe	1. Abass Pembe	1. Ghods Niroot Engineering Company (GNEC)

THURSDAY 16 MAY, 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Purchasing 450 boats with IMF credits a turning point

NEWS that the Livestock and Fisheries ministry intends to purchase 450 boats and fishing tools, using funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), its extended credit facility (ECF). The sector minister, unveiled this plan when tabling budget estimates, referring to a five-year Tanzania Climate-Smart Dairy Transformation Project (T-CSDTP), among other initiatives. It is ambitious enough with its target of reaching 600,000 people in the dairy value chain, along with envisaged changes in fisheries. There are considerable sums of money being injected in the respective sectors.

Some of those ambitious targets rhyme with expectations of garnering foreign markets, while at times it is purely a question of making local markets run on a better framework, for instance when roadside sellers of potatoes or onions are restricted by agro-sector inspectors from overfilling the tins they use. The method is used to attract buyers in a competitive fashion but regulators feel that those sellers are being exploited, in which case they place the produce on a level with the tin without a cone above, while there are no cap prices. This is market behaviour that demands no regulatory mechanisms at all.

Much the same thing is being noticed with regard to the milk sub-sector or fresh milk industry along with yoghurt, as the ministry expects to set up 950 milk collection centres, with a view to changing the milk trade from informal sector to processed and packaged milk. The consuming public is waiting to see how this shall work out as processed and packaged milk involves price mark ups

ordinarily absent in informal sector setting. And even with the low price margins, the outreach in terms of milk consumption as a whole is low, and if prices are marked up, chances of a stable subsector will dry up.

Much the same consideration surfaces when one starts figuring out how an additional 17,200 modern dairy cattle, 5,000 improved cattle sheds and rainwater harvesting innovations in 22,400 households are likely to impact on market behaviour. While there are clear indicators that all this activity will be conducted on a private sector or ownership basis, merely facilitated by government agencies, chances of its taking off without hiccups are limited. A number of its elements are strait-jacketed, which may limit their being absorbed by the market directly, rely on government finding foreign markets, etc.

What raises no problems whatsoever is obtaining 929,000 doses of livestock vaccines and training livestock keepers on Juncao feeds production, with 20,000 hectares of grazing areas in three wards scattered in two regions. There is plenty of work that is visible in the offing, but it is unclear whether the marketing environment will conform to the productive thrust and its employment rationale, except for a fairly promising beef market on the Gulf zone. In that case all will be happy at the first stage of the project as money is disbursed and utilities are put on the ground, but there is need for an auxiliary design, an extension of the project write up, on weaning all these utilities from donor funds, finally. This is definitely a turning point for fishing and livestock breeding, but the silver lining is required.

## High level discussion on what can make investment more dynamic quite welcome

WHILE there is every reason to wish that greater policy support is provided to push policy efforts in productive investments, the tone of discussion between the Treasury and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the matter had some open ended gaps. The reason is that the host minister urged UNDP and other development partners to support government initiatives through investment in the productive sectors that generate income for citizens. There were some remarks by the UNDP representative expressing satisfaction with the government investment drive, as appropriate for raising incomes, without actually seeking more discussion on what strategy is best for fast growth.

There was every reason for concord in the talks as the UNDP has been the global leader in diverting the Bretton Woods organisations (the IMF and the World Bank) from traditional roles of liberal and competitive economic reforms. The alternative view developed especially in UNDP ranks since it orchestrated the 'human development index' is one of looking at inclusion rather than merely the rate of growth or competition criteria per se. This is still the prevailing sentiment and it appears to be working, so long as the democracy element is added for the donors not to withdraw, while as a rule non-competitive economic structures prevent the dissolution of inefficient producers, using subsidies.

Looking at the summary remarks made by the minister, it would appear that the main issue was how far the UNDP could chip in regarding budget support, to support government initiatives where there is plenty of investment in production. The key element in the productive thrust is inclusion of significant numbers of youth, women and the disabled in certain regards, but any expert will

doubt if there are preconditions for this kind of investment to obtain the market it requires. Only some rough estimates can be made, that there is significant budgetary growth and investment growth, so deliberate increase in the supply of meat, milk may not necessarily fail, especially with additional markets across borders.

The three years of the current government has seen plenty in terms of attracting investments into the country, remarkable developments in real estate or housing in general, which would all suggest a certain uplift in demand for the commodities for which subsidies are being provided to enhance production levels. Some auxiliary care has in a sense been taken, for instance providing youths put on agri-business projects with personalised land titles, with some leasehold aspect. This places the project with a foot inside commerce and a channel to credit. This may come handily in case there is a felt need for repeated subsidy exercises a year from now, as new funds can uplift other individuals.

Suggesting that the government and non-government institutions need to join forces in empowering citizens through productive economic sectors is valid at the starting point, as morally it comes down to a matter of pity, and that way a lot of people can be moved to contribute. But they expect that after this initial push, the beneficiaries move into self-reliance, but the sort of dialogue that has been heard with multilateral agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, UNDP and others, focus more or less exclusively on inclusion and less on market tools. The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) can for instance take up families and educate their children up to college, instead of seed capital and a monthly stipend until the farm or poultry project takes off, with a low building credit, not for years.

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## What does it take to protect every woman, child in Tanzania from all forms of violence?

By Dr Dorothy Gwajima and UN specialists

AS we celebrate the launch of Tanzania's second National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (2024/2025-2028/2029), we have an opportunity to recommit ourselves to protecting the rights of every woman and child in Tanzania. All women and children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. Yet, millions of women and children in Tanzania have either experienced or witnessed physical, sexual or emotional violence. Sadly, violence often occurs in what are meant to be safe places - homes, schools, workplaces, communities and increasingly now in on-line spaces.

The impact of violence against women and children can be profound. Violence is associated with a number of adverse health outcomes in women and children and those negative effects can last a lifetime. In addition to the impact on individuals and their families, violence against women and children can put a strain on social services, including health care, law enforcement, and the judiciary, as they respond to incidents and support victims and their families. The immediate and long-term economic impact of violence against women and children can therefore be costly, hindering the development of a nation.

The Government of Tanzania has taken steps to develop the second national plan of action to work towards the elimination of violence against women and children. In line with evidence-based strategies, the plan of action sets out ambitious strategies to improve economic security and stability of families; address social norms and values that encourage violence and discrimination; create safe environments where women and children gather and spend time; support parents and families to promote women and children's wellbeing; implement and enforce laws and policies to protect women and children; increase access to quality services for those exposed to violence; and ensure that learning environments are safe and enabling.

To effectively address violence against women and children, there are several critical areas to reflect on. Firstly, breaking the silence on violence against women and children requires commitment, leadership and accountability at all levels of society - at the individual



level, at the community level, at the institutional level and at the political level. We must all speak out about violence and make a commitment to ensure that our actions are protective of women and children including by removing harmful practices towards women and girls. And we must hold each other accountable for our individual and collective progress and results as duty bearers and responsibility holders. Together, we can help give voice to the thousands of women and children who suffer daily as a result of violence.

Secondly, the way we approach the protection of women and children requires a fundamental shift. More emphasis must be placed on creating a culture of prevention at all levels, which should form a critical component of Tanzania's overall protection system. Special attention and increased investment are needed to adopt a public health approach in prevention strategies that strengthen community systems that decrease violence against women and children and lead to their improved health and wellbeing. This requires a comprehensive, whole-of-society, and gender-transformative approach to tackle social norms perpetuating violence against women and children while ensuring the diligent production and use of data to monitor changes and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programmes.

Thirdly, strong partnerships are essential to address violence. The protection of women and children requires an integrated approach across the family welfare, health, education, security, political, and justice sectors, among others. No one sector and no one partner

can work in isolation. By bringing together knowledge, expertise, resources and learning, we can make greater progress in achieving positive outcomes for individual women and children as well as society as a whole.

One area with great potential for partnership is ensuring that we address both violence against women and violence against children together. These two forms of violence are interlinked at all levels of the family and society. Where a mother experiences violence, her children are also more likely to face be victims of violence. The data clearly shows that children who experience violence in childhood are more likely to grow up to be victims or perpetrators of violence themselves. Strategies and interventions to address violence against women and children require a holistic and integrated approach to ensure that prevention and response efforts are well coordinated and complimentary. Given the limited resources to address violence, this will allow us to maximize impact for both women and children.

The second phase of the national action plan represents an opportunity to build on previous efforts and accelerate progress towards ending violence against women and children which is crucial for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Tanzania's national development aspirations. As we step into this crucial phase of action, every step we take together is a step towards a Tanzania free from violence against women and children.

We must ensure that resources are adequate, both nationally and

sub-nationally, to prevent and respond to violence and that robust systems are in place to monitor progress. This will accelerate efforts and facilitate reporting to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, which contain specific targets to end violence against women and children. Equally, if Tanzania is to meet its commitments to SDGs on women and children's education, health and wellbeing, we must ensure that all women and children are protected from violence.

Real improvements in women's and children's lives are brought to life not simply through statements and promises, but through concrete actions such as those set out in the second National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations in Tanzania remain committed to working with partners and stakeholders at all levels to ensure that these national commitments translate into greater protection for women and children across the country.

Jointly written by Dr. Dorothy O. Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Zlatan Milisic - United Nations Resident Coordinator, Elke Wisch - UNICEF Representative, Mark Bryan Schreiner - UNFPA Representative and Peterson Magoola - UN Women Representative



# Essential questions and vocabulary list crucial in teaching and learning process

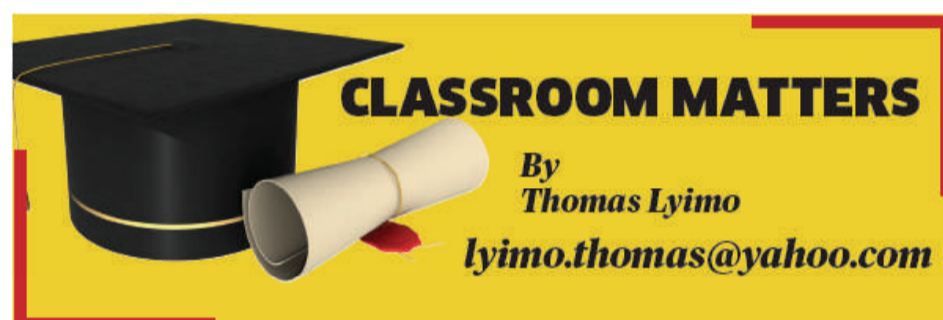
**S**UCCESS of the teacher must be manifested in the learner's competence. This means success in the teaching and learning process cannot be hidden. Examination results and direct questioning results reveal the ability of learners.

That success is the desire of both the teacher and the learner; it is the result of some effort. This effort should start with the teacher who is the facilitator of the teaching and learning process.

The thing which triggers the reaction must be considered properly. This is to say that lesson notes which form the base of the teaching and learning process must be of high quality to enhance effective teaching and learning. Lesson notes show the way to learners on how they should go about searching of new materials in relation to what they have been taught.

Lesson notes reflect the syllabus whose analysis is hard to be done by learners. The teacher as the facilitator of the teaching and learning process is the one to guide learners on what to be read in relation to the syllabus. Books in libraries are numerous containing numerous ideas and knowledge. It is not possible to read each idea in all books. Therefore the teaching notes help learners to set boundaries in the learning process.

The lesson notes should consider needs of each group in a class. There are those learners who due to the habit of learning have a bank of vocabularies and those who have very few vocabularies. This difference is what creates difference in the teaching and learning process. All learners are important and therefore there must be some efforts to ensure that everyone reaches the possible level of achievement regarding their abil-



ity. Again not every learner when reading can identify important concepts or ideas in relation to others. This is what makes it necessary for good lesson notes to be written in a form of essential questions preceded by a vocabulary list pertaining to the lesson of a particular day.

This kind of notes becomes easy for learners to take them and plan well their study. It is believed that what matters most is the quality and not quantity. Both essential questions and vocabulary list aim at producing quality notes. Essential questions important; to examine the degree of importance of

essential questions one should consider the following: Reducing the size of notes; learners especially the young ones cannot deal successfully with long notes. The problem starts with copying and then reading them. They get bored when they are required to go about long notes. This

situation hinders effective learning and hence there is a need to make these learners learn comfortably. The school is for learners and not for teachers.

Therefore if there is any practice which does not benefit them it becomes a challenge. This is why the use of essential questions is very important as it helps to reduce the length of notes and hence stimulating learning.

Pointing important aspects; as it has been put clear earlier that learners can hardly analyze the syllabus, the teacher who use essential questions can help them to put efforts on

things provided by the syllabus instead of learning each and everything in which not everything is important. Most learners do not have much time to put in learning. Therefore there must be an effort to make sure that little time they devote for learning is utilized at maximum point by giving them key concepts using the essential questions.

On the other hand a vocabulary list is import in the teaching and learning process as there are no notes without vocabularies. The importance of the vocabulary list can be seen regarding the following

considerations; Enhancing understanding; when learners understand the lesson they are motivated to learn more and more. To understand a sentence means to understand the meaning of each word in that sentence. This is to say before the beginning of the lesson the teacher needs to introduce difficult words contained in notes and their meanings. There are those learners who even if they have not understood the meaning of a word they would not ask. If this happens the learning process is hindered. The remedy for this challenge is having the vocabulary list at the beginning of the lesson.

Enabling motivation; understanding what is taught motivates learners. Learning must be progressive in the sense that the learner must be able to add on what they have learnt previously. For the progression to be possible learners must be motivated to learn. It is vocabularies which enhances understanding and hence motivation. Learning is motivational in nature. No one prefers wasting time in what they do not understand.

Among the central facilitation in the teaching and learning process are lesson notes. These are what determine the quality of discussions in class. Good points in notes which are arranged well are the ones to determine the course of study.

There must be some efforts to make the teaching notes of high quality. All other things like teaching aids and teaching methodologies take their step from the teaching notes. Essential questions and a vocabulary list can help to improve the teaching notes. Teaching is embracing essential questions and a vocabulary list.

# Tanzania among African countries with highest clean energy potential

By Telesphor Magobe

**T**ANZANIA is among the nine African countries with the "highest inland energy potential" and is also among the five African countries with "high offshore potential". Other African countries with the highest inland energy potential are Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa and Sudan, and those with high offshore potential are Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Africa, a new UN report says.

The UN report is titled "Economic Report on Africa 2024: Investing in a Just and Sustainable Transition in Africa". Tanzania also appears on the list of five East African countries, whose geothermal resources are concentrated in the Great Rift Valley. The countries are Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Great Rift Valley runs from Lebanon through Israel, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and Mozambique.

"The East African Rift System boasts an estimated 20,000 MW geothermal potential and Kenya is Africa's top geothermal

power generator and the world's seventh largest, with an installed capacity of 950 MW, enough to power 3.8 million homes," says the UN report.

