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Educate Tanzanians about carbon trade, experts told



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Free eye screening camps receive over 1,000 in Dar



# Crop risks: Govt seeks wider insurance cover

*“Smallholder farmers face a range of shocks and challenges beyond their control that can have a drastic impact on their incomes and livelihoods”*

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to come up with a comprehensive agricultural insurance scheme as part of efforts to transform the farming sector across the country.

Hussein Bashe, the Agriculture minister made this remark in Dar es Salaam yesterday when receiving an insurance premium pay-out of 1.1bn/- for 222,6 tobacco farmers from 22 Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in Tabora Region.

The farmers suffered devastating effects of hailstorms during the previous farming season, with the insurance pay out made by NMB Bank in partnership with UAP Insurance (T), its bancassurance partner.

Dr Baghayo Saqware, the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) commissioner, witnessed the handing over, where the min-

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango exchanging views with Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister at the country's exhibition booth in the Baku sports complex during the 29th conference of the parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the Azerbaijani capital yesterday. Photo: Treasury

## SPORTS

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Amid claims of unprofessionalism, KMC coach Moallin set to join Yanga

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'This generation's Thierry Henry' - how good is Isak?

# Samia expected at G20 Rio summit next week

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is next week expected to take part in the 2024 G20 leaders' summit in Rio de Janeiro, by invitation from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

A statement by the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ministry yesterday said that this invitation will enhance the country's global profile and accelerate achievement of its development goals.

**“A continental food security summit was held in Dar es Salaam mid last year...”**

The ministry said that the meeting will be held early next week for two days, where President Samia will be noticeable as the first female president and also invited to attend the G20 summit by initiative of the host country as the venues rotate on each occasion.

The group is an expanded version of the G7 meeting when it used to have eight members, and then opted to exclude Russia, thus creating the G20 forum in 2009 with a less cohesive

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# CCM secretariat in shock after district secretary is shot dead

“Police would like to assure the public that they will apprehend those who attempted to forcibly haul the individual (Tarimo) into the vehicle, as seen in the video footage”

By Guardian Reporter

THE ruling CCM has expressed shock and called for calm among its members following the news of Tuesday evening's death of Christina Kibi-

ki, its Kilolo District secretary, who was shot and killed by assailants yet to be identified.

In a statement released yesterday, CCM's Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, Amos Makalla, ex-

pressed the party's “deep sorrow over the tragic incident”.

“CCM has received with shock the news of the death of its Kilolo District Secretary, who was killed by assailants who are yet to be identified,” he said.

The party said that Kibiki had been preparing to attend an orientation seminar for CCM secretaries in Dodoma city today.

“CCM extends its condolences to her

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## 'Body of dead Tanzanian hostage remains in Gaza'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE body of a young Tanzanian student who was killed in the southern Israel attack by Palestinian militants October 7 last year is still being held by the militia, an Israeli diplomat has stated.

Michael Lotem, the Israeli envoy to Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Seychelles whose office also handles Tanzanian diplomatic matters, said here yesterday that the body of Joshua Molllel was taken by the urban guerrillas to the now devastated Gaza enclave and is still being held as a bargaining chip in off and on talks via intermediary parties.

He envoy said Israeli efforts to convince the relevant governments to call on the radical militants to release Joshua's body are so far unsuccessful, at an appearance here to show a video of the student being tortured by the kidnapers who killed more



**“...No others were harmed in the milestone attack that has changed realities in the Middle East”**

than a thousand Israelis and foreigners upon whom they launched a genocidal assault leading to a biting year-long Israeli military campaign to annihilate the Hamas guerrilla movement.

The video shows the student pleading for his life, and later circulated via Hamas related social media channels, with the envoy noting that “until now they boast to still have the dead body preserved and will be released once their demands are fulfilled”.

He did not disclose what the movement is demanding specifically for the student's body, while indicating that there are more than 200 other students from this country studying in Israel.

The death of Joshua Molllel, then 21, was confirmed on December 13, 2023 with an announcement from Kibbutz Nahal Oz, where he used to stay, and captured by Hamas by the militants during the now infamous attack on southern Israeli towns, villages and border posts.

Joshua was an agricultural intern who was reported missing right from October 7, with fellow agricultural intern Clemence Mtenga, also reported as missing and then declared dead on November 18, following the kidnapping.

Mtenga's body was however flown back to Tanzania and he was buried at his home village in Arumeru, Arusha Region while his colleague's body is yet to be delivered.

Joshua had arrived in Israel just mid-September 2023 and was to meet with his death in less than a month of arrival.

Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, an activist

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# Crop risks: Govt seeks wider insurance cover

FROM PAGE 1  
ister noted that agriculture remains a high-risk area for insurance cover.

"The appetite is still very low," he said, commending NMB Bank for its leadership role in that field, affirming that without bancassurance farmers will have little avenue for guarantee to secure loans.

"We should understand that farmers suffer losses during the whole farming life cycle," he stated, affirming that total earnings from tobacco farmers last year hit 724bn/-, from 717bn/- the previous year.

The bank and its partners were doing a great job in supporting farm sector development which can be taken up by other financial institutions, he said, while the commissioner said the insurance sector has grown substantially since 2018 when new insurance regulations paved the way for bancassurance operations.

"The regulations have been instrumental in the growth of the insurance sector over the years. We understand that the insurance sector is quite sensitive but players should strive to come up with products that add value to the agriculture sector," he said.

TIRA in partnership with the ministry plans to come up with the Tanzania Agriculture Insurance Scheme to regulate insurance service provision in the sector, he said, while Ruth Zaipuna, the bank's CEO, reaffirmed commitment to supporting agriculture sector development.

NMB earmarked \$108m (291bn/-) in loans to support tobacco farming for the current financial year, destined for eight regions across the country at 9.0 percent interest rate, she said.

The pay-out follows completion of assessments to ascertain the extent of loss incurred by the farmers,

she said, underlining that agricultural insurance is among modern risk management strategies.

It is designed to make the agricultural system more resilient so long as banks offer flexible agriculture insurance products, she said, noting that this is the second time NMB compensates tobacco farmers in Tabora Region.

It handed over 374m/- that benefited over 400 farmers, she said, pointing at bank efforts to follow up with insurance partners to ensure timely compensation payments in case of disaster.

Agriculture insurance offers a safety net for such shocks, she said, pointing at the need to invest in financial inclusion for smallholder farmers to cope with climate-related threats.

"Smallholder farmers face a range of shocks and challenges beyond their control that can have a drastic impact on their incomes and livelihoods," she explained, hailing the bancassurance partnership in mitigating such risks.

Nelson Rwhula, the UAP (T) chief executive officer said the insurer had revamped its agriculture insurance product offering this year to make it accessible to a wider range of the farming community.



**The bank and its partners were doing a great job in supporting farm sector development which can be taken up by other financial institutions**

# CCM secretariat in shock after district secretary is shot dead

FROM PAGE 1  
family and relatives as well as leaders and members of the party in Iringa Region following this sudden and brutal death," Makalla said.

"We urge our (CCM) members to remain calm as law-enforcement agencies continue to investigate this incident and bring to justice all those responsible," he added.

Kibiki was shot in an attack near Tosamaganga, a village located in Iringa District, just outside Iringa Municipality, where she resided.

Sources reported that she was ambushed and shot and wounded between 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on the outskirts of the village. She was rushed to a Tosamaganga hospital, but was soon after pronounced dead.

John Kiteve, the Kilolo District CCM chairman, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of his party colleague.

"This news has deeply saddened us as a party. We are preparing for her funeral, which will take place the day after tomorrow. CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi is expected to attend to pay his respects at the event," he said.

The incident comes just hours after police announced the start of an investigation into a widely circulated video showing two individuals attempting to forcibly haul a businessman into a vehicle at Kiluvya in suburban Dar es Salaam.

The video, which began circulating on social media on Tuesday, shows a local businessman identified as Deogratius Tarimo being restrained and manhandled while shouting for help.

A police statement released yesterday said the incident was reported by Tarimo himself at Gogoni Police Station this Monday.

Tarimo, a resident of Kibaha in

the Coast Region, explained that he had been attending a business meeting with the said assailants at Rovenpic Hotel, where discussions (with him) had been going intermittently for close to three weeks.

Police spokesman David Misime confirmed in the statement that efforts were under way to apprehend the suspects, who claimed to be police officers as they sought to force Tarimo into a Toyota Raum.

"Police would like to assure the public that they will apprehend those who attempted to forcibly haul the individual (Tarimo) into the vehicle, as seen in the video footage," the statement read, in part.

The 49-second video shows Tarimo shouting: "I'm going to be killed... Help me," as the presumed muggers fought to force him into the car.

One of the "assailants" was heard saying: "We are police officers... Let's go to Gogoni." However, towards the end of the video, Tarimo manages to break free from their hold, apparently unharmed.



**We urge our (CCM) members to remain calm as law-enforcement agencies continue to investigate this incident and bring to justice all those responsible**

time of the assault. No others were harmed in the milestone attack that has changed realities in the Middle East.

# 'Body of dead Tanzanian hostage remains in Gaza'

FROM PAGE 1  
group working in the area, said that 36 agriculture interns from Tanzania were living near Gaza at the



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell to Turkish ambassador Dr Mehmet Gulluoglu, after holding discussions at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

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policy format or binding decisions compared to G7.

Earlier the late president Benjamin Mkapa and his successor, Jakaya Kikwete participated in G8 summits in 2005 and in 2008 respectively, while the new invitation isi said to highlight Tanzania's growing visibility on the global stage, tied to numerous visits outside and continental initiatives by President Samia.

Foreign leaders consult with the president on initiatives like empow-

# Samia slated for G20 Rio summit next week

ering youth and women, or addressing persistent challenges in energy transition, or impacts of climate change, the statement indicated.

A continental food security summit was held in Dar es Salaam mid last year, with some priorities of the 2024 G20 summit considered

to closely align with the president's initiatives.

Some of the issues expected to be raised at the G20 meeting relate to wider funding and forging partnerships for the clean cooking initiatives, renewable energy infrastructure and climate-smart agriculture,

it said.

G20 participation will also provide a platform to address the challenges of climate change on food systems, promote regional resilience and attract investment to strengthen food security initiatives, it added.



Salim Msangi, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) director general, launches new regulations for ground service facilitation when opening the 56th national committee meeting on ground service enhancement in Dodoma on Tuesday. Photo: Dickson Mulashani

# Kenya bids to increase forest cover by 3pc in next 10 years

NAIROBI

KENYA'S forest cover currently stands at about 7 percent but the government has set aside more than \$80 million this financial year as it bids to increase tree cover to more than 10 percent.

Felix Koskei, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, encouraged Nairobi residents to plant trees in order to achieve the target of 30 percent forest cover in the capital.

"We have a target of 15 billion trees in ten years, meaning that we should be at 1.5 billion trees per

year. Nairobi County needs to grow between 10 and 15 million trees in ten years. We have to be out there, to play our part and be part of the history that will not only grow the forest or the cover from 12.3 percent that we have today to 30 percent in ten years," shared Koskei.

Climate change is worsening droughts in the Horn of Africa, where rains have failed for five seasons in a row.

Michael Kisangi, CEO of Sol of Africa Tours and Travel, said trees are a vital part of the country's wildlife.

"It is a great opportunity for everyone, even Kenyans to get an opportunity to plant trees because we have got to take care of our environment, especially doing it here in the park, is the most critical place to be, because it is where we have the wildlife and trees are part of the wild. So we are taking care of the environment, and for sure it will give back to us."

Kenya continues to suffer from an illegal logging and trade in many of its forests that are vital to the country's water catchment areas.

Trees store carbon, one of the main drivers of global warming.

In contrast, deforestation accelerates climate change: it halts plant photosynthesis, so the trees are no longer taking up carbon. It's also often accompanied by burning, which releases a lot of carbon dioxide.

Kenya's President William Ruto has made the National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Programme a priority since assuming the presidency in September 2022.

His plans drew praises from King Charles III, who was in Kenya last week for his first visit to an African nation since he ascended to the throne last year.



Ridhiwani Kikwete, the Labour, Youth, Employment and Disabled Persons state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), showing motorcycle drivers the right lane to use when crossing the Nyerere Bridge at Kigamboni, accompanying members of the welfare and community development committee of the National Assembly inspecting the bridge project on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Educate Tanzanians about carbon trade, experts told

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Khamis Hamza Khamis, has called on experts to educate Tanzanians about carbon trade to enable them seize opportunities it presents.

He emphasized that public awareness could encourage widespread tree planting, allowing citizens to generate income from large polluters while combating climate change effects.

He made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday while closing a conference involving five university consortiums aimed at enhancing Africa's ability to address climate change. The conference focused on promoting sustainable agriculture, water management and strengthening public health.

Khamis explained that carbon trade business offers an opportunity to generate funds that can be used to build essential infrastructure, including in education, health and water sectors. He highlighted that the government through the Vice President's Office has launched rules and guidelines to ensure citizens benefit from the new trade.

He further noted that the government under leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has made significant efforts to address climate change impacts.

Khamis mentioned that Tanzania participating in the 29th Meeting of the Member States of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan to explore solutions for the effects of climate change.

He urged scholars and Tanzanians in general to support the government's initiatives in combating climate change, particularly by planting trees. He reminded the audience that the government's 'Read with a Tree' campaign has reached university students and the Strategy for the Use of Clean Energy for

Cooking (2024-2034) was launched to address climate change impacts caused by deforestation due to firewood and charcoal production.

Prof. William Anangisye, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), noted that the meeting involved Sokoine University of Agriculture, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Simon Fraser University, Aga Khan University and UDSM.

The conference which began on Monday also featured the signing of an important agreement to collaborate on education, research, and community outreach in the agriculture sector. Prof. Anangisye stated that the cooperation aims to strengthen Africa's capacity to address climate change by promoting sustainable agriculture, water management and improving public health.

"This initiative will foster innovative solutions and create knowledge-sharing platforms to support communities affected by climate change, enhance food security and improve health outcomes in the region," he said.

"This effort aligns with the joint mission of these institutions to promote sustainable development and empower communities to tackle climate challenges through scientific methods and international cooperation."



**This initiative will foster innovative solutions and create knowledge-sharing platforms to support communities affected by climate change, enhance food security and improve health outcomes in the region**

## VP tells COP29 candidates to pursue, grab opportunities

By Guardian Correspondent, Baku

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called on leaders and all Tanzanian participants at COP29 to seize the opportunity to ensure that Tanzania derives maximum benefit from the conference.

Dr Mpango made the statement

yesterday during his visit to Tanzanian exhibition booth at the 29th United Nations Conference of Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (COP29), taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He urged participants to actively engage in discussions and deepen their understanding of solutions to

combat climate change.

The VP highlighted the importance of prioritizing clean cooking energy agenda, stressing that Tanzania is committed to advancing the initiative.

He further encouraged Tanzanian delegates to adopt a strategic approach in addressing environmental

challenges both domestically and globally, with a focus on actionable solutions.

Dr Mpango met with Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), to explore ways to strengthen cooperation in advancing clean cooking energy agenda.

By Correspondent James

Kandoya

THE government has announced that the revised Foreign Policy, Edition 2024, is complete and will soon be officially published and made accessible to all stakeholders.

Am b a s s a d o r Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a familiarization meeting with diplomats and heads of missions.

He emphasized that the policy will continue to prioritize economic diplomacy while maintaining focus on safeguarding the country's social, moral and cultural values as key aspects of its identity.

The revised policy also underscores Tanzania's traditional principles, including promotion of peace as top priority alongside security, stability, good governance and neighborliness, all in line with non-alignment principle. It also highlights the importance of bilateral relations, regional integration and multilateral cooperation.

Kombo noted that the new edition of the policy introduces several pertinent issues such as the use of Kiswahili as a powerful diplomatic tool.

Other important additions to the policy include the blue economy agenda, engagement with the diaspora, the environment and climate change, gender and youth issues as well as promotion of human rights in line with the country's constitution

## Revised foreign policy ready, to be circulated sson-minister

and cultural values.

"I wish to inform you that Tanzania has been, and will continue to be a stable nation on the continent, enjoying peace, security and stability. We will continue investing in this area to maintain status," he said.

"Tanzania remains committed to upholding principles of good governance, human and civil rights and democracy in line with our constitution, legal frameworks and established procedures as a sovereign nation."

The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to fully implementing

the 4Rs philosophy: reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding.

He also assured that the government is committed to ensuring that the upcoming local government elections will be free, fair, inclusive, transparent and credible.

"As we prepare for this important democratic process, the government has conducted a comprehensive voter registration campaign to ensure that every eligible citizen, including women, youth and persons with disabilities has a fair opportunity to register and exercise their constitutional right," he said.

**High Commission of India**  
Dar es Salaam

**in Association with Mwanza Indian Community**  
**will be organizing**  
**CONSULAR CAMP**  
on  
**Sunday, 17th November 2024**  
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## Minister wants SIDO to liaise with vocational training institutes to lift innovation of learners

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

DEPUTY Minister for Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe, has called on the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) to extend loan opportunities to vocational training institutes across the country to support advancement of innovative technologies developed by students.

Kigahe made the appeal yesterday during the ninth graduation ceremony of RDO Mbabulo Vocational Training Centre in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

He expressed admiration of ceramic technology products created by students at the facility and urged SIDO to provide loans to such institutions. This, he said, would enable students to expand their innovative projects, boosting their economic opportunities.

"I am truly impressed by the ceramic technology developed by the students here. SIDO should offer loans to institutions like this to help students grow their innovations which can open up economic opportunities," he said.

The deputy minister said that the skills acquired through such innovations would not only help students gain practical expertise but also create pathways to self-employment rather than waiting for formal job opportunities after graduation.

He further highlighted the government's commitment to expanding vocational training institutes following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive to establish such institutions in every district.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade, he said, will continue to collaborate with other stakeholders to ensure availability of vocational education to empower communities with skills for self-employment.

Kigahe commended RDO Mbabulo for offering various technical courses which he said equip students with the skills needed for self-employment.

He also encouraged parents and guardians to consider enrolling their children in vocational training

institutes, stressing the value of such education for employment.

In his remarks to the graduates, Kigahe advised them to use their acquired skills to create their own employment opportunities rather than wait for jobs to become available.

During the ceremony, a message from the graduates read by Jackline Kibuga, appealed to the government to raise public awareness about the importance of vocational education.

The graduates also called for greater job opportunities in the manufacturing sector for those who have completed vocational training programmes.

"We urge the government to facilitate stronger collaborations between vocational institutions and industries. This would provide students with valuable work experience, enabling them to further develop their skills," she said.

Fidelis Filipatali, Director General of Rural Development Organization (RDO), expressed gratitude to the government and its partners for their continued support in advancing development projects, including those in education, water and health. The sectors, he noted, are key priorities for the government.

Filipatali reaffirmed RDO's commitment to supporting community development and ensuring that its projects benefit local populations.



**"I am truly impressed by the ceramic technology developed by the students here. SIDO should offer loans to institutions like this to help students grow their innovations which can open up economic opportunities"**

## Govt urged to make school re-entry for girls mandatory

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION stakeholders have advised that the policy of re-enrolling pupils who drop out of school for various reasons, including pregnancy, should be enforced by law to ensure its success.

They made the remarks recently on the first day of the Fourth International Conference on Education Quality held in Dar es Salaam and attended by various stakeholders.

Anna Sawaki, Director of Projects and Partnerships at CAMFED, said it is crucial for the initiative to be sustainable to benefit more young Tanzanians who face various challenges.

She highlighted that there are various reasons that cause pupils to drop out, including teenage pregnancies, truancy, difficult home environments and long distances to and from school.

Although the government has established the 2023 Education and Training Policy which allows pupils who left school for various reasons to re-enrol in the formal education system and complete their studies, she said without sustainability, it would not adequately help.

Martha Makala, Coordinator of Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET), stated that the country has made significant strides in education by incorporating the plan into policy. She hopes it will become a legal requirement to ensure sustainable implementation, helping pupils who left school to return and complete their

education.

TEN/MET and other organizations selected by the government to form a committee to review the 1978 education policy have submitted recommendations to include the policy in legislation.

"It should have its own guidelines, its own law and its own regulations to help us as a country to ensure continuity for pupils who drop out for various reasons so they can enjoy their fundamental rights," she said.

"We raise awareness across the entire country about the importance of education for both male and female pupils, including those with disabilities as it is their fundamental and constitutional right."

Maron Kakoti, Head of Information Technology Department at Jenga Hub, stated that having a law to support the system would empower civil society organizations to help children from various backgrounds access education without discrimination.

Tanzania's school re-entry policy allows adolescent mothers to return to public schools after giving birth. The policy was announced in November 2021 in the form of the Education Circular No. 2 of 2021. The policy aims to increase access to education and promote social justice.

Before the policy change, an estimated 6,550-15,000 Tanzanian girls and adolescents were forced out of school each year due to pregnancy. However, the policy faces challenges, including weak implementation.



Fresh maize vendors wait to be allowed to select produce at Mawasiliano market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## MNH launches maiden pain management treatment with dedicated radiology camp

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has launched its first-ever specialized pain management treatment by conducting a 15-day radiology camp to treat patients with chronic pain.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, MNH Executive Director Prof. Mohamed Janabi said that by Tuesday, a total of 25 patients had begun treatment with expectation that over 180 patients will benefit from the camp.

