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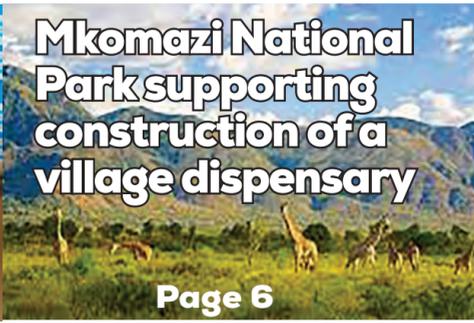
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**Small Mitali lauded by UK's King Charles**



**'Fundis' can now bid for govt construction works** Page 3



**Mkomazi National Park supporting construction of a village dispensary** Page 6



**Residents elated after health centre gets key equipment** Page 7

**Page 13**

# VP leads nation in Mwinyi last respects

**NHIF cards: Minister points at legal action, reaffirms dialogue**

By Carlos Banda

LEGAL action awaits private hospitals that will refuse to provide health services to card holders of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), the government has declared.

Ummu Mwalimu, the Health minister, issued a statement yesterday directing the registrar of private hospitals to issue a notice on regulatory acceptance of NHIF cards in all hospitals, and take action on all hospitals that have announced non-provision of services to NHIF card holders.

Checking online entries on the regulatory regime for private hospitals, it is apparent that the minister was falling back on the Health Facility Registration System responsible for registration of both public and private health facilities, while the Private Hospitals (Regulation) Act affirms that registration shall be renewed annually, with a fee charged yearly by the Private Hospitals Advisory Board.

Another version of update of The Private Hospitals (Regulation) Act dated 1977, at the height of the country's socialist policies, on 22 June 1977 the legislature adopted 'An Act to make provision to restrict the management of private hospitals to approved organizations, to control fees and other aspects thereof,' enabling religious organisations to run private hospitals rather than individuals as such.

The Private Hospitals (Regulations) Amendment Act, 1991 of 9th April 1992 on the other hand was described as 'An Act to amend the Private Hospitals (Regulation) Act, 1977, to make provision for the management of private hospitals by individuals.'

Observers note that the changes in the current NHIF format reintroduce the regulatory context of 1977 and annual hospital

TURN TO Page2



**VICE** President Dr Philip Mpango pays his respects to former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. **More photos on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma**

By Henry Mwangonde

**V**ICE President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday led Dar es Salaam residents in paying respects to former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi who died on Thursday evening.

The late leader's body was first taken to the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) King Mohamed VI Mosque in Kinondoni area for funeral prayers before being motorcaded to Uhuru Stadium for the last respects ceremony.

Addressing the mourners, the VP said that Tanzania will always cherish the late president Mwinyi's solid contributions to the country's development.

The late Mwinyi was a pool of wisdom, he said, noting that the late national leader spent much of his time teaching

TURN TO Page2

## Neighbours, foreign envoys hail Mwinyi

*On behalf of the American people, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to Tanzania as the nation mourns the passing of H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Tanzania's second President. I am honoured to attend the funeral ceremony today*

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN leaders and a number of diplomatic envoys yesterday joined Tanzania in mourning former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi who died in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening.

President William Ruto and the country's opposition leader Raila Odinga expressed their condolences to President Samia Suluhu Hassan following the passing of Tanzania's second president.

Mwinyi, who served as Tanzania's president from 1985 to 1995, passed away at Mzena Hospital in Dar es Salaam after battling lung cancer.

President Ruto praised the late Mwinyi as a "great leader whose rich legacy will never fade," while Raila Odinga described Mwinyi as a "truly great African leader and statesman."

Visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed issued his message of condolences before President Samia saying his state visit to Tanzania was underlined by empathy between the two countries, saying the passing of



**President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomes visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali to State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House**



TURN TO Page2

## NHIF cards: Minister points at legal action, reaffirms dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

sector liberalisation, in sharp contrast to opening up the country where investors and the business community, local as well as foreign, expect the hospital system to be free without hassles.

The minister's move comes a day after major hospitals in the city of Dar es Salaam announced intent to halt services to NHIF clients in protest over newly rolled out packages by NHIF set out earlier this week.

Seven private hospitals declared that they will not provide services to NHIF card holders due to the on-going dispute over limits on consultancy, medical, surgery and other charges with the NHIF, a public insurer.

The Association of Private Health Facilities of Tanzania (APHFTA) said the new packages will make them make losses and eventually have to close their businesses, to which the minister said that the government was ready and open for a dialogue with APHFTA in order to reach an understanding on the issue.

"I want to assure them that the room for dialogue is still open and the ministry is readily available for talks. I extend my appreciation to their readiness to provide medical services for extended hours in this period of uncertainty for some private health service providers," she stated.

The minister demanded private hospitals not to remove patients being treated through NHIF cards, citing that patient removal is contrary to the Medical, Dental and Allied Health Professionals Act (chapter 152 of the laws) which requires doctors to desist from evicting patients under treatment.

Mwalimu also directed all public hospitals in the country to prepare efficient procedures to receive a large number of patients and attend to them with high professionalism during this period of uncertainty.

Regional commissioners need to ensure they closely supervise the provision of health services in their respective areas and oversee

these instructions at regional and council levels, take required actions in accordance with existing laws and principles by consultation with the Ministry of Health," the minister emphasized.

She expressed appreciation for hospitals operated by religious institutions that continued to provide health services to NHIF card holders, citing this acceptance as a display of integrity, humanity and patriotism.

"I would like to thank the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) for their participation and support of the recommendations by the committee of experts on this matter. I therefore direct NHIF to ensure the continuous availability of services for its members in order to prohibit inconveniences caused by timely payment to health service providers," she said.

Mwalimu however said that the committee of experts that formed by the ministry must continue discussions with service providers while health services are maintained. Discussions should take place while medical services are being provided, she emphasized.

A section of insurance clients who spoke with this paper expressed sadness with the move by private hospital halting services for NHIF card holders.

Colin Lema, a city resident, said that the situation has greatly affected them as they had to pay 250,000/- for their mother to conduct a dialysis after being denied to use an NHIF card.

"It is so painful, we are passing through a very difficult situation as we are forced to dig deep into our pockets to pay for the health services, while we have already paid to the NHIF," he said.

Nuhu Suleiman, a Mwanza resident, said that he spent several hours going to different private hospitals and clinics to seek for services using NHIF cards without success.

"I have got the service to one of the health centres here in the city, but I have spent a lot of time visiting different hospitals without success. I don't know where we are heading to," he lamented.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pays his respects to his father, former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi, at Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## VP leads nation in Mwinyi last respects

FROM PAGE 1

Kiswahili idioms and expressions to make the language known globally, chiefly through various teachings given to the media.

"He was an example of dedicated, patriotic and humble leaders who left no doubt on his love for the country and its people," he said.

Former premier Joseph Warioba said that as president Mwinyi ably led the country when it was facing serious economic challenges and food shortages, which he managed to control within three years of tak-

ing office.

"It is during his time when the country was facing a push for political reforms, and his great concern was how to have the reforms while maintaining existing national unity," he said.

"He was a listening leader; we respected him but we did not feel fearful of him as he was listening even if one had different views than what he has espoused," he explained.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete said he knew the late Mwinyi after the then president appointed him deputy minister and then minister, while he already had heard him and

followed what people said of him, fond of reading books and a humble man.

"When he was appointed President of Zanzibar all of us were happy that Zanzibar got a leader because we knew his humble and understanding outlook, as a leader who could forgive," he said.

Tanzanians will remember Mwinyi as the man behind economic and political reforms which the country went through in the late 1980s, he asserted.

Abdulrahman Kinana, the CCM vice chairman (Mainland) said the late Mwinyi ensured that the politi-

cal reforms were conducted without shaking national unity and the peace that was existing.

The military convoy bearing the coffin of the former president drove past vast numbers of onlookers and mourners from the northern part of the city to the southward outreaches of Uhuru Stadium, amid fond memories of the late leader's libertarian leadership which neighbouring countries cherished in their memories of Ali Hassan Mwinyi, enabling cheap household commodities to be available all over East Africa during his ten years in office, 1985 to 1995.



Prof Carolyne Nombo (2nd-L), Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, holds a pair of scissors in Dar es Salaam yesterday ready to cut the ribbon at the launch the 2024 'National Conference on Education Without Limits'. Photo: Correspondent Halfani Chusi

## Rarity as public project completes with 1.8m/- change

By Guardian Correspondent, Korogwe

Mkomazi National Park has spent 72m/- on the construction of a dispensary building at Kweisewa Village in Korogwe District, Tanga Region, slightly less than the allocated budget.

Angellah Kairuki, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said this on Thursday here during the launch of the building at the village.

"This project was allocated 73.8m/-, however, during its implementation, only 72m/- was spent. So, I congratulate Mkomazi National Park and the management of Korogwe District Council for supervising the use of public funds," she said.

According to the minister, construction of the dispensary has been implemented with revenues from the tourism sector after the increase of revenue from \$2.5 billion in 2022 to \$3.34 billion in 2023.

She said that Mkomazi National Park's achievements have made it possible for it to contribute 765m/- to various community projects for the 2023/2024 fiscal year in the district, namely construction of Kalalani Police Station, Kweisewa Dispensary, a boys' dormitory at Kigonigoni Secondary School and construction of two classes at Mwangi Primary School.

Others are construction of girls' dormitory at Kalemawe Secondary

School in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region and water well at Kivingo Village in Lushoto District, Tanga Region.

Kairuki asked residents to take good care of the dispensary and its furnishings in order to achieve its intended purpose of delivering quality health services to the people.

Timotheo Mnzava, Korogwe Rural MP who doubles as Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Tourism, expressed his gratitude to the government for making it easier to obtain funds from the tourism sector for the construction of the dispensary.

"Without revenue collection by

the Tanzania National Parks, this dispensary would not have been constructed," he said.

Musa Nassoro Kuji, TANAPA Commissioner for Conservation said that Mkomazi National Park is carrying out the project in cooperation with Korogwe District Council and Kweisewa Village residents.

He furthermore said the project was designed to support residents who were trekking more than 30 kilometers to receive medical services in neighbouring villages.

Speaking about the problem of human-wildlife conflict, William Mwakilema, Korogwe District Commissioner, advised residents to avoid blocking animal corridors.

## Neighbours, foreign envoys hail Mwinyi

FROM PAGE 1

former president Mwinyi was sad indeed.

"Let me take this opportunity to pay my condolences to the people of Tanzania for the loss of president Mwinyi, our visit to Tanzania was out of genuine love for Tanzania, but it has happened in the way things have happened," he stated.

Michael Battle, the United States ambassador, said that the late president Mwinyi will be remembered and respected for the significant economic and democratic reforms he ushered into Tanzania.

"On behalf of the American people, I would like to convey our deepest condolences to Tanzania as the nation mourns the passing of H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Tanzania's second President. I am honoured to attend the funeral ceremony today," he declared.

Tone Tinnes, the Norwegian ambassador, said Mwinyi's legacy of diplomacy, unity and progress will continue to inspire generations.

David Concar, the UK high commissioner, said former President Mwinyi was a pivotal figure in Tanzania's history as his landmark reforms enabled an economic revival which benefits Tanzania to this day.

"I was honoured to meet him and join all Tanzanians in mourning his loss," he wrote on his X social media account.

The CCM secretariat said it received news of the passing of the

late Mwinyi, a former party chairman, with profound shock.

Secretary General Dr Emanuel Nchimbi said the party will remember the late Mwinyi for the reforms which he conducted during his time as president.

"His great efforts in bringing operational and systematic changes within our party when he was the chairman from 1990 to 1996 will forever be cherished," he said.

In addition, his contribution will be remembered for the way he helped build national unity and protect national values during his service in government, he asserted.

Leading opposition party, Chadema said the party will remember the late Mwinyi for economic reforms which he oversaw, instituting the free-market policy, saying this outlook has been the party's stance on economic development.

Salum Mwalimu, the party's deputy secretary general for Zanzibar, said Chadema has received the news with profound shock, joining Tanzanians in mourning the late president.

The late Mwinyi died on Thursday evening in Dar es Salaam and last respects were held at national level at Uhuru Stadium late afternoon yesterday. His body was flown to Zanzibar in the evening where President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to lead the burial ceremony in the afternoon today.

## 'Fundis' can now bid for govt construction works

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INNOVATORS of the National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST) have added a new feature which allows individual trained builders, popularly known as fundis, to formally take part in public procurement by bidding for construction works.

Speaking to this paper recently, Gilbert Kamnde, Contracts Management Specialist with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), said the added facility will play an essential part towards meeting some goals set in the National Development Vision 2025.

"Local Fundis can now compete in construction tenders which are now meant for everybody transparently and in a non-discriminatory manner," he said.

According to him, the special window allows Fundis to register in their own category and participate in force account construction bids unlike in the past when there was no specific procedure for such engagements with public entities.

"The lack of such opportunity

meant that the intended beneficiaries of projects were excluded from tenders that were exclusively reserved for contractors registered in Class 6 or 5," he said.

In order for one to be able to register in NeST as a fundi, he said the applicant must have a taxpayer identification number (TIN), a license for those who have one or a certificate from vocational training institutions such as VETA.

Kamnde said that in the short time since the window was opened in NeST, more than 90 Fundis have been registered, which is sufficient proof that many Fundis had been eagerly awaiting this facility for them to seek contracts in the public procurement system.

He said PPRA continues to advise potential bidders to register in NeST in order to take advantage of the opportunities available in public procurement, insisting that no public procurement will be carried out outside NeST.

He said prison sentences not exceeding three years or a fine not exceeding 10 million or both await any person who makes a purchase outside the new system.



Muheza legislator Hamisi Mwinjuma alias Mwana FA (C, foreground), who doubles as Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister, presents a choice bunch of bananas to CCM youth wing national vice chairperson Rehema Sombi (3rd-L) during the latter's visit to the district yesterday. Looking on are the women entrepreneurs. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## 'Stigma still hinders Aids eradication efforts'

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

STIGMA and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is still rampant and hinders efforts to eradicate the disease in the country, it has been said.

Speaking during the official launch of Total Facility Approach (TFA) project at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) yesterday, Head of Programme at the Ministry of Health, Dr Catherine Joachim, said that many people don't go for HIV testing for the fear of being stigmatized and discriminated against.

She said that as a member of UNAIDS, Tanzania still has a lot to do to archive "95-

95-95 targets which means 95 percent of people living with the disease are aware of their HIV status, 95 percent of those testing positive placed on continuous HIV treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment reached viral suppression.

"Major challenge remains in the first 95 percent target in which Tanzania has attained 83 percent so far," she said.

Dr Joachim said that many children, men, young girls as well as men are not yet well reached, stressing that TFA project can have huge impact by focusing on the groups and reach targets of UNAIDS.

"Stigma affects the entire community of those living with HIV/AIDS but espe-

cially specific groups including drug users, young girls and women, sex workers and others," she said.

She added that the project will accelerate availability of these services to many citizens, including eliminating stigma against patients to increase the number of people who come forward for HIV testing and ensuring that those found to be infected receive appropriate care without discrimination.

"Despite various efforts being implemented to combat HIV/AIDS, stigma remains a major obstacle to achieving these goals. Reducing stigma and discrimination in healthcare facilities

can contribute to achieving this goal by reaching more patients and those at risk of contracting the disease," she said.

Prof. Mohamed Janabi, MNH Executive Director, said that the three-year project is aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, especially in areas where they receive healthcare services.

He said that will involve curriculum enhancement for six institutions and training for approximately 70 percent of healthcare providers from beneficiary hospitals on stigma and discrimination.

He said the project is an opportu-

nity to bring together various health stakeholders in the country and increase awareness in the society about the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Additionally, the project will engage in enhancing strategic plans for advancing education on stigma and discrimination for healthcare workers in the country," he said.

This project is being implemented in three countries namely Tanzania, Zambia and Ghana with advisors from the United States Research Triangle Institute International (RTI). It costs more than 2.3bn/- and is financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Stakeholders want NEC to manage this year's civic polls

By Guardian Reporter

AS the country prepares for civic polls to elect Mtaa, village and hamlet leaders later this year, stakeholders have recommended that the polls be managed by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to avoid favouritism.

As per current laws, the Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government supervises local government elections at national level.

The call was made in Dar es Salaam yesterday at an event to celebrate International Women's Day 2024 (IWD) which is marked on every March 8th. The event that was organized by the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) was meant to discuss ways to increase the number of elected women in the 2024 civic polls.

Former Member of Parliament, Suzan Lyimo (Special Seats-Chadema) said that allowing NEC to manage the polls would ensure fairness as registered voters would only vote after showing their identity cards.

"With the current system, one can vote at more than two polling stations as voters can register in various electoral zones using different names because at polling stations, they only need to check their names to be allowed to vote while under NEC, one has to show an ID to cast a vote," she said.

WILDAF National Coordinator, Anna Kulaya said that despite progress made in ensuring gender equality in leadership, the number of elected women leaders at local government level is small.

Kulaya said the 2019 civic polls report indicates that women are only a third of all the elected Mtaa, village and hamlet leaders. The

report shows that out of the 11,915 elected village chairpersons, there are 246 women, equivalent to 2.1 percent. There were 4,171 elected Mtaa chairpersons and of the number, 528 were women, equivalent to 12.6 percent.

The number of elected hamlet leaders was 62, 612 whereas the number of women was 4,171, equivalent to 6.7 percent.

Kulaya said there are 260 women elected councillors out of all the 3,953 councillors in the country while the number of special seats councillors is 1,374. She said there are only five district council chairpersons out of 185, adding Tanzania has only one female mayor.

"The 2022 National Housing and Population Census shows that women account for 51 percent of Dar es Salaam population whereas from 1965 to 2020 the position of City Mayor has been dominated by men," she said.



George Mhina, a police officer stationed in Nianjema ward in Bagamoyo District, pictured on Thursday contributing to debate at a meeting called to discuss strategies to strengthen security in the district's Dunda, Magomeni, Nianjema, Kisutu and Kiromo wards. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### SUBMISSION OF IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BULK PROCUREMENT OF DAP AND UREA FERTILIZERS

Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) is inviting Fertilizer Traders, Farmers Cooperatives Union and all fertilizers in the stakeholders and Agricultural sector in general to submit importation requirements for DAP and Urea fertilizers which will be sold under the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program for the 2023/2024 cropping season.

The requirements will be aggregated and imported through Fertilizer Bulk Procurement System (BPS) according to the Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations of 2017. Please submit your requirements with their subsequent bank guarantees (Requirement Submission Template and Bank Guarantee Format are available at [www.tfra.go.tz](http://www.tfra.go.tz).) in hard copy through TFRA offices or by email to [info@tfra.go.tz](mailto:info@tfra.go.tz) and copy to [bps@tfra.go.tz](mailto:bps@tfra.go.tz) on or before Tuesday 2nd April, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Kindly note: The Original Bank Guarantee MUST be submitted in hard copy on or before the deadline of submission date.

TFRA upholds its commitment of partnering with all stakeholders in ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizer and fertilizer supplements to all farmers in Tanzania at affordable prices and friendly payment terms.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TFRA)  
PLOT NO. 15471, 1 KILIMO STREET, KILIMO I COMPLEX,  
TEL. +255 222 861 939;  
E-MAIL: [info@tfra.go.tz](mailto:info@tfra.go.tz)  
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

# Former president Mwinyi mourned in Dar



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa consoles Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, a son of the late former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi, at the deceased's family residence in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO



The casket bearing the body of former president arrives at Dar es Salaam's King Mohammed V1 of Morocco Mosque yesterday by a Tanzania People's Defence Forces gun carrier ready for special prayers. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Chief Sheikh Dr Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally leads prayers for the deceased at the King Mohammed V1 of Morocco Mosque. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



TPDF officers carrying the casket bearing the body of the former president arrive at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam shortly before the city's residents paid their respects. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Sitti Mwinyi, a widow of the former president, pays her respects to him at Uhuru Stadium. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and his visiting Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali (R), pay their respects to the former president at Uhuru Stadium. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Dar es Salaam residents and military officers in their hundreds witness the paying of respects to the former president from the Uhuru Stadium stands. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Former president Jakaya Kikwete pays his respects to former president Mwinyi at Uhuru Stadium. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Living in Harmony with Nature: How USAID is promoting human - wildlife coexistence in Tanzania

## 'Harmonious Human-wildlife coexistence is a beautiful thing!

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is playing an active role in mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict and enhancing human - wildlife coexistence in Tanzania.

