



National Pg 3
Support govt's clean cooking energy agenda, pleads Dr Tulia

National Pg 4
Changes at Dar port have no effect on workers

National Pg 6
Dar to host this year's TIMEXPO

TARURA finalises 19 city roads contracts
By Francis Kajubi

A TOTAL of 19 tenders for issuing of contracts for the building of tarmac roads have been floated by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) for the second phase of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) project.

Victor Seif (pictured), the TARURA chief executive officer, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that ten contracts are in final approval stages by the TARURA procurement board, with nine contracts being evaluated.

The second phase of DMDP is billed at \$438m and implemented over a period of six years in the five districts of Dar es Salaam city, to build tarmac roads covering 250 kilometers.

It also involves constructing storm wa-

TURN TO PAGE 2

MPs approve bill to fortify electoral sex bribes curbs



Principal State Attorney Mark Mulwambo and his colleagues from the Attorney General's Office pictured at the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday lining themselves up for the hearing of a case filed by the Tanzania Constitutional Forum challenging the legality of the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) overseeing the local government elections slated for later this year. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Section 15 of the Anti-Corruption Act, Chapter 329 of the laws, currently criminalises offering or promising any form of bribe to gain preferential treatment

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has passed a bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Act to introduce new offenses and penalties related to corruption in elections, plus new provisions on controlling gambling and entertainment.

George Simbachawene, the Public Service Management and Good Governance state minister in the President's Office, presented the bill in the legislature yesterday.

He said that intended amendments seek to strengthen the capacity of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureaus (PCCB) to address corruption in these areas.

These amendments will enhance the institution's ability to combat corruption effectively, ensuring integrity and justice in election processes, sports events, gambling activities and the entertainment industry, he explained.

The bill slates fines ranging from 2m/- to 10m/-, or imprisonment for not less than five years for offenses related to sexual corruption, he said, pointing at Section 25 of the bill as criminalizing the solicitation of sexual bribes or other favours by persons in authority linked with obtaining employment, positions, accessing certain rights or other benefits.

Zanzibar has already addressed this issue through the Anti-Corruption and Economic Sabotage Act of 2023, which under Section 52 criminalizes the solicitation of sexual bribes

Promising or providing sexual bribes or other favours to someone in authority to influence them to provide preferential treatment in any such exercise is criminalised as well.

Mashimba Ndaki (Maswa West), a committee member, said at the presentation of comments from the Administration, Constitution and Legal Affairs standing committee that the proposed amendments, particularly the new Section 25(1) (b), have faced criticism from stakeholders.

Critics say this section undermines protection for victims of sexual corruption and offers undue immunity to perpetrators, pointing at international and regional agreements related to such offences.

Article 15(a) of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption mandates member states to criminalize the solicitation of sexual bribes, similar to Article 4(1) (b) of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Article 3(b) of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Anti-Corruption Protocol, he remarked.

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Section 15 of the Anti-Corruption Act, Chap-

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

TANZANIA'S 'BIG THREE' RALLY BEHIND TAIFA STARS IN CRUCIAL AFCON QUALIFIER

Page 20

MOHAMED SALAH'S CONTRACT IS RUNNING DOWN - WHY AREN'T LIVERPOOL DOING ANYTHING?

Page 19

Govt wants DART to invite local bus firms

By Getrude Mbago

THE Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) operating the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network has been directed to seek out capable local companies to complement its services.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Local Governments and Regional Administration state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG), issued this directive at the launch of smart turnstile gates and smartcards for passengers in BRT stations in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

DART is also installing an intelligent transportation system (ITS) application to monitor bus movements

He was confident that local firms capable of investing in a fleet of modern buses could more effectively serve city residents, noting that if Tanzanian companies can purchase quality and modern buses and serve passengers across the country, they cannot fail to serve residents in Dar es Salaam.

"DART should explore creative solutions to overcome current transport challenges. We have several potential investors, including Tanzanians, who are well-positioned to improve our transport

TURN TO PAGE 2

'Clean cooking energy vital to ending gender disparities'

"This progress is crucial in addressing environmental, health, social and economic challenges associated with traditional cooking methods"

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has underscored the importance of equitable changes that address gender disparities, thus taking up clean cooking as a primary focus area.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango

made this affirmation here yesterday when opening the 24th forum and the 35th meeting of the standing committee on finance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The VP addressed the severe impacts of climate change on Tanzania, cit-

TURN TO PAGE 2

ing heavy rains in December 2023 that caused widespread landslides in Hanang District, Manyara Region, with 89 deaths, 139 injuries, over 1,500 people affected and 95 houses destroyed.

The flooding also damaged infrastructure, necessitating the relocation of affected individuals and approximately \$3m in repairs and reconstruction as damage to the national road network covered 520 kilometers, requiring upwards of \$355m for repairs and rebuilding.

Elaborating on the challenges of climate change and gender inequality, he

TURN TO PAGE 2





Janeth Mawinza (L), director of a women's CSO out to combat sexual corruption, has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with residents of the city's Mwananyamala suburb watching a live broadcast of debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city on the Anti-Corruption Bill. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Ensure goods are TBS-certified, fuel users, importers challenged

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) took advantage of the Road Safety Week celebrations to educate the public on its role in ensuring road safety.

The bureau highlighted its responsibility for verifying that all vehicles entering the country are safe and that imported spare parts meet quality standards, as substandard parts are a significant cause of accidents.

Yona Afrika, TBS Standards Preparation Manager, provided details about the bureau's functions at its pavilion during Road Safety Week, held from August 26 to 30 in Dodoma.

Yona emphasized that TBS also oversees the quality control of fuels used in vehicles, including

petrol, diesel, and gas, noting that malfunctioning vehicles due to dirty fuel can lead to accidents, stressing that all fuel users and importers must ensure their products are TBS-certified.

"All road-related products, including speed bumps, road signs, and construction materials, fall under TBS regulation. This is why our involvement in Road Safety Week is crucial," he said.

He detailed TBS's role in setting standards for various vehicle components, such as three-wheeled motorcycles (Bajaj), two-wheeled motorcycles, and motorcycle

helmets.

Yona stated that motorcycles must meet quality standards, including having a rear-view mirror that does not impair manoeuvrability.

Regarding helmets, Yona explained that they must be made from hard materials to protect the wearer in case of an accident. Helmets should have impact-absorbing capabilities and be lined with soft materials to prevent direct contact with hard plastic.

He further specified that helmets must cover the ears, with the minimum standard being coverage up to three-quarters of the head,

including the ears and extending to the chin.

The Full Element helmet, which covers from the head to the chin, is one option, but all helmets used in Tanzania must fit securely to ensure they stay in place during an accident.

Yona added that helmets ending at the ears must have a strap to keep them in place, while those covering the chin should fit snugly.

"All helmets must comply with the 1478:2013 standard," he said.

Additionally, motorcycles should always have two helmets—one for the driver and one for the passenger.

Expert unveils reasons for failure of deprived groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

AN expert has identified key reasons why most groups benefiting from the 10 percent loan schemes for women, youth, and people with disabilities often fail when they merge.

According to Aginatha Rutazaa, a social activist and Executive Director of the Tusonge Community Development Organization (CDO), personal interests frequently overshadow group interests.

Rutazaa made the observations yesterday in Majengo Ward, Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, during the 16th cycle closing of the Amkeni Vicoba Group.

She highlighted that misuse of funds and a lack of financial discipline among members are significant factors contributing to group failures.

"The groups often disintegrate because leaders and members prioritize personal gain over collective goals," Rutazaa explained. "Many members exhibit frivolous spending habits."

She emphasized the importance of financial discipline, noting that it is vital for success. "Financial discipline is not just about saving money but also about making choices that benefit oneself, one's family, and the broader community," she said.

Rutazaa provided examples of successful entrepreneurs who started with modest capital but achieved significant success through disciplined financial practices.

Rutazaa cited the Amkeni Vicoba Group as a model of economic success, stating that if a group of 30 individuals involved in selling tomatoes, vegetables, and onions has accumulated over 62.5M/- it demonstrates the potential impact of proper financial management.

Amkeni Vicoba Group Chairperson Grace Komba confirmed that the group, established by the Tusonge CDO,

has now amassed over 62.5M/-.

Komba also noted the group's charitable efforts, including providing humanitarian aid to the BCC Majengo Center for children with brain disorders and physical disabilities, managed by the North Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT).

Majengo Ward Councillor Humphrey Moshia praised the group for its economic achievements, highlighting it as a leader among the 10-percent loan beneficiary groups in Moshi Municipality.

On April 16, 2024, President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced the resumption of the loan scheme starting in July this year, with a trial run involving banks for ten selected councils, including Dar es Salaam City, Dodoma, Kigoma Ujiji Municipality, Songea Municipality, Newala and Mbulu towns, and the districts of Siha, Nkasi, Itilima, and Bumbuli.



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By Adonis Byemelwa

National Assembly passes landmark bill to reform law school graduation requirements

In a groundbreaking move, the National Assembly has approved the Social Security (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which significantly reforms the Law School of Tanzania's (LST) graduation requirements.

This decision marks a pivotal change in how legal training is approached in the country, potentially reshaping the legal landscape by eliminating mandatory practical training for all law graduates.

Previously, Tanzanian law graduates were required to complete and pass practical legal training at LST, even if they had no intention of pursuing a career in public legal service. This requirement, while aimed at ensuring a comprehensive legal education, has been criticized for imposing undue barriers on graduates who might not enter public service.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, introduced the bill in the National Assembly, stating that the amendments were designed to address implementation challenges and streamline legal training.

"This bill is intended to resolve the issues we've faced with the current legal training framework," Prof Kabudi explained. "It removes the requirement for practical training for graduates who do not plan to work in public service and expands the training options available at law schools."

The bill outlines two primary components: introductory provisions detailing the bill's name and proposed changes, and revisions to specific legal provisions. Among the key changes, Section 11A has been introduced to extend social security coverage to self-employed individuals, allowing for substantial contributions by employers. Section 12A permits employees with multiple employers to receive contributions from all their employers with consent.

One of the most significant amendments involves reducing the penalty for late contributions from 5 percent to 2.5 percent, which aims to lower operational costs for employers and make fines more manageable. This change reflects a broader effort to make the social security system more equitable and efficient.

The new bill also addresses issues related to excess contributions, allowing the Social Security Board to waive these with ministerial approval. This adjustment is intended to ease the financial strain on institutions struggling with penalties. Furthermore, the bill introduces new offenses for employers who obstruct inspectors or refuse to register, ensuring that all deducted amounts are credited to the social security fund.

The legal profession is one of many disciplines, including engineering, education, economics, journalism, politics, and administration. Law stands out as a crucial field for any nation's future. It dictates order, rules, and penalties within a community.

Even divine teachings highlight its importance; after creation, God provided Adam with laws and handed down the Ten Commandments to Moses for all believers. Law is essential everywhere, serving as the measure of everything.

In Tanzania, law is studied extensively at universities like the University of Dar es Salaam, the Open University of Tanzania, Tumaini University, and Ruaha University. Graduates with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) are called attorneys according to the Legal Practitioners



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi

Act, Chapter 341 of the Laws of Tanzania. This means that not all holders of legal certificates are considered attorneys. To be recognized as an attorney, one must hold a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Many study law to practice and benefit from it. Attorneys can work as lawyers, judges, or magistrates, though they cannot enter professions such as engineering or medicine. Those looking to gain from their legal studies need to become government or private practice lawyers, judges, or legal educators. The Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) recognizes only lawyers as its members.

For many, the benefit of a legal career manifests when one becomes a practicing lawyer. A lawyer is defined as an attorney who represents others in legal matters, and becoming one in Tanzania is a rigorous process.

The Law School of Tanzania, established in 2008, aims to provide practical legal training. This government institution offers a one-year practical training program leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Upon approval by the Chief Justice, graduates can practice in various courts and are eligible for public service positions. Those unable to attend the Law School face significant challenges, as their qualifications may not hold the same value without this training.

Before the Law School of Tanzania, practical training was part of the final semester of the Bachelor of Laws program, with procedures varying by university. The Law School has since replaced these procedures with its requirements.

Practical training and Bar exams are now integrated, with graduates being directly sworn in by the Chief Justice, streamlining the process compared to before. However, the Law School of Tanzania faces significant challenges. Since its establishment, it has operated from rented spaces, and construction of its new facility in Sinza War at Ubungo Mawasiliano, costing Sh16 billion, is still pending.

Students have reported delays in receiving results, with those finishing exams in May still waiting. These delays impede the swearing-in process and suggest potential efforts to

limit the number of lawyers. The cost of attending the Law School is nearly 3,000,000/-, a substantial financial burden that excludes many from becoming lawyers and securing public service jobs. Addressing these issues is essential for the Law School to effectively train and support the legal profession in Tanzania.

Bashir Yakub, a leading legal expert, emphasized the systemic issues impacting legal education in Tanzania. "The problem starts with the admission standards of law schools and the quality of teaching," Yakub noted. "Some institutions admit students with poor academic records, and the emphasis on theory over practice means many graduates struggle with practical skills."

In developed countries like the United States, law schools maintain rigorous standards, requiring graduates to pass the bar exam and complete extensive practical training. This approach ensures that legal professionals are well-prepared for complex legal challenges.

In contrast, many Tanzanian law

graduates, despite excelling academically, often find themselves unprepared for the practical demands of the profession. This gap highlights concerns about the effectiveness of practical training in meeting the needs of future legal professionals.

Lawyer Belinda Mollel praised the recent bill's amendments, seeing them as timely and beneficial. "The changes will provide students with various career options if they choose not to practice law," Mollel said. "This flexibility will encourage deeper engagement with their studies and better preparation for diverse professional opportunities."

Conversely, lawyer Edison Kilatu raised concerns that the reforms might worsen existing issues with law school qualifications. "While the bill may address some criticisms, it could also lead to inconsistencies in lawyer qualifications," Kilatu warned. "A uniform standard is crucial for fairness and maintaining the integrity of the legal profession."

Kilatu called for a consistent qualification process to ensure all graduates meet high standards regardless of their background. "We need a system where every graduate achieves the same level of excellence," he said.