Prof. Janabi said that the success of the camp was made possible by MNH's Radiology Department, especially the Interventional Radiology unit in collaboration with Dr David Prologo, an expert from

Emory Johns Creek Hospital in the United States.

Chronic pain can result from various causes such as age-related joint degeneration, cancer, past injuries, and affects areas like the back, legs, shoulders and head.

"The camp focuses on patients with chronic pain who have not responded well to conventional treatments such as medication or physiotherapy," he said.

"It also targets those whose pain has significantly impacted their daily activities, including work, and where the cause of pain is clearly identifiable, making treatment planning easier."

Dr Prologo, a specialist in interventional radiology and chronic pain management,

provides hands-on training to MNH doctors during the camp, sharing his expertise in specialized pain management procedures.

Some of the treatments offered during the camp include radiofrequency ablation (RFA) for knee osteoarthritis and facet joint pain, epidural injections for spinal pain, vertebroplasty for vertebral fractures, PENG blocks for hip and shoulder pain and ablations for abdominal pain caused by pancreatic tumours.

"This camp has not only benefited our patients but also provided a valuable platform for knowledge transfer to local specialists," Prof. Janabi added.

MNH's chronic pain clinic receives over 200 patients weekly,

with many suffering from chronic back pain. Prof. Janabi cautioned the public against the overuse of painkillers which can lead to complications like kidney disease.

"I urge people to avoid regular painkiller use as it offers only temporary relief and can cause more harm in the long run," he said.

Dr Prologo praised MNH for having one of the top radiology departments globally, highlighting its advanced technology and skilled staff. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the standards as demand for such services continues to rise. "By maintaining the standards, pain management through interventional radiology will continue to grow and succeed," Dr Prologo said.



Prof. Edda Lwoga, rector at the College of Business Education (CBE), speaks to journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam about the 5th business and economic development conference slated for the capital next week. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Restuta James

HUMAN rights activists have urged President Samia Suluhu Hassan to form a commission of inquiry to investigate recent incidents of kidnappings and disappearances.

The appeal came after a video circulated for a better part of Tuesday and yesterday showing businessman Deogratius Tarimo being forcibly taken into a vehicle by unidentified individuals while crying for help.

In an interview with this paper yesterday, Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa, Coordinator of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), emphasized the need for an independent civilian commission to investigate the rising number of incidents involving 'unidentified people' forcibly arresting individuals.

## Form Commission of Inquiry to probe kidnappings, rights activists ask Samia

"The recurring incidents point to a significant failure within our security forces. We still remember cases whereby people were kidnapped and their whereabouts remain unknown yet others like Ali Kibao died with no answers. The most troubling part is that the incidents continue," he said.

"This sends a clear message to the public that the authorities have failed to contain the kidnapping groups. We have consistently called for the President to set up an independent commission to investigate these incidents."

Ole Ngurumwa also urged the public to take action when witnessing such incidents and assist

in restraining the perpetrators if they attempt to abduct someone in their area.

"In cases like the one from yesterday (Tuesday), bystanders could have easily intervened to stop the abduction. I urge citizens not to be afraid and protect themselves and others," he said.

The 49-second video clip which went viral on social media shows Tarimo being forced into a Toyota Raumu by two young men. Tarimo is heard crying for help while the perpetrators threaten to kill him.

According to David Misime, a police spokesperson, the victim later reported that the incident occurred after a business meeting

at a hotel in Kiluvya suburb of Dar es Salaam.

Tarimo stated that he had been in contact with the alleged abductors since October 25 this year.

"The Police Force is committed to arresting the individuals who attempted to forcibly abduct Tarimo as seen in the viral video, based on the evidence already gathered and ongoing investigations," said Misime.

The incident has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with lawyer Jebra Kambole urging citizens not to accept being arrested by individuals dressed in civilian clothes without proper identification or an arrest warrant.



Julius Mamasita (R), councillor for Shambarai ward in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, speaks at a recent session of the district council in Orkesumet. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Some 170 publications to be presented, discussed at business meet in Dodoma

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is next week scheduled to grace the fifth Business and Economic Development Conference (BEDC) in Dodoma where 170 publications are expected to be presented and discussed, according to the organisers.

Prof. Edda Lwoga, Rector of the College of Business Education (CBE) unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists on the forthcoming conference whose primary goal is to discuss important issues related to business and economic development.

"The main goal of the conference to be held on November 22 and 23 is to bring together experts, entrepreneurs, researchers and development stakeholders from around the world to discuss crucial issues of business and economic development," she said.

"The meeting will address methods to promote business, investment issues, innovation, sustainable development and economic challenges while providing an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn and build professional networks for the advancement of the world economy," she added.

Prof. Lwoga highlighted the key objectives of this year's conference, including capacity building, networking, knowledge promotion, creating business opportunities and supporting economic development.

"The conference offers a valuable opportunity for participants to gain new knowledge, build professional networks and contribute to sustainable development of business and the global economy," she said.

Prof. Lwoga said that the conference was initially introduced in 2016 shortly after the government's move to Dodoma and has since evolved into an academic conference aimed at strengthening discussions and research related to business and economic development.

The conference has consistently gathered experts, businesspeople and development stakeholders from both within and outside the country to exchange ideas, make suggestions and promote cooperation for sustainable development.

"I would like to inform you that the 5th Business and Economic Development Conference 2024 will be held at the Treasury Square Conference Hall in Dodoma. This year's conference will carry the theme 'Business Environment and Trade Facilitation for Inclusive Development,'" she said.

At the 2022/2023 BEDC, 169 publications and research results were presented by researchers from both inside and outside the country and discussed by experts in various fields.



**The conference offers a valuable opportunity for participants to gain new knowledge, build professional networks and contribute to sustainable development of business and the global economy**

### KINSHASA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo (DRC) has been unable to launch planned mpox vaccination campaign in the capital Kinshasa due to a shortage of doses, the country's response leader has said as cases countrywide continue to rise, especially among children.

The World Health Organization declared mpox a global health emergency in mid-August after a new strain began spreading from DRC to neighbouring countries.

However, donors have been slow to translate their promises into money and vaccines, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cris Kacita, head of operations for DRC's mpox control

## Mpox vaccination shortage halts Kinshasa's drive against outbreak

programme, said on Tuesday that the country had 53,921 doses of vaccine left for use in prisons - where people are at high risk due to squalid conditions - but it needed over 162,000 doses to launch a vaccination programme in the capital.

So far, the capital, with nearly 20 million inhabitants, has been less affected than regions elsewhere in the country. Vaccination programmes are under way in six other provinces.

France has pledged 100,000 doses, along with other shipments

from Germany and the African Union. But it is not known when they are due to arrive, Kacita said.

He said the arrival of vaccines was also delayed by the administrative process, which includes sending an official request, manufacturing, preparing documents and getting import authorisations.

"As long as we don't have the necessary quantity, it's going to be complicated to launch (vaccination) in the 14 health zones," Kacita told Reuters, referring to areas of Kinshasa.

DRC as a whole reported 1,017

new suspected cases from Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, including 45 confirmed cases and 16 deaths, a health ministry report said.

Charity Save the Children said on Wednesday targeted vaccinations were needed to stop the virus spreading rapidly among children, who are nearly four times more likely to die from the new strain of mpox than adults.

According to the aid agency's data, suspected cases among children in Congo have increased by over 130 percent since Aug. 14 to 25,600 from 11,300, as of Nov. 3.

### AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GENERAL SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT DIVISION  
Tel : +225- 20 26 29 71 / e-mail : [tender@afdb.org](mailto:tender@afdb.org)

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No. ADB/RFP/TCGS/2024/0228

#### SELECTION OF AN EVENT MANAGEMENT FIRM TO ORGANIZE THE AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ENERGY SUMMIT IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

- The African Development Bank is seeking the services of a world-class Event Management Company to provide end-to-end event, planning, management and organization of the African heads of state energy summit in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Interested bidders must originate from one of the Bank's member countries, the list of which is provided at [www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org).
- The scope of services and the forms to be completed are described in the Request for Proposals (RfP) document that is available for downloading from <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-procurement/procurement-notice/current-solicitations/>.
- The interested bidders are required to register at the Bank's vendor database through [https://eprocurement.afdb.org/sap/bc/webdynpro/sap/zsup\\_reg\\_submit#](https://eprocurement.afdb.org/sap/bc/webdynpro/sap/zsup_reg_submit#).
- A **site visit and a pre-bid conference** will be organized, and potential bidders are strongly encouraged to participate because important information on the tender file and the mode of electronic submission of tenders will be communicated.  
A site visit which will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November will be a guided tour, but non-guided tours can be organized at the request of the bidders.

- Date and Time of the conference: 15<sup>th</sup> of November at 11 a.m. local time in Daar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Venue: Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania

link: <https://afdb.zoom.us/j/97097613528?pwd=Ji6qyyZATe6iaSnqggX8OCIPbFWUMG.1>

Meeting ID: 970 9761 3528  
Passcode: 3249395501

- Also, potential bidders interested in participating in this conference are requested to express their Interest through [tender@afdb.org](mailto:tender@afdb.org).
- Submission of offers.** The proposals should be submitted by:
  - Electronic submission exclusively via the link <https://eprocurement.afdb.org/irj/portal>
  - Closing date and time for submissions: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 5:00 p.m.,** local time in Abidjan (UTC)
  - Clearly mention the reference and subject of the Request for Proposal in the submission email: **Ref. No. ADB/RFP/TCGS/2024/0228**
- Any application submitted electronically through any other link outside of the above link will be deemed ineligible.
- Bidders will be advised in due time of the results of their submissions.
- The Bank reserves the right to modify, amend or cancel this Request for Proposal at any time during this process.

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### TENDER FOR

#### PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE AND CANTEN BUILDING TO BE BUILT ON POST CODE No. 23210 OLORIENII WARD, NGARAMTONI ARUSHA

#### Invitation for Tenders

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Tanzania The Guardian newspaper And website, <https://alliancebioversityciat.org> dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- The Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT now invites sealed Tenders from eligible National Tenderers for the Proposed Construction of Office and Canteen building to be built in Ngaramtoni- Arusha.
- Tendering will be conducted through the Open tendering Method whereby all contractors from class five (V) and above are invited to tender.
- Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information/clarifications from the office of The Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT P.O.BOX 2704 C/o TARI Selian Agricultural Research Center located along Dodoma Road Opposite Arusha Airport, ARUSHA.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English is available upon payment of non-refundable fee of TZS. 50,000 (Tanzania Shillings fifty thousand) at Project manager's office.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender securing declaration in the format provided in the Tendering documents.
- All Tenders must be submitted before 12.00hrs Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter at 12:30 hrs on the same date of submission at the office of The Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT C/o TARI Selian Agricultural Research Center located along Dodoma road Opposite Arusha Airport Arusha.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Tenders not submitted and received on the opening date, and Tenders not opened at the Tender opening date and time shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Teshale Mamo  
The Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT  
P. O. Box 2704  
Arusha



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Bioversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

## Folk development colleges get computers, ICT devices

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

THE government of Switzerland has donated modern computers and ICT equipment worth over 200m/- to 54 Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) across Tanzania in a move aimed at enhancing ICT infrastructure and supporting skills development.

The donation is part of the broader efforts to support the government's goal of empowering communities by equipping individuals with relevant skills that can increase their incomes and reduce poverty.

Holger Tausch, Director of International Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tanzania, made the announcement yesterday during the handover of the equipment to the Tanzanian government.

The donation which includes computers, printers and power backup units was provided through the Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) project which is managed by the Swiss development organization Swisscontact.

Tausch explained that the primary objective of the donation is to improve the skills of young people, particularly those undergoing vocational training at the colleges.

With the help of the equipment, learners will be better equipped to pursue self-employment or secure jobs in the formal economy, thereby enhancing their earning potential.

Prof. Daniel Mushi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, expressed gratitude to the Swiss government, acknowledging the significant need for ICT equipment at FDCs.

He noted that the donation would

help bridge the existing gap in ICT resources and improve quality of education at the colleges which serve as vital learning institutions for young people who lack formal education.

Sabine Roth, Director of Swisscontact, said that the donated equipment would also help improve administrative functions at the colleges such as record-keeping, communication and experience-sharing among institutions.

"We remain committed to supporting development of practical skills for Tanzanian youth to improve their livelihoods and address the challenge of unemployment," Roth said.

Dr. Erick Mgaya, Assistant Director in the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology responsible for FDCs, said that the government had already made significant investment in renovating all 54 colleges to ensure they provide relevant skills for empowerment.

"While the government has been working on improving the infrastructure and acquiring resources for our FDCs, our Swiss partners have been instrumental in supporting the efforts by providing ICT equipment," he said.



**We remain committed to supporting development of practical skills for Tanzanian youth to improve their livelihoods and address the challenge of unemployment**

## Zanzibar ready to host World Airline Conference next year

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is scheduled to host the prestigious World Airline Conference in June 2025, offering significant investment opportunities while enhancing the archipelago's global profile.

Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed, Zanzibar Minister for Infrastructure, Communication and Transport, announced the news during a press briefing yesterday, revealing that over 500 participants from around the world are expected to attend.

The conference will bring together leaders from both domestic and international airlines, aviation industry experts, service providers, tourism organizations, government officials and representatives from global institutions.

Dr Mohamed expressed pride in Zanzibar's selection as the conference venue, calling it a great honour for both Zanzibar in particular and Tanzania in general.

He highlighted the numerous benefits, including increased global visibility, expanded business and investment opportunities and valuable knowledge-sharing among industry leaders.

He also emphasized that the conference will serve as a key platform for fostering connections between stakeholders in the aviation, tourism and transport sectors, further promoting Zanzibar as a leading destination for not only heritage and beach but also conference tourism.

"In 2023, Zanzibar welcomed 638,498 visitors, a 16.4 percent increase compared to 2022. Zanzibar Airports Authority saw 2,140,986 passengers in 2023, a 21 percent rise from the previous year," he said.

He also noted that the number of airlines operating in Zanzibar has grown from 68 in 2020 to 81 in 2024, representing a 19 percent increase—a significant achievement for the island's aviation sector.

Dr Mohamed attributed Zanzibar's selection as host to a combination of factors, including the islands' reputation for hospitality, peace and stability as

well as high-quality infrastructure, such as the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

He also cited availability of top-tier accommodation facilities that meet international standards.

Seif Abdalla Juma, Director General of Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA), called the event a tremendous honour for Zanzibar, offering a valuable opportunity to engage with global aviation and tourism experts.

He added that ZAA works in collaboration with the Tourism Commission and other stakeholders to ensure success of the conference and maximize the opportunities it presents for the island.

"This opportunity was not won easily; Zanzibar competed with other destinations and met all the criteria to host the prestigious event," he said.

John Cowell, Chief Executive Officer of Aviadev Africa, the organization behind the conference, expressed enthusiasm for the event's potential to increase international interest in Zanzibar.

"Hosting the conference in Zanzibar will boost the visibility of the island and encourage more international airlines to operate flights here, which will significantly expand the tourism market," he said.

Aviadev Africa is a UK-based organization dedicated to advancing development of the aviation sector across Africa and globally through events such as the World Airline Conference.



**This opportunity was not won easily; Zanzibar competed with other destinations and met all the criteria to host the prestigious event**



Students at the Benjamin Mkapa secondary school in Dar es Salaam wait for eye health screening as part of a three day exercise. Mzambarauni and Amani primary schools in Ukonga are slated to be visited today while the camp set up at Mbagala Rangitatu and Mchikichini primary schools close the exercise tomorrow Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 1,000 eye patients and 200 referrals have received screening and treatment through a campaign led by CCBRT Hospital at three different camps in Dar es Salaam.

The initiative is part of CCBRT's strategic plan to support the government in bringing healthcare services closer to the people.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during screening camps at Mzambarauni and Amani primary schools in the city, Dr Sunguro Chacha reported a strong turnout.

"The eye screening campaign has been highly successful. We have identified many patients with eye problems, provided treatment,

## Free eye screening camps receive over 1,000 in Dar

offered guidance, and referred those who need additional care to our main CCBRT Hospital at Msasani," said Dr Chacha.

Dr Chacha noted that the three-day campaign was organized in collaboration with Light for the World (LFTW), an organization dedicated to eye health services.

Mariam Mchomvu, the campaign coordinator, attributed the turnout to extensive awareness efforts encouraging individuals with eye

issues to seek early screenings and treatment.

"The three-day campaign will conclude tomorrow at Mbagala Rangi Tatu grounds and Mchikichini Primary Schools which are located in the area," she said, adding that in addition to eye screening, experts also identified women with post-delivery complications such as fistula.

Deo Joseph, Headmaster of Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School,

thanked CCBRT Hospital for making his school a regular eye screening site.

"This is the second time my school has served as a screening camp, benefiting pupils and the surrounding community," he said.

Speaking on behalf of participants, Said Mwakifwamba, a fruit vendor at Kariakoo, thanked CCBRT Hospital for offering free eye screenings and treatment for those diagnosed with eye conditions.



Joseph Matiko (2nd R), a project coordinator at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), showing visiting World Bank officials the classrooms, laboratories and dormitories built at DIT with the bank's credits. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Special Correspondent

PANELLISTS in this year's Africa Climate Summit seek to maintain and amplify momentum from last year's event at which leaders called for initiatives to advance green development on the continent in a document called the Nairobi Declaration.

Among other goals at this year's event, they said they will need to strengthen multilateral cooperation, make adaptation a priority and champion financial architecture reforms.

## Africa Climate Summit panellists seek to maintain last year's pace

Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet secretary and cabinet secretary for foreign and diaspora affairs of Kenya, called it a "daunting but surmountable" challenge that will need to be addressed to keep developing nations in Africa from accumulating ballooning debt in the face of climate adaptation.

The continent emits 7 percent of greenhouse emissions despite being home to nearly 17 percent of the world's population but experts say it is particularly vulnerable to climate change as it less able to adapt. On Tuesday, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged rich nations to double

financing for climate adaptation to \$40 billion a year by 2025.

African nations hope to use the funds to improve their resilience to extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods, increase tree cover and protect biodiversity, as well as expand their renewable energy capacity.

## WFP seeks fund to help over 1 million food-insecure Kenyans

NAIROBI

THE World Food Program (WFP) has said that it requires \$1376 million in net funding to provide humanitarian aid to one million food-insecure Kenyans over the next six months.

WFP estimates that one million Kenyans, primarily in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), are acutely food insecure—a number projected to rise to 1.8 million by January 2025 due to anticipated La Nina conditions.

Over 900,000 children aged six to 59 months, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, require nutritional supplementation, with high malnutrition rates concentrated in ASAL counties, especially in northern Kenya, it said.

WFP, in collaboration with the UN refugee agency UNHCR and Kenya's Department of Refugee Services, is developing a differentiated assistance model tailored to the specific needs of refugee and asylum-seeker households.

“Moving away from the traditional one-size-fits-all approach, this model will categorize refugees based on their vulnerability and capacity to meet basic needs,” WFP said in its latest report.

Under this model, the most vulnerable refugees will receive comprehensive humanitarian assistance, while others will access targeted support, such as livelihood programs, skills training, and economic resources. “This strategy promotes equitable use of resources, long-term sustainability, and self-reliance among refugee populations,” WFP said.

The appeal comes as the WFP faces chronic funding shortages, which have led to food ration reductions, now at a record low of 40 percent, and a temporary halt to cash transfers for 580,000 refugees in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps in northern Kenya since May, according to the WFP.

The UN agency said it has gathered data and engaged with refugee communities to guide the categorization and profiling of households for differentiated assistance, noting that “this major shift in how humanitarian and development services are delivered to refugees in Kenya requires a structured and inclusive process, guided by the do no harm principle.”



**Moving away from the traditional one-size-fits-all approach, this model will categorize refugees based on their vulnerability and capacity to meet basic needs**

## SA expects G20 summit to strengthen multilateralism

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa expects the upcoming G20 summit to strengthen multilateralism and reform the global institutions of governance, its top diplomat has said.

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola made the remarks yesterday while briefing the media in Pretoria, South African administrative capital, about the implementation of the country's foreign policy and upcoming engagements.

He explained that the G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled from Nov. 18 to 19 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the moment when heads of state and government approve the agreements negotiated throughout the year and point out ways of dealing with global challenges.

“South Africa is already playing an enhanced role as a member of the G20 Troika, together with Brazil and India, in support of one of Brazil's foremost priorities on the reform of the global governance institutions wherein G20 leaders are expected to advance efforts for a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system, rooted in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, with renewed institutions and a reformed governance that is more representative, effective, transparent, and accountable, reflecting the social, economic, and political realities of the 21st century,” said Lamola.

He pointed out that in terms of promoting the interests of the Global South, South Africa considers the G20 to be an important vehicle for advancing the aspirations of developing countries and Africa's development priorities in particular.

It is expected that the G20 will continue to support emerging and developing economies to achieve sustainable development, added Lamola.

South Africa will assume the G20 Presidency on Dec. 1 and will host the summit in 2025.