USAID is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results.

## Restoring the Eden it used to be?

People have always existed alongside wildlife since time in history with little, if any, problem occurring in the past.

So, why are interactions between humans and wild animals are now becoming dangerous to both sides?

Interaction between human and wild animals has always been there but as time goes by and nature gets destroyed, mostly due to increasing human population the contact between two parties become hostile and lethal with negative impacts as each scramble for the limited resources.

"We are now coming up with strategies that will enable humans and wildlife get their respective needs from natural resources without negatively impacting one another," explains Allen Chad Mgaza, the Natural Resource Management Policy Lead, USAID Contractor, implementing USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili (Preserve Natural Resources) project.

To achieve that, according to Mgaza, people must learn the ecology of wildlife and how these animals survive and interact and luckily there are many research studies conducted on this enough to provide informed and scientific-sound strategies.

"We must change our lifestyles in respect to other living things like for instance stay clear of wild animals' movement routes, learn which types of crops to grow in areas bordering wildlife corridors, review and improve our policies and plans," added Mgaza.

## The Elephant in the room: Case of Kilombero Valley Jumbos

The northern Kilombero Valley is part of the larger Selous-Mikumi-Nyerere ecosystem, home to one of the largest elephant populations in East Africa, even after it was heavily impacted by poaching which decimated over 50 percent of the Jumbos between 2006 and 2015.

Since 2015, the population has stabilized with figures from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) estimating around 15,500 elephants in 2019.

In recent years, human-elephant conflicts emerged mostly due to loss of wildlife corridors.

This has overtaken poaching as the primary elephant conservation concern, posing a real challenge to the recovery of Jumbos' population.

The future of elephants in Tanzania relies on human decisions on their populations, habitats and their willingness to coexist with them.

The USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project and the Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP) jointly developed a recruitment and training plan for Village Game Scouts (VGS) to work in the Nyerere Selous - Udzungwa corridor.

Kim Lim is the Elephant Coexistence Project Manager for STEP who reveals that the Kilombero Valley is a hotspot of elephant crop damage, and this is the primary concern for farmers.

Kim explains that crop damage results in intolerance to elephants, and this undermines support for elephant conservation at local but also national levels.

"People are also afraid of meeting elephants. While injuries and deaths are still relatively rare, they are a major shock to the families and always tragic. Most incidents occur early in the morning, when people encounter the jumbos at farms or near rivers."

While actual killing of elephants for conflict has become uncommon, there is still support among some people for killing the animals especially through poisoning in retaliation for crop damage that has occurred in the past and remains a threat.

Elephant mortalities that have occurred in the northern Kilombero valley are related to infrastructure: 7 elephants have died in train collisions since 2021.

STEP is working with a range of stakeholders to build the foundations for human-elephant coexistence through a variety of approaches.

## Reducing crop loss caused by elephants

In order to reduce crop loss caused by elephants and foster tolerance towards elephants from communities living adjacent to Udzungwa Mountains National Park and Nyerere National Park, STEP works with various mitigation methods. These mitigation methods are placed along the boundary adjacent to farmland and the Protected Area.



Elephant in the Tarangire National Park (Photo credit: USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project)

Beehive fence model was selected as primary Human Elephant Conflict mitigation strategy after years of trials and extensive monitoring and evaluation.

The well-watered and forested environment is conducive to bee populations and the structure of beehive fences in the Kilombero Valley provides protection to a large number of farms.

Beehive fences reduce crop losses by deterring elephants from farms as the jumbos are fearful of the bees.

## Beehive fences also provide additional income through honey sales.

The model involves helping farmers register a community-based organization, providing some beehive fence construction materials.

## Empowering women and the youth

The role of women in these groups is essential as they face cultural, structural, and practical barriers to involvement in the formal economic sector (including primary responsibility for childcare, household-focused agriculture, and domestic maintenance).

They also lack access to (and control of) capital, resources and training which can pose a challenge to their participation in community-based human-elephant coexistence projects.

STEP highlighted the importance of women and youth participation in human-elephant coexistence efforts asking women about their concerns with regards to beehive fence projects and Village Savings and Loans.

Their primary concern was that men would be favored for group membership and for leadership positions. This was addressed by requiring minimum 50 percent representation of women and youth in group membership, and 33 percent of leadership roles to be women

## Fencing in Livestock against marauding predators in the Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor

Nearly 20 Predator-Proof domestic enclosures have been constructed in the Kwakuchinja Wildlife Corridor to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) along the important passage connecting Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks in Northern Tanzania.

The cost-effective approach aims at protecting livestock at night, against marauding predators such as the Lion and Hyena in the Kwakuchinja Wildlife movement corridor.

The Predator Proof Bomas provide a strong resilient safety fencing ensuring security of livestock against attacks from carnivores, in this case lions, hence reducing human-predator conflicts.

Incidents of livestock in the pens being attacked by marauding predators are reduced due to stronger materials used to safeguard the enclosure compared to the previous feeble walls of thorns and sticks.

Safeguarding livestock entails the protection of livelihoods possessions and this enhances economic assets.

Protection of livestock means adequate milk for women (and children) as well as cattle for men and if family assets are secured villagers can coexist in harmony with wildlife cutting down cases of retaliatory killings.



A collared lion (Photo credit: Asilia Giving)

## The Lion share: Collaring the king of the jungle

Among the measures taken to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Kwakuchinja area the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili (Preserve Natural Resources) project supported the collaring of nine lions in Kwakuchinja wildlife movement corridor.

It is a way to track lions, where the cats are monitored wherever they go so that action can be taken in case they venture close to human settlements, before confrontation can occur.

## Community involvement in conservation

The Kwakuchinja Wildlife corridor has two arms, the Burunge WMA arm and the Mwaskini Manyara Ranch arm.

The corridor is highly threatened, especially in the two villages of Mswakini and Minjingu as they are quickly developing into sub-urban centers. Other threats include animal road kills, poaching for bush meat, and tree cutting for poles and charcoal making.

The Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) arm and Manyara Ranch area are secured with joint resource agreements and management plans in place. Some of the areas in the corridor have been secured through establishment of grazing land and they are connected to allow safe passage for wildlife.

To ensure protection of the already secured areas, the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity supported interagency collaboration to combat wildlife-related crimes covering an area of 284 square kilometers through joint anti-poaching patrols.

To sustain the corridor, livelihood activities including bead making (nature-based enterprise), livestock fattening, and milk collection are being implemented.

The Activity also supported establishment of Village Savings and Loans groups and enabled the members to access loans from VSLA groups.

Moreover, wildlife data and monitoring to inform the different authorities on the functionality of the corridor and plan appropriate interventions is being collected, that is lion movement, dry season animal census.

An education program to youth (primary and secondary schools) has been provided to ensure the next generation is aware of the importance of wildlife corridor both ecologically and economically

## Major drop in maternal deaths putting hospital in limelight

By Correspondent Aisia Rweyemamu, Manyara

INNOVATIVE maternal and neonatal care at Haydom Lutheran Hospital in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, has led to significant reduction of deaths, attracting visitors for benchmarking.

The Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) General Secretary Dagfinn Høybråten and Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania Tone Tinne led a delegation here recently for a benchmarking visit.

The hospital implements Safer Births Bundle of Care (SBBC) project in order to improve maternal and newborn care through innovative training solutions and therapy products.

"The NCA is a proud partner of Haydom and looks forward to seeing this place continue to thrive," Høybråten said.

Briefing visitors about the impact of the project, Dr Paschal Mdoe, Haydom Lutheran Hospital Executive Director said that the project means every pregnant woman who goes to the hospital delivers safely.

"Maternal death has now declined from 11 to four women per year recorded last year," he said.

Dr Mdoe added that the 2021 data shows that the general mortality rate at the hospital was 7.4 percent but last year the rate went down to 5.3 percent.

He said with the support they received from NORAD they have managed to significantly cut down the number of deaths.

Prof. Babagana Zulum, Health Commissioner in Borno State, Nigeria and his delegation were among the guests who visited the hospital to learn how it managed to reduce the number of newborn and maternal deaths.

"We have witnessed how SBBC reduces the number of maternal mortality; this is a very big achievement," he said.

SBBC consists of innovative clinical and training tools for improved labour care and newborn resuscitation, integrated with new strategies for continuous quality improvement.

Tinne commended the hospital for the achievements, adding that this is significant because Tanzania and Norway have marked 60 years of diplomatic relation while the hospital has marked 70 years of service.

The Haydom Lutheran Hospital is a faith-based hospital serving more than 900,000 people in its catchment area, and more than 5.7 million people in the greater area. The hospital has 420 beds capacity and 680 employees of different cadres.

The NCA and the hospital have a long partnership since 2003. In 2015, NCA became the grant manager for NORAD funding to the hospital. Over the years, they have worked together to strengthen organizational and institutional development and support to improve the quality of health services.

## Vision 2050: Public opinion collection to start this month

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Planning Commission is this month set to start collecting opinions from various groups of stakeholders for the development of the National Development Vision 2050.

That was announced yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Senior Trade and Innovations Officer of the Commission Dr Crispin Ryakitimbo in his presentation at a meeting that involved members of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF).

He said they will spend the entire month of March going around all the regions to gather opinions from ordinary citizens and various groups, including government, civil society and religious leaders before proceeding with drafting of the document.

He said they will conduct interviews with groups in various ways, including face-to-face, on mobile phones and messages via mobile phones and using their official portal to ensure that they are all reached.

Dr Ryakitimbo said that they have already conducted pilot studies on how to collect opinions which gave them a complete picture about the effectiveness of the methodologies. "We have our centre in Dodoma where when we get opinions, the same go directly to the center for analysis. So, soon we will officially start collecting opinions for the National Development Vision 2050," he said.

Dr Ryakitimbo said that the official process of collecting opinions can take one month and a half, adding that they have organized themselves in zones in order to be able to reach the people of all regions.

"For example there is a zone that includes the regions of Morogoro, Coast, Lindi and Ruvuma, a zone that includes the regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Tanga, there is a zone that includes Geita, Kagera, Mwanza and Mara," he said.

He said that while they continue to collect opinions using their tablets, the information collectors will use other devices to verify information collected and then submit it to the station in Dodoma.

He said that the process of writing the document is expected to be completed by 2026, calling upon Tanzanians of various groups to come forward and express their opinions.



**For example there is a zone that includes the regions of Morogoro, Coast, Lindi and Ruvuma, a zone that includes the regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro**



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Head office Location: Kinondoni Mwanamboka  
Contact: Mobile phone  
0715884162/0754884162/0787884477  
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## PUBLIC AUCTION ADVERTISEMENT

On behalf of **AZANIA BANK PLC**, we shall sell by public auction **VARIOUS PROPERTIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERALS TO OFFSET THE OUTSTANDING DEBTS**. The auction shall be held on the dates and days as stipulated in the schedule herein below, starting from 10:00 am

**THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF THE PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION:-**

SN	NAMES OF THE DEFAULTERS	DETAILS OF PROPERTIES TO BE AUCTIONED	LOCATION	DAY AND DATE OF AUCTION
1	GLOBAL OIL LTD	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 17, BLOCK 77, WITH CT NO. 149048. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH AHMED	LOCATED AT KARIAKOO AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	FRIDAY, ON 22 <sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - APARTMENT NO. 203, PLOT NO. 2411/5, CT NO. 186045/76 IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ASMA MOHAMMED ABDULLAH AHMED BENES - HAO P O BOX 2414	LOCATED AT SEAVIEW AREA, UPANGA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	THURSDAY, ON 21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - APARTMENT NO. 841, SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 567, CT NO. 186701/52 IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ASMA MOHAMMED ABDULLAH AHMED BENES - HAO P O BOX 2414	LOCATED AT MINDU UPANGA AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	THURSDAY, ON 21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY APARTMENT NO. 2A, 2 <sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, PLOT NO. 483, CT NO. 186862/67. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF NOUFAL MOHAMED ABDULLAH ES - HAO	LOCATED AT MINDU UPANGA AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	THURSDAY, ON 21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		VARIOUS PLOTS, I.e NO. 104, 155, 156, 157, 158, 223, 224, 225 AND 226. THE PLOTS ARE UNDER THE NAMES OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH YASSER MOHAMED, YUSRA MOHAMMED, NOUFAL MOHAMMED AND ASMA MOHAMMED ABDULLAH	LOCATED AT MBWENI MPLUI AREA WITHIN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	TUESDAY, ON 19 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PLOT FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE, SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 304, BLOCK 5, CT NO. 70848. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF NOUFAL MOHAMED	LOCATED AT MBWENI MPLUI AREA WITHIN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	TUESDAY, ON 19 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PLOT NO. 152, BLOCK 9, PLOT NO. 153, BLOCK 9, PLOT NO. 149, BLOCK 9, PLOT NO. 152, BLOCK 9, PLOT NO. 153, BLOCK 9 AND PLOT NO. 152, BLOCK 9. THE PLOTS ARE UNDER THE NAMES OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH, YASSER MOHAMMED, YUSRA MOHAMMED AND NOUFAL MOHAMMED	THEY ARE LOCATED AT MWONGOZO AREA WITHIN KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SUNDAY, ON 24 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
2	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	12 BARE LANDS, ON PLOT NO. 759 TO 770, BLOCK 'C'	LOCATED AT KIMBUJI AREA KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	TUESDAY, ON 26 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM
3	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	KURASINI TRADE AREA PLOT NO. 3, CT NO. 32829.	KURASINI SERVICE TRADE TEMEKE MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	TUESDAY, ON 26 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, STARTING AT 10:00 AM

### LIST OF TRUCKS AND TRAILERS TO BE SOLD STARTING AT 10:00 AM

SN	NAME OF DEFAULTER	DESCRIPTION	DAY AND DATE OF AUCTION
1	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 583 CKH	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
2	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 273 CKH	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
3	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 580 CKH	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
4	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 571 CKH	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
5	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 721 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
6	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 550 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
7	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 693 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
8	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 696 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
9	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 700 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
10	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 704 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
11	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 534 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
12	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 728 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
13	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 530 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
14	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 533 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
15	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 713 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
16	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 709 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
17	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 715 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
18	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 707 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
19	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 726 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
20	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 724 BZB	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
21	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 445 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
22	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 379 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
23	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 384 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
24	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 387 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
25	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 375 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
26	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 645 CKG	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
27	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 381 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
28	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 327 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
29	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 334 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
30	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 427 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
31	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 323 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
32	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 341 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
33	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 371 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
34	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 384 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
35	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 359 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
36	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 439 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
37	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 347 CJW	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
38	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 579 DCY	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
39	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 586 DCY	WEDNESDAY, ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024
40	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 575 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
41	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 576 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
42	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 578 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
43	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 571 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
44	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 569 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
45	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 587 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
46	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 573 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
47	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 574 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
48	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 590 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
49	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 570 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
50	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 585 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
51	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 584 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
52	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 591 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
53	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 589 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
54	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 583 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

55	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 574 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
56	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 572 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
57	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 581 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
58	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 577 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
59	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 588 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
60	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 582 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
61	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 580 DCY	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
62	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 138 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
63	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 136 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
64	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 135 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
65	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 147 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
66	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 142 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
67	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 150 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
68	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 163 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
69	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 155 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
70	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 160 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
71	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 153 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
72	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 140 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
73	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 152 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
74	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 145 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
75	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 156 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
76	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 157 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
77	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 161 BZC	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
78	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 644 CKG	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
79	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 619 CKG	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
80	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 630 CKG	FRIDAY, ON 5 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
81	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 616 CKG	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
82	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 650 CKG	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
83	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 754 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
84	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 739 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
85	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 353 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
86	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 349 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
87	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 350 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
88	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 351 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
89	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 352 DCN	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
90	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 311 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
91	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 319 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
92	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 314 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
93	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 322 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
94	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 288 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
95	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 318 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
96	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 320 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
97	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 284 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
98	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 321 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
99	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 304 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
100	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 316 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
101	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 313 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
102	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 315 DCP	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
103	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 586 CKH	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
104	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 575 CKH	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
105	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 270 CKH	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
106	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 584 CKH	TUESDAY, ON 09 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024
107			

## Student killed by stray bullet in shooting in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG

A UNIVERSITY student has been killed and another seriously injured by stray bullets as gunmen shot two men in a parked car on a busy street near the centre of the South African city of Johannesburg, police have said.

The students were hit when their bus was passing the scene of the shooting and no arrests have been made.

Gun crime claims dozens of lives every day in South Africa but witnesses to these killings in broad daylight said they were shocked by what happened.

“Both the men in the vehicle and one student were declared dead while the other student was taken to the nearest hospital for medical treatment,” police spokesperson Col Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi told the BBC when describing what happened on Thursday afternoon. A police statement said the students had been caught in “crossfire”.

Images shared on social media show a man’s body hanging out of a car window. Another shows what appears to be someone being treated at the scene on a main road in Braamfontein, a district close to a number of university campuses.

The University of Johannesburg said both students who were affected were studying at their institution. The undergraduate who was killed was 18 years old and travelling to his residence when he was shot, the university said. It has offered counselling to those who witnessed the shooting.

Wits University, which is located close to the scene, suggested the incident could have been related to taxi violence.



Dr Hashil Abdallah (C), Permanent Secretary in the Industry and Trade ministry, and Oman’s Trade, Industry and Investment minister, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef (4th-L) pose for a souvenir photo with representatives of the two countries’ business communities shortly after bilateral trade talks in Oman earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Residents elated after health centre gets key equipment

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

THE government has delivered surgical and mortuary equipment to Makongolosi Health Centre in Chunya District, Mbeya Region, meant to improve service provision to residents of the area.

Speaking recently during handover of the equipment from the

Medical Stores Department (MSD), residents who spoke said they had started building the centre on their own initiative prior to requiring assistance due to challenges faced.

Hilda Fande thanked the government as the new tools will enable residents to get quality services which include surgical and mortuary services which were previously not provided.

According to her, due to lack of surgical services, especially for pregnant women, the residents were forced to travel for over 30km to Chunya District Hospital to seek such services.

“I commend the government for providing the equipment to us. It was painful to transport expectant mothers from here to Chunya. But now with the improvements, we will give

birth here without any problem,” she said. Amos Mwazembe said in addition to lack of surgical services, the center lacked a mortuary facility, forcing them to transport their relatives’ bodies to the district hospital.

He said that they were incurring needless expenses as a result but the issue has also been resolved after the delivery of mortuary fridges.

Bwawani Ward Councilor Sailon Mpshila expressed gratitude to the government for providing medical equipment and said the residents would no longer need to travel far to receive healthcare services, especially surgery and mortuary services.

He said residents would only go to the district hospital in the event that the patients’ ailments could not be

treated there. “At the moment, we ask the government to deploy health experts here so that services can be provided on time and more efficiently,” he said.

Edward Tengulaga, acting Chunya District Medical Officer, said MSD bought the equipment for 212m/- after the government availed funds for the procurement of the same.