Tanzania's new legal reforms aim to transform legal education, promising increased flexibility and accessibility. However, their success will depend on how well they address current challenges and improve overall training quality.

Other African countries offer effective models for legal education. South Africa's institutions, such as the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand, are known for their thorough programs, blending theoretical coursework with practical experience.

Similarly, Nigeria's Nigerian Law School in Lagos mandates practical training and bar examinations, contributing to a robust legal community and high professional standards.

Tanzania's reforms, including the removal of mandatory practical training for graduates not entering public legal service, seek to reduce barriers and offer career flexibility. Balancing these benefits with the need for high professional standards will be key to their success.

In the context of legal education, the approval of the bill has sparked considerable discussion. Results from April 23, 2023, revealed a troubling trend at LST: out of 821 students in the 34th cohort, only 23 passed their initial exams, while 497 had to retake exams and 301 must redo their entire training. This high failure rate has raised questions about the efficacy of legal training programs in Tanzania.

In the end, the success of Tanzania's legal education reforms will depend on their ability to integrate flexibility with rigorous training, ensuring that new lawyers are equipped to handle the complexities of the legal field. As the country embarks on this transformative journey, the commitment to enhancing legal education while safeguarding professional standards will be key to shaping a more effective and equitable legal system.

HIV prevention: Tanga achieves 93.5 percent viral load suppression

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

Viral load suppression is crucial for people living with HIV/Aids as it helps prevent progression of the disease and allows the immune system to recover, thus reducing the risk of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related complications.

When a person with HIV maintains an undetectable viral load through consistent antiretroviral therapy (ART), the risk of transmitting the virus to others is eliminated.

Viral load suppression enhances the quality of life by reducing HIV-related symptoms and improving overall health. Individuals with suppressed viral load can live longer and healthier lives with fewer complications.

In Tanga Region, the prevention, care and treatment services provided by Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) in collaboration with the government has contributed to 93.5 percent viral load suppression among people living with HIV.

THPS is working with Regional and Council Health Management Teams (RCHMTs) under the Afya Hatua project, which is funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in efforts to prevent HIV transmission and improve retention in ART services for recipients of care in the region.

Judith Kazimoto, Acting Regional HIV/Aids Control Coordinator, told journalists who were in a two-day media tour organised by THPS that the key initiatives were based on ART services as well as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) through psychosocial groups aimed at providing high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services. The tour aimed at giving journalists a chance to witness the impact of the project's interventions.

Kazimoto said: "The project in collaboration with the government implemented strategies to ensure provision of quality prevention, care and treatment services in different health centres in the region leading to a 93.5 percent of viral load suppression."

Dr Elisha Magobo, THPS Korogwe District Programme Manager underlined that one of the key areas that has so far led to successful implementation of the project in the region is the provision of youth-friendly services at Korogwe town hospital.

He added that in collaboration with the RCHMT, the project implements strategies to ensure provision of youth-friendly services at 67 supported health facilities in the region, including Korogwe town hospital.



Dr Daria Matembo, a clinician at St. Raphael Health Centre in Tanga Region briefs journalists on the impact of the Afya Hatua project. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoko

"The implemented strategies included confidential counselling, ensuring private, non-judgmental counselling sessions tailored to the needs of young people, addressing issues like sexual health, HIV prevention, and mental well-being," he said, adding that to ensure youth access to HIV care and treatment services without stigma and fear they provide youth-friendly HIV counselling, testing, treatment, and adherence support services.

From October 2023 to July 2024, Korogwe town hospital's HIV care and treatment clinic (CTC) had a total of 134 youth aged between 15 and 25 who were enrolled for ART services and had 90 percent HIV viral load suppression.

Dr Daria Matembo, a Clinician at St. Raphael Health Center in the region, underscored the need for early registration of HIV exposed infants in Preventing Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), citing that to ensure effective part of the service, all HIV exposed infants are registered for follow-up.

"We ensure that HIV-exposed infants are registered as soon as they are delivered. Through the Afya Hatua project, service providers at every department register HIV exposed infants immediately after delivery and ensure their Dried Blood Spots (DBS) samples are taken within the first six weeks and tested for HIV to provide the infants with required services," explained Dr Matembo.

In an effort to ensure efficiency in early HIV exposed infants registration, as of June 2024, three service providers were trained on comprehensive PMTCT services, including triple elimination of HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis, she added.

She said all identified HIV-positive pregnant and breastfeeding women are immediately enrolled for ART to reduce their viral load, and provided with counselling and support to ensure adherence to ART throughout pregnancy, breastfeeding and beyond.

"For women with high viral load, cesarean section may be considered to reduce the risk of HIV transmission during childbirth. Proper hygiene and infection control practices are ensured during delivery to reduce the risk of transmission," she added.

Between October 2023 and July 2024, a total of 26 recipients of care for pregnant mothers delivered at the facility. 92 percent of the infants were registered for ART seven days after delivery.

Victoria Mcharo, Adherence, Psychosocial Retention field officer at Mombo health centre in Korogwe District said the Afya Hatua project, in collaboration with the regional and council health management team, has ensured retention of ART services among recipients of care at the facility's CTC, leading to 99 percent viral load suppression among the 1,487 recipients of care currently enrolled for ART services as of July 2024.

One of the key retention strategies includes joint supportive supervision. Every quarter, the project staffs, together with RCHMT, visits the facility and provides supportive supervision to the healthcare workers. The 'Wateja Marafiki' initiative links peer educators (PE) with newly enrolled recipients of care to gain experience on PE's treatment journey.

Linking service providers with recipients of care for closer follow-up during the first three months helps to ensure all treatment barriers are cleared.

Jessica Greene, PEPFAR Tanzania Country Director, said that over the past 21 years, the U.S. government through PEPFAR has invested over \$7 billion in Tanzania to combat the HIV pandemic.

"When PEPFAR began its work here in Tanzania, in 2003, there were fewer than 1,000 people on treatment. Today, PEPFAR supports more than 1.5 million people on life-saving ARV treatment. AIDS-related deaths in Tanzania have declined by 76 percent since its peak in 2003, and new infections have declined by 58 percent," Said Greene.

The goal to end HIV/Aids as a public health threat by 2030 is ambitious but achievable. The U.S. government is proud to partner with Tanzania to achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals by 2025, which aim for 95 percent of people living with HIV to be aware of their status, 95 percent of those diagnosed to be on treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment to achieve viral load suppression.

As efforts accelerate progress towards these goals, it is crucial to sustain the gains once achieved while continuing to foster transformative partnerships and shared responsibility in service of these objectives.

The recent Tanzania HIV Impact Survey 2022-2023 (THIS 2022-2023) revealed key insights into the country's HIV epidemic, including Tanga's leadership in achieving high viral load suppression rates of 93.5 percent.

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Zanzibar, the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, and the Ministry of Home Affairs guarantee Tanzanians of accessible and high-quality healthcare services.

By Rishabh Jain

A tech revolution in rural India: Training poor women in STEM

ON a sunny morning in Kandabari village in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, a group of students is learning to code in a classroom.

Kriti Kumari, 19, is one of 31 women at the Sapna Center, which trains rural women from marginalised backgrounds and requires them to live on campus. The centre offers a yearlong training programme in which women are taught to code and design websites and learn project management and primary-school-level maths for aspiring teachers. The organisation helps others find jobs in India's information technology sector.

"If not for the Sapna Center, I would have been married by now and doing household chores," Kumari, a native of the central Indian state of Jharkhand who has been at the centre for four months, told said.

"My brother was against the idea of my studies, and we had financial problems at home. However, my father supported me and dropped me here," Kumari said.

The centre is run by Sajhe Sapne, a nonprofit that was started in 2020 by Surabhi Yadav, 32, an alumnus of the country's premier engineering school, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi. It has graduated 90 students so far.

For young women like Kumari, coding and programming skills help gain access to India's \$250bn IT industry, which employs more than five million people and where 36 percent of the workforce is women.

An IT job is Kumari's goal at the end of her course, she said, even though it's not been an easy journey so far. She had never heard the term coding and initially had a hard time understanding the concept.

Yadav said language barriers are one of the reasons why women from rural areas might not excel in STEM courses.

"If you wouldn't understand what the word coding means, how will you learn it?" she pointed out.

At Sajhe Sapne, teachers don't care if the students, known as Sapnewaalis, are high school graduates, especially because the education standards across rural India can be highly uneven. Instead, interested students have to clear an entrance exam that checks for knowledge of the English language and reasoning.

Weekly Newsletter

Teachers use local languages from the different regions where the students come from, including Bundelkhandi, Maghi, Bhojpuri or Hindi, to teach coding languages like HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

Muskaan, a programme manager at Sajhe who uses only one name, has been working with the organisation for the past two years and believes language is the most important aspect of pedagogy.

"We use words like abracadabra, rat and gili gili chu to make the students understand the basic concepts of coding," Muskaan said, rattling off terms and phrases common in childhood stories and cartoons popular in many Indian villages.

"Abracadabra and gili gili chu is used to depict magic. Rat is a common character in many childhood stories. The reason is simple. If we use heavy words like function, data and result to teach coding, the students will not understand anything and will end up losing interest in the subject," she said.

Even the training session in which students are taught tools like LinkedIn, Microsoft Excel and Word is called "pehelwaani" and not "career intelligence". "Pehel" means initiative, and "wani" means being determined, implying an attitude and capacity to take the initiative and stick to resolving problems.

That in turn has helped the women come up with solutions to the problems they face in their villages.

Yadav narrated the example of former student Anjani Kumari from Baghmara village in Uttar Pradesh, who last year taught her brother how to use Google Sheets to log irrigation services and manage payments for their farm. Similarly, she introduced a digital system at her village government-run creche to log data on children using the service and their families.

Beating the odds

Preeti Kumari, a native of Bihar, one of the poor-



An online session on coding being attended by students at the Sapna Center which trains marginalised women from rural India

est states in India, and a student at the centre who is training to be a web developer, recalled her struggle to get there. She heard about the opportunity from a relative, but her parents refused to send her, she added.

"Joining Sapna Center meant breaking out in revolt in my family," Kumari said as she recalled it was her brother who booked her train ticket, helped her pack and escorted her to the centre. Her parents refused to speak with her for a month before eventually coming around.

The dropout rate after grade 10 in Bihar is a whopping 42 percent, one of the worst in the country. Teen marriages across the country are still quite common with 41 percent of women married before 19, and many never go to a college or a university.

Most women at the Sapna Center have had to navigate social boundaries, resist their parents' objections and in some cases escape early marriages - like Kriti Kumari, who was under pressure from her parents to get married and got relief only after the groom's family, unhappy with the dowry offered, called off the wedding, she said.

"The day my marriage broke, I asked my friend to fill out my [application] form to join Sajhe Sapne," she said. She had heard about the centre from another nonprofit that had funded her school fees.

Although Kriti cleared the entrance test to join Sajhe, it took her three months to convince her parents to let her join.

Yadav added that most of the girls who come to study at Sajhe often face some

sort of resistance from home.

"Either their parents want to get them married, or they are scared of their safety and don't want them to venture out for any study or job," Yadav said.

Kajal Ufhade, 18, is studying project management. Ufhade comes from an unprivileged caste community in Punjab and often faced discrimination at her school growing up.

"Our teachers would never correct our notebooks. They would also maintain some distance from us, and we were forced to sit on the floor," she said, referring to the social practice of untouchability still in place against some caste groups in many places in India.

Because of the ostracisation, Ufhade dropped out after seventh grade in 2020. However, the organisation that had paid her school fees helped convince her parents to let her join Sapna Center.

"We are among the first girls in our community who have come out to study," Ufhade told Al Jazeera, referring to herself and three others from her community in her village who are at the centre with her. "We are role models now. When I left my house to join Sajhe, my father told me, 'Ab aagoo to angrezi seekh kar aana,'" or "When you come back, make sure you know how to speak English."

Expansion plans

Yadav's first cohort in 2020 was 25 students, including women from the Musahar community in Bihar, among India's poorest and most socially ostracised castes.

She got her early investments through crowdfunding. Her initial goal was to

raise 1.5 million rupees (\$18,000), but within three days of launching the campaign, she had raised 2.6 million rupees (\$31,000). It wasn't just family and friends who contributed. Celebrities also noticed and retweeted her initiative, helping her surpass her target.

Since then, she has received multiple grants from social enterprises including one by the Nudge and Meta, Social Alpha, CINI and Wingify, among others.

Yadav's goal is to train at least 20,000 women in the next five years. She wants to focus on one or two geographical areas so there is a strong social shift on what is expected of rural women, she told Al Jazeera. That would require significant investment - funds she doesn't have, she admitted. The yearlong residential programme at Sapna Center costs \$1,146 per trainee. She's toying with the idea of setting up nonresidential centres where 20 to 25 women from a village can be trained at a time.

That thought is still in an early stage, and for now, Yadav is turning to the students themselves with the idea of "Each One, Teach One" and requests her graduates pay the fee for an incoming student, just as someone paid for them. Her goal is to strengthen the alumni network to become the primary investors, influencers and inspirations for future students.

She has also asked families of current students to pay a monthly fee of \$24 if they have the financial means to do so, as an experiment to see how successful it will be in supporting the centre's funding needs.

However, in the long run, none of this may be enough if she wants a bigger impact, Yadav admitted. The only way to do

that would be to become part of existing government programmes and schemes.

"Government will play a very important role in making funding sustainable at Sajhe," she said.

Rejections

Sapna Center currently has an employment rate of 75 percent, and its graduates have found jobs in project management, technical fields and as primary school maths teachers. But graduates have not always had the easiest road to finding jobs. Some have faced rejections. Simran, who goes by one name, was rejected multiple times in her search for a job as a web developer while studying at the centre.

That has raised the question of the employability of the Sapna Center graduates. Bhavna Arora, deputy manager of employee development at an IT company in Delhi, said that educational background does matter.

"No organisation would entertain [job seekers who are only 10th or 12th grade graduates]. The big and middle-sized companies want their candidates to be at least [college] graduates. If it is an IT industry, then the education should be something related to IT," she said.

Yadav doesn't agree. A lack of degree does not also mean a lack of skills, Yadav told Al Jazeera, pointing out that graduates of engineering schools that are not top tier have trouble finding jobs and that the real problem is in the quality of education and the overall lack of jobs.