**It is expected that the G20 will continue to support emerging and developing economies to achieve sustainable development**



Chadema candidates in Shinyanga municipality hold appeal forms over being excluded from running in the upcoming local government elections on November 27. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

# PCCB blocks purchase of ‘new’ generators over quality issues

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Kilimanjaro Region has blocked payments of 329.4m/- by Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) for “substandard” new generators in the first quarter of 2024/2025 financial year.

In a statement released here yesterday, Deputy Kilimanjaro Regional Head

of PCCB Sabas Salehe said that his office investigated KADCO, a state-owned firm, regarding procurement of two generators from African Power Machinery (APM) worth 329,479,600/-.

“Between July and September this year, we investigated KADCO and through our investigations we found that the generators did not meet the required standards, including lacking the specified cables. The cables that

were provided were different from those needed,” reads the statement.

He further detailed that officers in Hai District also found the engines of the generators to be old and rusted. “During our investigation, we also discovered that paint had been applied to the generators to conceal their age,” Salehe added.

Following this, PCCB office in Hai District stopped the payment to APM, having determined that the generators

did not meet KADCO's specified procurement standards.

“As a result, PCCB in Kilimanjaro Region successfully saved a total of 329,479,600/- allocated for the procurement of substandard generators,” he said.

Meanwhile, Salehe also cautioned politicians and the public against engaging in corrupt practices in the upcoming civic elections scheduled for November 27.



Mwamba Masanja, regional commander for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Shinyanga, revealing at a press conference yesterday, suspected 29.1m/- embezzlement in the construction of a three kilometres Isoso-Mwabusiga road in Kishapu District. Photo: Marco Maduhu

# Rampant violence against aid workers deters delivery of services in South Sudan, says UN

JUBA

HUMANITARIAN access in South Sudan faced heightened challenges in October due to rising violence and threats against aid personnel and assets, and increasing administrative hurdles, a UN relief agency said on Tuesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said physical access issues delayed

the delivery of essential services to communities across the country, while increased hostilities against aid workers in the country also limited humanitarian access and disrupted the delivery of services to thousands of vulnerable people.

“Thirty-nine access incidents were recorded in October, highlighting the persistent threats to safety, logistical obstacles, bureaucratic delays, and economic barriers affecting

humanitarian operations,” OCHA said in its latest update released in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

OCHA said unauthorized taxation ranging from 100 to 300 U.S. dollars imposed by communities, coupled with illegal checkpoints, has obstructed aid delivery in key areas in Warrap State, leading to looting and delay of delivery, increased costs, and security risks faced by humanitarian staff.

The agency said bureaucratic impediments, including multiple checkpoints, harassment of transport operators, interference with recruitment processes, and boat seizures in Jonglei State, continue to impact access to aid.

About 7.1 million people, or 56.3 percent of the total population, are projected to face crisis-level or more severe food insecurity in 2024, according to OCHA.

## Why 34bn/- UK input to donor health basket fund is instructive

NOT many people noticed a shift in bilateral ties or readiness to assist in certain causes when Britain and Tanzania signed an agreement to boost contributions to the Health Basket Fund (HBF), with a £10m (34bn/-) commitment on Tuesday. The Treasury permanent secretary signed that accord with the development director at the UK High Commission, where the sum is stretched from 2024 to 2029. In other circumstances, judging by the size of the Tanzanian budget, that would be expected for one year, etc.

Even then attaining the contribution wasn't straightforward as it has by and large been arrived at as virtually a fresh impetus on UK assistance to tackle African challenges in the wake of the change of government there. The Treasury executive expressed satisfaction with an addendum to a previous cooperation agreement with the UK, now altered to formally recognise the UK as a key development partner contributing to the health sector support fund. It was unclear what the government's expectations were and how far they would have been met at least in part, but for outside observers the sum itself 'tells it all.'

There is no question that anyone looking intently at the figure will see the dichotomy between the universal health insurance ambitions being set up as a virtual development project for which the government puts up an issuance appeal. This was an inching up in cooperation accords where a new health annex takes to a higher level the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the development partners in July 2021 on the matter. Rapidly, it is evident that donor countries were taking a new interest in development issues at the time of the new financial year after a change of government, and a shift of attitudes here.

The top official said the fund pools

resources to improve healthcare services across the country, but those who recall the stream of reports will notice the difference between the 1.3trn/- IMF post-pandemic recovery facility late 2021m directed mainly to health and education projects. There are several bilateral accords and arrangements with UN agencies on financing the emerging universal health insurance scheme, but the UK inputs shows that this exercise isn't seen as a development project but a recurrent budget issue. In other words it is first and foremost a tax issue, not a loan or major grant issue, etc.

In other words, even with bits and pieces of bilateral and multilateral funding directed at the universal health insurance scheme and tied infrastructure, it no way ascertains that the fund's resources are a major parameter the purpose, as ten times the UK contribution arrives at a third of the IMF special facility, and unlikely to be repeated in the near future. What is needed isn't further negotiations to see how these contributions can be improved, for they are token gestures to show that the development partners care for the universal insurance effort/Token contributions don't have an imperative minimum, unlike credits.

Looking at how remarks by top executives at the signing ceremony were presented in the media, there was clearly an 'overgrowth of ideology,' as a 19th century critic once said in relation to those who ignore primacy of economic issues to front moral persuasions as primary. This is what we see at the moment, just as in wider international conferences, where African leaders and top officials use inordinate amounts of time showing how it is essential that we attain significant improvements in healthcare, including reduced child mortality rates or community access to basic services. They believe it will do the trick.

## Yes, a stitch in time will save nine, as PO-RALG amends candidates 'axing'

COOLER heads have prevailed in the boiling pot of how Regional Administration and Local Governments' officials handled the nomination and approval of candidates. They have now been formally instructed to overlook minor errors in candidate forms for the upcoming civic polls, in the wake of an outcry after supposedly stringent checks had occasioned the disqualification of a wide range of contestants. The chief executive at the ruling party secretariat said that the party chairperson, President Samia Suluhu Hassan had directed a change in attitudes. It was a proverbial stitch on time that saves nine later.

This situation appears to have a cultural bearing that is rampant on the political and social scene, the phenomenon of numerous hangers-on tied with top public officials, whether they serve in executive positions or otherwise. The crucial issue is the idea that someone above is going to be pleased with what they are doing or would have done, and not exactly whether it is ethical to do so, whether it is an appropriate interpretation of the formal legal cadre, etc. The matter is reduced to pleasing say the minister, by sharp cuts.

While the relevant ministry was asked to relent stringency in the wake of opposition parties raising concern over the disqualification of their candidates for technicalities or errors across the country, quite a few observers were wondering if the errors are real. Why is it that the phenomenon of errors in filling forms became noticeable in

2019 and in 2020 polls, not earlier, whereas we would all take it for granted that candidates are on the whole more educated than in the past? Is it possible some errors could just be fabricated?

Since there is no legal premise to front that sort of allegation, as no investigative avenue is likely to be opened save if there was a properly constituted inquiry, those in authority are compelled to take errors or technicalities at face value, as presented by middle level registration supervising agents.

In that case neither the secretariat executive nor the president raised doubts on authenticity of the discerned errors, nor indeed media editors and some opinion makers in religious institutions, appealing for waiving the stringency. The president thus instructed that national interests should take precedence in the election process, while party headquarters observed shortfalls in the handling of candidate names.

This particularly concerns the filling of candidate nomination forms where the supposed errors or technicalities touched off an avalanche of disqualification of numerous party candidates. Thus the correction of polls handling restores enthusiasm in the civic polls and prevent likely disruptions, had soul searching to be formally by opposition parties.

The late Mwalimu Nyerere had a piece of advice early in 1962 which is still relevant now, its message summed up in the title, in Swahili, 'Tujisahihishe.' The hangers-on culture is on course to eroding respected habits; those office need cash, so they must keep winning.

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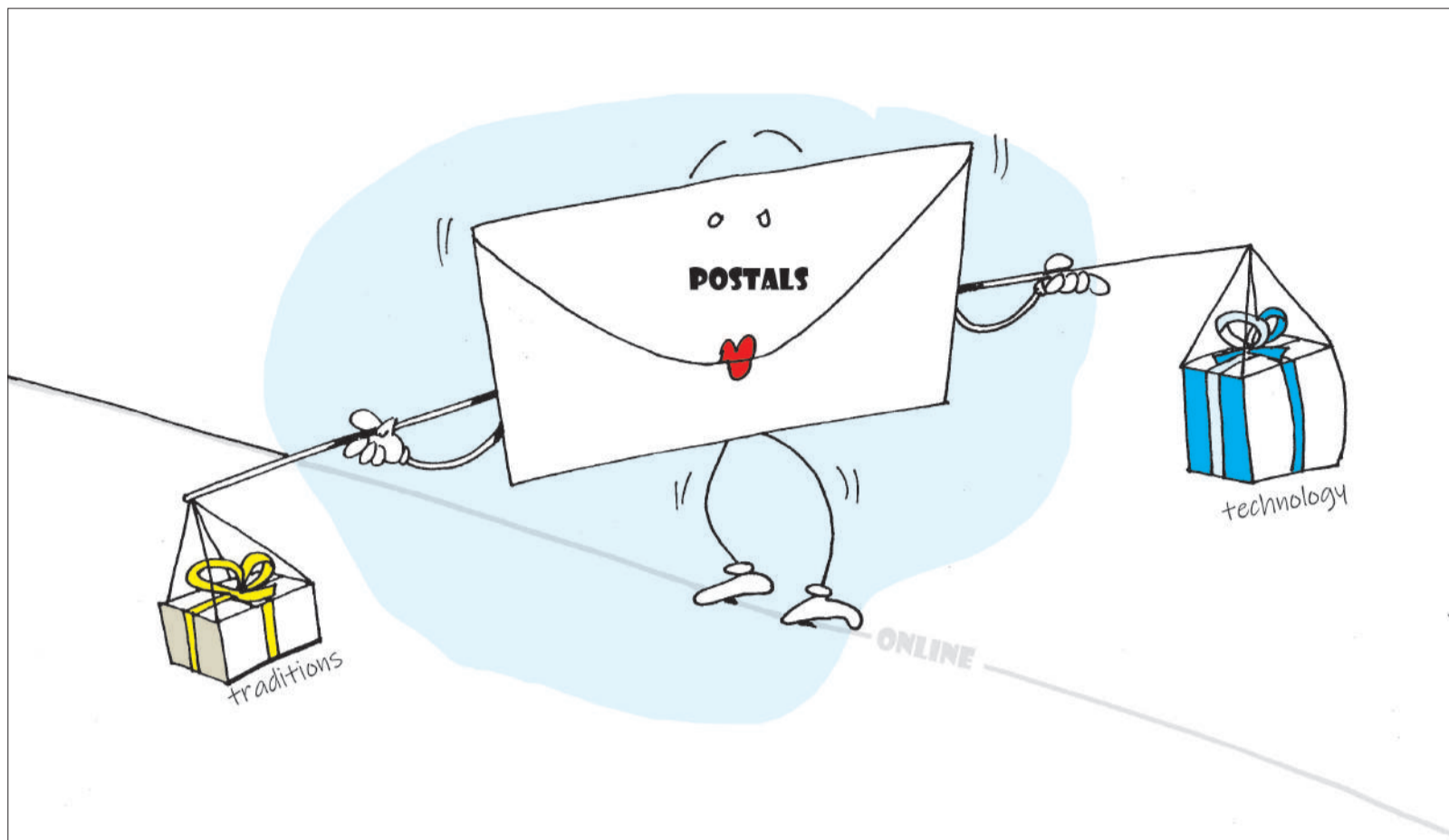
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## Envoy: Mutual respect key in strengthening China-Africa ties

**I**N the past nine days, Du Xiaohui (pictured), Secretary-General of the Chinese Follow-up Committee of FOCAC and Director-General of the Department of African Affairs of the Chinese MFA, visited the Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. The trip aimed at renewing China-Africa friendship, discuss cooperation for common development, and promote the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit and the consensus reached by the heads of state. While in Dar es Salaam, the envoy granted an interview with Our Reporter. Here are the excerpts:

**Question: Can you further elaborate on the FOCAC Beijing Summit?**

**Answer:** The FOCAC Beijing Summit marked a historic milestone in China-Africa collaboration towards advancing modernization and building a community with a shared future. To summarize the spirit and outcomes of this summit, I will use the five letters of "FOCAC," and also share some of my personal experiences and reflections.

The first letter "F" stands for Family, referring to the China-Africa community with a shared future.

This summit was the largest diplomatic event in recent years, attended by the greatest number of foreign leaders in China. It was a major gathering of China and Africa, bringing together heads of state from all 53 African countries with diplomatic relations with China, along with the Chairperson of the African Union.

The summit elevated China-Africa bilateral relations to strategic levels and established a new era of an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future. Africa now holds a unique and prominent position as the only continent to share this level of partnership with China.

The second letter "O" stands for Orientation, which reflects the shared vision of China and Africa advancing modernization together. In March, during the China-Africa Think Tank Forum, scholars from both sides jointly issued the Dar es Salaam Consensus, which highlighted the "Global South's" shared view that modernization does not equate to Westernization. This summit introduced six propositions for China and Africa to advance modernization together. These include creating a just and equitable, open, win-win, people-first, diverse, eco-friendly, and peaceful modernization—principles that will resonate across the Global South.

The third letter "C" stands for Creativity, emphasizing the need to



innovate based on Africa's concerns. During the summit, China and Africa held high-level meetings on key topics such as State Governance, Industrialization, Agricultural Modernization, Peace and Security, and High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation. These meetings deepened strategic communication and led to the establishment of new consensus on vital issues.

The fourth letter "A" stands for Action, which reflects the new blueprint for practical China-Africa cooperation. President Xi Jinping announced the "Ten Partnership Actions" for the next three years, which include providing zero-tariff treatment to 100 percent of tariff lines for all 33 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa with diplomatic relations with China, and helping implement infrastructure projects.

Additionally, China will create 1 million jobs in Africa, provide 60,000 training opportunities, and foster greater people-to-people exchanges, including hosting African professionals for training in China.

The fifth letter "C" stands for Coordination, highlighting enhanced cooperation in international affairs. China and Africa aligned their strategies on global governance, emphasizing mutual support on core issues, advocating for global fairness and justice, and advancing global development, security, and civilization.

The summit underscored the commitment to fostering an inclusive, fair, and multipolar world, and the rejection of practices that perpetuate historical injustice.

**Q: Could you share your experiences and the outcomes of this visit?**

**A:** Throughout my visit, I have been deeply impressed by the enduring strength of China-Africa

friendship. The Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania all share a long-standing bond with China. This year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and both the Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

Sierra Leone has consistently supported the One China Principle, including co-proposing the UN resolution in 1971 that led to the acceptance of China in the UN.

In all my meetings with officials from these countries, we agreed that China-Africa friendship is a precious asset passed down through generations, unaffected by changes in the international situation. It remains strong, consolidated, and enduring. I also witnessed the thriving China-Africa cooperation firsthand—on bustling project sites, in workshops, and in the growing development of infrastructure.

The improved roads, enhanced living conditions, and the sense of prosperity inspire confidence in the future of China-Africa cooperation. During these discussions, all parties agreed to expedite the implementation of the summit's outcomes and ensure the realization of our shared vision, bringing benefits to the people of both China and Africa.

**Q: This year marks the 60th anniversary of China-Tanzania relations. What has contributed to the strong ties between China and Tanzania, and what are your expectations for the future of China-Tanzania relations?**

**A:** Sixty years ago, China and Tanzania's leaders—Chairman Mao Zedong and President Julius Nyerere—laid the foundation for our relationship.

Whether during Tanzania's struggle for independence or its economic development, our two countries have always supported each other. China and Tanzania have been at the forefront of China-

Africa relations, serving as models of unity, mutual assistance, and self-reliance among developing nations.

In the new era, President Xi Jinping made his first overseas visit to Tanzania in 2013, and his visit underscored the policy principles of Sincerity, Real Results, Affinity, and Good Faith, guiding our solidarity and cooperation.

In recent years, Presidents Xi and Hassan have met several times, reflecting the high level of comprehensive strategic partnership between our two countries.

This has resulted in practical cooperation in fields such as healthcare, infrastructure, and industrial development, with projects like the Kikwete Heart Disease Research Institute and Magufuli Bridge benefiting both nations.

During the FOCAC Beijing Summit this year, President Xi and President Hassan reached important agreements on advancing modernization together, which will guide our relations in the years ahead. The close cooperation between China and Tanzania is expected to grow even stronger in the future, bringing new opportunities for both our people.

**Q: China, Tanzania, and Zambia are working together to revitalize TAZARA. What does the revitalization of TAZARA symbolize?**

**A:** TAZARA is a railway of freedom and friendship. It was built by over 50,000 Chinese engineers alongside Tanzanian and Zambian workers, under challenging conditions. During my visit, I had the honor of paying tribute to the Chinese engineers who gave their lives for this project. TAZARA is not just a transportation link; it is a symbol of solidarity, cooperation, and friendship between China and Africa, and it has played a crucial role in Africa's national independence and liberation. Now, as we work to revitalize TAZARA, we are honoring the legacy of those who built it while bringing new life to this important project.

The revitalization is a key initiative endorsed by the three heads of state, and we are working to ensure its success. It is not only a tribute to past generations but also a new chapter in China-Africa cooperation, ensuring that TAZARA continues to contribute to prosperity and development in the region. I would like to thank all the friends from the press for their hard work and support, which helps share the achievements of China-Africa cooperation with the world. I hope that you will continue to follow and report on the growth of China-Africa relations.



# The importance of assessment in improving education

ANY valuable work done by human beings must be assessed. The purpose of assessment is to determine progress, as humans are rational, objective-driven beings. This is particularly true in education, where significant investments in resources, time and effort are made.

These investments create a need for demonstrable achievements to keep all stakeholders motivated.

In schools, resources such as teachers, learning materials and in some cases, technology, requires ongoing maintenance and funding. When so much is invested, it becomes essential to make concerted efforts to ensure that success is evident in the teaching and learning process.

Ignoring the quality of performance and outcomes could suggest a lack of commitment. Teachers set an example for students by conducting regular assessments to monitor progress, which enables them to provide specific guidance that leads to positive results.

Assessment allows teachers to gauge students' understanding and identify areas where they may be struggling. This insight enables educators to tailor their instruction to address specific needs, making teaching more effective and learning more meaningful.

Regular assessment helps track student progress over time, giving both teachers and students a clear picture of how well they are achieving learning goals. This encourages continuous improvement, helping students stay on track and reach their academic potential.

By identifying gaps in student learning, assessment helps educators address disparities and provide additional support where needed. This makes it easier to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Assessments, whether formative or summative, can take various forms such as exercises, quizzes, assignments, tests and exams. Each type of assessment serves a unique purpose depending on the teacher's goals. Some assessments foster critical thinking and a habit of reading, while others measure student achievement over a certain period.

Success in education, like in other



**CLASSROOM MATTERS**  
By **Thomas Lyimo**  
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sectors, is often measured in relation to time, reflecting its importance to broader economic and social progress.

Different types of assessments include open forms, such as exercises, assignments, and quizzes, and more formalized ones, like tests and exams, which are typically supervised by an invigilator.

Because of the formal administration of tests and

exams, they are often valued more highly than other forms of assessment, though each type holds value depending on its purpose. Some assessments, like assignments, encourage learning, while others, like exams, are used to determine readiness for advancement.

Given the importance of assessment in the teaching and learning process, both teachers and students must

approach it with seriousness and commitment to achieve the expected outcomes.

Proper documentation and organization of assessments are essential for tracking progress. Students benefit from keeping records of exercises, quizzes, assignments, tests, and exams, as reviewing past questions and answers can serve as an invaluable study resource.

Assessment plays a crucial

role in maintaining the quality of education. Assessment is vital for improving education because it does not only measures learning but helps shape and enhances it.

Teachers need to understand how much students have learned. Assessments reveal areas that require more focus and areas where students are performing well. Teachers can then adjust their methods to meet

students' needs without covering material they already know which can keep lessons engaging and prevent boredom.

Assessment results send a clear message to students about their progress, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement. When students don't perform well, it can motivate them to put in more effort, while successful outcomes encourage them to maintain or improve their performance. Teachers can emphasize that academic competition reflects life's broader challenges, helping students build resilience and dedication.

Performance on assessments can also indicate a student's readiness for further study. This helps teachers provide informed guidance to students about their academic potential and areas where they may need to work harder to achieve their best within their abilities.

Assessments, particularly exams, are often used to decide if a student is ready to advance to the next grade. Exams provide a clear snapshot of a student's achievement and readiness for future challenges. When well-constructed, exams effectively reflect the student's understanding and support decisions regarding their educational path.

Well-conducted assessments also reflect the teacher's expertise and credibility. Thoughtfully crafted questions demonstrate the teacher understands of the subject and commitment to quality education. Well-regarded assessments can enhance a teacher's reputation, benefiting both the teacher and the learning environment.

Assessment is integral to the teaching and learning process. Because education is goal-oriented, regular assessment is essential to evaluate progress and ensure educational standards are maintained.

Education plays a fundamental role in upholding social standards, and assessment helps fulfill this role, supporting the idea that effective teaching is, in essence, thorough and meaningful assessment.