There are investment opportunities Tanzania has in clean energy sources. Yet, as the report suggests, high perceived risks in renewable energy and other sectors, including exploration, start-up, and exit risks, deter investors and prevent both the closing of the energy gap and decarbonisation.

Furthermore, the report suggests effective de-risking tools such as partial credit guarantees, power purchase agreements, and tariff inflation indexing could ease investors' discomfort. According to the report, credibly de-risking projects are critical to attract much-needed private capital.

Renewable energy is still underutilised as Africa accounts for only 2 per cent of global investments in renewable energy and less than 3 per cent of global renewables jobs, although it is home to about 20 per cent of the world's population (estimated at 8.1 billion people, according to Worldmeter) and has vast renewable energy resources – wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal.

"The Nairobi Declaration pointed out that



Africa has 40 per cent of global renewables potential. Further, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), overall energy investment has been declining in Africa to under \$90 billion in 2022. At this rate, 565 million Africans will still be without access to electricity by 2030. Moreover, clean energy accounted for a mere 2 per cent of the global total (\$25 billion)."

As climate change continues wreaking havoc on countries across the world and its effects even experienced in Tanzania, more efforts are now directed towards exploring and using alternative clean energy sources - which are environmentally-friendly. Clean energy minimises greenhouse emissions

and mitigates climate change effects. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities accelerate the greenhouse effect, which contributes to climate change.

According to the UN report, renewable energy provides Africa with economic opportunities for economic growth, low-cost technologies to improve energy access and quality, and the potential for industrial development in new value chains.

It has also the potential to greatly reduce Africa's trade deficits, develop new local value chains, and create jobs, while reducing the environmental impacts of fossil fuel-based power generation and traditional biomass for heating and

cooking.

While investment in renewable energy across Africa has grown over the past decade, totalling \$55 billion in 2010- 2020, total global investment in renewables in the decade was about \$2.3 trillion. In this way, Africa accounted for only 2.4 per cent of global investment in renewable energy over the past two decades, concentrated in Southern Africa (38 per cent), North Africa (32 per cent), and East Africa (20 per cent), according to the UN report.

Tanzania's SDG Investor Map launched last year highlights 13 investment opportunity areas (IOAs) across five priority investment sectors, one of them being renewable

and alternative energy. The SDG Investor Map states that Tanzania is endowed with sufficient renewable energy resources to secure the supply of 100 per cent renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy, and has the potential to meet a substantial proportion of its domestic energy demand through their utilisation.

"With increasing urbanisation and growing middle class, households will increasingly use modern and energy-efficient applications according to the highest efficiency standards to slow down the power demand growth, and to allow the parallel expansion of energy infrastructure and the construction of renewable power plants."

Despite clean energy investment and utilisation opportunities, the UN report says there is difficulty in attracting adequate investment for deploying renewable energy in developing countries, including Tanzania. It says, for instance, geothermal energy is associated with high upfront costs and risks related to drilling. Thus, finding ways to de-risk projects is critical to unlocking the potential for private international capital to develop renewable energy in Africa.

Although Africa's vast renewable energy resources present particularly strong sustainable investment opportunities: 80 per cent of them are estimated to have a return of more than 15 per cent, and some areas have a gross profit margin of more than 25 per cent, the UN report suggests many opportunities are below \$500,000, suitable for small-scale investors and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).

# Indian spices face heat over global safety concerns

By Soutik Biswas

“FOR Indians, spices are like paints in a paint box”, says Indian actor-turned-food writer Madhur Jaffrey. “We get different shades from the same spice by doing something to the spice.”

In other words, you can roast the spices or grind them into powders. The diversity of their flavours is mind-boggling. Indian spices enhance pickles and season meat. They flavour savouries and street food. Zesty spices energise local fruit drinks and add a tangy twist to fruits and salads.

Unsurprisingly, India has emerged as a global spice powerhouse. It exports more than 200 spices and value-added products to some 180 countries, worth \$4bn (£3.1bn), according to the Spices Board of India. The domestic market alone is worth a staggering \$10bn, making it the world's largest consumer of spices.

But now, concerns are emerging regarding the safety of these renowned spices. Last month, Singapore and Hong Kong halted sales of some spices produced by Indian companies MDH and Everest over suspected elevated levels of ethylene oxide, a cancer-causing pesticide.

That's not all. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is also investigating products from the two popular brands for potentially containing the pesticide, an FDA spokesperson told Reuters. An analysis done by the news agency of the US regulatory data found that since 2021, an average of 14.5 percent of US shipments of MDH spices were rejected due to presence of bacteria. Both brands insist that their products are safe.

The European Union (EU) has raised concerns of its own, discovering the same cancer-causing substance in samples of chilli peppers and peppercorns from India. Reports say that the Maldives, Bangladesh and Australian food regulators have also launched investigations.

Clearly, it is a disturbing development. For one, both the brands are popular and trusted ones. Delhi-based MDH, an iconic 105-year-old family-run firm, offers a range of more than 60 blended and ground spices. The 57-year-old Everest Food Products, launched by a spice trader, claims to be India's “largest manufacturer of pure and blended spices”, exporting to over 80 countries. Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, Bollywood superstars, have served as Everest's brand ambassadors.

To be sure, this is not the first time Indian spices have been found to be contaminated. In 2014, Ipsita Mazumdar, a biochemistry expert, tested popular spice brands in Kolkata which made chilli, cumin, curry powder, and garam masala. She found lead in the food colouring used to give the spices vibrant orange or red hues. And more recently in April, food and drugs control authorities in Gujarat seized more than 60,000kg of adulterated spices - chilli powder, turmeric and coriander powder and pickle masala.



Indian spices come in a range of varieties

So are Indian spices safe? The federal government has instructed all state governments to conduct quality tests. The Spices Board - which has five quality evaluation labs - has issued guidelines to exporters to check for use of ethylene oxide. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is also testing samples.

India's health ministry claims the country has one of the world's strictest Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) standards, with pesticides' MRLs varying by food commodity and determined through rigorous risk assessments. But something is clearly amiss: in 2022, the FDA highlighted inadequate sanitary facilities, accom-

modation, and equipment cleanliness standards at a premier Indian spice plant.

“India has been a spice exporter for centuries. But this image has been declining in the last few years, with the government's inadequate attention. We do not yet know at which stage the contamination is happening. Ethylene oxide is not used by farmers. It is most probably a post-harvest, post-processing residue,” says Narasimha Reddy Donthi, an independent researcher and environmental justice activist.

“It is not only the negative attention. Repeated cases of excessive residues can have a long-term effect. In the past, mango exports to the US suffered

for years due to pesticide residues,” Mr Reddy adds.

Delhi-based think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) believes the recent quality concerns could threaten half of India's spice exports due to “cascading regulatory actions in many countries”.

If China questions the quality of Indian spices, over half of India's global exports could be affected, joining five other countries, the GTRI said in a recent report. “The situation could worsen if the EU, which regularly rejects Indian spice consignments over quality issues, follows suits.”

For spice enthusiasts in the West, the origin of the spices in their food

remains unclear.

“I don't think most people are aware of where their spices come from. I certainly don't, and I use spices a lot! I live a few blocks from Chicago's main Indian shopping district, Devon Avenue, which is where I buy my spice. I assume they come from India but have never looked into this,” Colleen Taylor Sen, an author specialising in Indian cuisine, told me.

In the end, experts say, India must fundamentally overhaul its approach to food safety, prioritising transparency, stringent enforcement and clear communication to safeguard the integrity of its exports.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Ocean action on global agenda as negotiations to save biodiversity deepen

By Joyce Chimbi, Nairobi

**T**HE oceans are as fascinating as they are mysterious. Home to the largest animals to ever live on Earth and billions of the tiniest, the top 100 meters of the open oceans host the majority of sea life, such as fish, turtles, and marine mammals. But there is another world far below the surface. In the belly of the ocean, there are seamounts—underwater mountains that rise 1,000 meters or more from the seafloor.

It is within this context that negotiations on critical science, technical skills, and technology deepened on the second day of the 26th session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Putting ocean action on the global agenda is a top priority to ensure conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Emphasizing an urgent need for further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

“The survival of humanity is interlinked with the sustainable use of ocean and marine biodiversity resources. We rely on the ocean for food, relaxation, and inspiration. But now the ocean is under threat, and that threat is being passed on to our lives on land. We have to invest time, money, and every resource possible



Delegates say the survival of humanity is interlinked with the sustainable use of ocean and marine biodiversity resources.

to save our oceans and, by doing so, save ourselves. Our biggest revenue comes from fisheries, and now we have to worry about rising sea level as we are a low-lying island,” Eleala Avanietele from the Forest Peoples Program in Tuvalu told IPS.

Scientists warn that Tuvalu, the fourth-smallest country in the world, is sinking due to its vulnerability to rising sea levels, as the nation comprises nine low-lying coral atolls and islands. Across the globe, the world is in a crisis as oceans provide 50 percent of all oxygen on Earth and 50 to 80 percent of all life on Earth. This life is now at stake.

Thus far, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, also known as the Biodiversity Plan, has been front and centre during ongoing negotiations, as

it is a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a global agreement that covers all aspects of biological diversity and is considered a framework for governments and the whole of society.

Harrison Ajebe Nnoko Ngaaje from Ajemalebu Self Help (Ajesh) in Cameroon told IPS that his organization is a CSO registered in Cameroon, Ghana, Tanzania, and the USA to create synergies and collaboration within and beyond the continent for the restoration, protection, and sustainable management of key biodiversity areas.

“Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity is very critical to Cameroon due to its vast and unique ecosystem and biodiversity. Limbe Beach, for instance, has

shiny black sandy beaches made of lava sand from the Mt. Cameroon eruptions, an active volcano in the south-west region of Cameroon. We have mangroves under serious threat of degradation. Ajesh is strongly focused on marine protected area management and the conservation of marine aquatic ecosystems.”

More than half of all marine species could be in danger of extinction by 2100. Nearly 60 percent of the world’s marine ecosystems have been altered or handled unsustainably. Marine, coastal, and island biodiversity were discussed within the context of the Biodiversity Plan. Target 3 of the Plan aims to ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of

particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed.

The main goal of the SBSTTA discussions was to find and fix areas that need more attention under the Convention in order to help carry out the Biodiversity Plan for marine, coastal, and island biodiversity.

Despite the Conference of the Parties adopting the program of work on marine and coastal biological diversity at its fourth meeting in 1998 and the program of work on island biodiversity in 2006, the world is significantly behind schedule when it comes to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Nevertheless, CBD continues to prioritize and facilitate cooperation and collaboration with rel-

evant global and regional organizations and initiatives with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity.

“It is very important that civil society, youths, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are part of the SBSTTA process, observing and being allowed the opportunity to make remarks. Parties make decisions but these actors also implement and are at the forefront of facing the consequences of biodiversity loss,” Ngaaje says.

Onyango Adhiambo, a youth delegate from academia and research under the International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity, supported Ngaaje’s remarks.

“Young people will need to understand the science, technical skills, and technology at play in saving our planet, for soon we will need to step in and step up. The future, which is now at stake, belongs to us, and when called upon to intervene on what the parties agree to, we must do so efficiently, effectively, and sustainably to save natural resources for future generations,” Adhiambo said.

Highlights from the session included a recognition of the importance of science for decision-making and that there are many areas of the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity that have not been fully implemented and for which enhanced capacity-building and development, in particular for least developed countries

and small island developing states, are needed.

The 2022 Biodiversity Plan says that we can get back on track by creating “ecologically representative, well-connected, and fairly governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrating them into larger landscapes, seascapes, and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.”

Equally important is the agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which was adopted on June 19, 2023.

Collaboration in ocean conservation beyond national boundaries was strongly encouraged on issues such as marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.



Hippos are seen at Serengeti National Park in Tanzania

## Chinese children marvel at Tanzania’s abundant nature

By Special Correspondent

**E**IGHT-YEAR-OLD Wang Ruixuan, from Qingdao city in China’s eastern Shandong province, was at a loss for words when immersed in Tanzania’s abundance of animals, from elephants to lions and his favourite, serval.

“I like animals very much, especially the serval, a wild cat native to Africa,” he said. “We took a photo of the cat a few days ago, and fortunately it was taken during the daytime,” Wang said of the nocturnal animal usually active at night.

Wang was among a group of six children and nine adults from across China, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Qingdao, who spent their May Day vacation visiting Tanzania and doing field research on nature in general and animals in particular.

Organized by Xuexi Nature Education Institution, the cohort visited the Manyara National Park, the Serengeti National Park, the Ngorongoro

Crater, the Zanzibar archipelago, and the National Museum in the port city of Dar es Salaam.

He Changhuan, a teacher of the study tour group, said Tanzania is one of the easiest places to see animals in the world.

“For study tours, Tanzania is a place closer to nature, allowing children to feel the wild beauty of the East African savannah,” he said at the Serengeti National Park, a World Heritage Site teeming with wildlife, including lions, leopards, cheetahs and over 500 bird species that inhabit the park, close to 15,000 square kilometers in size.

Elephants and hippos in Tanzania are very large and attract great attention, He said.

Guo Lin, co-founder of Xuexi, said the study tour involved natural, cultural and historical elements, enabling the children to have a comprehensive understanding of Tanzania.

“I think Tanzania should be the most suitable place in the world to connect with na-

ture and see big animals,” she said, adding that the Tanzania tour helped the children to get close to nature, where one can see plants, insects, mammals, birds, and even the starry sky.

Indeed, many Chinese visitors are enchanted by the magic of Serengeti National Park, with the bright smiles of Maasai tribesmen sparking an immediate warm glow inside.

Tanzania is well known for its vast wilderness. In addition to the plains of Serengeti National Park, the country is endowed with the Kilimanjaro National Park, home to Africa’s highest mountain, the tropical islands of Zanzibar, with Arabic influences, and Mafia Island, where a marine park hosts whale sharks and coral reefs.

Thereza Mugobi, the director of tourism at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism said that 44,438 Chinese tourists visited Tanzania in 2023, 32.5 percent more than the 33,541 posted in 2019, and the number is expected to keep rising.

## Africa’s internet vulnerability and how to fix it

By Jewel Kiriungi, Nairobi

A severe internet outage that has hit several African countries - the third disruption in four months - is a stark reminder of how vulnerable the service is on the continent.

Questions are being asked about how the reliability of what has become an essential tool in nearly every aspect of life can be improved.

A cut to two of the undersea cables, which carry the data around the continent, early on Sunday morning, led to the recent disruption.

In March, damage to four cables off the West African coast caused similar problems.

And in February, the vital links were damaged in the Red Sea after the anchor of a stricken ship dragged through three cables.

Investigations are under way into this weekend’s case.

But it was also likely to have been caused by “an anchor drag” from a ship, Prenesh Padayachee, chief digital and operations officer at Seacom, which owns one of the two cables affected, told the BBC.

The second cable, known as Eassy, was affected at the same time and at the same place.

The incident happened off the South African coast, just north of the port city of Durban, according to the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK).