For Sapne Center students, the bigger problem is that "The current hiring processes are not designed for diversity and inclusion," Yadav said. When Sajhe reaches out to organisations for placements, they ask them to test on skills and not to be rigid with their paperwork. "If you believe that our Sapnewaalis have skills, then hire them," she tells them.

Instead of discouraging Simran, the rejections pushed the 23-year-old, and a handful of other women who were also turned down by prospective employers, to start their own business offering web and app development services. Udyami Technologies is currently building websites for a consulting firm and a nonprofit organisation and an app to teach the English alphabet to rural students.

"While the earnings might be small, this month we have been able to bag five projects worth \$2,500. Our next plan includes getting our company registered and our mission is to motivate more rural girls to come out and work in the tech field," Simran said.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Chinese automaker serves Indonesia-Africa forum with its green mobility solutions

BALI

WULING has now partnered with the Indonesian government for six international conferences," Liu Yan, marketing director of Wuling Motors said, highlighting the company's ongoing collaboration with the Indonesian government.

The second Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF), organized by the Indonesian government, is scheduled to take place in Bali on Sept. 1-3. Streets of Bali were adorned with Wuling electric vehicles (EVs) featuring the forum's vibrant logos, adding a striking visual element to the resort island.

The EVs, decorated with a wing pattern symbolizing openness and cooperation, and the slogan "Shaping Clean Tomorrow," underscored the forum's commitment to green and sustainable development.

Liu recounted Wuling's journey with the Indonesian government, which began in 2022 when the company provided 300 EVs for the G20 Summit. Since then, Wuling has supplied over 900 EVs for various high-profile international events hosted by the Indonesian government, including the ASEAN Summit, the Archipelagic and Island States Forum and the World Water Forum.

"Not a single safety or maintenance issue was reported. We ensured the seamless execution of these international conferences, and this flawless track record has earned high praise from the Indonesian Ministry of State Secretariat and other government departments," said Liu.

For the IAF, Wuling supplied 158 EVs, including 100 Wuling Binguo and 58 Wuling CloudEV models, to transport delegates from 52 countries. This partnership highlighted Wuling's commitment to support Indonesia's green transportation initiatives and the development of the local EV industry.

"Our primary goal is to support the Indonesian government's vision of shaping a clean and bright future by providing environmentally friendly, safe and efficient transportation options. Additionally, we aim to accelerate the establishment of an EV industry chain in Indonesia," Liu said.

To ensure the smooth operation of the vehicles during the forum, Wuling set up charging facilities at the parking center and provided 24-hour maintenance services with a team of 52 staff members. Furthermore, the company also conducted specialized training for 116 drivers from the Ministry of State Secretariat.



Wuling Jimbaran Pool for the 2nd Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) in Bali, Indonesia. The 2nd IAF, organized by the Indonesian government, is scheduled to take place in Bali on Sept. 1-3. Streets of Bali were adorned with Wuling electric vehicles (EVs) featuring the forum's vibrant logos, adding a striking visual element to the resort island.

Eka Danny Manjur, head of the General Bureau of the Ministry of State Secretariat, expressed optimism for continued collaboration with Wuling. "We hope that Wuling can continue to work with the Indonesian government for future international activities, supporting transformation to environmentally friendly transportation technology in Indonesia," said the official.

Notably, the two models used at the forum were manufactured at Wuling's factory in Cikarang, Indonesia, with a local content rate exceeding 40 percent to be in line with the Indonesian government's requirements. This demonstrates Wuling's strong commitment to support the local EV industry.

All Wuling's three models in Indonesia, CloudEV, Binguo and Ai-

rEV, meet the requirements, said Liu, adding that the company has directly employed more than 1,000 people in Indonesia, with over 10,000 jobs created across the supply chain.

He stressed that since entering the Indonesian market in 2017, Wuling has built a robust presence, serving over 150,000 customers and selling more than

22,000 EVs, gaining over 50 percent market share and becoming one of Indonesia's top-selling EV brands. "Wuling's rapid investment in Indonesia's EV sector not only fosters the development of other local automakers but also attracts more Chinese EV brands in the Indonesian market, providing consumers with more choices," he added.

Study: Tanzanian farmers prefer their own seeds to reduce costs

By Guardian Reporter

MANY farmers in Tanzania prefer using their own managed seeds because they are readily available, accessible, and affordable.

A recent study titled "Farmer Managed Seed for Healthy Diets and Food Self-Sufficiency in Tanzania," released in Dar es Salaam, reveals that farmer-managed seeds account for over 80 percent of the seeds used by farmers. This preference is due to their availability, accessibility, affordability, and suitability for smallholder farmers.

Farmer-managed seeds are diverse and widely used in crop production. Therefore, there is a need to integrate them into district and regional agricultural development plans and strategies. At the national level, the National Agriculture Policy (2013) and the Seed Act (2003) should be revised to recognize farmer-managed seeds, according to Abdallah Ramadhani, an author of the study from the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity.

He states that farmer managed seeds benefited farming communities in terms of food security, livelihoods, nutrition, health, democracy, and food sovereignty.

Other direct benefits include affordability, availability, adaptability, good yield potential, pest/disease tolerant/resistant, taste, marketability of produce, aroma, no seed adulteration, reliability, income and strengthened social network. Farm saved seed being owned by farmer's ensured autonomy of one of the major inputs in food production.

Ramadhani points out that seeds are a basic and indispensable input in agricultural production. Despite being the cheapest input, the entire crop production and the effectiveness of other inputs—irrigation, fertiliser, and pesticides depend on the quality of the seeds.

It states that farmer-managed seeds vary from saving seeds from one season's harvest to the next, sharing based on social obligations, and exchanging or selling seeds among farmers.

"The availability of farm-saved seeds allows farmers to maintain a sufficient quantity for crop production. Farm-saved seeds are affordable, accessible, and reliable, reducing the need for purchasing external inputs. This autonomy in seed management has led to sufficient food production for household needs and surplus for income generation," he says.

The report says that smallholder farmers in Karatu, Ifakara, Momba, Il-



je, and Mbozi have access to diverse seeds, which allows them to choose seeds preferred for the next cropping season.

It also indicates that high costs of conventional seeds have driven farmers to use farm-saved seeds for crop production. Additionally, increased consumer awareness of the importance of local/indigenous food necessitates the availability of local seeds.

However, challenges remain as farmer-managed seeds are neither recognized nor supported by existing policies and laws.

According to the author, smallholder farmers in Ilaje, Mbozi, Ifakara-Kilombero, and Karatu have access to affordable and reliable seeds, which enhances food production autonomy by reducing dependence on external inputs. The availability of farm-saved seeds supports "people's right to life and right to food" and allows farmers to freely save, use, exchange, and sell seeds. Farmer-managed seeds are stable and enable farmers to grow food that adapts to changes, making communities stronger and food systems more resilient.

Farmer-managed seeds that are available, acces-

sible, and stable have enabled smallholder farmers to produce over 90 percent of the national food requirements. From 2014/2015 to 2019/2020, food production ranged from 15,528,820 to 17,742,388 tonnes, while food requirements for the same period ranged from 12,767,879 to 13,819,863 tonnes, ensuring food security in the country was over 100 percent.

The study also suggests strengthening interactions among farmer groups to facilitate seed exchange for multiplication, ensuring that quality farm-saved seeds are easily available, affordable,

accessible, and reliable.

Agricultural experts are needed to advise farmers on good agronomic practices in farm-saved seed production. Additionally, financial resources are required to support farmer groups engaged in seed production.

The study emphasizes that seeds are crucial inputs that influence agricultural development among other factors. Therefore, ensuring sufficient access to healthy and preferred seeds for different crops at all times, in both good and bad cropping seasons, is fundamental for farmers.



How to be successful with digital marketing

Page 14



How deeply rooted are China's economic woes?

Page 14



Tanzanian bank's expansion beyond Africa as SOEs eye overseas markets

Page 15

SPECIAL REPORT:

Green building technologies inevitable in addressing effects of climate change-2

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA requires an estimated investment of US\$60 billion (161.95trn/-) to achieve its climate change mitigation goals, including reaching 100 percent green buildings, clean energy sources, and a green industrial sector by 2050.

Researchers highlight the need for Tanzania to embrace green building technologies to mitigate the negative environmental impacts associated with conventional concrete block manufacturing.

However, this transition is hindered by policy gaps and inadequate financing for green-led programs.

A report titled "Towards More Green Buildings in Tanzania: Knowledge of Stakeholders on Green Building Design Features, Triggers, and Pathways for Uptake", published in April 2024, underscores the importance of green building technologies.

It notes that 55 percent of the world's population currently lives in cities, with that number projected to rise to 85 percent by the mid-2080s, according to the United Nations.

The joint report, produced by researchers from the Research Group ARCK Faculty of Architecture and Arts in Belgium in collaboration with School of Architecture, Construction, Economics and Management and School of Engineering and Environmental Studies, Ardhi Univer-

sity, stresses that Tanzania must address a US\$60 billion financing gap for its green building and energy sectors while revising its construction policies.

Green buildings are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to urban settlement development and mitigating the effects of climate change.

These buildings help reduce adverse climate impacts by promoting renewable energy, eco-friendly urban development, and minimizing the environmental effects of construction.

However, the report points out that there are no clear government policies or regulations mandating the use of green building practices in Tanzania.

Although the Tanzania Construction Industry Policy of 2003 acknowledged that some activities in the construction sector are not environmentally sustainable, awareness and technological know-how regarding green building practices remain limited.

The report's findings reveal that only 50 percent of stakeholders in the construction sector are moderately aware of green building practices, with 33 percent describing themselves as very aware, and the remaining percentage admitting they are not aware at all.

The Tanzania Green Building Council (TZGBC) recognizes the National Housing Corporation (NHC) Kambage Building in Dar es Salaam's central business district as the first certified green building in the country, certified by the BCA Green Mark in 2014.

The Luminary Building, a privately-



Ilgas Nahoda, Manager at Mpemba Vibrated Blocks in Goba, Dar es Salaam, negotiates with a customer. Photo: Francis Kajubi

owned office structure, was certified as the first LEED gold-certified green building in Tanzania in 2016.

Additionally, the Hotel Verde Zanzibar was awarded a five-star rating for excellence in green technologies in March 2019.

Despite these successes, the report highlights that existing professional legislation, such as the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Act No.4 of 2010, the Engineers Registration Act No.15 of 1997, and the Contractor Registration Act of 1997, do not provide sufficient guidelines for green building practices.

The report suggests that local government au-

thorities and municipal councils should include a green building checklist in their construction approval processes.

This checklist would incorporate both local and international green building standards and emphasize factors such as water and energy efficiency and the use of sustainable building materials.

Tanzania's commitment to climate action is outlined in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) document of July 2021.

The document, supported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), aligns with the Paris Agreement and aims to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C

above pre-industrial levels.

Tanzania has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30-35 percent relative to the Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario by 2030, which equates to reducing emissions by 138 to 153 million tons of CO2 equivalent.

Despite contributing only 0.31 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, Tanzania remains committed to building resilience against climate change.

Future projections indicate that Tanzania will experience a warming of between 0.8°C and 1.8°C by the 2040s, with the potential for temperatures to rise by as much as 5.0°C by 2090, depending on global greenhouse gas levels.

The report titled Economics of Climate Change in Tanzania (2011) estimates that addressing climate change could cost the country US\$1 billion annually by 2030.

These costs are expected to represent between 1-2 percent of Tanzania's GDP each year by the same timeframe.

The Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022, aims to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030.

The framework encourages participation from all stakeholders, including businesses and financial institutions, to understand their impact on nature and contribute to sustainability efforts.

To be continued.

Shift in investor behaviour to impact demand for fixed-income securities

By Guardian Reporter

AS the debt market continues to grapple with tight liquidity in the money markets, analysts at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) are anticipating a shift in investor behavior that could significantly impact fixed-income securities and equities.

The prevailing conditions are likely to push yields higher in the near term, especially as demand for fixed-income instruments wanes, according to market outlook by Zan Securities Limited, brokers at DSE and fund manager.

One key factor contributing to this trend, according to the firm's weekly market wrap up, is the growing preference for equities with strong fundamentals.

"As investors search for better returns, the appeal of stocks may overshadow the traditionally safer bond market. This shift could exacerbate the existing pressure on bond prices, driving yields even higher," it says.

"In the coming weeks, the yield on one-year Treasury bills is expected to surpass 11 percent, while long-term rates are likely to stabilize at around 16 percent."

This increase in yields reflects the tightening liquidity in the money markets, which could further strain fixed-income securities as investors reassess their portfolios.

On the flip side, the outlook for the equity market appears positive.

"As bond yields rise, the relative attractiveness of equities is expected to increase, drawing more investors towards the stock market," the report notes.

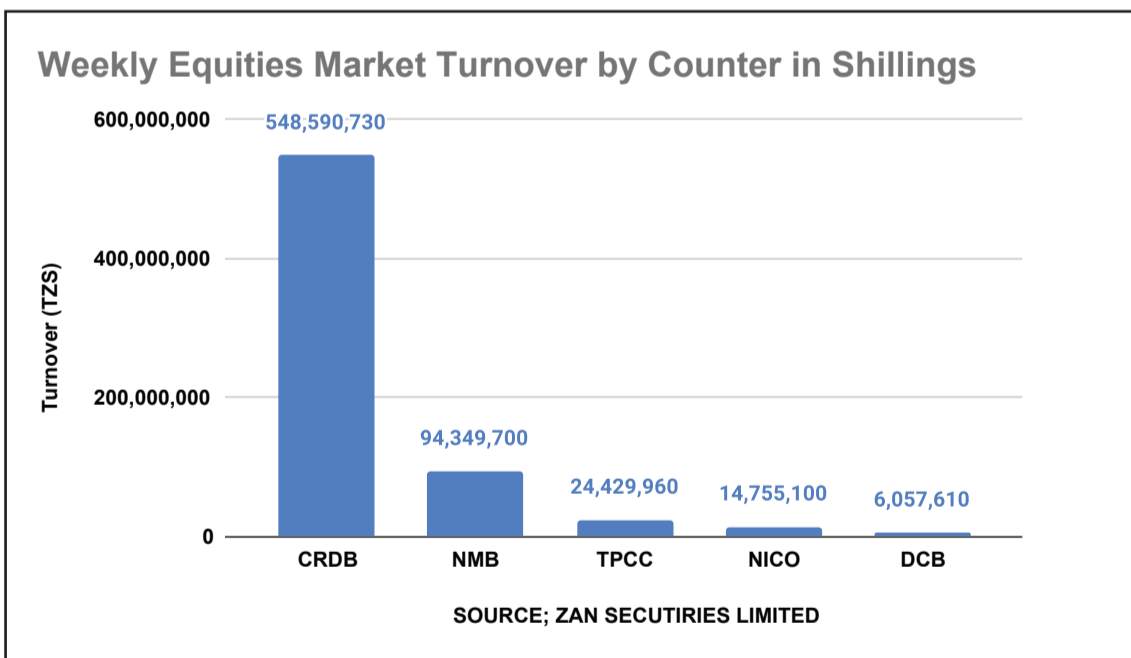
In particular, sectors that have demonstrated robust performance are poised to benefit from this reallocation of capital, specifically banking counters.