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By Guardian Reporter

## HWC: Elephants now turn to cashew apples

CASHEW farming is a significant agricultural activity in Liwale District, Lindi Region. It is a primary income source for most of the residents.

Liwale, with a population of 136,505, covers an area of 38,380 square kilometers. Over half of this area is forest, covering 27,965.4 square kilometers, including the Selous Game Reserve, which occupy 25,587 square kilometers.

The presence of protected areas surrounding the district, poses a significant challenge of Human Wildlife Confliction (HWC) whereas out of all the 76 villages, 64 of them experiences the problem.

Liwale District Commissioner Goodluck Mlinga said apart from damaging farms and crops, elephants have been eating cashew apples, thus becoming intoxicated.

Mlinga said currently, the district has an increased number of elephants that enter farms. He said after being drunk, the big animals can hardly be chased away of the far as they become more aggressive, threatening the lives of villagers.

"When elephants enter into a cashew farm, they prefer the apples because they are rich in nutrients, juicy, and sweet. Villagers had recently reported to find a drunken elephant in one of the farms; the wild animal was chased, but couldn't leave. Officials from the wildlife department had to take the elephant back to the reserve," explained the DC, adding the natural sugars in cashew apples make them sweet and appealing to elephants.

Cashew apples can be eaten directly or used to make a variety of foods, including juice, jam, wine, vinegar, chutney, pickles, candy, syrup, and dried fruit. Cashew apple juice is rich in vitamins. The taste and nutrition make cashew apples a rewarding food choice for elephants when they come across them.

Kitogoro Village Executive Officer, Miraji Zuberi, stated that the situation has now become worse especially during this cashew harvesting season. He said it has become common for villagers to



The taste makes cashew apples a rewarding food choice for elephants when they come across them. Photo: Guardian Photographer

encounter elephants when they go to pick cashews in the farms.

"I have been receiving many reports of elephants entering farms, these reports are forwarded to relevant authorities for further actions. Wildlife officers from Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) have been assisting us in returning them back to the national park," added Zuberi.

"History shows that in the past, elephants were not eating cashew apples, but once they tasted them, they became regular consumers. The bad thing is, elephants become intoxicated when they ate many of them; once drunk, they become aggressive and cause a lot of trou-

ble as they even walk onto the roads. They have learned that cashew apples are good food," the village leader narrated.

He added: "Elephants are now coming closer to our homes. We plan to start practicing collaborative farming so that it becomes easier to conduct patrols."

Mitigation efforts In response, the government, in collaboration with stakeholders including the German Development Agency (GIZ) has been taking a number of measures to reduce HWC as well as promoting co-existence.

GIZ is implementing the Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict in Tanzania project in the Ruvuma Landscape while in Liwale District it is executed in

11 villages namely Turuki, Kitogoro, Mtawatawa, Mtawango, Nanjejeja, Chimbuko, Mkutano, Ngumbu, Nahoro, Naluleo and Kimbema.

Statistics from TAWA shows that in the 2016/2017 farming season, there were 833 incidents of wildlife entering human settlements and farms. In 2017/2018, the incidents increased by 164, reaching 1,510. In 2019/2020, these incidents dropped from 1,510 to 1,426.

However, in 2020/2021, the situation worsened, with 1,706 incidents recorded. The problem has continued to escalate, reaching 2,304 incidents in 2021/2022 and 2,817 in 2022/2023.

Aloyce Assenga is the Assistant Conservation Ranger One from

TAWA's Liwale District office, he said: "We have been conducting patrols by going into the forest to monitor the animals. Patrols are also conducted outside the park whereas our officers have been responding to calls from villagers whenever the elephants and other destructive animals enter their farms."

According to him, all these activities are conducted in collaboration with the community especially Village Game Scouts (VGS) who have already been trained on handling elephants. VGS were trained at the Community Based Conservation Training Centre (CBCTC) in Likuyu Sekamganga with funding from GIZ.

He said VGS are stationed at

16 TAWA stations across the district and have been equipped with items like cold bombs, torches, and motorbikes to ensure a quick response.

Assenga added that human-wildlife conflicts are longstanding and were originally managed by the Wildlife Department within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism before the establishment of TAWA.

He said TAWA has partnered with GIZ to continue educating communities on environmental conservation as well as teaching them how to use beekeeping and other technics to scare away elephants. The organizations' innovative project aims to ensure that communities co-exist with the resources around them.

According to TAWA, the significant increase in HWC in 2018 prompted the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to develop a National Strategy for Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts (2020-2024).

Azironywa Mwinyimvua, Liwale District Administrative Secretary said: "We are thankful to GIZ for the support they have been providing to us in mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. They have been offering training on various methods to manage elephants. The government needs partners like GIZ to ensure both humans and animals remain safe."

# COP29: What are NDCs and why do they matter?

By Kate Whiting

**C**LIMATE change experts and leaders will gather in Azerbaijan in November 2024 at the end of what is likely to have been the hottest year on record.

COP29—the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—will focus on ‘enhancing ambition’, ensuring countries commit to ambitious national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), these commitments form the backbone of global efforts to combat climate change, and the deadline to update them is looming at the start of 2025.

But what are NDCs and why are they so important?

NDCs and the ‘ratchet mechanism’ of updates

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement, which was adopted at COP21 in 2015. Parties agreed to keep global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, as well as actively pursue efforts to “limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”.

The Paris Agreement is legally binding and works in a five-year cycle of increasingly ambitious commitments to climate action.

This approach has been dubbed ‘the ratchet mechanism’ as countries gradually ‘ratchet up’ their plans to reach the target of net zero by 2050.

NDCs include each country’s pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with specific targets, as well as measures countries are taking to adapt to climate change, alongside implementation strategies and timeframes to achieve these goals.

As the name suggests, they are unique to each nation, reflecting their specific circumstances, capabilities and priorities in the fight against climate change.

The first NDCs were part of the Paris Agreement agreed by all 196 Parties. The first update was in 2020, and the deadline to update these commitments again is February 2025. The target is to achieve them by 2035.

Which countries have set NDCs and why do they matter?

Some countries will announce their second update to their NDCs in November at COP29, ahead of the February deadline.

In August, for example, the UK’s Sec-



**Countries have to update their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by February 2025 - and some may announce their targets at COP29 in November.**

retary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, wrote to the Climate Change Committee asking for guidance on its 2035 NDC by the end of October.

Once submitted, all NDCs are held in the NDC Registry by the UNFCCC - where you can see the previous updates - and some countries, including Chile and the UK, have enshrined their NDCs in law.

Countries will need to update their NDCs by February 2025. Image: World Resources Institute

The World Resources Institute’s (WRI) Climate Watch platform is launching an interactive NDC Tracker ahead of COP29, which will enable users to track and analyze the new submissions.

Serving as catalysts for national climate policies and actions, NDCs drive investments in clean energy, sus-

tainable transportation and climate-resilient infrastructure.

NDCs also promote transparency and accountability in global climate efforts, as countries are required to regularly report on their progress.

The level of detail can include plans for creating jobs in clean technology industries and the outline of projects, policies and financing needs that can actually help to attract funding.

Do the current NDCs go far enough to limit global warming?

Existing NDCs are not nearly ambitious enough to limit global warming to below 1.5°C, according to the WRI. “The actions outlined in existing NDCs are on track for a catastrophic 2.5-2.9°C of warming by 2100,” it says.

In 2023, the Intergovern-

mental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) summary of five years of reports said that to keep within the 1.5°C limit, emissions need to be reduced by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels and at least 60 percent by 2035.

Developed countries, the world’s largest emitters historically, also had a responsibility to “make the deepest reductions while providing substantially more finance to help developing countries accelerate climate action”.

In 2023, an analysis by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) found developing and vulnerable nations are “making concrete progress on ambition”. For example, pledges from African countries are more robust than the global average, it found.

At COP28 in December

2023, Denmark, Finland and Panama started the Group of Negative Emitters (GONE). In July 2024, the UK’s Climate Change Committee reported that “only a third of the emissions reductions required to achieve the country’s 2030 target are currently covered by credible plans”.

How carbon removal technologies can help

The IPCC says reaching net zero alone will require a “substantial reduction in overall fossil fuel use, minimal use of unabated fossil fuels, and use of carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the remaining fossil fuel systems; energy conservation and efficiency; and greater integration across the energy system”.

But given the urgency, scaling ‘engineered’ Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) technologies, including Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and

Storage (BECCS), Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS) and Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW) is also critical.

“Even if every country and every company achieves net zero by 2050, it won’t be enough. We will need to keep removing CO2 for decades afterwards - to reverse the accumulation of historic emissions,” writes Nasim Pour, Lead, Carbon Removals and Market Innovation, World Economic Forum in the Carbon Dioxide Removal: Best-Practice Guidelines white paper.

Members of the Forum’s First Movers Coalition - a group aiming to accelerate the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors - have committed to contracting for 50,000 tonnes or \$25 million worth of durable and scalable carbon removal by 2030.

## Shaping cities of the future to be inclusive, sustainable and resilient

By Christophe Bahuet

**I**MAGINE a city in Asia and the Pacific, in 2030, where sustainability flourishes, public services are accessible to all, and green spaces abound amid bustling urban life. In several cities across the region, local governments are moving towards achieving such a vision, but progress is slow.

But time is of the essence, and the cities of tomorrow will be shaped by decisions made today. The building of resilient, equitable and sustainable urban environments requires a new type of city leadership that champions a transformative approach that goes way beyond traditional urban management.

In today’s world, cities account for more than 70% of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, mainly from transportation and buildings. By 2050, rapid urbanization will add 1.2 billion people to cities in Asia and the Pacific, putting immense pressure on already strained infrastructure and services, compounded by the impacts of climate change.

Without rapid transformation, many cities in Asia Pacific will see rising inequalities and be even more vulnerable to climate-induced disasters.

Six of the 10 countries most affected by climate-related events over the past two decades lie in Asia and the Pacific, compounding the vulnerability of some of the growing cities. This unfolds as many of them already struggle to provide basic services like clean water, affordable housing and reliable energy for their growing populations.

Cities adopting innovative solutions to mitigate impacts of urbanization

To address these challenges, an increasing number of cities are adopt-



**Urbanization will add 1.2 billion people to Asia and Pacific cities by 2050.**

ing innovative solutions to mitigate the impacts of rapid urbanization and climate change.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is working with the city of Karachi in Pakistan to develop green and sustainable infrastructure projects, to improve its resilience as well as the living conditions of internally displaced populations affected by climate-related events, alongside the city’s resident populations.

While being impactful at the community level, these projects are now to be scaled up to meet the needs of millions of residents, particularly the most vulnerable ones living in informal settlements.

At this critical time, it is

visionary and collaborative leadership that will make the difference. One that builds partnerships and drives actions across all sectors of society, to contend effectively with today’s complex urban challenges while committing to a long-term vision for a future that is equitable, prosperous and sustainable.

By championing inclusive and forward-looking strategies - where local government, communities, businesses and civil society work together to craft solutions - city leaders can tackle the inter-related complex challenges they face of environmental degradation, urban poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

With such strategies, they

are also better placed to leverage the required level of financing, implement changes that will meet the demands of residents, and protect the rights of future generations.

An inspiring example in Asia is the city of Bangkok that has adopted an open government approach - open data, open contracts and open dialogue - to build public trust and foster citizen and private sector engagement in the city’s green and resilient urban transformation.

Through collaborative efforts that include public institutions, private stakeholders, and local communities, Bangkok is developing innovative green infrastructure projects like Green Bangkok 2030, to create inclusive public spaces,

drive inclusive growth and advance sustainability.

The path to resilience and prosperity must also harness the power of digital technology and artificial intelligence-based tools that can help reimagine the cities of the future.

Digital innovations can inform long-term urban planning

Digital innovations, driven by proactive leadership, can help better anticipate future shocks and trends, and model future scenarios to inform long-term urban planning, that benefit today’s residents, as well as future generations, particularly vulnerable groups like women, children and people with disabilities.

Dhaka, with 24 million in-

habitants, the capital of Bangladesh, is an example of how data can better support the development challenges of urban governance. By using predictive analytics, the city has developed early-warning systems for climate-related risks, protecting its most vulnerable residents from disasters.

In Japan, the city of Yokohama is integrating digital tools to promote citizen engagement and reduce greenhouse emissions through its Smart City initiative, ensuring that urban development is sustainable and inclusive.

In Singapore, the Smart Nation initiative exemplifies how integrating the internet of things, data analytics and autonomous transport systems, have enhanced the country’s mobility, reduced congestion and improved the delivery of public services, setting a benchmark for urban innovation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asian cities will continue growing bigger and faster; the challenges this urban growth faces will also become larger, and more complex. Still, building cities of the future that are green and safe for all is within reach. Technology and finance allow for it. Visionary and bold leaders who embrace good urban governance, collaboration and transformation can make it happen.

# Climate change finance, natural capital accounting by African countries, top AfDB's agenda at COP 29

By Special Correspondent, Baku

THE world's largest annual climate conference opens in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday, with African nations ramping up efforts to tackle climate change.

At COP29, the African Development Bank aims to mobilize additional resources for climate action in Africa and launch a bold new approach to assessing African economies by including their "green wealth."

Organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, COP29 follows last year's landmark decision at COP28 to establish a Loss and Damage Fund. This year's summit, dubbed the "Finance COP," will see countries negotiate fresh climate finance targets.

Africa, with its vast carbon-sequestering forests and resources ripe for green growth, holds massive potential to drive clean energy access for millions. Yet, sub-Saharan Africa receives less than 3% of global climate finance, hindering efforts to advance National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

"There is no reason why Africa should be greenly poor. Africa should be greenly wealthy by proper valuation of its vast contributions to global environmental services," African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina said during a meeting of African Ministers of finance, economy, foreign affairs, climate change, and environment in the run-up to COP29.

To achieve this green wealth, Adesina is advocating for recalibrating the GDP of African countries to reflect natural assets like forests and carbon sinks.



Voices project manager, Roberts Muganzi

This recalibration could reveal a significantly higher GDP, better reflecting Africa's environmental contributions.

The upcoming COP29 summit will provide a platform for African leaders to introduce "Measuring the Green Wealth of Africa," an initiative that could redefine African economies. According to the African Development Bank's preliminary estimates, adjusting for carbon sequestration alone could have boosted Africa's nominal GDP in 2022 by \$66.1 billion—a 2.2% increase. Six Congo Basin countries

(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon) accounted for nearly 64% of this increase.

"That means that the countries can have larger headroom to take on more financing and invest them for the greening of their economies. Therefore, such a move is important for re-computing Africa's debt sustainability," Adesina said.

During the meeting, participating

nations voiced their strong backing. The Republic of Congo and Kenya are the lead champions for the initiative.

Adesina called for the outcome of the heads of state summit at COP to be presented before the African Union Summit next year.

Mobilizing more resources to support African countries tackle climate change

Africa receives only 3-4% of global climate finance despite accounting for 9 of the world's 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change. Signifi-

cantly, boosting the share of climate finance directed toward African nations is one of the major reasons for the Bank's presence at COP29.

The African Development Fund's Climate Action Window will, on Wednesday, 13 November, host a session to discuss how to unlock climate finance for Africa's vulnerable communities via this critical arm of the Bank Group. The Climate Action Window was established under its 16th replenishment cycle to help fill Africa's significant climate finance gap.

Other high-level events include Wednesday's Measuring the Green Wealth of African Nations, which will be attended by heads of state and government. It will be followed by the launch of a report about Green Wealth. The Bank will host an event to rally support for Mission 300 (link is external), a joint undertaking with the World Bank Group and partners to connect 300 million people in Africa to electricity by 2030.

The African Union and the government of the Republic of Tanzania will host a high-level side event on clean cooking titled "Addressing Clean Cooking Challenges in Africa: A Call for African Leadership." It will highlight the urgent need for political leadership, innovative partnerships, and substantial financial investment to achieve sustainable, clean cooking solutions across Africa.

## Mentorship to empower African women in agribusiness



Christophe Ainagnon dropped out science degree because he realized he would not be able to find a job with his degree.

## COP29 spotlights critical minerals as African women count the cost

JOHANNESBURG/BAKU

WHILE tens of thousands attend the U.N. COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, a group of more than 120 grassroots African female activists have snubbed the talks and already attended a "counter-COP" in Senegal.

Members of the Women's Climate Assembly (WCA) are seeking reparations for environmental and social damages inflicted by historic mining, and a greater say in the extraction of critical minerals needed for the world's transition to clean energy.

"We support an energy transition, but if it will involve children in mines, we are against it, if it involves women getting sick and being exploited, we are against it," said Oumou Koulibaly, a WCA member based in Senegal.

At October's African Peoples Counter COP, activists shared experiences of the harmful impacts of mining, from communities displaced by new gold mines in Burkina Faso, to water contamination from Guinea's aluminium mines.

Meanwhile in Baku on Wednesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke following the conclusion of an expert panel on critical minerals.

"Too often we see the mistakes of the past repeated in a stampede of greed that crushes the poor," he said.

"We see a rush for resources,

with communities exploited, rights trampled and environments trashed. We see developing countries ground down to the bottom of value chains, as others grow wealthy on their resources," Guterres said.

The panel published a report in September with recommendations to make the sector more sustainable, such as by creating a transparency framework and a fund to address legacy issues caused by derelict or abandoned mines.

Guterres said the report's recommendations "aim to empower communities, create accountability, and ensure that clean energy drives equitable and resilient growth."

Africa holds over 40 percent of the world's reserves of transition minerals like cobalt, lithium and copper - all key to green technologies such as electric vehicles and solar panels.

With the right policies to keep more of the processing and manufacturing on the continent, Africa could boost its GDP by at least \$24 billion a year and create 2.3 million jobs, research from civil society organisation Publish What You Pay found.

As COP29 discusses what should happen, female activists in Africa want action so that history does not repeat itself, with minerals enriching international mining companies and local people left with little apart from environmental damage.

The African activists' meeting and WCA said African voices have been largely excluded from COP meetings, where they said Global North governments and corporations renege on promises, such as not delivering climate funds where they are needed.

The WCA is working to quantify the historic damages in monetary terms and is building a legal case to demand reparations from polluting companies.

"We need to talk to the polluters for the problems they are causing in our communities," said Abie Freeman a Liberia WCA member in a statement.

### The "lungs of Africa"

In a declaration last year, the WCA criticised "world leaders of powerful countries who stand with their dirty industries", highlighting the impacts of resource extraction like oil drilling and metals mining in the Congo Basin.

While the Congo Basin is extremely rich in minerals such as cobalt and coltan, it is also sometimes described as "the lungs of Africa" as its forests act as the world's largest carbon sink.

Judith Suminwa Tuluka, the first female prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said several reports link the intensive exploitation of minerals - including those for the energy transition - with war in her country.

"For an energy transition to

be fair and equitable, it must be built on a foundation which contributes to peace and development," she told the COP29 event.

That means those countries where resources are extracted and their local communities benefit from all of the measures and investments, Suminwa added.

The resources needed for green energy devices like solar panels and batteries will entail much more extraction of minerals such as cobalt and lithium, said Samantha Hargreaves, the director of WoMin, a Pan African ecofeminism alliance.

Africa should act as a unified bloc to control the mining and trade of critical minerals, she said, as mining projects have often left women with limited access to public services, water and energy, and vulnerable to sexual violence.

The United Nations Trade and Development agency (UNCTAD) contributed to the U.N. panel report and plans to work with countries to help obtain more community benefits from mining and build "value-added" industries like domestic processing.

Luz María de la Mora, director of UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities said women have lower salaries in the sector, and often have to support families alone when men are forced to leave communities to find mining work.

ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) have launched the third round of their joint initiative, the Accelerator Mentorship Programme for Women-led Small-to-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa.

This innovative programme will foster 50 women entrepreneurs across Africa's agrifood sector over the next nine months, providing them with the mentorship, skills, and resources they need to grow their businesses and contribute to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in Africa.

Building on the success of the previous two rounds, the programme aims to address the social, economic and environmental challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Africa's agrifood systems. By pairing the mentees with a global panel of experienced women entrepreneurs, the programme provides one-on-one mentorship, knowledge sharing, and capacity building designed to help the mentees scale their businesses and adapt to the evolving marketplace under the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement.

At today's launch, FAO Deputy Director-General Maurizio Martina said women are the backbone of agrifood systems. "At FAO we know investing in rural women, enhancing their capacities, decision-making powers and access to finance and essential services is a necessity to accelerate progress towards rural development and food security," he said.

The third round of the Accelerator Mentorship Programme comes at a time when empowering women entrepreneurs is more crucial than ever. According to FAO, women account for around 54 percent of the workforce employed in the off-farm segments of Africa's agrifood systems, yet their potential remains underutilized due to financial and structural barriers. Through this programme, FAO and IAFN aim to unlock the potential of women-led agribusinesses, driving innovation and contributing to resilient food systems across the continent.

In his remarks, FAO Assistant Director-General Abebe Haile-Gabriel highlighted the transformative role that women play in agrifood systems transformation and rural development.

"Investing in women's empowerment means investing in a more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable future. It means greater food security, enhanced nutrition, innovative solutions

and far-reaching benefits to entire communities. When women are equipped and enabled, they achieve remarkable things," he said.

Robynne Anderson, Secretary General of IAFN, underlined the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs in Africa.

"Women's entrepreneurship is essential for fostering economic diversity and sustainable growth. Women entrepreneurs play a key role in poverty reduction because when women earn they spend a high proportion of their income on children's health, education, and nutrition, breaking the cycle of poverty," she said.

Her organisation estimates that the first cohort of 50 women positively benefitted 500,000 people - employees, farmers, value chain participants and customers. "A few great leaders can make a great difference," she said.

The Accelerator Mentorship Programme is designed to provide participants with a blend of tailored mentorship and practical training. On top of the one-on-one mentoring, participants take part in interactive workshops focusing on topics such as how to access financing, develop sustainable business models, and meet international market standards.

Elizabeth Kabakoyo, founder of Glowish Agro Solutions that produces organic fertilizers for small-holder farmers, shared her insights as a participant in a previous round of the programme.

"My mentor supported me and helped me manage the financial side of my business, as well as effectively manage employees and enhance the outreach of customers. Now, through my activity, I produce agroecological bio fertilizers which are used by farmers to increase agricultural productivity, adapting to climate change, while at the same time protecting biodiversity. In the future, I am planning to expand my activity and set up demonstration gardens to educate farmers of my region on the use of eco-organic fertilizers," she said.

The mentees selected for the third round represent a diverse range of sectors within the agrifood system, including agro-processing, value addition, and food supply trading.

The programme is part of FAO's broader commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in agrifood systems. By addressing key obstacles, FAO and IAFN are working to ensure that women entrepreneurs can play a central role in transforming Africa's agrifood systems into more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable models, leaving no one behind.





# AfDB invests \$55bn to promote economic integration across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

The African Development Bank Group has invested \$55 billion in regional connectivity across Africa over the past decade, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing continental integration and trade.

This update was shared by Dr. Joy Kategekwa, Director of Regional Integration at the Bank Group, during the recent launch of the 2023-2024 East African Community (EAC) Common Market Capital, Services, and Goods Scan.

Speaking on the theme "Keeping the Promise to Integrate Africa," Kategekwa outlined the Bank's strategic partnership role in East African development, highlighting its support for the EAC Common Market Protocol, which aims to deepen economic integration by promoting the free movement of goods, services, and capital across the region.

The Bank's "Integrate Africa" portfolio for Eastern Africa, valued at \$5.5 billion, stands as the largest on the continent, underscoring its dedication to fostering a more connected East Africa.

"With 64 percent of the Integrate Africa portfolio directed toward

transport infrastructure, the Bank has funded significant projects that will enhance regional trade," Kategekwa said.

One such project is the \$3.9 billion electrified Standard Gauge Railway connecting Burundi, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with \$700 million provided by the bank.

"This railway will streamline trade and mobility across East African borders, supporting the region's growing economic needs," she highlighted.

The electrified SGR will link Tanzania's port city of Dar es Salaam to landlocked countries such as Burundi and the DRC, facilitating more efficient transport of goods and passengers.

The railway is expected to significantly reduce transportation costs and time, making regional trade more efficient and competitive. This will benefit industries such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing.

Beyond infrastructure, the Bank has also invested in "soft" connectivity projects, such as the \$20 million EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project, which allows cross-border transactions in local currencies, and the \$11 million EAC Capacity Building Project,



The African Development Bank invests heavily in the transport sector to bolster regional integration

which aims to lower trade costs and address non-tariff barriers.

Kategekwa emphasized the significance of these investments for Eastern Africa and Africa's broader goals under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which represents a \$3 trillion market. She urged governments and private sector stakeholders to collaborate in transforming East Africa into a unified economic force.

She stressed the importance of harmonizing policies, enhancing

infrastructure, and reducing trade barriers, urging all stakeholders to commit to fully implementing the EAC Common Market Protocol. "Together, we can create a prosperous region ready to seize the vast opportunities offered by the AfCFTA."

EAC Secretary-General Veronica Nduva raised concerns about the absence of regional currency convergence which impacts border trade, urging the assessment of national efforts towards regional

switches. "It does not matter how much progress you make at the national level if it is not converging at the regional level," she said, warning that this disparity increases business costs and hinders free movement.

The conference concluded with a collective call for creating a borderless East African Community as a model for continental integration and sustainable development.

Africa's economic integration is a complex and strategic effort aimed

at unifying the continent's economies to boost economic growth, development, and competitiveness.

Central to this goal is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which represents the largest free trade area in the world by number of participating countries.

Established in 2018 and operational from 2021, AfCFTA aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, facilitate movement of capital and people, and pave the way for a customs union.

Regional Economic Communities like the East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Southern African Development Community (SADC) play foundational roles in regional trade and cooperation.

Harmonizing policies across these communities remains a challenge due to varying stages of development and economic priorities.

Africa's journey toward full economic integration involves navigating these complexities with a mix of policy support, infrastructure development, and active participation by both the public and private sectors.

# JNHPP positions Tanzania as EA's top electricity hub

By Guardian Reporter

The implementation of the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Electric Power Project (JNHPP) is positioning Tanzania as an energy hub.

This was revealed by Herman Zaidin, managing director of HBZ International, during the opening of the Tanzania's first-ever energy investment summit held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam.

Zaidin underscored Tanzania's progress in energy development and the sector's attractiveness for investors.

He said energy sector is pivotal to Tanzania's economic growth, and the summit provided a platform to showcase the country's advancements and opportunities.

"With the fruition of projects like the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project, Tanzania is positioning itself as an energy hub in East Africa," he said.

The East African energy sector has experienced notable development over the past decade, driven by a combination of growing energy demand, investments in renewable energy, and significant policy changes aimed at boosting energy access and sustainability.

The summit brought together industry leaders, policymakers, investors, and innovators to chart the future of sustainable energy in the country.

Organized by HBZ International and the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC), and supported by strategic partners such as TANTRADE and TPSF, the summit aimed to highlight investment opportunities and Tanzania's emerging role as a regional energy hub.

TAOMAC's Executive Director, Raphael Mgaya, echoed the sentiments, highlighting Tanzania's strides in the energy sector and emphasizing the critical role of public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable growth.

"This summit comes at a pivotal time, aligning with Tanzania's strategic ambi-

tions in the regional energy market," said Mgaya.

Mgaya said the summit has offered an invaluable platform for dialogue and collaboration to shape the future of the country's energy sector.

Al Shiddiq, Director of Ansync Global, a leading logistics company expressed positive sentiments for Tanzania as a sustainable and sound investment destination for international companies.

Raphael Maganga, executive director, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) underscored the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in advancing sustainable investments.

On his part, discussant Salim Baabde explored strategies for ensuring both economic and environmental sustainability in energy investment.

Panel discussions provided participants with insights into Tanzania's regulatory and legal frameworks for energy investment.

Moderated by Dr. Fayaz Bhojani, the discussions included contributions from industry leaders like Noel Shiyo of CNS Group and Kennedy Rwehumbiza from TPSF, who addressed challenges and potential avenues for energy sector investment.

Additionally, the summit featured the panel "Sustainability and Success for Tanzania's Energy Landscape," moderated by Salim Baabde, director of the local oil company, explored strategies for ensuring both economic and environmental sustainability.

Baabde further explored strategies for ensuring both economic and environmental sustainability in energy investment.

Speakers, including Marsha Msuya of TotalEnergies and representatives from the Tanzania Investment Centre, discussed Tanzania's forward-looking plans for a resilient energy future.



# Fintechs transform African financial services, says EIB

By Guardian Reporter

Fintech companies in Africa have nearly tripled in number since 2020, improving access to finance for people and businesses across the continent, according to a new EIB report released today.

The report, Finance in Africa 2024, highlights improvements in the African financial sector as well as constraints for the region's economic growth.

"Fintech is revolutionising the way we think about finance in Africa," said EIB Vice-President Thomas Östros. "By leveraging technology, we can improve access to finance for millions and foster sustainable economic growth."

Africa's fintech sector is thriving as digital finance expands much faster than traditional banking. The number of African companies offering new products and services in the area of finance jumped to 1,263

at the start of 2024 from 450 in 2020.

Yet obstacles to finance remain a significant constraint on economic development, with private-sector credit falling from 56 percent of gross domestic product in 2007 to 36 percent in 2022. The decline hinders growth in productive economic assets, impeding industrialisation on the continent.

Increasing trade among African countries could boost development because the industrial share of intra-African exports is nearly double that of other destinations, according to the report.

The Finance in Africa report includes data from the ninth annual EIB Banking in Africa survey that details diverse challenges and confirms resilience of the African banking sector.

The analysis shows that among sub-Saharan African banks, 77 percent of survey

respondents report that current economic conditions are their main concern, followed by asset quality (53 percent of banks). Concerns about funding also persist, with about one-third of banks citing lack of capital and the cost or availability of funding as a problem.

"While we see some signs of improvement, the high cost of finance remains a source of concern," said EIB Chief Economist Debora Revoltella. "As we navigate the dual challenges of climate change and the digital transformation, the role of multilateral development bank lending is even more relevant in supporting sustainable growth on the continent."

A decline in sovereign bond yields has allowed several African nations to regain access to international bond markets. Although the EIB Financial Conditions Index indicates some easing, financial conditions remain tight, posing challenges

for private-sector development.

The report also delves into the climate perceptions of African banks. Based on the EIB Climate Risk Scores, Africa is amongst the most exposed regions in the world to the physical risks stemming from climate change. 34 percent of the banks in our survey report asset quality deterioration due to extreme weather events and identify SMEs as the most affected borrowers.

At the same time, nine out of 10 banks could soon have a gender strategy in place as they continue to report better loan performances among women-led firms.

Nearly 70 percent of banks have lower rates of non-performing loans for these businesses. The report shows the advantage of lending to women and 17 percent of African banks plan to introduce a dedicated gender strategy in their operations.

The continent has seen a significant increase in venture capital investment directed towards fintech startups, especially in countries like Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, and Egypt.

Investments often focus on payment platforms, lending solutions, and digital banking services.

While fintech innovation has boomed, regulation is often playing catch-up. Governments and financial institutions are increasingly working to create frameworks that support growth while ensuring security and consumer protection.

Efforts such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) include discussions on harmonizing regulations to promote cross-border fintech solutions.

Despite rapid growth, fintech companies face challenges like internet connectivity issues and gaps in digital literacy.

Financial analysts say, the fintech ecosystem is expected to continue evolving in future, with a focus on expanding services to rural and remote areas.

Discussants listen to Kennedy Rwehumbiza, head of research and policy, TPSF (2nd L) during the Tanzania energy investment summit held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



# US banks shut 65 branches in three weeks

By Jessica Kwong

Major banking institutions have shuttered 65 branches across the US over the past three weeks, and a thousand are set to be closed by the end of this year.

Bank of America and US Bank closed 11 branches each from October 15 to November 5, which

was the highest number for them within such a time frame in 2024.

Three other major banks - Wells Fargo, Citizens Bank and Associated Bank - closed a fewer number of branches.

The hardest hit state was California, which lost 10 banking locations, followed by Pennsylvania

where eight shut their doors. Florida and Ohio followed with a half-dozen closures each.

Data with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has banking institutions on pace to close 1,000 branches collectively by the end of the year, according to the Daily Mail.

Bank of America has closed the most branches, a whopping 132.

"As we evolve along with our clients, we are reevaluating our physical footprint, and in some instances, consolidating branch locations in select markets," a US Bank spokesperson told the Daily Mail.

# Why everyone is wrong about stablecoins

By Christian Catalini

Stripe's acquisition in October of stablecoin orchestration startup Bridge sent shockwaves through the crypto world. For the first time, a major payments company committed over a billion dollars to accelerate its use of this technology. Though this isn't Stripe's first attempt at crypto, the timing feels different. Enthusiasm for stablecoins is at an all-time high.

Bridge might be worth \$1.1 billion to Stripe, but on its own, it most likely wouldn't have hit that mark. This isn't due to any lack of talent, but rather because making money with stablecoins is extremely challenging. Whether through issuing, orchestrating (i.e. converting between stablecoins) or integrating them with legacy banking rails, achieving long-term profitability will be a significant challenge.

The reality is that network effects in the stablecoin market are likely to be much weaker than most anticipate, and it's far from a winner-take-all environment. In fact, stablecoins may function as loss leaders and, without essential complementary assets, could even become a losing venture. While industry insiders often cite liquidity as the primary reason only a few stablecoins will dominate, the truth is far more complex. Here are three common misconceptions about stablecoins.

## 1. Stablecoins need a complementary business model.

When we designed Libra, it was clear that stablecoins require a complementary business model to thrive. The Libra ecosystem was structured around a non-profit association that brought together wallets, merchants and digital platforms to support both

stablecoin issuance and the payment rails on which these assets would move.

Relying solely on reserve interest isn't a sustainable way to monetise a stablecoin. We learned this early on, as we were planning to issue stablecoins backed by currencies with minimal (euro) or even negative (yen) interest rates at the time. Stablecoin issuers like Circle and Tether seem to overlook that today's high-interest environment is an anomaly, and a sustainable business can't be built on a foundation that's likely to crumble when market conditions shift.

Of course, it's not just the 'stock' of stablecoins that can be monetised; their 'flow' can be too. Circle's increase in redemption fees suggests they're starting to realise this. However, this approach violates a fundamental principle in payments: to build user trust and retention, entry and exit must be seamless. Exit fees undermine the basic expectation that money should feel unrestricted and readily available. This leaves transaction fees as a potential revenue source - but enforcing them on a blockchain is challenging without strict control over the protocol. Even then, it's impossible to impose fees on transactions occurring between users within the same wallet provider. These are all scenarios we explored exhaustively with Libra, highlighting just how complex and uncertain the business model was for the non-profit association.

So what options do stablecoin issuers have? Unless they're relying on temporary regulatory loopholes - which are unlikely to hold long term - they'll need to start competing with their own customers.

Circle's initiatives - including programmable wallets, a cross-chain protocol and the



Mint programme - reveal exactly where the company is going. And that's unwelcome news for many of its closest partners. But for Circle to survive, it must transition into a payments company, even if that means encroaching on its allies' territory.

Stripe doesn't face this dilemma. As one of the world's most successful payments companies, it has mastered the art of deploying and monetising a streamlined software layer on top of global money movement - a model that scales efficiently through network effects without being slowed down by the need for country-specific banking licences. Stablecoins accelerate this approach by acting as a bridge between Stripe and domestic banking and payment rails. What was once a network constrained by legacy institutions - including card companies - can now overcome its last-mile problem, delivering significantly more value to merchants and consumers.

## 2. Dollarisation is not a product

Many assume that stablecoins will seamlessly operate as low-cost, global dollar accounts for consumers and businesses. The reality is far more complex.

Countries that value monetary policy independence, fear capital flight in a crisis and worry about destabilising their domestic banks will strongly oppose the large-scale adoption of frictionless dollar-based stablecoin accounts. They'll use every tool available to block or limit these accounts, just as they've resisted other forms of dollarisation. And while it may be impossible to stop crypto transactions entirely, governments have numerous ways to restrict access and curb mainstream adoption.

Does this mean stablecoins are doomed in emerging economies with capital controls or concerns over capital flight? Not at all - the rise of domestic stablecoins that adhere to local banking and regulatory frameworks is in-

evitable.

While the US dollar has traditionally dominated the stablecoin market, things could change rapidly. In Europe, following the implementation of the Markets in Crypto-Assets regulation, banks, fintech companies and new entrants are rushing to issue euro-denominated stablecoins. This approach has the benefit of preserving the stability of the local banking system and will be even more important in regions like Latin America, Africa and Asia.

## 3. There will not be a single stablecoin winner

The reality is that a stablecoin's most important feature - its peg to a currency like the dollar or euro - is also its greatest weakness. Today, these assets are seen as distinct, but once regulation standardises stablecoins and makes each equally safe, individuals and businesses will view them simply as dollars or euros.

When that happens, the economics of stablecoins will favour entities with either

a complementary business model or those that control the interface between stablecoins and the assets backing them - be it bank deposits, US treasuries or money market funds.

That is bad news for pure-play issuers like Circle, whose current banking system interfaces depend on entities such as BlackRock and BNY. These financial giants are well-positioned to become direct competitors.

Tech companies with banking licences, like Revolut, Monzo and Nubank, are well-positioned to lead in their markets, and other players are likely to accelerate their licensing efforts to gain similar advantages. However, many players in the stablecoin market will struggle to compete with established banks and may face acquisition or failure.

Banks and credit card companies will resist a market dominated by one or two stablecoins. Instead, they'll advocate for a landscape with multiple interoperable and interchangeable issuers. When that happens, liquidity and availability will be driven by existing distribution channels to consumers and merchants - an advantage already held by neobanks and payment companies like Stripe or Adyen.

Fully-backed stablecoins like USDC and USDT will need high-velocity use cases to remain viable - such as enabling cross-border money movement - or they'll need to attract a decentralised finance ecosystem that can introduce transparent fractionalisation to subsidise their narrow-bank model. Meanwhile, deposit tokens issued by banks or tokenised funds will benefit from stronger underlying economics, which will drive their adoption across both consumer and institutional

use cases.

In every region, national champions - from banks to crypto firms - will position themselves as the essential entry point into the local market. However, they'll need to carefully consider how stablecoins, by linking domestic rails to blockchain networks, could also lower barriers for foreign competitors to enter and compete. After all, the core transformation here from a business perspective is that these systems will run on open protocols.

## So what does this all mean?

The future is bright for payments, fintech and neobank players, who can leverage stablecoins to streamline operations and accelerate global expansion. It also opens new opportunities for domestic stablecoin issuers to position themselves and ready their payment systems for global interoperability - an area where stablecoins are poised to succeed where the bureaucratic Bank for International Settlements' Finternet vision will quickly fall short.

Leading crypto exchanges will also leverage stablecoins to enter the consumer and merchant payments space more aggressively, positioning themselves as credible challengers to major fintech and payment companies.

While questions remain about how stablecoins will scale anti-money laundering and compliance controls as they go mainstream, there's no doubt they offer an opportunity to rapidly modernise our financial services and shake up industry leadership.

*Christian Catalini (pictured) is Co-founder of Lightspark and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cryptoeconomics Lab.*

By Guardian Correspondent

Africa's agricultural sector is the backbone of many economies on the continent, contributing significantly to GDP and providing livelihoods for millions of people. Despite its immense potential, businesses across the agri-value-chain in Africa face significant hurdles.

Most importantly a lack of access to financing and mentorship tools to aid their growth. The financing gap in particular hinders the growth of agribusinesses, which are essential for the continent's economic development.

Africa is also a key supplier of a range of food products to the EU, US with data from Trade Map reporting a record US\$13.2 billion agricultural exports from South Africa alone in 2023, rising 3 percent from the previous year.

For the African continent, trade share in already processed products for intra-African trade increased by 46.3 percent in the 2019 - 2021 period, with the African Continental Free Trade agreement expected to increase the current numbers.

In 2025, South Africa will be holding the G20 conference of global leaders and agricultural reform will be a key topic in terms of sustainability and the world's food security agenda.

Challenges faced by African SMEs along the agri-value chain

According to Jerome van Innis, Co-founder of African fintech, Pumpkn.io, "while recognising the need for capacitation of SMEs on the continent and despite the sector's importance for global food security, traditional lenders, such as commercial banks, often view SMEs across the food value chain as high-risk borrowers due to factors like price fluctuations, unpredictable weather patterns, and limited financial, marketplace, technical and formal business literacy."

This perception restricts agri-SMEs' access to essential financing, hindering their ability to grow and innovate. Many African SMEs, particularly those in rural areas might lack a formal credit history making it difficult for lenders to access their credit worthiness.

Some still do not have the traditional

## Pioneering agri-financing through partnerships with African MSMEs



forms of collateral such as land or buildings which lenders typically require for large loans.

Furthermore, poor infrastructure in some rural areas can make it difficult and expensive for lenders to reach and serve agri-SMEs across the continent's vast areas.

Bridging the gap through close partnerships

"What this has brought about is the need for these challenges to be addressed by providing innovative financial solutions while fostering close partnerships with

these SMEs in order to provide the financial support, repeatedly, in order for them to grow," adds van Innis.

Because of the world's move towards digital-driven business practices, fintech's must take a technology-led approach to working with SMEs using tools such as data-driven credit assessments.

"Today this can be done with multiple data sources in ways that are frictionless for the entrepreneur. This approach helps to identify creditworthy borrowers who may have been overlooked by traditional

lenders," says van Innis.

Further solutions to form closer partnerships with SMEs in order to address their specific challenges and make the process for applications easier include making applications completely paperless. This could also be the offer of lending products tailored specifically to their needs which might consist of working capital loans, invoice financing or other tools that aid financial resourcing to help purchase equipment, expand businesses and cover operational costs.

What is important is looking at African SMEs with a unique lens, and using a partnership based lending approach to build great and growing businesses. This approach fosters trust and ultimately helps to ensure the success of the capital injected.

The impact of a technology led approach Fintech has significantly changed the way agri-financing can work and is making such a positive impact on the lives of African farmers and food entrepreneurs. And while there are great strides being made in using technology to make it easier for these SMEs to have access to financing, more is to be done.