The capacity of the infrastructure connecting Africa to the rest of the world has improved in recent years and telecoms companies are switching to other cables to maintain the service.

In Kenya, for example, the CAK said that local internet

traffic was currently using The East Africa Marine System (Teams) cable that was not affected.

While Kenya has alternatives, other countries, such as Tanzania where connectivity levels hit 30% of what they were expected to be, do not.

The data should be able to find other routes, but when there is a limited number of pathways the service gets jammed and slows down.

In 2009 the Teams cable arrived in the Kenyan port of Mombasa bringing broadband connectivity to East Africa.

Cases of cable damage are increasing but that is because the number of connections has also gone up.

“A lot of people don’t realise that the internet is held up by these cables that are like garden hoses except it’s one that stretches 10,000km, and that means that they are quite fragile,” Dr Jess Auerbach Jahajeeah, a researcher into digital connectivity at the University of Cape Town, told the BBC’s Focus on Africa programme.

Anchor dragging from ships close to shore is one of the most common causes of damage, but underwater rockfalls, as was believed to be the case

in West Africa in March, and seismic activity can also affect the cables.

As “many of these subsea cables are often quite close to each other, then one activity on the ocean floor or one ship can damage multiple cables at the same time”, industry expert Ben Roberts said.

Repairing the damage, which requires specialised equipment and expertise, can take days or weeks, depending on the weather, sea conditions and the extent of the problem.

It took more than a month, for example, for the four severed West African internet cables to be repaired and returned to service.

“We are working on a temporary capacity solution to ensure connectivity is reinstated to the affected regions,” said Padayachee from Seacom.

He added that they were “actively collaborating with various parties to expedite the repair process”.

Cable repair ship the Léon Thévenin that had been docked in Cape Town, is being sent to the site of the damage and should be there in three days, say Chris Wood, who runs a company that has invested in Eassy.

AFP MaxOkada rider decks out in bibs and helmet in company colours as he checks Apps information, on September 4, 2019AFP

An internet connection has become vital for all types of businesses across the continent

Despite an increase in connections, Africa’s reliance on a limited number of undersea cables for the internet makes the continent more susceptible to disruptions and exacerbates their impact.

Europe and North America, on the other hand, have a dense network of high-capacity overland and undersea cables that diversify connectivity routes and improve resilience.

While discussions have been ongoing to address Africa’s internet infrastructure challenges, progress has been slow because of logistical and financial constraints.

Dr Jahajeeah said one problem was that the support systems to repair the growing number of cables around the continent had not kept up with the growth.

While other ships can help out, the Léon Thévenin is the only repair ship dedicated to servicing Africa.

“The [ship] used to do two or three repairs a year [but] last year it did nine... and there is a real need for African governments and global governments to get together and say we need to ensure that there is no digital divide,” Dr Jahajeeah said.

Some people have proposed alternatives such as satellite internet links to bolster digital resilience.

Elon Musk’s Starlink project, for example, aims to provide high-speed internet to people who live in remote areas via a network of satellites. But is very expensive and currently not available everywhere.

The answer really lies in greater investment on the ground to support the vital communications infrastructure.

“It needs more networks, more connectivity, more data centres and more internet exchanges to make sure that we have a diverse connectivity,” said Roberts.



**We are working on a temporary capacity solution to ensure connectivity is reinstated to the affected regions**

# Nigeria's women drivers rally together to navigate male-dominated industry

By Pelumi Salako

It was after 11pm on a night last February when Victoria Oyeemi received an urgent phone call as she was getting ready for bed.

A fellow taxi driver, Gladys April Abanang, had been in a serious accident. Her car lost control, climbed a curb and somersaulted while she was working in the Osodi area of Lagos.

After a crowd of passersby and neighbourhood thugs who saw the accident helped remove her from the vehicle, the first thing a slightly injured and bleeding Abanang did was phone Oyeemi, the chief security officer (CSO) for Ladies on Wheels Association of Nigeria, or LOWAN.

"I was on the floor but somehow I was able to get my phone and put a call across to LOWAN CSO," the 47-year-old mother of one said.

Within 10 minutes, Oyeemi was at the scene. In her volunteer role at the non-profit that supports women drivers, she mans a helpline for members needing emergency assistance.

While Abanang's husband took her to the hospital, Oyeemi stayed at the scene to settle things with the thugs who insisted on getting paid for their help. She also arranged a towing service for the car, which LOWAN paid for. And in the weeks that followed, the group regularly checked on Abanang and supported her until she was back on her feet.

"They took care of me, they kept encouraging me and they were so supportive ... It was only LOWAN that came to my help," Abanang said.

Six years ago when the association first started, there were six women in the group. Now there are some 5,000 members ranging in age from 25 to 60 - all of them female commercial drivers working across Nigeria. As their membership grows, so do the ways they support each other.

LOWAN is a close-knit group, says founder Nkechi Abiola, with members looking after each other, looking out for one another on the road, and even exchanging trade advice and secondary business opportunities.

They also facilitate loans to help the 60 percent of the group's members who do not yet own their cars, and they assist one another through a regular savings scheme.

Beyond driving, members also engage in campaigns against gender-based violence and domestic abuse to raise awareness about issues women in Nigeria face.

Fighting for acceptance

In recent years, there has been a surge in the number of women venturing into the commercial transport business in Nigeria - working as taxi, danfo bus, tricycle



Nkechi Abiola, Glory Ashiru, Akpan Dorothy, Princess Abiola, Tolase Olorunnihi and Victoria Oyeemi from LOWAN in Lagos

and motorcycle taxi drivers.

Experts say this increase is driven by Nigeria's worsening economic situation which is forcing women to earn more money to support their families - ushering many into industries that have traditionally been more male dominated.

Seyi Awojulgbe, a senior analyst at Lagos-based geopolitical risk advisory firm, SBM Intelligence, told Al Jazeera that while more women are employed in Nigeria's formal sector "is due to increased campaign for female participation", in the informal sector, it's because of "mainly economic reasons".

"They need a constant flow of cash," said Awojulgbe. "Some of them may be due to the loss of a breadwinner in the family, or job loss."

However, Nigeria remains socioculturally patriarchal and the shift has not been easy for

driving them. Even the rate of acceptance for us as commercial drivers is low. We are still fighting for that," Abiola told Al Jazeera.

Before she started LOWAN in 2018, Abiola belonged to a mixed-gender drivers' forum. However, after the women in the group were shunned by their male counterparts when trying to share input, she decided a new space was needed.

That's when she established LOWAN as a women-only association where they could speak without intimidation, and more importantly, provide support for fellow female commercial drivers.

Among women drivers, many say they face forms of sexual harassment, assault, rejection, extortion, discrimination, and intimidation by passengers, fellow road users, and even law enforcement agents.

"Some men come into the

drivers are treated is also due to society not being used to seeing them in such roles, and "because of the nature of the role".

"Drivers have to deal with touts and so-called 'tax force' on the road who do not have the patience of dealing with change," the analyst said, referring to the men who informally collect dues from drivers in the city to allow them to pick up passengers who are not used to seeing female bus and taxi drivers.

"As things go on, people will change and adapt. But we need more awareness that these women are doing legal jobs and do not deserve to be discriminated against," she said.

Love and support For women drivers themselves, the profession has served different purposes: a getaway, a source of income, and a buffer against oppression.



Glory Ashiru has been driving since 2019

female drivers. Some passengers even go so far as rejecting a ride as soon as they see a woman behind the wheel, because of the false assumption that women are bad drivers, LOWAN members said.

"People, both female and male, don't really like women

car and start touching you outrightly, those things are rampant," Abiola said about the situations they encounter. "We have collaborated with a foundation to report and get perpetrators punished."

SBM's Awojulgbe said the difference in the way female

After founder Abiola's marriage ended in 2017, she needed a job that paid more than tailoring in order to take care of her five girls. Driving was her go-to, she said.

"I didn't want to be vulnerable. I didn't want to be at the mercy of any man out there."

For driver Glory Ashiru, the move has been beneficial compared with her previous job as an egg supplier, where she usually had to wait weeks before getting paid.

She started driving for e-hailing service Bolt in 2019, and not long after was approached by a member of LOWAN who introduced her to the group.

"I was parked on Adeniyi Jones street and she just walked up to me and she told me about the association that brought women drivers together," said the single mother of two.

"Since then I have been a member. The association has helped me financially, the love and support we have is really good."

Other women with families - like Tolase Olorunnihi, who also drives for Bolt - also appreciate the work driving provides, while struggling to balance it with their primary responsibilities at home and expectations from their husbands.

"I don't drive at night, I set out when I drop the children in school in the morning and go home after the children are through at school or I close at 5pm," the mother of five told Al Jazeera about her attempt at finding a balance.

Working in Lagos, Olorunnihi has also had her fair share of unpleasant experiences. Once, a drunk passenger became angry and started swearing at her because she was a woman driving at night.

Another evening this January, she picked up a female passenger who decided to alter the trip halfway through so that she could stop to buy chicken. The passenger then ended the ride without paying for the trip. Even after Olorunnihi followed up with her, and later reported it to Bolt, she still did not receive any payment.

"The most painful thing is that Bolt has removed their commission from my money," she said, referring to the 20 percent fee the e-hailing service takes from every ride a driver completes.

Olorunnihi finds comfort in sharing these experiences with the other LOWAN members at hangouts where the women advise one another and find humour in their shared tales of life on the road.

Money in a crisis

In Nigeria, with inflation at 33.20 percent, the currency piling against the US dollar, and the rising cost of living, workers, especially low-income families, are worst affected.

The removal of a petroleum subsidy - which has made the

petrol price jump from 160 naira (\$0.11) to 680 naira (\$0.48) per litre - high import duties and high inflation, have also burdened commuters and lowered drivers' earnings.

When Ashiru started driving commercially in 2019, her daily income was about 8,000 naira (\$5.59), which would cater for her family's needs. But not any more, she said, even though she now earns between 15,000 naira (\$10.48) and 25,000 naira (\$17.45) - because the cost of food and other basics has also risen.

"If I earn 700,000 naira (\$489) monthly and I spend so much money on repairs, fuel, food and others, what will be there to save?" she asked, noting that a bag of rice that was 10,000 naira (\$7) now costs 60,000 naira (\$42).

"We are making more but we are not taking as much home," she said.

In a tough economic climate, LOWAN assists its members with loans so they can work towards owning their own cars. But the group also helps in other ways that are not strictly driving-related - such as when a member has a health emergency or another crisis.

The group also runs a savings club, locally called ajo - a system whereby a group's members contribute money daily, weekly or sometimes monthly. The money is then pooled and distributed to different members on a rotating basis.

"We organise ajo, or thrift, among members," LOWAN founder Abiola said. "We come together, we contribute money and give it to someone to get a car. We do it like that among ourselves."

"When there is urgent need for money or there is a crisis, also when there is a celebration, we rally round," she added.

LOWAN's members are grateful for the lifeline the group of women provides - both physically in terms of having Victoria Oyeemi on the other end of the helpline in case of an accident or emergency, and financially, for times when they need a loan.

But many wish the state would step up and do more.

The government should make business more conducive through impactful economic policies and the provision of grants and small-interest loans to drivers, Ashiru said.

"Driving is a very good way to empower more women," she added.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Monday to Sunday time programme schedule.



# Global banks increase financing for LNG expansion

BY JOHN BASQUILL

**F**ossil fuel financing from the world's largest banks dropped by more than US\$70bn in 2023, a report has found, yet an increase in backing for trade in LNG has prompted a backlash for climate campaigners.

Overall lending and underwriting to companies with fossil fuel exposure has dropped from US\$961bn in 2021 to just under US\$706bn last year, according to the latest edition of Banking on Climate Chaos, a detailed report produced by a group of climate-focused NGOs.

However, the LNG market has bucked that trend. The report finds that between 2022 and 2023, financing for companies that are expanding import and export capacity for methane gas grew from US\$116bn to US\$121bn.

In North America alone, the report singles out three LNG infrastructure projects, including pipeline construction and capacity building, that have attracted a combined total of US\$57.7bn in lending and underwriting.

Authors of the report, which include BankTrack, Oil Change In-



JP Morgan

ternational, Reclaim Finance and Urgewald, say that ongoing expansion of gas facilities poses a major climate risk.

In the US alone, 12 terminals awaiting government approval would produce the equivalent carbon emissions as 223 coal plants over their lifetimes, the report says.

There is "clear and growing evidence that methane gas exports are inconsistent with global climate targets, they drive up domestic US energy prices, and they harm local communities and critical ecosystems", the NGOs argue.

The global LNG market has been radically reshaped following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the subsequent imposition of sanctions on the country's energy exports. That year alone, the share of Europe's natural gas supply sourced from Russia dropped from around half to just

10 percent. This supply shift has proven a lucrative opportunity for US producers of LNG, whose revenues from exports to Europe grew more than fourfold in the months following the war.

Energy companies have since backed natural gas as a vital tool to keep the continent's energy supply stable. Last year the US became the world's top exporter of LNG for the first time, ahead of previous leaders Australia and Qatar, with around two-thirds of shipments destined for Europe, data from Kpler shows.

Gas has also been touted as a transitional fuel by the energy industry, with proponents claiming it is a less polluting alternative to coal while renewable energy production is ramped up.

But the report says communities impacted by fossil fuel infrastructure expansion believe LNG is a



Mizuho Financial Group

"false solution" to concerns around sustainability and energy security.

It is now three years since the International Energy Agency called for an immediate halt to all new fossil fuel projects, warning the industry must focus solely on reducing emissions from existing assets to keep global warming below 1.5°C.

The issue remains controversial in the US, with the Biden Administration pausing all authorisations for new LNG export facilities in the country.

Energy producers expressed "disbelief" at the decision, although industry experts argued the country could triple exports without the need for new infrastructure.

Banks under pressure

Lucie Pinson, founder and director at Reclaim Finance and a co-author of the report, criticises the banking sector for "continuing to channel money into fossil fuel

expansion, despite the clear warnings from climate science".

"They appear to be particularly blind to the risks associated with the expansion of LNG, continuing to finance new LNG facilities in the US, Africa and Papua New Guinea, as well as import terminals in Europe," she says. "This will lock us into fossil gas for decades to come, adding to greenhouse gas emissions, especially potent emissions of methane."

US Democrat Congressman Ro Khanna adds: "The science is clear: to tackle today's climate crisis we must hold Big Oil accountable for its role in the climate crisis."

"Unfortunately, this report shows that banks are continuing to finance projects that will increase emissions, despite their public climate commitments."

The report names Mizuho, MUFG, Santander, Royal Bank of Canada and JP Morgan Chase as

the five banks that have provided the most financing to companies involved in importing or exporting LNG.

Mizuho provided nearly US\$11bn, it says, while the other four provided a combined total of over US\$18bn.

Contacted by GTR, a JP Morgan spokesperson says: "As one of the world's largest financiers to both traditional and clean energy companies, we help power today's global economy. We believe our data reflects our activities more comprehensively and accurately than estimates by third parties."