Muheza District Council chairman Erasto Mhina (C) pictured on Thursday opening a councillors’ meeting called to deliberate on development projects. He is flanked by council executive director Dr Juma Mhina (R) and vice chairman Salim Sechambo. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Migrants en route to Europe die off the northern coast of Senegal

DAKAR

AT least two dozen people have died off Senegal’s northern coast and many injured when their boat capsized, said officials, underscoring the danger of the route used by an increasing number of migrants seeking to reach Spain from West Africa.

The boat was bound for Europe and capsized near the town of Saint-Louis where bodies washed ashore on Wednesday afternoon and the fire department was alerted, said Alioune Badara Samba, the local governor.

The injured were being treated in a hospital in Saint-Louis and an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident had been opened, he said.

The number of migrants leaving Senegal on rickety wooden boats surged last year, and nearly 1,000 people died while trying to reach Spain by sea in the first six months of 2023, according to the Spanish migration advocacy group, Walking Borders.

Factors such as youth unemployment, political unrest and the impact of climate change push migrants to risk their lives on overcrowded boats.

Senegal has been thrown into turmoil as elections meant for February were controversially delayed by the president, sparking deadly protests. Elections have been proposed for June but it’s unclear when or whether the president, whose term officially ends in April, will step down.

## UK to pay Rwanda £370 million in asylum deal

By Special Correspondent

THE United Kingdom will pay at least euros 370 million to Rwanda as part of its plan to relocate asylum seekers there, the government’s spending watchdog has revealed.

Up to euros150,000 will also be paid for each person sent to the east African country over a five-year period.

Labour party said the new figures in the report by the National Audit Office (NAO) were a “national scandal”.

However, the Home Office said: “Doing nothing is not without significant costs.”

A spokesperson said: “Unless we act, the cost of housing asylum seekers is set to reach £11bn per year by 2026.

“Illegal migration costs lives and perpetuates human trafficking, and it is therefore right that we fund solutions to break this unsustainable cycle.”

The NAO report comes after MPs have been calling for greater transparency over the cost of the scheme.

Under the five-year deal, the UK would be able to send individuals who arrive in the country illegally to Rwanda to claim asylum there.

The aim of the policy is to deter people from crossing the English Channel in small boats – something Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made one of his key priorities.

However, the scheme has been stalled by legal challenges and no one has been relocated there yet.

The government says it is aiming for deportation flights to take off by the spring.

Legislation seeking to revive the plan has been approved by MPs and will be debated in the House of Lords next week, where critics are likely to seize on the latest costs.

Under the scheme, the Home Office has agreed to pay money into a fund to support economic growth in Rwanda, as well as providing extra payments to cover the cost of processing and relocating individuals there.

The UK has already paid £220m into the economic development fund since April 2022, with further annual payments of £50m scheduled for the next three years.

This amounts to a total of £370m over five years.

If more than 300 people are eventually sent to Rwanda, the UK would pay a one-off sum of

£120m into the fund, with further payments of £20,000 per individual relocated.

On top of this, the UK government would also provide up to £150,874 per person to cover costs such as accommodation, food and education.

These payments would stop if the individual chooses to leave Rwanda, with the UK instead paying £10,000 per person to facilitate their departure.

The NAO’s report also reveals that the cost of setting up the scheme could rise from £20m to £28m.

There are also expected to

be other future costs, including an estimated £11,000 per individual for flights to Rwanda. The NAO does not come to a judgement on whether the scheme is value for money as the watchdog said this would depend on whether it is successful in deterring people from coming to the UK illegally.

Labour has pledged to scrap the Rwanda policy if it wins the next election, describing it as an expensive “gimmick”.

Shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper said: “This report reveals the national scandal the Tories have been try-

ing to hide. “Its shocking analysis shows the costs of the failed Rwanda farce are even higher than previously thought.”

The report was produced in response to a request from two cross-party committees of MPs – the Public Accounts and Home Affairs Committees.

In December the Home Office’s most senior civil servant wrote to the chairwomen of both committees to reveal some of the costs associated with the scheme but they said this did not provide enough information on how much had been spent so far.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024

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

## Broad soil quality research without capital, academics?

JUST how our country can eliminate gaps in soil quality research affecting food production amid extreme weather patterns due to climate change is a problem that Union and Environment minister Dr Selemeni Jafo has just set out before an international audience.

It was at a specific forum within the wider activities relating to the sixth international conference of the United Nations Environment Agency (UNEA 6) in Nairobi.

The issue covered a lot more than environment, with agriculture, soil research, the mapping out of fertiliser application, seed technology and anything relating to agri-business all discussed.

The minister set out various aspects of the government's desire to improve the country's capacity for research in soil quality to map out land degradation that affects food production and the economy in general.

It is evident that this is just one aspect of an environmental stream of things looking numerous in the administrative context but boiling down to one and the same thing in an investment context.

For instance, someone looking to invest in the production of a particular crop would first have to find out what soils and what sort of rainfall or temperature levels, etc., would be ideal.

On the other hand, someone seeking land to purchase would ordinarily first check the physical location and infrastructure promising seamless development of such area. That person would likely then figure out other issues later.

In that regard, the strides that the country has made in environmental conservation and the measures the government has taken in dealing with the challenges of land quality are excellent indicators for would-be investors or

land purchasers even as it might not be sufficient as data to inform investment decisions.

Efforts by the government to increase budgetary allocations for the agriculture sector, including investing in modern agriculture, essentially target those who already in the field.

They would likely wish to see this or that facet improved so that it gets easier to farm before there-after taking produce to the market and selling it. It is when this is true of most of the country that the economy is described as substantially inclusive.

Easily the more difficult part is the quest of resilience in that land occupants, whether investors or the more traditional users, can generally maintain productivity, profit.

In that sense, urging institutions as well as businesses to invest in soil research as it is key to the production of quality raw materials and food crops was an open invitation especially to investors.

All these need to have thorough knowledge of soils and their quality even as they would prefer access to land that can stand as collateral for credit from financial institutions.

With agriculture largely out of reach for bank loans, except for state-backed agencies or portions of the population, the quality of investments will be limited as relates to rapid turnover from personal finances. That is why locals are may be found generally doing better in taking up horticulture, and this is unlikely to change soon.

There is a concept propagated during the early years of this century, known as 'glocalisation,' where one is advised to think global and act local.

What this means for participants of the UNEA 6 consultations

## Congrats, Dr Winnie, for uplifting stature of Tanzanian professionals

TANZANIAN health sector professionals, gender activists, academic groups and a range of people of various other civic orientations must have been all smiles at midweek.

One reason for that must have been the appointment of a fellow Tanzanian professional Dr Winnie Mpanju-Shumbusho as chair of the board of the highly regarded international NGO known as Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

This is a global advocacy fraternity dedicated to ending NTDs in the foreseeable future.

The new global health sector newsmaker is described as a respected health sector leader boasting more than two decades of experience serving global health systems. Of particular significance is her having served as the World Health Organisation (WHO) assistant director general for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to which has now been added NTDs - in the wake of her retirement in 2016.

This experience in leading WHO efforts in prevention, control, impact-mitigation, country support activities, inter-country collaboration and global partnerships can prove invaluable in setting out programmes alongside younger executives. With a top administrative office at a UN agency, there is no doubt that Dr Mpanju-Shumbusho has played a pivotal role in mobilising political commitment, resources and action in drives meant to combat dreaded infections. Now, add that to NTDs which, unlike NCDs, are also in many cases infectious.

Most debilitating diseases are brought into one basket or activity centre, heightening demands as to building resilient health systems

when it comes to the funding, governance and efficacy of Global Fund activities.

The fraternity about NTDs is a wing of the Global Fund, as its activities are vast and it can thus do with allies and 'offspring' on the ground.

Dr Mpanju-Shumbusho herself has a rather blissful appreciation for her new task, even from the less burdensome position of board chair.

She says that it has been her long-held belief that people can change the course of over one billion people who continue to be held back by the respective preventable and treatable diseases, many of them found in Africa. This summation alone shows how the task ahead of her is next to impossible merely owing to its scale, as it has two aspects.

One entails raising awareness across one billion people, perhaps half of them in Africa, to greater awareness on disease prevention. The other essentially means navigating around policies and fund allocations of UN agencies and upwards of 50 countries amidst daunting challenges including civil strife, poverty and costly medicines.

Dr Thoko Elphick-Pooley, executive director of Uniting to Combat NTDs and the first in the long line of Dr Mpanju-Shumbusho's collaborators in the latter's new assignment, is full convinced that the new board chairperson's experience will be invaluable as she leads the NGO in its mission of ending NTDs by 2030.

To most other professionals, that is mission impossible. And as Dr Winnie sits on her new chair or reflects on the new assignment at her home, a point of reckoning is that, with current trends, half of the world's poor will be African children by the very same year 2030.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

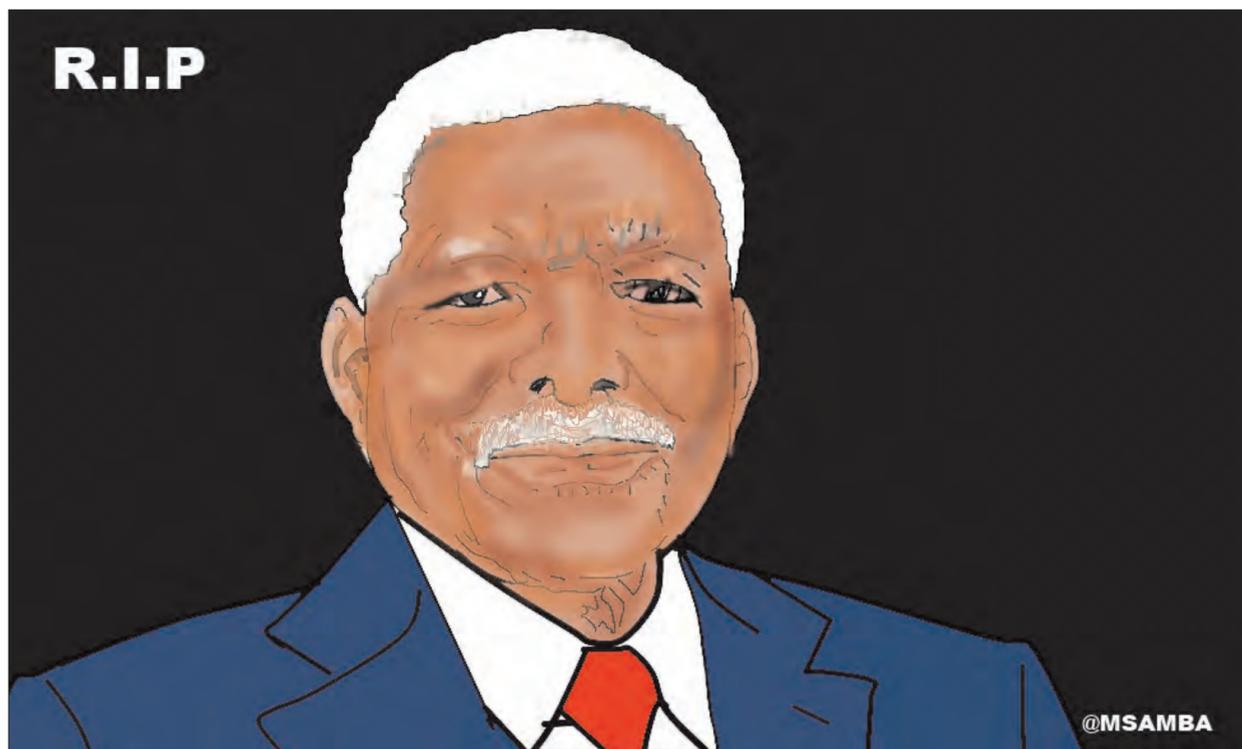
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

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

### Advertising

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



## From gas to ash: The struggle of Nigerian women amidst surging cooking gas prices

By Peace Oladipo

ONE sunny mid-morning in Omuraran village, a community in Kwara State, North Central Nigeria, Iyabo Sunday sat beside a firewood stand observing her pot of beans with rice (a combination enjoyed by many in Nigeria).

The 52-year-old widow used her plastic dirt parker to fan the flames, occasionally blowing air through her mouth for speed and frantically shielding her face from the wisps of smoke that curled from the firewood.

After a hike in electricity tariffs, Sunday told IPS that she abandoned her electric-powered stove for cooking gas. But instability in the "economy has successfully caused me to move back to the firewood since my children and I must eat."

Oyedele Christiana, a 41-year-old restaurateur who specializes in making fufu, a local delicacy made from cassava, expressed her wish to stop using firewood and charcoal but was constrained by finances. "The smoke enters my eyes and makes me cough a lot. I usually use firewood for my canteen business, while I use charcoal at home for household cooking."

Like Iyabo, Christiana made use of cooking gas. The sporadic increase in the price of domestic gas has since pushed her to the traditional cooking method, with its attendant havoc on her eyes and lungs. "I am not as old as I look, but cooking has done this," Oyedele sighed.

The price of cooking gas in Nigeria has soared wildly amid the country's inflation woes. The removal of subsidy on petrol products, together with a depreciation of the naira, has resulted in a steep increase in the cost of food and transportation. This hike in the cost of living comes amid a minimum wage of N30,000 (\$18), ranked among the lowest in the world, according to Picodi.

The price of 12.5 kg of cooking gas increased from N7,413. (\$4) in 2022 to N16,875 (\$10) in February 2024 across the country, a price just half the national minimum wage.

### Implications on Women, Environment

Women living in grassroots communities who can no longer afford cooking gas have no choice but to bear the harsh method of cooking with firewood. Many, like Ajayi Omole, an octogenarian living in Akungba, a town in Ondo State, have made cooking with firewood a delight due to the lack of alternatives.

"We usually go into the forest, get the trees, sun dry (them), and prepare them for cooking." However, she said, "I have a stove inside my room but I can't use it because I don't have enough to purchase kerosene."



Nigerian women returning from the forest with firewood.

The nation's alarming poverty circle, where Iyabo and Oyedele belong, speaks loudly about the reality of clean cooking. Statistics indicate that 63 percent of the entire population mostly relies on traditional method cooking, usually described as 'dirty'.

The National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) has stated that, aside from the dangers of deforestation and climate destruction, the use of firewood and charcoal for cooking directly affects women's health. This is in agreement with figures from the Federal Ministry of Environment about how more than 98,000 Nigerian women die annually from smoke inhaled while cooking with firewood.

Aisha Sulaiman, a renewable energy and green hydrogen technologist, said that rising prices of cooking gas have caused many to transition back to the use of firewood and charcoal, leading many women to multiple health issues. She emphasized that women suffer stronger health issues as secondhand smokers.

She said, "In an African setting, women belong to the kitchen; that's how the narrative is, even if that is not supposed to be. In rural communities, the main source of energy in terms of cooking is the traditional method, which is unsustainable and harmful."

"The traditional methods of cooking involve charcoal and firewood. These are materials that lead to the release of greenhouse

gases, particularly CO<sub>2</sub>, into our environment, and this in turn contributes to global warming, which brings about climate change."

Speaking on women's health, Sulaiman mentioned that respiratory diseases could stem from inhaling smoke from charcoal and firewood. "These methods are a source of air pollution, which can cause serious health issues. Overexposure to the smoke also leads to a disease called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which is very endemic to women," she said. Sulaiman added that the Nigerian government should prioritize making clean energy accessible and cost-competitive to procure its acceptance by the people in low-income communities.

Ibrahim Muhammad, an energy consultant and team lead at Climate Alaramma Sustainable Development Initiative, a youth-led environmental organization in northern Nigeria, argued that the transition back to the traditional method of cooking would increase deforestation. He said the increase in LPG's price is connected to the nation's economic downturn.

In his words, "There is extensive research demonstrating the significant impact of traditional cooking methods on women and children. These methods contribute to deforestation and air pollution, particularly through the emission of smoke."

Muhammad noted that women's

transition to traditional cooking was a setback in Nigeria's transition plan to energy, especially in the area of clean cooking.

The Nigerian government and international development partners must find avenues for cleaning cooking infrastructure to be subsidized so that rural communities, mostly affected, can be able to afford it. According to him, "Considering the nature of some communities that are into agriculture, they are expected to be supported with infrastructure that can help them use this agricultural waste to cook. Additionally, the prices of these clean cooking stoves that are being developed are subsidized."

Speaking further on alternatives, he added, "Briquettes, produced from agricultural waste, typically resemble charcoal and can perform all the functions of charcoal. They are energy-efficient and made from various agricultural waste materials, thus not promoting deforestation."

Muhammad added that harmless solutions should be created to fit in Nigeria's context; electric stoves may be considered impossible due to unstable electricity. "Solar cookers are typically used when it is sunny, but many people hardly have lunch, they mostly focus on breakfast and dinner. Many women cook early in the morning or evening, so we need to tailor solutions to our specific circumstances," he said.

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the evidence involving persons of tender age. Section 127(2) of the Evidence Act (R.E. 2022) states: "A child of tender age may give evidence without taking an oath or making an affirmation, but shall, before giving evidence, promise to tell the truth to the court and not to tell any lies."

We used a case law on this and showed how both the trial court and the High Court of Tanzania on this particular case convicted and sentenced the person charged with raping a minor 30 years' imprisonment and the High Court of Tanzania added that the victim also be compensated 300,000/-.

Aggrieved by the High Court of Tanzania's decision, the man appealed to the Court of Appeal, which after going through the evidence found that the lower courts did not take into account that a minor "shall before giving evidence, promise to tell the truth to the court and not to tell any lies" as the law requires.

On the basis of this, the man's appeal was found with merit, and so his conviction was quashed, his sentence as well as the order of 300,000/- compensation thrown away because the victim's testimony was found to be of no evidential value. Therefore, the Court of Appeal ordered for the man's immediate release unless he was otherwise lawfully held.

Today, I invite you to look at witchcraft and how it can defeat intelligent thinking and create fear in people. There is a story of a lady, who is seriously sick and her sickness appears to be unusual and associated with witchcraft. It seems her tongue keeps going in and coming out during which she drools at her mouth. She is being nursed at home after medical examination she underwent at a referral hospital showed negative results, according to relatives.

It seems she once dealt in timber business and apparently a certain man who was her boyfriend injected 10m/- into her business and also asked her to buy him a plot.

The agreement was that she would return the money, but the lady didn't because she made a heavy loss on her business without her own fault and had no other means of repaying it.

She seems to have related this to her elder sister after

## Belief in witchcraft can defeat brainy thinking and create fear in people

The Law and You



relatives pressed her whether she had ever dealt in any business with any person and whether there was any unfinished business with that person.

This was after the medical examination she underwent showed negative results and the relatives wanted to find out whether there was any mysterious person behind the lady's unusual sickness.

The man allegedly now values 10m/- he injected into the timber business at the time at 26m/-, given the fact that time has elapsed and his 10m/- has stayed dormant for many years.

Given the nature of the lady's sickness there is a certain apprehension among family members. According to some relatives, the man comes from a region feared very much for witchcraft and claims to have sent to her a misfortune to suffer the way she is suffering and unless she repays him 26m/- and the plot given to him she will die of her sickness.

Even her only son, who is a medical doctor (relatives are surprised how he has come to know him) and other close relatives, the man claims, will also

suffer their misfortunes until all of them perish and nobody is left behind.

But according to the relatives, the medical doctor doesn't believe in witchcraft and although he is persuaded by other relatives to repay the man 26m/- to save her mother so that the man restores her health, the medical doctor says he has no money to waste on such kind of claims.

Relatives now seem to blame the medical doctor for his conviction, arguing that money is nothing because it can be found at any time, but her mother's health is what matters most at this critical moment. It seems the man claims once 26m/- is repaid and the plot returned to him the lady's health will be immediately restored and relatives absolutely believe it.