"For example," adds van Innis, "more of the world's development agencies, the public sector and lenders need to work with teams who understand how these businesses work and understand how to assess their risk profile. Working with fintech's will help to close the gaps to ensure that SMEs get the capital they need to both survive and thrive. This is incredibly important for an industry accounting for one-third of the continent's GDP."

Such approaches will not only help to grow businesses, but create jobs, and improve livelihoods. "The success that we are seeing with this approach demonstrates the potential of technology and innovative partnerships to bridge the financing gap in African agriculture. As more fintech's enter the market and governments implement policies to support agri-financing, the future of African agriculture looks bright," he concludes.

The future success of agri-financing in Africa

By working together, stakeholders can create a more inclusive financial system that empowers African agri-SMEs to thrive and contribute to the continent's economic development.

Such an approach to agri-financing, which leverages technology, data-driven credit assessment, and close partnerships with SMEs, is a positive step towards addressing the financing gap that hinders the growth of African agriculture. As more stakeholders adopt similar approaches, the future of African agriculture looks promising.

# Tanzania sets to start exporting milk to Algeria

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

**T**ANZANIA is working to finalize key negotiations and needed procedures in order to start exporting powdery milk to Algeria.

The Registrar of the Tanzania Dairy Board, Professor George Msalya told The Guardian in an interview that Algeria has dispatched a special request to start importing milk from Tanzania.

"We have the request in our hands and we're currently holding professional talks with local producer to see how best we can cater for the potential market," he said.

He further said the country was also exporting fresh milk to Yemen and some Arab countries, and more countries have declared interest to start importing milk from Tanzania.

He attributed the development with the advancement in the milk processing sector within the country, saying currently there are at least five local factories with capacity to process milk through the Ultra High Temperature (UHT) technology.

He said the modern technology is



Milk market revenue in Tanzania is estimated at US\$0.73 billion and the average volume per person at 7.9kg.

producing the high quality with the life span of between nine months to one year.

"We have entered into agreement with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the crucial dairy business platform which will

enable us to export more milk to diverse African countries in the future," he informed.

However, the Registrar said the country was facing a serious milk gap of around 9 billion liters, the situation which is arm-twisting the

country to import a total of 20 million liters annually.

"Currently, milk production in the country stands at 3.9 billion liters annually, being from 2.2 billion during 2015," he said.

The dairy sector is one of the crit-

ical sectors in Tanzania with high potential for improving food security, improve resilience and poverty reduction.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) the sector is currently attracting a total of 2.2 million households across the country, with the contribution towards the national Gross Domestic Products (GDP) standing at 2 percent.

Available data show that dairy sector in Tanzania is expected to grow in 2024, with the milk market revenue reaching US\$0.73 billion and the average volume per person at 7.9 kg. The market is also expected to grow annually by 5.85 percent from 2024 to 2029.

Through the three-year Tanzania Inclusive Processor-Producer Partnerships (TI3P) project, the government is working to improve the dairy sector by increasing milk aggregation, farm-level production, and dairy processing capacity.

The project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is being implemented in partnership with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), Dairy Nourishes Africa, and Tanager.

Some challenges that the dairy

sector in Tanzania faces include income inequality, where farmers without the resources to invest in higher yielding cattle may lose out.

Adopting high yield dairy cattle breeds and improving feed would allow Tanzania to increase milk production, while reducing planet warming greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and alleviating poverty, according to study by Lancaster University in the UK conducted in 2022.

The findings show that two key targets of Tanzanian government policy - becoming self-sufficient in milk and cutting GHG emissions by a third - can be achieved simultaneously while increasing income in farming communities.

Tanzania has the second largest dairy herd in East Africa with 28 million cows. However, its dairy sector is poorly developed with mainly small-scale farms stocked with low-yielding breeds, using poor quality feeds.

This, along with other supply chain problems around handling and refrigeration, results in poor productivity and the need to import processed dairy products leading to a \$23 million trade deficit.

By Anika Sidhika

As Islamic finance continues to grow, both financial education and innovative investment products are paving the way for a new era of Sharia-compliant wealth management and private banking.

Islamic finance is emerging as a crucial area of expertise within private banking and wealth management, especially for professionals dealing with high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) interested in Sharia-compliant investments.

The Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) responds to this demand with its Level 3 Islamic Finance Qualification (IFQ).

CISI CEO Tracy Vegro OBE discusses the objectives, content, and broader impact of this qualification on private banking, along with the growth potential of Islamic finance.

## Building a strong foundation in Islamic finance

The Level 3 IFQ serves as a cornerstone for professionals aspiring to work in Islamic finance. According to Vegro, the qualification "equips candidates with a practical understanding of how Islamic finance is structured and an understanding of the influence of Sharia finance in a business context".

The syllabus includes foundational principles of Islamic finance, key contracts, principles of exchange, asset management, Sukuk (Islamic bonds), Takaful (Islamic insurance), and governance.

This robust curriculum ensures candidates gain "a core understanding of the fundamental rules and principles" specific to Islamic finance, laying the groundwork for careers in sectors requiring specialised financial acumen.

Vegro notes that this qualification meets a practical need for skills in Islamic finance: "It assists candidates with careers in the Islamic finance and investment sectors, especially for those engaging with clients who seek Sharia-compliant financial solutions."

## Meeting the needs of private bankers and wealth managers

The qualification has garnered particular interest among private bankers and wealth managers serving HNWIs. Vegro explains that it "provides a core understanding of the Sharia principles that govern Islamic finance," allowing private banking professionals to engage knowledgeably with clients interested in these principles.

The curriculum not only familiarises candidates with key Islamic banking structures but also ensures they can effectively navigate Sharia-compliant products used by Islamic banks worldwide.

Vegro highlights that this is critical in today's private banking landscape: "The qualification allows those who wish to be involved in Islamic finance to familiarise themselves with the concepts and structures that are generally used by Islamic banks and financial institutions globally."

## Adapting to market changes

Capital markets and wealth management strategies are continuously evolving, and the IFQ is designed to keep pace. She shares that CISI collaborates with a panel of Expert Practitioners with deep expertise in Islamic finance who regularly review course content. These practitioners ensure

# Islamic finance opens up more prospects for private banking



that the syllabus remains aligned with the latest industry practices and regulatory requirements.

"The content for all of CISI's qualifications is reviewed regularly to update the content in line with current best practices," Vegro states, emphasising the organisation's commitment to relevant, high-quality education that reflects real-world applications in the field.

CISI has built an extensive network of partnerships to promote Islamic finance education across the globe. Vegro cites significant collaborations, including with Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), which mandates the IFQ for certain licensed positions.

Such partnerships help "raise awareness and facilitate the adoption of the IFQ across the financial sector, ensuring that professionals are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills in Islamic finance," she adds.

These collaborations reinforce CISI's mission to extend Islamic finance education to a global audience and support financial institutions looking to build Sharia-compliant expertise.

## Future Growth Opportunities in Islamic Finance

Islamic finance has shown remarkable resilience and growth potential. Vegro reflects on the sustained interest in Islamic finance, noting, "For CISI, the interest in Islamic finance has only grown over the last five years." As more investors seek ethical and socially responsible investments, the appeal of Islamic finance—rooted in ethical principles that avoid interest and speculation—continues to rise.

Although future market trends remain uncertain, Islamic finance is well-positioned to grow within the private banking sector, presenting opportunities for professionals equipped with the relevant expertise.

Recognising the need for continuous learning, CISI offers additional resources and professional development for IFQ graduates. Vegro describes a "comprehensive 1.15-hour e-learning Professional Refresher on Islamic Banking available in English and Arabic," along with numerous articles related to Islamic finance available on CISI's learning platform, The Review.

Further, CISI's platform offers content in finance and business skills, including courses on Business Resilience and Leadership in a Digital World, designed to benefit members at various career stages. Content is regularly updated, ranging from six to 18 months, to reflect the latest trends and skills needed across financial services.

With its Level 3 IFQ, CISI aims to create a new cadre of professionals who are not only well-versed in Islamic finance but also prepared to meet the unique needs of HNWIs seeking Sharia-compliant investments. As Vegro summarises: "The qualification allows private bankers and wealth managers to familiarise themselves with Islamic finance principles and participate confidently in a rapidly expanding sector."

Islamic finance is no longer a niche offering; it is a globally recognised investment approach that aligns with ethical principles, offering sustainable growth opportunities for clients and financial professionals alike.

For private bankers, the IFQ represents both a gateway to understanding these

principles and a pathway to future-proof their careers in an evolving marketplace. It is a gateway to understanding the principles, contracts, and structures that define Islamic finance today.

As Islamic finance continues to mature, professionals equipped with this expertise can play a significant role in shaping the future of private banking and wealth management, expanding access to investment solutions that align with both financial goals and ethical beliefs.

Meanwhile Ali Janoudi, head of new markets at Lombard Odier Group, explains the firm's innovative Assayil Islamic investment solutions.

Since its inception in 2012, Lombard Odier has been committed to providing investment options aligned with Islamic finance principles, culminating in a robust offering that caters to the evolving needs of both Muslim and non-Muslim investors.

"Since 2012, we've been offering our clients investment solutions in line with the principles of Islamic finance," Janoudi explained. "In February 2018, our discretionary mandate was officially certified as 'Sharia compliant' by the Shariah Supervisory Board of Amanie Advisors." This certification underscores the rigor and integrity of Lombard Odier's offerings, which underline social responsibility.

Janoudi highlights the distinctiveness of the Assayil mandate: "Our solutions provide three risk/return profiles and consist of three separate building blocks of Shariah investment solutions, all selected through a stringent process."

When asked about the momentum for launching Assayil, Janoudi remarks, "Our Assayil offering reflects Lombard Odier's

over 50 years of commitment to the Middle East." This initiative is not merely a response to market demand but is rooted in the firm's mission to align its services with client values. "Islamic finance is a vital conduit for promoting socially responsible investments," he adds, highlighting the integration of ethical investment practices into the firm's core philosophy.

The integrity of Lombard Odier's Assayil solutions is ensured through a disciplined screening process. Janoudi states, "Our selection process adheres strictly to the fundamental requirements of Islamic finance, which prohibit usury (Riba), excessive uncertainty (Gharar), and speculative investments (Maysir)."

The firm also avoids sectors considered illicit and emphasises profit and loss sharing, thus crafting portfolios that are both compliant and ethically sound.

To ensure ongoing compliance, Lombard Odier collaborates with Amanie Advisors, leveraging their esteemed Shariah Scholars to guide and certify its investment strategies.

## Balancing profit generation with compliance

Navigating the complex landscape of profit generation while adhering to Shariah principles is a challenge Lombard Odier meets with a comprehensive strategy. "Our Shariah mandate is holistic, providing clients access to a global wealth management experience tailored to their needs," Janoudi notes.

The investment universe includes a diverse range of options—from Shariah-compliant equities and sukuk to high-quality external funds and structured products.

The Assayil offering has attracted attention from various sectors, with growing interest from institutional investors, family offices, and private clients. Janoudi observes, "We are witnessing increasing demand not only from Shariah investors but also from clients in Europe and Asia seeking ethical investment opportunities."

In light of the rising demand for ethical and Sharia-compliant investment products, Lombard Odier has expanded its offerings. The launch of the Lombard Odier Assayil Global Strategy Certificate in October 2022 exemplifies this effort.

Furthermore, a collaboration with SEDCO Capital resulted in the first Sustainable Equity Investment Fund that meets Shariah compliance and European UCITS standards.

## Differentiation in a competitive market

Janoudi points out that Assayil's certification is unique: "It's linked to the entire investment process, not just a single mandate." This flexibility allows clients to customise their portfolios in ways that many competitors do not offer, ensuring that their investment strategies align closely with personal values and goals.

Finally, Janoudi shared insights on the global trends shaping the Islamic finance sector. "With our presence across 28 offices in 19 jurisdictions, we've observed a notable increase in demand for Shariah-compliant investments, particularly from European and Asian markets."

He attributes this growing appetite to a wider recognition of ethical investing principles, reflecting a broader shift in investor priorities.

## WORLD

## COP29: Pay up or face climate-led disaster for humanity-UN chief



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 UN Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Tuesday. PHOTO

treme climate change.

As COP29 began, unusual east coast US wildfires that triggered air quality warnings for New York continued to grow. In Spain, survivors are coming to terms with the worst floods in the country's modern history and the Spanish government has announced billions of euros for reconstruction.

#### 'Economy killer'

The summit opened on Monday with a technical deal seen as critical to launching a UN-backed global carbon market that would fund billions of dollars of projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

That success was marred by a row over the summit priorities - a procedural tug-of-war that pitched European and small island countries against the Arab group of nations on how prominent the future of fossil fuels should be on the agenda.

The opening procedures were

delayed by at least five hours, ending in an eventual compromise reluctantly accepted by the EU and other aligned nations.

At a press conference on Tuesday, COP29 officials sought to refocus attention on the summit's primary goal - agreeing a deal for up to \$1 trillion in annual climate finance for developing countries.

"Enabling every country to take strong climate action is 100 percent in all countries' interests, even the largest and wealthiest. Why? Because the climate crisis is fast becoming an economy killer," said Simon Stiell, head of the UNFCCC climate body that facilitates the summit.

"Unless all countries can slash emissions deeply, every country and every household will be hammered even harder than they currently are. We'll be living in a permanent inflationary nightmare."

## Italy plans to restrict nascent 'cannabis light' industry

ROME

ITALY'S flourishing "cannabis light" industry risks being uprooted this year when Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni pushes a bill through parliament to deflower a crop that is legal across much of Europe.

The looming legislation is part of a broad range of measures being introduced by Meloni's arch-conservative coalition, looking to burnish its credentials as the defender of public morality and traditional social structures.

While marijuana production is illegal in Italy, parliament eight years ago authorized trade in hemp, a cannabis variety which is grown for its industrial and non-psychoactive uses.

Meloni's government says the 2016 law was too lax and wants to ban any product deriving from the hemp flower, infuriating local entrepreneurs who say the move could cost thousands of jobs and imperil millions of euros of investments.

"It's absurd that a state which put Italian businesses to work by starting a legitimate supply chain now wants to shut it all down," said Alessio Amicone, who founded a company that grows and sells cannabis products called Canapando.

"They are waging a war on a substance that is not a drug," he told Reuters.

Hemp contains very low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), meaning it can't make you high unlike marijuana, which comes from a separate variety of the cannabis family.

By contrast, it contains higher concentrations of cannabidiol (CBD), known for its potential therapeutic effects, such as reducing anxiety, pain, and inflammation, which mainly derives from the inflorescence - the flowering part.

But the government's anti-drug department likens products made from the flower to recreational drugs, saying in a statement they "could pose risks to public safety or road safety". As a result, it has decided to ban their sale.

Producers contest this, saying the aromatic flowers have a negligible psychotropic component - one that affects how the brain works - and are a vital ingredient for their supply chain that spans food, textiles and cosmetics.

The hemp lobby Federcanapa says 70 percent-80 percent of the income from hemp cultivation is derived from the flower.

"Producing without the inflorescence is like saying you can only grow wheat by decapitating the ear. What sense does that make from an economic perspective?" said Stefano Masini, head of the environment unit at Italy's farming lobby Coldiretti.

#### Illiberal drift

The proposed flower ban is included in a broader security decree that combines an array of disparate measures, including a clampdown on demonstrations, squats and sit-ins, as well as tough new curbs on prison protests.

It has already been approved by the lower house of parliament and is now before the upper house Senate.

Critics say the bill is part of an illiberal drift in Italy under Meloni, who has reserved her most radical action during her two years in office on social issues, such as her recent criminalization of surrogacy parenthood.

The problem lies with the ambivalent way the original 2016 law was written, the government says. It sanctioned the sale of "cannabis light", but stipulated that it should not be smoked or eaten. The law makes no specific mention of the flowers.

As a result, the flower is often packaged as a "collector item" that should not be consumed - a ruse that fools no-one. The government wants to end this legal grey area.

"The government's amendment is absolutely necessary," said Augusta Montaruli, a member of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party who has championed the bill in parliament.

"If anyone was hoping to operate within legal uncertainty, that's not possible with us," she told Reuters.

The government's hard line makes no sense to CBD advocates, who say the compound helps take the edge off stress, giving you a gentle buzz, without getting you stoned.

"Cannabis light contains a very small amount of the active ingredient in marijuana. It has no psychotropic effect. It is used for pain relief, relaxation, and as an anxiolytic," said Andrea Crisanti, a well-known virologist and senator for the opposition Democratic Party. **Agencies**

#### BAKU

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders at the COP29 summit on Tuesday to "pay up" to prevent climate-led humanitarian disasters, and said time was running out to limit a destructive rise in global temperatures.

Nearly 200 nations have gathered at the annual UN climate summit in Baku, focused this year on raising hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a global transition to cleaner energy sources and limit the climate damage caused by carbon emissions.

But on the day of the summit designed to bring together world leaders and generate political momentum for the marathon negotiations, many of the leading players were not present to hear Guterres' message.

After victory for Donald Trump, a climate

change denier, in the US presidential election, President Joe Biden will not attend. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is not attending because of political developments in Brussels.

"On climate finance, the world must pay up, or humanity will pay the price," Guterres said in a speech. "The sound you hear is the ticking clock. We are in the final countdown to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and time is not on our side."

This year is set to be the hottest on record.

Scientists say evidence shows global warming and its impacts are unfolding faster than expected and the world may already have hit 1.5 degree Celsius of warming above the average pre-industrial temperature - a critical threshold beyond which it is at risk of irreversible and ex-

## UN Security Council considers action on Sudan war

#### UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Security Council is discussing a British-drafted resolution that demands Sudan's warring parties cease hostilities and calls on them to allow safe, rapid and unhindered deliveries of aid across front lines and borders.

War erupted in April 2023 from a power struggle between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule, and triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

It has produced waves of ethnically driven violence blamed largely on the RSF. The RSF has denied harming civilians in Sudan and attributed the activity to rogue actors. In the first UN sanctions imposed during the current conflict, a Security Council committee designated two RSF generals last week.

"Nineteen months into the war, both sides are committing egregious human rights violations, including the widespread rape of women and girls," Britain's UN ambassador, Barbara Woodward, told reporters at the start of this month as Britain assumed the Security Council's presidency for November.

"More than half the Sudanese population are experiencing severe food insecurity,"

she said. "Despite this, the SAF and the RSF remain focussed on fighting each other and not the famine and suffering facing their country."

Britain wanted to put the draft resolution to a vote as quickly as possible, diplomats said. To be adopted, a resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the US, France, Britain, Russia or China.

#### Aid across borders

The UN says nearly 25 million people - half of Sudan's population - need aid as famine has taken hold in displacement camps and 11 million people have fled their homes. Nearly 3 million of those people have left for other countries.

Britain's draft text "demands that the Rapid Support Forces immediately halt its offensives" throughout Sudan, "and demands that the warring parties immediately cease hostilities".

It also "calls on the parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate the full, safe, rapid, and unhindered crossline and cross-border humanitarian access into and throughout Sudan".

The draft also calls for the Adre border crossing with Chad to remain open for aid deliveries "and stresses the need to sustain humanitar-



A truck carrying gunmen affiliated with Sudan's army drives on a street in the eastern city of Gedaref on Monday. AFP

ian access through all border crossings, while humanitarian needs persist, and without impediments".

A three-month approval given by Sudanese authorities for the UN and aid groups to use the Adre border crossing to reach Darfur is due to expire

in mid-November.

The Security Council has adopted two previous resolutions on Sudan: in March it called for an immediate cessation of hostilities for the holy month of Ramadan, then in June it specifically demanded a halt to a siege of a city of

1.8 million people in Sudan's North Darfur region by the RSF.

Both resolutions - adopted with 14 votes in favor and a Russian abstention - also called for full, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

**Agencies**

## Foreign officials, entrepreneurs at CIIE laud China's opening-up, opportunities

#### SHANGHAI

AT this year's China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, Ghazaryan Koryun, commercial counselor at the Armenian Embassy in China, introduced in fluent Chinese the top-notch wine and fruit from his country to visitors.

It was Koryun's second time to participate the CIIE, the seventh edition held from Nov. 5 to 10. Once a student in China's Jilin University and later a diplomat, Koryun described his return to the country as "like going from one home to another."

This year's CIIE hosted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. A record-breaking 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attended the event. Its total exhibition area at the National Exhibition and Conven-

tion Center (Shanghai) exceeded 420,000 square meters.

Koryun said this year's event has been more fulfilling. "More companies are interested in participating and have a better understanding of China," he said. "We will participate again next year."

Bernardo Munoz, counselor at Peru's Consulate General in Shanghai, said that Peru is also a regular CIIE client.

"The idea is to learn from both sides. We want to understand more and have the opportunity to use this platform," Munoz said. "We can work together so our populations have a better quality of life."

"I was here last year to celebrate the sixth CIIE and we had great results for U.S. agriculture. So we wanted to come back again this year and build upon that work," said Jason Hafemeister, acting

deputy under-secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, adding that the CIIE is a great chance for U.S. agriculture to meet its customers in China, its largest market.

"I also think we can share ideas around agriculture production. Both of us are very serious about improving the productivity of our farmers," Hafemeister told Xinhua. "We can provide new ideas and new technologies -- new ways of farming -- to our farmers, which will allow them to address these challenges of climate and other risks that farmers face."

Maria Leota, who is from Samoa and owns a skincare brand, has attended the CIIE three times since 2018 to market her products such as antioxidant oil and lip balm.

"For me, it was a more successful year. All my products were sold out the second day," Leota said, add-

ing that she would bring more next year.

Berlianto Situngkir, consul general of Indonesia in Shanghai, said he saw at the CIIE that all the participants were promoting the premium and top products from their countries.

"Our presence in China is very strong, and hopefully it will be strengthened," he said, noting that Indonesia has been striving to diversify its offerings each year, opting to highlight Indonesian spices and coffee this year.

African products have attracted a lot of attention at the import expo. Prudence Sebahizi, Rwanda's minister of trade and industry, told Xinhua that Rwanda has participated in the CIIE seven times and brought several products to this year's event, including chili, honey, coffee and handicraft

products.

"We have the opportunity to showcase what Africa produces -- and what Rwanda, in particular, produces. We have come here with business people from Rwanda to showcase what Rwanda can sell to the world," said the minister.

L'Oréal Group Chairman Jean-Paul Agon told Xinhua that his company was among the first to sign up for the inaugural CIIE.

No other country has created an exhibition like the CIIE, which has been a symbol and a way for China to follow its policy of opening to the world, he said. "I think it was a great idea, and that's also why we want to promote it as much as we can."

"Every year, we see a certain message that's carrying this event forward. I think this year is the high-quality opening-up," said

Frank Hammes, CEO of IQAir, a Swiss air purification technology company founded in 1963.

"I think China realizes that the reciprocity is important, especially in terms of trade. It is both a competitive player in the international field, and a driving force," he said.

The ease with which foreign CIIE participants are navigating China has also increased this year partly thanks to the changes brought about by the technological advancement in the country.

During her stay in Shanghai, Leota from Samoa discovered that Alipay and WeChat could be linked to foreign credit cards, and she could even use her Samoan cards to take the metro and taxis.

"I'm doing everything with my phone, something that was impossible in 2018."

**Xinhua**



## Africa's policymakers, educators seek ways to end learning poverty on continent

KIGALI

POLICYMAKERS and educationists gathered at an education forum in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, Monday to discuss pathways to end learning poverty, a major threat to Africa's future workforce.

"Learning poverty" is the inability of children to meet basic literacy and numeracy milestones.

The meeting drew about 500 delegates, including ministers of education, development partners, and experts from across sub-Saharan Africa, seeking to scale successful education initiatives that enhance foundational learning.

"Learning poverty is unacceptable and a fundamental threat to the continent. Foundational learning is the cornerstone of all future learning. Prioritizing it is not an option," Obiageli Ezekwesi, chief executive of Human Capital Africa, an advocacy organization, said at the opening of the forum.

Ezekwesi, former Nigerian education minister, said action without accountability is not enough, adding that there must be a capacity to track progress on foundational learning.

Rwandan Education Minister Joseph Nsengimana said the forum offers an opportunity for Africa to unite for collective growth and equip every child with the skills necessary to contribute to socioeconomic development.

Wongani Tauro, education adviser at UNICEF Africa, said the continent "is running out of time to shape a generation of critical thinkers."

She argued that governments need to

invest more in foundational learning to unlock the potential of millions of children across Africa. "The solutions lie with all of us, we must dedicate more resources to foundational learning and not forget pre-primary so that children are ready to enter school," she said.

Victoria Kwakwa, vice president for Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Bank, noted that education today builds the Africa of tomorrow, and to truly transform the continent, there is a need to invest in the next generation of learners.

Underlining the need to strengthen partnerships with the private sector to boost foundational learning, participants said aligning resources, expertise, and innovation from both sectors would expand educational access, improve quality, and drive sustainable impact across communities.

The forum, which will run through Wednesday, offers a platform for countries to exchange progress made on commitments in foundational learning at previous forums.

Through a series of presentations, panels, round table discussions, and formal and informal dialogue, participants will share knowledge derived from foundational learning efforts on the continent and jointly plan the way forward toward meeting targets.

The learning poverty rate in sub-Saharan Africa stands at around 90 percent, according to the latest UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, which could affect the continent's future workforce.

Xinhua

## Medvedev warns that EU behavior in struggle with Russia fraught with 'bad scenario'

MOSCOW

EUROPEAN politicians are not resolving the conflict with Moscow but are only adding fuel to the fire, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said.

"Frankly, it is simply astonishing to what extent the current generation of European politicians seeks to extend the war to their territories. To the delight of the Americans, by the way, and against the will of their own people. All the lessons of World War II have faded. Experienced and just simply intelligent European leaders have gone down in history. What has come to power are nobodies with inflated self-esteem," Medvedev wrote on his Telegram page, adding that this means that "the bad scenario remains the most likely."

According to him, European leaders are experiencing "autumn blues" after Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

"First, there is a Frenchman [French President Emmanuel Macron] who advocates supporting Kiev in the event of America's withdrawal, then there are



NATO chiefs trying to come up with smart ideas on how to actively engage in war with us for the long time. And now the candidate for the German chancellorship [Friedrich] Merz has issued an ultimatum to Russia.

"Either end the special military operation, or we'll provide the Ukrainians with Taurus missiles," Medvedev pointed out. "The goal is to bring the conflict with Russia to an irreversible stage," the politician concluded, adding that such actions would only prolong the agony of the Kiev regime but would not change the course of the special military operation.

Agencies

## Top Russian security official hails strategic cooperation with China

BEIJING

PARTNERSHIP between Moscow and Beijing can serve as an example of cooperation between countries, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu said.

"Comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction [between Russia and China] are an example of cooperation between two powers in today's world. Without being based on a military and political alliance such as those established during the Cold War, relations between our countries surpass these sorts of intergovernmental ties,"

Shoigu pointed out at a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The top Russian security official noted that Russia-China ties were based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, trust, non-interference in each other's domestic affairs and support for each other on the issues that the parties found important.

"Russia-China relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation have reached the highest level in history. Russia and China share similar approaches to the key international and regional issues," Shoigu added.



## Ishiba's minority govt on bumpy road despite reassuming Japan's premiership

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba held onto his position in a rare runoff vote on Monday, marking the first such election in the House of Representatives in three decades and underscoring the difficulties facing his leadership as he moves forward with a minority government amid mounting obstacles.

The first round of lower house voting for the country's next prime minister saw Ishiba take the lead but fall short of a majority, prompting a runoff against Constitutional Democratic Party leader Yoshihiko Noda.

Ishiba, 67, ultimately secured the position with 221 votes in the 465-seat lower house against Noda's 160, but political analysts highlighted that his government will now rely heavily on opposition cooperation to pass critical legislation, as the ruling coalition's minority status will necessitate support from other parties for the passage of laws and budget approvals.

In the recent general election, Japan's ruling coalition, consisting of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by Ishiba and its ally, Komeito, suffered a significant setback, losing its long-held majority and reducing its seats to 215, well below the 233-seat majority threshold required for smooth governance.

After assuming premiership, Ishiba reshuffled his cabinet, replacing only the ministers who were not re-elected in the lower house.

The foremost challenge for Ishiba's new cabinet is to establish fresh economic policies and a new budget. The LDP is actively seeking collaboration with the Democratic Party for the People, which has shown a relatively positive response.

The two parties are in discussions regarding tax reform, aiming to establish a "partial alliance" for cooperation on specific policies.

However, as per the latest inter-party negotiations, the opposition now holds seven out of the 17 committee chair positions in



Lawmakers attend a session at the House of Representatives of the National Diet in Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 11, 2024. Xinhua

the House of Representatives, including the Budget Committee, which is crucial for budget deliberations. The last time the opposition chaired this committee was 30 years ago, signaling a significant shift in Japan's political landscape.

Economists pointed out that the Ishiba cabinet will face limited fiscal flexibility. Hideo Kumano, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute, emphasized that the cabinet's ability to maneuver financially is heavily restricted.

Atsushi Koketsu, emeritus professor at Yamaguchi University, said that Japanese politics will now evolve through checks and balances between the ruling and opposition parties as the opposition chairing

the Budget Committee marks a major shift in Japanese politics.

Worse still, the LDP is still grappling with the slush funds scandal, which remains a potential liability. Shortly after the House of Representatives election, the LDP decided to reinstate former party officials who had previously run as independents after facing disciplinary actions, which once again stirred public dissatisfaction.

The opposition parties are reportedly planning to demand a renewed investigation into the scandal, pushing for implicated lawmakers to testify before an ethics committee. It remains uncertain whether the LDP can overcome this scandal and regain voter confidence. Xinhua

## Three perspectives on viewing China's economy

VIEWS on the current Chinese economy vary, and here are three perspectives.

**China's economy maintains stable, positive growth momentum.**

Recently, the positive signs of China's economy were particularly evident as many indicators showed marginal improvement. Many economists believe that the Chinese economy has posted stable performance based on a firm footing.

On the demand side: The year-on-year growth rate of the total retail sales of consumer goods in September was 1.1 percentage points higher than the previous month. Fixed-asset investment rose 3.4 percent in the first three quarters of this year, spurred by vibrant capital influx into high-tech industries. Exports outperformed expectations, increasing by 6.2 percent year on year in the first three quarters. As of the end of September, foreign exchange reserves returned to \$3.3 trillion.

Investment, consumption, and exports - the three pillars driving growth - demonstrate a coordinated and robust performance. As the second-largest economy in the world, China has achieved steady economic growth, with expanded new drivers, improved economic structure, and a more solid foundation for economic development.

On the supply side: In September, China's industrial output for enterprises above the designated size rose 5.4 percent year on year, and the growth pace was 0.9 percentage points faster from the previous month; the index gauging the country's service industry output rose 5.1 percent year on year, increasing by 0.5 percentage points from the previous month. The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector rose to 49.8 percent, a rise of 0.7 percentage points from the previous month. These marginal improvements in macroeconomic indicators offer direct positive evidence that China's economy maintains stable, positive growth momentum.

**China's policy measures are conducive to unleashing economic vitality.**

On September 26, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party

of China (CPC) Central Committee held a meeting to analyze and discuss the current economic situation and make plans for future economic work, sending a strong signal for stabilizing economic growth. Social expectations and market confidence are on the rise.

Major national strategic projects and key security infrastructure initiatives are being rapidly implemented and advanced in China, which not only boost current investment growth but drive industrial transformation while laying a stronger foundation for long-term, high-quality development.

Large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-in of consumer goods are also benefiting businesses and consumers alike. These efforts are spurring rapid sales growth for key consumer goods such as automobiles, home appliances, and furnishings, while promoting high-end, intelligent, and green upgrades in related industries.

Besides, China has pursued coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors, and rolled out a bundle of pro-housing policies to reverse the downturn and stabilize the real estate sector, bringing about positive changes in the market.

The major reform measures set out in the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC are also being implemented, such as building a unified national market, which will effectively unleash the vitality of the whole Chi-

nese society.

China's robust macroeconomic regulation and precise countercyclical regulation remain essential drivers of its ongoing sound economic growth. Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, noted that the direction of these policies is correct.

Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong believes that the measures issued by the Chinese government are conducive to lifting confidence and demand, and many Chinese industries have reached world-class standards.

**Innovation-driven development continues propelling China's economic growth.**

In the first three quarters, the production and sales of China's new energy vehicles (NEVs) reached 8.316 million and 8.32 million units respectively, marking year-on-year increases of 31.7 percent and 32.5 percent. China has ranked first globally in terms of NEV production and sales for nine consecutive years. Behind these figures lie the trends that will shape future consumption patterns and offer solid support for long-term economic growth.

A 2022 market survey showed that 84 percent of China's NEV users are under 40, with about half under 30. A German media outlet noted that the average age of electric vehicle buyers in China is 34, compared to 56 in the European Union. This highlights the potential of "developmental consumption" in China.

In today's China, the emerging and future industries, such as NEVs, autonomous driving technology, smart wearable devices, integrated circuits, low-altitude economy, and virtual reality, are characterized by a focus on technological innovation and green, low-carbon development.

From consensus to concrete action, from investment to consumption, from supply to demand, China's new development philosophy has served as a guiding force driving deep industrial transformation and upgrading and shifts in development approaches, allowing new quality productive forces and consumer groups to advance in tandem.

The contribution rate of final consumption expenditure to China's economic growth has risen from 55.4 percent in 2012 to 82.5 percent in 2023. As younger generations become the primary consumer base and high-quality population development aligns with improved living standards, China's 1.4 billion-plus population is transitioning from "subsistence consumption" to "developmental consumption," greatly expanding consumer potential and sustaining a strong trend in consumption upgrading.

With the rapid progress in modernizing the industrial system with the real economy as the pillar and the steady advancements in the well-rounded development of people and common prosperity for all, China's economy is poised to maintain a positive trajectory in the long term.

People's Daily



Local citizens shop for new energy vehicles (NEVs) in Xiangyang, central China's Hubei province, October 18, 2024. (Photo by Yang Dong/ People's Daily Online)

The Guardian

## SPORT



Dallas Mavericks guard Klay Thompson waves toward fans before an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the Mavericks in San Francisco, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. (AP Photo)

## Klay Thompson returns to cheers from some 400 Warriors employees

SAN FRANCISCO

KLAY Thompson exited the team bus then beamed as he strolled back into Chase Center on Tuesday night, greeted by some 400 cheering Warriors employees who lined up along his path to the Dallas locker room to show their love and appreciation for the former Golden State star.

Once the ball was tipped a couple of hours later, Thompson tried to pull off an impromptu shimmy, Stephen Curry-style, as the former Splash Brothers dueted in different uniforms.

The employees who greeted Thompson sported "Captain Klay" hats, the giveaway for all fans on a celebratory night remembering his 13 years with the franchise and four championships he helped win.

"That was really cool," Thompson said. "I'm very grateful for the employees to give me that kind of love ... totally unexpected and definitely put a smile on my face. Something I'll never forget."

Those white hats filled Chase Center, where video highlights of Thompson showed in a place where he's still beloved – and always will be. Curry jogged up to Thompson, now wearing No. 31 with teammate Kyrie Irving in No. 11, and offered a quick embrace in their first words of the day before Andrew Wiggins also hugged his old teammate.

"Thankfully we were all able to focus on the game and just hoop and compete," Curry said. "It was an unreal night for sure all the way around."

Thompson scored 22 points on 7-for-17 shooting with six 3-pointers but watched Curry shine in the closing moments of Golden State's 120-117 victory. Thompson high-fived a fan afterward and tossed his white headband into the seats, giving some lucky patron an unexpected souvenir.

Earlier, after a brief jump-rope routine outside the Mavericks' locker room, Thompson ran out the tunnel and onto the floor to thunderous applause from Warriors fans with phones up to capture the moment of Thompson's return.

"It was a cool moment to feel the energy from the fans," Thompson said. "Especially all the chatter that I heard, it was all positive."

Curry had considered addressing the crowd before tipoff but he and Thompson traded a couple of text messages and they decided to each focus on the game, though coach Steve Kerr knew it would be something when they had to defend each other.

Just 15 seconds into the game Curry fouled Thompson, who scored the initial two points of the contest on free throws. He missed his initial two field goal attempts before knocking down a 3-pointer with 1:26 remaining in the opening quarter.

"I'm so surprised they ran a post up for him on the first play," Curry said. "I

blacked out on that one, I wasn't going to let him score and I fouled him. It was a pretty special night."

The Warriors invited all their employees to be part of the welcoming committee for Thompson, who joined Dallas in July on a three-year, \$50 million contract. Thompson, 34, missed more than 2 1/2 years – the entire 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons – recovering from surgeries on his left knee and right Achilles tendon before making his comeback in January 2022.

"I think what he overcame is almost unprecedented," Kerr said. "... The last couple of years after he came back he struggled reconciling all of that, losing those prime seasons. We all saw that, saw him struggle with it emotionally. We saw him fight to get his game back. He helped us win a championship, led the league in 3s two years ago, he did a lot of amazing things.

"We wished that this had gone forever, that Klay would have finished his career with us but circumstances always dictate these things. In the end I think he made the right choice. I think he needed a fresh start, I think he needed kind of a new set of surroundings and that was apparent last year. He was not happy and that was hard to see, because he deserves to be happy. At his core he's a very happy person."

Thompson had tried to downplay the magnitude of being back in the Bay Area, considering it just another game in November.

"I hope you all didn't believe him," said Curry, who watched the tribute video from the tunnel to have some space with all the emotions.

When the home crowd went crazy, jumped to their feet in a warm ovation and tipped those captain hats when he was introduced, Thompson became visibly emotional and clearly touched by the tribute. He waved and saluted in several directions.

"I couldn't imagine a better night all the way around," Curry said.

Golden State held a "Salute Captain Klay" ceremony before tipoff to pay tribute to Thompson's contributions to the franchise and his tradition of boating across the bay to games. He will be back again in February in the Mavs' second trip to Chase Center.

For Kerr, this moment felt far different from Thompson's triumphant return nearly three years ago from the injuries and daunting grind of rehab that the veteran guard considered some of the most difficult days of his life.

"That was a welcome back, we knew there were a lot of good times ahead. In fact there was a championship six months later," Kerr said. "This one is obviously more of a goodbye, the first time we will have seen him. ... It'll feel very strange but it will be a different vibe, more of a thank you and a goodbye and everything that you've meant to us."

AP

## Simba vs. Pamba Jiji rescheduled as key pre-cup preparation

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE NBC Premier League match between Pamba Jiji FC and Simba Sports Club, initially postponed to allow Simba ample preparation time for the CAF Confederation Cup, has now been rescheduled for November 22 at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

This match provides Simba with a crucial competitive fixture ahead of their CAF Confederation Cup group-stage clash against Angola's Bravos do Maquis on November 27.

Simba's head coach, Fadlu Davids (pictured), highlighted the importance of this rescheduled fixture, emphasizing its role in helping his squad fine-tune their strategies and solidify form ahead of the CAF Confederation Cup.

"The game against Pamba will allow us to assess key areas and make necessary adjustments, enhancing our readiness for the international competition," Davids noted.

Simba, currently leading the NBC Premier League, resumed training on Tuesday, focusing intensively on both their domestic and international commitments for November.

As league leaders, they face the challenge of maintaining domestic dominance while preparing for a competitive CAF Confederation Cup campaign.

Coach Davids has been rigorously analyzing Bravos do Maquis, as well as the other



Group A competitors, CS Constantine of Algeria and CS Sfaxien of Tunisia, to prepare his team for each matchup in the tournament.

In preparation for the CAF Confederation Cup, Simba's training camp has taken on a sharper focus, with Davids

intensifying efforts on key tactical elements to ensure his side's readiness.

However, the training sessions are being conducted without nine Simba players currently on international duty for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 qualifiers.

This has required Davids to adjust his tactical approach, with a particular emphasis on midfield cohesion and attacking link-ups.

The match against Pamba Jiji FC will provide Davids with an opportunity to assess these tactical shifts.

Known for his meticulous attention to detail, the South African coach has been working to strengthen Simba's aerial game, tackle accuracy, and rapid counterattacks.

With the Confederation Cup group stage approaching, Davids is determined to ensure his squad achieves peak performance, aware that each match in the tournament will be critical to their campaign.

As the November 27 encounter with Bravos do Maquis draws nearer, Davids understands the match's significance, as it could set the tone for Simba's CAF Confederation Cup journey.

Each training session has been conducted with precision, focusing on tactical and technical refinements that could make the difference in these high-stakes weeks.

Despite the challenges posed by the international break and the absence of key players, Simba remains committed to both their NBC Premier League title ambitions and a strong Confederation Cup start.

The rescheduled match against Pamba Jiji FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium serves as a vital test for Davids and his players, giving them the chance to gauge their readiness for Bravos do Maquis and the broader challenges they will face in Group A.

## Joel Embiid sluggish, struggles in 76ers return in lopsided loss to Knicks

By Jason Owens

JOEL Embiid returned to an NBA basketball court Tuesday for the first time this season.

But he didn't return in game shape. Embiid struggled from the field and was sluggish in his first game of the season as the New York Knicks secured a 111-99 win over Embiid's Philadelphia 76ers in NBA Cup play.

After missing the first nine games of the season, Embiid finished with 13 points, three rebounds, five assists and one block. He shot 2-of-11 from the field and scored eight of his 13 points from the free-throw line. He played 26 minutes.

Embiid missed the first six games of the season for what the team described as "left knee management," then the following three due to an NBA suspension for shoving a reporter.

Embiid got the start against the Knicks and was quickly winded from his first live basketball action since the Summer Olympics in Paris. He raised his hand to take a break at the 7:10 mark of the first quarter with New York holding a 12-6 lead. He was 0-for-2 with an assist and a turnover when he left the court.

Embiid walked to the locker room with a wrap around his left knee that



Joel Embiid struggled and was outplayed by Karl-Anthony Towns in his season debut. (AP Photo)

was surgically repaired last season. His exit was brief, and he returned to play 13 total first-half minutes without hitting a field goal. He entered the break with eight points and four rebounds with all of his points arriving at the free-throw line. He missed all three of his first-half shots.

Embiid was active to start the third quarter but continued to miss shots en route to an 0-for-5 start from the field. His first bucket of the night and the season came on a catch-and-shoot 3-pointer three minutes into the third quarter to cut the Knicks' lead to 61-60.

But the highlights for

Embiid were few and far between as Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns got the best of the battle of All-Star big men. The 76ers kept things close through three quarters, but the Knicks pulled away late with a 33-24 advantage in the fourth quarter.

76ers fans filed en masse out of the arena with 4:17 remaining and New York holding a 97-83 lead. Embiid sat the final 6:21 of the game.

The game marked the first time Embiid played alongside his new All-Star teammate Paul George, who arrived via an offseason trade from the Los Angeles Clippers. Philadelphia fans

are still waiting to witness the debut of their new-look Big 3 as All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey watched from the bench with a hamstring injury that's projected to sideline him for multiple weeks.

The good news Tuesday for the 76ers is that George looked excellent alongside Embiid in one of his best games since joining the team. George finished with 29 points, 10 rebounds, three steals and three assists while hitting 7-of-11 3-point shots. But it didn't result in a win, and a 76ers team with title aspirations dropped to 2-8 to start the season.

The hope in Philadel-

phia lies in the prospect of Embiid, George and Maxey playing enough together to build chemistry, rally the 76ers to the playoffs and stay healthy in the postseason. It's a murky prospect given the injury histories involved and Philadelphia's stated plan to limit George's and Embiid's playing time, even when they're healthy.

If he can stay healthy, there are certainly better days ahead for Embiid, who's an MVP-caliber player at his best. The 76ers will need that version of Embiid to arrive quickly before their season spirals out of control.

Yahoo Sports

## A Premier League era is ending before our eyes

By Richard Jolly

BLAME Antonio Conte, perhaps. The former Chelsea manager was not the pioneer but he was a trailblazer. When the 2016-17 Premier League brought together one of the greatest collections of managerial talents to compete in a domestic division at the same time - Pep Guardiola, Jose Mourinho, Arsene Wenger, Jurgen Klopp, Mauricio Pochettino and the defending champion Claudio Ranieri - Conte responded by raising the bar.

Chelsea's path to the title involved a run of 13 straight wins and an eventual total of 93 points. They were trendsetters. The next seven Premier League titles were won with 100, 98, 99, 86, 93, 89 and 91 points respectively. As the more mathematically-minded will note, only two of those numbers are below 90. Each came with an asterisk: Manchester City's 86 in the strangeness of the 2020-21 Covid season and 89 in 2022-23, when they had 88 after 36 games, with the title secured, and relaxed to concentrate on the treble instead.

With his perfectionism, Guardiola has been the master of the 90-point season and his presence was a reason to believe this would be another. If anyone was to depose City, it seemed, they would have to be almost flawless. That certainly appeared Arsenal's approach as Mikel Arteta seemed to seek the type of efficiency that took Mourinho's Chelsea to 95 and 91 in successive campaigns between 2004 and 2006. Instead, Arsenal have been more slipshod, injuries, red cards and mistakes all factors as they have dropped 14 points already.

The greater surprise may be that City have dropped 10, losing back-to-back games. Perhaps the bar has been lowered again. The counter-argument is that City are no strangers to autumn wobbles and can then go on extended winning runs in the new year to amass another huge tally. Likewise, Liverpool have claimed all but five possible points so far; at their current rate of progress, they are on course for 97.

But Arne Slot's team - while still containing the core of the side who took 97, 99 and 92 while only earning Klopp one league title - still have the burden of proof; they may be bookmakers' favourites now, but they also feel like overachievers so far.

City, meanwhile, can be seen in different ways. Even putting aside the possibility of a points deduction. They are a team who, until 10 days ago, were unbeaten in 32 league matches. Yet while that showed a formidable winning habit, results could camouflage indications they were worse last season in 2022-23. Now the combination of ageing, injuries and the colossal loss of Rodri may have weakened them further.

And so, if City are brought back to the pack, there is the possibility that the 90-point era is over: maybe temporarily, perhaps for longer. Manchester United's treble winners famously won the title with a mere 79 points; even Arsenal's Invincibles only got 90. It is possible something in the region of 85 would suffice now.

There are individual factors and broader trends. Rodri's injury, like Virgil van Dijk's in 2021-22, could destroy a title defence. But in general, perhaps the best - arguably both City and Arsenal - have got worse while others have got better. The expansion of the elite, from a big four to a big six to a big eight, has brought more clashes of the genuine powers. Last season, Aston Villa beat City and Arsenal within a few days. This year, Newcastle have held City and beaten Arsenal at St James' Park.

But that has been accompanied by the rise of the underdogs, propelled by a combination of Premier League revenues and smart recruitment of players and managers. It may be no coincidence that City's two defeats have come to Bournemouth and Brighton, to Andoni Iraola and Fabian Hurzeler, or that the Basque has already beaten Mikel Arteta. While it was a situation created by their ability to sell for huge fees, often to Chelsea, Brighton had the highest net spend in Europe this summer. Ipswich, who added to Tottenham's inconsistency on Sunday, ranked third. If there were points in 90-point seasons when the path to the title seemed a cruise, now it can look an obstacle course.

The general standard of the Premier League was a factor in the fall of Erik ten Hag, who lost far too many games against the mid-ranking teams. The early-season surge of Nottingham Forest, the lone team to beat Liverpool, is instructive in another way: some of Forest's recruitment in recent years has been of the scattergun variety but now they have a starting 11 packed with fine recruits. Some, in Anthony Elanga and Callum Hudson-Odoi, are the cast-offs from the apparently top clubs. Nuno Espirito Santo's side are not alone in possessing footballers who look to have the quality to play for some of their supposed superiors.

If Forest are proof that, to simplify it, everyone has good players, they tap into a tactical trend: that some of the elite can be counter-attacked. They are not as secure as they were. So far, only Forest and Liverpool are conceding under a goal a game, on average. In 2018-19, arguably the high watermark of the 90-point teams, Liverpool and City played 76 league games between them and only conceded 45 goals.

THE INDEPENDENT

## 'This generation's Thierry Henry' - how good is Isak?

By Chris Bevan

THE goals are flowing again for Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak, but could the Magpies soon face a fight to keep him at St James' Park?

The 25-year-old Sweden forward scored for the fourth time in four games to help his side fight back to beat Nottingham Forest 3-1 on Sunday, and his all-round display impressed former Arsenal forward Theo Walcott, who was watching for BBC MOTD2.

"When you talk about the mould for the ultimate build of a perfect striker, Isak has got all of those elements," Walcott told BBC Sport.

"I am not saying he is perfect yet, but he has got all the attributes he needs to become perfect.

"Whether that will happen at Newcastle, I don't know. But they need to tie him down pretty quickly otherwise they are going to lose him.

"Isak is the sort of player Arsenal genuinely need, but you would say everyone needs a player like him in their team right now, even Liverpool, and it is not just Premier League teams who will be trying to get hold of him either.

"Look at Real Madrid's line-up at this moment in time. They go for these Galacticos and buy these incredible talents, but they sometimes put them in positions where they can't quite do it.

"I would say that if you put Isak in that Real team then he moulds them together in a different way, where you might think they now look like a very well-balanced team.

"That's the level he's at, and I can absolutely understand why all the very top teams would want him.

"As well as his all-round forward play, he scores goals as well - all kinds of different goals. As I said on MOTD2, his finish against Forest when the ball dropped for him in the box was pure class, after the brilliant header he put away against Arsenal last week.

"There is more to come from him as well. Newcastle are a good team, but put him in a better team and he would get better too."

**'This generation's Thierry Henry'**

Isak scored 25 goals for the Magpies last season, but made a slower start to the new campaign and scored only once in his first seven



Alexander Isak

Thierry Henry

appearances, before his current purple patch. Sunday's match had been billed as a battle of the in-form strikers, with Forest's Chris Wood also on a fine scoring run, but Walcott feels Isak deserves comparisons to more illustrious names than the 6ft 3in New Zealand target man.

"Wood's role for Forest plays to his strengths, which are occupying the centre-halves as a big hold-up player, and putting away any chances the wingers make for him inside the box," he explained.

"He's extremely effective if you give him that service, and he has had a really good season, but you can keep him quiet by stopping his supply like Newcastle did.

"Isak is far more of an all-rounder, who can hold up play like Wood does, but also gives centre-halves different problems to think about. He's got pace, as well as a physical presence, plus he is composed on the ball and his energy levels mean he can press as well.

"He's the sort of player who does not get bored on the pitch, and that makes him harder to stop. You get certain players who at times might think 'I am not getting the ball and I can't get involved' and they switch off.

"With Isak, he can adapt. He might think 'OK, it is not working for me as a number nine at the moment', so he will drop deep to play as a 10, or go out

to the wing and Anthony Gordon can come inside. He is comfortable everywhere on the pitch.

"The ability to rotate positions and occupy every role in a frontline is part of what makes him a constant threat. As a player he is something pretty unique in the Premier League right now, and for me he is the closest thing we have seen to another Thierry Henry.

"Henry started out wide, so he knew that role very well, and Isak's pace and strength means he is excellent in those areas too. But where Henry was not particularly great was with his back to goal, or heading the ball, and Isak can head it - the perfect example of that was his winning goal against Arsenal last week.

"I would say he is this generation's Henry, but with extra attributes in the air. That's who I would compare him to from my era, anyway.

"His game makes him a mix of Didier Drogba, Michael Owen and Henry - oh and with a dash of Theo Walcott's pace out wide. That's not a bad mix at all, is it?"

**'If Arsenal want him, they have to be quick'**

Isak, who joined Newcastle from Real Sociedad for £63m in August 2022, is under contract until 2028 but has reportedly attracted interest from clubs including Arsenal and Chelsea in recent months.

Walcott feels the Gunners would benefit from the variety he brings to Newcastle's attack, and would love to see him link up with Martin Odegaard for his old side.

"Centre-halves can become quite comfortable," Walcott said. "They understand now how to face a front-three set-up, for example when you have got your standard wingers who might like to cut inside, and then a number nine who wants to hold the ball up - and that's about it.

"What you want to see is players who might think about how to test defenders in a different way, so they know they cannot relax for a second.

"Watching Arsenal, they are not one-dimensional but their attacks can be a little bit predictable at times.

"Imagine them having the option of a player like Isak who can genuinely do everything, and then put Odegaard, for instance, behind him.

"Kai Havertz has been brilliant at leading the line, up to a point, but we are talking about Arsenal challenging to win the league, and they need that next level of player to do that.

"Isak would be it, at any club, but if Arsenal do want him then they have to get in there quick, because Real Madrid, or someone like that, are going come knocking, and his price is only going to go up."

BBC

## Fallen Inter legend Adriano: 'I was football's biggest waste'

Football Italia

FORMER Inter star Adriano has written a moving piece chronicling his status as 'football's biggest waste' after a stellar career collapsed into 'drinking to oblivion' in the favelas.

The striker (pictured) made his debut for the Nerazzurri at the age of 19 and was immediately tipped for greatness, having the physicality and the skill to be an heir to Ronaldo both at club and international level for Brazil.

He earned the nickname L'Imperatore - The Emperor - and had loan spells at Fiorentina and Parma, but it all fell to pieces.

Now the 42-year-old has written his story for The Players' Tribune, framing it as a love letter to his home, the poverty-stricken slums of Rio de Janeiro known as the Favela.

"A lot of people didn't understand why I abandoned the glory of the stadiums to sit in my old neighbourhood, drinking to oblivion.

Because at some point I wanted to, and it's the kind of decision that's difficult to go back on."

Adriano wrote about having Christmas din-

ner at teammate Clarence Seedorf's house, but feeling to homesick that he went back to his apartment and drank an entire bottle of vodka while weeping.

"When Adriano's career and life fell apart

The situation got out of hand when Adriano fell into a deep depression following the sudden death of his father in 2004, then went missing for several days.

"When I 'fled' Inter and left Italy, I came to hide here. I went all over the complex for three days. Nobody found me. There is no way to. Rule number one of the favela. Keep your mouth shut. Do you think someone would snitch me? No f\*\*\*ing rats here, bro.

"The Italian press went crazy. The Rio police even carried out an operation to 'rescue me.' They said I had been kidnapped. You're kidding me, right? Imagine that someone is going to do me any harm here ... me, a favela child.

"They didn't understand why I went to the favela. It wasn't because of drinking, or women, much less because of drugs. It was for freedom. It was because I wanted peace. I wanted to live. I wanted to be



human again. Just a little bit.

"I tried to do what they wanted. I bargained with Roberto Mancini.

I tried hard with José Mourinho. I cried on Moratti's shoulder. But I couldn't do what they asked.

"I stayed well for a few weeks, avoided the booze, trained like a horse, but there was always a relapse. Over and

over again. Everyone blasted me. I couldn't take it anymore."

Ultimately, the piece insists that Adriano had to make those choices and feels 'respected' in the Favela, even after being "football's biggest waste.

"I like that word, waste. Not only because of how it sounds, but because I'm obsessed with wasting my life. I'm fine like this, in frantic waste. I enjoy this stigma.

"I don't like giving explanations to others. But here's one. I drink because it's not easy to be a promise that remains in debt. And it gets even worse at my age."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



'This generation's Thierry Henry' - how good is Isak?

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## Amid claims of unprofessionalism, KMC coach Moallin set to join Yanga



true. We never interfered with his coaching decisions and provided him with the resources he needed," said Mnyonge.

"His statements about player dissatisfaction with new signings are also false. Although he didn't have input in the first round of signings, he was involved in the second round, with some players being his own recommendations."

Mnyonge acknowledged some delays in salary payments, which he attributed to government system issues, as well as a delay in providing Moallin with a promised vehicle, despite the coach having a car available for use.

Mnyonge suggested that Young Africans' offer, which likely included better incentives, was a key factor in Moallin's decision to leave KMC.

Moallin's contract with KMC stipulated a one-year term with a requirement of one month's notice for departure.

KMC officials believe that Young Africans bypassed protocol by not informing them of their interest in

Moallin, leading the club to consider potential legal action against both Moallin and Young Africans for breach of contract.

"We agreed to release Moallin, but Young Africans' handling of the situation was unprofessional," stated Mnyonge. "They should have formally contacted us to discuss his transfer, as Moallin was still under contract with KMC."

Moallin's departure follows a mixed start to the season for KMC, who currently sit in seventh place in the Tanzanian Premier League with 14 points from 11 matches.

His move to Young Africans marks his third Premier League role in Tanzania, having previously managed Azam FC from July 2021 to August 2022 before joining KMC in July 2023.

The KMC board is now in discussions to decide on the next steps and to identify a suitable replacement for Moallin as the club seeks to stabilize and continue its campaign in the Tanzanian Premier League.



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**K**INONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) FC have confirmed the departure of head coach Abdihamid Moallin, who is set to join Tanzanian Premier League giants Young Africans as an assistant coach.

Moallin (pictured), who took the helm at KMC in July 2023, led the team to a respectable fifth-place finish last season. However, inconsistencies in KMC's current season performance had fueled speculation about Moallin's future with the club.

This will mark Moallin's third Premier League team in Tan-

zania, having previously managed Azam FC. His departure comes after over a year in charge at KMC, with KMC board chairman and Kinondoni Mayor Songoro Mnyonge addressing Moallin's exit in detail.

Mnyonge disclosed that Moallin's last training session with KMC took place on Monday and highlighted various reasons Moallin cited for leaving. According to Mnyonge,

Moallin's departure was attributed to personal interests and perceived issues within the club's leadership.

However, Mnyonge disputed several claims made by Moallin, including allegations of interference in coaching decisions, dissatisfaction among players regarding new signings, and delayed salary payments.

"I've seen claims made by Moallin that simply aren't

## Tanzania suffers third loss in ICC Men's CWC Challenge League B

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA's senior men's cricket team has jeopardized its plan to make its presence felt in the 2024 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B following the squad's five-wicket loss to Hong Kong in Uganda on Tuesday.

The outcome has witnessed the East African country's squad suffer the third straight loss to consequently languish at the bottom of the showdown table.

Hong Kong triumphed via the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method in yet another rain-affected game, which took place at the Entebbe Cricket Oval.

Hong Kong chose to bowl after winning the toss in the tie that was reduced to 25 overs- limiting Tanzania to 127/10 in 24.3 overs.

Skipper Abhik Patwa, slotted in as the opening batsman, looked to have found his batting prowess back having nailed 51 runs.

The skipper, one of the batting team's reliable cricketers, had in the past two matches, experienced a frustrating outing given the cricketer failed to put a convincing showing.

Patwa had Tanzania reaching 89 runs whilst dropping five wickets when he left the crease in the 16th over.

The fellow opener Ivan Ismail had yet another below-par showing against Hong Kong, exiting the crease with 12 runs.

There was a blow in the team's efforts to amass a bigger total following the early exit of a promising cricketer, Mohamed Omary, who ended with a mere two runs.

The youthful cricketer returned to the pavilion after four overs- leaving his squad with a mere 27-2- as the player was bowled by Hong Kong's Ayush Shukla.

Amal Rajeevan, coming in at number four, put some resoluteness to



Cricketers making Tanzania's senior national team are pictured assessing game tactics when they came up against Hong Kong in 2024 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B in Uganda on Tuesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

show to notch 14 runs- pushing his team's score to 68-3 once the cricketer was dismissed in the 12th over.

Hong Kong's bowling unit battled to weaken Tanzania's performers with early dismissals of the other competent cricketers- Maker Mukesh and Kassim Nassor.

Youthful batsman Harsheed Chohan fought to improve his squad's figure with his 21 runs, whilst cracking three fours.

The batting team thereafter suffered a batting collapse, notching a mere 15 runs from the rest of the batsmen.

Seven extra runs, five byes, one leg bye, and a wide somehow had Tanzania ending with a triple-digit figure.

Shukla led Hong Kong's bowling attack, taking 3-25 in his five-over spell and was ably backed by Yasim Murtaza (2-23) and Ateeq Iqbal (2-17).

With Hong Kong cricketers having been presented with a revised target of 128 runs from 25 overs, they em-

barked on a smooth chase, reaching the target whilst losing five wickets in 23.2 overs.

Much as Hong Kong witnessed an early dismissal of the opener Shiv Mathura, who could only post one run, their batting resolve was intact.

The fellow opener Anshuman Rath (24 runs) had Hong Kong reaching 55-4 in the 14th over, once he exited the crease.

Experienced cricketer Mohammad Kan had Hong Kong keep on pushing for a fruitful chase as the cricketer ended with 14 runs.

Murtaza (63 runs not out) and Zee-shan Ali (20 runs not out) steered the batting squad to victory with their solid partnership at the crease.

Sanjay Thakor's 3-16 in five overs could not help Tanzania frustrate Hong Kong's chase.

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B is viewed as the first stage of the road to the 2027 ICC

Men's Cricket World Cup.

The tournament is the second edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League and a cricket tournament which forms part of the 2027 Cricket World Cup qualification process.

Tanzania's senior national cricket team is featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B whilst boasting a successful run in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, held in Dar es Salaam in September.

Tanzania's senior national cricket team, coached by Pushpa Kumar, is made up of skipper Abhik Patwa, Ally Mpeka, Amal Rajeevan, Harsheed Chohan, Asuri Rajendra, Kassim Nassor, and Ivan Selemeni.

Khalid Amiri, Maker Mukesh, Mohamed Omary, Mohamed Yunus, Sanjay Thakor, Laksh Bakrania, and Akhil Anil are the other cricketers constituting the squad.

## Coach Morocco eyes crucial win over Ethiopia to boost Taifa Stars' AFCON hopes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, is gearing up for a crucial AFCON 2025 qualifying match against Ethiopia, with interim head coach Hemed "Morocco" Suleiman emphasizing the importance of a win.

The Group H clash is scheduled for Saturday at the Martyrs' Stadium in Kinshasa, DR Congo. Taifa Stars will then conclude their qualifiers with a final match against Guinea on November 19 in Dar es Salaam.

Reflecting on their last encounter, which ended in a draw with Ethiopia on September 4, Morocco (pictured) acknowledged the challenging road ahead but expressed optimism about his team's readiness.

"We are prepared for the task. While our opponents may have struggled, we must approach the game cautiously to secure a win. This match is critical in clarifying our path to the AFCON in Morocco next year," he said.

Morocco stressed that only a victory against Ethiopia would keep Tanzania's qualification hopes alive, as he urged the team to focus solely on their own results and not rely on the outcomes of other matches.

"With DR Congo already qualified, the pressure is on us and Guinea, who are just above us in the standings. This match against Ethiopia is crucial as it will set the tone for our final home game in Dar es Salaam," he added.

In Group H standings, DR Congo leads with 12 points, having already secured their qualification, while Guinea sits in second with 6 points.

Tanzania is in third place with 4 points, and Ethiopia trails with 1 point after each team has played four matches.

Taifa Stars have a history of AFCON appearances, having qualified for the tournament in 1980 (Nigeria), 2019 (Egypt under coach Emmanuel Amunike), and this year, 2024 (Ivory Coast under coach Adel Amrouche), where they competed in Group F alongside Morocco, Zambia, and DR Congo.

The upcoming 35th edition of the CAF Africa Cup of Nations is set to take place from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

With seven teams already qualified, the final two rounds of qualifiers, taking place between November 13-19, will determine the remaining spots in next year's tournament in Morocco.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