"Reflecting our strategy of supporting the build-out of zero-carbon power, we set a net-zero aligned energy mix target and will disclose a clean energy supply financing ratio."

A Santander spokesperson says: "We are fully committed to supporting the transition to net zero and have set emission reduction targets for 2030 across a range of material emitting sectors within our loan book, including power generation, thermal coal, and energy (oil and gas), among others."

"All financing decisions are guided by a strict policy framework approved by our board of directors."

# African banks urged to adopt pan-African payment system

African financial institutions have been urged to embrace the Pan-African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS) in a bid to promote cross-border trade transactions.

The system, a centralized financial market infrastructure, was launched in 2022 to enable the efficient and secure flow of money across African borders.

"PAPSS is fully operational and making rapid progress," its Chief Executive Officer Mike Ogbalu said, at the first Consultative Forum of CEOs of African Banks earlier this week.

Ogbalu described PAPSS as a "revolutionary initiative that has the potential to significantly transform the financial and payments landscape of our continent."

The 2919 leaders African Union Summit adopted PAPSS as a key instrument for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

The following year, the leaders also mandated the AU Commission, AfCFTA Secretariat and African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to introduce and scale up the implementation of the system.

"Our foundation is solid," Ogbalu said, "the time has come for action and acceleration. It is time to use the system to drive trade in Africa, for Africans, by Africans."

The system works in collaboration with Africa's central banks to provide a payment and settlement service to which commercial banks and licensed payment service providers across the region can connect as 'Participants'.

To date, PAPSS has signed on African Central Banks, and connected over 115 commercial banks, and ten payment switches across



PAPSS Chief Executive Officer Mike Ogbalu

the continent.

Another 115 commercial banks are in the pipeline for connection, according to the CEO.

"We urge all banks to join us in our collective effort to promote intra-African trade and development through PAPSS," he told the Consultative Forum.

The Forum brought to-

gether executives of African commercial banks, bankers' associations, payment switches, the association of African stock exchanges and other financial service providers.

Among other things, participants advocated to leverage PAPSS as a pathway to increasing the share of African currencies in intra-

African trade and other cross-border payments.

They also agreed to embed PAPSS into their digital channels to enable ease of access and seamless integration for existing customers.

CEO Ogbalu was "pleased to see overwhelming support of this forum by the leadership of the African financial institutions."

"We are committed to ensuring it succeeds", urging "all African financial institutions to join us in transforming the way payments are done in Africa," he vowed.

The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of the African Union (AU) and eight (8) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to create a single market for the continent.

# Tanzanians encouraged to embrace insurance coverage

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS are urged to recognize the critical role of enrolling in insurance schemes as a shield against life's uncertainties.

This compelling directive was emphasized by the management of Sanlam General Insurance in partnership with Selcom Tanzania and Puma Energy, underscoring the importance of enrolling in insurance schemes to protect against life's uncertainties.

The clarion call to embrace insurance was made during an event held yesterday in Dar es Salaam to celebrate Amani Mbise, a resident of Dar es Salaam, who emerged victorious in the 1,000,000th customer to activate the insurance scheme.

Speaking at the event, Geoffrey Masige, the Chief Operations Officer of the firm, expressed, "Our primary mission as an insurance company working in partnership with our collaborators is to broaden

the accessibility of insurance coverage to a broader demographic, safeguarding individuals against life's unforeseen challenges."

Adding: "This commitment propels us to continuously pioneer inventive avenues that empower individuals to secure insurance protection effectively."

According to insurance experts, enrolling in insurance schemes is crucial for safeguarding one's financial well-being and protecting against unforeseen risks, as it provides a safety net that offers peace of mind and ensures that individuals and families are not left financially vulnerable in times of crisis.

Whether it's health insurance for medical emergencies, property insurance for safeguarding assets, or life insurance for providing financial security to loved ones, hence significantly mitigate the impact of unexpected events, he added.



AfDB President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina (standing) speaks to media leaders on the bank's intention to establish an annual Africa media prize. Photo: Courtesy of AfDB

By Guardian Reporter

African Development Bank Group (AfDB), has announced the creation of an Annual Africa Media Prize to recognise and profile African journalists, correspondents and media houses that showcase Africa's achievements and progress.

A statement from AfDB and shared to this journalist, quoted the bank's president Dr Akinwumi Adesina, saying AfDB would work with the AllAfrica Media organisation and African financial institutions to establish the prize.

According to him, the prize would serve as part of efforts to

promote more positive reporting of developments on the continent.

He was delivering a keynote speech yesterday during a media leaders' summit convened by AllAfrica Media in Nairobi Kenya.

The summit on the theme of "Re-engineering African Media in Times of Critical Transforma-

# AfDB sets to create media award to encourage fair, balanced reporting

tion" brought over 300 African media owners and operators, government officials, corporate leaders, academics, civil society champions, and development partners to discuss the business of media and the critical role it must play in shaping Africa's future.

"Africa must shape its own narrative, and not depend on what others think about it or the perspectives they prefer to share about it, its achievements, and opportunities... Positive stories of African investment opportunities need to be well showcased, as they unfortunately do not get sufficient coverage, if any at all, in western media," Dr Adesina declared in the statement.

He also proposed that the AfDB, Africa Import-Export Bank, and all regional financial institutions pool resources to support the emergence of a globally

respected African media company that will position the news of Africa to the world.

"The media has a critically important role, by being fair, objective, inquisitive, investigative yes, but also by being a catalyst for development, and promoting positive news about tangible African accomplishments, achievements, and developments," he said in his address.

Dr Adesina also called on development institutions in Africa to set up a joint repository of verified and standardised stories, videos and content that will make it easier to aggregate and write stories on what is being achieved in Africa.

He also pledged that the AfDB, working with partners and the African financial institutions would also help establish the African Journalists' and

Correspondents' Fellowships to help build and strengthen the capacities of journalists and correspondents working in Africa.

"Together let us continue to promote Africa. I call on you as leaders of the media, become the vuvuzelas for Africa! Tell Africa's positive stories," he urged his audience of media executives from across the continent.

The AfDB is Africa's premier development finance institution. It comprises three distinct entities which includes, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

On the ground in 34 African countries with an external office in Japan, the AfDB contributes to the economic development and the social progress of its 54 regional member states.

# Enhancing infrastructure financing in Tanzania



By Sapientia Balele

ONE of the obstacles to growth in sub-Saharan Africa is the lack of large-scale infrastructure, which limits the economic prospects of individuals, communities and nations. Access to capital is key to addressing this challenge and unlocking critical economic development.

Given the long-term nature and complexity of large-scale infrastructure projects, it has historically proven challenging for governments in Africa to obtain the right level of financing from investors - but progress is being made.

In February 2020, the Government of Tanzania Ministry of Finance signed a facility agreement with a local bank for a US\$1.46 billion term loan financing to fund the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway - the country's largest ever infrastructure project.

This is a flagship project that has overcome the common financing challenge experienced by many Governments in the region and one, we believe, can serve as a blueprint for other major infrastructure investment projects, both in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing regions.

The value of the railway in Tanzania and beyond

Economic development in the interior of Tanzania, in-

cluding around the capital, Dodoma, is highly restricted by a lack of reliable and efficient transport links to Dar es Salaam.

The existing railway between Dodoma and Dar es Salaam was developed in the early 1920s, with limited speed and capacity, and runs alongside a highway that is often gridlocked with trucks, cars, cycles and pedestrians, creating hazardous conditions and long delays.

By expanding capacity and providing essential connectivity between the cities of Dodoma, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam, the development of the Standard Gauge Railway project will support the Government's ambition to leverage major investments in infrastructure to boost economic growth and promote sustainable development across Tanzania and the region.

The line from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro with total span of 722 kilometres (541 km of mainline and 181 km of sidings), with subsequent phases extending the network into Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Rwanda, providing landlocked countries in Central and East Africa with vital coastal access.

The project therefore has the potential to create a wide range of benefits for people and businesses in Tanzania as well as neighbouring states.

By connecting the interior of the country with the coast, communities along the length of the railway could benefit from better access to social services, healthcare, education as well as improved trade and commerce, with freight costs reduced by up to 40 per cent. Today, more than 31,000 direct jobs have been created as result of the project.

Furthermore, the electrified railway has the potential to take up to 500 lorries off the road for every train journey - thereby reducing road freight emissions and mitigating related pollution.

A thoughtful approach to development

Careful thought has been given around how to manage the potential impacts of the project on local communities and the natural environment. This includes thoughtful planning to ensure local communities who need to cross the track to access water sources, schools, markets and workplaces - as well as migratory animals, including wildebeest, zebras, gazelles and elephants - have access to safe passage-ways.

A key condition for the investors and Export Credit Agencies involved was that the project should not only mitigate potential risks but seek to make a positive contribution to local livelihoods and biodiversity protection and restora-

tion - and all parties are continuing to monitor this closely.

The Ministry of Finance has also been proactive in strengthening capacity and ensuring compliance with international law for this project, including by commissioning independent monitoring, as part of its ambition to become a regional leader in promoting environmental and socially responsible practices.

A blueprint for sub-Saharan Africa and beyond

To date, the project has been the largest syndicated transaction in sub-Saharan Africa outside the oil and gas sector. Most importantly, it has showcased that such deals can be structured, with effective risk management, to balance economic, social and environmental objectives.

This has significant implications for future infrastructure projects in Africa and beyond.

With heavy oversubscription, the project demonstrates that there is investor appetite for well-planned, well-executed projects that meet international standards and have demonstrable potential to create economic value to communities, whilst giving careful consideration as to how to protect community and conservation interests.

*Sapientia Balele (pictured) is the financial specialist based in Dar es Salaam*

## Absa donates equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a bid to support the government efforts to provide quality health services delivery, Absa Bank has donated hospital equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital's reproductive and child health (RCH) clinic in Dar es Salaam to.

This follows from the successful fundraising made during Absa Dar Marathon held on 5th May 2024 in Dar es Salaam.

The occasion was running in parallel with a blood donation campaign organized by The Runners Club with the support of the marathon sponsors, partners, vendors, services providers and the general public.

The handover of the hospital equipment was attended by In-charge of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, Dr. Delila Moshi, Ilala Municipal RCH Coordinator, Dr. Milka Mathania, leaders and members of The Runners Club and representatives of the sponsors of the marathon, Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, Hill Water, Alliance Life Assurance Limited and Gardaworld Security Services Limited.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Delila expressed her gratitude to Absa Dar City Marathon for choosing Mnazi Mmoja Hospital for the second consecutive year as their preferred institution for their charitable donation and urged them to continue supporting the hospital in the coming marathons.

She also praised The Runners Club blood donation campaign, informing that lack of adequate blood is one of the major challenges of the hospital which admits more than 200 expecting mothers in the maternity ward and

attends to more than 400 children daily in the RCH clinic.

On her side, the Ilala Municipal RCH Coordinator, Dr. Milka advised that RCH is one of the major challenges of public health in Dar es Salaam and urged The Runners Club to continue with this initiative for the greater benefit of the community.

The spokesperson of The Runners Club, Godfrey Mwangungulu informed the audience that Absa Dar City Marathon that was held on Sunday, 5 May 2024 at Mnazi Mmoja Grounds, Dar es Salaam was the 4th edition and attracted more than 2,500 runners in the 21.1km, 10km and 5km race categories.

The selection of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital was in line with the saying that charity begins at home given the close proximity of the hospital to Mnazi Mmoja Grounds, the venue of the marathon for the past four events.

The representative of Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, the main sponsors of the marathon, Aron Luhanga, who is the bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations said that Absa supports The Runners Club's vision of healthy lifestyles through running, and this was one of the main reasons for sponsoring the marathon, which included this charitable donation of hospital equipment. In addition, Absa motivates and promotes healthy lifestyles amongst its staff members and clients through the Absa Health Club.

"This donation is also aligned with our Citizenship agenda of being a force for good to our communities and play a major role in the society", said Luhanga.



Absa Bank Tanzania Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Aron Luhanga (R) hands over a part of hospital equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital Incharge, Dr. Delila Moshi (L) at a function in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is the bank's Digital Marketing Manager, Albert Longfellow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanga UWASA's bond oversubscribed, listed on DSE



Minister for Works Innocent Bashungwa (4th R) rings the bell to officially signify the listing of Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA) on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange at the Treasury Square in Dodoma yesterday. Others are invited dignitaries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA)'s Water Infrastructure Green Bond, the first ever Sub-national bond to be issued in East Africa, has been oversubscribed by 103 percent.

The green bond, worth 53.12bn/-, and launched on 22nd February 2024, was successfully listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) on 15th May 2024.

It performed impressively with 65 percent of the collection being from local investors while attracting 35 percent of foreign investors. This is a clear indication of the growing interest in sustainable investment and the confidence of international investors in the Tanzanian market.

Nicodemus Mkama, Tanzania Capital Market and Securities Authority (CMSA) chief executive officer (CEO) said: "Successful issuance and listing of Tanga Water Bond solidifies the position of Tanzanian capital markets on the map of global capital markets that offer

innovative and sustainable financing products attracting both domestic and international investors.

He further urged other sub-national institutions and municipalities to emulate the path taken by Tanga UWASA, in financing revenue-generating projects through capital markets."

"The listing of the TANGA UWASA bond demonstrates the power of collaboration between the public and private sectors, as well as the commitment of stakeholders to make investments that generate financial returns and positive impacts on society and the environment. Therefore, DSE invites public institutions, companies, and the private sector to continue this path of raising capital aimed at promoting and building a competitive economy for the development of people" said Mary Mniwasa, the Chief Executive Officer of DSE.

Minister for Works, Innocent Bashungwa on behalf of Finance Minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba said the event is a clear testimony that the Alternative Project Financing Strategy (APF) launched by the government in May 2021 is doable

not only to corporates, but also to Government institutions.

"The ministry of Finance will keep on following up to ensure that this project is successfully implemented as planned," he said.

Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso said: "Financing needs for water infrastructure across the nation is still very high. Competing government priorities, and limited budget, result in delays in project implementation. Bond issuance such as this one complements government efforts and expedites the provision of water services to the citizens. I urge other water utilities to learn from the Tanga UWASA bond and commence replication in their localities".

Peter Malika, Head of United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in Tanzania congratulated the government for achieving this historic milestone.

He added: "Our significance and support as a development finance institution has resulted in clearing and clarifying technical and policy hurdles that existed before this transaction so that future transactions can use Tanga UWASA's bond

as a national template, fit for replication and taking to scale to other sectors such as energy, agriculture, health, education, income generation, and productive sectors. I want to recognize the National Municipal Bond Taskforce, with this team we have built and entrenched lasting cross-cutting national capacities that ought to be emulated as a winning formula in other initiatives".

Eng. Geoffrey Hilly, Tanga UWASA managing director emphasized its significance in advancing sustainable water infrastructure and environmental conservation, extending gratitude to investors, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and trust.