In communities where almost every person is born and grows up believing in witchcraft, life hardships are often associated with misfortunes caused by witches. Although the Witchcraft Act (Chapter 18) criminalises witchcraft practices and acts, people's witchcraft beliefs are so profound that it is almost impossible to live without them.

Section 3 states that any person, who by his statements or actions represents himself [or herself] to have the power of witchcraft and threatens to use or resorts to the use of it against any person or property, commits an offence. The law also criminalises witchcraft acts done with the intent to cause death, disease, annoyance or misfortune to members of the commu-

nity or animals.

However, some scholars explain witchcraft as a way of how people deal with tension in the community. They argue that where almost every community member believes in witchcraft people tend to harbour jealousy, hatred and enmity and so it makes sense for them to find the causes of their own failures or so-called misfortunes outside themselves, usually blaming others as the causes of those failures or misfortunes.

Today's column does not intend to give a solution to the witchcraft problem, but only to share how beliefs in witchcraft can create great apprehension in people who hold them to the extent of defeating their intelligent thinking and creating in them unfounded fear. It suffices to say that life is full of ups and downs and so moments of joy and suffering and even death are part of this life of ours.

If we can have joy, other times we may have suffering and even death and we only need to celebrate the joy we experience and cope with the suffering we endure even if it leads to death without looking for external causes of what we believe are misfortunes or unusual events and experiences.

**Today's proverb: "They who only seek faults find nothing else."**

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

## Legacy of Tanzanian iconic Mwinyi's impactful journey from presidency to post-retirement life

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE late Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Tanzania's former President, passed away on February 29th, 2024, at the age of 98, succumbing to lung cancer at Mzena Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Born on May 8, 1925, in Kivule, Kisiju area, Mkuranga District, Coast Region of Tanzania, Mwinyi played a crucial role in Tanzanian politics, leading the Second Phase Government from November 5, 1985, to 1995.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced his passing and declared seven days of national mourning. In honour of Mwinyi's legacy, the national flag will fly at half-mast during this time. The funeral is scheduled for March 2nd, 2023, in Zanzibar, providing an opportunity for the nation to bid farewell at the Uhuru ground.

Mwinyi's departure marks the end of an era, leaving Former President Jakaya Kikwete as the last surviving leader from the era of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. The nation has previously bid farewell to President Nyerere on October 14, 1999, followed by President Benjamin Mkapa on July 24, 2020, and President John Magufuli on March 17, 2021. The passing of these esteemed leaders reflects the passage of time and the evolution of Tanzania's political landscape.

Mwinyi's remarkable life journey is detailed in his autobiography, titled 'Mzee Ruksa; My Life Journey.' Born in the village of Kivule, he was sent to Zanzibar for education at the age of four. Despite facing discrimination at school, he completed his education, including studies at Durham University near Newcastle in the UK.

In 1962, after returning to Zanzibar, Mwinyi was appointed as the Principal of the Teachers' Training College. The 1964 Revolution marked a turning point, leading him to be involved in post-revolution politics. In 1970, he participated in the general elections, and the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar formed the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mwinyi's political career took a significant turn when he was unexpectedly appointed as the Minister of State (Office of the President) in 1971 by President Julius Nyerere. Despite receiving no instructions for his responsibilities, he remained in this position for a year. Subsequent changes in the Cabinet led to his appointment as the Minister of Health in 1972, and later, the Minister of Home Affairs.

His tenure as the Minister of Home Affairs (1975-1977) faced challenges, particularly concerning ritual killings in Mwanza and Shinyanga regions. In response to the poorly executed 'Operation Killings,' aimed at addressing the issue, Mwinyi felt a moral responsibility to resign to protect the government's reputation and President Nyerere's leadership.

Although this setback marked a temporary departure from the political scene, Mwinyi's career resumed when he was appointed as Tanzania's Ambassador to Egypt. After four years in this role, he returned to become the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, later transitioning to the Minister of State, Office of the President, responsible for the Union.

Following the resignation of Aboud Jumbe Mwinyi as the President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar in 1984, Ali Hassan Mwinyi assumed the position on January 30th, 1984. This marked a significant step in his political journey, leading Zanzibar during a crucial period.

In the General Election of October 1985, Mwinyi ran for the President of the United Republic of Tanzania after Mwalimu Nyerere stepped down. The election results, announced on November 1st, 1985, showed overwhelming



support for Mwinyi, with 92.20 percent of the votes in his favor. He was sworn in as the second President on November 5th, 1985, serving until November 23rd, 1995.

Throughout his presidency, Mwinyi was commonly referred to as "Mzee Ruksa," signifying the opening of doors to economic and democratic reforms in the country. His leadership played a pivotal role in shaping Tanzania during a transformative period.

Ali Hassan Mwinyi's impact on Tanzanian politics extended beyond his presidential tenure, reflecting in his post-retirement years as a revered figure actively engaged in various national issues. Even after stepping down from official duties, Mwinyi remained deeply connected to the people, participating in different functions aimed at deliberating on critical matters facing the nation.

One significant aspect of his post-presidential life was his dedication to public health issues. Mwinyi campaigned against deadly diseases in the country, emphasizing the importance of public health awareness and preventive measures. His commitment to this cause showcased a leader's enduring responsibility toward the well-being of the nation, transcending the boundaries of formal political office.

Furthermore, Mwinyi took on the role of a mentor to young leaders, sharing his wealth of experience and wisdom with the next generation. This mentoring role con-

tributed to the continuity of strong leadership principles and values in Tanzanian politics.

In a noteworthy display of commitment to healthy aging, Mwinyi engaged in public exercise routines. By doing so, he not only promoted the significance of staying physically active but also shattered stereotypes surrounding aging. His public exercises exemplified the essence of being healthy and aging well, setting an inspiring example for citizens across generations.

Despite his leadership challenges, Mwinyi's post-presidential years demonstrated a remarkable heart of forgiveness. On March 12th, 2009, a disturbing incident unfolded when a Tanzanian man pleaded guilty to assaulting Mwinyi for his support of condom use on Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

The assailant accused Mwinyi of promoting a promiscuous lifestyle, but Mwinyi, displaying remarkable forgiveness, urged that the individual be pardoned. This incident underscored Mwinyi's magnanimity and his commitment to promoting tolerance and understanding.

On a lighter note, Mwinyi's leadership went beyond the conventional boundaries of political office. His post-retirement contributions showcased that true leadership extends into the realms of advocacy, mentorship, and reconciliation. Mwinyi's enduring influence is not only evident in the policies he championed during his presidency

but also in the lasting impact he made as a man of the people, actively engaged in the well-being and progress of the nation.

Remarkably, with the passing of Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Former President Jakaya Kikwete stands as the last surviving leader from the era of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. The nation has bid farewell to President Nyerere on October 14th, 1999, followed by President Benjamin Mkapa on July 24th, 2020, and President John Magufuli on March 17th, 2021. Mwinyi's departure marks the end of an era, leaving Kikwete as a living link to the transformative period in Tanzanian politics.

Ultimately, Mwinyi's legacy is further cemented by his family's continued involvement in Tanzanian politics. His bequeathing of a son, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, as the incumbent Zanzibar President, exemplifies the enduring impact of his leadership.

In this way, Mwinyi's influence extends into future generations, demonstrating that true leadership is about showing the way for others to follow.

# Iran elections: First polls held since 2022 nationwide protests

**T**HE first elections in Iran since the nationwide anti-government protests of 2022 took place on Friday.

There will be two separate polls: one for members of parliament and the other for members of the Assembly of Experts, who are responsible for appointing, dismissing, and overseeing Iran's Supreme Leader, the country's most powerful figure and commander-in-chief.

The elections are seen as a crucial test for assessing the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic's regime.

Is there a choice?

In Iran, candidates for the presidency, parliament and Assembly of Experts must be approved by the Guardian Council, a body of clerics and jurists in which individuals appointed by the current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, play a significant role.

In the years following the disputed presidential election of 2009 - which was followed by widespread street protests and a violent crackdown on dissent - candidates who expressed even the slightest criticism of how authorities responded to protests, supported reformist candidates or doubted the integrity of elections were disqualified. They included four former presidents and many other prominent political figures.

In the upcoming parliamentary election, a record 15,200 candidates have been allowed by the Guardian Council to stand for the 290 seats. However, only 30 candidates from the reformist camp who applied have been approved - a notably low number.

Conservatives have dominated the parliament since 2004 and are expected to be returned in similar numbers. In previous parliamentary elections, the reformist faction always tried to find representatives close to them among the approved candidates. They also consistently encouraged people to participate in elections.

Now, for the first time, they have stated that they cannot be part of an election that they consider "meaningless, non-competitive, unfair, and ineffective in the administration of the country".

### Will it change anything?

If social freedoms and economic conditions are important to voters, elections play a minimal role in affecting change.



The majority of the 15,200 approved parliamentary candidates are from conservative political parties.

The principal decision-maker on these issues is neither the parliament nor the president, but the Supreme Leader. Iran's foreign policy, the primary factor affecting the economic situation, is decided by Ayatollah Khamenei, and he has shown no willingness to compromise or retreat on social freedoms.

Currently, the government, parliament, judiciary and Assembly of Experts, are in the hands of individuals approved by the Supreme Leader. This, combined with the Guardian Council's disqualification of reformist and moderate candidates, has led many to predict a low turnout among voters on Friday.

A comparison of the past 11 parliamentary elections reveals that the last one in 2020 had the lowest voter turnout of 42%. Turnout had been consistently above 50% before then, with 62% recorded in 2016.

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at meeting in Tehran, Iran (18 February 2024) Image source, EPA

The last presidential election in 2021 also set a record for the lowest turnout, with about 49% of those eligible casting a ballot. Some 3.7 million "invalid" ballots were also cast - the second

highest number of votes after Ebrahim Raisi, the winning candidate, and the most cast in any presidential poll since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. At the same time as voter participation has decreased, the frequency of protests in Iran has increased.

Two other nationwide protest movements emerged in 2017 and 2019, both of which were brutally suppressed by the government. Another issue of concern for the conservative-dominated government is that staunch supporters of the Islamic Republic, who have traditionally participated in elections, have become increasingly critical of its policies.

This group, which forms the social base of the power structure in Iran, now says the government's consolidation and the rise of revolutionary forces considered to be "in line with the leadership" have not led to change or reform.

The speeches of conservative students, who are occasionally taken to meet Ayatollah Khamenei, are filled with complaints about poor economic and social conditions, as well as what they see as government policies based on expediency and inaction towards the West and Israel.

For this reason, the Supreme Leader has attempted to boost turnout among his supporters by framing voting as a matter of religious faith. He stated: "Elections are a duty, and anyone who opposes the elections is opposing the Islamic Republic and Islam."

Authorities are trying to maintain that the elections will be free and fair, but what remains in practice has called that into question.

### What do voters think?

Despite the abundance of electoral advertisements in the streets, the atmosphere in Iran these days lacks enthusiasm, indicating voter apathy. Some government surveys show that half of the participants were even unaware that two elections were taking place.

The protests of 2022 - which were triggered by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young woman detained by morality police for wearing "improper" hijab - were harshly suppressed by the government.

Hundreds of people were killed and thousands more injured. Many of the thousands of protesters who were arrested remain in prison, and some have received severe sentences, including the death penalty, after what human rights activists have condemned as "sham trials". After these protests, the political and social atmosphere became more repressive than before.

Alongside this domestic crackdown, the economic situation continues to deteriorate daily, leaving people's tables empty.

The Central Bank of Iran reported an inflation rate of 56% in the last month of autumn, after not publishing figures for six months.

## Doctors warn: One in five pregnant women in Gaza clinic malnourished

By Emma Graham-Harrison

**O**NE in five pregnant women treated at a central Gaza clinic are malnourished, doctors have warned, as fuel and medical supply shortages closed the last hospital operating in the north of the strip.

"Every day, we see women and children coming into our clinic suffering from acute malnutrition," said Dr Maram, the lead physician for Project Hope.

The non-profit organisation said 21 percent of pregnant women treated in the Deir al Balah clinic in the three weeks to 24 February were suffering from malnutrition, as were one in 10 of the children seen by its doctors there.

"As infectious diseases spread in cramped areas and food becomes even scarcer, we will see more and more people going hungry - including the health workers who are trying to help. I worry every day that I won't find anything to eat," Dr Maram said.

Only a trickle of aid is reaching Gaza, even after the UN warned of "pockets of famine" and widespread hunger across the enclave.

Over the past month, shipments have fallen by about half from January levels, to fewer than 100 trucks a day on average - or 2,300 for the whole month. The UN has said it is far short of the estimated 500 trucks

needed each day to meet people's basic needs.

The UN's projections indicate that one in four households in Gaza, or more than half a million people, are "facing catastrophic conditions characterised by lack of food, starvation and exhaustion of coping capacities".

Two children died in Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza from malnutrition and dehydration, local health authorities reported on 27 February.

Hospitals and health workers have also been badly affected by restrictions on aid. Al-Awda hospital in Jabalia, northern Gaza, reportedly suspended medical services on Wednesday because of severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies.

It was the last functioning hospital in the area, and one of the senior managers, Dr Muhammad Salha, said its closure would lead to "a complete deprivation of basic health services for citizens, especially in light of the cessation of service by all hospitals in the north", Al Jazeera reported. Salha urgently appealed for fuel and basic medical supplies.

Only a third of Gaza's hospitals are even partially functional, according to UN figures, and those that are operating are overwhelmed with patients and short of supplies.

Fires also broke out at Nasser hospital on Wednesday after Israeli bombing raids, according to reports.



The largest hospital in southern Gaza is no longer functioning but still has 120 patients waiting for medical evacuation. It needs urgent repairs to restore power and running water, and to deal with disposal of sewage and solid waste.

The UN and humanitarian organisations say logistical obstacles including movement restrictions, border inspections and closure of crossings, along with a freeze on visas for many staff, hamper efforts to get aid into Gaza.

"It can take up to one month for supplies to enter Gaza, because each box in each truck is submitted to screening," Médecins Sans Frontières said this week. Israeli authorities turn back an entire cargo if a single item is rejected during screening, but have not provided a list of restricted items.

Israel says it is not limiting aid shipments. It blames humanitarian agencies for failures to get more supplies into the territory after it launched strikes in re-

sponse to the 7 October attacks by Hamas, in which 1,200 people were killed and another 200 were taken hostage.

The Palestinian death toll from Israeli attacks reached 29,954 on Wednesday, the majority of them women and children, health authorities in Gaza said.

In a televised speech from Beirut, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh urged Palestinians to march to the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem to mark the start of Ramadan 10 March, and called on the "axis of resistance" - Iranian allies including Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis and the Islamic Resistance in Iraq - to step up efforts on behalf of Gaza's people.

The calls are likely to add to concerns about clashes beyond Gaza during Ramadan if Israeli attacks continue.

The US president said earlier this week that a ceasefire deal could be reached ahead of Ramadan, but both Israel and Hamas have downplayed such hopes and

Qatari mediators said there are still major differences.

Joe Biden's support for Israel's campaign may be increasingly tempered by concerns about the autumn presidential vote, after a stronger-than-anticipated protest vote in the Michigan primary over the war in Gaza.

More than 10 percent of Michigan Democrats, 100,000 voters, cast a ballot for "uncommitted", after a campaign by progressive democrats and Arab-Americans.

Netanyahu is under growing domestic pressure to reach a deal to free hostages, but has said he will not end the military campaign until Israel has achieved "total victory".

Relatives and friends of those held in Gaza on Wednesday began a four-day march to Jerusalem from the site of the Nova festival, which had some of the worst bloodshed on 7 October.

Biden has repeatedly warned Netanyahu against a ground offensive into Rafah, where more than 1.5 million people have sought shelter, unless there is a credible plan to protect civilians.

The former Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, has warned against an assault. "The patience of the international community has reached a point from where I don't think they'll be able to absorb it," he said in an interview. "This is a risk we cannot afford to take."

Palestinian political factions are due to meet on Thursday in Moscow to discuss a possible unity government and the rebuilding of Gaza, days after Palestinian prime minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh, resigned, saying it was time for a comprehensive new approach.

Foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki said he did not expect "miracles" at the talks, which will bring together officials from Hamas and Fatah, which governs in the West Bank.

## 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 KADOGO 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

## ICRISAT pioneers the world's first pigeonpea speed breeding protocol to bolster food security in drylands

By Special Correspondent

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has pioneered the world's first pigeonpea speed breeding protocol, further bolstering food security in Asia and Africa.

The new convention promises to substantially cut the time required to develop new pigeonpea lines with desirable traits, effectively bringing food to dryland communities faster.

Traditionally, pigeonpea breeding can take up to thirteen years. But with the new protocol's emphasis on material breeding and control over factors like photoperiod, temperature, and humidity, the breeding cycle can now be shortened to just two to four years, as opposed to the conventional period of seven years.

Pigeonpea, a staple in tropical and subtropical diets, is crucial for food security and soil health globally and is lauded for its nutritional value and versatility.

Dr Jacqueline Hughes, Director General of ICRISAT, underscored the consequence of the innovation.

"This pigeonpea speed breeding protocol represents a significant advancement for major pigeonpea-producing regions, paving the way for self-reliance in pulse production and meeting the dietary necessities of nations such as India, Myanmar, Kenya, Tanza-

nia, Myanmar, and Mozambique.

"I commend our researchers and partners for developing this protocol, which promises to enhance food and nutrition security in the drylands. This achievement is particularly timely, coinciding with World Pulses Day celebrations, highlighting the global significance of pulses" said Dr Hughes.

Historically, pigeonpea's long growth cycle and sensitivity to day length have hindered breeding efforts, with only about 250 varieties released globally over six decades.

This new speed breeding protocol addresses these challenges head-on, enabling researchers to develop climate-resilient, nutritionally superior, and higher-yielding pigeonpea varieties at an unprecedented pace.

Pigeonpea can be a lifeline for dryland communities and thrive where other legumes struggle, providing sustenance, income and hope for farming communities.

Pigeonpea can be a lifeline for dryland communities and thrive where other legumes struggle, providing sustenance, income and hope for farming communities.

Dr Arvind Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, acknowledged the protocol's potential to rapidly develop climate-resilient pigeonpea varieties, highlighting the vital support from the Government of Odisha.

Following the success of a similar method-



ology for chickpea, Dr Sean Mayes, Director of ICRISAT's Global Research Program - Accelerated Crop Improvement, said that the new protocol underscored the Institute's commitment to food and nutrition security in the drylands.

"Building on our achievements with chickpeas, we're proud to extend our speed breeding protocols to pigeonpea, marking a significant milestone towards securing a nutrition-rich future" said Dr Mayes.

Lead Researcher on the Project, Dr. Prakash Gangashetty said that ICRISAT

has successfully addressed a longstanding challenge in pigeonpea cultivation.

"This standardized speed breeding protocol caters to different maturity groups, facilitating rapid development of climate-resilient varieties and hybrids.

"This refined protocol not only accelerates the breeding cycle but also enhances precision through innovative techniques such as seed or pod chip-based genotyping and marker-assisted selection" said Dr Gangashetty.

India's increasing demand for pigeonpea, projected to necessitate the import

of 1.2 million tonnes by March 2024, underscores the timeliness of this open-access protocol.

It offers a blueprint for rapid, efficient pigeonpea variety development, contributing significantly to the goal of achieving self-sufficiency in pulse production.

The new protocol, accomplished through the establishment of ICRISAT's Rapid Generation Advancement Facility, owes its success to the generous support from donors via CGIAR initiatives, underscoring the spirit of collaboration in agricultural innovation.

## Zoho Signs partners with J-Hub Africa innovation hub to support entrepreneurs

By Special Correspondent

INDIAN Tech company-Zoho has partnered with J-Hub Africa, the digital innovation hub that supports budding innovators and entrepreneurs at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

This partnership aims to promote technology adoption among young innovators and early stage

startups.