"With liquidity tightening and bond yields on the rise, equities may see a significant inflow of funds, leading to potential gains in the coming weeks," the report reveals.

"Overall, while the fixed-income market faces challenges ahead, the equity market offers a more promising outlook."

Investors may find opportunities for growth in stocks with strong fundamentals as the market adjusts to the new dynamics driven by rising yields and tighter liquidity conditions.

The weekly primary debt market high-



lights show, on August 28, 2024; the Central Bank was in the market to offer treasury bills to investors.

The offerings included 900m/- for the 35-day maturity Treasury bill, 1.9bn/- for the 91-day T-bill, 2.9bn/- for the 182-day T-bill, and 120.45bn/- for the 364-day T-bill.

In this auction, demand was weak for the 35 and 91 whereas the 35-day bill did not receive any subscription while the 91 day received a 0.6 percent subscription rate. The 182-day bill received 75 percent subscription and the 364-day bill received 60 percent subscription rate from investors.

This further shows investors' appetite for longer term maturities.

The 364-day bill saw an increase by 115.14 basis points in the weighted average yield, the weighted average yield being at 10.8293 percent compared to 10.4291 percent in the previous auction held in mid-August. The price floor decreased from 90.11 to 90.1 as the Central Bank allotted less than what was offered in this auction. The inflation rate was recorded at 3.0 percent in July.

For the secondary market, during the week ending on August 30th, market activities saw a decrease compared to the previous week. Overall turnover decreased by 16.01 percent, from 27.7bn/- to 23.2bn/-.

However, there was a notable increase in the number of trades, rising from 50 to 64.

Trading activities primarily focused on the long end of the yield curve, with the 20-year and 25-year bonds traded contributing to 99.34 percent of the total turnover.

There was a decrease in activity in the corporate

bond segment compared to the previous week. On NMB corporate bond NMB-2023/26, T1 recorded one trade with a face value of 2m/- at a price of 85.

For the CRDB corporate bond CRDB-2023/28, T1 recorded five trades totaling 52.5m/- at an average price of 89.9151.

Meanwhile, during the trading week ending on August 30th, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) saw a decrease in turnover compared to the prior week.

The total market turnover decreased to 701.06m/-, reflecting a 77.29 percent downtick from the previous week's 3.087bn/-. There were no activities in the pre-arranged board for the week.

Throughout the week, CRDB dominated trading activities, representing 78.25 percent of the total market turnover, followed by NMB at 13.46 percent and TPCC at 3.48 percent.

DCB gained 7.69 percent closing off the week at 140/- per share.

However, MBP lost 7.46 percent reaching 310/- per share, NICO depreciated by 3.7 percent to reach 780/- per share and DSE share price decreased by 0.81 percent concluding the week at 2,440/- per share.

In terms of market capitalization, there was a general increase in the size of the markets, with total market capitalization increasing by 1.05 percent to 17,547.57bn/- by the week's end while the domestic market capitalization decreased by 0.02 percent, reaching 12,300.86bn/-.

All Share Index (DSEI) closed at 2,102.43 points increasing by 1.05 percent while the Tanzania Share Index (TSDI) closed at 4,643.98 points decreasing by 0.016 percent.

Himoinsa supplies standby power plant for Tanzania's graphite mine

By Guardian Reporter

POWER generation equipment manufacturer Himoinsa has been selected as the standby power supplier to provide power continuity to the Lindi Jumbo graphite mine, in Tanzania.

The equipment supplier provided four HTW 1260 generators with Mitsubishi engines, delivering a total power capacity of 4 MW to Lindi Jumbo, a project owned by Australian firm Walkabout Resources.

Although the mine is connected to Tanesco's grid network, which is currently stable, its isolation in southern Tanzania prompted Walkabout to secure a reliable backup power solution.

The mine calculated that anything more than a 5 percent downtime in yearly production due to a power outage would result in a significant 'opportunity cost' for the mine's operations and shareholders.

Therefore, the decision to purchase a back-up solution was a "no brainer", according to the statement by the mine's CEO, Andrew Cunningham.

Lindi Jumbo was drawn to Himoinsa's rapid deployment capabilities, its original-equipment manufacturer support and the fact that its power solution adhere to local health and safety regulations. Himoinsa also boasts extensive experience in the mining sector across Southern and East Africa, along with premium manufacturing guarantees.

Additionally, Himoinsa understood Walkabout's need to keep capital expenditure at a minimum to maximise returns on project investment.

"Having Himoinsa as our power partner of choice gives us comfort that we will be backed by a professional team, both in country and international in times of need," says Cunningham.

Himoinsa business development director Matthew Bell expressed optimism about a long-term relationship with the Lindi Jumbo team as the mine operations continue to grow.

"Himoinsa is thrilled to have supported Lindi Jumbo in its considerable achievement to be the first graphite-producing mine in Tanzania. We are proud to have partnered with the mine and celebrate this milestone accomplishment for the company and the mining sector in this part of Tanzania, which is rapidly developing," ends Bell.

Graphite is in highly sought after applications in among others, the automotive, manufacturing and electronics sectors, for batteries, lubricants, fire retardants and as a reinforcing agent.

The Lindi Jumbo Graphite Mine, located in southeastern Tanzania, is an emerging project that is attracting attention for its potential to become a significant player in the global graphite market.

The Lindi Jumbo project aims to produce high-quality graphite that is in increasing demand for various applications, including electric vehicle (EV) batteries, renewable energy technologies, and other industrial uses.

The mine has been designed with a focus on producing premium-grade graphite, boasting high purity and large flake sizes, making it especially attractive for industries that require top-quality graphite.

The project has secured financing, completed much of the required infrastructure, and conducted extensive testing to ensure that the graphite meets global standards.

The mine is expected to have an annual production capacity of around 40,000 tonnes of graphite concentrate, positioning it as one of the world's leading producers of natural graphite.

The Lindi Jumbo project is expected to have a positive impact on both the local economy and Tanzania's overall mining sector.

It is anticipated to create employment opportunities for local communities, as well as generate revenue through taxes and royalties for the Tanzanian government.

How to be successful in digital marketing

VARIOUS digital channels used by business or company to market or promote its products and services to consumers are referred to as digital marketing.

The various mediums such as websites, mobile devices, social media platforms, search engines, and other similar channels are used in digital marketing.

The advent of digitalization within this Gen Z error, we have definitely observed that the shopping crowd in the markets gradually decreased over time.

Now, what has transpired is that more and more people do their shopping online for themselves and their families.

Hence, there are numerous benefits to promoting a business online because one wants to reach the right audience, and the audience is online all the time.

The possibility of reaching a larger audience in a shorter time frame through digital marketing makes it inevitable. Technological advances have resulted in considerable attribution to the customer base of traditional marketing agencies and departments. Consumers have shifted on to tablets, phones, and computers.

These are the areas whereby digital marketers have gained the most ground. With the evolution of technology and new digital platforms for marketing have emerged. Traditional marketing became a secondary option for new age businesses when digital marketing was introduced.

It gave brands the ability to reach their target audience at a much lower cost with a better conversion rate. Later on, digital marketing was adopted by all businesses across the globe in order to increase their reach.

Digital marketing has sparked a

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mbatya



business world revolution by pushing out some old established players and raising new leaders.

The winners discover new market possibilities, enhanced ways to develop work and better ways to manage and run their businesses.

Despite this, the digital marketing entrepreneurs still have to take care of their clients and earn a profit to remain in the business.

Web-based business success requires the entrepreneur to strike a balance between creating a digital marketing strategy that utilizes the strength of the Internet and meeting customer expectations of convenience and service. Consumer's present use of mobile devices, social media and search engines have led to developing integrated social local mobile strategies.

A strategy isn't just a plan. It's a vision transformed into actionable steps, sculpted with precision to generate results. Forbes magazine states that, "77 percent of marketers in a study conducted were able to demonstrate that content marketing increases engagement, it's clear that a solid strategy is indispensable as long as you prioritize the following elements when building your marketing strategy."

Goal setting and KPIs before embarking on any marketing journey, is pivotal to

define your destination. Monitor your competitors through regular competitor analysis. Identify gaps in the competitors strategies that you can exploit or gain insights from their successful endeavors. "Companies that embrace a consumer centric approach are 60 percent more profitable than companies that don't", stated Forbes.

In a rapidly evolving world of digital marketing, businesses face an immense challenge of adapting swiftly, not merely to survive but to thrive. I learned that the linchpin for this success lies in the mastery of three pivotal pillars of digital marketing: brand, strategy and technology. Together, they create a triad of success that empowers businesses to carve a steadfast digital footprint.

Your brand transcends the confines of a mere symbol or a catchy slogan. It's a sentiment, an experience a promise to your consumers. In today's modern world, Forbes state that, 89 percent of online users remain loyal to brands that share their values, so understanding your brand's essence is pivotal.

Alley Mbatya (pictured) is the digital marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam

How deeply rooted are China's economic woes?

By Nicholas Borst

CHINA'S economy has continued to struggle in 2024, laying to rest any remaining hopes of a strong post-pandemic recovery. Instead of a rapid rebound as many analysts predicted, China's reopening boom never materialised.

It also appears that the Chinese government is not inclined to make major changes to its economic management and the high-profile Third Plenum came and went without significant reforms being announced.

The country's economic trajectory can be traced back to four major issues: first, the real estate market is in a protracted downturn; second, Chinese consumers have held back their spending after the economy reopened; third, deteriorating local government finances threaten a sharp slowdown in investment; and, finally, China's private sector 'animal spirits' remain weak after the policy crackdowns of the past several years.

Real estate correction

The housing market is in disarray, with millions of unsold apartments, bankrupt real estate developers and homebuyers losing confidence that pre-sold units will be delivered and prices will not fall further.

Decades of excessive investment and property developers with balance sheets stretched to the point of breaking meant that the real estate market was headed for a painful adjustment irrespective of government policy.

However, rather than trying to orchestrate a gradual rebalancing, the Chinese government abruptly pushed the housing market into a sharp correction through Covid-19 lockdowns and poorly designed policies like the 'Three Red Lines'.

Government rescue plans for the housing market, such as buying up vacant apartments, have been inadequate given the scale of the problem. Housing sales in 2023 were below that of 2017. Sales in 2024 are on an even lower trajectory.

The sheer volume of housing built over the past decade and a shrinking population mean that new housing demand in China may never return to its previous highs. As a result, real estate is unlikely to regain its former role as a catalyst for economic growth.

Weak consumption

After China reopened, private consumption recovered much more slowly than economists had anticipated. As shown in Figure 1, China's retail sales, a high-frequency proxy for household



consumption, remain substantially below their pre-pandemic trend.

Chinese homeowners face a negative wealth effect, with their net worth declining as property prices adjust downwards. Coupled with growing concerns about the economy's direction and high unemployment, particularly among young people, households are being prompted to cut back on spending.

Surrounding these challenges is the government's reluctance to provide significant stimulus directly to households, which has further dampened consumption.

To date, government policies to promote consumption have been piecemeal and small-scale. Instead of sending direct financial supports to households such as stimulus checks or improving the social safety net - two approaches that would likely spur new spending - the government has instead been pushing rebate programmes and nebulous efforts to promote 'consumption upgrading'.

Fiscal problems

Adding to China's economic malaise are deep-rooted problems in its fiscal system. Local governments, which play a significant role in driving economic activity, have been overextending themselves by spending tremendous amounts on infrastructure and services for their cities, much more than their official budgets can support.

To bridge the gap, they use off-balance sheet entities called local government financing vehicles to issue debt. This method has allowed local governments to invest large amounts in infrastructure they would otherwise be unable to afford. According to the International Monetary Fund, China has funded over \$3.8tn in infrastructure spending through off-balance sheet borrowing since 2018.

However, the consequences of this off-balance sheet borrowing are ballooning debt levels and financial instability. Many local governments are cash-strapped, cutting essential services and delaying salary payments to civil servants.

Beijing is pressuring local governments to clean up their finances and reduce off-

balance sheet debts. Without fiscal reforms to create new and more sustainable revenue sources, local governments will have to reduce infrastructure investments and other spending sharply.

A constrained private sector

The business environment is the final major factor impacting China's growth. The country's economic miracle of the past few decades can largely be attributed to private economic activity displacing poorly run state-owned enterprises.

Yet since 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping has pursued policies that have systematically benefitted state-owned companies at the expense of the private sector. This has been done to reassert the Communist Party's control over the economy and combat sources of instability associated with free markets.

It has significantly impacted growth because more productive private companies no longer displace inefficient state-owned enterprises at nearly the same rate.

The fall in private investment began in 2015 and accelerated sharply during the pandemic (Figure 2). While private companies have slowed their investments, state-owned enterprises have used their privileged access to bank loans and capital markets to entrench themselves further.

Given the severity of the challenges private companies face and their impact on the economy, Beijing has started to recalibrate its approach.

The Chinese government is now actively discussing ways to improve the business environment and create a more level playing field for the private sector. However, as long as the CCP refuses to relax its grip over large swaths of the economy, private companies will face challenges growing.