Other stakeholders involved in preparations of the Tanga water green bond include NBC Bank (lead transaction advisor), FSD Africa (supported green framework), FIMCO and Global Sovereign Advisory (financial & investment advisory), ALN Tanzania (legal advisor), Innovex (reporting accountant), Vertex International Securities (stockbroker) and ISS Corporate Solutions (second-party opinion provider).

# Offline payments could deliver many benefits

By Katerina Liu

As many central banks undertake initiatives to implement digital currencies and new payments systems, many are looking to include offline functionality as a key feature. According to a survey conducted by the Bank for International Settlements Innovation Hub Nordic Centre, 98 percent of central banks consider offline payments for retail CBDC either vital or advantageous.

It seems that offline payments will be very complex to implement. According to OMFIF's 2023 Future of payments survey, 69 percent of respondents view offline payments as a challenge to implement, with 41 percent viewing it as the most challenging feature. Implementing offline payments could possibly compound the already difficult process of setting up the infrastructure for a central bank digital currency. Central banks will need to ensure that the technical, operational and security architecture can support payments both online and offline. This will be especially difficult due to the differing requirements for offline and online systems.

How much more complex and costly will it be to implement offline payments functionality to address existing issues, such as financial exclusion or a lack of developed communications infrastructure?

The benefits of implementing offline payments are clear - enhancing payments system resilience, financial inclusion

and cash resemblance. Central banks will prioritise these benefits differently, depending on whether they come from emerging or developed markets.

Offline functionality might also be a crucial tool for achieving digital financial inclusion by guaranteeing universal access to the unbanked, those from remote areas or from areas without adequate infrastructure. This issue is especially salient for central banks from emerging markets, where 34.5 percent of respondents from the BIS Innovation Hub survey deem offline functionality vital, while this share is only 14.5 percent of respondents from developed markets.

Issues regarding resilience may also be more pressing for emerging markets, but still can still apply to developed markets. Offline payments could ensure the public's access to basic payments in the event of a widespread system failure. Users could continue to transact if a temporary network failure or power outage occurs. For crisis situations, such as conflict or natural disasters, offline functionality may also function as a civil contingency measure where users may still be able to make payments despite loss of infrastructure.

Enhanced privacy via offline functionality can also be built into the CBDC. Some central banks may also aim for cash resemblance, which could include preserving the experience of using cash. However, offline functionality is not the sole means of achieving privacy.



Transacting offline could possibly guarantee users the same level of privacy as cash, but this would depend on privacy models, such as how much user information is stored on the online ledger or how much access to information central authorities might have.

The European Commission has outlined its intentions for offline functionality in the digital euro, aiming for most of the benefits just discussed. It aims for offline payments to 'provide a superior level of privacy', ensure the CBDC continues to function in case of limited connectivity and promote digital financial inclusion by accommodating people with disabilities, the unbanked or those who are not digitally or financially literate.

Introducing a new CBDC or payments system, even one with offline functionality, may not

naturally lead to the benefits outlined. There are a range of technical, operational and security considerations that central banks will need to incorporate into their offline payments design.

Addressing low financial and digital literacy would require education for end users to be able to successfully transact CBDCs, alongside strong user experience design to avoid confusion. Depending on the CBDC's offline functionality model, there might be separate balances and ledgers for offline and online transactions. Good UX design will be important to clearly present the information to users and prevent double-spending.

A financially inclusive payments system should be accessible across generations and abilities, function ubiquitously on different devices and be available to

people without bank accounts, reliable telecoms infrastructure or mobile phones. Thoughtful user design will play a key role in meeting these requirements. Some hardware-based solutions to these considerations could include access outside of smartphones, through smartcards, smart tags, tokens or fobs.

The CBDC's ability to uphold security while offline may also be an additional challenge. Risks include double-spending and fraudulent charges. To mitigate these risks, central banks may need to work out the appropriate offline limits to balances and transaction value and how to enforce them - through the wallet or the point-of-sale terminal. Furthermore, central banks will need to ensure that both online and offline transactions remain anti-money laundering- and know-your-customer-compliant. Hardware-based solutions are one way to address these considerations. The devices can be pre-loaded up to a certain value, while identity checks and onboarding can be done online or at basic levels for low-value transactions.

However, the CBDC's ability to maintain privacy, uphold security, be financially inclusive and function in times of need will be a challenge and important for building and maintaining trust. Users are less likely to adopt new technology if they feel that their privacy is not protected. User privacy will need to be incorporated into the value transfer protocol design while meeting AML and KYC requirements. The appropriate

level for the country's context may need to be decided at the start of the design phase and appropriate policy should support these decisions.

Central banks will have to weigh their options: would it be more work to improve the infrastructure, build a new system and educate consumers to implement a CBDC with offline functionality, or would it be less daunting to address the infrastructure, financial inclusion or contingency needs through other methods?

There are solutions for disaster recovery, financial inclusion and privacy in payments that do not involve addressing the security questions needed to deliver offline payments. Disaster recovery protocols for internet networks and payments systems are already in place and could be strengthened by further investment. Basic bank accounts with lower requirements for ID proofs have been effective in promoting financial inclusion, and privacy can be a feature of online or offline payments.

The Central Bank of Kenya's m-pesa is a key example. Instead of building something new from the ground up, the system built on the existing infrastructure around trading pre-paid mobile phone airtime via agents.

*Katerina Liu (pictured), is Research Analyst at OMFIF, an independent think tank for central banking, economic policy and public investment, providing a neutral platform for public and private sector engagement worldwide*

## Healthcare providers called to start using automated solutions

NAIROBI

Healthcare providers have been urged to adopt automated, omnichannel communication solutions to enhance patient experiences, both in-person and at-home in Tanzania.

During the "Digital Pulse", CEO's Roundtable event hosted by M-TIBA, a leading health insurance technology platform recently in Kenyan capital, Rachel Njiru, Director of OP Africa at Infobip, emphasized the significance of providing healthcare institutions with digital omnichannel solutions.

These solutions not only enhance patient loyalty and satisfaction but also contribute to reducing operational costs, enabling providers to connect with patients through their preferred digital channels such as WhatsApp, Messenger, Live Chat, SMS, and more.

"Infobip offers a comprehensive suite of ca-

pabilities, including our omnichannel communications platform, Cloud Contact Centre as a Service, AI-enabled chatbots with drag-and-drop functionality, automated customer engagement, customer data platforms, as well as identity and security solutions," said Njiru.

Utilizing a single omnichannel platform to engage with patients across various digital channels not only decreases patient wait times but also minimizes missed appointments, thereby increasing overall patient satisfaction.

By implementing smart solutions such as chatbots and a cloud contact center, patients can autonomously resolve queries, leading to increased efficiency and reduced workloads for healthcare staff. This allows them to dedicate more time to patient care rather than manual tasks.

Njiru also highlighted



Rachel Njiru, Director of Operations - Africa, Infobip

the untapped potential for health insurance companies to leverage connected data and technology to improve services. She envisioned a future where insurers utilize real-time health data to proactively identify risks, personalize coverage, and empower individuals to manage their well-being effectively.

"By leveraging connected data and technology, health insurers can revolutionize their operations, improve patient outcomes, and reduce costs," Ms. Njiru remarked. "From telemedicine and wearable devices to AI-powered diagnostics and blockchain-enabled security, the pos-

sibilities are endless." Infobip's omnichannel communication solutions empower insurers to deliver personalized experiences to policyholders, driving growth and loyalty through deeper customer insights and tailored messaging across preferred channels.

Insurance companies can enhance customer engagement and operational efficiency by adopting an omnichannel approach and developing conversational channels such as WhatsApp, and Messenger. Utilizing customer data, intelligent workflows can be created to deliver contextual messages to

policyholders at the right time and through the right channel.

In addition to chatbot-building platforms, the integration of digital contact centres enables insurance companies to personalize customer support, leading to higher satisfaction levels and increased loyalty among policyholders.

"Realizing this vision requires more than just technological prowess; it demands collaboration. By working together, insurers, healthcare providers, tech innovators, regulators, and patients can create a more efficient, personalized, and preventative healthcare ecosystem," added Njiru.

## UAE'S banking sector consumer confidence sour

DUBAI

Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, chairman of the UAE Banks Federation (UBF), highlighted the continuous development of the UAE banking sector and the increase in consumer confidence from 84 percent in 2022 to 90 percent in 2023.

He underscored the importance of customer trust as a crucial element in banking and finance.

He explained that the Trust Index indicates that the UAE ranks above the global average and surpasses prominent international financial centers, demonstrating the banking sector's ability to meet the needs of diverse customer segments.

During a press conference held at Mashreq Bank's headquarters in Dubai, organized by the UAE Banks Federation and attended by local and international media, Al Ghurair stated that under the direct supervision of the Central Bank of the UAE, the banking sector is committed to excellence. It is actively pursuing digital transformation and developing innovative solutions that leverage artificial intelligence, blockchain, and data analytics. These initiatives aim to provide services that not only meet but exceed customer expectations.

Additionally, he said the sector is focused on enhancing digital infrastructure and improving cybersecurity to ensure a secure and seamless banking experience.

According to Al Ghurair, the performance of UAE banks in recent years, including the first quarter of this year, demonstrates the resilience and strength of the banking sector. Net profits, operating profits, revenues, and assets have all seen significant increases. The sector maintains sound

financial indicators characterized by high capital efficiency ratios, provisions, and reserves that exceed the requirements of Basel 3 principles followed by the global banking system.

Al Ghurair further emphasized the ability of UAE banks to navigate fluctuating international interest rates through the implementation of proactive strategies that enable them to adapt to changing market conditions.

"Banks in the UAE are endeavouring to integrate sustainability into their operations and services by offering green financing products specifically designed to support sustainable projects, including those for SMEs investing in renewable energy and sustainable technologies. With national banks pledging AED1 trillion for sustainability projects by 2030, we expect to see a significant increase in green financing initiatives in the coming years and further steps towards a more sustainable banking sector," Al Ghurair noted.

According to a report by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings, UAE banks were expected to exhibit strong performance in 2023 with a projected credit growth of 7 percent.

The report highlights that the banks benefited from robust non-oil GDP growth, which will help counterbalance the impact of rising interest rates on credit expansion.

In 2023, it was anticipated that bank credit growth in UAE will increase to approximately 7 percent compared to 5 percent in 2022.

The paper also notes that the performance of UAE banks improved in the first half of last year, supported by higher interest rates that are expected to sustain banks' profitability.



Minister of Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (7th L) and TIB Development Bank's board Chairman Sosthenes Kewe (6th L) pose in a group photo with other delegation, soon after a discussion on the bank's roles on development held at the minister's office, Treasure Square in Dodoma. Photo: Ministry of Finance

## WORLD

## UN chief appalled by Rafah escalation



People move past destroyed buildings along a street in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday amid the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas. AFP

UNITED NATIONS / GAZA / AMMAN / CAIRO

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is appalled by the escalation of military activity in and around Rafah in Gaza by the Israeli military, said his spokesman on Tuesday.

"These developments are further impeding humanitarian access and worsening an already dire situation. At the same time, Hamas goes on firing rockets indiscriminately," said Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman, in a statement.

Civilians must be respected and protected at all times -- in Rafah and elsewhere in Gaza. For people in Gaza, nowhere is safe now, said the statement.

Guterres reiterates his urgent appeal for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire and for the release of all hostages. The secretary-general calls for the Rafah crossing to be re-opened immediately for humanitarian access throughout Gaza, said the statement.

Palestine TV reported that at least 40 people were killed and others injured after midnight Monday by Israeli bombardment in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Israeli warplanes bombed a residential building owned by the Karaja family in the south of the Nuseirat camp, with children among the casualties, it said.

The Israeli army has repeatedly struck the Nuseirat camp. In a recent attack in late April, Israeli warplanes targeted a populated house in the refugee camp with a number of missiles, killing at least nine Palestinians, including four children, and injuring 30 others.

The Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has exceeded 35,000, according to the health authorities in Gaza.

On Tuesday, Jordan dispatched a plane from the Royal Jordanian Air Force to transport an injured Jordanian from Rafah to the kingdom for treatment, the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Yara Dababneh, a staffer at the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS) in Gaza, was injured in an Israeli attack on a UN vehicle in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on Monday, according to a statement by the ministry.

The ministry said it has been coordinating with the DSS regarding the condition of the Jordanian citizen to ensure her transfer to Jordan's Al Hussein Medical City.

On Monday, Jordan condemned the attack on a UN vehicle in Rafah that resulted in the death of one staff member and the injury of another, due to Israel's expansion of its military operations in Rafah.

The Israeli military said an initial inquiry found "that the vehicle was hit in an area declared an active combat zone" and that its forces "had not been made aware of the route of the vehicle." It said the incident was still under review.

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on Tuesday that Israel is solely responsible for the "humanitarian catastrophe" that the Palestinians are currently facing in the Gaza Strip.

According to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Shoukry made the remarks in response to the statements of Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, who demanded reopening the Rafah crossing and held Egypt responsible for preventing a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

Shoukry affirmed Egypt's categorical rejection of Israel's policy of "distorting facts," stressing that Israel is solely responsible for the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

He said the Israeli control of

the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, and the Israeli military operations in the vicinity of the crossing, expose the lives of relief workers and truck drivers to imminent dangers, noting it is the reason for the inability to bring aid through the crossing.

Shoukry also denounced Israel's attempts to hold Egypt responsible for the unprecedented humanitarian crisis facing the Gaza Strip as "a direct result of random Israeli attacks against Palestinians for more than seven months."

The top Egyptian diplomat called on Israel to fulfill its legal responsibility by allowing aid to enter through the land ports under its control.

Last week, Israel's military started "a precise counterterrorism operation" in Rafah city and assumed "operational control" over the Rafah crossing in Gaza. Since then, the crossing has been blocked against the movement of travelers and trucks carrying aid to more than two million Palestinians in the enclave.

Agencies

## Xi calls for greater efforts to promote, protect Great Wall

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has called for efforts to let more people know about the Great Wall and engage more people in its protection to pass on the ancestors' precious heritage to future generations.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a reply letter sent Tuesday to villagers living at the foot of the Badaling Great Wall in a northern suburb of Beijing. *Xinhua*



## Russia knows how to achieve large-scale goals, Putin says

MOSCOW

THE Russian authorities know how to achieve the large-scale goals enshrined in the recent State of the Nation Address, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with the Chinese news agency Xinhua, which was published on the Kremlin website.

According to him, "the address sets objective and essential goals." "We recognize the scale of these challenges and can provide solutions. To do this we will rely on the consolidated will of our people, the necessary resources and capabilities, and the rich experience of interaction between the state, businesses and the civil society," he specified.

The goals "include addressing demographic problems, increasing the birth rate, providing support to families with children, fighting poverty and inequality."

Putin delivered his State of the Nation Address to parliament on February 29, setting economic goals for the future and announcing new national projects.