The country manager of Zoho in Kenya, Veerakumar Natrajan said that the partnership will provide upskilling for students who are about to join the workforce.

"Growing with local communities is as important for us as delivering value for our customers through our solutions. We are also investing in localising our products to ensure businesses here can easily leverage

our solutions while staying compliant with local and global laws," Natrajan said. In the partnership with J-Hub Africa, Zoho will support individuals and startups associated with the hub, by providing them Zoho Wallet Credits up to KES 100,000. These credits can be used to purchase any of Zoho's cloud products.

Furthermore, Zoho will also provide training to JKUAT students from technology streams on how to

leverage cloud-based business tech to gain competitive advantage. This will include training on Zoho Creator, a low code platform that can help them create custom apps for various business needs, Zoho CRM, customer relationship management platform for managing sales and marketing, and Zoho Books, that will help companies manage their finances, while staying compliant with the TMS and VAT regulations.

The upskilling initiative will help empower students with technology skills for when they join the workforce, irrespective of the industry

Dr. Lawrence Nderu, Chairman of the Department of Computing at JKUAT, said, "We are delighted to embark on this transformative journey with Zoho.

This is a collaboration that promises to significantly enhance the innovation landscape both within and

outside the JKUAT campus.

Furthermore, this alliance opens a pathway for our IT division students to gain technical skills in the context of various business functions.

He said the initiative is a testament to our commitment to integrating practical skillsets with our academic curriculum, ensuring our students are well-equipped to navigate and excel in the ever-evolving tech industry."

## South African farmers turn to strategic plans amidst escalating costs

SOUTH African farmers are among the business owners who are often hardest hit by the compounding pressures of domestic economic challenges and global economic unrest.

Among other issues, persistent load-shedding, rising petrol prices and unprecedented increases in electricity costs have created a climate that is rife with uncertainty.

According to Dawie Maree, head of information and marketing at FNB Agribusiness, for local farmers, the impact of these issues is exacerbated by an uncertain global geopolitical climate that sent fertiliser prices soaring in recent years, illustrating the domino effect of international tensions on local agriculture.

"In an economic environment burdened by international and domestic adversities, farmers in South Africa continue to face a precarious situation," Maree explains, "and the steadily rising prices of essential farming inputs, like seeds, fertiliser, electricity and fuel in particular, is putting significant and mounting strain on many agricultural operations."

Maree says that, while all farmers are faced with these input cost challenges, the poultry, grain, and summer fruit sectors, which are some of the largest farming sectors in the SA industry, have found themselves particularly vulnerable to steep cost increases. Irrigation-dependent farmers are feeling the pinch even more acutely due to the costs associated with powering irrigation machinery steadily climbing. Not to mention the auxiliary costs like labour, pest control, transport to markets, and packaging - all of which add to the growing financial burden.

Maree emphasises that livestock farmers have also not been immune to rising input costs, with the price

tags attached to feed and medication increasing incrementally in recent years. He points out that the impact of these elevated input costs is evident in the financial data for the South African farming sector.

"The Producer Price Index (PPI) for agriculture stood at an alarming 6.3 percent in December 2023, with the annual figure for last year not far behind at 6.9 percent," he says

He adds: "When you consider that this comes on the back of an already high inflation base, for example, a 40% jump in fertiliser costs alone in 2022, the pressure on margins for farmers is clear, and it remains elevated."

However, Maree highlights that it's not all doom and gloom. He says there are a few glimmers of hope on the horizon for local farmers.

"The rate of increases in fertiliser prices is expected to trend downward in 2024 and beyond, although current crops are still affected by the prior hikes," he explains, "and good crop yields are anticipated for the third year in a row, which is positive news for farmers facing a profit margin squeeze."

That said, he highlights that as market prices trend downward in the coming months, which is likely to be the case, higher yields become imperative to compensate for the lower prices. "To navigate these turbulent times, farmers must concentrate on the aspects of their businesses that are within their control, including striving for higher productivity levels, better efficiencies, and economies of scale," Maree says.

He also points to long-term planning as a business sustainability imperative for farmers. "Long-term planning is essential, especially considering the recent prosperous years characterised by high yields



and favourable prices," he explains, "however, these conditions are not guaranteed to persist, which makes it vitally important for farmers to prepare themselves for the possibility that

tougher years may lie ahead."

Maree is optimistic about the future of SA farmers, whose resilience and innovation are widely recognised. "Most farmers know that,

even in the toughest environment, growth is possible," he concludes, "and by focusing on efficiency, productivity, and having a long-term strategy, farmers will be planting the seeds for a sustainable future, irrespective of the challenges that future brings."



# Investors' appetite still high as T-bills oversubscribed 4 times

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS' appetite on short term government debt instruments has continued to remain high since the start of the year, after the Treasury bills auctioned on Wednesday this week ended up being oversubscribed by four times.

According to the auction summary issued on Thursday, a total of 96 bids valued 338.6bn/- were tendered against 82bn/- issued.

The auction result shows, the tenders for 35 days and 91 days maturities did not receive any bid, as many bidders concentrated mostly on one year maturity, while only one bid was recorded on six months maturity.

The auction summary show that only one bid valued 156mln/- was tendered on 182 days maturity, which translated into under subscription, while the remaining 95 bids valued 338.5bn/- were tendered on 364 days maturity.

At the end of auction, the central bank accepted 156mln/- for 182 days maturity and 67 bids valued 284.788bn/- for 364 days maturity.

Both highest and lowest bid prices for 182 days were 95.7500/100, which was successful, while on 364 days maturity, the lowest bid price was 86.8821/100 and the highest bid price was 91.0000/100, but the minimum successful bid price was 88.96/100.

Weighted average yield for 182



days maturity was 8.9017 percent, while on 364 days maturity, the yield rate was 12.3 percent; an increase of 0.2 percent when compared to the previous T-bills auctioned on February 12th, 2024.

According to the auctioned T-bills tender announcement issued on February 23rd, 2024, the central bank targeted to raise a total of 85.34bn/-, of which 79.3bn/- were meant for government financing and the remaining 6bn/- were meant for liquid-

ity purposes.

Dr Suleiman Misango, the director of economic research and policy, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) explained that the 6bn/- were not meant for liquidity mop up, but rather was issued for market development (price recovery).

He told The Guardian before the auction that the amount will therefore be revised to the market using alternative means, in order to keep liquidity unchanged.

The BoT reports shows T-bills auctioned since the start of this

year, with exception of the one on January 2nd, were all oversubscribed, which indicate high investors' appetite on short-term debt instruments.

The reports also show that the yield for one year maturity has increased by at least 2 percent since the last auction of last year, while the yield rate of six month maturity has slightly declined by percentage points.

The central bank has conducted five T-bills auctions since the start of this year.



Artisanal fishers in Mozambique. Photo: IFAD/Robert Maass

## New fisheries project set to transform lives in coastal Mozambique

By Guardian Reporter

A new project that aims to transform the livelihoods of 90,000 artisanal fishers in five coastal provinces in Mozambique, has been endorsed with the signing of a \$63 million financing agreement.

The agreement was signed between the government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

IFAD's statement issued yesterday and made available to this paper, indicated that seven-year Artisanal Fisheries Resilient Development Project (Propeixe) will increase incomes, nutrition and food security by addressing barriers to sustainable production and marketing for artisanal fisheries.

"Today marks a significant step towards a brighter future for Mozambique's artisanal fisheries sector. The project is particularly important for women, as they play an active role in the sector, and hence they will make up 50 percent of the project participants," Jaana Keitaanranta, IFAD country director for Mozambique said in a statement.

Added she: "Propeixe is more than just a project; it's an investment in the future of Mozambique. By empowering artisanal fishers and fostering sustainable practices, we can ensure food security for communities, protect ecosystems, and build a more resilient future for all."

Although the country shows a promising economic recovery, rural areas continue to grapple with poverty, food insecurity and climate vulnerability.

The artisanal fisheries sector plays an important role in Mozambique's food security and economy. It is responsible for 50 percent of the country's daily protein, and provides 85 per cent of the annual fish catch and a source of livelihood for 50 percent of the population living along the coastline.

Despite its importance, the sector faces several challenges, such as reduced fish stocks, degraded marine natural resources, inefficiencies along the value chain and vulnerability of

coastal fisheries infrastructure.

Therefore, the project is set to build resilience of artisanal fishers by promoting climate-smart practices, encourage a disaster preparedness culture, empower communities to manage fisheries and restore ecosystems.

"This will not only safeguard the livelihoods of thousands of rural communities but is aligned with the country's national development strategies that prioritize climate-smart practices," the statement reads in part.

Propeixe will promote responsible fishing practices and assist the artisanal fishers' transition to environmentally-friendly fishing gear in line with the new Maritime Fisheries Regulation (REPMAR 2020).

It adds: "This will be an evidence-based approach, where research on the economic and social viability of these new fishing practices is undertaken and shared with the artisanal fishers. In addition, the project will address the degraded marine natural resources by supporting restoration of degraded mangrove habitats, coral reefs and seagrass beds."

Between 2000 and 2023, 14 cyclones have directly impacted Mozambique with the coastlines being even more vulnerable.

To enhance the resilience of artisanal farmers and fishing communities living along the coast, the project will put in place a mechanism to respond to their immediate needs when impacted by climate shocks, including replacing lost fishing gear and rehabilitating fisheries and production infrastructures.

Propeixe is funded by IFAD (\$29.3 million), The Global Environment Facility (\$8.9 million), private sector (US\$5.5 million), the government of and project participants themselves (\$5.6 million). A financing envelope of \$11.07 million is open to new and interested financiers.

Since 1983, IFAD has invested more than \$435.77 million in 16 rural development programmes and projects in Mozambique worth a total of \$659 million. These interventions have directly benefited 2,391,789 rural households.

## Foreigners register 19bn/- stocks selloff in two months

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGNER investors recorded a 19bn/- stocks selloff during the first two months of this year, which is more than three times of the amount recorded in three months of 2023.

The market report shows foreign investors sold shares valued 20.56bn/-, which is 52.12 percent of total value of shares sold but they bought shares valued 1.19bn/-, which is equivalent to 3.03 percent of total value of shares bought.

The sold shares were transacted in both block trade and

normal trade arrangements, with some blue chip stocks being sold at discounted prices.

The reports show all shares sold by foreign investors were bought by local investors, who are currently dominating the buying activity, of which analysts say has maintained the stability of the market, without affecting the stock prices.

Analysts expect continued foreign investors sellout, specifically on blue chip counters due to attractive environment on fixed incomes investments in developed economies, including United States and European

markets.

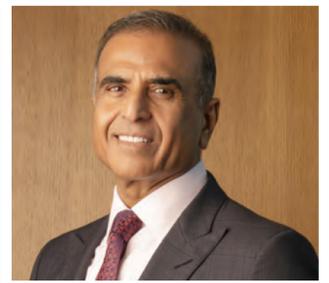
However, analysts are still cautious that this trend will continue to persist depending on the decisions by the central banks in developed economies, specifically the increase of policy rate.

According to the market report, a total turnover of 39.45bn/- has been recorded during the first two months of this quarter, which is nearly double of the turnover recorded during the first three months of similar quarter of last year.

During the first quarter of last year, a total turnover of 20.3bn/- was recorded, of which foreign investors bought shares valued 3.4bn/- and sold shares valued 6.5bn/- which translated into a selloff of 3.1bn/-.

On bonds market, the report show the value of government bonds traded during the period of two months amounted to a face value of 686.33bn/- and transaction value of 699.96bn/-, which has surpassed the value traded during the fourth quarter of last year, but about 80 percent of the value recorded in Q1, 2023.

The report shows the value of corporate bonds traded during the reviewed period amounted to a face value of 661.20mln/- and a transaction value of 581.12mln/-, which is higher than both the first and fourth quarters of last year.



## Sunil Mittal knighted by UK's King Charles

London

Sunil Mittal (pictured), chairman of Airtel Africa has been awarded Honorary Knighthood, the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE), by King Charles III, in recognition of his contribution towards promoting India-UK business relations.

The KBE is one of the highest honours conferred by the British Sovereign to civilians. It is awarded in honorary capacity to foreign nationals.

The statement issued on Thursday said Mittal's contributions towards advancing India-UK business relations include his instrumental role in the listing of Airtel Africa on the London Stock Exchange in 2019, where it is a constituent of the FTSE100 Index.

He also led the revival of OneWeb (now Eutelsat), leading a consortium with the UK Government and other strategic investors to offer satellite broadband services globally.

Mittal, a member of the India-UK CEO Forum, has been awarded the Honorary Doctor of Civil Law from Newcastle University and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Leeds.

## Central Europe's PMIs indicate improvement, yet orders remain insufficient

Prague

CENTRAL European manufacturing activity displayed signs of improvement in February, with a noticeable easing of the downturn in Poland and the Czech Republic, while Hungary's production increased, according to sector surveys released on Friday.

Despite industry's continued weakness in Central Europe, the region's economies are banking on a resurgence in consumer demand to drive growth this year, following

last year's harsh impact from high inflation. Encouragingly, there are emerging bright spots in the economy as price growth begins to slow.

Recent gross domestic product (GDP) data from the Czech Republic, released on Friday, revealed a return to growth in the fourth quarter with a 0.2 percent quarter-on-quarter increase, following a decline in the third quarter. For the full year, Czech GDP contracted by 0.4 percent, according to statistics released by the office.

Looking ahead, S&P Global's

Czech manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) climbed to 44.3 in February from 43.0 in January, marking its highest level since last March. However, it has remained below the 50-mark, indicating contraction, since mid-2022.

"Household consumption mainly helped the recovery of the economy (in the fourth quarter)," Banka Creditas economist Petr Dufek said, adding that negative signs in industry still remain.

"There is a lack of orders and our main trading partner - Germany - is

teetering on recession."

Central European manufacturers have struggled for orders with slack demand from euro zone partners, notably European economic powerhouse Germany.

S&P Global's Polish PMI rose to 47.9 in February, from 47.1 in January, as declines in both output and orders slowed.

It follows statistics office data on Thursday showing the region's biggest economy grew in year-on-year terms for a second straight quarter at the end of 2023.

"The worst of the downturn appears to have passed," Trevor Balchin, economics director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said in a statement. "The 12-month outlook for production improved further, reaching the highest since June 2021."

In Hungary, PMI rose to 52.2 in February from a revised 50.1 in January, with signs of moderate expansion appearing, the Association of Logistics, Purchasing and Inventory Management (MLBKT) said.

The index of production volumes

rose and was above 50 points. The volume of new orders also increased, but was only the 15th highest reading since 1995.

"I think we should treat this PMI data carefully, it shows a relatively optimistic picture but we will see next week what the fresh industry output data show," Peter Virovacz, an ING economist in Budapest, said. (Reporting by Jason Hovet in Prague, Krisztina Than in Budapest, Karol Badohal in Warsaw, Editing by Angus MacSwan)

# UCSAF, Airtel partnership boosts communication network

By Guardian Reporter

**A**IRTEL Tanzania's Managing Director, Dinesh Balsingh (pictured) has highlighted the telecom's commitment to advancing network expansion, quality services, and affordability.

In a significant development, Airtel Tanzania announced that it has successfully constructed 30 new communication towers, advancing towards the ambitious goal to rollout 758 towers in rural Tanzania.

This is part of a strategic collaboration with the government-led Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and leading telecommunication companies in the country.

Balsingh stated this when attending the Tax Investment Forum which commenced on February 27, 2024.

The two-day forum, hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry for Investment aimed at accentuating the pivotal role of technology in economic development and social progress.

Balsingh advocated for the government to reconsider the taxation on mobile devices, a move that would significantly enhance smartphone penetration and, in turn, substantially improve the livelihoods of the populace.

Reflecting on recent policy reforms, Balsingh applauded the removal of the airtime levy and significant reductions in Right of Way charges and billboard fees, effective from July 1, 2023.



These reforms, he emphasized, serve as catalysts for expanding fiber coverage, enhancing market visibility, and facilitating broader outreach.

He further underscored the significance of telecommunications as the bedrock of innovation, stressing its role in fostering financial inclusion and democratizing access to formal financial services.

He also emphasized tax reconsiderations on Mobile Money cash-out services to serve the rural communities specifically on

withdrawal charges.

Citing the GSMA report on Mobile Tax Policy and Digital Development, Balsingh noted that 72 percent of Tanzanians utilize mobile money services, showcasing the pivotal role of technology in expanding financial accessibility.

In his call to action, Balsingh urged collaborative action and visionary policymaking to unlock the full potential of the ICT sector.

He insisted on the importance of initiatives like VAT exemp-

tions on smart devices to bridge the gap between infrastructure and utilization, echoing UNICEF's findings on the cost of smartphone acquisition as a significant barrier to internet usage.

Balsingh concluded with a message of gratitude, urging stakeholders to embark on a journey of thought leadership and collaboration to pave the way for a future where technology serves as a catalyst for equitable growth and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Airtel Africa has launched Airtel Ads, Africa's first integrated Demand-Side Platform (DSP) aimed at empowering advertisers and agencies to efficiently manage, purchase, and optimize digital ad inventory across multiple ad exchanges in real-time.

Powered by Intent.ai, Airtel Ads is designed for media agencies and businesses, streamlining the process of purchasing advertising space.

This feature enables advertisers to make informed ad placement decisions by combining various tools and functionalities within a single platform and offers a comprehensive solution for digital advertising management.

The platform will leverage Airtel Africa's extensive customer base of more than 150 million customers, utilizing data from both telecommunications services and mobile wallets.

Speaking on the launch, Airtel Africa's Chief Commercial Officer, Anthony Shiner said: "We are excited to introduce Airtel Ads in Africa. This innovative platform will support advertisers and businesses to gain unprecedented control over their marketing campaigns, leveraging Airtel Africa's extensive customer base and world class technology".

He said Airtel Ads is a testament to the company's leadership in shaping the communications landscape in Africa, ensuring businesses are supported to achieve their objectives using data first tools to inform their business decisions."



Lagos' new Red Line metro rail. Photo: Pius Utomi Elpei/AFP

## Lagos unveils next level of public transport with the launch of Red Line

Lagos

NIGERIAN President Bola Tinubu inaugurates a new Lagos' Red Line metro rail project in Lagos today, marking a much-needed boost for the megacity's commuters.

The Red Line will open in stages, the first of which will run for around 25km. Trains will depart from Oyingbo, near the central business district, and run northwards to Agbado, connecting eight stations in total.

The Red Line complements the Blue Line, which opened last September, and currently offers services from Marina to Mile 2 in the west of the city.

An extension of the Blue Line to serve another six stations is due for completion in 2027. Both lines were built by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

"Today is a day to remember," said President Tinubu at the commissioning ceremony, noting that he had approved a masterplan for public transport in Lagos while governor of the state more than 20 years ago.

President Tinubu was of the view that the Red Line would help to "transform Lagos into the economic powerhouse of Africa and a respected megacity on the global stage."

The president praised LAMATA, the city's public transport authority, for delivering the Red and Blue lines, along with a Bus Rapid Transit system, improved ferry services and upgraded roads. But, with a "bulging population", Tinubu added that the city must strive to complete further infrastructure improvements.

"Nigeria must and will be able to enjoy access to multiple alternative modes of transport, all of which are safe, efficient and affordable," he said. "We cannot afford to rest on our laurels. There is much work to be done."

Improving public transport is a key priority for Lagos, Africa's largest city, where traffic gridlock has long been a feature of everyday life.

A report last year published by the Danne Institute for Research, estimated that the average Lagosian spends 2.21 hours commuting each day, with congestion costing the city 4tr naira (\$2.4bn at current exchange rates) each year.

The Red Line will alleviate some of the pressure. The journey between Oyingbo and Agbado will take around 40 minutes; the same journey by car can often take more than two hours. Lagos governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu claimed in December that the line will carry 500,000 commuters each day.