A cloudy outlook

China faces a daunting task in unwinding several decades of overinvestment in real estate - it will likely take years to resolve. At best, policy-makers can try to reduce the negative drag of housing on the economy and prevent financial instability.

While China has capacity to address its other economic problems - weak consumption, strained local government finances and a constrained private sector - doing so requires Beijing to correct course and embrace significant reforms. China is not predestined to have a long-term economic slowdown, but poor policy choices make it much likelier.

Nicholas Borst (pictured) is Vice President and Director of China Research at Seafarer Capital Partners.

Fishermen apply traditional tech in the fight against climate change

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ARTISANAL fishermen in Kigamboni Municipal Council, Dar es Salaam Region, have devised an innovative traditional technology to boost their fish catches and combat the effects of climate change.

The fishermen are now using dilapidated cars and used tires as Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to attract fish to specific locations, making them easier to catch.

This development marks a significant adaptation strategy as fishermen cope with the environmental challenges facing their industry.

Ernest Kamata, the fisheries officer for Kigamboni Municipal Council (KMC), highlighted this innovation during the launch of the 'Advancing Knowledge for Long-term Benefits and Climate Adaptation through Holistic Climate Services and Nature-Based Solutions (ALBATROSS)' project, funded by the European Union (EU).

Kamata explained that this traditional technology was adopted after coral reefs in the fishermen's usual fishing areas were destroyed by dynamite fishing.

"The destruction of coral reefs has led to a decline in marine fisheries, further exacerbated by rising ocean temperatures and sea level changes," Kamata said.

He emphasized that coral reefs are essential for healthy fish populations, and their bleaching due to rising ocean temperatures forces fish to migrate in search of healthier environments.

Preventing dynamite fishing, which destroys coral reef habitats, is crucial for conserving marine resources and protecting the environment.

However, despite its effectiveness, this technology poses risks to marine life and human health, according to research conducted by the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI). In response, TAFIRI has introduced a new, environmentally friendly technology using bamboo materials as FADs.

These devices are designed to attract fish while ensuring safety for marine ecosystems and human health.

Kamata urged fishermen to adopt this new bamboo FAD technology to enhance fish production and address climate change impacts more sustainably.

Kamata explained that FADs can be permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary structures made from various materials to lure fish into the sea.

He encouraged the local fishing community to transition away from using dilapidated cars and tires as FADs and adopt the new bamboo-based devices.

During the launch event, Eng. Enock Nyanda, Assistant Director for Economic and Productive Sectors at the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG), highlighted the severe impacts of climate change on Tanzania's agriculture, livestock, water

resources, rural communities, and the fishing industry.

Nyanda warned that without serious measures to combat climate change, the country could face increased heat stress and flooding damage, which would place a greater financial burden on the government.

Nyanda praised the EU for supporting Ardh University's research under the ALBATROSS project, which is being conducted in Kigamboni Municipal Council.

The research focuses on nature-based solutions involving local communities to promote sustainable development and climate resilience.

ALBATROSS aims to create climate services and tools to assess the impact of natural hazards on ecosystems, food security, and socio-economic vulnerability.

He also advised researchers from Ardh University to involve policymakers in the research process to ensure that the findings are actionable and beneficial for Tanzania's climate adaptation efforts.

Furthermore, Nyanda encouraged Tanzanians to engage in eco-friendly activities to preserve the environment for future generations and help mitigate climate change impacts.

Nyanda stressed the importance of comprehensive urban planning to manage the effects of climate change, especially with growing urban populations in areas like Kigamboni Municipal Council.

He urged urban planners to promote environmentally friendly practices in city planning.

Prof. Wilbard Kombe, the lead researcher for ALBATROSS, outlined the project's goals, including gathering knowledge on climate change effects, introducing ALBATROSS's research, and sharing experiences from local communities on addressing climate change.

Prof. Kombe noted the various climatic hazards facing Kigamboni, such as soil erosion, rising sea levels, unpredictable weather patterns, decreasing rainfall, droughts, extreme weather, floods, coral reef bleaching, oil spills, and mangrove depletion.

The ALBATROSS project, funded by the European Union, is focused on accelerating climate change adaptation across Sub-Saharan Africa.

It involves collaboration with local and national actors in Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and Madagascar.



The destruction of coral reefs has led to a decline in marine fisheries, further exacerbated by rising ocean temperatures and sea level changes



Participants from local communities, Kigamboni Municipal Council and Ardh University gathered at the Kigamboni Hub to discuss the implementation of nature-based solutions to combat the effects of climate change. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Tanzanian banking expansion beyond Africa as SOEs eye overseas markets

By Derek Murusuri, Arusha

ECONOMIC reforms in Tanzania are propelling the country's leading bank to become the first in East Africa to venture beyond the African continent.

Under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are being encouraged to explore lucrative overseas markets, signaling a bold new phase in Tanzania's economic strategy.

Abdulmajid Nsekela, Managing Director and CEO of CRDB Bank, hinted at the bank's imminent expansion outside Africa.

"Don't be surprised. In a few months, we will be operating in those two dots beyond Africa," Nsekela said, while withholding the names of the countries under consideration.

However, speculation points towards potential investments in the Middle East or Asia.

This move is part of a larger trend in East Africa, where nations are increasingly positioning themselves as leaders in global markets.

Should CRDB establish a presence in the Middle East, it would face competition from regional banking giants such as Qatar National Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, and Saudi National Bank.

African market presence

CRDB Bank already operates in two African markets—Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The bank is one of several Tanzanian companies with a significant footprint across the continent.

Bakhresa Group, another Tanzanian enterprise, operates in eight African countries, including South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, and Malawi.

Additionally, Tanzania's Exim Bank has expanded its operations to the Union of Comoros and Djibouti, showcasing the country's growing influence in the financial sector beyond its borders.

Government encouragement and



strategic reforms

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been a driving force behind the push for state enterprises to explore international markets. Speaking at the recent CEOs Forum 2024 in Arusha, she urged Tanzania's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to seek opportunities abroad, emphasizing the importance of rigorous market research and internal capacity-building before embarking on foreign ventures.

The CEOs Forum, held under the theme "Public and Statutory Corporations Business Strategies Beyond Tanzania," was a platform for SOEs to share strategies and experiences in expanding their operations.

The event highlighted examples such as Ethiopian Airlines, which formulated a 15-year strategy that allowed it to compete with global aviation giants like Emirates and Qatar Airways.

President Samia's economic reforms, guided by her 4R philosophy—Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform, and Rebuilding—are transforming Tanzania's economy, creating an environment where state enterprises are not only thriving locally but are also prepared to compete on the international stage.

Some analysts have compared her leadership to that of China's reformist leader Deng Xiaoping, noting the similarities in their approaches to economic transformation.

SOE expansion and international synergies

The CEOs Forum concluded with six resolutions aimed at enhancing the com-

petitiveness of Tanzania's SOEs in foreign markets. One of the key resolutions emphasized the need for operational reforms to strengthen internal performance, making Tanzanian enterprises more competitive internationally.

Nehemiah Mchechu, Tanzania's Treasury Registrar, who has been instrumental in driving these reforms, echoed the President's sentiment, stating that reforms in the SOE sector are ongoing and transformational.

Since his appointment in February 2024, several SOEs have begun returning dividends, a significant improvement compared to previous years.

Tanzania's public institutions, with investments totaling over 76trn/-, are being positioned as key contributors to the country's economic growth.

President Samia emphasized that these reforms are not merely about change but about transformation, urging SOE leaders to uphold international standards and pursue synergies that would facilitate entry into foreign markets.

Tanzania's economic miracles

The strategic moves by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is often referred to as Tanzania's "peacemaker" and economic visionary, are setting the stage for the country to become an East African economic powerhouse.

Her administration's initiatives, including the inauguration of Africa's longest Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line and the commissioning of the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Plant, are examples of her commitment to large-scale infrastructure development.

As Tanzania continues on this trajectory of reform and expansion, the country is poised to become one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, with its SOEs leading the charge into global markets.

Derek Murusuri (pictured) is a journalist, mentor, communication specialist, political and business analyst, and author based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email: derek.murusuri@yahoo.com

Insurance stakeholders urge TIRA to regulate fake providers of the service

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

STAKEHOLDERS in motor vehicle insurance have called on the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to conduct regular inspections of companies and agents involved in providing insurance services.

This measure aims to control the proliferation of fake insurance policies, which are causing losses to customers.

Sady Mwang'onda, Director of SMJ Enterprises and Insurance revealed to the Guardian that there have been complaints from some clients who claim they have purchased motor vehicle insurance, but when they face incidents, they do not receive the services as promised.

Mwang'onda urged TIRA to take legal action against companies or agents found issuing fake insurance policies to curb this situation, which undermines trust in service providers due to the actions of a few dishonest individuals.

He also advised customers to be cautious when seeking companies and agents that provide verified insurance services to avoid falling into the hands of unscrupulous "brokers."

"Insurance is protection that a person pays for to safeguard their valuable assets and help them deal with any problems that may arise later. It provides compensation for damages that may occur," Sady explained.

He pointed out that one of the reasons clients fall into the trap of fake insurance is a lack of sufficient knowledge about legitimate insurance. He claimed that in his company, they have been educating clients on how to recognize genuine insurance policies.

"Addressing the issue of fake mo-



Commissioner for Insurance Dr. Baghayo Saqware

tor insurance is critical to ensuring that vehicle owners receive the protection they need and to maintaining the integrity of the insurance market in Tanzania," he said.

He added that one way to identify fake insurance is by verifying through mobile phones, as TIRA has provided a list of all authorized companies and agents.

Addressing complaints about insufficient compensation for clients, he mentioned that there has been deception in providing accurate information regarding the actual cost of the insured vehicle, which causes difficulties when determining the real value during the compensation process.

He urged clients to provide accurate information when completing the insurance process to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy, as the goal is to compensate and restore individuals when they encounter problems.

Regarding the high cost of insurance, he said that TIRA has set uniform rates for all

companies. He also acknowledged that they receive complaints about the high costs and urged the authority to review the matter to attract more customers.

On August 31st of this year, while in Zanzibar, the Insurance Commissioner, Dr. Baghayo Saqware, during a meeting with insurance stakeholders on the islands, stated that companies and agents should educate the public on the importance of purchasing insurance, including motor vehicle and life insurance.

He called on companies and agents to assist the government in the fight against fake insurance by providing confidential information to the relevant authorities.

He added that they continue to conduct inspections and investigations to identify those involved in the issue.

The prevalence of fake insurance undermines trust in legitimate insurance providers and can damage the reputation of the entire industry.

European stocks, US futures start September on back foot

LONDON/SYDNEY

SHARE markets fell slightly on Monday as investors braced for a data-packed week culminating in a US jobs report that could decide whether a rate cut expected this month will be regular or super-sized.

Survey data on Monday showed new manufacturing export orders in China fell for the first time in eight months, although the sector as a whole returned to growth.

Wins for the populist parties in German state elections added a fresh layer of political uncertainty in European markets, while a holiday in the United States and Canada made for thin liquidity.

Europe's STOXX 600 index fell 0.35 percent, after hitting a record high on Friday. Germany's DAX and Britain's FTSE 100 were down 0.21 percent and 0.1 percent respectively.

The dollar index, which tracks the currency against six peers, was down 0.11 percent at 101.64 after hitting a two-week high overnight. The euro was up 0.23 percent at \$1.1073.

"We are seeing some natural caution at the beginning of a critical month for markets, with the Fed set to start its interest rate cutting cycle," said Ben Laidler, head of equity strategy at Bradesco BBI.

"Markets made a dramatic recovery from the early August flash sell-off but now face seasonally by far the weakest performance month of the year."

Concerns about China and weak Asian markets were likely weighing on European equities, said Carl Hammer, head of asset allocation at lender SEB.

Chinese stocks lost 1.7 percent, led by losses in real estate after a survey showed home prices growth had slowed. Shares of New World Development, a major Hong Kong property developer, dived 14 percent after it estimated a net loss.

Futures for the U.S. S&P 500 index were down 0.15 percent, while those for the tech-laden Nasdaq 100 were 0.24 percent lower.

"We're always a bit cautious when we're trading at all time highs and when earnings expectations continue to be fairly lofty in the U.S. in particular," said Hammer.

US stock markets will be closed for Labor Day on Monday and Treasuries were untraded.

The big event of the week will be the US non-farm payrolls report on Friday, which is expected to show the economy added 165,000 jobs in August, up from 114,000 in July.

Traders currently think a September Federal Reserve rate cut is nailed on and see a 33 percent chance that it could be an outsized 50-basis point reduction, but that could shift on Friday.

The weak July jobs report helped spark a sell-off in global stocks and a rally in bonds at the start of August, although the S&P 500 has since rebounded to sit 0.4 percent off a record high.

Germany's 10-year bond yield rose to its highest in a month, up 5 basis points at 2.338 percent, in line with euro zone peers.

Pressure mounted on German Chancellor Olaf Scholz after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) won its first regional election in the state of Thuringia.

September has recently been a down month for stocks and bonds, analysts said, perhaps adding to the caution on Monday.

Deutsche Bank analysts said the S&P 500 and STOXX 600 have lost ground in each of the last four Septembers, while global bonds have fallen in the last seven.

Also important this week will be the US survey data, job openings and private employment figures, as well as weekly jobless claims and the Fed's beige book on current economic conditions.

Oil prices slipped market pondered the prospect of increased supply from OPEC+ in October.

Brent crude fell 0.22 percent to \$76.76 a barrel, down more than 5 percent from a week earlier.



Egypt to launch first digital bank by Q4 2024

CAIRO

THE Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) of the Egyptian Cabinet has announced that Egypt is set to launch its first digital bank in the fourth quarter of 2024.

This follows the initial approval granted by the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) to Egypt Digital Innovation Company, a subsidiary of Banque Misr. The final launch is anticipated once the second phase of the licensing process is completed.

This information was revealed in an IDSC report titled "Neo Banks: The Path to Enhancing Financial Inclusion," which provides an overview of digital banks, Egypt's progress in establishing these institutions, and the prospects for neo banks.

The report highlights that Egypt has prioritized financial inclusion over the past years, experiencing significant growth driven by supportive government policies.