Putin noted as well that Moscow prioritizes increasing people's well-being in terms of economic development.

"Today, Russia is one of the world's top five countries in terms of purchasing power parity. Now we are aiming for the top 'four' largest economies on the planet. We prioritize such tasks as ensuring quality and the effective development across all spheres, as well as increasing our citizens' well-being," Putin noted, adding: "It is impossible to achieve quality economic changes without a sustained salary growth."

"To achieve this, we plan to increase labor productivity through the across-the-board adoption of scientific advances, new technologies and innovations, automation and robotization, and the creation of modern jobs. At the same time, we will engage in training competent, forward-thinking professionals," he said.

## Uganda mulls nuclear energy generation to address rising power demand

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development said Tuesday that it is working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in efforts to develop nuclear energy in the East African country amid increasing demand for power.

Irene Batebe, permanent secretary of the ministry, said the government with support from IAEA is exploring and evaluating uranium resources to ensure sustainable supply of nuclear fuel for the planned nuclear power plants and research reactors.

"Uranium is the most widely used nuclear fuel material in nuclear power plants and research reactors and is required for Uganda's nuclear power program. "The planned nuclear power capacity will require about 4,000 tons of Uranium annually when fully operational. Thus, there is need for sustainable sources of uranium," she said at the opening of the nine-day meeting with the experts from IAEA.

Batebe said the government is amending the Atomic Energy Act, 2008 to strengthen the legal framework for exploration, mining and processing of nuclear fuel resources. She said the country's electricity generation potential from hydro, biomass, geothermal and peat, even if fully developed, cannot meet the Uganda Vision 2040 targets.

"To meet our development targets, nuclear energy among other sources must be integrated in the electricity generation mix," she said.

*Xinhua*

## India hands over second tranche of humanitarian assistance to flood-hit Kenya

NAIROBI

INDIAN High Commissioner to Kenya, Namgya Khampa, on behalf of the Indian government, handed over the second tranche of 40 metric-tonne of humanitarian assistance to flood-affected Kenya.

"On behalf of Govt. of India, High Commissioner handed over 2nd tranche of 40MT of humanitarian assistance for flood-affected Kenyans to @SectoCabinet KEH on @WanjauMercy & CS @ASALS KE Hon @peninah\_malonza," the Indian Embassy in Kenya posted on X.

The humanitarian aid sent to the country included Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief containing 40 tonnes of medicines, medical supplies and other equipment to assist flood victims.

Aid was sent through an Indian Air Force aircraft from Hindon Airport of Ghaziabad



India's High Commissioner to Kenya Namgya C. Khampa during the handing over 2nd tranche of 40MT of humanitarian assistance for flood-affected Kenyans to Secretary to the Cabinet of the Republic of Kenya Mercy Wanjau and CS State Department for ASALS Peninah Malonza, on behalf of the Government of India, on Tuesday. ANI

to Kenya.

Sharing details of the aid sent to Kenya, Jaishankar said

on X, "The second tranche of HADR material containing 40 tonnes of medicines,

medical supplies and other equipment to assist the flood victims leaves for Kenya.

Standing up for a historical partnership, a Vishwabandhu to the world."

Earlier on May 10, India handed over food, relief, and medicine supplies to Kenya as the first responder in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Torrential rains have caused devastating floods in Kenya, where more than 200 people have died, thousands have been displaced and nearly 2,000 schools have been destroyed. All remaining schools have been shut down until further notice, Al Jazeera reported on May 4.

Rains have been ravaging Kenya since March during some of the most catastrophic weather events in the country for years. Now, Cyclone Hidaya is expected to hit Kenya and neighbouring Tanzania late on Friday, which could further worsen the flooding. This comes amid recent heavy rainfall across East Africa. *ANI*

## African defense, security personnel discuss emerging military technologies

KIGALI

MILITARY and security representatives from across Africa gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, on Tuesday for a workshop focused on the impact of emerging technologies on modern warfare and the importance of adhering to International Humanitarian Law.

Co-hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Rwanda, the workshop aimed to shed light on rapid technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, cyber warfare, autonomous weapons systems and biotechnology.

Brigadier General Ronald Rwivanga,

Rwanda's defense and military spokesperson, said Rwanda is committed to promoting responsible and ethical military practices, stressing the need to minimize collateral damage in all security operations.

Patrick Youssef, the ICRC regional director for Africa, said the organization

is monitoring the development and use of new methods of warfare and assessing their humanitarian impact. He underscored the ICRC's commitment to raising awareness of the humanitarian, legal and military operational challenges posed by these technologies in contemporary armed conflicts. *Xinhua*

## Djibouti eyes diversifying economy to become regional hub for logistics, finance, ICT

DJIBOUTI CITY

DJIBOUTIAN President Ismail Omar Guelleh said on Monday that his country is working to diversify the economy to become a regional hub for logistics, finance, tourism, and information and communications technology (ICT).

The president made the remarks while addressing the inaugural edition of the Djibouti Forum, an international business conference that aims to engage private and institutional investors in transforming the country's economy. Guelleh said Djibouti is ready to partner with international investors to ex-

pand its private sector and diversify its economy.

He stressed that the Red Sea country, with its huge economic potential attributed to its strategic geopolitical position, is working hard to consolidate its position as a logistics, commercial, and digital hub for the region and beyond.

Noting that recent geopolitical shocks have made it important for Djibouti to diversify its economy, Guelleh said the country has introduced several initiatives to enhance its ability to withstand external shocks.

"Djibouti's location on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern

end of the Red Sea means that it lies on the main shipping routes between Asia and Europe, with almost a third of the world's seaborne trade passing by its shores.

This presents a unique opportunity for investors to co-invest with the government in the country's ports and logistics sector," he said.

Introducing the country's development blueprint, Vision 2035, Guelleh said Djibouti aspires to create an attractive investment climate across various economic sectors, including port development, logistics, finance, tourism, and ICT, to diversify its economy. In 2020, Djibouti established a sovereign wealth

fund designed to co-invest and take equity stakes in certain projects. "It is essential to accelerate our modernization. It is on this basis that the sovereign wealth fund of Djibouti was created."

The fund opens the way for the emergence of Djibouti as a hub of excellence," said the president. The two-day forum, held under the theme "Djibouti: The Gateway of Opportunities," brought together political and business leaders from Africa and beyond, as well as representatives of different international financial institutions.

The forum envisaged showcasing the potential and prospects of

Djibouti and the African continent at large.

Experts and policymakers attending the forum underscored Djibouti's positive long-term economic prospects, supported by investments in human resources and infrastructure.

Slim Feriani, chief executive officer of the sovereign wealth fund of Djibouti, said the country has all the fundamentals for rapid transformation, most importantly political will and a currency pegged to the dollar, offering investors predictability and free movement of capital.

According to the African Devel-

opment Bank, Djibouti's economy is projected to grow by 6.5 percent this year. In recent years, Djibouti has been consolidating its position as a regional logistics and commercial hub.

Major cooperative projects, such as the Chinese-built Doraleh Multipurpose Port, the Djibouti International Free Trade Zone, and the transnational railway that stretches 752 km from the Port of Djibouti to the landlocked Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, have been hailed as connecting bridges to fulfill the country's socio-economic transformation.

*Xinhua*



## India, US convene second dialogue on Africa in Washington

NEW DELHI

In a concerted effort to strengthen ties and collaborate on development initiatives in Africa, the second round of the India-US Dialogue on Africa commenced in Washington DC, the Ministry of External Affairs said in an official statement on Tuesday.

The dialogue, spanning over May 14-15, saw high-level participation from both sides, with the Indian delegation jointly led by Puneet R. Kundal, AS (E&SA), and Sevala N. Mude, AS (G&WA), while the US side was spearheaded by Mary Catherine Phee, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

The primary objective of the India-US dialogue on Africa is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and perspectives, with a focus on developing institutional, technical, and bilateral synergies to effectively collaborate on developmental projects and programs in Africa. By leveraging the respective strengths of India and the United States, the dialogue aims to identify key areas of cooperation in alignment with African priorities.

"The India-US dialogue on Africa aims to share ideas and perspectives and explore ways to develop institutional, technical and bilateral synergies to work

together in Africa. It also targets identification of developmental projects and programs of cooperation in Africa, leveraging the strengths of India and the US, in accordance with African priorities," the ministry said in a statement.

Notably, this dialogue marks a significant milestone as the first such engagement between India and the US following the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 during India's presidency of the G20. This recognition underscores the growing importance of Africa on the global stage and highlights the commitment of both India and the US to engage meaningfully with the continent.

The United States and India have partnered on development projects in Africa in the areas of education, energy, agriculture, and health. One example of this cooperation is the Feed the Future India Africa Innovation Transfer Platform, which partners with Technoserve to share Indian soil and water management techniques in Kenya and Malawi.

These techniques have helped local communities improve their off-season crop production, provide water for their cattle, and grow additional fodder crops.

ANI

## Africa's Travel Indaba kicks off in South Africa's Durban

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S Travel Indaba (ATI) 2024 kicked off on Tuesday in South Africa's coastal city of Durban, with Patricia de Lille, the country's minister of tourism, urging African countries to improve tourism on the continent.

De Lille made the remarks on Tuesday morning during the official opening of ATI at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Center in Durban.

According to the minister, more than 1,200 exhibitors from 26 African countries and over 1,100 buyers from 55 countries are attending this year's ATI, which is held under the theme "Unlimited Africa" and will end on Thursday.

A total of 344 products from different African countries are being showcased, which is an increase of 14 percent compared to last year's 301 products. Eritrea and Burkina Faso are participating for the first time.

"Whether it's through attending workshops, engaging in discussions, or making business deals, let us all grow our knowledge and networks so that we can fully and positively impact our dynamic landscape of African tourism," said de Lille.

"Together, we represent the story of an Africa with unlimited possibilities. We are confident that Africa's Travel Indaba will continue to be a fertile environment for closing business deals that nurture partnerships and drive growth.

"The minister called on African countries to remove barriers to travel, adding that South Africa has extended the e-visa system to 34 countries, including India and China. She also encouraged Africans to cooperate and network with buyers to clinch deals.

"We are confident that Africa's Travel Indaba will continue to be a fertile environment for closing business deals that nurture partnership and drive growth," de Lille said. "As the tourism industry, let us foster a culture of healthy competition, where businesses and destinations are encouraged to compete on quality and innovation."

In addition, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, premier of KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa, urged ATI participants to explore the area and return to their countries with the experience.

ATI is an iconic African leisure trade show owned by South African Tourism, with the specific objective of creating market access for the vast array of African leisure tourism products. The trade show, starting Tuesday, was preceded by a dedicated Business Opportunity and Networking Day, which seeks to create a platform for thought leadership, knowledge sharing, and obtaining the latest in global trends and local insights.

Xinhua

## Blinken's visit to Kiev shows US concerned over Ukrainian failures on frontline – diplomat

MOSCOW

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visiting Kiev is a sign that the Biden administration is concerned about the situation at the front, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

"On May 14-15, the US Secretary of State visited Ukraine," the diplomat noted. "It is obvious that the state of affairs on the frontline and the military failures of the Ukrainian army are triggering more and more serious alarm in the Biden administration."

The spokeswoman noted that the Washington Post said that Blinken arrived at a critical moment for Kiev, calling on it to hold on for as long as possible. "He sang a song, ate some pizza and left," Zakharova noted.

Earlier, Ukraine's Strana news outlet reported that Ukrainian users on the X social network were taking Blinken to task after he played guitar and sang in a Kiev bar.



During the visit, Blinken vowed more help for Ukraine from the West and asserted that "the coming weeks and months will demand a great deal of Ukrainians." Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Kremlin was aware of the visit and the "edginess now felt not only in Kiev itself but also in European capitals." Agencies

# Israel marks 76th Independence Day amid war, internal divisions

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL held a low-key celebration of its 76th Independence Day on Tuesday amid its ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip, protests against the government, and deepening internal rifts.

With Israel's full-on conflict with Hamas persisting for more than seven months, some key festivities were canceled, including the traditional fireworks shows, public concerts, and singalong gatherings.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) decided to cancel the annual Air Force flyover and Navy flotilla in the Red Sea off the coast of Eilat city.

"This year, we mark a different Independence Day," President Isaac Herzog said during a ceremony at the President's Residence in Jerusalem on Tuesday. "These days we are full of the pain of bereavement, pain for the wounded, the pain for civilians uprooted from their homes, the pain for the hostages," he said.

The Independence Day began on Monday night with a ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, the country's national cemetery.

The national flag was raised from half-mast to full-mast, marking the transition from the solemn Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror to the Independence Day celebration.

The official ceremony, known in Israel as the Torch-Lighting Ceremony, used to be broadcast live every year. This year, it was prerecorded for TV viewers.

According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, the decision was made for fear of the ceremony being interrupted by anti-government protesters.

During the ceremony in Jerusalem, families of hostages held an alternative ceremony at the Shuni Amphitheater in Binyamina, north of Tel Aviv, with about 1,500 supporters attending it and thousands more watching it in rallies across the country, according to a statement released by the organizers.

The ceremony began with chilling recordings of residents of southern Israel calling emergency services and begging for help as Hamas militants raided their communities on Oct. 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people, torching homes, and taking about 250 people



Independence Day celebrations are muted with the ongoing Israel-Hamas war image

as hostages. In places throughout the south, security forces did not arrive for hours.

A total of 132 people are still being held in Gaza, according to Israeli figures, with Hamas saying dozens of them are dead. Israel responded to the surprise attack by launching a massive onslaught on the Gaza Strip, killing more than 35,000 people, mainly civilians, according to a tally by health authorities in Gaza. Israeli forces also have been engaged in cross-border fighting with Hezbollah along the Israel-Lebanon border.

In Tel Aviv, thousands of protesters rallied in the city center, calling for the release of the hostages.

Elsewhere in Tel Aviv, hundreds of others marched, calling on the government to resign. Rallies were held in squares and junctions across the country, urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to sign a deal for the release of the hostages.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu was absent from at least three national ceremonies that he customarily attends, including the Israel Prize award ceremony, an annual event rec-

ognizing outstanding contributions in various fields such as science, arts, and humanities in Israel.

The ceremony was attended by Education Minister Yoav Kisch, who was heckled by protesters in the audience shouting at him, "Shame!" and "Sign a hostage release deal!"

Meanwhile, Netanyahu visited wounded IDF soldiers in the Sheba Hospital outside Tel Aviv and promised them Israel would continue the fighting in Gaza "until victory," according to a statement released by his office.

Despite mounting international pressure, the Israeli government pressed forward with its attack on Rafah, the southernmost city of the Gaza Strip, where more than 1 million Palestinians sought refuge since the beginning of the ongoing conflict.

On Tuesday, Israeli tanks marched towards the center of Rafah, a local source in Gaza told Xinhua. The source said the tanks had reached the Al-Geneina neighborhood and were advancing towards the city center "amid heavy gunfire."

## Gaza crisis set to top Arab Summit agenda

HONG KONG

THE Israel-Palestine conflict cast a large shadow as senior leaders of the Arab world convened in Bahrain for the preparatory meeting of the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs ahead of the 33rd Arab Summit.

The ongoing situation in Gaza is set to dominate the agenda at this year's summit, which takes place in the Bahraini capital Manama on May 16.

Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Matar said that the summit "comes at a difficult time of aggression and injustice" in Gaza at a preparatory meeting of foreign ministers on May 13.

He said that during Saudi's presidency of the Arab League last year, they made all possible efforts to achieve regional and international peace and security.

Last year's summit in Jeddah marked the first time that Syria was welcomed back into the 22-member Arab League after 12 years of isolation following mass demonstrations in 2011.

Al-Matar said Saudi Arabia believes the region has great capabilities and wealth that make it capable of overcoming crises, as well as leading and competing globally, through concerted Arab efforts and enhanced cooperation.

"My country, in cooperation with its Arab sister states, has exerted all necessary diplomatic efforts in order to reach an end to the war in Gaza," Al-Matar was quoted as saying by the Saudi Press Agency. He also noted that the "Palestinian



A man watches smoke rising to the sky after an explosion in the Gaza Strip during the Israel's annual Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of nationalistic attacks, as they visit a sightseeing area in Sderot, Southern Israel on Monday. AP

cause" was top of the country's foreign policy agenda.

Undersecretary of Bahrain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said the gathering was happening "at an exceptional and critical time", given the "magnitude of the challenges" facing Palestinians, the Bahrain News Agency reported.

Al Khalifa, who chaired the ministers meeting, reviewed the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and touched on the danger posed by armed militias that have increased the level of terrorism and pose a threat to regional security.

The meeting also discussed the draft agenda, which included several key items addressing various issues related to joint Arab action in the political, economic, social, cultural, and security

spheres, as well as cooperation with international and regional groupings.

Among these items was the report of the Presidency of the 32nd Arab Summit on the activities of the Follow-up Committee for Implementing Decisions and Commitments, as well as the report of the Arab League Secretary-General on the progress of joint Arab work.

The undersecretary said that Bahrain, under the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa along with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, was "exerting utmost efforts to support just Arab causes and is fully committed to fulfilling its obligations and advocating for unity and solidarity".

According to him, "the Palestine cause is the core issue of the conflict in the Middle East and the central cause

of the Arab world".

He also called for leveraging the outcomes of the Bahrain summit "to comprehensively revitalize joint Arab action", open new paths for Arab integration based on peace and development, and build partnerships.

Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League and Head of the Office of the Secretary-General Hossam Zaki, also in attendance, expressed optimism that the Bahrain summit will produce positive resolutions and unified positions toward the Arab issues and challenges.

Agencies

## Countries that go to court for deciding poll results giving us 'gyan': Jaishankar's swipe at Western media

KOLKATA

SLAMMING the Western media over the "negative" coverage of Indian elections, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the countries which "have to go to court for deciding election results" are giving "gyan" on conducting polls.

Taking a swipe, he said the

Western countries "feel" they have influenced the world for the last 200 years, so they are not able to give up their "old habits so easily."

The EAM was speaking at an interaction after the launch of the Bangla edition of his book

"Why Bharat Matters" in Kolkata on Tuesday.

"They (Western countries) do want to influence us because many of these countries feel that they have influenced this world for the last 70-80 years... Western countries actually feel that they influenced the world for the last 200 years. How do you expect for someone who has been in that position to give

up those old habits so easily," the EAM said at the event.

He said that the Western media want a certain "class of people" to rule the country and feel "disturbed" when the Indian electorate doesn't feel the same way.

"Why these newspapers are so negative on India? Because

they are seeing an India which is not in a sense compliant with their image of how India should be. They want people, ideology, or a way of life...they want that class of people to rule this country, and they are disturbed when the Indian population feels otherwise," Jaishankar said.

He also emphasized that the Western media at times "openly endorsed candidates and political parties."

"Western media in some cases have openly endorsed candidates and political parties, they don't hide their preference. They are very smart, somebody is doing this domination game

for 300 years, they learn a lot, anubhavi log hain, chatur log hain (they are experienced and clever people)," the EAM said.

Terming this as "mind game", Jaishankar took a jibe at the West and said the countries who go to court to decide election results are giving lectures to India.

ANI

The Guardian

## SPORT



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic holds his NBA basketball MVP trophy before Game 5 of the team's second-round playoff series against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in Denver. AP Photo.

## Jokic scores 40, Nuggets shut down Edwards in 112-97 win over Wolves for a 3-2 series lead

DENVER

NIKOLA Jokic received the Michael Jordan award from Commissioner Adam Silver before tipoff, then delivered a memorable playoff performance to celebrate his third MVP trophy Tuesday night.

Jokic scored 40 points and dished out 13 assists and the Denver Nuggets shut down Anthony Edwards in a 112-97 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves that put the reigning NBA champs one win away from the Western Conference finals.

Jokic also had seven rebounds with no turnovers as the home team won for the first time in this semifinal series. "He did everything for us tonight," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "And it was fun to watch." Jokic's domination even had his opponents smiling.

"I just laugh. That's all I can do," Edwards said of watching Jokic go off for 16 points and assist on four other baskets in the third quarter when the Nuggets seized control for yet another rout.

"I can't be mad," Edwards said. "He's good, man. I think I said that after Game 1 when we won, and Game 2, he's the MVP. He's the best player in NBA. He showed it the last three games, three games in a row. He was special tonight. I've got to give him his flowers. He was that guy tonight."

Jokic even had another rim-rattling dunk, something he's not known for. When asked if Minnesota's collection of rim protectors necessitated such moves, Jokic cracked, "You know, I'm a freak of nature. Why not show off my athleticism?"

Aaron Gordon added 18 points and 10 boards, and Jamal Murray scored 16, saying when Jokic has it going, there's no need for anyone else to try to be the hero.

"If Jokic's scoring like that, there's no need to do anything special," Murray said.

Trapped and doubled all night, Edwards was held to 18 points on 5-of-15 shooting. Karl Anthony-Towns led the Wolves with 23 points and Rudy Gobert scored 18.

"I think we did a great job, not just on (Edwards) but everybody," Murray said.

With their first three-game losing streak of the season, the Wolves will have to snap their skid Thursday night at Target Center to force a

Game 7 back in Denver.

Jokic, who was presented with his third MVP trophy by commissioner Adam Silver in a pregame ceremony, scored 19 first-half points in leading Denver to a 50-44 lead at the half. He added 16 points in the third quarter when the Nuggets pushed their lead to 14.

After the Wolves used a mini-run to pull to 103-92, Jokic nailed a 3-pointer at the shot clock buzzer over a helpless Gobert, who recently won his fourth NBA Defensive Player of the Year award, to make it a 14-point cushion with just over 3 minutes left.

Edwards averaged 33.3 points in the first four games of the series and the Wolves were looking for somebody else to step up. Although KAT did just that, Edwards missed eight of his first nine shots, had five points at halftime and didn't find his shooting touch until the game had gotten away from the Timberwolves.

Minnesota's veteran point guard Mike Conley was scratched just before tipoff with a sore right Achilles. He was injured when he missed a 3-pointer on the Wolves' final possession in their loss on Sunday. Nickeil Alexander-Walker started in his spot and had 14 points and five assists.

In his pre-game comments, Wolves coach Chris Finch also expressed dismay at the NBA fining Rudy Gobert \$75,000 for making a money gesture following a call by referee Scott Foster in Game 4.

That was \$25,000 less than Murray was fined for his actions in Game 2, when he, too, made the money sign and threw both a towel and a heat pack toward an official.

When Towns went to the bench with his third foul late in the first half, Gobert pointed at Kyle Anderson, instructing him to guard Jokic. TNT announcer Reggie Miller was aghast at Gobert, saying, "You're the Defensive Player of the Year! You guard the MVP!"

It mattered little who was guarding the three-time MVP on this night.

"He's amazing," Murray said, "just the way he picks apart the game and reads the game and trusts his teammates. I'm guessing that for the big fella getting the trophy tonight probably motivated him a little bit. Just being at home was a lot of fun, the place was rocking, kind of felt the energy and he definitely had it going."

AP

## Retired referee Kazi counsels Tanzania Football Federation

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH this season's NBC Premier League having witnessed several goals that were disallowed due to what has been termed as controversial decisions by match officials, some soccer stakeholders in Tanzania have come up with advice on solving the issue.

The stakeholders have pointed out that the said controversy not only angers players but also discourages clubs' leaders and fans, who, in turn, lose trust in the match officials.

Othman Kazi, a famous retired soccer referee who is of late hosting a sports analysis program on a local television station, has told the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) that he has a solution for the situation.

The retired referee stated so recently after he had received many complaints about refereeing from his program's viewers.

He said many mistakes happen during matches given many referees and their assistants do not see every action happening on and off the pitch.

He pointed out that, for



Othman Kazi

that matter, the Tanzania soccer governing body should come up with a program for assessing match officials while they are implementing their duties.

According to Kazi, such an approach will at least minimize complaints aimed at the match officials.

"Many people claim that our soccer referees are underperforming, whereas others are calling on TFF to regularly organize seminars to deal with repeated mistakes (by match officials)," he noted.

The retired referee revealed: "That is not a solution, instead,

(TFF) should put an assessor for every match to closely monitor (match officials) performances while on the pitch and rate them at the end of the tie, this would be helpful."

He said that rule number 10 of soccer regulations stipulates how a goal scored may either be accepted or disallowed.

"A goal might be disallowed if a player violates that rule, he might have found the back of the net while he was either in an offside position or pulling an opponent. In three games we have analyzed, referees had mistakenly disallowed the goals," the

retired referee added.

Some of this season's NBC Premier League matches that had goals that were disallowed include the one pitting Simba SC against Tabora United that was played at Azam Complex Stadium, Dar es Salaam.

Tabora United's offensive midfielder Najim Mussa scored what would have been an equalizer via a spectacular long-range strike, as the football hit Simba SC's crossbar, bounced over the goal line, and went back into play.

The action turned out to be quite fast and left the referee and his first assistant puzzled. The match officials eventually disallowed the goal despite having been reminded by Tabora United officials that the ball had crossed the goal line. Simba SC had, at the time, been leading 1-0.

The tie between Yanga and Kagera Sugar, which as well took place at Azam Complex Stadium, was another match, which had a goal controversially disallowed.

The match's referee disallowed the goal netted by Yanga's Ivorian attacker Joseph Guede, claiming he was offside before netting the goal. Television replays though revealed the muscular attacker was on-side.



Jakaya Kikwete Sports Centre youth players during a training session at the centre's grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Tembo Warriors urged to fight for the country in AAFCON 2024

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has urged the national amputee football team to fight for the country in the African Amputee Football Nations Cup (AAFCON) which gets underway on Saturday by bringing medals home.

The call was made by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Grayson Msigwa, when he handed over the national flag to the team which is fondly called Tembo Warriors.

Msigwa said the government is fully committed to seeing that every person is involved in sporting activities hence its full support to Tembo Warriors.

"The government is fully committed to supporting sporting activities to every person, this is the government which is committed to inclusion in all sectors of society, and on behalf of the government, I urge you (Tembo Warriors) to fight for the Mother Tanzania. We believe you will fly the national flag high in Egypt,"

he said.

In his remarks, Vincent Kaduna, who is the leader of the delegation and Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) president, assured the government of good results in Egypt, saying the team is well prepared for the tournament.

"We are well prepared for this tournament and I want to take this opportunity to thank the government for its full support to the team. We are ready and am sure we will do well," he said.

Tembo Warriors, who are in Group D alongside Angola, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, departed the country for Cairo yesterday.

The team's first assignment will be on Saturday against Rwanda. Two days later they will face Sierra Leone and on Wednesday next week, they will lock horns with Angola in the final match.

The team had been attending residential training in Arusha for more than one month and this is the third time that the

country is competing in the AAFCON finals which are organized by the Confederation of African Amputee Football (CAAF).

The first time was in 2019 and the following year (2020) when the finals were hosted by Angola.

In the two finals, the national amputee team finished in the fourth position.

Players making the team are Bashara Alombile, Hassan Ame, Ali Abdallah, Abdul Amiri, Anthony Manumbu, Richard Swai, Alifack Msomi, Juma Kidevu and Emmanuel Nakaru.

Others are Saleh Mwipi, Kasim Mbaruku, Salimu Bakari, Rodgers Kadala, Akhafan Kiyanga and Frank Ngairo.

The technical panel is made of Salvatory Edward as head coach, Khalfan Mbonde, who doubles as assistant head coach and goalkeepers' trainer, Robert Manyerere is the technical director, team doctor is Abdallah Suleiman and Zaharani Mwenyemti, who is the team manager.

Leaders who will accompany the team to Cairo are Tanzania

Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) president Vincent Kaduna, his vice Athuman Lubandama and secretary general Idd Lulinda.

The finals will be used as 2026 World Cup qualifiers and have attracted 16 African teams.

Meanwhile, Mwenyemti hailed the government for its full support of amputee football in the country and promised that Tembo Warriors will fight for honors at the finals.

He said this upcoming tournament will be another important milestone to showcase the excellence of the players to the fans and the society in Africa and the world.

"This will be the third time that Tembo Warriors will compete at the AAFCON finals, and we are seriously taking the tournament as our ultimate goal to bring home a trophy and qualify for the World Amputee Football Cup for the second time in a row. Our movement is growing in the country thanks to the government for its support," he said.

## Man City do feel the tension of title race, says Guardiola

LONDON

MANCHESTER City will be affected by the nerves of going for a fourth consecutive Premier League title on Sunday, said Pep Guardiola despite his side's experience.

City moved to the top of the table, two points ahead of Arsenal, thanks to Erling Haaland's second-half double to beat their bogey side Tottenham on Tuesday.

It is the first time Guardiola's men have won at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in the Premier League, but it was a far from vintage performance.

After Haaland opened the scoring early in the second period, substitute goalkeeper Stefan Ortega had to make three crucial saves before the Norwegian striker settled the visitors with a penalty in stoppage time.

City have won eight straight Premier League games and are unbeaten from open play in any competition since December 6.

But they host West Ham on the final day knowing anything less than victory will allow Arsenal to take the title should they beat Everton.

"They were playing for the consequences of the result. When you play football thinking about the consequences, you are going to lose the Premier League, you cannot perform at your best level," said Guardiola of his side's display.

"But they are human beings so I can understand the pressure is there.

"It will be the same against West Ham. We will feel the pressure."

In the same circumstances two years ago City needed a late rally from 2-0 down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 and deny Liverpool the title.

"They feel it there and they know it. They are not celebrating, there is relief but there is still a job to do," added Guardiola.

"The tennis players say 'the serve to win Wimbledon is the most difficult one'.

"(We need to) prepare well, completely focus and try to win there."

Rodri said City are ready to rewrite the record books once more by becoming the first side to ever win four consecutive English top-flight titles.

AFP

## Pochettino sees positive future for improving Chelsea

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Mauricio Pochettino said European qualification "would be amazing" for the Blues after turning around a difficult first season in charge at Stamford Bridge.

Pochettino's men have won their last three Premier League games to rise to seventh in the table and put themselves in a good position to return to Europe next season.

Chelsea are level on points with sixth-placed Newcastle and three ahead of Manchester United, plus a significantly better goal difference than the Red Devils, with two games to play.

A top-six finish will guarantee a place in either the Europa League or Conference League next season, while seventh would also be enough as long as United fail to win the FA Cup later this month against Manchester City.

Chelsea won just three of their opening 10 league games as Pochettino wrestled with injuries and gelling together a series of inexperienced players.

But the Argentine believes his side's curve is clearly on the up as they have lost just once in their last 13 top-flight matches.

"The most important thing is to believe and I think the team is doing really well. In the last 26 games we have been doing really well and we need to keep doing it in this way.

"It is going to be tough but I really believe we can compete in the next two games, and having the possibility of playing in Europe would be amazing for us."

Pochettino's future as manager for next season had even been in doubt until recent weeks.

But convincing home wins over London rivals Tottenham and West Ham was followed by a come-from-behind 3-2 victory at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

"We are punished because of the first 10 games. If you start to count after our 10th game I think we are in the top four," added Pochettino.

"I want to be positive and I don't want to talk anymore (about a lack of experience). From next season I don't want to say that we are young, I want to talk about a different issue."

There is further good news for Pochettino as a number of key players are returning from injury in time for Wednesday's trip to Brighton and a visit of Bournemouth to finish the campaign on Sunday.

Captain Reece James came off the bench to set up Nicolas Jackson's winner at Forest, while forward Christopher Nkunku has made his return as a substitute in the last two games.

However, Pochettino does not expect either to start at Brighton.

"The players that have arrived from injury need time and we don't have time. We need to play and start games with players who can cope for 90 minutes," he added.

AFP

# Haaland double puts Man City on brink of Premier League history

LONDON

**E**RLING Haaland scored twice to settle Manchester City's nerves as the Premier League champions beat Tottenham 2-0 to take a giant step towards a historic fourth straight English title on Tuesday.

The Norwegian forward tapped home a pinpoint Kevin De Bruyne cross early in the second half to score City's first-ever league goal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

And he netted a late penalty to seal the three points for the visitors, minutes after substitute goalkeeper Stefan Ortega saved brilliantly from Son Heung-min.

The win takes Pep Guardiola's team two points clear of Arsenal at the top of the table after 37 games.

Victory at the Etihad against West Ham on Sunday will make them champions for a fourth consecutive season, regardless of the Gunners' result against Everton.

No team in English top-flight history has ever won four titles in a row.

Defeat for Spurs also guarantees that Aston Villa will finish in the fourth Champions League spot, joining City, Arsenal and Liverpool in Europe's top-tier competition next season.

"We gave the chance in our hands for the last game," Guardiola told the BBC. "The tennis players say 'The serve to win Wimbledon, the last game, is the most difficult one'.



Erling Braut Haaland seals victory for Manchester City with his second goal on the night from the penalty spot against Tottenham Hotspur. Agencies

Wimbledon, the last game, is the most difficult one'.

"It happened in our period against Aston Villa (in 2022). And many, many years ago it happened with Sergio Agueiro (scoring) in 93 minutes 20 seconds against QPR. So there will be the typical game."

Guardiola called for help from City's fans to get them over the line.

"We know what we're playing for," he said. "The tension is there, the rival is so good. It's why it is difficult, we know that."

"Everyone come to the stadium and make noise. These

games are more difficult but you have to do it. We'll have one day off, two days to prepare, and then we will do our best." - 'Stand up if you hate Arsenal' -

The build-up to the game in north London was dominated by a fierce debate over whether home fans wanted their own team to lose in order to leave City in the driving seat, with Arsenal their nearest challengers.

The Spurs supporters made their feelings towards their bitter local rivals clear in the opening minutes, with chants of "Stand up if you hate Arse-

nal" ringing around the stadium. Tottenham had the first sight of goal, with City's Ederson tipping over a fierce Rodrigo Bentancur effort before Spurs goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario kept out Phil Foden's close-range shot.

City, who came into the match unbeaten in 21 league matches, were short of their fluent best while Spurs struggled to put the finishing touches to their attacking moves.

Moments after the re-start Vicario dived full length to keep out a stinging De Bruyne effort.

But the visitors broke the

deadlock in the 51st minute when Bernardo Silva found De Bruyne in the box and the Belgian crossed for Haaland to slot home from point-blank range.

Thousands of Spurs fans chanted "Are you watching Arsenal" as the City faithful celebrated in their corner.

The game then became disjointed as De Bruyne was raked down the Achilles by Pape Sarr before Ederson took a blow to the head in denying Cristian Romero and was replaced shortly afterwards by Ortega.

The German was called into action immediately, denying substitute Dejan Kulusevski from close range.

Time stood still when Son burst through with five minutes of normal time remaining but Ortega saved with his legs when the South Korean seemed certain to score.

Guardiola fell to the ground, clutching his head in disbelief.

Instead City were awarded a penalty when Pedro Porro brought down substitute Jeremy Doku and Haaland smashed home in the 91st minute to spark wild celebrations from the players in front of the City faithful, taking his league tally to 27 goals for the season.

Last year's treble winners will prepare for Sunday's finale knowing they stand just 90 minutes away from creating another slice of football history.

AFP

# Arsenal look certain to come second but it feels a matter of time until they win the title

By Luke Edwards

SO near, yet so far? Arsenal have been within touching distance of greatness and yet it seems all but certain they could not quite seize it in their grasp. Mikel Arteta's side, like Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool before them, have pushed Manchester City as hard as anyone could but are still, surely, going to come up short.

It is difficult to beat perfection and Pep Guardiola's side are arguably as close as we have seen to that in the English game. They have not lost a game, other than on penalties in the Champions League to Real Madrid, since December 6th. They have lost three league games all season.

No team had been champions of England four years in a row, but that is what City are on the brink of becoming. All they need to do now is beat West Ham at home and there is nothing Arsenal, who host Everton, will be able to do to stop them.

If Arsenal are to come so close and fail then it will hurt and sting, with Mikel Arteta now looking likely to go four seasons without a major trophy (presuming you discount the Community Shield). There will be furrowed brows and sadness will provoke melancholy.

But sport is littered with stories of valiant failure that became the fuel for future success. Arsenal have had a really good season, the best since the glory days



Arsenal have already made club history this season - never before have an Arsenal side won 27 Premier League matches in a single campaign. Agencies

of Arsene Wenger in the early 2000s.

They have progressed at the sort of speed we did not think was possible when Arteta took over as manager in December 2019. They could have won the title this season, and there is no disgrace in coming up short. Not against the beast that is Manchester City and the genius that is Guardiola.

There will be a temptation to poke some fun at Arsenal, to suggest they have choked and they will not get a better chance than this to become champions again. That the likes of Chelsea, Manchester United will be better next season. That the competition will be even more severe. This has been a huge chance but that does not mean they will not get another one.

If they do come up just short - as seems increasingly likely - they can learn from this and come back even stronger. If they can add another striker and more reliable source of goals to lead the line in the

summer, they could well be back in this position again next year.

If they can find another midfielder player and possibly a world class goalkeeper, this is not going to be the end of Arteta's title winning journey. It will merely be a bump in the road on the way to their final destination.

Liverpool were pipped to the Premier League title more than once, but they also won one too and ended their own long wait to be crowned

champions again.

They are the side that provided the bump in the road for City's history makers, a team who write new chapters in their story of enduring, persistent triumph with the ease of a best selling fiction writer penning another novel.

They are the script writers of their generation and the story is becoming an all too familiar one. The Premier League clubs play 38 games and Manchester City win the title.

Those of us who think that is bad for English football, that City's ability to hoover up domestic trophies like a Henry vacuum cleaner is damaging the Premier League's claim to be the most exciting and competitive league in the world, have wanted Arsenal to win their first Premier League crown for 20 years.

For all the talk of the Big Six in England (which has perhaps turned into eight with Aston Villa and Newcastle snapping at their heels) is it now just a case of the Big One? An Etihad coronation on Sunday will make it feel like Manchester City and then the rest.

The message from Arteta will be that it isn't over, but presuming they do finish second then they can head for the summer break with their heads held high and, if they have the right mentality, with renewed inspiration and hope that the long wait to be cham-

pions is almost over.

Arsenal were accused of bottling it a year ago but nothing could be further from the case this time around. Arsenal have not let themselves down or their supporters. They are probably going to finish two points behind the best side the Premier League has seen. It is agonising to come so close and fail but they can go again.

Arsenal have improved every season since Arteta arrived. They can do so once more, even if the final step is always the hardest to make.

But still, maybe it's not quite over yet. For those of you old enough to remember, Arsenal's most famous title triumph came on the final day when they went to Liverpool needing to win by two goals and did. It could still happen this time - but if it doesn't it feels like that success may not be all that far away.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Haaland double puts Man City on brink of Premier League history**

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## Geita Gold coach bemoans goal-scoring woes as relegation fears mount

that extended their winless run to six games.

In a home game that they desperately needed to win, Geita Gold settled for a goalless draw with visitors Coastal Union in the NBC Premier League on Tuesday at Nyankumbu Ground.

The fixture was important for both teams, with Coastal Union needing seven more points to be sure of a top-four finish prior to their Lake Zone trip, while Geita Gold's top-flight status remains in the balance.

Despite creating ample opportunities throughout the match, Geita Gold failed to capitalise, ultimately falling short and leaving them in a precarious position second bottom of the

table.

With three matches remaining, Geita Gold finds themselves five points from safety, having won only five of their 27 encounters this season.

Geita Gold's attack has slumped at the worst possible time. They have not scored in any of their last five league games.

As a result, they have the league's worst attack this season.

Following the draw with Coastal Union, head coach Denis Kitambi addressed these concerns, attributing the recent slump to difficulties in converting chances.

"The issue is that we could not put the ball in the net. We have created chances, we dominate our opponents

but our problem is we don't put the ball in the net. That is the big problem.

"We are already in a very difficult position because this was a game in which had we got three points, at least we would have hope. We have dropped two very important points.

"We have another away game against Simba on the 21st. In the three remaining games, we must continue to fight. That's what we can do because it's not over until it's over.

"We will go back to the training pitch and continue to work on the chances we get to make sure we convert them. That is our biggest challenge," he said.



Ayoub Lakred. (Agencies)

## Simba SC eye to extend Ayoub Lakred contract

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Nassir Nchimbi

AS the current season draws to a close, Simba Sports Club's leadership is strategically planning to secure the services of goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred, whose one-year contract with the club is set to expire.

Lakred, who currently is their number one goalkeeper, has been instrumental in Simba's success and is among the top players slated to continue donning the club's jersey for the upcoming season.

He joined the club last season from FAR Rabat of Morocco on a one-year deal after Aishi Manula picked an injury last season that kept him out over a year.

Insider sources within Simba's hierarchy have disclosed that negotiations have already commenced with the player's agency to finalize the contract extension.

This move aligns with Simba's vision to reinforce and strengthen the squad during the off-season, while also ensuring the retention of key players.

Simba has been proactive in securing the future of its squad, with several players already signing contract extensions.

Notable among them are local talents such as Israel Mwenda, Mzamiru Yassin, and Kibu Denis, who are said to have committed to the club by renewing their contracts.

Ahmed Ally, the Simba SC's information and communication manager, has emphasized the club's commitment to retaining its top-performing players, including Lakred.

He reiterated the club's goal of maintaining a formidable squad capable of competing at the highest level.

"We will reveal our decision about the player's future after the season ends. Nevertheless, as club officials, our main focus is to keep all of our best-performing players and our goalkeeper has been performing well," he said.

In addition to securing the contracts of local players, Simba is also said to be in talks to extend the contracts of foreign stars such as Fabrice Ngoma, Sadio Kanoute, and Clatous Chama.

While negotiations with Chama are still ongoing, the club remains optimistic about reaching a favorable outcome.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**G**EITA Gold edged closer to the NBC Premier League relegation after yet another damaging result



Bulls U-11 players and coaches celebrate with their DarYC Mini trophy after they defeated Future Star Academy from Arusha in the tournament held in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

## Mgunda remains confident of second place despite challenges

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN the wake of a hard-fought draw against Kagera Sugar on Sunday, Juma Mgunda, the Simba SC's interim head coach, emphasized the team's ongoing pursuit of securing a second-place finish in the NBC Premier League, trailing behind the champions, Young Africans, for the third consecutive season.

Despite the missed opportunity to climb to second place with a potential victory in the game held at Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba, which ended in a 1-1 draw, Mgunda, speaking upon the team's return to Dar es Salaam, remained resolute in their ambitions.

He affirmed that the draw against Kagera Sugar hasn't dampened their hopes of clinching the coveted position and earning a ticket to the 2024/25 CAF Champions League.

"We haven't played all our games yet. Although we faced challenges against Kagera, luck wasn't on our side. We're gearing up for the next match. As far as I'm concerned, it's not over. We still have a shot at securing second place. We need to address the areas of weakness we observed to garner points in the remaining fixtures," Mgunda stated.

Acknowledging the team's relentless efforts on the field, Mgunda highlighted their de-

termination to secure maximum points in upcoming matches, despite facing setbacks in clinching victories.

"We'll keep fighting. I've urged my players not to relent, to persevere, and to maintain focus in all remaining matches. We're not concerned about other teams' results. Our focus is on winning every game. I believe we're capable of performing well in the remaining fixtures," Mgunda affirmed.

Following the draw against Kagera Sugar, Simba SC currently stands at 57 points, trailing Azam FC by three points for second place, having played one more game than their rivals who occupy

the coveted spot.

Simba SC's upcoming fixture will see them travel to Dodoma to face Dodoma Jiji FC tomorrow, marking their 27th game of the season. Their previous encounter in the first round of this season ended in a 2-0 victory for Simba back in August 2023.

Dodoma Jiji FC has yet to secure a win or even a draw against Simba SC. In their seven previous meetings since Dodoma Jiji was promoted, Simba SC emerged victorious in all encounters, with Dodoma Jiji FC managing to score only two goals across those matches.

Currently positioned not far from the relegation zone

on the table after playing 26 matches this season, Dodoma Jiji FC is striving to secure a spot in the NBC Premier League for the next season, as they hover close to the relegation zone, they are determined to improve their standing.

The difference between Dodoma Jiji FC and bottom-placed Mtibwa Sugar is just few points, with four matches remaining in the season. Dodoma Jiji FC's upcoming fixtures include challenging matchups against Simba SC, Young Africans, Ifeju FC, and Mashujaa FC as they aim to secure their position in the league.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