But even if this ambitious figure proves accurate, the line will provide only a fraction of the capacity required. The population of Lagos and its surrounding areas has already ballooned to more than 22 million according to the state government. Around 2,000 new residents arrive in the city every day.

## Cutting-edge safety features of Mercedes Benz unveiled



By Carlos Banda

CFAO Mobility Tanzania is setting a new standard in automotive excellence by unveiling special and affordable offerings for its latest line of Mercedes-Benz SUVs.

Specifically tailored for the Tanzanian market, the vehicles which are GLA 250, GLB 200, and GLE 450 promise an unparalleled combination of safety, durability, and affordability.

"Understanding the local mindset towards new car purchases, CFAO Mobility has introduced various promotions to make these top-tier Mercedes-Benz SUVs more accessible to Tanzanian consumers," said Tharaia Ahmed, the sales and marketing director of the company.

She also emphasized the commitment to affordability during the review of the

flagship Mercedes-Benz GLE 450 model.

"We recognize the hesitancy among Tanzanian car enthusiasts due to the perceived high costs of brand-new cars. CFAO Mobility has strategically priced these new vehicles to make them reasonably affordable to a wider audience," Ahmed stated.

Safety takes center stage in the latest Mercedes-Benz SUV models, featuring advanced technologies such as the Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and Collision Prevention Assist Plus.

"Multiple strategically placed airbags also provide comprehensive protection for occupants, ensuring a secure driving experience," she explained.

According to her, the interiors of the SUVs boast plush materials, ergonomic design, and an advanced suspension

system, delivering a ride that is not only safe but also remarkably comfortable.

"Whether, the navigating city streets or embarking on a long road trip, these vehicles provide an unmatched driving experience," she said.

Renowned for innovation, she noted, Mercedes-Benz has equipped the latest SUV models with cutting-edge technology, including an intuitive infotainment system, panoramic sunroof, and a navigation system that enhances every journey.

"Precision craftsmanship and attention to detail are evident in the luxurious interiors, elevating the driving experience to new heights," she further said.

CFAO Motors says is dedicated to ensuring affordability, durability, and safety offered by brand-new cars available to many.

## NGO champions girls' education, e-Learning

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

IN a significant stride towards advancing education and empowering young girls in rural Tanzania, Lyra in Africa, alongside its partners, has unveiled a girls' hostel and computer equipment, valued at over 245m/- and TZS 600m/-, respectively, for rural ward schools in the Iringa region.

The initiative, exemplified by the construction of a girls' hostel at Mseke Secondary School, not only enhances infrastructure but also signals a silver lining and progress for the region.

Beyond mere physical improvements, Lyra in Africa's effort aims to bolster e-learning opportunities, bridging the educational gap between rural and urban areas, and safeguarding girls from various risks associated with long commutes and harsh living conditions.

The recent launching event, graced by Iringa District Commis-

sioner, Veronica Kessy, symbolized a momentous occasion in the education sector development in Tanzania.

DC Kessy, who represented the Regional Commissioner, lauded the collaborative efforts of Lyra in Africa and its partners, including Softcat and partners, Greensafe and the Michael Matthews Foundation, in spearheading this noble initiative.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lyra in Africa for coordinating this donation and the government for its contribution," remarked Commissioner Kessy.

"Their commitment to empowering our girls and youth through education is truly commendable," she said.

Parallely, through its Rural Livelihoods Program, Lyra addresses the pressing need for economic empowerment among rural youth, particularly in regions where up to 90 percent of the population engages in subsistence farming.



By offering training in entrepreneurship and facilitating access to financial resources through the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Lyra fosters self-reliance and community resilience.

Additionally, the organization's Digital Learning Program has positively impacted over 18,000 sec-

ondary school students, leveraging technology to enhance classroom teaching and equip students with essential skills for the 21st century.

Lyra's commitment to supporting girls from vulnerable backgrounds through comprehensive sponsorship initiatives underscores its dedication to inclusive education and

socio-economic development.

The CEO of Lyra in Africa Tanzania, Cikay Richards, emphasized the organization's steadfast dedication to partnering with local communities and the government to effect tangible change.

"Our mission extends beyond the mere provision of infrastructure," stated Richards. "We are committed to addressing the systemic challenges faced by young girls in accessing quality education but combat poverty."

Ernest Sakafu, the head teacher of Mseke Secondary School, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the organization's contributions.

"Lyra in Africa has been a catalyst for transformation in our school," remarked Sakafu. "The provision of essential equipment and sponsorship opportunities has elevated the educational experience for our students, particularly our young girls," he added.

Debora Damas Kasela, head girl

at Mseke Secondary School, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the profound impact of Lyra in Africa's initiatives on the lives of students.

"No longer will we endure the hardships of sleeping on classroom floors," declared Debora. "Lyra in Africa has bestowed upon us a newfound sense of dignity and opportunity," she said.

As Tanzania strides towards a future defined by equitable access to education gender equality and ICT Integration in Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools, initiatives like Lyra in Africa serve as a platform of hope, inspiring more stakeholders in public, private, and development sectors to take part and contribute.

Through Lyra in Africa's commitment to empowering youth and fostering inclusive educational environments, the organization is not only accelerating e-learning but also catalyzing a brighter future for generations to come in rural Tanzania.

# African Airlines to carry 98 million passengers in 2024

By Guardian Correspondent

**A**FRICAN airlines are expected to ferry 98 million passengers in 2024 on the backdrop of continued traffic growth since November 2023. The latest data from the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) indicate that traffic carried by African airlines exceeded the pre-pandemic (2019) level.

In January 2024, Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs) recorded by African airlines was 2.06 percent above the level recorded in a similar period in 2019, while Available Seat Kilometres (ASKs) were 7.1 percent above those recorded over the same period in that year.

According to a statement from the African Airline Association, airlines hauled 149.6 million Kg of cargo to and from Africa in November 2023, with African airlines representing 30.8 percent.

"At some major African airports (Johannesburg, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Lusaka, Cairo, Casablanca, Abidjan, and Lagos), intra-Africa connectivity

reached or exceeded pre-Covid 19 levels since December 2022," the statement said.

The statement added that 2023 saw an increase in airline revenues and the narrowing of the revenue gap compared to 2022. The full-year 2023 revenue shortfall of African airlines was at \$1 billion.

Jet AI price continues to fluctuate marginally from week to week. The global average jet AI price ended the week of 19 Jan 2024 with a 2 percent at \$108.92/bbl.

In terms of regulatory affairs, Somalia has taken back control of its airspace management from Nairobi, where its airspace control was reassigned in 2018, reflecting its commitment to sovereignty and self-governance.

The transition of Somalia's airspace from Class G to Class A marks a significant milestone in the country's aviation sector. The class upgrade means Somalia will now provide Air Traffic Control Services, a crucial step in enhancing safety and operational efficiency.

On its part, Zambia has adopted the use of electronic

cargo manifests, a forward-looking approach aimed at modernizing cargo processing and aligning with international trade standards.

The move will expedite cargo handling processes, foster smoother operations, and support the objectives of the trade facilitation agreements. A similar digitization move in Cameroon has seen the innovative use of a "Customs Cmr" or "Douane Cmr" mobile app in air passenger processing. This will streamline customs procedures and embrace digital transformation in passenger handling.

The result will be efficiency and convenience for both passengers and customs authorities.

Tunisia increased tourism tax for the economy and business class travellers to enhance revenue generation for the tourism sector. The increase which was without consultation with industry stakeholders, could negatively affect the anticipated tourist arrivals in the country.

On a positive note, Tunisia has deposited its instruments of ratification of the Montreal

Protocol 2014 (MP14) with the effective date of Jan 2024.

Tunisia has become the 47th party to MP14, which addresses jurisdictional gaps that allow unruly and disruptive passengers to avoid prosecution. AFRAA encourages all African states to ratify this protocol as a deterrent to unruly behavior on flights and at airports.

In Jan 2024, a meeting was held in Cologne to address challenges related to GPS spoofing.

The event emphasized the importance of pilot training and highlighted the ongoing commitment of the global aviation community to addressing emerging threats posed by spoofing.

Balancing the adoption of newer technologies with considerations for evolving security challenges remains a critical aspect of ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the aviation sector.

Collaboration and information-sharing are essential to navigating the complexities of the current aviation landscape.



## Inflation remains sticky in Europe, with core prices cooling lower than expected

**I**NFLATION in the 20-nation euro zone eased to 2.6 percent in February, flash figures showed on Friday, but both the headline and core figures were higher than expected.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a headline reading of 2.5 percent. Core inflation, stripping out volatile components of energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, was 3.1 percent above the 2.9 percent expected.

The European Union statistics agency said food, alcohol and tobacco had the highest inflation rate in February at 4 percent, followed by services at 3.9 percent.

Energy prices, which had swollen last year as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, continued to reduce, with the rate of deflation moving from -6.1 percent to -3.7 percent.

The headline prints previously came in at 2.8 percent in

January, with further easing expected after price rises cooled in Germany, France and Spain.

Investors are hunting for clues on when the European Central Bank will start to bring down interest rates, with market pricing pointing to a June cut. Yet many ECB officials still stress that they need spring wage negotiations to conclude before they have a clearer picture of domestic inflationary pressures.

## Global food crises and climate change need urgent action, asserts IFAD head

Honiara/Rome

A global food crisis and the effects of climate change are taking a toll on those most vulnerable; millions of people - many of them small-scale farmers and their families - who are unable to afford a healthy diet.

At this critical juncture, Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is visiting the Solomon Islands and Australia from 29 February to 8 March 2024 to collaborate on next-steps and to deepen IFAD's strategic partnership with governments across the region.

"The global food crisis is growing and already almost one-in-three people on the planet do not have regular access to healthy food. In Solomon Islands, nutrition is so poor that the same number of young children - one-in-three - are physically stunted due to malnutrition. This still needs our urgent action," said President Lario.

The visit marks the first ever official mission to the Pacific by an IFAD President and the first presidential mission to Australia in a decade.

Lario plans to meet with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare today and visit projects in the field to see the impact of IFAD's investments to address the region's extreme vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, including threats to food security and nutrition.

IFAD is working in partnership with Member States and partners in the region to empower rural communities and build resilience in the most remote and vulnerable parts of the world.

"The best investment in rural communities is an early one: one dollar invested in resilience now saves \$10 down the line in emergency aid. That's why IFAD's work in Asia and the Pacific has doubled in twenty years and why we look forward to expanding our relationship with Australia to help grow economies and stability in the region," Lario added.

Lario is visiting Malaita Island, to meet project participants and implementing partners of the Rural Development Programme - Phase II (RDP II; 2015-2020), which supported small-scale cocoa farmers to partner with agri-businesses to add value to agricultural products and create jobs and income opportunities for 68,000 poor rural families across the country.

An impact assessment of the closed project showed a 46 per cent increase in cocoa harvest and a 28 per cent improvement in resilience to climate shocks among project participants.

He will also meet participants in the ongoing Melanesia Rural Market and Innovation Driven programme (MERMAID, implemented by World Vision) and the Pacific Island Rural Agriculture Stimulus facility (PIRAS), on Guadalcanal Island.

MERMAID seeks to improve nutrition, increase income levels and eliminate poverty in rural communities in Malaita by encouraging consumption of locally produced, nutritious food.



### ITV PGM SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY 2 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
14:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe  
16:10 Soap rpt: Slay Queen  
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Soap rpt: Slay Queen  
21:40 Art and Lifestyle  
22:10 ITV Top 10  
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Ai Jazeera

#### SUNDAY 3 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
12:45 Mjuzi zaidi  
13:30 Usafiri wako  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:30 Mwanagaza  
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt  
17:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchzo Supa  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:15 Mpagishi  
18:30 Malukio ya waki  
19:30 Igzoo: Slay Queen  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko  
21:40 Igzoo: Mizengwe  
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchzo Supa  
Jackpot  
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi  
22:20 Kipindi maalum: Kil International Marathon 2024  
23:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Ai Jazeera

#### MONDAY 4 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo

#### TUESDAY 5 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
10:00 Habari  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Kil International Marathon 2024 rpt  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Alya ya jami  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Kipindi maalum: NHF rpt  
13:20 Usafiri Wako rpt  
13:50 Shikabamba  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Shikabamba  
14:25 Igzoo rpt: Slay Queen  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 Music: The Base  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:15 Mpagishi  
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### WEDNESDAY 6 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### THURSDAY 7 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Sema na Mahakama  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### FRIDAY 8 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SATURDAY 9 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
14:45 Igzoo: Mizengwe  
16:10 Soap rpt: Slay Queen  
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Soap rpt: Slay Queen  
21:40 Art and Lifestyle  
22:10 ITV Top 10  
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Ai Jazeera

#### SUNDAY 10 March

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Ai Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
12:45 Mjuzi zaidi  
13:30 Usafiri wako  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:30 Mwanagaza  
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt  
17:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchzo Supa  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:15 Mpagishi  
18:30 Malukio ya waki  
19:30 Igzoo: Slay Queen  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko  
21:40 Igzoo: Mizengwe  
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchzo Supa  
Jackpot  
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi  
22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Ai Jazeera

#### MONDAY 11 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### TUESDAY 12 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### WEDNESDAY 13 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### THURSDAY 14 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### FRIDAY 15 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SATURDAY 16 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SUNDAY 17 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### MONDAY 18 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### TUESDAY 19 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### WEDNESDAY 20 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### THURSDAY 21 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### FRIDAY 22 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SATURDAY 23 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SUNDAY 24 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### MONDAY 25 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### TUESDAY 26 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### WEDNESDAY 27 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### THURSDAY 28 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### FRIDAY 29 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

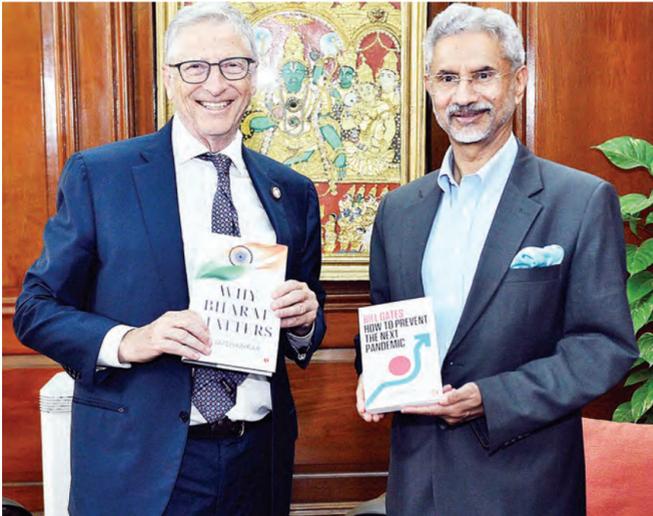
#### SATURDAY 30 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi maalum: Nihati na Nyumba  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Ai Jazeera  
12:30 Jarida la wanawake  
12:55 Habari za saa

#### SUNDAY 31 March

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo  
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumeleka  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumeleka Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumeleka kishindo  
9:30 Soap: Laws of love  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:25 Jajina  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kipindi

## WORLD



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (R) meets Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

## PM Modi meets Bill Gates, discussion on AI for public good take centre stage

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and philanthropist Bill Gates held a dialogue centred around harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) for the greater good of the public.

The leaders expressed their shared commitment to sectors that hold the potential to enhance the planet and uplift millions worldwide.

"A wonderful meeting indeed! Always a delight to discuss sectors which will make our planet better and empower millions of people across the globe," said Prime Minister Modi in a post on X.

The two also discussed DPI, women-led development. Microsoft co-founder Gates also empha-

sised the lessons learned from India and spreading them across the world.

"It is always inspiring to meet with @narendramodi, and there was a lot to discuss. We talked about AI for public good; DPI; women-led development; innovation in agriculture, health, and climate adaptation; and how we can take lessons from India to the world," Bill Gates posted on X. Earlier, the philanthropist also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The two leaders, as they met, also exchanged books on Thursday.

In a post on X, Jaishankar shared a picture of him and Gates posing for a picture with their respective books.

"A good book exchange with @BillGates. And a great conversation," Jaishankar wrote. Bill Gates, who is on a visit to India, arrived in Odisha's capital, Bhubaneswar, on Tuesday.

ANI

## Former Somalia deputy PM announces candidacy for AU Commission leadership

MOGADISHU

A former deputy prime minister and current member of the federal parliament of Somalia, Fawzia Yusuf Adam, has announced her candidacy for the position of the African Union Commission (AUC) leadership.

"I am announcing here that I am a candidate who will run for the African Union Commission leadership whose election will be held on Feb. 25, 2025," Adam told a news conference Thursday in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

"It is important for Somalia to reach that position," she said. Adam noted that

Somalia, a founding member of the African Union (AU), made a failed attempt at the position in the 1970s.

"Central Africa, Southern Africa, and Western Africa were holding the position of AU Commission chairmanship, but Somalia did not," she said.

"This position is a rotating one based on five regions as agreed by the African Union, and now it is the turn for East Africa." "There are two only candidates from the region, Somalia and Kenya, which have declared their intention so far," Adam said.

Xinhua

## WTO talks enter day-5 amid hectic negotiations on agriculture, dispute settlement

ABU DHABI

WORLD Trade Organisation ministerial conference talks have entered 5th day as the hectic negotiations continue on agriculture, fisheries, e-commerce moratorium and dispute settlement. India and South Africa blocked the inclusion of the China-led Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) proposal in the outcome document of the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13).

Earlier, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, "India stands on strong principles of fair play, and justice and wants to ensure all decisions taken at the WTO are keeping in mind the best interests of India's farmers, and fishermen and ensures

that our work twirls meeting SDGs, ameliorating poverty, good quality of life and ease of living for Indians, along with strong and speedy growth in the 'Amrit Kaal' is promoted through the various decisions at the WTO."

He also added that India has demanded appellate body be restored so that complaints on WTO resolutions not being met can be taken up before the appellate body to ensure decisions are implemented

India is urging for a permanent solution to the issue of public stock holdings of grains for food security programmes.

In these negotiations, India reiterated its long-held position that responsible and sustainable fisheries are a practice ingrained in the ethos and

practices of India's large and varied fishing community.

In that context, any comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies should keep in mind the interests and welfare of the fishing community, which depends on marine resources for their livelihood and sustenance. New Delhi has demanded ending the moratorium on imposing customs duties on e-commerce trade.

Goyal also mentioned on Wednesday that India's stand is consistent, the world needs to see who is blocking the issues and why WTO work is not going smoothly.

It shows India is a consensus builder and we are playing an important role in this regard but many countries are breaking the consensus. ANI



## Lavrov wishes Palestinian president success in forming new government

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has wished Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas success in forming a unified Palestinian government of technocrats.

"We wish the Palestinians and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas success in forming a new Cabinet. We hope it will reflect the trend toward overcoming differences and include people who represent the interests of the entire Palestinian people, all its constituent parts," the foreign minister said at an intra-Palestinian meeting in Moscow.

Commenting on Abbas's decision to change the government by starting the process of selecting new ministers - technocrats, Lavrov expressed hope that such an approach indicates a desire to introduce a neutral "note" into the internal political process and will help to give a boost to the intra-Palestinian dialogue, as well as the meetings planned in Moscow.

"Our colleagues, whom you know very well, from the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Foreign Ministry, are at your service. If you talk in a responsible way among yourselves, Palestinians, I think we could expect progress," Lavrov told the participants in the event.

He assured them that Russian Presidential Special Envoy for the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov and scientific head of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Oriental Studies Vitaly Naumkin will continue their work and will be ready to provide advisory services. "I hope that traditional Russian hospitality will contribute to your productive work," Lavrov said.