These efforts are part of the Financial Inclusion Strategy (2022-2025) launched by the CBE, aimed at economically empowering all segments of society through an inclusive formal financial system that offers qual-

ity services at affordable costs, contributing to sustainable growth.

Financial inclusion is also a key component of Egypt's Vision 2030, particularly in creating a competitive and diversified economy.

Egypt's Vision 2030 focuses on expanding access to financial services, promoting financial literacy, and developing innovative financial products to meet citizens' needs. The report notes that Egypt has been moving towards financial inclusion at an accelerated pace, achieving one of the highest growth rates in financial inclusion among peer countries in recent years. The percentage of financial inclusion, representing citizens aged 16 and above who own and use financial transaction accounts, surged from 27.4 percent in 2016 to 70.7 percent in 2023, marking a growth rate of 174 percent.

In support of Egypt's digital transformation and innovation to boost the economy, the CBE issued "Licensing and Registration Rules for Digital Banks and their Supervision," which came into effect on July 12, 2023. These new rules enable the effective establishment and operation of digital banks in Egypt.

WORLD



French President Emmanuel Macron (L) welcomes Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, before their talks, Aug 29, 2024 at the Elysee Palace in Paris. AP

British PM recalibrates ties with EU, seeking more consensus

PARIS

THOUGH described by European leaders as a "friend and partner", Keir Starmer, who assumed the British premiership in July, has given no indication of reversing Brexit or rejoining the European single market.

However, eight years after Brexit strained Britain's relations with the EU, Starmer's choice of Germany and France for his first visits signals a desire to recalibrate relations, particularly in trade with EU members.

Seeking fresh start

At the 4th meeting of the European Political Community (EPC) held in Britain in July, Starmer indicated readiness to reset Britain's strained post-Brexit relations with Europe, especially as the region confronts "generational challenges".

Following the long tradition of viewing Germany as key to improving relations with Europe, Starmer kicked off his EU visit in Germany where he met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

During the meeting, Scholz said that he was "pleased" with the Starmer's announcement that he would seek a "fresh start" in relations with the EU.

"Given the common challenges our two countries face, we are convinced that the time has come to take our bilateral relations to the next level," said a joint declaration on deepening and enhancing UK-Germany relations issued during Starmer's visit.

Both permanent members of the UN Security Council with nuclear weapons, Britain and France maintained frosty relations during the years of Brexit negotiations.

It was not until 2023 that French President Emmanuel Macron and then British PM Rishi Sunak broke the ice with a financial deal on the illegal migration, followed by Britain's King Charles III's first-ever state visit to France.

After Starmer's meeting with Macron on Thursday, the British foreign ministry said that the two leaders "agreed on the importance of further strengthening and broadening the close relationship between the UK and France in the coming month".

"The reset so far is on atmosphere rather than substance," Peter Ricketts, chairman of the House of Lords European Affairs Committee, told European news website Euractiv. "It's focused on goodwill and good intentions, a commitment to working together, and shared interests."

It's the right thing for Britain to have good relations with the EU in defense and immigration cooperation and there has to be a renegotiation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Professor Iain Begg from the London School

of Economics and Political Science, told Xinhua.

Rebuilding economic base

Amid high government debt and sluggish economic growth, it is believed that Starmer was chosen by the British people to "fix" the country's economic foundation.

A major study by the Resolution Foundation, a leading British think tank, revealed that the British economy has been stagnating for 15 years, leaving low- and middle-income households "much poorer" than their counterparts in advanced economies such as France and Germany.

The British economic outlook remains bleak, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting a GDP growth of just 0.7 percent in 2024 and 1.5 percent in 2025.

According to the British government figures, Germany was Britain's second-largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of the first quarter of 2024, accounting for 8.5 percent of its total.

Germany and Britain were looking to "place their relations on a completely new footing" by concluding a treaty on bilateral cooperation, Scholz said at a joint press conference with Starmer.

For his part, Starmer said that the upcoming new bilateral cooperation treaty would reflect "our status as the closest of partners in Europe" and closer links in science, technology and business would strengthen trade ties with Germany while creating jobs both in Germany and Britain. Describing economic growth as his government's top priority, Starmer said, "building relationships with our partners here in Germany and across Europe is vital to achieving it."

During his short stay in France, Starmer also met with business leaders. "My Labour government will provide the economic stability needed for international business to invest in the UK. When business thrives, we all do," he said on X, formerly Twitter.

More consensus on illegal migration

Before the bilateral summit held in 2023 that fixed the frosty relations, Britain and France had clashed over issues including French fishermen's fishing licenses, illegal migration through the English Channel, and Australia's decision to cancel the submarine contract with France for British nuclear-powered alternatives.

Although economic growth has been declared as a priority of his government, Starmer seemed to focus on another more urgent issue in discussions with Macron - illegal migration.

Following his visit to France, the two sides reaffirmed their desire to deepen cooperation on illegal migration in the English Channel, not least in the face of human trafficking rings.

These will now be analyzed very thoroughly. This will take some time," says the

Trump, Harris provide few details on economic policies so close to elections

WASHINGTON

ROUGHLY two months before the US elections, neither of the two presidential candidates has outlined an overarching policy that would address crucial economic problems of the country.

Lack of policy details

The race between Vice-President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump is tight, with no clear winner in sight. With most Americans focus on the economy, neither candidate has detailed a plan to deal with food inflation, the nation's massive debt or other major economic concerns, experts said.

Both candidates have outlined piecemeal policies - Harris has focused on child tax credits and affordable housing, and Trump has made vague statements about tackling inflation - but there have been no announcements on a cohesive economic strategy.

"Each of the candidates has announced several economic proposals but neither has put forward detailed plans," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

Greg Cusack, a former member of the Iowa House of Representatives, told Xinhua that he hasn't found either Harris' or Trump's proposed "economic policies" to be either many or fulsomely explained.

"In Trump's case, it is not just that he lacks any detailed plans - he seems to almost always be 'winging it' to adapt to suit the changing directions of the winds - but also that the policies he genuinely intends to pursue, like tax breaks for the wealthy and cuts to subsidies for the poor, hungry, and homeless, are not ones that if spoken would be received well," said Cusack, a longtime Democrat.

Harris, meanwhile, "needs to be careful about providing too much specificity since - in the country's current non-thinking, tribal mood, they would only play into the Republican's playbook that what she is really about is tax and spend," said Cusack.

No plan for deficit reduction

Some economists note the elephant in the room: the nation's soaring budget deficit.

Harris has proposed expanding the child tax credit and supporting first-time homebuyers, but she has not explained how she plans to fund her economic proposals.

Trump, meanwhile, has proposed eliminating taxes on Social Security benefits, but he also has not explained how he would cover the costs.

Trump has also proposed pushing for a new round



This combination of file pictures created on Aug 3, 2024 shows US Vice-President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris (L) speaking on March 26, 2024, in Raleigh, North Carolina; and former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaking in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 27, 2024. AFP

of tax cuts while promising to reduce federal debt by stimulating economic growth. However, he has not provided specific methods for increasing federal revenue to offset the decline in tax income, making his promise to reduce federal debt likely to remain an empty pledge.

"One of my main concerns about this year's election campaign is that neither Donald Trump nor Kamala Harris are addressing the issue of how to put the country's public finances on a more sustainable footing," Desmond Lachman, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the nation is on track to have a higher public debt-to-GDP ratio by 2027 than at the end of WWII, when the ratio reached an all-time high. That was when the United States had spent massive sums to fund its part in the largest military conflict in world history.

"Instead of discussing ways to reduce the budget deficit, both candidates are making campaign promises that will likely exacerbate our public finance problem," Lachman said.

Trump will do this by unfunded tax cuts and Harris will do this by unfunded public spending increases, Lachman said.

No viable plan for inflation

Meanwhile, at a time of surging inflation - mainly high food, rent and gas prices - neither candidate has come up with a viable plan to tamp down prices to an acceptable level.

Food prices rose in the United States by 25 percent from 2019 to 2023, according to the US Department of Agriculture. The bulk of the increase began in mid-2020, when the country was mired in the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Biden-Harris administration rolled out massive fiscal stimulus.

Trump said he will drill for oil in the United States, as the nation boasts one of the biggest oil reserves worldwide. The former president said this will bring down inflation. But many economists said this will not fix the problem.

At the same time, Harris has raised eyebrows by announcing she would implement price controls to address what she claimed was corporate price gouging. But economists said price fixing would not help tame inflation and could even cause more of it.

Research published in May by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco indicated there was little evidence that price gouging is the main cause of inflation, despite Harris' claims.

On trade policy, Trump has called for more tariffs, and the current

administration has kept many Trump-era tariffs in place. But critics said such policies could put a dent in Americans' wallets, even as consumers continue to battle inflation.

Polls are mixed about the degree to which Americans trust either candidate on economic issues. Some polls have Harris ahead and others have Trump in the lead. But inflation remains a political weakness for Harris.

Betty Lewis, 68, a retiree in the state of New Jersey, told Xinhua she is "concerned" about prices at the grocery store during Harris' time as vice-president.

"I've never seen something like this," she said. "People get to the checkout line and they have to put things back because they can't afford them."

She lives in an area with a large number of retirees living on a fixed budget, a group that has been disproportionately harmed by price increases.

Chris Roland, 36, an IT consultant in the state of Maryland, told Xinhua that Harris is "too connected" with the current administration, which he blames for the most rapid inflation in four decades.

Vibe vs Policy

Some analyses, however, suggest that in US elections, winning votes does not rely on policy details.

"Presidential campaigns don't view policy details as winning messages in and of themselves, however, but as elements of a broader story about who their candidate is and why he or she has the credibility to accomplish what's being promised," according to an article by The Wall Street Journal.

Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua that he doesn't think issues matter as much as perceptions of the candidates.

"In 2016, enough voters in those states found Trump culturally similar to themselves to give him modest wins in all three swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan; four years later, Biden capitalized on discontent there to do the same," Galdieri said.

"Winning in these states will require convincing voters that a candidate is on the side of the people in those states, but each campaign is going to have different ideas of what that means," Galdieri said.

This helps explain why Democrats repeatedly highlighted Harris' experience as California Attorney General at the recent Democratic National Convention in Chicago. **Agencies**

There are no countries hostile to Russia, there are hostile elites - Putin

KYZYL

THERE are no languages or countries hostile to Russia, there are hostile elites who want to weaken and split it; they think that such a big country as Russia threatens them, Russian President Vladimir Putin said while speaking at an open lesson Talking about the important at Kyzyl's school No. 20.

"We do not reject anything: we don't have hostile languages, we don't even have hostile countries. We have hostile elites in some countries that have been fighting against Russia for centuries in order to weaken our country because they think it is too big. They think that they are threatened by a big country like Russia, and they try to slow down our development," Putin said.

He added that hostile elites were obsessed with the idea of dismembering Russia. In reply to a schoolgirl's question about the development of relations with China, Putin said that the People's Republic of China had no such intentions toward Russia.

"The People's Republic of China and Russia are allies in every sense of the word. We first of all pool our efforts in the economy, culture and humanitarian ties," Putin said.

Xi, Ramaphosa announce elevation of China-South Africa ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday announced the elevation of bilateral ties to an all-round strategic cooperative partnership for the new era.

Xi held talks with Ramaphosa, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and a state visit.

Xi said strengthening solidarity and cooperation between China and South Africa is in line with the two peoples' common expectations and the historical process of the Global South's growth.

The Chinese president called on the two countries to lead the bilateral relationship forward with high-level strategic mutual trust and stressed joint efforts to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, enhance cooperation in the digital economy, artificial intelligence and new energy, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in human resources development.

Xi said China will open its door wider to African countries, adding that the country stands ready to work with South Africa and other African countries to create new momentum for cooperation and promote high-quality development of China-Africa cooperation.

The more complex the international situation becomes, the more the Global South countries must uphold independence, strengthen unity and cooperation, and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, Xi said. **Xinhua**

Black box audio retrieved from Malawi's plane wreckage

LILONGWE

THE German Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation (BFU) says it has managed to retrieve audio and other material from the black box of the plane that crashed and killed Malawian Vice-President Saulos Chilima and eight others.

The BFU made the announcement on its website, saying this would help in the efforts to find the

reasons of the crash of the aircraft, a military Dornier 228-202(K), on June 10.

"During the investigation of the wreckage, a Global Positioning System (GPS) was secured and later transported to the BFU. In the recorder and avionics laboratory of the BFU, the data of the accident flight and other flights stored in the GPS could be read out. These will now be analyzed very thoroughly. This will take some time," says the



Mourners await the body of the late Vice-President Saulos Chilima, at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe, Malawi, June 11, 2024. AP

statement.

Upon request of the government of Malawi through the German government, BFU launched the investigation in collaboration with Malawi's Civil Aviation Authority and Malawi Defence Force.

A domestic flight of the military airplane from Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, to the northern city of Mzuzu ended tragically as the plane crashed into a hill within Chikangawa

Forest reserve in what the BFU describes as "marginal weather conditions".

The German organization says they conducted investigations at the accident site, the aerodrome of departure and destination as well as the home base of the airplane.

According to BFU, the Interim Report will be published after the lengthy analysis and upon concluding the investigation, and will include the facts gath-

ered to that point.

"The BFU will publish the analysis of the facts, the conclusions, causes and possible safety recommendations in a Final Report later on," the statement reads in part.

Following the accident and the death of the vice-president, calls for independent investigations were made by political parties, some civil society leader.

Agencies

To write new chapters of international development cooperation

By Li Xiaoyun

THE Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasizes achieving common prosperity for all mankind through win-win cooperation, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. It reflects China's profound thinking of and active response to global development issues.

Guided by this initiative, China's development experience and knowledge provide valuable references for other countries' development.

So far, there are more than 1,000 projects in Global Development Project Pool, with more than 500 projects completed or under construction.

China has also upgraded the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund into the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and further increased its capital. In collaboration with more than 20 international organizations, China has implemented over 140 trilateral cooperation projects in more than 60 countries.

Ten years ago, my team and I came to Tanzania, embarking on a journey of hope and challenges in South-South cooperation. At that time, the sparse plants in the local cornfields were exactly a miniature of the food security challenges faced by African people. In order to assist the locals in improving crop yields, we



Li Xiaoyun and his team pose for a picture with their Tanzanian partners and local farmers. (Photos provided by China Agricultural University)

proposed changing cultivation techniques and introducing new management methods.