On February 26, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh's government. Shtayyeh and his government will continue to serve until a new government is formed, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

According to the Al Mayadeen television channel, Abbas had to take this step due to pressure from a number of regional players and the United States. The next step toward forming a new government is supposed to be a national consensus involving all Palestinian groups, including Hamas.

Ayman Al-Raqab, a member of the governing wing of Fatah, one of the main factions within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told TASS on February 21 that Palestinian movements would meet in Moscow in late February in a bid to try to reach an agreement on a unified Palestinian government of technocrats.

## Climate crisis, pollution escalate disease burden, says WHO chief

NAIROBI

The unfolding climate emergencies combined with pollution and habitat loss have worsened the disease burden, especially in the Global South, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the World Health Organization (WHO) director-general, Thursday.

Speaking at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) underway in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Tedros regretted that health outcomes among communities have declined in the face of a growing ecological crisis.

While acknowledging that the health of humans, animals and the environment are interwoven, Tedros said the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threatens gains achieved in containing killer ailments.

"Human health is suffering when the health of the planet on which we depend is in peril. More frequent and severe weather events cause deaths and injuries, and damage to health facilities and other essential infrastructure," Tedros said. He noted that humanity is paying a heavy price from contaminated air, and water sources as evidenced by a surge in fatal ailments like lung cancer, asthma, kidney stones and cardiovascular diseases.

According to Tedros, climate change is behind shifts in behavior, distribution, and



Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, gives his address during the high level segment session of the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) at the United Nations (UN) offices in Gigiri, in Nairobi on Thursday. AFP

movement of mosquitoes, birds and other pathogen-carrying species, intensifying the spread of infectious diseases like malaria and dengue fever to new regions.

He observed that illegal wildlife trade if allowed to thrive unabated could intensify the risk of zoonotic diseases that have emerged as leading public health security risks.

The nexus between climate change and health took center stage during the 28th UN climate talks held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in November and December 2023.

Tedros said that last year's global climate talks reaffirmed the urgency to reenergize climate action through mitigation and adaptation to secure a healthier and more resilient future

for humanity.

The WHO has so far partnered with member states to speed up the implementation of guidelines focusing on the environmental dimension of health including air quality, clean water and proper nutrition, Tedros said. He stressed that multilateral action is urgent to end plastic pollution, transform food systems and avert the movement of hazardous waste to boost human health.

In addition, Tedros said that transforming transport systems and ensuring they attain zero-emission targets will be key to taming the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.

Xinhua

## Xi stresses boosting high-quality development of new energy

BEIJING

BEIJING - Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed vigorously promoting the high-quality development of new energy in China to make greater contributions to building a clean and beautiful world.

Xi (pictured) made the remarks on Thursday while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Noting that energy security impacts a country's overall economic and social development, Xi said developing clean ener-

gy and promoting green and low-carbon transformation have become the consensus of the international community to cope with global climate change.

China's energy development still faces a series of challenges, such as huge demand pressure, supply constraints, and the arduous tasks of green and low-carbon transition, he said. "To meet these challenges, the way out



is to vigorously develop new energy," Xi said.

Rich in wind power, photovoltaic and other resources, China shows huge development potential in new energy, Xi said. He noted that China has now built the world's largest clean power supply system, and its new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products are also highly competitive in the global market.

Xi called for efforts to handle the relationship between new and traditional energy, the whole and the part, government and market, energy development and energy saving and utilization, and promote the high-quality de-

velopment of new energy.

Efforts should be made to strengthen joint research on core technologies in key fields, strengthen the transformation and application of scientific research achievements, and cultivate energy technology and its related industries into new growth points to drive China's industrial upgrading and promote the development of new productive forces, Xi said.

Xi pointed out that it is necessary to further build the new energy infrastructure network, and promote the intelligent transformation of power grid infrastructure and the construction of smart microgrids.

Xinhua

HOUSTON

BOTH US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump visited the US-Mexico border on Thursday, making partisan showcases on immigration and border security, a key issue in the 2024 presidential races.

Biden met border agents at Brownsville in southeastern Texas, urging Republican lawmakers to pass more border security funding and reconsider a bipartisan border package killed in the Senate earlier this month, while Trump toured Eagle Pass

## Biden, Trump make border visits in reelection effort

about 482 km away near the southwestern Texas border.

"The US Senate needs to reconsider this bill and those senators who oppose it need to set politics aside and pass it on the merits not on whether it's going to benefit one party or benefit the other party," Biden said.

The deal was derailed by "partisan politics," Biden said. "We need to act. It's time for the speaker and some of my Republican friends in

Congress who are blocking this bill to show a little spine."

The timing of Biden's second border trip since he took office was meant to maximize its political impact a week before the State of the Union address, CNN noted.

"Nice weather. Beautiful day. But a very dangerous border. We're going to take care of it," Trump, the GOP's dominant frontrunner in presidential primaries, told reporters after arriving in



Texas. He visited Eagle Pass with Texas Governor Greg Abbott.

The former president again fiercely slammed Biden's handling of illegal immigration at the southern border, saying that Biden was trying

to connect the inflow of undocumented migrants with rampant city crimes across the country.

"The United States is being overrun by the Biden, migrant crime. It's a new form of vicious violation to our country," Trump said. "It's migrant crime. We call it the Biden migrant crime, but that's a little bit long."

Trump promised that once returning to the White House, he would enact a widespread

expansion of his administration's immigration policies so as to restrict both legal and illegal immigration.

During the campaign, Trump has also vowed to conduct the "largest domestic deportation operation in American history" if he wins back the White House.

Meanwhile, Trump spoke highly of Abbott's legal actions and tough measures against illegal border crossing. The governor has bused

thousands of migrants to Democratic-run cities including New York City, Washington DC and Chicago.

Abbott announced that the Texas government is planning to build an 80-acre (about 32.37-hectare) base to house up to 1,800 Texas National Guard members near Eagle Pass.

As Biden and Trump are marching toward a likely rematch in November, immigration has emerged as a central issue in the 2024 presidential campaign.

Agencies

# Africa vows to end female genital mutilation

NAROK

AT a church compound in Suswa town in Narok County, Kenya, couples listened attentively, nodding and applauding as experts explained the consequences of the practice of female genital mutilation.

At the end of the hourlong dialogue, both men and women committed to abandoning the practice that has long violated the rights of women and girls and compromised their health.

Female genital mutilation, or FGM, is a traditional practice that exists in 30 countries, primarily in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons, the United Nations Children's Fund said.

FGM has no health benefits for girls and women, and can lead to severe bleeding, difficulty in urinating, and later complications such as cysts, infections and childbirth complications, as well as an increased risk of newborn deaths.

More than 200 million girls and women alive have undergone FGM worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

Deeply rooted gender inequality and cultural beliefs continue to perpetuate the prevalence of the practice, despite legal efforts to eradicate it in many countries.

In Kenya, the prevalence of FGM is still as high as 15 percent, despite the practice being outlawed. This figure is down from 21 percent 10 years ago, indicating that 15 percent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have been circumcised, UNICEF said.

After attending the dialogue session with his wife, 27-year-old father of two Nelson Nkalo vowed his daughter will not undergo FGM.

This decision was influenced by talks from experts during the dialogue and his personal experience of



Maasai community villagers in Kenya take part in a dialogue workshop organized by the nonprofit Amref Health Africa that aims to eliminate female genital mutilation, in Suswa town, Narok County, on Jan 16, 2024. File photo

witnessing the ordeal that his wife, after undergoing the procedure, went through during and after childbirth.

"My wife took two months to recover and be able to perform any household chores. Those who have not undergone the cutting take less than a month to heal. She also risked hemorrhage during childbirth," he said.

Traditionally, a girl who has undergone FGM is viewed as virtuous and ready for marriage – a good way for parents to receive a bride price and generate income. In the Maasai community in Kenya, girls undergo FGM between the ages of 12 and 14, resulting in them dropping out of school and getting married at a young age.

On the other hand, an "uncut" girl is regarded as a "child", and may face isolation and the possibility of not receiving a marriage proposal. FGM is also believed to im-

prove women's morality by reducing sexual urges, leading to the assumption that they will remain faithful in marriage.

## Enlightened advocates

Abraham Tumpes, a Maasai elder with three wives and 20 children, is one of the leading advocates against FGM.

Noitui Kaleke, who used to perform the procedure, has renounced the practice after taking part in the dialogue that she said enlightened her. She is now a champion for the anti-FGM movement, with a special focus on reforming those performing FGM.

The dialogue was held under the Girl Generation: Support to Africa-Led Movement to End FGM, a program under the Kenya-based Amref Health Africa, the largest health development nonprofit in Africa. The program aims at significantly reducing the practice of FGM in Ethiopia, Kenya,

Senegal and Somalia by 2027.

David Kawai, manager of the program, said they are implementing core models, and following that they will conduct an assessment to scientifically determine which models have been successful, and then scale their implementation in other regions and countries.

"We have given teams in those countries a mandate to come up with their own concept of what works. In Kenya, for example, we are implementing intergenerational discussions in the community. We have intergenerational discussions, couples' discussions in villages, school programs and youth clubs," Kawai said.

In Senegal, the program utilizes a road caravan, in which trained advocates travel from town to town to educate people about the consequences of FGM.

They also carry out survivor leadership training, empowering survivors of FGM to take the lead in ending the practice, because they possess a deep understanding of the problem and how to effectively communicate about it.

"In the four countries the program is active, we are moving forward, we are getting lessons and documenting them," Kawai said. "We want to produce some global goods that can be shared worldwide for people to know what works to end FGM in Africa."

Insecurity in the countries has been a major challenge in implementing the program, he said.

Thanks to the program, communities have opened up and are speaking out about FGM, he said, and girls can now say no to the practice and argue with their parents against it.

Boys have also changed their attitude toward the practice and are now marrying girls who have not undergone FGM.

"We are no longer talking about FGM as a cultural issue or just a simple harmful practice. It's a crime, it is a violation of the rights of women and girls," he said.

Geoffrey Ongaki, a teacher in Narok, said: "If students are enlightened, they will be educated and enlighten others in society, and the (practice) will end."

## UK's Rwanda plan could cost more than 600 million pounds

LONDON



THE British government's controversial plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda might end up costing more than 600 million pounds to deport 300 refugees, parliament's spending watchdog said yesterday.

Under the policy first announced in 2022, asylum seekers who arrive on England's southern coast in small, inflatable boats would be sent to Rwanda, but so far no one has been deported because of ongoing legal challenges.

Ultimately, the government envisages sending thousands of people to the East African nation although it is unclear what the capacity would be.

On top of the 220 million pounds Britain has already paid Rwanda, the government has agreed to pay an extra 150 million pounds over the next three years, and 120 million pounds once the first 300 asylum seekers have been resettled, the National Audit Office (NAO) said yesterday.

The British government will also have to pay Rwanda a further 150,874 pounds to cover costs for each individual resettled, the spending watchdog said in the most detailed financial assessment of the policy so far.

When other costs such as flights are taken into account, the policy would come to more than 600 million pounds (\$760 million).

The NAO said the government could activate a break clause that would take effect after three months, but previous payments to Rwanda would not be recoverable, and the government would have to honour future payments associated with relocated individuals.

The spending watchdog said the government had acknowledged it was a "high-risk and novel policy", and the final cost would depend on the number of individuals deported.

Last year, the UK's Supreme Court ruled the scheme was unlawful as it would violate British and international human rights laws because of inadequacies in the Rwandan system.

Despite the court's ruling and the mounting cost, Sunak has pledged to press on, and in an effort to block further legal challenges the government is pushing legislation through parliament to declare Rwanda a safe country.

Agencies

# Putin announces launch of new national projects in annual speech to parliament

MOSCOW

SEVERAL new national projects will be launched to improve quality of life for average Russian citizens, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his annual State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly, or Russian parliament.

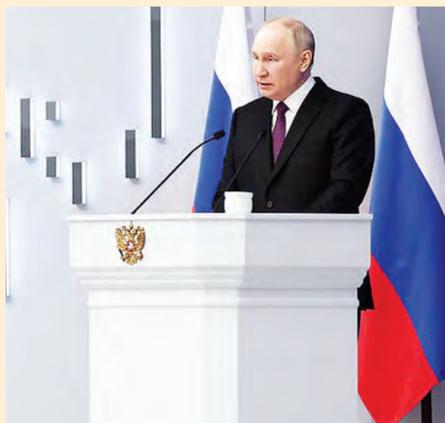
The project for promoting and supporting families is designed to improve the quality of life of families with children and increase birth rates. "Continuous work is needed directed at improving the quality of life of families with children, at supporting the birth rate.

And in order to do so, we will launch a new national project, which is appropriately titled 'Family,'" Putin announced.

Another initiative, called "Long and Active Life," is designed to help boost life expectancy by 2030. According to the Russian leader, by now, the average life expectancy in Russia has surpassed 73 years.

"We have returned to the level we had before the coronavirus pandemic. By 2030, the projected life expectancy in Russia should amount to at least 78 years and in the future, as we planned, a level of 80+ should be reached," Putin added.

That said, it is important for people to maintain a lifestyle that is healthy and active. "We will continue



federal projects on fighting cardiovascular and oncological diseases as well as diabetes," he noted.

The "Russia's Youth" project, devoted to the country's future, will support young Russians and aim to develop the country's youth policy. "The country's future is being determined by the aspirations of the current younger generation, their maturation, successes, and life values, which will withstand any challenge.

This is the most important guarantee of Russia's sovereignty, of the continuation of our history," the Russian president said. "I propose consolidating the positive experience in the field of youth policy and launching a new national project, 'Russia's Youth,' as early as this year," he added.

Another new national project titled "Human Resources" is aimed at providing assistance in the areas of professional development, education and training.

The head of state stressed that a "large younger generation is growing up in Russia," which is, among other things, the result of proactive demographic measures in previous years. "It is important to us for those kids, today's teenagers, to become true professionals, ready to work in the economy of the 21st century. Our new national project, 'Human Resources,' will aim toward this," Putin said.

He noted that the lack of qualified human resources and the absence of domestic cutting-edge technologies may hinder Russia's economic growth and development in general, a factor that the government fully realizes. "Here, we need to stay one step ahead," the Russian leader pointed out.

He also announced the launch of a new national project titled "Data Economy," which will have funding of 700 bln rubles (over \$7.6 bln) over the next six years. The national project will unite digital platforms

in all key social and economic areas. For the country, such integral platforms open up opportunities to plan the development of the economy of separate industrial sectors, regions and cities, Putin noted.

"And, most importantly, we will be able to continue adjusting work at all levels of government around each person and family's interests, actively provide state and municipal services to residents and enterprises in a convenient format with the quickest result possible," the president asserted.

Putin also announced plans to launch new national projects for Russia's technological development. "Given the current tasks and challenges, we have adjusted the Scientific and Technological Development Strategy of the Russian Federation.

Following its logic, we are also launching new national projects for technological sovereignty," the Russian president said. Among the priorities, he mentioned production tools and machinery, robotics, all types of transportation, unmanned, aerial, maritime and other systems, data economy, novel materials and chemistry.

Additionally, the president issued instructions for the creation of globally competitive products based on unique domestic designs, including in the area of space, nuclear and novel energy technologies.

Agencies

# China firmly upholds multilateral trading system, will work with all parties to build open world economy

THE 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was seen as an important opportunity to revitalize the multilateral trading system and jointly respond to global challenges, was held from Feb. 26 to 29 in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

As the first ministerial meeting since the launch of WTO reform, the MC13 of the WTO focused on topics such as WTO reform, the restoration of WTO dispute settlement mechanism, and promoting investment facilitation.

China firmly upholds the multilateral trading system, attaches great importance to the work of the WTO, and will work with all parties to build an open world economy.

At present, the world economy is faced with sluggish recovery, insufficient growth momentum of trade, as well as impacts of acts of protectionism and overstretching the concept of national secu-

urity, while global challenges including food and energy security, climate change, and imbalance in development are mounting.

The WTO stands as a vital pillar of multilateralism and an important platform for global governance. It has become a common consensus and a general trend to implement necessary reforms of the WTO in line with the times so as to update multilateral trading rules and enable the WTO to play a greater role in global economic governance.

To promote WTO reform, it is imperative to unswervingly defend the authority and efficacy of the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and actively promote the restoration of the normal operation of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

In recent years, the multilateral trading system has suffered severe impacts of rising unilateralism and protectionism.

The reform of the WTO

should uphold the leading role of the multilateral trading system in the course of global trade liberalization and facilitation, and give priority to addressing critical issues that threaten the survival of the WTO.

Since its accession to the WTO, China has always firmly supported the multilateral trading system, genuinely practiced multilateralism, earnestly fulfilled its WTO commitments, and engaged fully and deeply in the reform of the WTO.

Over the past year, China became the first major developing country to complete the ratification of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, played a key role in successfully concluding negotiations on the text of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD), and promoted the conclusion of negotiations on a number of global digital trade rules, making marked contributions to the WTO and global economic and trade develop-

ment.

At the MC13 of the WTO, the Chinese delegation voiced support for resuming normal operation of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and incorporating the IFD Agreement into the WTO legal framework, taking practical actions to help the conference achieve more pragmatic results.

China has always played an active and constructive role in the work of the WTO, pointed out WTO director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who noted that China thinks about and deals with issues from the perspective of all members while defending its own legitimate rights and interests.

To promote WTO reform, it is imperative to stick to the overall trend of economic globalization, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, resist politicizing, weaponizing and overstretching the concept of national security on economic and trade issues, and build an open world economy.

Unilateralism and protec-

tionism run counter to global sustainable development and are the root cause of the current crisis facing the WTO. The reform of the WTO should confine unilateralist and protectionist practices within an institutional cage.

China has participated fully in the Doha Round negotiations, actively promoted plurilateral trade liberalization, vigorously mobilized support for discussing new issues in the WTO, and pragmatically implemented the Trade Facilitation Agreement, unswervingly pushing ahead the course of economic globalization and contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to upholding the multilateral trading system.

China plays a pivotal role in the multilateral trading system and has made positive contributions to upholding it, said Morocco's Minister of Industry and Trade Ryad Mezzour.

To promote WTO reform, it is imperative to uphold the WTO's core values and fundamental principles such as

openness, inclusiveness and non-discrimination, and ensure the development interests and policy space of developing countries.

In recent years, certain countries have violated WTO rules in pursuit of their own agendas. By carrying out unilateral trade bullying and formulating discriminatory industrial policies, they have disrupted the global industrial and supply chains, seriously affected the international trade order, and undermined the common interests of WTO members.

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China has taken concrete actions to support developing countries in integrating into the multilateral trading system.

The 12th China Round Table on WTO Accessions held recently in Abu Dhabi, with the case of Arab countries as an example, brought under the spotlight how to optimize technical assistance and capacity building so as to help more

countries in the region join the WTO and benefit from it as soon as possible.

China will continue to carry out South-South cooperation within the framework of the multilateral trading system, further promote relevant endeavors in a substantive way, and contribute to making the multilateral trading system more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial.

As the largest developing member of the WTO and an active participant, staunch supporter and important contributor to the multilateral trading system, China will continue to support the WTO reform in moving in the right direction, support the inclusive development of the multilateral trading system as well as the legitimate rights and interests of developing members, and support the WTO in playing a greater role in improving global economic governance and promoting world economic prosperity and stability.

People's Daily



Yanga's midfielder, Salum Abubakar.

## Abubakar aims to retain starting position at Yanga after contract extension

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has extended its contract with midfielder Salum Abubakar for two more years as his previous contract is due to expire at the end of this season.

The hardworking 31-year-old midfielder will remain at Yanga until the end of the 2025/26 season to improve the squad's midfield.

The former Azam FC midfielder joined Yanga during the January transfer window of 2021/2022, leaving the ice cream sellers' side that he played for since 2007.