Rational close planting is a traditional cultivation technique in China. In highly productive corn fields, farmers can plant between 3,000 to 5,000 corn plants per mu, or approximately 667 square meters. However, in many rural areas of Tanzania, farmers can only plant between 1,000 to 2,000 corn plants per mu.

In a village of Morogoro region in eastern Tanzania we launched a village-wide initiative to promote rational close planting technique for corn. In the first year, only one household chose to adopt our technique. This household planted 6 mu of corn, and the yield increased from around 50 kilograms per mu to over 250

kilograms per mu in the second year.

Witnessing the positive results and economic benefits, other local farmers began to adopt the rational close planting technique for corn. To expand the adoption of this technique throughout the region, we collaborated closely with the local government, universities and farmers, establishing a training and support system and launching a demonstration project that covered some 1,000 households and 10,000 mu of cornfields.

Over the past decade, rational close planting has become the primary cultivation technique for corn in the region, resulting in increased yields across the board.

In rural areas of Tanzania, corn

is the staple food for the majority of the population, resulting in insufficient protein intake. Building upon the promotion of the rational close planting technique, we started introducing a corn-soybean intercropping technology in four villages in Morogoro region.

Additionally, we also guided villagers to produce soy milk and soy-based products. In this way, soybeans not only helped enhance soil fertility but also provided a vital source of nutrition for the local residents.

Witnessing local farmers successfully producing soy milk and hearing the heartfelt praises from students, who describe it as "delicious," has truly left a profound impact on us. To further support the community, we have brought



Tanzanian farmers showcase soy milk they have made. (Photos provided by China Agricultural University)

hand-operated stone mills to the area and assisted in the establishment of "soybean cuisine restaurants" in the villages. Moreover, breakfast carts were at the village entrance selling soy milk.

We have spread agricultural technology and expertise to many developing countries, allowing them to take root and flourish there, ultimately improving the livelihoods of local communities.

Through a series of "small yet smart" livelihood projects, China has demonstrated its leadership and effectiveness in driving global development. These projects have facilitated the dissemination of technology and serve as a vivid portrayal of China's active engagement in global governance and the country's commitment to building a community with a

shared future for mankind. China has accumulated rich theoretical and practical experiences in international development cooperation. The Belt and Road Initiative and the GDI have enriched the supply of international public goods, demonstrating China's sense of responsibility as a major country.

China's development experience combines a global perspective with local realities to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. In promoting the implementation of GDI, China advocates people-oriented philosophy and prioritizes local knowledge.

It emphasizes that development should be based on local conditions. It also emphasizes that development should respect and utilize local resources. By

integrating modern technology and management methods with traditional and local knowledge, China promotes an embedded development models that support sustainable economic and social development in rural areas.

China will continue to promote the spirit of cooperation, deepen pragmatic cooperation with other developing countries to jointly address challenges, contribute Chinese wisdom to building a fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable world, and write a new chapter in international development cooperation.

(Li Xiaoyun is a chair professor of China Agricultural University and honorary dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture)

China, Africa continue deepening cooperation in tropical agricultural science, technology

By Cao Wenxuan

In a banana seedling cultivation room of Crossfrontier International Ltd. in Kenya, rows of cultivation bottles filled with seedlings were neatly arranged. Lucy Mimano, the company's CEO, was carefully examining the growth of these seedlings.

"It is crucial to consider the preparation of nutrient solution, the method of inoculating tissue culture seedlings, and specific factors such as temperature, humidity, and light conditions during the cultivation phase," said Mimano.

Mimano had attended a training program organized by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS), where she learned about the tissue culture technique for banana seedlings. To gain expertise in this technique, she visited the CATAS for a 28-day study program in 2014.

"Chinese experts provided me with detailed guidance on how to efficiently develop the banana industry from production and management perspectives, which was of



Chinese and Kenyan researchers work at the Kenya-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Molecular Biology at Egerton University in Kenya. (Photo by Huang Weixin/People's Daily)

tremendous help to me," said Mimano.

After returning to Kenya, she invested in and established the largest factory for producing tissue-cultured banana seedlings in the country, providing disease-free banana seedlings to farmers and enterprises in East and

Central Africa. This has effectively promoted the development of the banana industry in Kenya.

Mimano is not the only one. Every year, the CATAS welcomes groups of Africans to learn tropical agricultural techniques through visits and on-site

learning and later apply their skills back in their home countries. In recent years, the CATAS has trained nearly 3,000 agricultural technicians from Africa.

Besides, the CATAS has actively established platforms for international exchanges and cooperation, and conducted technical training for foreign assistance. Over 100 experts have been sent abroad to carry out foreign-aid projects in tropical agriculture.

In recent years, China and Africa have deepened their cooperation in agricultural technology under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. By the end of 2023, China had established 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa. These facilities have boosted crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent in relevant regions, helping African countries improve their agricultural development and contributing Chinese wisdom to Africa's agricultural modernization.

"In the future, we plan to implement various programs in Africa's main agricultural regions. These will focus on

crops like cassava and plantains, and include techniques such as localized breeding, improved seed replacement, advanced cultivation techniques, post-harvest loss reduction and comprehensive utilization, and agricultural mechanization. Our goal is to help African countries increase their crop yields and enhance their capacity for self-sufficient food security," said Li Jihua, vice president of the CATAS.

Recently, the workshop on China-Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation was held in Sanya, south China's Hainan province. More than 130 representatives from agricultural research institutions, regional organizations, and enterprises in China and African countries came together to discuss topics such as innovation in China-Africa agricultural science and technology cooperation.

"China's tremendous success in increasing crop yields and advancing agricultural modernization through continuous technological innovation is something that Africa aspires to," said Felix Dapare Dakora, former president of the African Academy of Sciences.

By Han Xin

ON the shore of the Bohai Sea, a "smart zero-carbon" terminal at the Section C of Tianjin Port's Beijiang Area was bustling with activity. Nearly 100 AI-enabled transport robots zipped back and forth, guided by the Bei-Dou Navigation Satellite System, setting new highs in cargo handling volume.

A 12.5-meter-deep channel downstream of Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province along the Yangtze River, was teeming with vessels. Thanks to an automatic identification system, ships entering an electronic geofence could quickly receive real-time service information, which significantly improved navigation safety.

In the waters off Zhanjiang, south China's Guangdong province, the unmanned vessel Wenjiang traveled thousands of miles from inland rivers to the open sea for marine surveying tests and applications. Equipped with low-latency communication and high-precision positioning systems, it not only navigated autonomously but also transmitted data in real-time, expanding the potential uses for unmanned vessels.

From fully automated cargo terminals to the rapid rise of digitally managed waterways and self-navigating smart ships, "intelligence" is becoming a key feature of the high-quality development of China's shipping industry.

Smart ports are emerging rapidly across China. Nowadays, China ranks among the world leaders in both operational and under-construction automated container terminals. The country has mastered key technolo-

China sees rapid development of intelligent shipping



Photo shows a fully automated terminal of Qingdao Port, east China's Shandong province. (Photo by Zhang Jingang/People's Daily Online)

gies across the entire chain, from design and construction to equipment manufacturing, system integration, and operational management. Both the overall application scale and technological level are at the forefront internationally.

Meanwhile, the automation of dry bulk cargo terminals is accelerating. Qinhuangdao Port, Huanghua Port, Qingdao Port, Ningbo Zhoushan

Port, and Zhangjiagang Port have achieved full automation of dry bulk cargo handling, transitioning towards unmanned, intelligent operations.

Smart waterways continue to expand. Electronic navigational charts now cover over 5,700 kilometers of waterways nationwide, with complete coverage of the Yangtze River's main channel. The application of

electronic cargo release platforms for imported containers and bulk commodities by sea is also growing.

Significant breakthroughs have been made in the development of intelligent vessels. China has successfully developed key technologies for intelligent navigation, including ship perception and decision-making, with some indicators leading globally.

These advancements have resulted in a series of achievements, including the Zhiwei vessel which equipped with a complete set of intelligent navigation systems, over 10 self-navigating ships, and more than 1,000 vessels applying intelligent technologies. These developments have brought substantial economic and social benefits.

"Currently, a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is reshaping the global shipping industry, creating new driving forces and competitive advantages," said an official with China's Ministry of Transport.

It is important to maintain a coordinated approach to promote systemic upgrades, and accelerate comprehensive development in smart ports, intelligent waterways, smart ships, and intelligent shipping services, so as to continuously enhance the digital and intelligent capabilities across all elements and the entire chain of the shipping industry, the official explained.

The shipping industry not only serves as a crucial support for economic circulation but also acts as a window into economic performance. The rapid development of intelligent shipping not only demonstrates China's growing strength in the shipping sector but also reflects the vibrant energy of a nation in motion.

Since this year, many Chinese ports have seen continued growth in throughput. From January to June, Ningbo Zhoushan Port handled 708 million tons of cargo, a 4.2 percent

year-on-year increase, and processed over 19.16 million twenty-foot equivalent units, up 8.4 percent from a year ago.

During the same period, Huanghua Port, the primary export hub for China's "west-to-east coal transport and north-to-south coal transport" strategy, achieved a cargo throughput of 179 million tons, marking a 12.04 percent year-on-year increase.

"Last year, China's international maritime shipping volume approached nearly 1/3 of global sea freight, further cementing the country's role as an 'anchor' in international shipping," said the official.

According to the official, since the beginning of this year, waterway transportation has continued to develop at a relatively rapid pace. The Three Gorges hub on the Yangtze River, the Changzhou hub on the Xijiang River, and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal have all set new records for vessel passages. The capacity and efficiency in transporting key materials and international containers have further improved.

At the same time, a number of major projects have accelerated. A container terminal project in the northern operations area of Xiaoyangshan port area in Shanghai has begun construction both on land and at sea, and work has commenced along the entire route of the Pinglu Canal project. Such growth in both volume and quality of the shipping industry will provide robust support for economic and social development.

SPORT



The 2024 Goat Races stakeholders are pictured in a group photo. Photo: Correspondent

Goat Races return to Dar with a mission to support education

By Guardian Correspondent

FOR 20 years, the Goat Races have masterfully combined fun and philanthropy, becoming one of the most sought-after events in Dar es Salaam. Organized by the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oysterbay since 2018, this event not only offers an entertaining day out but also aims to make a lasting impact by raising funds for education initiatives in Tanzania.

Through this event, participants come together to support underprivileged students and contribute to various educational initiatives.

This year, the Rotary Goat Races will be held on Saturday, September 21, a change from the originally expected date of September 7. The goat races will take place at The Green in Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam, from 12 noon to 8 PM.

This is the fifth time the Rotary Club of Oysterbay will host the event, which aims to attract close to 4,000 attendees. The event continues to fulfill one of Rotary's key objectives: bringing people together to take action on some of the world's most pressing issues.

In 2023, the Rotary Goat Races raised over TZS 320 million from partners and attendees through a well-attended and lively day for adults and children alike. The funds raised support a range of education-related projects, including scholarships for Tanzanian youth, infrastructure improvements at local schools, and other efforts to enhance education.

These initiatives align with Rotary International's seven focus areas and complement projects carried out by the Rotary Club of Oysterbay, other Rotary clubs in the country, as well as international and local partners.

The 2024/25 President of the Rotary Club of Oysterbay, Himanshu Bhattbhatt, explained that this year's theme, "Carnival," aims to do more of what Rotary is known for - bringing people together and serving the community.

"The festival is a call for stakeholders to come together and celebrate the collaborations and successes achieved in supporting the community. Once again,

we're aiming for a fun-filled day in support of a good cause, and we call on the community to join us," added Bhattbhatt.

The Project Manager for this year's event, Paul Muhato, shared that: "We are delighted to have the support of Vodacom Tanzania, and we are thankful for the trust from all our sponsors, most of whom are joining us for yet another year of partnership.

"We are confident that the Goat Races 2024 will be a brilliant celebration of the power of collaborations in supporting education access in Tanzania. Attendees can expect the same level of dedication from our team, a diverse mix of vendors on-site, and a day well spent supporting our community at large."

Joining in organizing the event are the Rotary Club of Oysterbay's members, friends and family of Rotary, corporate partners, food and beverage vendors, local government, and many others. Muhato also explained that a regular ticket for an adult is TZS 30,000, while children's tickets are TZS 10,000. VIP tickets are available for between TZS 200,000 to TZS 250,000 for adults and TZS 30,000 for children.

This year's event is made possible through the generous contributions of various sponsors, including Vodacom Tanzania, the main sponsor, along with EATV, Tanzanite Dream, YARA, Toyota, Pepsi, GardaWorld, Abstrat PR & Marketing, RedNWhite, TBL, Trellidor, JC Decaux, Slipway, Bowmans Law, Oryx Energies, Pesapal, Le Grande Casino, Bobo, Premier Care, Jibu, and Minet.

These companies have played a crucial role in ensuring the success of this year's event, contributing both financially and in kind.

Rotary International is one of the world's most reputable not-for-profit organizations, with over 1.4 million members worldwide. The Rotary Club of Oysterbay, founded in 2009, currently has over 64 members from diverse backgrounds and professions.

It is the largest of the 37 Rotary clubs in Tanzania and engages in the community through its flagship Scholarship Programme, free annual medical camps in various areas (e.g., Ukonga and Kerege), and continuous support of youth through leadership training, education, and soft skills development.

Representatives for 2024 CAF Women's Champions League confirmed

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

ALL six African sub-confederations have completed their qualifying tournaments, and representatives for the 2024 CAF Women's Champions League have been confirmed. The host country for the fourth edition of the tournament will be announced later this year.

The teams that have secured their place in the continental showpiece are CBE (Ethiopia), Eagles of the Medina (Senegal), Edo Queens (Nigeria), UWC (South Africa), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), and AS FAR (Morocco).

Defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies have also qualified automatically, rounding out the eight-team lineup. CAF is expected to announce the hosts and dates for the tournament soon.

Representing the Council of East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA) is the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE). CBE clinched their spot by defeating Kenya Police Bullets 1-0 in the final.