It is understood that there are no improvements in his current contract, with all terms and conditions being akin to those in his previous contract.

The Tanzania international has faced competition and limited game time at the club as Khalid Aucho, Mudathir Yahya, and Pacome Zouzoua have become permanent starters for the club.

Abubakar expressed his readiness to retain his starting position in the Jangwani Street squad and help his team achieve success as well

as confirming contract extension reports.

He disclosed: "I can confirm I have extended my contract for two more years with the club. I'm delighted to continue playing for this club with a rich history. I won't talk much about my contract, I will let my team speak on my behalf."

"I understand I am not getting enough game time, but I am optimistic and I keep training intensively to ensure that I gain the coaches' trust and feature more in starting line-ups," the midfielder revealed.

"So far I am happy for the starting players, they help to push the club to succeed - which is exactly what the footballers are targeting," he disclosed.

The footballer had honoured 16 NBC Premier League fixtures, five CAF Champions League Group Stage outings, and two Azam Sports Federation Cup matches for Yanga.

Abubakar has so far featured in six games in a total of 331 minutes in all competitions for his team, with neither goal nor assist for the midfielder in 2023/24.

## Tanzania's cricketers lose to Italy in 2024 ICC CWC Challenge League Play-Off

By Guardian Correspondent

THE battle for success in the 2024 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League Play-Off has gained pace after Tanzania suffered a 162-run loss to Italy in the Super Six phase in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Italy won the toss and elected to bat, notching 325/8 in 50 overs, with a meaningful batting contribution coming from Wayne Madsen who posted 110 runs.

Promising cricketer Johnson Nyambo had the best bowling figures for Tanzania, ending his stint with 3-50 in seven overs.

Chasing 326 runs to secure victory turned out to be a daunting challenge for Tanzania, given the squad was skittled for 163 runs in 32.5 overs.

The experienced Kassim Nassoro was the notable performer in what turned out to be a fruitless chase for the batting side, having posted 50 runs.

Italy's Nicholas Maiolo played a key role in frustrating Tanzania's chase - having ended with 3-26 in 10 overs for his squad.

Tanzania impressively secured qualification for the Super Six phase of the show-down, commanding a 20-run drubbing of Bahrain in Selangor on February 26.

The duel, which was played at Selangor Turf Club, had Tanzania racing to 173 runs in 38.3 overs once the squad had won the toss and chose to bat first. Opener Ivan Selemeni led his squad's quest for a bigger score having blasted 82 runs.

In response, Bahrain faltered in the chase when it amassed 153 runs in 48.2 overs, with Haider Butt having ended as the cricketer with significant



Cricketers making Tanzania's senior national squad are pictured celebrating when it took a wicket in a 2024 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League Play-off clash against Bermuda in Selangor, Malaysia recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

displays in the squad's innings with his 51 runs.

The 2024 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League Play-off is a cricket tournament taking place in Malaysia in February and March 2024.

The showpiece aims to decide the final four places in the Cricket World Cup Challenge League for the next World Cup cycle.

It features the bottom four teams from the 2019-2022 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League along with an additional four sides who did not participate in the 2019-2022 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League and met the requirements.

The best four sides emerging from the Challenge League Play-off competition qualify for the 12-team World Cup Challenge League field for the next cycle.

The eight teams were placed into two groups of four, with the top three teams from each group advancing to the Super Six stage.

In the Challenge League Play-off, the bottom two teams from each of the two groups

in the 2019-2022 Challenge League joined four others from outside the 32-team qualification process.

These were the four nations with the highest Twenty20 International ranking meeting various entry requirements.

They must had a minimum of eight domestic teams playing regular cricket, including at least five 40+-over matches in each of the two previous years.

They had to be in the top 40 of the ICC T20I Championship rankings as of 30 September 2023.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Tanzania qualified for the tournament after meeting the requirements.

Cricketers forming Tanzania's senior national cricket team are skipper Abhik Patwa, Ramesh Alluri, Akhil Anil, Laksh Bakrania, Mohamed Issa, Zamoyoni Jabeneke, and Salum Jumbe.

Ally Kimote, Kassim Nassoro, Yalinde Maurice Nkanya, Johnson Nyambo, Ivan Selemeni, Sanjay Kumar Thakor, and wicketkeeper Mohamed Omary Kitunda, conclude the list.

Held across three venues

from February 22 to March 5, this season's edition of the 50-over competition will complete the line-ups for Cricket World Cup Challenge League Groups A and B.

It means the pathway to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup includes a total of 36 teams, with the field cut to 32 after the Play-off.

As part of the promotion and relegation system for men's international 50-over pathways, four of the teams will fight to retain their Challenge League spots after they finished in the bottom four of the previous cycle.

Upcoming tournament hosts Malaysia and Vanuatu come to the tournament after they finished in the bottom two in Challenge League A, while Italy and Bermuda travel to Kuala Lumpur after finishing in the bottom two in Challenge League B.

Meeting them for the four spots in the next Challenge League cycle are the next best teams on the men's T20I Ranking at the September 30 cut-off last year, who also meet requirements of domestic level 40+ over cricket.

Saudi Arabia entered the tournament in good form, albeit through T20I cricket, winning the Asian Cricket Council Men's Challenger Cup, a tournament that feeds into the Council's Premier Cup, the final step of the 2025 Asia Cup qualification.

Kuwait boasts a T20I ranking of 26th in the current ICC Men's T20I, while Bahrain is one ranking step below.

Tanzania, meanwhile, had prepared for the tournament with a five-match series against local rivals Kenya, claiming wins in matches four and five in a 3-2 defeat.



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Tennis Section's junior hits a backhand return during drills at the outfit's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## BFT unveils national boxing team for All-Africa Games

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has revealed the national boxing team made up of eight pugilists and two coaches for the All-Africa Games to be held in Accra, Ghana.

According to the federation's secretary-general, Makore Mashaga, the boxers, involving six males and two females, will represent the nation in the Games slated for March 15-23.

He said the team is expected to leave for Accra on March 9.

The male boxers announced by the federation yesterday are Yusuf Changalawe who fights in the 81kg division, Abdallah Mohamed-51kg,

Abdallah Mfaume-67kg, Ezra Paul-60kg, Mussa Maregesi-86kg, and Mhina Magogo-92kg.

The female boxers are Zulfa Macho-fighting in 52kg, and Miriam Maligisa who fights in the 48kg.

The team will be under coaches Samwel Kapungu and Muhsin Mohamed.

Meanwhile, domestic boxer Lucas Changalawe left for Italy on Thursday to participate in the Paris Olympic Games qualifiers slated for March 1-11.

After the Paris Olympic Games qualifiers, Changalawe will join other boxers who will represent the nation in the All-Africa Games in Accra.

## 2024 Basketball Dar es Salaam League tips off

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS season's Basketball Dar es Salaam League (BDL) starts today, with men's category defending champions Dar City locking horns with rivals JKT at the Don Bosco Upanga courts.

The league has brought together 16 teams in the men's category and 16 for the women's event.

In the women's category, defending champions Vijana Queens will open their quest for an impressive run with a game against City Queens.

Dar City BBC's coach, Mohamed Mbwana, said they are well prepared to ensure they start the league with a win.

"We are well prepared for the game. We know it will be a difficult game due to the type of opponents we are facing but we are well prepared to face them," Mbwana revealed.

JKT side's coach, Christian Jacob 'Webber', said coming out with a victory is the most important aspect for them.

"If you start the league with a win, it's a good thing and that's what we have planned to do.

Our opponents are one of the best teams, so let's meet on the court," he said.

Today's game - which will start at 2 pm - will be the league's opening encounter and will reminisce last season's men's league final meeting, which saw the two clubs face off and Dar City emerge as champions.

JKT grabbed qualification for the finals of the men's show-down and set up a clash against Dar City - climaxing with Dar City garnering victory in the best-of-four-tie series to secure the trophy.

Winning three out of the four matches of the final witnessed Dar City ending as winners, overcoming JKT 75-61, 75-56 and 69-63. JKT outfit sought a bounce back having emerged victoriously once, cruising to win only one match with a 68-55 win.

The league's other opening day matches in men's show-down will witness DB Oratory facing Srelio.

In the women's category, there will be two clashes, one of which will see Jeshi Stars take on Twalipo Queens whereas Mgulani Stars will face JKT Stars.

## Messi and Miami face Florida MLS derby test

MIAMI

LIONEL Messi and Inter Miami face an early season derby test when they host Florida rivals Orlando City in Major League Soccer today.

Messi's stoppage time equalizer in Sunday's 1-1 draw at the Los Angeles Galaxy ensured that Miami remain unbeaten after opening their campaign with a 2-0 win at home to Real Salt Lake.

Despite the results, Miami failed to impress with their veteran-laden squad struggling for large stretches of the game in LA.

Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez looks well short of match fitness while Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, who has been dealing with an ankle injury, has also been less than his best.

"We started well, with the result we wanted. On Sunday we wanted to win, but the tie was just. It was not our best game," Busquets said.

"At the start of a season, it's always difficult. We still have to get adjusted, await injured players to recuperate, hopefully we can play well this Saturday at home in the Clásico."

Busquets said that Suarez, the 37-year-old Uruguayan and former Barcelona and Liverpool striker, needs to be given some time to get up to speed after joining the club from Brazilian team Gremio, for whom he scored 17 goals last season.

"It's a new league. We all need a period of adaptation," the Spaniard said. "Not just him, but all of us as a team. We are changing, fixing things, some things left to improve."

Orlando represent the toughest opponent of the campaign so far for Gerardo 'Tata' Martino's men and not just because they will be fired up for a local derby.

Orlando finished second in the Eastern Conference last season and while they went out to eventual MLS Cup winners Columbus in the conference semi-finals, they are among the favorites for the title this season.

Colombian coach Oscar Pareja has added some experience and quality to his team in the off-season, an indication that he is going for a 'win now' approach to the campaign.

Luis Muriel, a 32-year-old Colombian winger, has joined the Lions from Serie A club Atalanta, ending his 14-year spell in European football.

Uruguayan midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro, a stand-out with Seattle Sounders, has also joined Orlando along with Slovenian defender David Brekalo.

Miami beat Orlando when the two teams met in the Leagues Cup in August, shortly after Messi joined the club along with Busquets and Spanish fullback Jordi Alba.

Pareja attacked the referees in that game for not handing a second yellow card to Messi, describing the game, amid peak 'Messi mania' as a "circus".

Another in-state derby on Saturday sees the improved Galaxy head to northern California to take on the San Jose Earthquakes.

AFP

## Man Utd's Rashford asks critics to 'have a bit more humanity'

LONDON

MARCUS Rashford says he can take "any headline" but asked his critics to show a "bit more humanity" before they question his commitment to Manchester United and love of football.

The England forward has struggled this season, scoring just five times for his under-performing club side - in stark contrast to last season, when he scored a career-best 30 goals for United.

Rashford has also faced criticism over his off-field conduct.

Reports in late January suggested Rashford had spent an evening at a Belfast nightclub before missing training with United. And United manager Erik ten Hag branded Rashford's decision to go to a separate nightclub event after October's 3-0 derby defeat by Manchester City "unacceptable".

But Rashford, writing in *The Players' Tribune* on Thursday, said he wanted to put his side of the story.

"So 99 percent of the time, I can ignore the noise," he said. "But sometimes, certain lines get crossed, and I can't help but want people to just understand who I am as a person".

He added he understands the media "game".

"They're not really writing about me," he said. "It's like they're writing about this character, 'Marcus Rashford'. It can't just be about me as a 26-year-old lad on a night out, or a lad getting a parking ticket."

"It's got to be about how much my car costs, guessing my weekly salary, my jewellery or even my tattoos. It's got to be about my body language, and questioning my morals, and speculating about my family, and my football future. There's a tone to it that you don't get with all footballers. Let's just leave it at that."

Rashford said he felt some of the criticism goes back to the coronavirus pandemic when he launched a high-profile campaign to tackle child food poverty.

"For some reason, that seemed to rub certain people the wrong way," he said. "It seems like they've been waiting for me to have a human moment so they can point the finger and say, 'See? See who he really is?'"

AFP

# Man City face Man Utd test as Liverpool's kids prosper

LONDON

ERLING Haaland has Manchester United in his sights this weekend as Manchester City host their cross-town rivals at the start of a season-defining spell for the Premier League champions.

Pep Guardiola's men, chasing an unprecedented fourth straight English top-flight crown, boast an impressive recent record against United but know they cannot afford a slip-up in a tight title tussle.

Leaders Liverpool are strongly fancied to see off struggling Nottingham Forest despite their injury problems, while free-scoring Arsenal face relegation-threatened Sheffield United.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of this weekend's action.

"Hotshot Haaland highlights Rashford's woes

The Manchester derby appeared to be shaping up to be a tasty face-off between Haaland and Rasmus Hojlund until the in-form United forward sustained a muscle injury.

Norway international Haaland scored five times in the 6-2 FA Cup win against Luton in midweek to take his tally to 27 in 30 appearances in all competitions this season despite two months out injured.

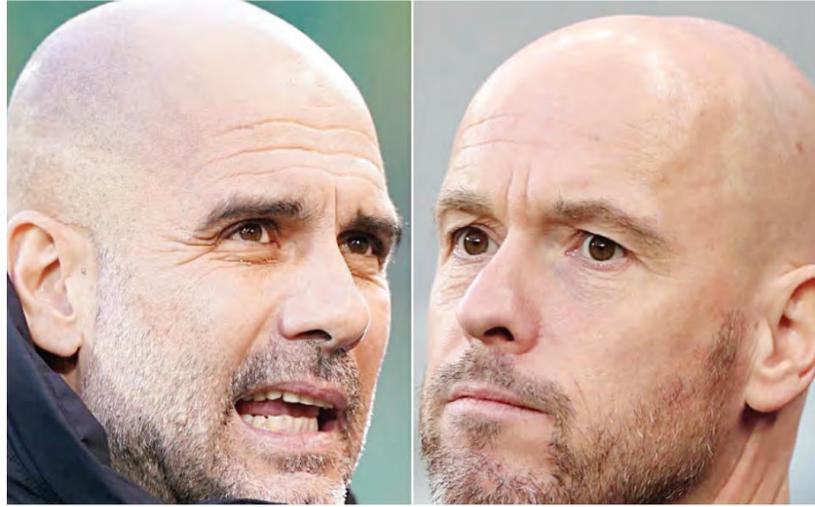
In stark contrast Marcus Rashford, United's leading man last season, has mustered just five goals, leaving his side blunt in attack at the Etihad in

the absence of Hojlund, who is likely to be missing on Sunday. City manager Pep Guardiola warned the United game would be "completely different" from their Luton romp but in truth the derby, while a blockbuster clash on paper, has become one-sided in recent years.

City have won five of the past six matches against their local rivals in all competitions, scoring 18 goals.

Haaland has developed a taste for playing against United, netting five times against them in four meetings - including a hat-trick at the Etihad last season.

Guardiola's men face Liverpool, Newcastle and Arsenal after the United game but, with Haaland in his current



Pep Guardiola -

Erik ten Hag

form, any fixture looks winnable.

"Young guns keep Liverpool on track for trophy sweep

Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool keep finding ways to win despite a punishing injury list that has deprived them of many top stars.

Lewis Koumas scored on his debut and fellow 18-year-old Jayden Danns registered his first two goals as a depleted Liverpool side beat Southampton 3-0 at Anfield in the FA Cup in midweek.

The win came just days after an under-strength team beat Chelsea at Wembley to win the League Cup - in what they hope is the first of four trophies in Klopp's final season at the helm.

The Premier League pace-

setters, who travel to relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest on Saturday, have a chance to stretch their lead, with Manchester City and Arsenal not in action until Sunday and Monday.

Klopp said Liverpool were reaping the rewards from a style of play that has been adopted right throughout the club.

"It's special," said Klopp. "And, of course, it's for me strange as well, I never had that before - that you play with that many kids and still can win football games. It's a really interesting experience, to be honest."

Saka shines as goal-hungry Arsenal step up the pace

Arsenal look almost certain to win a seventh consecutive

AFP

AFP

AFP

AFP

AFP

AFP

# Paul Pogba doping ban: The end for Juventus and France star and what should have been?

By Emlyn Begley - BBC Sport

PAUL Pogba's career could be over after his four-year ban for doping with the feeling that the 30-year-old Juventus midfielder never fulfilled his potential.

The former Manchester United player, who won the World Cup with France, was supremely talented and in bursts looked an absolute world-beater - but he never really showed it on a consistent basis.

He has already said he will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Cas), but if that fails, by the time he will be eligible to play again - August 2027 - he will be 34 and without a club.

So it will be a big ask for a player who has not managed the equivalent of 22 full league games in a season since 2018-19 to stay fit and motivated for such a long period of time.

French football journalist Julien Laurens said on BBC Radio 5 Live's Euro Leagues show: "I remember seeing him as a 15-year-old and he was the best thing I've ever seen."

"He was so good, a generational talent, an absolute genius."

"He had a good career, he won four Serie A titles and the World Cup. It's a really good career. But he was so good that I thought there was no limit."

"I thought he'll get to the top, he'll win Ballons d'Or, he'll win more trophies and be the best player in the world."

"In the end we will always look back at his career and him probably



Paul Pogba

the same way thinking what should have been."

"What now for Pogba?"

Pogba was provisionally suspended in September after a drugs test taken after the opening game of the season found elevated levels of testosterone in his system.

On Thursday, Italy's national anti-doping tribunal (Nado) confirmed the four-year suspension, which backdates to 20 August 2023 when he failed the test.

Pogba said the verdict was "incorrect" and he would "never knowingly or deliberately" dope. He confirmed he will appeal and added "when I am free of legal restrictions, the full story will become clear".

Laurens said: "The story being told is he's got a friend who is a doctor in Miami that gave him some food supplements which he took not knowing what's in them and that's what caused all of this."

"He could have easily said 'I was naive, I didn't pay attention and I should have mentioned it to Juventus' medical staff" and maybe the sentence would have been reduced.

be ready to go again. I think this is how it will end if this ban is upheld. If it's two years there's a chance at 33 someone gives him one last contract."

Juventus are thought to have cut his salary down to about £2,000 a month - as part of a collective agreement between clubs and the players' union.

Pogba was earning £6.9m a year. Juve have the option to cancel his contract, which runs until June 2026 - more than a year before the four-year ban would be over.

Italian football writer James Horncastle said: "Juventus have not put out a statement. Their sporting director, when he was last asked, said they'd await the final outcome of the process."

"There's still an appeal to go to CAS. Until that is exhausted we'll not have an official statement from Juventus on what actions they can take."

"Did Pogba's career live up to expectations?"

By most metrics, Pogba had an extremely successful career.

He started his career at Manchester United before moving to Juventus, where he won Serie A in each of his first four seasons at the club - including two doubles.

He then returned to United for a world-record £89m in

2016. In his first season at United he won the Europa League and FA Cup.

Pogba, who won 91 caps for France, then helped Les Bleus to 2018 World Cup glory, scoring a goal in the final as they beat Croatia 4-2 in Russia.

In the two seasons either side of that World Cup, he had a hand in 38 Premier League goals for United (six goals and 10 assists in 2017-18 and 13 goals and nine assists in 2018-19).

But for a player who was tipped to be a legend, he never got close to a Ballon d'Or - and those two trophies in 2017 with United would prove to be the last two of his club career.

Injuries interrupted his final three seasons at United, with lack of form not helping either, and his return as a free agent to Juventus 18 months ago was meant to be a new start.

But more injuries, and then this ban when he was finally fit, mean he has only played 213 minutes for the Italian club.

"It was supposed to be a re-union telling a new story, a prodigal son returning to Juventus. This summer everyone thought this would be the year and he would do something special," said Rzuouki.

BBC Sport

Gwiji by David Chikoko