This victory marks their first time winning the regional tournament, having previously finished second in 2021 and 2023 and earning a bronze medal in between. With this achievement, CBE will make their debut in the CAF Women's Champions League.

Morocco's AS FAR will represent the Union of North African Federations (UNAF) for the

fourth time. They secured their spot by beating Tutankhamun of Egypt 1-0.

AS FAR, the 2022 CAF Women's Champions League winners, are looking to add another title to their record after defeating Sundowns Ladies 4-0 in the 2022 final.

From the Union of West African Football Associations (WAFU-A), Eagles de la Medina (Eagles of Medina) of Senegal earned their place in the tournament by overcoming Liberia's Determine Girls 2-1 in the final.

This marks the Senegalese team's first appearance in the CAF Women's Champions League. Joining them as representatives from the Union of West African Football Associations (WAFU-B) are Edo Queens of Nigeria.

They dominated their final against Benin's Aionvi FC with a 3-0 victory, also marking their debut in the tournament.

TP Mazembe of DR Congo, representing the Central African Football Federations' Union (UNIFFAC), secured their qualification by holding Lekie Football Filles of Cameroon to a 1-1 draw. This result was enough to book their return to the CAF Women's Champions League for the first time since 2022.

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) from South Africa will represent the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) after a successful qualifying campaign.

SPORTS

Taifa Stars face daunting litmus tests in AFCON qualifiers



Tanzania national soccer team (Taifa Stars) players are pictured on Sunday during a training session at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Lloyd Elipokea

IT is no secret that Tanzania has found it exceedingly arduous to frequently qualify for the immensely cherished African Cup of Nations, otherwise known as the AFCON Finals.

Admittedly, things have dramatically changed during the last few years as our beloved Taifa Stars outstandingly qualified for the AFCON Finals in 2019 and 2023.

It should be recalled that there was an entire epoch of near-constant failure to advance to the AFCON Finals in the spell between 1980 and 2019.

However, now that those dark, grim days are behind us, it is undisputedly unsurprising that a vast number of Tanzanians are dearly hoping that our Taifa Stars can qualify for the 2025 AFCON Finals in Morocco.

With regards to that football championship in Morocco, the Stars have been drawn in a dicey Group H, where they will vie for a spot at the AFCON Finals against Ethiopia, Guinea, and the DR Congo.

In fact, the Taifa Stars will welcome Ethiopia to the iconic Benjamin Mkapa stadium tomorrow in a high stakes

football duel where three points will be very much up for grabs.

In the wake of that matchup against Ethiopia, the Stars will travel to Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, where they are due to come up against the always dangerous Guinea on September 10, which will be a true test of the Taifa Stars' mettle.

Indeed, with the path ahead strewn with obstacles, it is hoped that the Taifa Stars can superbly produce top-notch displays en route to securing invaluable triumphs against Ethiopia and Guinea.

Let us now dig into the Paralympic Games in Paris which are now in full swing after the colossal sporting event started merely a few days ago.

For our part, we, as a country, shall be represented by a wheelchair-bound athlete, Hilmy Shawal, who will take part in one of the wheelchair races at the perpetually scintillating Paralympic Games.

In the big picture, though, Shawal's participation at the Paralympic Games begs the weighty question: why could we only send a measly one athlete to represent our country on the biggest stage in sports for people with disabilities?

Perhaps even more embarrassing, does it mean that we could only sufficiently prepare one athlete for the Paralympic Games during

the last four years?

Indeed, the fact that Shawal is the lone Tanzanian competing at the Games stands as a damning indictment of the pitiful state of Paralympic sports here in the country.

Frustratingly, Paralympic sports are largely neglected on the local scene and even when some domestic Paralympic sporting championships are organized, they are not done so with any regularity.

Depressingly, this saddening state of affairs in local Paralympic sports has hardly changed for many years now.

Significantly, it is about time that we recognized that our compatriots with disabilities have an inalienable right to partake in a whole manner of sports and to derive pure joy from doing so.

One hopes then that the deeply dissatisfying status quo in local Paralympic sports can urgently and speedily change for the good of people with disabilities in our neck of the woods.

Manula's comeback boosts Simba ahead of CAF Confederation Cup qualifiers

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AFTER being sidelined for several months due to injury, Simba Sports Club's star goalkeeper Aishi Manula made a notable return to action during an international friendly match against Sudan's Al Hilal.

The match, held as part of Simba's preparations for the upcoming CAF Confederation Cup group stage qualifiers, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Manula (pictured), who has been a pivotal figure for Simba in recent years, was given the nod by head coach Fadlu Davids to start the game. He played the first 45 minutes and displayed impressive form despite his lengthy absence from the pitch.

His command of the penalty area and crucial saves were instrumental in helping Simba maintain a 1-0 lead at halftime. Manula made two significant saves that kept Al Hilal at bay, showcasing his sharp reflexes and reassuring fans of his readiness to reclaim his position as the team's first-choice goalkeeper.

At halftime, Manula was substituted with Hussein Abel taking over for the second half. Abel's inclusion is part of Coach Davids' strategy to give the other players valuable game time and experience, especially as the club gears up for the rigorous demands of the CAF campaign.

Manula's return is particularly significant for Simba, which struggled defensively during his absence. His presence between the posts not only strengthens Simba's defensive line but also boosts the morale of the squad as they prepare for their crucial CAF Confederation Cup and Premier League fixtures.

Simba faced challenges in goalkeeping after Ayoub Lakred, who was brought in as Manula's backup, sustained an injury during pre-season. The club then signed Mousa Camara from Horoya FC to fill the gap, but Manula's experience and leadership remain irreplaceable.

Despite Manula's previous request to leave the club during the last transfer window, Simba's management decided to retain him for the remainder of his contract, which has one year left. This decision reflects the club's recognition of his value and contribution to the team.

Simba now boasts a deep roster of goalkeepers, with five shot-stoppers available for selection: Manula, Camara, Ali Salim, Abel, and the injured Lakred. The competition among them is expected to be fierce, but Manula's return certainly gives Simba a solid foundation as they aim to progress in the CAF Confederation Cup.

His comeback is also a positive development for the Tanzania national team, Taifa Stars. The national team has been grappling with a goalkeeper crisis, as none of the recent call-ups – Ali Salim, Abuutwalib Mshery, and Yona Amosi – have significant experience at the international level. Manula's



SPORT

Mohamed Salah's contract is running down – why aren't Liverpool doing anything?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Coaching change looms at Azam as club pursues Ibenge to replace Dabo

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM Football Club have reportedly initiated discussions with Florent Ibenge, the current coach of Al Hilal FC, with the intention of appointing him as their new head coach. This move comes amid growing dissatisfaction with the performance of the club's current coach, Youssouph Dabo, whose tenure is likely coming to an end after a series of disappointing results.

Dabo's time at Azam has been marked by inconsistent performances, prompting the club's leadership to question his ability to guide the team to success. The tipping point was a heavy 4-1 defeat to Young Africans in the Community Shield final, a match that was expected to set a positive tone for the season. Instead, the loss intensified scrutiny of Dabo's tactics and management style.

Following this defeat, Dabo's side managed a narrow 1-0 victory against APR FC in the first leg of the CAF Champions League preliminary round. However, this success was short-lived as Azam suffered a 2-0 loss in the return leg in Kigali, ending their hopes for continental success this season. The early exit from the Champions League further eroded the board's confidence in Dabo.

The situation worsened when Azam struggled to a 1-1 draw against JKT Tanzania in their opening Premier League match. This result, coupled with previous disappointments, pushed the club's management to consider terminating Dabo's contract and seeking new leadership to guide the team towards a more successful path.

In their search for a replacement, Azam have turned their attention to Ibenge (pictured), a coach with a proven track record across the African continent. Ibenge's credentials are impressive; he has led clubs like AS Vita Club and RS Berkane to significant success, including several major titles in African football. His experience and tactical acumen have made him a highly sought-after figure, with his current role at Al Hilal FC further enhancing his reputation.

Azam's leadership believes that Ibenge is the right person to lead the club to both domestic and international success. The club has invested heavily in assembling a squad filled with talent, and management is determined to find a coach capable of maximizing this potential.

Despite the financial challenges that may come with hiring a coach of Ibenge's caliber, Azam's executives seem undeterred, focusing instead on the long-term success they believe Ibenge can deliver.

Sources within Azam have confirmed that talks with Ibenge are well underway. The club is reportedly willing to meet the financial demands associated with securing Ibenge's services, emphasizing that money is not an obstacle in their pursuit of excellence.

According to an insider, the club initially approached another high-profile coach, Nasreddine Nabi, who previously led Young Africans to success. Despite offering Nabi a lucrative contract, he declined the offer, leading Azam to pursue Ibenge more aggressively.

"Discussions are ongoing between us and Ibenge because we initially started with Nabi, who, despite being offered a large amount of money, refused it," revealed the source.

"The CVs of the coaches we have followed are impressive. For example, Nabi built Young Africans into a strong team, which is why they continue to do well. As for Ibenge, what he has achieved with various African teams is remarkable. If the deal is completed, we will be very happy and confident in achieving our goals," the source added.

As negotiations continue, Azam fans and stakeholders will be watching closely, hopeful that the club's management can secure a deal with Ibenge that will elevate the team to new heights. The ambition of the club is clear: to build a team that not only dominates the domestic league but also competes strongly on the international stage. With Ibenge at the helm, Azam believe this ambition can be realized.

Ken Gold using international break to rebuild confidence after Premier League loss

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KEN Gold FC are optimistic about using the international break to rebuild their team's confidence and tactical approach after starting their Premier League campaign with a 3-1 loss to Singida Black Stars last month.

The newly promoted side, under the guidance of coach Fikiri Elias, is working to address their defensive shortcomings while finding solutions in attack.

Elias is confident in his players' ability to adapt to the Premier League's challenges and deliver positive results. The team is currently training in Igawilo, Mbeya, in preparation for their next match against Fountain Gate in Manara on September 11.

Despite being primarily composed of local players, the Mbeya-based team has faced criticism for relying heavily on domestic talent. Some observers believe that a more balanced approach, incorporating a mix of experienced and emerging players, could help create a more competitive team.

Coach Elias acknowledged that the first match was not ideal but praised the players for their resilience and performance despite some members' inexperience.

"We continue to work on the players' psychological and competitive aspects. Although we faced a setback, we remain focused, and the players are motivated. Morale is high, and we believe the next match will mark a turning point," said Elias.

"As a newly promoted team, we recognize the challenges ahead in this league. With a fresh roster that blends experienced and inexperienced players, it's imperative we work hard to maintain our position," he added.

"Our success hinges on the players' unwavering commitment and dedication. Effective training and strategic gameplay will be crucial to achieving positive results."

The team's general secretary, Benson Mkocha, announced that the management has allocated a substantial sum for player bonuses.

"Each player will receive a significant reward for every match they win. This incentive is designed to boost morale and motivation," Mkocha said.

"While the exact amount remains confidential, we believe this will encourage the players to strive for victory in every match."

Ken Gold FC hope to use this international break to regroup and come back stronger, with the aim of proving themselves in the Premier League.

Tanzania's 'Big Three' rally behind Taifa Stars in crucial AFCON qualifier



Tanzania national soccer team (Taifa Stars) interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman (L) and his assistant Juma Mgunda during a training session at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Taifa Stars will host Ethiopia tomorrow in the AFCON qualifier match to be held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE media representatives of three major soccer clubs in the country - Simba SC, Young Africans, and Azam FC - have called on local fans to show strong support for the national team, Taifa Stars, in their upcoming AFCON qualifier against Ethiopia.

The match is set to take place tomorrow at 1:00 AM at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

This game marks Taifa Stars' opening match in the AFCON qualifying campaign. Following the Ethiopia clash, the team will travel to Ivory Coast to face Guinea on September 10.

During a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, representatives from the three clubs - Ali Kamwe of Young Africans, Ahmed Ally of Simba, and Hasheem Ibwe of Azam - stressed the critical role of fan support in helping Taifa Stars secure a victory against Ethiopia.

They emphasized that a strong start in the qualifiers is essential for setting the tone for the rest of the campaign.

"We're looking ahead to the AF-

CON qualifiers for 2025 in Morocco. Each group will consist of four teams, and we believe we can compete against any team in our group," said Kamwe.

"Ethiopia is likely to be a tough opponent, and many expect them to earn six points. We need to be equally determined and aim for six points ourselves."

Kamwe also highlighted the need for a change in approach for the national team:

"In this match, our message to the Tanzanian players is clear: we've often struggled in the early stages of qualifying matches, relying on late heroics to advance. This time, we must start strong, dominate Ethiopia, and score as many goals as possible."

Ahmed Ally, the media officer for Simba, echoed the call for fan support: "We understand the importance of this match and the challenges it presents. The team needs our unwavering support, both in terms of noise and passion. This is the first match in the qualifying campaign for AFCON 2025, and a positive start is crucial for our success."

He added: "This match will give us a clear picture of our group's competitiveness in the AFCON qualifiers. It's essential that we win to avoid the pressure we've faced in previous seasons due to slow starts. Defeating Ethiopia would be a strong way to begin the campaign."

Hasheem Ibwe, the media officer for Azam FC, announced that the club will

offer discounted tickets worth 600,000 Tanzanian shillings to fans who want to support Taifa Stars.

"It's a great honor and privilege for us to contribute to the national team's success," said Ibwe. "We're offering tickets worth Tsh: 600,000 for free to our fans. These tickets will be distributed through Ndimbo (TFF spokesperson Clifford Ndimbo), who will determine the best way to allocate them."

Ibwe emphasized the value of fan support: "We understand the immense power of our fans. Their support is invaluable and can have a significant impact on the team's performance, possibly even more so than the players on the field."

He also noted: "In East Africa, our passion for football is unmatched, from club level to international competitions. Our involvement in the sport is unparalleled, and we're setting a high standard for others to follow."

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the final stages of the AFCON tournament, which will be held in Morocco from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

The tournament will take place across six cities in Morocco: Agadir, Casablanca, Fez, Marrakesh, Rabat, and Tangier.

Taifa Stars are aiming to participate in the AFCON for the fourth time, having previously qualified in 1980, 2019, and 2023.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SBELEK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shaping process.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM