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President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Yusuph Juma Mwenda at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar yesterday as Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority. Photo: State House

Samia demands Kariakoo Market reorganised, EFD used by everyone

By Getrude Mbago

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday tasked Dr Selemani Jafo, the new Industry and Trade minister not to stay in office but invest time in revolutionising operations at the metropolitan Kariakoo Market.

In remarks at the swearing-in of newly appointed top public officials at the Tunguu State House in Zanzibar, the president demanded that the minister make Kariakoo as his second office, spending time to address challenges facing trade in the area.

One such task is to facilitate 24 hours operations to serve local and international traders, part of customers seeking all round quality services, she said, hinting that the issue be set out with the city administration under the regional commissioner.

They should come up with a plan on how the central business district should be organised, a new era in Kariakoo market growth, its entire security and safety outlays, she stated.

"Go and make traders your

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Govt shuts small-scale mining site

Locals dispute presence of Chinese small miner

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has suspended operations at a gold mining site in Handali ward in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region following eruption of chaos locking small-scale miners and a small scale Chinese miner.

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde accompanied by members of the regional public security committee went to the area to inspect the situation and

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SBT, producers, debate sugar importation shift

By Henry Mwangonde

REAL production costs of sugar are being worked out to regulate prices and ensure that the consumer accesses the commodity at a fair price, the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) said yesterday.

SBT director general Prof Kenneth Bengesi said at a press conference that the scarcity caused by insufficient sugar in shops led to increased prices, a

Earlier producers had a stance that there was no need for importing sugar because the sugar produced locally was enough and this was the reason they did not import even after receiving import licenses

burden to most consumers.

"Earlier producers had a stance that there was no need for importing sugar because the sugar produced locally was enough and this was the reason they did not import even after receiving import licenses," he explained.

He said the government used the Food Security Act which allows importation of food during

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'Gombe chimpanzees now facing extinction'

By Guardian Reporter

ONE of the world's most famous chimpanzee colonies is facing an existential threat, a researcher has warned, calling for urgent steps to address the issue.

Simula Majjo, a senior researcher at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), said in an interview at the Gombe National Park in western Tanzania midweek that from around 150 chimpanzees in the 1960s, the total population in the park has dwindled to around 90.

Prof Jane Goodall, an iconic

conservationist at the global stage, studied the Gombe chimpanzees in the decades after independence, setting the pace for their global renown and framework of their protection.

Research by the legendary primatologist offered invaluable insights into human evolution and behaviour, while in the later years their habitat on the shores of Lake Tanganyika is steadily falling to agricultural expansion.

The animals also face risks of poaching and contagious diseases, the researcher noted, intoning that it is heartbreaking to see the destruction of the forest

and the chimpanzees struggling the way they are today.

"Each tree cut down means a loss of food and shelter for apes," he said, elaborating that the park, located 16 kilometers (10 miles) north of Kigoma municipality, has no perimeter fences.

The chimpanzees roam freely through the winding corridors of the forest as the corridors connect various chimpanzee colonies in the park. The corridors are rapidly disappearing, isolating the various groups of animals and reducing their genetic diversity, he specified.

Charcoal production and

timber extraction are primary factors in depleting the forest area, he said, citing smallholder farming as having transformed the corridors into fragmented patches.

This has increased human-wildlife conflicts which accelerate the decline in numbers while also exacerbating the risk of contracting diseases, he explained, noting that as one travels to Gombe from Kigoma, the evidence of forest destruction is glaring.

Sacks of charcoal line the road and swathes of land have

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Simba bolster attack with young striker Mashaka

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Gymkhana Cricket Club's players jubilate with a trophy upon the conclusion of the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 30 Overs Cup Division B showdown's final in Dar es Salaam recently. The outfit cruised to victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) A to lift the title. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION



'Gombe chimpanzees now facing extinction'

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been cleared for farming. Casava and oil palms dominate the landscape, the latter being a major contributor to habitat loss, he said, underlining the need to act now to protect these incredible creatures before it's too late. Their survival is linked with the health of our environment and implicitly with our own well-being, he said, elaborating that conservationists are relying on a multifaceted approach to protect the chimpanzees.

A key part of the strategy is the restoration of the forest corridor, he said, pointing at the replanting of native trees to reconnect the fragmented habitats, thus allowing the chimpanzees to move freely and find new mates, boosting genetic diversity.

Livingstone Paul, a resident conservationist, said that restoring the corridors is vital for the long-term survival of Gombe chimps, stressing tree planting and ecosystem restoration, backed up by creating land-use plans for villages around the park.

Researchers utilise satellite imagery to map the area and engage villagers to identify land for settlements, grazing and sparing land for conservation, a joint effort that has led to setting up village forest reserves.

Sofia Jamali, a community leader, says that with

upwards of 100 villages around Gombe, about 70 have set aside land for conservation, thus by involving local communities, the park has created a network of guardians for the chimps.

Many people have adopted better farming methods to reduce tree cutting and discourage poaching, she said, as researchers set out a comprehensive health surveillance system, she said.

Yohanna Manumbu, who described himself as a poacher-turned-conservationist, said that regular veterinary checks and disease monitoring for early detection and intervention was crucial as early intervention can mean the difference between life and death.

"I had no idea how important these apes were until I got involved in conservation work. They're part of our heritage, and we need to protect them for future generations."

The TAWIRI researcher stressed the importance of Gombe's chimpanzee population as "a vital part of our planet's biodiversity and a link to our own evolutionary past."

"We need the world to understand what is at stake. These chimpanzees are an integral part of our natural heritage and we can't afford to lose them," he vehemently asserted.

"It's crucial that we protect them, not only for our environment and economy, but also for the benefit of future generations," he added.



Dr Selemani Jafo, until only days ago Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), takes the oath of office as Industry and Trade minister before President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Govt shuts small-scale mining site

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speak with the conflicting parties.

After discussions, the minister directed the closure of the mine until the legality of the issue is cleared, to prevent further disputes, after violence erupted as the Chinese 'gold digger' brought a plant to the area ready for extraction.

People came out to prevent him, raising misunderstanding and even fist fights in which case the matter was reported to higher authorities,

and the minister was notified of the dispute.

In his remarks on the spot he said that as the area has individuals obtaining primary mining licences only locals are permitted to operate at the mine, which excludes foreign small scale miners.

Primary licences are meant for artisanal mining, with minimal machinery or technology, where initial capital for investment lies within \$5m, he stated, instructing regional minerals officers to supervise regu-

lations in that regard.

They need to ensure that mines are operated as per licence conditions, to avoid unnecessary challenges, also asking foreign miners to stop seeking mining sites to purchase minerals but remain at minerals selling points "and they will be served well."

"It is contrary to the law to go directly to mining sites," he said, insisting that leaders have to make sure this procedure is observed, hinting that as the new financial year com-

mences, new regulations will be put to use where anyone given a mining licence will have to allow small-scale miners to operate at the area.

"This is meant to curb unnecessary conflicts which have been occurring in the sites due to an increase of middlemen activities not part of mining," he said.

RC Rosemary Senyamule directed the police to exhaustively investigate and report on the incident, citing accusation that the Chinese miner hit one of the local miners.



Donkeys in business as draught animals in earnest in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, as caught by Correspondent Jumanne Juma yesterday

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friends and not enemies," she emphasised, urging that whenever the traders want to see the minister an open door situation is vital. "I want to see you working hard to make Kariakoo the safest place for international trade," the president declared.

Most of the time challenges at Kariakoo market are driven by politics which the minister needs to address, she said, demanding that a report be submitted on a quarterly basis on the situation and progress of scheduled interventions.

She referred to remarks at the ongoing 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF-2024) on the need to listen and addressing challenges facing traders, in

which case the minister needs to go and supervise this very well.

The minister needs to have close connections with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Planning and Investment division in the President's Office along with related ministries, "to make the country's trade perform well," she stated.

The president asked regional officials to devise a usable arrangement for petty traders as their operating within the Kariakoo metropolitan market causes disorder in customers for numerous shops in the zone. There is similarly a steady increase in unfaithful traders turning their shops into stores for small businesses, handing out the merchandise to petty traders plying the streets outside and around the city so as to evade the required taxes.

"This trend affects revenue collections and growth," she stated, insisting that the matter needs to be addressed, pointing at the need to work with the police to see how petty traders can be organised to conduct businesses in a harmonious manner with those operating shop frames and other shopping modes.

"The petty traders should operate legally and be registered, all of them, to have proper records," she specified.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the new Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office VPO was tasked with taking the clean cooking energy as a priority agenda.

Yahya Samamba, incoming permanent secretary for the Minerals ministry, was tasked with working closely with various

agencies on the issuance of mining licences, in the wake of cancellation of those who have failed to use the licences.

She praised Alphayo Kidata, outgoing TRA commissioner general for doing a tremendous job, while there is still plenty to be addressed, urging the new appointee, Yusuph Juma Mwenda to address remaining loopholes, "to ensure that every eligible person pays tax."

"A good number of traders all over the country do not pay tax as they evade using electronic fiscal devices (EFDs), go and make robust plans to address the challenge," she firmly stated.

The newly appointed leaders need to go and work efficiently and in synchrony to address challenges in the various sectors, she added.

SBT, producers, debating sugar importation shift

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emergencies to import sugar, a move intended to avert the scarcity of the commodity.

The government took various steps to move out from the crisis that touched off a public outcry due to rising prices, reaching upwards of 7000/- per kilogramme in some places, he stated, explaining that the government took measures to alleviate the suffering as it is within its power to end the crisis.

The board will be analysing production costs and producers will be mandated by the law to submit production costs, in view of the need to protect the last consumer, he said.

Performance contracts with producers will be used to test production capabilities of local industries, taking into consideration development plans in the pipeline, he said, acknowledging that sugar availability and pricing is a sensitive issue.

Earlier this week, the Tanzania Sugar Producers Association (TSPA) disputed the view that the local sugar sector was inefficient, airing discontent over the parliamentary debate and among stakeholders on the issue as escheving producers despite being key stakeholders.

The new debate follows the government's move to use the NFRA to procure and store sugar to address the scarcity of the produce, a periodic pain in the neck.

SBT often asks sugar producers to submit production estimates to the board in the wake of reports by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) where El Nino induced rainfall affected production late last year.

Sugar firms projected 453,043 to 483,600 metric tons during the following season, failing to reach much of that projection, compelling the decision to hand importation to the NFRA, he said.

He even hinted on the need to relieve producers from the burden of performing multiple tasks and instead concentrate on production to increase capacity.

"What the government is doing is for the interest of consumers. We are protecting consumers so that they buy the commodity at a fair price but also stabilise the sector," he added.

81.3bn/- spent on building 78 new schools in last fiscal year

By Guardian correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has in the 2023/24 financial year, spent a total of 81.3bn/- to complete construction of 78 new schools along with improvement of various infrastructure through implementation of the Boost Primary Pupil Learning Project (BOOST).

Prof Carolyn Nombo, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology made the statement yesterday here during the opening of three-day training for head teachers and environmental officers on construction of infrastructure through BOOST.

In a speech read on her behalf by the Commissioner of Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Prof Nombo named the constructed infrastructure as 1,625 classrooms, 3,635 toilet holes, 10 teachers' houses as well as renovation of 42 schools. She said in the 2022/23 financial year, the government constructed a total of 302 new schools, 7,230 classrooms and 11,297 toilet holes.

The PS said that the government has decided to conduct the major investment in the education infrastructure through the BOOST programme funded by the World Bank (WB) to strengthen provision of quality education by addressing various challenges which were facing the sector.

She asked the participants to focus on

the training in order to increase efficiency in implementation of various construction guidelines and procurement procedures and related plans.

"Heads of schools should also put in place robust strategies and systems to protect children from violence and all forms of abuse to ensure that schools remain safe places for children to learn," she added.

Paulina Mkwama from Teachers Service Commission (TSC) urged teachers to ensure that they put all their efforts to equip pupils with right knowledge and skills as well as educating them how to overcome violence incidents.

Ally Swalehe, BOOST Coordinator said the five-year initiative which commenced in 2021/22 fiscal year is implemented in 184 councils of Tanzania mainland with support from World Bank of 1.5trn/- soft loan aimed at improving education delivery in the country.

He said the programme involves eight education interventions which include improving schools infrastructure and conduct major improvements in teaching and learning in order to improve literacy and numeracy skills to ensure that all pupils are mastering reading, writing and arithmetic (3Rs). Daudui Mlahagwa, Environmental Officer from Pangani District in Tanga Region thanked the government for organising the training which will help them to supervise well projects in their areas.



Chief Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka (C) pictured yesterday sharing a light moment with Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary Dr Hashil Abdallah during a visit to the ongoing 48th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Aviation leaders urge tourism boards to expanding air routes across Africa

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAS immense tourism opportunities are hindered by inadequate air connectivity, as the continent currently represents only 1.9% of global passenger and cargo traffic.

Nevertheless, industry experts argue that national tourism boards can play a pivotal role in fostering new airline routes that drive economic development.

During a recent workshop at Avia-Dev Africa, held in partnership with the SADC Business Council Tourism

Alliance, airline executives emphasized that tourism boards possess significant influence. They can utilize market insights and industry connections to persuade hesitant airlines of the sustainable potential of new routes.

"Tourism is more than just leisure; it's a critical economic activity that requires strategic thinking and collaboration across sectors," said Kojo Bentum-Williams, UN Tourism's Senior Africa Communications Expert.

Sylvain Bosc, former Chief Commercial Officer of SAA and Fastjet,

stressed the importance of demonstrating sustained profitability. "Destination marketing organisations (DMOs) must sell a long-term vision highlighting the destination's growth prospects and economic impact," he said. "Creative incentives like co-marketing, reducing airline costs, and quantifying passenger volumes can be more powerful than direct subsidies."

Bosc noted DMOs need to "bring new light" to data airlines already have by offering insights into upcoming local economic developments like

new mines or infrastructure projects that could drive corporate traffic. "Local insights can provide airlines with the confidence they need to invest in new routes," he said.

Natalia Rosa, Project Lead of the SADC Business Council Tourism Alliance, underscored the critical role of aviation in regional development: "Aviation is not a luxury, it's the lifeblood of a modern regional economy. Improved air connectivity unlocks a range of benefits: it streamlines travel, opens doors for new tourism markets, and strengthens regional

economic ties."

Gavin Eccles, Head of Vertical at BAE Ventures, emphasised tourism boards must be "at the table" with compelling cases backed by local market insights, travel trade ties, and unique selling points that airlines often lack. "Tourism boards should not only provide data but also offer a local perspective that airlines may not have," Eccles said, citing India's successful "Incredible India" branding undermined by poor connectivity.

Regional coordination like aligned visa policies, joint itinerary promo-

tion, and tapping conservation funds can also help finance route development. But Tim Harris of Helm Growth Advisors cautioned: "Retaining and expanding existing airline services should be the priority before attracting new routes."

While direct subsidies face sustainability questions, Bentum-Williams said other incentives enable an "environment of trust" for profit-focused airlines. "There's a need to change the narrative from just paying airlines to fly routes to creating an environment of trust and confidence," he said.

UNESCO gets set to do more for Tanzania's digital transformation

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced its readiness to support Tanzania in its efforts to strengthen the country's digital transformation.

Tawfik Jelassi, UNESCO's assistant Director of Information and Communication revealed this in his letter to the Director General of the ITC Commission Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga who recently was in France on official duties.

Based in Paris, France, Jelassi said UNESCO has been touched by the speed and readiness of Tanzania in its process of fighting to achieve a real digital revolution.

He emphasized: "Digital skills are an important pillar for the success and sustainability of digital change. We are happy to support Tanzania's Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology and the IT Commission in improving digital skills."

He added that the UNESCO Public Competence Framework on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Transformation is designed as an active tool for development, to support member countries in any changes that occur.

"Due to that situation, we recom-

mend that the ICT Commission of Tanzania and UNESCO jointly initiate a Needs Assessment Study in relation to digital skills in the government and the public in general, followed by capacity building interventions to address the identified competence gaps.

"In addition to the basics of data management, privacy, cyber security and AI, training for senior officers will focus on more strategic competencies such as collaboration, strategic forecasting and human-centred public service design," said Jelassi.

He also congratulated Dr Mwasaga on his leadership within the ITC Commission while stressing that he believes the Commission will contribute to the transformation of Tanzania into an international center of innovation.

"We look forward to working with you and assure you of our support in the process of digital transformation in Tanzania," he said.

On Tanzania's readiness to accelerate digital transformation, Dr Mwasaga said it has been enabled by partnership between ICTC and UNESCO Office in Dar es Salaam under leadership of Michel Toto, UNESCO Representative to Tanzania.



Delegates to an Islamic women's conference held in Zanzibar follow proceedings yesterday. Photo courtesy Zanzibar State House

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

Samia urges traditional healers to follow ethics

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has urged traditional healers to follow ethics and discipline as directed by religion because there is a problem with natural herbs and fortune tellers.

Samia made the call here yesterday when speaking at the women's conference for the Islamic New Year of 1446. The conference was organized by the Office of the Mufti of Zanzibar, whereby various topics were presented including tax issues, obeying and re-

specting leaders, and the conference was attended by various country, religious, and political leaders.

She said the government does not have a problem with natural herbs, as it is a good remedy and it help many people, but there is a problem with some who provide the herbs by engaging in fortune-telling that combines and brings intrigue and mischief in society.

"Making fortune-telling is one of the wrong beliefs, an injustice that needs to be strongly rebuked, so the office of the mufti continues to provide education and build people's beliefs so that they

are not influenced by fortune-tellers," said President Samia.

She also said that the government will continue to take steps to inform those who do those things that reach people because of insinuating witchcraft, so religious leaders will continue to provide education to avoid such things.

On obeying and respecting the country's leaders, President Samia said that all destiny and fate come from God, so he has doubts about some political leaders when they are on the platform to slander and humiliate the leaders because the religious upbringing he re-

ceives cannot do that.

She said that people who are misled by religious beliefs cannot slander or insult the leader, so those who do so have not gone through the training of religious beliefs.

President Samia said that political platforms influence such acts of humiliating others, so it is good for religious leaders to increase the effort to provide education to young people to have good language and be obedient by respecting and obeying their leaders.

She also said leaders are also responsible for continuing to live on the prin-

ciples of good leadership by being fair and what they say believable, being professional so that when people come with their problems they listen to them and find a solution to solve their problems.

"I have mentioned these three qualities so that the people and those who follow us continue to respect and trust us, as a leader you should listen to the people and solve their problems because a leader is like a tree with shade people come to breathe," she said.

Speaking about the issue of taxes, she said that no government is run with-

out taxes, so the people should be ready to pay taxes because some traders have been refusing to pay taxes compared to other countries where people are at the forefront of paying taxes.

Samia said that in the history of Islam, women have been glorified and given a high position, but in practice, things are not going well and men are not responsible, even though in religion, Allah has given a big place to women.



Khadija Salum (R), a Tanzania Institute of Education official with impaired vision, shows a Braille book to a visitor at TIE pavilion at the ongoing 48th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Govt: Better business, investment climate, attracts regional investors

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Stanslaus Nyongo has said that due to robust efforts to improve business and investment climate, Tanzania is soaring in its ability to attract and secure potential investors in the East African region and Africa in general.

Nyongo made the statement in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Department at Shifaa Pan African Hospitals Limited (SPAH).

He highlighted that the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has been instrumental in welcoming, promoting, and attracting investments across all sectors, including the crucial health sector.

He further encouraged both foreign investors and Tanzanians to invest in the country as it has numerous opportunities.

John Mnali, Director of Investment Promotion said that the centre will continue to invest in provision of timely quality services especially those with strategic projects.

Bashir Haroon, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shifaa Pan African Hospitals Limited explained that

the hospital project was initiated to reduce the high costs incurred by sending many patients abroad for treatment.

The strategic project of Shifaa Pan African Hospitals Limited was registered by TIC in 2015 and has cost \$60 million to its completion.

He noted that NCDs have become a greater threat than the traditional infectious diseases, a situation which calls for experts to strengthen efforts and practice at the highest levels of the professions.

"Despite achievements recorded in the health sector, we still face a double burden of disease. To address the situation we must grow the supply of skilled health care workers, build our capacity for research and home-grown innovation, focus on public health and primary care while ensuring that advanced care is available," he said.

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

Coastal communities embrace seaweed farming amid livelihood transformation

KWALE

IT is early morning on Kenya's Indian Ocean coastline, and Fatuma Aisha is attaching pieces of seaweed to rope lines tied end to end to sticks anchored on the shallow ocean bed about 20 meters apart.

Aisha, along with 30 other members of the Tumbwe Seaweed Farmers Group in the coastal county of Kwale, is taking advantage of the low tide to plant their seedlings, which

will float in the sea for the next few weeks.

The 31-year-old mother of three has been engaged in seaweed farming for the past year and has no regrets so far. "Seaweed cultivation requires little in terms of inputs and takes a short time to mature," said Aisha.

She typically plants seaweed seedlings that weigh about 100 grams and grow to a weight of five kg, ready to be harvested in about 45 days.

Aisha decided to venture into seaweed farming after her husband, a fisherman, and experienced reduced incomes due to declining fish stocks in the Indian Ocean.

Betty Mukami, a fisheries officer at the state-owned Kenya Fisheries Service, said that years of overfishing along the Indian Ocean shoreline have rendered small-scale fishing unprofitable.

Coastal communities need alternative sources of income

to make ends meet, Mukami said. She noted that seaweed farming has emerged as a viable source of revenue for households living next to the coastline because it thrives even with limited resources.

Locals are seen at a beach during this year's Easter holiday in Mombasa, Kenya, April 5, 2021. (Xinhua/Dihoff Mutoko)

The Tumbwe Seaweed Farmers Group is a beneficiary of the Kenya Marine Fisheries

and Socioeconomic Development (KEMFSED) project, which aims to support coastal communities in boosting their livelihoods. The group received a grant of about 2.7 million Kenyan shillings (about 21,000 U.S. dollars) to upscale their production through modern technology.

Rama Mwinayi Madzumba, the chairman of the Tumbwe Seaweed Farmers Group, said the financial assistance helped them acquire a fiberglass boat

and safety gear to transport seaweed for onshore processing.

To boost their incomes, the group members decided to pursue value addition for their seaweed produce. They dry harvested seaweed, crush it into powder form, and use it as an ingredient for shampoo and soaps. Moreover, the members bake wheat products such as bread, which are blended with seaweed powder that has a high demand in the local mar-

ket. Mariam Juma, another member of the group, said her entry into seaweed farming has improved her fortunes. The 33-year-old mother of four said that seaweed farming provides her with a regular income, as cultural limitations prevented her from fishing in the Indian Ocean.

"I am now able to augment my husband's income in catering to the needs of my household," Juma said.

Police forms online security units in six regions to curtail cybercrime

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Police Force has established new online security units in six regions with an aim to enhance the force's capacity to combat cyber security.

ACP Joshua Mwangasa, Tanzania Police Force in-charge of cyber security unit unveiled this in Dar es Salaam recently when opening the JR Institute of Information Technology sponsored by Punjani Charitable Trust in collaboration with Khoja Leadership Forum and Africa Federation.

He said some of the cyber security centres have been opened in Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha regions in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar specifically to enhance security and continue to attract tourists.

He said that significant efforts will continue to be made to enhance security at the time digitalization is on the rise in the country and across the continent.

Mwangasa commended the institute for providing police with training that added value to their skills, as part of the strategy to enhance the force's capability to combat cybercrime.

"When we have partners like this (institute) who are willing to volunteer, it's a great opportunity for us as the police and for Tanzanians in general. We commend them for this step and will continue to collaborate with them," he said.

According to him, the opportunity provided by the institution has come at

an opportune time, as the police force has expanded its cyber security unit, establishing centres in six regions where previously there was only one in Dar es Salaam. Mir Pirbhai, Director of JR Institute of Information Technology said that the institute was established after understanding that there was a shortage of cyber security professionals in the country.

He said it was important to support the government in strengthening the area because cyber security was one of the big challenges affecting the community.

"We are motivated to establish the institute to produce professionals to combat these crimes. Our goal is to assist universities and government employees, that's why we partnered with the police to train more experts to control the problem," he said.

Happiness Alexander, a graduate of the online security training, thanked the institute for providing training that will help her and the nation to combat cybercrime. "With a high number of professionals in the country, we will be able to recognize and apprehend the criminals," she said.

Alexander said they were confident of securing jobs, as cyber systems professionals are needed in various sectors including financial institutions, security and private companies.

Challenges that lie ahead are cybercrime landscape, limited digital literacy, data privacy concerns, inadequate resources and infrastructures.



Construction of an apparently unique-looking sewage and rainwater drainage system draws crowds at a point in Dar es Salaam's Buguruni suburb on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Youths most affected by drugs, says DCEA

THE Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has stated that over 70 percent of drug addicts receiving methadone and other supportive services are youths under the age of 35.

Mzee Kaswi, Assistant DCEA Commissioner admitted that the war against drugs was still a big challenge, but the authority in collaboration with other bodies will continue strengthening efforts to

fight the vice.

He made the remarks here during the forum here which brought together over 2500 youth and stakeholders to discuss joint efforts to fight illicit drugs.

He said this including launching more crackdown exercises on cultivation of cannabis, destroying farms as well as bringing suspects before the court.

He said as per the Nation-

al Housing and Population Census 2022, 34 percent of the country's population are youth under the age of 35 who are the workforce of the nation.

"Robust efforts are needed to ensure that youth remain safe from various challenges including illicit drugs as the nation's development depends on them, the country's workforce will continue to be at high risk if our young peo-

ple are left in this disaster," he said.

Kaswi urged youth to be in the forefront to fight for the challenge in order to rescue the important generation in the country.

"It is important for young people to invest their time and efforts in development activities which include also seeking for skills that will facilitate them produce income by being employed or self-employed," he

explained.

Early this week, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed four ministries to prepare a national programme that will economically empower drug survivors to meet their basic needs.

The PM made directives in Mwanza Region at the climax of the National Celebration of World Drug Day 2024 and the launch of the National Policy for Controlling and Fighting against the Drugs.

He directed the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth Employment and People with Disabilities), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, President's Office-Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PO-RALG) and the Ministry of Finance.

Meanwhile, Premier Majaliwa called on concerted efforts by stakeholders including parents and guardians in the fight against illegal drugs to ensure

that the society refrains from production, business and use of drugs.

"Your efforts will bring great success in identifying all the networks of drug dealers and improve treatment and services to the addicts in the country. If we succeed in drugs' control at the community level, we will win the war," he pointed out.

He said the government will continue to cooperate with citizens and various stakeholders in the fight against illegal drugs to ensure that the youth remain safe.



Dar es Salaam Port Director Mrisho Selemani (R, in red cap) briefs CCM Youth Wing delegation including national Chairman Mohamed Kawaida (2nd-L) and Secretary General Jokate Mwegelo (3rd-L) who toured the port yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Land routes through Africa twice as dangerous for migrants and refugees

By Special Correspondent

A RECENT report published by the UN refugee and migration agencies and the Mixed Migration Centre reveals that more migrants and refugees in Africa are moving northward towards the Mediterranean and Europe, facing dangerous routes in the Sahara where criminal groups subject them to various forms of abuse.

Vincent Cochetel, the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Western & Central Mediterranean Situation revealed that "many people tell us that they are aware of someone who has died on the way, normally more on the land routes than on the sea routes. The risk of sexual, gender-based violence has also increased to 15 percent. It was 12.5 percent in the previous report.

The report, titled "On this Journey, No One Cares If You Live Or Die," highlights that land crossings in Africa are twice as deadly as sea routes across the Mediterranean, known as the deadliest maritime path for migrants globally. "The risk of kidnapping seems to be a new one. It used to be mentioned by 2 per-

cent of the respondents four years ago. Now it is mentioned by 18 percent of the respondents. Almost one out of five claim that the journey involved that risk of kidnapping," Cochetel concluded.

Despite the rise in anti-immigrant sentiment among politicians in Europe and elsewhere, factors such as conflict, economic challenges, repression, and the effects of climate change in many developing countries continue to drive the flow of migrants across borders, exposing them to risks of physical harm and death.

The increase in journeys towards the Mediterranean is attributed to new conflicts and instability in countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Sudan. However, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Guinea are the top countries of origin for migrants.

According to Laurence Hart, the IOM Director, Coordination Office for the Mediterranean, "oftentimes smugglers and traffickers have a very capable way of communicating and enticing migrants and showing them how things can be easy, the price can be low but then it turns out to be a nightmare."

Formulate better policies to assist the youth, govt urged

By Beatrice Philemon

YOUTH activists have urged policy makers to formulate policies that prioritise disbursement of soft loans to girls and young women to pursue waste management and environmental assessment courses to heighten the fight against environmental pollution.

Humphrey Mrema, Youth Survival Organization (YSO) chairperson made the call in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking to Civil Society Organisations' members who attended a femi-

nist awareness training on climate justice.

The event was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED) with funding from Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT).

Mrema said that formulating the policy will be a roadmap for higher learning institutions and colleges to attract girls and young women to apply for a loan/subsidy to study these courses to prevent environmental pollution and expand the projects.

According to data, there are few qualified waste management

women specialists specialized on monitoring, evaluation and assessment of the environment in Tanzania.

The new policy will be a roadmap for higher learning institutions or colleges to attract girls and young women to apply for these courses.

The main goal is to have highly qualified waste management women's specialists similarly to men and later on allow them to control waste that damages the environment, affects marine resources and contaminates water sources.

Mrema called on financial institutions and Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOS) to come up with new education subsidies or loan packages that will provide priority for girls and young women to access funds to study these courses.

According to him, in Tanzania there are a lot of projects that the specialists can help the government or any organization to collect, track and analyse data to assess the value and impact of different projects or programmes and interventions.

He said the knowledge will contribute to nurture their skills with the knowledge gained from the school to come up with new waste management technologies, plan and even coordinate comprehensive waste management systems that can prevent solid waste in Tanzania.

A report from the Vice President's office indicates that 80 percent of the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) have inadequate waste treatment facilities and therefore dispose of untreated sewage into the

open environment and water bodies such as rivers and the ocean.

Solid waste generation is nearly 7 million tonnes per annum. However, only 32.7 percent of the generated waste is collected countrywide.

Environmental Challenges in cities and municipalities, Tanzanian cities and urban areas face challenges which include solid waste management, whereby solid waste generated in cities accounts for nearly 10 percent of the total generated waste in the country.

1.7trn/- disbursed in five years to boost MSMEs in agro value chain

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 1.7trn/- has been disbursed to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country's agriculture value chain in a span of five years as part of its commitment to boost the growth of the agriculture sector.

Neema Malleycek, NMB Senior Manager, Agri-Business department unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during the ongoing 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF 2024).

Malleycek said that the bank is committed to continue supporting the growth of the agricultural sector as part of its long-term commitment to enhance its contribution to the national economy.

"The bank understands access to capital and affordable terms to farmers are among the challenges facing the agricultural sector in the country. It is on this background that we have been catalysing access to capital in the form of loans to various players in the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sector," she said.

"Our aim as a bank is to boost the contribution of the agriculture sector to Tanzania's economy. We have been disbursing loans to MSMEs in the agriculture sector value chain at an average interest of 9 percent (single digit). These include contract farming and investment loans among others," she said.

Malleycek noted that her bank has also partnered with various farm

equipment suppliers across the country which has helped to increase productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector.

"Our partnership with various farm equipment suppliers has greatly helped to enhance the agriculture sector value chain through the provision of various farm supplies," she said.

She reiterated the bank's commitment to continue working closely with various players in the agriculture sector value chain stressing that development of the sector requires collective efforts.

She urged potential investors in Tanzania's agriculture sector value chain to embrace various agricultural prepositions offered by the bank to increase efficiency. Available data shows that the agricultural sector grew by 4.2 percent in 2023, compared to the 3.3 percent recorded in 2022.

In his budget speech, the Minister of Agriculture Hussein Bashe, outlined a strategic allocation of investments that underscores the government's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

"To achieve a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector, we are directing 80 percent of our investments into enhancing our agricultural infrastructure," Bashe explained during his parliamentary address.

This allocation is intended to improve irrigation systems, road networks, storage facilities, and processing units which are crucial for boosting agricultural output and efficiency.



A case of 'NO SWEAT, NO SWEET' as this resident of Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, transports bananas at a fee to a destination he would not disclose. Correspondent Jumanne Juma witnessed the scene yesterday.

UVCCM lauds DP World for investing heavily at Dar Port

By Guardian Reporter

THE CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) has made its maiden visit at the Dar es Salaam Port, showering praise on DP World for installing modern equipment meant to improve work efficiency and stimulate growth and development of the port operations.

Speaking shortly after the UVCCM top brass taken around the port yesterday, UVCCM Chairman, Mohamed Kawaida linked the port improved performance and success to the 6th phase government under stewardship of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for nodding such huge investment having a

significant contribution to national socio-economic growth and development. "We as the implementers of the CCM manifestos have decided to tour the Port of Dar es Salaam to witness and have first-hand information on operations delighted by efficiency following substantial investment in infrastructure," Kawaida told reporters.

He explained that the visit, which also included Youth Wing Chairpersons and Secretaries from all regions, impressed much his colleagues after seeing work efficiency going on at the port viewed as a potential economic gateway.

UVCCM boss also expressed the team's satisfaction and optimism

over the port that would be a must go area of vessels of all different sizes, stressing the need for Tanzanians to continue rallying support for President Samia's 4R's.

"Before the new investor was given a green card to come and invest there, some propaganda made that investment would not be beneficial to the nation and could lead to job loss to Tanzanians and also fearing traders could divert to neighboring ports," Kawaida noted.

"Our visit has been at the very right time since we have a splendid opportunity to see the entire port operations. Cargo handling has been improved significantly, following massive investment in infra-

structure and equipment upgrades by DP World," he said.

He said has been made to understand that DP World has invested deeply into infrastructure and equipment, resulting into increased cargo at this port," he emphasized.

"Our port is geographically located in a very strategic area serving a number of countries including Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Mozambique, and Zambia," he explained.

"Investing into port infrastructure was an important move towards enhancing our trade facilitation capabilities," he remarked, calling for more investment at other ports in the country.

Mrisho Selemani Mrisho Dar es

Salaam Port Director told the visiting UVCCM leaders that their tour meant a lot for the management since they are going to be good ambassadors for what they have witnessed at the port.

He said the new investor, DP World has invested heavily on cargo handling equipment and also revived idle machines through power generation to enhance port operations. He called on domestic and international traders to fully exploit the improved port services coupled with installation of modern infrastructure that stimulating business growth at the port.

The Dar es Salaam Port performance report which was presented

before the visiting UVCCM leaders showed that Government approval of DP World's investment at the port has seen growth of business and arrival of big ships.

According to the report covered three consecutive past fiscal years (2020-23), revenues of the Dar es Salaam Port increased by an average of 27.2 per cent from 801.7bn/- to 1.3trn/- in the fiscal year 2022/2023 driven by increased cargo volumes, including those from neighboring countries.

The report also indicated a 7.5 per cent average annual increase in the number of ships, with 1,569 ships anchoring in 2021/2022 compared to 1,743 ships in 2022/2023.

Tanzania, Qatar to join forces to uplift tourism

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Qatar are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in various aspects of the Natural Resources and Tourism sector.

This was unveiled on Thursday when Angellah Kairuki, minister for Natural Resources and Tourism met with Qatar's ambassador to Tanzania Fahad Rashid al-Marekhi at the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) offices in Dar es Salaam.

Kairuki said that through the agreement, Tanzania and Qatar will benefit and therefore called on both countries to use the opportunity to strengthen tourism.

"We believe we'll have the opportunity to show our tourism attractions during the various events that will be held in Qatar considering that Qatar is one of the strategic tourism markets for Tanzania but also considering the relationship, the distance between our two countries, cultural differences and much we have in common," Kairuki insisted.

She mentioned that the two countries will benefit from the relation-

ship between our Tanzania Tourism Board and Qatar Tourism, connecting tourism stakeholders such as the Tanzania and Qatar Tourism Business Agency, travel associations, hotel associations, etc.

Kairuki asked for cooperation between the National College of Tourism (NCT) and educational institutions in Qatar in providing various trainings and sharing experiences.

She further invited investors from Qatar to invest in accommodation services by building hotels in some of the areas designated for investment such as in Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) as well as other areas outside government-owned land.

Qatar's ambassador to Tanzania, Fahad Rashid Al Marekhi said he will ensure that the cooperation between Tanzania and Qatar is continued.

"We are cooperating with Tanzania and I will make sure we complete and sign all agreements for the benefit of our countries," Marekhi said.



Mara regional commissioner Col Evans Mtambi small-scale miners and local residents of the Kinyambwiga mine site in Guta ward, Bunda Town Council, on Thursday. He urged them to establish wealth-production groups to make it easy for them to land sustainable government support. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

A Delegation from the Regional Maritime University (RMU) is in Dar es Salaam for the third edition of the Blue Economy Conference (BEC2024) focusing on promoting the blue economy to drive development across the continent.

Organized by the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) in collaboration with the RMU in Accra the conference will be held under the theme: "Navigating the Future: Integrating Maritime Safety and Security, Climate Change Actions, and Technological Advancements for Blue Economy."

Given the significant potential of the blue economy, Africa is looking to develop the maritime sector to harness its benefits for socio-economic growth through this conference.

RMU team in Dar for blue economy meeting

The conference also aims to establish a platform for capacity building and networking among stakeholders, fostering the blue economy in alignment with maritime safety and security, climate change considerations, and technological advancements as outlined in the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Other topics to be addressed include the sustainable exploitation and utilization of blue economy resources, ship seaworthiness and on board competency challenges, business models for the blue economy, women in the maritime

sector, the fishing industry, climate action policy, and environmental protection.

Discussions also meant to cover Artificial Intelligence (AI) in maritime practices, renewable energy solutions for maritime transportation, information systems in maritime education and training, logistics, shipping and supply chains for the blue economy, climate-responsive maritime practices and coastal management, blue economy governance, law and policy, and coastal and marine tourism development.

RMU team, led by Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Jethro Brooks, includes University Registrar Dr Ba-

boucarr Njie, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Studies Prof. Nana Ofori Boateng, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Dr Gabriel Akakpo, Head of the Electrical and Electronic Department Dr Isaac Owusu Nyarko, and University Librarian Dr Amy Asimah. They are scheduled to arrive in Tanzania today, Tuesday, July 2, after departing Accra early in the morning.

Meanwhile, Head of Research and Innovation Dr Robert Nyemah and Sika Attipoe arrived in Tanzania last week to participate in preparations ahead of the conference.

The conference aims to bring together international stakeholders, focusing on promoting the blue

economy to drive development across the continent.

The keynote speaker for the event included Deputy Minister for Transport, David Kihenzile. Other speakers include Dr Paul Ikongshul Adalikwu, Secretary General of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA); Dr Kofi Mbia, Maritime Law and Management Consultant; Amb. Nancy Karigithu, Special Advisor for Maritime and Blue Economy; Paul Sobba Massaquoi, Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Maritime Authority; and Pa Ousman Jarju, Climate Specialist.

The DMI has hosted the Blue Economy Conference for the past

two years. This year, it has joined forces with the RMU to hold the third edition, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two maritime education and training giants in February.

The MoU covers areas of research and publication, staff capacity building, and the organization of conferences, seminars, and workshops, among other activities. This collaboration has led to the co-hosting of this year's conference.

Dr Brooks stated that both institutions are committed to transforming African economies by providing quality training and education to equip and position young people to drive the maritime sector.

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Mali wedding attack kills 21

BAMAKO

AN armed group attacked a wedding ceremony in central Mali and killed at least 21 people, residents said on Wednesday, as the West African country's military rulers battle growing violence by extremists.

The attackers rode motorcycles into the village of Djiguibombo in the town of Bandiagara on Monday evening as residents were celebrating a wedding, according to Bakary Guindo, president of the local youth group.

"Most of the victims had their throats slit," Guindo said. Hamidou Saye, a resident, said the attackers surrounded the large crowd. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is a continuation of attacks by the al-Qaeda-linked extremist group JNIM, which has often targeted the area.

Communities in central and northern Mali have been plagued by such violence since 2012. Extremist rebels were ousted from power in northern cities the following year, with the help of recently expelled French troops. The extremists have regrouped and are launching attacks on isolated villages and security forces.

Nearly four years after taking power and the departure of foreign peacekeepers, Mali's military rulers have had little success in containing the violence. Meanwhile, a 2015 peace deal with Tuareg rebels operating in the north of the country has collapsed, deepening the security crisis.



The attackers rode motorcycles into the village of Djiguibombo in the town of Bandiagara on Monday evening as residents were celebrating a wedding, according to Bakary Guindo, president of the local youth group



A view of a Dar es Salaam rapid bus transit (BRT) project bus stop still undergoing construction - at the Sido section Nyerere Road - as captured on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Arab states want Israel out of UN General Assembly

CAIRO

THE Council of the Arab League has tasked its group at the UN with studying steps to freeze Israel's participation in the body's General Assembly.

The bloc which held an extraordinary session in Cairo Thursday said Israel failed to adhere to the

purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The Palestinian Permanent Representative to Arab League welcomed the move.

"Today, the Arab League council at the level of permanent representatives has decided clearly to start the procedures of freezing Israel's participation in the

United Nations General Assembly as a colonial power, a power that firstly, threatens international peace and security, and doesn't commit to the United Nations Charter nor did it fulfil the terms of its membership in the United Nations," he said.

"I we want to remind that this step - a step like this step is

what ended, brought down and eliminated the colonial regime in South Africa."

On 16 December 1974, the General assembly recommended that South Africa be excluded from participation in international organisations was a blow to the Apartheid regime.

That same year, The UN Gener-

al Assembly under the chairpersonship of the Algerian Foreign Minister refused to recognise the credentials of the South African delegation.

Palestinian death toll from nearly nine months of war has surged past 38,000 with victims mainly women and children.

The United Nations secretary-

general added the Israeli armed forces to the "list of shame" of warring parties committing grave violations against children in armed conflict, last June.

It is estimated that 87,000 people have been wounded in the fighting.



Liwale district CCM Youth Wing secretary Zainabu Saidi addresses members of the wing in Kichonda ward on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent

Attack on a Congo gold mine kills 6

Chinese miners, 2 Congolese soldiers

KINSHASA

A MILITIA attack on a gold mine in north-eastern Congo killed six Chinese miners and two Congolese soldiers, a civil society group said Thursday, the latest assault as violence worsens in the resource-rich region.

The attack on Wednesday targeted the village of Gambala and the nearby "Camp Blanquette" gold mine in the Ituri province, according to Jean Robert Basiloko, a member of a local civil society group. A militia known as the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo, or CODECO, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eastern Congo has been torn by decade long fighting between government forces and more than 120 armed groups, often involving bombs targeting civilians as the militias seek a share of the region's gold and other resources. Violence in the region has worsened in recent months as security forces battle the militias.

On Wednesday, the militiamen set homes ablaze and then attacked the mine, which is guarded by a competing armed group, the Zaire Militia, Basiloko told The Associated Press.

The attackers killed six Chinese miners and two Congolese troops, he added and abducted two other miners, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

CODECO and the Zaire Militia are involved in a complex conflict, mixing economic ambitions and power struggles. The Zaire Militia, a dissident faction of CODECO, fiercely opposes its former allies.

CODECO is a loose association of militia groups mainly from the ethnic Lendu farming community. Attacks by CODECO killed nearly 1,800 people and wounded more than 500 in the four years through 2022, according to the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

The United Nations has said some of the attacks could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Nigeria beats rivals for bid to host new Africa Energy Bank

ABUJA

NIGERIA has been chosen to host the newly formed Africa Energy Bank (AEB), its oil minister said on Thursday, as Africa's top oil producer beat three rival countries for rights to the multilateral lender.

The decision, reached at an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), places Nigeria at the fore-

front of Africa's energy future, Minister of State Petroleum Resources Heineken Lokpobiri, said in a statement.

The technologies will enable, still, all of us to enjoy fashion because isn't that at the end of the day everyone wants to be looking good.

Nigeria's bid to host the AEB was strengthened in late May after it ratified the bank's charter and President Bola Tinubu approved a \$100 million investment to the

bank, greater than the required \$83.33 million for member states.

The fossil fuel-focused bank, a partnership between Afrexim Bank and APPO, aims to fund energy projects on the continent and support its energy transition goals.

"This decision reflects our collective ambition to create African solutions to African energy challenges," Lokpobiri said.

"The African Energy Bank will be instru-

mental in providing the necessary financial backbone for energy projects that will drive growth and development across the continent," he added.

The AEB initially has \$5 billion to spend when it takes off later this year.

Analysts said that Nigeria, as a founding member of APPO and Africa's top energy producers, has shown strong interest in the bank as the country makes a new push for investment into its lagging oil and gas

industry.

"Hosting the bank would be a vote of confidence in Nigeria at a time its energy industry badly needs a boost," Clementine Wallop, director for sub-Saharan Africa at political risk consultancy Horizon Engage, said before the announcement was made.

The three other countries that vied to host the AEB are Algeria, Benin and Ghana, after Ivory Coast and South Africa didn't meet the necessary requirements.

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**Taking A New Look
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Fishing capacity, markets crucial for smart use of territorial waters

TOP officials in the Livestock and Fisheries 'twin sectors' are understood to be working on plans to use drones for surveillance of the country's share of large water bodies to control illegal fishing, where deep sea fishing is a priority.

This is a matter that comes and goes in policy making or setting up procedure for the registration and licensing of fishing vessels, with experience showing that we have had scant little in that direction.

This new initiative has a specific tool it is exhibiting to beef up the monitoring aspect, even without much else.

This intention was aired at the host agreement signing ceremony ahead of a council of ministers' session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) set for next month.

It is an illustration that drone technology is increasingly emerging as handy for various needs relating to cover wide spaces in a short while but its likely effectiveness differs from one targeted application to another.

Spraying insecticides using drones is one thing, and checking foreign fishing vessels with drones is clearly different.

What ails this technology that ministerial bureaucrats may figure out as 'game-changing' in efforts to control massive intrusion into not just exclusive economic zone but even territorial sea water is the 'what next' issue.

For once, the drone-using agency could indeed alert a police patrol boat or station harbouring such boats that blast fishing is taking place at a spot not far from wherever they are.

Also, presumably the boats will have fuel and the sort of equipment and staffing at that moment needed to apprehend the suspected wrongdoers. It is however altogether different regarding large fishing ves-

sels within our exclusive economic zone.

There was a time, not less than 15 years ago, when a foreign fishing vessel was intercepted within territorial waters complete with its fish catch.

The crew ended up in court and the vessel was marooned at the harbour until the courts were done with the case.

It was a desultory result where the government lost the case in our own courts and was compelled to pay the vessel owners not just for the catch impounded and destroyed but also the civil damages arising from the matter. It is unlikely anyone at Livestock and Fisheries still has a stomach for that sort of adventure.

Thus, for the ministry to expect that drones will help the relevant authorities to know who is doing what and where looks credible in as far as survey documentation is concerned, but not what to do thereafter.

Local operators blasting seashore breeding grounds for fish could as well be nailed, but that depends entirely on the level of motivation and resourcefulness on the part of the monitoring staff. That diligence isn't always exhibited.

There is therefore the danger of the ministry using millions or billions of shillings on a drone programme merely to write reports on what was spotted.

Regular enforcement in the wake of such observation would hardly be spot on, for reasons of weak legal premises as well as lack of readiness on the part of law enforcers.

As we lag in fishing capacity and the markets to readily dispose of any substantial increase in fish harvests, we should look to engage private fishermen whose records we can at least inspect and obtain taxes as in mining, or beef them up for their own welfare and access to cheaper fish for the public.

Deficient IDs illustrate why multiple identification cards can't be replaced

A drive towards the reprinting of already issued national identification cards following a vast outdoor campaign to collect and reprint cards that have lost usable surfaced due to being below quality is being launched by the national identification agency.

This announcement was among the highlights at this year's edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF 2024).

The respective agency's communications officials acknowledged having received complaints from people in various regions over the quality of the IDs. They admitted having received complaints from regions like Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Dar es Salaam and others still.

It appears the focus that the communication officials focused more on the intent to reprint the cards, suggesting that they are taking care of the customer or citizen end of things.

The wider setting of the quality of identification cards was left out of the discussion. That again is not surprising, given habitual prerogatives of monopoly agencies.

The argument would be that, if they print usable and durable identification cards, they would have resources allocated in periodic moments when the population expands. If the cards need to be replaced, however, they will have an equal share in budgetary planning even if the drive is spread out across a number of years.

While there is really no need to conduct further discussion on the quality of the ID cards, the question comes up as regards the suitability of such IDs taking the place

of selective identification at various instances. There was a wish once aired that it would be appropriate to have a single identity card where all vital public information about an individual is stored, without need for other identification documents. The lesson here is that the public shouldn't put all its eggs in one (NIDA) basket.

Even if such identification was indeed possible, it would not come as an identification card which can be lost or erased partially, but in the form of a microchip.

With that, all that one would have to carry would be a reference number traceable in public agencies documentation.

It would be a number that one could be aware of and carry around in a mobile phone microchip as a store of information even in rudimentary handsets. Most handsets have at least marginal links with the internet, despite missing a whole range of routine applications. Thus, NIDA could be asked to conduct a study on updating user information relevant for the national ID card not for the reprinting of cards but for the issuance of microchip numbers someone could then bring to a computer technician for installation in a mobile phone. That way, one can read out any specific detail in the microchip or when information is lodged with a handset in case anyone wishes to verify this or that element in the personal data.

Reprinting IDs or any other cards carries the huge risk of recycling errors to a considerable extent, while their need can be easily substituted with usable microchip identification.

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Violence Prevention Forum offers lessons for SA on how to have meaningful dialogue among different sectors

ON 30 June, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced South Africa's new multi-party executive and promised to convene a national dialogue with political parties, civil society, labour, business and other stakeholders to address the nation's critical challenges.

Dialogue can lead to collaboration and positive change. But it won't be easy, and will require the willingness of all parties to listen to one another and confront difficult issues that divide South Africans. The Violence Prevention Forum (VPF) offers lessons on how to have meaningful dialogue among different sectors.

Violence is one of the most critical problems the new administration must tackle, and doing so will take more than strengthening policing. Social challenges like violence are complex, requiring systemic change that involves multiple interventions simultaneously from various sectors.

Systems change experts Cynthia Rayner and François Bonnici propose three principles that place power in the hands of those most affected by a problem. These are fostering connections between actors in a system, embracing context and reconfiguring power. The VPF has found that carefully facilitated dialogue, underpinned by agreed values, can support all three principles.

In 2015, the VPF was established as a platform for dialogue among representatives from government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and researchers. The relationships between these three sectors were fraught with power differences and mistrust. Communication between them was often poor and antagonistic, which hampered the use of knowledge

and evidence to prevent violence. The VPF set out to build trusting, collaborative partnerships and share knowledge and evidence to inform practice and policy.

Better collaboration

Last year, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted case study research to understand what motivated researchers, government officials and NGOs to participate in the VPF, and what enabled the change we saw. This included better collaboration between NGOs, partnerships between NGOs and the government, better use of evidence to inform policy, and the scaling up of effective programmes.

One of the drivers of the VPF's impact is how meetings are facilitated. The forum used a meeting methodology that placed great value on relationship building. It theorised that the quality of relationships between individuals in different sectors and institutions influenced the success and effectiveness of violence prevention efforts.

From the start, the VPF embraced the complexity of South Africa's context. It acknowledged past conflicts and the power imbalance between sectors, and lowered hierarchies of power to help rebuild trust. No one received preferential treatment for being a government director or a social worker - all had equal opportunity to contribute. The facilitators and participants encouraged and modelled respect and empathy, and the focus was on fostering understanding rather than winning a

point.

Participants in VPF meetings listen deeply to each other, despite their differences. Time is allocated for updates from each sector on key developments and challenges. There are no long presentations by "experts". Information and knowledge are shared in a way that is accessible to all, and time is spent unpacking the meaning of new research and the implications of policy. This facilitates information flow and learning, and opens opportunities for collaboration.

Violence prevention

As a result, government officials gained a deeper appreciation of the range of violence prevention interventions that are working and being tested. They have started to consult and partner more with researchers and NGOs to develop policy.

Researchers also began to empathise with other sectors' perspectives and challenges. A researcher who participated in the forum told how the dialogue made her see her work in a new light.

"When I'm sitting at my desk, I remember that I'm writing about human beings," she said. Being part of the VPF has also encouraged researchers to make their findings more accessible to practitioners and policy makers.

NGOs have started to collaborate rather than compete, and can now understand how their work supports government policy. This is evidenced by the establishment of the South African Parenting Programme Implementers Net-

work, which was conceived by NGOs participating in the VPF.

By prioritising active listening and empathy between sectors, the VPF has become a space for collective sense-making. This has led to an appreciation of the linkages between structural and interpersonal violence, and the impact of intergenerational trauma carried by South Africans. The VPF supports the creation and use of evidence to inform practice and policy. This would not have been possible without the different sectors appreciating each other's value.

The importance of dialogue and good relationships in enabling the use of evidence and scaling up interventions is increasingly recognised globally and among forum participants. The VPF's approach doesn't focus on seeking consensus or clear agreements. Instead, its value is bringing together people with different perspectives, urging problem solving and collaboration to achieve a shared goal - reducing violence in South Africa.

As South Africa's new Cabinet gets down to work and seeks to forge collaborative relationships across political parties, the conveners of the promised national dialogue could learn from the VPF.

Let this national dialogue not be a once-off exercise, but an ongoing process that enables empathy and the development of a shared understanding across sectors. Only then can we work together to build a country that most South Africans are proud to live in.

DM



Violence is one of the most critical problems the new administration must tackle

By Telesphor Magobe

Laypersons should know about suspected offenders and right to legal representation

TODAY, I invite you to briefly look at two recent incidents. One concerns several young women arrested during an operation mounted by Ubungo District Commissioner (DC) Hassan Bomboko for allegedly conducting themselves unbecomingly at night in Ubungo, Dar es Salaam.

A few of them have been indicted on prostitution contrary to section 176A of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). There is also a two-year girl with albinism, Asimwe Novath, who was abducted from her mother by unknown assailants in Kagera Region and then her body was recovered a few days later with some body parts missing. Nine people have been arraigned in relation to this cruel incident. In both cases, some people have expressed their views on the cruel incident and the accused persons.

My intention is not to discuss the incidents, but rather to briefly look at two legal issues in relation to criminal justice: the first is a legal principle and the other is a right to legal representation. The first is the presumption of innocence provided for in Article 13(6)(b) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (as amended until 2005). It states: "no person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence."

In *Alhaji Shaban Mintanga Kondo v Republic* [2008], the High Court of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam) said "the presumption of innocence to an accused person is guaranteed from the time of arrest until when is proved guilty before the court of law, and...if under any law a mere charge can suffice to deny bail to an accused person, the presumption of innocence which is guaranteed under our Constitution will be jeopardised."

It is a legal principle which places the burden of proof on the prosecution to prove the commission of a criminal of-



person is guilty of the offence he or she is charged with.

Even if the court finds a person guilty, he or she still has constitutional rights, including the right to legal representation. When a person is represented in court it does not mean that the person who represents him or her defends the crime he or she is charged with, but helps the person in need of legal counsel and the court to arrive at fair judgement.

The type of legal system followed by Tanzania is the adversarial system, which comprises of an impartial judge (or magistrate), the prosecution and the accused person (who is entitled to legal representation). It is through this that evidence can be produced and be challenged and the truth about the commission or non-commission of the offence be established through which the judge (or magistrate) arrives at fair judgement.

This is done through the weighing of evidence provided before the court and by an impartial judge (or magistrate whatever the case may be). So, advocates who represent clients in court don't defend the commission of crime, but help those in need of legal counsel and the court to arrive at fair judgement through the production of evidence that can be challenged to ascertain the truth about it and for that matter they are, together with judges (and magistrates), called judicial officers (officers of the court) who are expected to conduct themselves in the highest standards of probity and honour.

Today's proverb: "To forget a wrong is the best revenge."

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fence beyond reasonable doubt. It simply means that all persons everywhere in the absence of evidence to prove the contrary are presumed innocent until the court establishes their guilt.

So, in the administration of justice it is only after the case is determined by the court that we can know whether accused persons are guilty of the offence or not, but not before. However, this doesn't prevent us from condemning the commission of the offence and those who were involved in it. What I am saying is that it is a misdirection to condemn the accused persons simply because they are accused as if they have been found guilty.

In other words, we shouldn't condemn people to be guilty (on the basis of suspicion) before they are proved to be guilty. Where the court has not yet determined the case and where we are not sure yet whether it is X or Y, we shouldn't say it is X or Y. At this stage we should give the accused persons the benefit of the doubt. Therefore, when a person is suspected or accused of committing a criminal offence, even if the person is arrested by the police and is arraigned, he or she is still presumed innocent until the court determines the case and finds that the person is guilty of the offence.

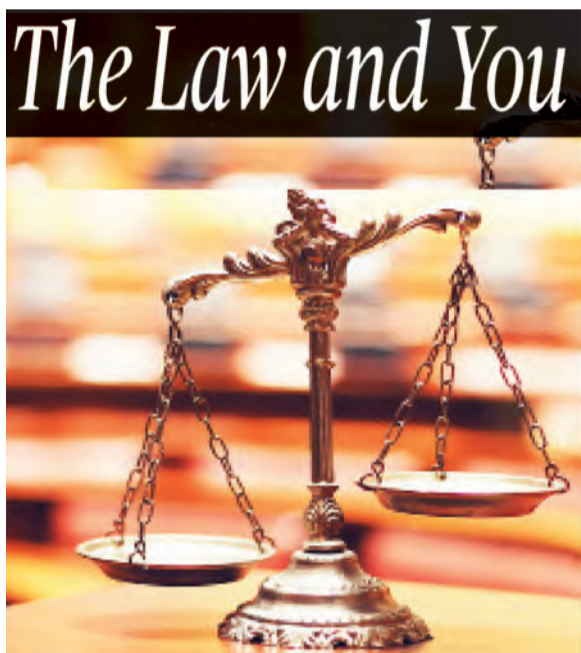
Thus, we shouldn't simply think that when a person is arrested in relation to the commission of an offence is guilty of the offence. Some people while discussing the ordeal of the two-year-old girl who was

abducted from her mother by unknown assailants expressed their annoyance toward the accused and said they wished they were brought in public and be executed. It cannot work like that in a country which respects the rule of law. Legal procedures must be followed.

There is also a right to legal representation which is misunderstood by laypersons. The right to legal representation is covered in Article 13(6)(a) of the Constitution, which states "when the rights and duties of any person are being determined by the court or any other agency, that person shall be entitled to a fair hearing and to the right of appeal or other legal remedy against the decision of the court or of the other agency concerned."

Moreover, the Legal Aid Act, 2019 regulates and coordinates the provision of legal aid services to indigent persons, recognises paralegals and provides for other related matters. Section 22 of the Act provides that "an application for legal aid may be made by— (a) the indigent person; (b) any other person authorised by the indigent person; or (c) any person or an institution on behalf of the indigent person where the authority of the indigent person cannot be reasonably obtained."

Yet, there are people who think legal representation helps so-called 'criminals' to evade justice. It is misunderstood and taken as defending the commission of a criminal offence. As we have seen above, a person is not guilty of a criminal offence until the court finds that the accused



BOT: Taking care and handling of coins and banknotes is everyone's responsibility

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

AS a saying goes, 'Prolong banknotes life, use it with care', this might be a crucial slogan being applied by Central Banks in countries all over the world, including Tanzania to avoid dilapidation of paper money.

Instinctively the concept prohibits bad handling of paper money from getting old and that they should be kept in a safe manner by users to help them last longer.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has been taking a keen interest over the matter and keeps urging users in the country to handle banknotes with great care in order to keep them looking so clear and clean all the time.

Central Banks have the mandate of printing banknotes and to accomplish the need are forced to spend extra money from national coffers for printing new ones to boost the economy. In view of this however, the institution is much against crumpling of banknotes as the practice damages paper money and reduces their lifespan.

In order to maintain safety, money users are advised to keep banknotes in wallets and purses as these prevent them from being damaged, instead help in keeping them clean, an aspect that makes them last longer in circulation.

There are some common methods which are applied as guidance in order to extend banknote's lifetime and these are restricted to users such as to avoid folding and develop the habit of keeping them in a strengthened position.

Users are also advised to avoid binding, writing or stamping the banknote with stapler or paperclip to keep the surface clean as they are easily militated. Experts advise users to keep banknotes away from contamination with moisture, heat, and chemicals.

Banknotes are made durable in order to last longer, but due to some factors such as contacts with weather or the familiarity of using the paper money without care, they become damaged sooner than expected, an aspect that is a loss to the nation.

According to experts, "If the above outlined practices are put in proper practice, will not only extend the banknote's lifetime but also save the country's resources and budget for printing expenses which is taken from yields of the currency reserve that belongs to all citizens in a concerned country".

In addition, coins also need to be kept in safe custody to avoid rusting as they are minted in high values using minerals such as gold, copper and silver which maintain their values for long. And so reduces costs by spending a greater amount of foreign exchange for use.

A coin is a small object, usually round and flat in shape and is used primarily as a medium of exchange or legal tender just like banknotes. They are standardized in weight, and produced in large quantities while being minted in order to facilitate trade activities basi-



cally in local communities.

Coins are established by law, and thus are determined by the free market as much as national currencies that are used in domestic trade and also traded in the international market. Banknotes and coins should be in good condition as they may not be accepted if they are damaged or deteriorated.

A counterfeit banknotes or coins are worthless and any person who accepts one will receive no compensation and moreover once found in possession of any of these is a dangerous criminal offense, which means that one can be accused and arraigned before the court of law.

In order to advocate these factors, the Central Bank of Tanzania recently organized a three day seminar to members of the press who included 40 Tanzanian practicing journalists from different media houses from seven regions of Dodoma, Singida,

Tabora, Kigoma, Morogoro, Iringa and Njombe.

The seminar which was held in the country's capital—Dodoma, consolidated specifically on five main topics that focused on security marks on banknotes and their proper care including coins. Other topics were directed on the new financial policies and bank interest rates, the implementation of laws governing small financial services and government interest rates.

The three day seminar has empowered journalists into a broader general understanding about the matter and how to report them to the masses more effectively and efficiently to expound awareness on the basic ways of taking care of banknotes as well as coins.

Among the crucial issues which were highlighted during the training sessions is related to penal codes directed to people who carelessly handle their banknotes and that if found, would face legal measures as

these are legal properties owned by the United Republic of Tanzania.

BOT's Manager of Operations, Nalasco Maluli issued the directives while presenting a paper during the session on how to keep Tanzanian coins and banknotes saying they should be respected just like a national flag.

"Cash is subject to fraud and it is therefore imperative to be able to identify the features of banknotes and coins in circulation to recognize its genuineness", he insisted adding that banknotes and coins should be in good condition as they may not be accepted if they are damaged.

There are advantages of having coins and bank notes in use as they are used as a medium of exchange and hence they allow payments to be settled immediately.

In Tanzania just like any other country in the world, coins are important primary sources of history as they convey images or portraits of past Presidents with their

names and titles. The obverse of a coin is commonly called heads, because it often depicts the head of a prominent person, and the reverse is known as tails.

Central banks use monetary policy to manage the supply of money in a country's economy. With monetary policy, this institution increases or decreases the amount of currency and credit in circulation, in a continuing effort to keep inflation, growth and employment on track.

Among the functions to which the BOT is mandated under the Bank of Tanzania Act, 2006 is to have the sole right to issue banknotes and coins which is the only legal tender in Tanzania. The Bank is therefore responsible for designing and procuring to meet the currency needs.

The Bank ensures that issuance and distribution of new and serviceable bank notes as well as collection and processing of bank notes deposited by commercial banks is timely done to optimize cost and efficiency.

Since its inception in 1966, Bank of Tanzania has issued a series of banknotes and coins. Finally, the largest currency note in the country is with a denomination of 10,000. This is red in color and has pictures of Tanzanian coat of arms and an elephant on its obverse side.

The reverse side of the same note carries pictures of flowers and Bank of Tanzania headquarters building in Dar es Salaam. These are the most common security features on banknotes and are created during the print process.

Likewise, minting of coins is a long and tiresome process. The minting process essentially begins with the mining of metals used for minting coins. They include iron, gold, silver, nickel, and copper, among other metals. The metals are mined as ore before being refined to remove impurities.

Minting or coinage is the process of manufacturing coins using a kind of stamping; the process used in both hammered coinage and milled coinage. This "stamping" process is different from the method used in cast coinage.

Jill Biden: The quiet influence of Biden's closest adviser

By Rachel Looker

Day after US President Joe Biden struggled through a 90-minute debate that only served to fuel voter concerns about his age and fitness, Jill Biden stood before well-heeled donors at a New York fundraiser and tried to explain what they had all witnessed.

"You know, Jill, I don't know what happened. I didn't feel that great," the president had confessed, she told them. "I said, 'Look, Joe, we are not going to let 90 minutes define the four years that you've been president.'"

It offered an early glimpse into the president's mindset and how he rated his debate performance, which was widely panned as a major blow to his campaign.

As doubts about Biden's candidacy began to circulate, his closest adviser was unequivocal about whether he would step out of the race. "When he gets knocked down, Joe gets back up, and that's what we're doing today," Biden said.

The first lady has stood beside her husband throughout his decades-long career, from his time as a Delaware senator to becoming commander-in-chief, often serving as the decisive voice behind many of Mr Biden's political choices.

While the president often turns to his tight-knit family on big decisions, Mrs Biden is among a handful of top advisers who wield the most influence over the president and could ultimately help him determine whether it is time to step out of the race.

"It's fair to call her Biden's closest adviser," veteran Democratic political strategist Hank Sheinkop said. "Family matters to him significantly and that makes Jill Biden's role even more important."

The president's younger sister, Valerie Biden Owens, who served as his campaign manager during his years in the Senate, as well as his son, Hunter Biden, are also among his most trusted confidantes.

After the fallout from the debate, Mr Biden huddled with his family for a long-planned trip to Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland, where they discussed the fate of his campaign and urged him to keep fighting. Hunter Biden was among the most vocal family members urging his father to remain in the race.

But as Democratic anxiety over the 81-year-old president's physical and mental stamina has spilled into public view in recent days, many inside the party have looked to the first lady for any hint of wavering over his candidacy.

Instead, she has continued to hit the campaign trail, travelling to the battleground states of Pennsylvania and Michigan this week for a string of political and official events.

"Because there's a lot of talk out there, let me repeat what my husband has said plainly and clearly: Joe is the Democratic nominee and he is going to beat Donald Trump, just like he did in 2020," Mrs Biden told supporters at a campaign event in Traverse City, Michigan, on Wednesday.

Biden's influence in the West Wing, however, is not unusual.

Nancy Kegan Smith, president of the First Ladies Association for Research and Education, said there are historic parallels between Mrs Biden and former first ladies.

"Most presidents depend on the uncoloured advice of their wives because that's the person who is normally closest to them," she said.

She pointed to Lady Bird Johnson, the wife of former President Lyndon B Johnson, who advised her husband - ultimately convincing him with a moving letter - to run for the White House in August 1964 after he became president following the assassination of John F Kennedy.

Four years later in 1968, she changed her opinion, telling him to not run for re-election. He listened, Kegan Smith said.



Joe Biden stands with his wife Jill in 1987

Many in the Democratic Party are waiting to see if a similar scenario may unfold in the next month, placing a greater spotlight on Biden.

The first lady keeps a busy schedule. She is the first in the East Wing to keep a day job teaching English at a northern Virginia community college. When she is not teaching, she is often on the road campaigning for her husband.

"Most modern first ladies have been in the political game for quite a while and have been political sounding boards to their husbands," Katherine Jellison, an Ohio University professor who studies first ladies, said.

The president proposed five

times before Mrs Biden said yes, and the couple married in 1977, five years after Mr Biden lost his first wife and daughter in a car crash that also injured his two sons.

When he decided not to run for president in 2016, he told 60 Minutes "it was the right decision for the family". He cited his reasoning was in part because of the loss of his son, Beau, who died from brain cancer in 2015.

Mrs Biden specifically played a role in her husband's decision not to run for president in 2003, Kegan Smith said, pointing to a scene described in the first lady's 2019 memoir, *Where the Light Enters*. In the book, she recalled lounging by the pool as Democratic

advisers inside encouraged her husband to launch a campaign. Wearing a bikini, she wrote "no" on her stomach in magic marker and walked through the meeting. Biden did not enter the race that year.

But the first lady has also come under pressure in recent days, facing criticism after the presidential debate for praising her husband after his poor showing on the debate stage.

"Joe, you did such a great job. You answered every question. You knew all the facts," she told him on stage at a post-debate rally in Atlanta. A clip of the exchange was widely mocked on social media.

Some Republicans have also

seized on Democratic worry, laying blame on the first lady for Mr Biden's debate performance. Representative Harriet Hageman, a Republican from Wyoming, even accused Mrs Biden of "elder abuse" in a post on X, for "rolling him out on stage to engage in a battle of wits while unarmed".

The Drudge Report, a conservative website, ran a headline on its front page immediately after the debate that read: "Cruel Jill clings to power."

"It's really unfair to put the burden on her. She's his spouse. She's not a politician," Michael LaRosa, her former press secretary, told *The Hill*. "It's not up to her to save the Democratic Party."

Mrs Biden, meanwhile, has stressed that the president's bid for re-election will continue as the stakes in November are high.

"Every campaign is important, and every campaign is hard," the first lady told *Vogue* for their August cover story. "Each campaign is unique. But this one, the urgency is different. We know what's at stake. Joe is asking the American people to come together to draw a line in the sand against all this vitriol."

That urgency is something the campaign is hoping she'll be able to convey to voters. In a statement to the BBC, the Biden campaign called Mrs Biden an "effective messenger" on the campaign trail.

"As a teacher, mom, and grandmother, she's uniquely positioned to connect with key constituencies across the country and speak to the president's vision for America," the statement said.

Still, her steadfast support combined with White House dismissals of media reports that the president is weighing his exit have yet to tamp down growing uncertainty about the Democratic ticket. The fallout has triggered a backlash of Democrats, donors and some lawmakers publicly calling for the president's withdrawal from the race.

"Joe has been knocked down and counted out his whole life... When he gets counted out, he works harder. And that's what he's doing, but he needs your help," she told Michigan supporters on Wednesday. "We don't choose our chapter of history, but we can choose who leads us through it," she added.

For Mrs Biden, that choice remains her husband.



The first lady has stood beside her husband throughout his decades-long career

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJAVYO 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

Ethiopian endeavours to enhance language, cultural exchanges

ADDIS ABABA

ON a typical Saturday morning, a diverse group of Ethiopian-Chinese language enthusiasts from varied walks of life are eagerly immersed in practicing Mandarin dialogues inside one of the small yet vibrant classrooms that are colourfully decorated with Chinese characters and cultural elements in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

This unique institution, called Ni Hao Habesha Language Training School, is the first of its kind in Ethiopia, established with the overarching goal of spearheading Sino-Ethiopian cultural and language exchanges.

At the heart of this fast-growing ambition is Kaleab Zelalem, a 27-year-old Ethiopian with an "intense passion and admiration," for Chinese culture and language. It all started when Zelalem travelled to China in 2017 where he studied international law for four years in the city of Huangshi, Central China's Hubei province.

Following his return to Ethiopia, Zelalem noticed the ever-growing demand among fellow Ethiopians to learn Chinese. Aware of the gap in addressing this demand and fueled by his newfound admiration for the Chinese culture and language, the young man founded the language training school in 2022, becoming the first private language teaching institution in the East African country, solely specialized in teaching the Chinese language.

"I saw the gap and the demand. Many government officials and business people were looking to learn Chinese, because most Chinese people would be happy if they communicated in their native language. That is when I felt it was time to open a Chinese language school," he says.

His vision was simple – "to not only teach the language but to introduce and impart the unique perspectives and customs that shape the Chinese worldview".

One Chinese lesson at a time, starting some two-and-a-half years ago and further expanding its reach, the school is now transforming how Ethiopians view China and its people, while in the process, discovering a newfound appreciation for the richness of Chinese culture.

The school, as part of its ambition to promote language and cultural exchanges between the two peoples, also offers short Amharic, Ethiopia's working language, training courses to Chinese nationals who are interested in uncovering Ethiopia's culture and language.

"The unique thing about this school is that we not only teach the language, we teach the culture, norms and the way Chinese people perceive the world, which is unique," Zelalem says.

"If we don't understand the language at its heart, we will not be able to communicate effectively. We need to understand the culture to understand China and the Chinese people."

This holistic approach has attracted a diverse set of Ethiopians – govern-



ment officials, business people, tour guides and college students.

Bethlehem Abera, a business management graduate currently working as a customer relations officer at a local import-export firm, is one such student who believes that the decision to learn Chinese is already paying dividends professionally and personally.

"In my time working with Chinese people, we communicated in English at first. But now, after I started my Chinese class, somehow, we communicate some words in Chinese, which makes them happy. I see the happiness on their faces and I feel proud, too. That is why I feel like I need to learn more every day," she says.

For Abera, her growing ambition to learn the Chinese language and know more about China, its people and its culture is enshrined in the teaching-learning approach implemented at the school, an embodiment of the founder's dream to promote Sino-Ethiopian cultural

exchanges.

Senay Alemnew, a 22-year-old graduate student at the Addis Ababa University School of Commerce, is another enthusiast who has been learning Chinese at the school for the past two years.

Echoing the sentiment, Alemnew speaks in awe about the opportunity presented to uncover China and its culture. "The class is interesting. It has history classes as well, which is nice. My fascination with China is because of its history. It has amazing people and culture. The level of development that they have achieved is very impressive, which is why I started the class, and I look forward to going to China," he says.

In its two-and-a-half years of operation, the school has taught Chinese to more than 500 students who are not only Ethiopians, but Chinese enthusiasts from different nations, such as Austria and Tanzania.

In doing so, Zelalem has amassed heart-warming compliments and memories from his students.

With his unwavering passion for bridging the cultural divide, Zelalem and his fast-growing Chinese training school, which now employs three qualified Chinese language instructors, are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the next chapter of Sino-Ethiopian relations. As Zelalem looks to the future, he is confident that the demand for Chinese language education in Ethiopia will continue to grow.

"I am pretty sure that for the next few years, the demand for the Chinese language will increase. I do not doubt it," he says.

Kenya's cash-strapped ambitious climate change goals

By Joyce Chimbi, Nairobi

FIVE failed rainy seasons resulted in a drought, the worst in 40 years, affecting at least 4.5 million people who require food assistance. Then came months of heavy rain, which led to riverine and flash flooding that impacted more than 306,520 (61,304 families) between March 1 and June 18, 2024, with an estimated 315 people killed, 188 injured, and 38 missing, while more than 293,200 people (about 58,641 families) were displaced, according to Reliefweb and Kenya's National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC).

These climate crises mean there are significant financial challenges that stand between the East African nation and its climate change goals.

When the government pledged to adhere to the Paris Agreement in 2016, agreeing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent between 2020 and 2030, it was estimated that USD 40 billion of new investments were needed to facilitate attainment of that goal.

Since then, as the climate crisis continues to escalate, so has the financial need, requiring dedicated financial support.

Now, according to Kenya's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions, the country needs USD 65 billion to implement Kenya's mitigation and adaptation requirements from 2020 to 2030. NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement as commitments the country makes to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

"One of the three financial challenges Kenya is facing is competing priorities, as we are spending more on climate mitigation—reducing greenhouse gas emissions—and very little on climate adaptation—adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change," says Samuel Gikama, a marine scientist and independent climate researcher.

"This is a developing country with many pressing problems. We must put available resources in areas with the highest impact and that, for us, is adaptation, as it has been shown to have immediate positive results for local communities."

Gikama says Kenya's climate funding management is opaque.

"(Kenya's) Climate Change Fund has existed for five years now but the Fund does not seem to be operational," Gikama says. He explains that tracking Kenya's access to climate finance is difficult.

"Whatever the country raises in climate financing from public and private sources and specifically how the funds are spent, is difficult to track. Climate budgeting remains fragmented. But the government raises about USD 1.5 billion per year."

The fund was established under Section 25 of the Climate Change Act 2016 as a financing mechanism to prioritize climate change actions and interventions.

Kenya's vulnerability to climate change is becoming increasingly clear.

Climate-related disasters such as the 2022-2023



The severity and frequency of droughts, floods and storms will increase with climate change, leading to more water stress. Marginalized communities cover long distances in search of fresh water that is safe to drink

prolonged drought and the recent deadly floods in 2024 have created an economic liability of approximately 2 to 2.8 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually. This is in addition to several other vulnerabilities, such as the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, frequent locust invasions, and other crop pests and diseases.

The most recent analysis of climate financing is in the 2021 Kenya Climate Finance Landscape. The Nationally Determined Contributions indicate annual expenditure should be USD 4.39 billion, including agriculture at USD 0.63 billion, water at USD 0.97 billion, renewable energy at USD 1.69 billion and other sectors at USD 1.11 billion.

Kenya's total climate and nature public expenditure is around USD 1.53 billion per year. Recent estimates indicate that the country has achieved one-third of the total finance required for investments related to climate change adaptation. As such, there is a yearly resource gap of about USD 3.5 billion and according to experts such as Gikama, the country will be hard-pressed to meet its ambitious climate change goals.

Kamau Ndung'u, a Nairobi-based auditor, tells IPS that debt-ridden Kenya will need to keep the climate crisis in mind while allocating resources.

"Budget estimates for the financial year 2023-2024 indicate that our expenditure on debt servicing and repayment and pensions will increase from 44 percent to 49 percent. The rest of the budget, 51 percent, will run all other government programs across the country. The national government has over the years allocated itself a bigger share of financial resources at the expense of the county levels."

Gikama agrees, saying that, amidst limited resources, there is a need to refocus the climate action agenda.

"Kenya's GDP relies on sectors that are very climate-sensitive, including agriculture and tourism. Yet critical areas such as agriculture, forestry and water remain underfunded. Climate change has had a very severe impact on agriculture and water resources. In the absence of adequate financing, local communities are unable to cope with changing weather patterns, especially farmers. Nearly 98 percent of our agriculture is rain-fed."

Atieno Oloo, a financial expert at the Ministry of Finance, says the

country invests in climate action with public and private capital.

"The government is matching scarce resources with needs. The Treasury is currently working on distributing USD 56.9 million to 45 counties through the Financing Locally Led Climate Action program."

The money is a grant from the World Bank and its partners. Overall, the most recent estimates show that the government invested USD 2.4 billion in climate action. Public investment, which includes financing from both domestic and international providers, accounted for 59.4 percent of this, with the private sector providing the remaining funds.

"Available estimates show that more than half, 55 percent, of the government's climate-related expenditure comes from international partners, while 45 percent is domestic public financing. Kenya and all other developing, struggling countries should receive climate financing through the Loss and Damage Fund," Gikama says.

Combined, African countries account for less than three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Kenya accounts for less than one percent of global emissions. Developing countries first signaled the need for a loss and damage fund as far back as 1991.

The fund would provide financial assistance from those most responsible for the climate crisis to deal with the loss and damage caused by climate change. It has taken 32 years of mounting pressure and 27 COP Summits to finally deliver a Loss and Damage Fund at COP 28, UAE.

"Kenya and all other affected countries must focus on this fund and demand accountability. It is unacceptable that about 79 percent of international public climate finance came to us as a debt and more

than half of it, 55 percent, was spent on climate mitigation. The rest, 45 percent, was spent on climate adaptation. The adaptation sector takes a back seat despite all evidence showing that it would be our highest return on investment area," he emphasizes.

Government estimates show private finance accounts for about 41 percent of the country's total climate finance. Of this, Kenyan companies mobilized 34.4 percent and the remaining 65.6 percent came from overseas private companies' investments in Kenyan-based projects.

While Kenya's finance needs span over energy, water, agriculture and forestry, estimates show that foreign private sectors predominantly (99.7 percent) invest in renewable energy projects. Philanthropic organizations remain the only international private actors investing in other climate sectors and, more so, projects related to adaptation in sectors such as water.

The Loss and Damage Fund is a rescue and rehabilitation package for poor and vulnerable developing nations severely affected by climate change. The fund currently holds about USD 700 million.

The USD 100 billion fund, agreed before the Paris Agreement, aimed at assisting developing countries in both mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change, has consistently fallen behind its targets. The goal was to mobilize USD100 billion per year by 2020 from a variety of sources, including public and private, bilateral and multilateral, and alternative sources of finance. According to OECD in 2021, total climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries for developing countries amounted to USD 89.6 billion.

Developing countries need at least USD 400 billion per year to address climate-related challenges, and the financial need will only grow as the climate crisis escalates.

The climate finance path for countries such as Kenya seems narrow and winding.

Military rule, democratic setbacks in Burkina Faso: A chronicle of political turbulence in West Africa

By Adonis Byemelwa

SINCE 2020, West and Central Africa have witnessed a troubling surge in coups d'état, reversing hard-won democratic gains across the region. Among the first nations swept up in this wave was Burkina Faso, where political upheaval has left its mark on the trajectory of governance and stability.

In 2022, Burkina Faso experienced a significant political shift when the military, led by Captain Ibrahim Traore, seized power from interim President Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba. Traore's coup was justified on grounds of addressing the country's escalating Islamist insurgency, which had claimed thousands of lives and displaced millions since 2015. The junta's intervention was initially welcomed by many Burkinabes frustrated with the government's inability to stem the tide of violence and insecurity.

Captain Ibrahim Traore pledged a swift return to civilian rule, promising to hold elections within two years. This commitment was seen as a necessary step to restore democratic governance and fulfill the aspirations of a population weary from years of instability. However, recent developments have cast doubt on the junta's adherence to this timeline and raised concerns about the future of democracy in Burkina Faso.

At the just-ended national talks in Ouagadougou, a resolution passed extending the military's stay in power for another 5 years, effectively postponing elections indefinitely. This decision comes as a stark reversal of earlier promises and has sparked widespread criticism both domestically and internationally. The junta, citing ongoing security challenges posed by Islamist insurgents controlling significant portions of the country, argued that stability and security must precede democratic elections.

Colonel Moussa Diallo, chairman of the organizing committee of the national dialogue process, emphasized that the transition period would be fixed at 60 months from July 2, 2024. While the Charter signed by the junta and national stakeholders provides a clear timeline for the transition, it remains ambiguous regarding the scheduling of elections. The document vaguely states that elections marking the end of the transition "may be organized before this deadline if the security situation so permits," leaving room for potential extensions based on the junta's interpretation of Burkina Faso's security landscape.

The junta's decision to delay elections has been met with dismay and skepticism among Burkina Faso's political leaders, civil society groups, and ordinary citizens. Critics argue that prolonged military rule undermines democratic principles and poses a threat to the country's long-term stability and development. The postponement of elections has raised concerns about the junta's commitment to genuine democratic reform and its potential to entrench itself in power indefinitely.

The political situation in Burkina Faso is further complicated by its evolving international relations. Traditionally aligned with its former colonial ruler, France, Burkina Faso under Traore's leadership has shifted towards closer collaboration with Russia, marking a strategic recalibration in its foreign policy.



Burkina Faso coup leader Captain Ibrahim Traore

marking a strategic recalibration in its foreign policy. This shift has drawn mixed reactions from regional stakeholders and the international community, reflecting broader geopolitical tensions and interests in the Sahel region.

Reports from the African Center for Strategic Studies highlight a deteriorating security environment in Burkina Faso since Traore assumed power, with deaths attributed to militant Islamist violence increasing by 46 percent. Despite the junta's assurances of security-focused governance, challenges persist in restoring government control over areas held by jihadist groups, complicating efforts to stabilize the country and facilitate a return to civilian rule.

The Charter signed during the national talks also introduced significant changes to Burkina Faso's political landscape. It eliminated the concept of quotas traditionally used to allocate parliamentary seats based on party performance in elections, replacing it with a criterion of "patriotism." This shift raises concerns about the fairness and inclusivity of future electoral processes, potentially favoring certain political factions aligned with the junta's agenda.

Domestically, Traore's tenure has polarized opinion. Supporters of the junta view Traore's leadership as a necessary corrective to previous governance failures, citing his implementation of austerity measures that targeted elite privileges while boosting wages for low to middle-income earners. These measures were aimed at addressing socioeconomic disparities and

garnering support from segments of the population disillusioned with traditional political elites.

However, Traore's administration has faced criticism for its failure to effectively address Burkina Faso's security challenges and fulfill promises of democratic reform. The postponement of elections and the junta's control over the electoral process raise questions about the sincerity of its commitment to democratic principles versus expediency in maintaining power.

As Burkina Faso navigates this uncertain political terrain, international scrutiny and pressure are mounting on the junta to uphold democratic norms and ensure a transparent transition back to civilian governance. The trajectory of events in Burkina Faso will have implications not only for its own stability and prosperity but also for the broader struggle for democratic governance in West Africa amidst ongoing geopolitical shifts and security threats.

The international community's role in supporting Burkina Faso's democratic aspirations while addressing security challenges remains pivotal. The junta's decisions in the coming months and years will shape Burkina Faso's future trajectory, determining whether it can overcome its current turmoil and emerge as a beacon of democratic resilience in the region.

Achieving stability and democratic consolidation in Burkina Faso stands as a critical challenge for both the nation itself and the broader international community. Situated in the heart of West Africa, Burkina Faso has faced significant turmoil in recent years, marked by political instability, violent extremism, and socio-economic challenges. The role of the international community in supporting Burkina Faso's democratic aspirations while effectively addressing its security dilemmas cannot be overstated. As the country navigates a delicate transition, the decisions made by the ruling junta in the coming months and years will profoundly influence its trajectory.

Burkina Faso's journey towards democracy has been fraught with obstacles. The 2014 uprising that ousted long-time leader Blaise Compaoré initially raised hopes for democratic renewal. However, subsequent years saw setbacks, including a failed coup in 2015 and escalating violence from extremist groups such as Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). These groups have exploited local grievances and institutional weaknesses, posing a grave threat to stability and governance in the Sahel region.

Dr. Generali Ulimwengu, an expert on West African peace and security, underscores the complexity of the situation: "Burkina Faso's challenges are emblematic of broader regional dynamics, where weak govern-

ance, poverty, and radicalization converge." Indeed, Burkina Faso's struggle reflects larger regional issues where state fragility intersects with transnational terrorism and organized crime. This intersection demands a multifaceted approach from the international community, one that integrates security assistance with governance reforms and socio-economic development.

Former Saint Augustine Professor Mwesiga Baregu, whose insights into African governance are foundational, emphasizes the importance of inclusive political processes: "Burkina Faso must foster a political environment that accommodates diverse voices and aspirations. Genuine democratic progress hinges on empowering civil society and promoting dialogue." This sentiment resonates deeply in a country where the legitimacy of political institutions is essential to countering extremist narratives and fostering resilience against violence.

The United Nations, through its peacekeeping and political missions, plays a pivotal role in supporting Burkina Faso's stabilization efforts. The UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) provides a framework for coordinated action across humanitarian, development, and security dimensions. Such initiatives are crucial in addressing root causes of instability while enhancing local capacities for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has also been instrumental, leveraging its regional influence to mediate political crises and promote democratic norms. ECOWAS' commitment to upholding constitutional order in member states underscores its role as a guardian of regional stability. However, challenges persist in translating regional commitments into effective action on the ground, particularly amidst competing priorities and resource constraints.

Burkina Faso faces a pivotal moment where leadership decisions and international support will shape its future. Strengthening democratic institutions and promoting human rights are vital for sustainable development. As Professor Baregu emphasizes, "Burkina Faso's journey towards democracy requires justice, equity, and human dignity."

Addressing security challenges alongside democratic governance is crucial. This dual approach can make Burkina Faso a beacon of resilience for the region.

Experts stress a holistic strategy integrating security, development, and governance reforms. Success here will not only benefit Burkina Faso but also catalyze democratic progress across the Sahel and beyond. Dr. Aminata Touré underscores the importance of empowering local communities through education and job creation to foster sustainable peace and resilience against extremism.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 128

Across:

- an immature person
- past participle of deal
- regions of towns
- a large plate or dish
- the day of a month
- the length of a time that a person has existed
- a northern sea duck
- a marquee in India

Down:

- a dealer in supplies and equipment for ships and boats.
- imagined
- rent
- run or travel in a great hurry
- let it stand
- a unit of work or energy
- very dry
- extremely wicked and immoral

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

YEMEN	KENYA	SENSE
EVICTED	KNEE	SOLVE
VASSAY	NOISE	STONE
CENT: VIE	ART: MBE	EVEN
EASE: OYO	RED: RYE	TAMIL
		TOM: MOM

Yesterday's solution

P	L	A	C	E	A	T	H	E	M	E	U			
A	R	O	S	E	S	A	N	O	R	T	H			
K	O	R	M	A	L	I	N	E	A	R	E	S	T	
C	H	I	L	I	B	U	K	A	Z	A	B	E	M	
S	A	V	E	E	A	L	L	I	T	R	E			
T	A	L	T	Y	E	N	E	A	T	I	N			
A	L	L	O	W	L	I	N	D	I	E				
N	C	H	I	A	N	C	E	E	N	D	U	R	E	D

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWA 10.03 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWA 10.03 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.05 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWA 10.03 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM MATA WA MAGOMA 11.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 11.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIUNDU MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	



Shangwe Twamala (R), an acting district administrative secretary, receives textbooks from Gertrude Mapunda, the representative of the British High Commission. Photo: Correspondent Julieth Mkireri

Eco-friendly stoves set to spark change

By Correspondent Julieth Mkireri, KIBAHA

IN an effort to reduce the use of polluting energy sources (charcoal and firewood) within government institutions, four primary schools in Mkuranga district, Coast Region, have received new eco-friendly cookstoves.

These stoves were provided through the Better School Program, currently in progress in the region. Moreover, the program distributed school supplies including notebooks and pens to families affected by floods in Kibiti and Rufiji Districts.

In her speech following the aid distribution, the Acting Administrative Secretary of the Coastal Region (DAS), Shangwe Twamala, expressed gratitude to the program for recognizing the community of the Coastal Region and supporting the victims while also advocating for environmental care.

Twamala emphasized that the region will further progress in adopting clean cooking energy by utilizing these stoves to mitigate the adverse impacts of firewood and charcoal on institutions and society at large.

Moreover, the Acting Administrative Secretary instructed Executive District Directors (EDDs) to ensure the timely delivery of aid to the beneficiaries.

Gertrude Mapunda, the representative of the British Embassy, emphasized that the stoves will enhance environmental protection in the region, and the

school equipment will assist families affected by floods.

Mapunda expressed, "When it rains, severe consequences arise; even the trees struggle to grow, leading to reduced rainfall, ultimately harming the environment and contributing to climate change."

Furthermore, she highlighted the stoves' dual benefits for the environment and health, noting that the smoke from wood and charcoal usage has adversely impacted many individuals across various locations in the country.

She emphasized that these stoves should serve as a catalyst for fostering a renewed focus on restoring favorable environmental conditions within their regions.

She further noted that they have initiated contributions towards schools and education programs, with plans to continue supporting program areas.

Virginie Briand, the program leader, highlighted that the provision of school equipment aims to assist families affected by the rain, ensuring that children can continue their education.

Additionally, she mentioned that the clean energy stoves will complement the government's environmental conservation efforts.

Winfrid Chilumba, the coordinator of the Bora school program under the Office of the President Tamisemi, instructed that the equipment be directed to areas with urgent needs while remaining available to others in need.

Government pushes for industry-linked syllabus

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has highlighted the need for training institutions in the country to collaborate with the private sector, stating that this collaboration will ensure that the curriculum reflects the demands of the industrial and labour market.

Dr. Hashil Abdalah, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Investment and Industry, said this in Dar es Salaam during the official launch of the College of Business Education (CBE) 60th anniversary celebration, which was attended by government officials, faculty deans, students, and industry leaders.

He stressed that institutions must adapt to the ongoing global changes in technology, adding that CBE must prepare graduates with the skills required in the labour market.

He commended the institution for its achievement since its establishment and emphasized the college importance to produce quality business education and preparing skilled professionals in various sectors across the country.

"Collaboration with the private sector is crucial to improve curriculum and prepare graduates with skills to compete in the labour market," he said.

Dr. Abdalah directed the college to continue offering training and conducting research that aimed at solving challenges facing the industrial and com-

mercial sectors in the country. All these will help improve policies and development strategies in cortical areas," he said.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to continue collaborating with the college in research, training, and professional consultancy to bring positive outcomes for the community and the nation.

He further commended CBE's vision for 2074, which focuses on technology development, globalization, and socio-economic changes.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CBE Prof Wineaster Anderson said that the college has made significant milestones in providing business education, conducting research and offering professional consultancy since establishment.

The don said the college has expanded its scope by opening the campuses in Dodoma, Mwanza and Mbeya.

She said that CBE has strengthened its infrastructural, human resources and financial capabilities.

"Our college has established investment projects in partnering with the private sector to increase revenue and enhance academic and infrastructural development," she said.

The College Principal Prof Edda Lwoga recalled the history and achievement of the college since it was established in 1965.

New pilot training programme expected in October, boosting aviation workforce

By Correspondent Prosper Makene

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) is set to launch a pilot training program in October this year, stating that the initiative will enhance the aviation sub-industry's workforce.

"We have done all procedures to commence offering the pilot training programme in October this year," NIT Rector Dr Prosper Mgaya told journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Dr. Mgaya has further stated that NIT will be the first academic institution in the country to offer such courses, emphasizing that the initiative will assist the government and Tanzanians in saving costs on fees, which will be lower than sending a student abroad.

According to media reports, a pilot course can cost a student up to Sh200 million per year outside the country. However, with NIT, a comparable course will cost less than Sh100 million per year. Presently, Tanzania faces a 60 per-



A demonstration by an NIT instructor showcasing how the institute conducts training for aircraft attendants. Photo: Correspondent Prosper Makene

cent shortage of aircraft personnel, a gap currently being filled by expatriates.

The Rector highlighted that their institute has successfully graduated three batches of certified Cabin Crew members, many of whom are now employed by local airlines in the country, including ATCL, Precision Air, and others.

In October last year, Vice-President Dr. Philip Mpango handed over two single-engine aircraft, Cessna Skyhawk 172, to

NIT with the aim of sustaining the Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations at the Institute.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony held at JNIA Terminal One, Dr. Mpango mentioned that in 2021, the government had facilitated NIT to enter into a contract to purchase two Cessna 172 Skyhawk training aircraft from Textron Aviation Inc. of the United States.

Dr. Mpango stated that

the planes would be used for pilot training, including Private Pilot License (PPL) training lasting 6 months and Commercial Pilot License (CPL) training lasting 12 months.

"The government has allocated funds to enhance the National Institute of Transport's capacity to offer training in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering, Flight Operations, and Cabin Crew for TCAA certifications. The objective is to develop sufficient

human resources for the aviation industry to serve in various airlines, including ATCL," Dr. Mpango explained.

He emphasized, "To enhance the Institute's ability to offer pilot training effectively, in June 2023, the Government enabled NIT to engage in a contract with Textron Aviation Inc from the United States for the procurement of another aircraft, a Beechcraft Baron G58 with two engines. The aircraft is anticipated to arrive in the country during the third quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year."

Meanwhile, the Institute was established back in 1975 as the training wing of the then National Transport Corporation (NTC). NIT was tasked with the responsibility of bolstering the human resource capabilities of transportation operators and mid-level managers within the NTC's subsidiary companies, which included National Bus Services Limited (KAMATA), Usafiri Dar-es-Salaam Limited (UDA), and Regional Transport Companies (RETCOs).



At Soni Market in Lushoto, Tanga Region, a woman readies cassava for sale. Priced between 1,000/- and 1,500/- per three pieces, cassava is in short supply in Lushoto due to adverse climate and soil conditions according to agriculturalists. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

CMSA set to commence continuous professional progression programme

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has revealed its intention to launch a Continuous Professional Development programme to improve the integrity and competitiveness of market professionals both locally and globally.

Stella Anastazi, CMSA Public Relations Officer said that yesterday at the 48th ongoing Dar Es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) 2024 that the programme aims to keep market players and professionals with the pace of global market demands delivery of services.

Anastazi said that the programme also aimed at promoting professionalism and expertise in the capital market business.

She said the programme further aimed at providing a platform for brokers, dealer representatives, and nominated advisors, nominated advisor representatives, investment

advisors, regulators, stock exchange officials and other market players to update their knowledge.

Also, to ensure that market professionals have sufficient understanding of capital markets in order to perform their roles in a way that contributes to making an orderly market that is fair and efficient.

The communication officer insisted that the CMSA's goal was to improve professionalism in the country and part of the financial inclusion plan.

"The programme is part of the CMSA's goal in its strategy to ensure productivity in the country's capital markets," she said.

She was pleased to receive a big response from different people who visited the CMSA's pavilion to learn how the capital market operates.

"The aim is to bring education to the public, as well as to update them over the achievements made by the authority so far," she said.

She added: "The trade fair

has been an opportunity for us to meet people face-to-face for creating awareness. This will boost investments in the capital markets."

According to her, the programmes bridge the gap of the increasing need for competent market professionals given the current and anticipated growth of the capital market industry in the Country.

CMSA and industry stakeholders are currently implementing various capital market development initiatives outlined in the Financial Sector Development Master Plan (FSDMP) 2020/21 - 2029/30.

The parts of such endeavors include professional development through a certification program conducted in collaboration with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI), United Kingdom.

The CMSA undertakes this role to ensure that the capital markets in Tanzania are sound, resilient and remain competitive in the global market space.

District staff urged to rush aid to citizens meriting court compensation

By Julieth Mkireri

The Minister of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development, Jerry Silaa, has directed Kibaha District Commissioner Nickson John and land officials to promptly assist citizens entitled to court-directed compensation, in order to ensure they receive their rights in a timely manner.

Silaa issued these instructions recently while attending a land clinic named Samia, which took place at the Mlandizi township grounds and attracted over 100 citizens seeking resolution for their disputes.

During his two-day visit to Kibaha District, Silaa emphasized the importance of timely provision of rights to all eligible individuals by the District Head, in conjunction with the executives of the land department at Kibaha Council, who are tasked with managing the issue.

Likewise, the Minister highlighted that many land disputes arise when buyers fail to adhere to proper procedures. He urged individuals to cooperate with the land department before purchasing land to avoid such conflicts.

"If you claim ownership of a specific parcel, ensure you possess the title deed, all necessary documents, and you have completed all steps required for ownership. This will help reduce conflicts, preventing land transactions from becoming as casual as exchanging shirts," he stressed.

During the clinic, Minister Silaa successfully facilitated the return of over 800 acres of land to Lupunga Company, whose rightful owner had been invaded by citizens who unlawfully occupied the property.

While in Bagamoyo Silaa District, he encouraged citizens to utilize land clinics as avenues to address their land disputes rather than visiting Ministry offices in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam, where the Minister is often not present in the office.

He mentioned that established clinics feature experts from his office who actively engage in listening to conflicts and devising solutions.

Meet the boss

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Recently, The Guardian newspaper had the opportunity to meet and interview Youngwoong Kim (pictured), the managing director of Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd, about the cashew nut industry in Tanzania. The interview focused on what Tanzanian farmers, the government, and experts can expect from his investment in the country. Below is an extract of the interview.

QUESTION: Could you provide readers with a concise overview of your firm?

ANSWER: Tan-Ko Mirae Green Company Limited, a foreign entity fully owned by the Korean company Mirae Green Chemical Company Limited, specializes in producing cashew nut kernels, cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL) as an environmentally friendly bio heavy oil, and Biochar as a soil ameliorant. The company has successfully manufactured CNSL oil in Tanzania, catering to the substantial South Korean power plant market, along with exporting cashew kernels to various other countries.

Q: Can you elaborate on the state of the cashew nut industry in Tanzania and define your market niche?

A: The cashew nut industry in Tanzania currently operates at a minimal value-added level, primarily focusing on cultivation.

Only 20 percent of the country's cashew nut production volume (approximately 300 thousand tons annually as of 2023/2024) undergoes local processing.

Our initiative involves elevating the value of cashew nuts in Tanzania by implementing automated processing facilities, aiming to enhance the industry's value chain significantly and contribute to its growth.

Q: What are the expectations from Tanzanian farmers cultivating cashew nuts and the government, and how does your company plan to meet them?

A: Our company is committed to aiding Tanzanian farmers and the government in elevating the cashew nut industry by implementing sustainable methods, leveraging advanced technology, and facilitating market entry.

We strive to cultivate a symbiotic partnership that enhances productivity, quality, and profitability for all parties. Specifically, we intend to invest in cashew nut production using Biochar and CFR fertilizers, aiming to enhance the yield and productivity of raw cashew nuts.

Q: Could you elaborate on the challenges and opportunities you've faced since starting operations in Tanzania?

A: Establishing and managing a business in Tanzania comes with diverse challenges. These obstacles can differ based on the industry, company size, and specific circumstances, but common hurdles include the following:

- Bureaucracy and Regulatory Environment: Navigating through intricate and time-consuming procedures to obtain licenses and permits, involving multiple government entities.
- Regulatory Changes: Frequent alterations in laws and regulations can sow uncertainty, necessitating businesses to continuously adjust.
- Infrastructure Issues: Substandard road conditions impede the smooth transportation of goods and services. For instance, sourcing raw cashew nuts has been arduous due to the poor road network, escalating transport costs and affecting the quality of the raw cashew nuts due to inadequate storage facilities.
- Power Supply: Frequent power cuts and erratic electricity supply disrupt business operations, leading to higher costs for back-up systems.
- Access to Finance: Limited funding avenues; small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often struggle to secure affordable financing due to strict lending



criteria and high interest rates.

- Cultural Differences: Acknowledging and respecting local customs and business practices are vital for fostering robust relationships and trust.

Regarding opportunities, enhancing raw cashew nut productivity is feasible through the introduction of our Biochar and Controlled Release Fertilizer (CRF) products into the cashew nut industry.

These products will be trialed by us under a contract farming initiative involving selected farmers and NGOs.

- Biochar: A combination of biomass and charcoal, biochar serves as an eco-friendly soil enhancer, offering sustainable fertilization for a variety of crops.

Q: How do the services you provide set you apart from competitors in the market?

A: Our company holds the distinction of being the pioneering cashew nut processing firm in Tanzania, utilizing 95 percent of the raw cashew nut to enhance its value.

This process involves transforming the raw cashew nut into cashew nut kernels and extracting oil from the shells, subsequently turning the shells into biochar (cashew nut carbon flakes).

The extracted oil is exported to cardanol manufacturers, who utilize it to craft final products like bio-fuel for energy production such as bunker C fuel and brake linings.

Additionally, the biochar serves as an environmentally friendly fertilizer suitable for various crop applications.

Q: What are your business prospects domestically and internationally?

A: Our business prospects entail optimizing the production of value-added products, fostering and sustaining active support for the Tanzania-Korea relationship, driving growth in the Tanzanian cashew nut sector while benefiting all involved parties.

We aim to secure a reliable source and establish a strong market presence within our industry, enhancing growth through strategic product

cultivation.

Furthermore, we seek to enhance trade conditions by expanding our trading capacity and achieving economies of scale.

As pioneers in Korean investment in Tanzania, we aspire to encourage more Korean companies to invest in Tanzania.

Q: Could you specify your target markets and the current number of clients you serve?

A: Our focus for cashew nut kernels and CNSL (cashew nut shell liquid) primarily lies in the international market. Conversely, for Biochar and Controlled Release Fertilizer (CRF), we aim to cater to the local market to enhance raw cashew nut productivity.

Q: What is the future vision of your business in Tanzania, and to what extent is your company engaged in cashew nut farming, production, and export?

A: We procure raw cashew nuts (RCN) from local farmers in Tanzania, which we process into cashew nut kernels at our factory for export.

tation. Through our operations, we generate revenue and reinvest in various ways, such as job creation and enhancing the livelihoods of cashew nut farmers and local stakeholders through different support initiatives.

Our vision entails expanding the cashew nut industry's value chain and pioneering transformative changes in Tanzania's cashew nut sector by strategically introducing our products (Biochar and CRF) to the market.

Looking ahead, we aim to establish a large-scale cashew nut plantation in Tanzania.

This initiative will not only bolster annual cashew nut production but also foster sustainable growth, offering economic advantages to the cashew nut industry, including farmers, stakeholders, processing facilities, and the Tanzanian government.

Q: Could you provide details about your career and experiences prior to joining Tan-Ko Mirae Green Co. Ltd?

A: Before assuming my role here, I dedicated 35 years of service to KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency), a Korean government institution.

During my tenure, I spent 15 years in various African countries such as Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa, holding the position of Director General of Africa.

Following my retirement, I recognized Tanzania's significant potential in the cashew nut industry due to its high-quality cultivation and efficient trade port terminal system in Dar es Salaam.

Consequently, I made the decision to embark on this business venture with my colleagues.

Q: Describe how your family has supported you in your career.

A: My wife is my most supportive partner, always attentive and caring, her presence helps me manage stress and anxiety effectively.

Additionally, my son has been instrumental in our business endeavors, serving as a troubleshooter to solve significant challenges in projects and factory operations.

His insightful advice has not only saved us time but also optimized our budgets. I am genuinely grateful for their unwavering support.

WB extends EASTRIP project till Dec 2026

By Correspondent Prosper Makene

THE government has announced the extension of the five-year Eastern Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), funded by the World Bank, now planned to run until December 2026.

The EASTRIP's five-year US\$293 million project which was approved in October 2018, kicked off in 2019 to December 2024 aiming to address critical skills shortage in growing sectors including agriculture, energy, ICT, manufacturing, and transport in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Kenya and to promote regional integration.

"The World Bank has set another date for the expiring of the EASTRIP project which was to be completed in December this year, and now the project will be ended in December 2026," Ministry of Education, Science and Technology's Permanent Secretary, Prof Carolyne Nombo said on Thursday at NIT premises in Dar es Salaam while chairing National Steering Committee (NSC) for EASTRIP project.

Prof Nombo has further said that the project extension will give room for the NIT, DIT and ATC to finalize the project.

Speaking after visiting NIT Premises and observing the implementation of the EASTRIP project including the ongoing construction projects as well as the hi-tech-teaching equipment for aviation students, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology's official in-charge of the EASTRIP project in the country Dr Fredrick Salukele said the project will greatly help to produce enough professionals in the transport sector.

He further said that the government's strategic projects are being implemented and the state expects to see local experts trained by institutions such as NIT.

However, the EASTRIP project aims at strengthening Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Institutions by establishing Regional Flagship TVET



Dr. Fredrick Salukele (L), Director of Vocational Training at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, listens to Saimon Moshi, the Epitome site engineer, as he explains a building project at NIT supported by the World Bank's Eastrip project. Photo: Correspondent Prosper Makene

Institutions (RFTIs) focusing on either ICT, Transport, Manufacturing, Agro-processing or Renewable Energy. EASTRIP is implemented in three countries; Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, with a total of 16 RFTIs selected among the three countries.

In Tanzania, NIT is one among

the beneficiaries of the project focusing on air transport and transport operations in general by establishing a Center of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations (CoEATO) other beneficiaries including Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and Arusha Technical College (ATC).

According to the 2015 World Bank Enterprise Surveys, over 25 percent of the formal firms surveyed in Sub-Saharan Africa identify an inadequately educated workforce as a major constraint, and over 29 percent of all production workers are rated unskilled workers by these firms. Shortage

of specialized technical and vocational education and training (TVET) skills is particularly acute in transport, energy, manufacturing, including agro-processing, and ICT, and this could slow the industrialization agenda.

A careful mapping of skills needs assessment for the EAS-

TRIP sectors provides concrete statistics that show severe skills shortage. Moreover, TVET institutions have no systematic approaches to engage industry to understand and translate market demands into curricula.

TVET is gaining momentum in the developing and developed world as a policy priority to increase labor productivity and enable economic transformation.

According to the 2018 World Bank's world development report titled 'Learning', TVET can yield wages on par with equivalent levels of general education.

TVET is a powerful engine of economic restructuring and transformation as amply demonstrated in the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and China, countries where TVET has been explicitly used as an instrument and channel for technology transfer and skills upgrading of workers. TVET is also associated with promoting social inclusiveness and poverty alleviation as it tends to attract students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who have lower probabilities of reaching higher education.

EASTRIP brings a regional approach to developing the specialized TVET skills by creating a small cluster of regional TVET Centers of Excellence. Each center specializes in specific sectors and occupations with niche programs in highly specialized TVET diploma and degree programs, as well as industry recognized short-term courses.

Mobility of students, graduates, and faculty has also facilitated a healthy exchange of skilled labor within the region so that each country does not have to produce all the skills at once. The sharing of standards, curriculum, and training facilities will help reduce costs for each center. At the same time, demonstrations help inform and guide the broader array of national TVET reforms in these countries. The regional TVET Centers of Excellence can serve the labor needs of major regional infrastructure projects.

47 state corporations dissolved as government bares austerity plans

Nairobi

THE government has revealed extensive austerity measures to cut KShs. 177bn of the KShs. 346 billion deficits in the FY 2024/5 budget after the flop of the Finance Bill 2024, President William Ruto said on Friday.

The new austerity measures will include dissolving 47 state corporation with overlapping roles, sending government staff who have attained 60 years to immediate retirement, abolishing office for the spouses of Prime Cabinet Secretary, Deputy President and the President.

He also announced suspension of CAS seats, removed budgetary provisions for confidential budgets in various executives and the budget for renovations across the government slashed by 50 per cent and reduced government advisors by 50 per cent.

He suspended purchase of new motor vehicles by the government for 12 months, except for security agencies and ordered for devel-



Kenyan President William Ruto (R), with cabinet secretaries. File Photo

opment of a new policy on transport for public officers.

The government will also suspend non-essential travel for state and public officers, and ban public servants from participating in Harambees.

The president directed Attorney General to prepare and submit the relevant legislation to put this into effect, and to build a mechanism for structured and transparent contributions for public, charitable, and philanthropic purposes.

"The consequence of with-

drawing the Finance Bill is a reduction of our revenue targets by Ksh 346 billion," he said.

Adding: "Cutting the entire amount would significantly and drastically affect the delivery of critical government services, while borrowing would increase our fiscal deficit by a margin that would have significant repercussions on many other sectors, including interest rates and exchange rates."

The additional borrowing will increase Kenya's fiscal

deficit from 3.3 per cent to 4.6 per cent and will be used to protect the funding of critical government services such as hiring of Junior Secondary School teachers and medical interns, funding the milk stabilization program for dairy farmers, and reviving stalled roads program.

The debt will also be used to provide additional funding for the higher education new model, settling arrears owed to counties, settling arrears for the NG-CDF and settling arrears for pensions.

He also announced the appointment of a taskforce to audit the public debt load and submit a report within 3 months. The Taskforce will be led by Nancy Onyango and will include representatives from ICPAK, the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and the Institute of Engineers of Kenya (IEK)

Gov't Concedes to Popular Discontent with Finance Bill 2024, to Enforce Austerity - Kenyan Wall Street - African Business and Global Finance Agencies

Kenyan cabinet settles trade deal with the UAE

Nairobi

KENYA is on the verge of solidifying its trade impact with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) market, just days after a similar trade deal with the European Union (EU) came into force.

During the first quarter of 2024, revenue from exports to Asia were valued at KSh 42.7 billion, representing an increase of 76.4 per cent from the first quarter of 2023.

The improvement was primarily on account of increased exports to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, which more than tripled and doubled, respectively.

The Cabinet has already considered and approved the UAE agreement which will give Kenyan products preferential market access.

There was increased domestic exports of tea to Saudi Arabia, goat meat to United Arab Emirates; and re-exports of kerosene type jet fuel to these two countries. On the contrary, exports to Iran declined by 45.5 per cent, resulting from decreased exports of tea to this destination.

In contrast, import expenditure to the Middle East, dropped by 13.9 per cent to KSh 126.1 billion in the first quarter of 2024 from a similar period in 2023. This was largely attributable to the decline in imports of chemical fertilizers from Saudi Arabia; and gas oil and

motor spirit (gasoline) premium from the United Arab Emirates

"In keeping with our commitment to enhance access to foreign markets, we have considered and approved the Kenya-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Once the treaty is ratified by Parliament, Kenyan products including tea, meat, fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers will have preferential market access to the United Arab Emirates," Cabinet said in a dispatch.

The announcement comes few days after the Economic Partnership Agreement allowing Kenyan exports to access 27-member European Union Market duty-free over a 25-year period.

The Agreement, which includes trade and climate change, was concluded in June 2023 and signed on 18 December 2023. It also aims at implementing the provisions of the EU-East African Community (EAC) EPA, and it remains open to other EAC countries.

The EU is one of Kenya's top-most export destinations and second largest trading partner with the total trade between the EU and Kenya reaching over €35 billion in 2023, an increase of 16% compared to 2018.

Agencies

Uber: Not a link with accusations of 'secret police' posing as drivers

Nairobi

RIDE-HAILING app, Uber, has told The Kenyan Wall Street that the onboarding process of new drivers in the platform is verified by an independent third party to filter away individuals with ulterior motives.

In the wake of the anti-government protests over the past few weeks, Kenyans on social media have suspected that police officers or government agents have opened accounts on ride-hailing apps.

By pretending to be legitimate cab drivers, they can source information from clients taking rides by sparking conversations surrounding the recent protests.

Others have suspected that some legitimate cab drivers have rented out their cars to cops for this purpose, igniting public concern.

However, Uber has sought to quell these claims by stating that the company's policy guidelines provide a template for verifying real drivers. The "Real-Time ID Check" requires drivers to take a 'selfie' at random intervals. These selfies are verified against the company's database using facial recognition technology.

"Safety is a key priority at Uber and it is important to note that it is difficult for a driver to sign up and start driving on the same day due to the nature of our thorough onboarding process, which includes two background checks and two vehicle inspections," said the Uber spokesperson.

Moreover, the two-factor authorization ensures drivers owning an account cannot log into another device without keying in an OTP number. Drivers found in violation of these guidelines are struck off the database.

"We have a zero-tolerance policy towards account sharing as it is in clear violation of our Community Guidelines and undermines the trust in which Uber has built over the years," Uber stated.

There have been reported cases of abductions of individuals believed to be influential in the anti-government protests. These incidents may force many citizens to distrust legitimate cab drivers and even lead to a total shunning of these ride options.

Cops going undercover as drivers is not a new occurrence, neither is it a local phenomenon. In countries like the United States and Germany, investigative efforts that require police officers to play as other people have roused debates over whether this is a violation of civil liberties.

Some people feel that undercover police work is inevitable and probably even necessary to nab criminals before they wreak havoc. However, for privately-owned businesses like Uber, this can be detrimental as it diminishes the trust clients expect them to uphold.



SATURDAY 29 June			
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10:05	Shika Bamba 5	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
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12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:00	Meza huru
13:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:00	Watoto Wetu
14:55	Habari za saa	15:00	Meza huru
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16:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
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Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) attends a welcoming ceremony hosted by Tajik President Emomali Rahmon at Dushanbe airport, Tajikistan on Thursday.

President Xi seeks more BRI-Tajik development complementarity

DUSHANBE

CHINA will work with Tajikistan to strengthen complementarity between the Belt and Road Initiative and the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan up to the period of 2030 as a concrete step to boost their respective development and revitalization, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a signed article published on Tajik media yesterday.

The signed article, under the title Working Together for a Brighter Future of China-Tajikistan Relations, was published in the Narodnaya Gazeta newspaper and the state-run Khovar News Agency.

The two countries need to consider new measures for trade promotion and expansion, accelerate the construction of the key section of the China-Tajikistan highway, and open more direct flights in response to the travel needs of their peoples. Other areas of cooperation include high and new technologies such as new energy vehicle, solar panel and satellite communication. China will import more premium produce from Tajikistan, and encourage strong Chinese companies to make more investments in Tajikistan as a step to help modernize its industrial system, Xi said.

"China and Tajikistan are both at a critical stage of national development and revitalization. China is pursuing high-quality development and advancing high-standard opening up.

The Chinese people are working in unity to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects, and to advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a

Chinese path to modernization.

Tajikistan is making great strides on its path to realizing the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan up to the period of 2030," he said.

He looks forward to his meetings with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon to discuss how best to promote closer cooperation and bring their bilateral relationship to new heights, Xi added.

Five proposals

In the article, Xi also put forward five proposals to promote closer China-Tajikistan cooperation and bring bilateral relations to new heights.

First, the two countries need to improve the top-level design for the bilateral relationship to ensure its steady development in the right direction, Xi said. Second, the two countries need to expand results-oriented cooperation to provide stronger material foundations for China-Tajikistan relations, he said.

Third, the two countries need to deepen security cooperation and build a strong development security shield, he said.

Fourth, the two countries need to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges to strengthen public support for a lasting friendship between the two nations, Xi said.

Fifth, the two countries need to enhance unity and collaboration and help foster an international environment favorable for peace and development, said the Chinese president.

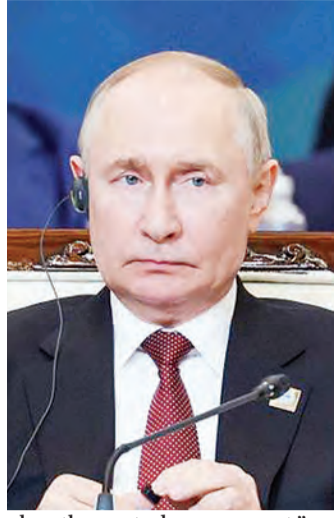
Xi is on a state visit to Tajikistan after attending the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Astana, and a state visit to Kazakhstan.

Russia uncertain if Ukraine would reciprocate with ceasefire – Putin

ASTANA

RUSSIA can't agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine as Moscow is not sure how Kiev would respond, Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters as he wrapped up his trip to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Astana.

Putin (pictured) said that agreements were reached in 2022 to withdraw Russian troops from Kiev, but there was no response from Ukraine. According to the Russian president, the West explained that Kiev "can't control all its armed formations because some of them allegedly do not



Putin said that Moscow ultimately "faced deception again as all agreements [involving the troops withdrawal], which had been reached in Istanbul, were thrown in the trash."

obey the central government."

Putin said that Moscow ultimately "faced deception again as all agreements [involving the troops withdrawal], which had been reached in Istanbul, were thrown in the trash."

"And this has happened repeatedly," he continued.

"That is why we simply can't announce a ceasefire now in the hope that the other side will take some positive steps," the president said. "We can't allow the enemy to use this ceasefire to improve its situation, to arm itself, to reconstitute its army through forced mobilization and to be ready to continue the armed conflict."

Agencies

PM: Kenyan police arrival in Haiti marks new era for security

UNITED NATIONS

HAITIAN Prime Minister Garry Conille told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that the arrival of the first Kenyan police officers under a UN-backed mission marked a critical stage to restoring security in a country ravaged by gang violence.

"The arrival of the first contingent of the Multinational Security Support kicks off a new era in Haiti," Conille told diplomats in New York.

"Haiti is currently at a critical point with 12,000 armed individuals holding a population of 12 million hostage."

Some 200 Kenyan police arrived in Haiti last week as part of the long-delayed mission mandated to help national police fight armed gangs that have taken over most of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince - fueling a humanitarian crisis that has driven nearly 600,000 from their homes and 5 million into severe food insecurity.

The full force is set to number over 2,500, but it remains unclear when these could arrive, while funding has lagged far behind requirements.

Haiti's outgunned and under-resourced police, meanwhile, counted just over 12,000 officers at the



Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille (R) and former Kenyan Foreign Minister Monica Juma (2nd R) greet Kenyan police officers at their base in the Clercine neighborhood of Port-au-Prince on June 26, 2024. AFP

end of May - down 1,000 since the start of the year - according to a report by the UN Integrated Mission in Haiti (BINUH).

Neighboring Dominican Republic's Foreign Minister Roberto Alvarez in the meeting made "an urgent appeal to all countries that have committed funding to the MSS to fulfill their pledges and to deposit those funds as soon as possible," referring to the Multinational Security Support by its acronym.

Without substantial additional funding, BINUH said, the mission will be unable to complete a 12-month deployment, whose initial mandate ends in October.

BINUH also warned that more clashes between police and gangs meant that more civilians, including

very young children, were being killed by stray bullets and it had reports of police summarily killing passers-by.

Gangs are also recruiting and arming more children in preparation for the MSS deployment, it said, warning it was difficult to identify the ages of those killed or injured in clashes.

Conille said reforming the national police, whose chief he replaced shortly after coming to power last month, was "indispensable" for restoring public trust.

Kenya's UN deputy envoy Njambi Kinyungu said the first contingent had been warmly received and was beginning joint operations with Haitian police.

Agencies

Kenya to overhaul budget after finance bill withdrawal amid protests

NAIROBI

THE Kenyan government is reorganizing the budget following the withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024, which sparked protests across the country in the past three weeks, President William Ruto said on Thursday.

Ruto (pictured), who chaired a Cabinet meeting in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, said the National Treasury will substantially cut the budget to "balance between what to be implemented and what can wait," ensuring that key national programs are not affected.

"Our plan is good and solid, and in the fullness of time, we shall be vindicated," he said in a statement issued after the meeting.

The president said that the government must now focus on charting a new future for the country, necessitating significant changes to align with that future.

On June 13, Kenya presented its about 30 billion U.S. dollars budget for the financial year 2024/2025, which focused on sustaining economic growth expected to reach 5.5 percent in 2024, according to the National Treasury.

The withdrawn Finance Bill 2024, which sparked youth protests, sought to raise an additional 2.67 billion dollars through



new taxes.

The protests began as largely peaceful demonstrations in cities and towns across Kenya and online after the Finance Bill 2024 was introduced in parliament on June 18. After several days of rallies, the demonstrations turned violent across the country, with protesters attempting to storm the parliament building.

Businesses in several cities were looted and vandalized. Protesters expressed outrage over provisions of the bill that would raise taxes on essential goods and services, such as bread and

mobile money transfers, to meet the government's revenue targets.

According to the state-funded Kenya National Human Rights Commission, more than 40 people have been killed in the protests, several others injured, and property of unknown value destroyed.

During the meeting, the Cabinet was briefed on the security situation in the country following days of riots. The meeting was informed that although the riots began as a protest against the tax measures proposed in the Finance Bill 2024, they were infiltrated, hijacked and taken over by criminal and opportunistic political forces.

These groups caused terror in cities, towns, and other urban areas, leading to loss of life and destruction of national and county government buildings, infrastructure, vehicles, homes and businesses.

The Cabinet was also informed that all national security agencies, including the military, were deployed to prevent a breakdown of law and order due to the threat posed to Parliament, the Supreme Court, and other infrastructure. It was also noted that security agencies have stabilized the situation and are continuing to monitor developments.

Xinhua

African conference on blue economy begins in Kenya

KWALE

THE second edition of the African conference on the blue economy started in the Kenyan coastal town of Kwale Wednesday, focusing on strategies to boost investments in the sector of the continent.

The two-day Blue Invest Africa 2024 conference attracted the participation of more than 200 development agencies, investors, entrepreneurs, and senior government officials from 36 countries across Africa.

Salim Mvurya, the cabinet secretary for the Kenyan Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, said in his opening remarks that the country recognizes the potential of various sectors within the blue economy, including maritime transport and shipping, tourism, culture and recreation, fisheries and aquaculture, renewable energy, and extractive industry such as bio prospecting that can provide meaningful wealth creation.

"Investment in Africa's blue economy is vital for the realization of benefits such as the reduction of poverty and inequity and the realization of greater socioeconomic advancement," Mvurya said.

He suggested that blue investments should be structured to fund research and innovation that will spur entrepreneurship along various value chains in the blue economy sector.

According to the African Union, the continent's blue economy currently generates about 300 billion U.S. dollars annually in revenues and sustains 50 million jobs. It projects that the blue economy will realize more than 405 billion dollars per year and create 57 million employment opportunities by 2030.

Charlina Vitcheva, director general of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of European Commission, said that Africa's blue economy offers numerous opportunities because of the region's vast coastline. Through legal and regulatory reforms, Africa can attract a pipeline of investments that can transform the blue economy, Vitcheva added.

Betsy Njagi, principal secretary in the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, said that some of the challenges inhibiting sustainable and optimal investments into the blue economy include climate change, biodiversity losses, and pollution of the aquatic resources.

Xinhua

Hungarian PM arrives in Moscow

BUDAPEST

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orban has arrived in Moscow where he plans to discuss ways to settle the Ukrainian conflict with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Bertalan Havasi, spokesman for the prime minister's office, said.

"Within the framework of his peacemaking mission, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has arrived in Moscow. The head of government will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin," the MTI news agency quoted Havasi as saying. Yesterday, Orban told Kossuth Radio that he would like to convince Ukraine and Russia to "embark on a long journey which may end in a ceasefire and peace talks."

On July 2, Orban visited the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, where he met with Vladimir Zelensky and suggested that Ukraine should announce an immediate ceasefire and negotiate with Russia.

Agencies

Iran's Presidential election heads to second round amid voter apathy and political tensions

TEHRAN

IRAN is bracing for a pivotal moment in its political landscape as the country's snap presidential election heads into a second round yesterday, following an initial vote that failed to produce a decisive winner amidst unprecedented voter apathy, CNN reported.

The election was triggered by the tragic death of former President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19, which also claimed the lives of Foreign Min-

ister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other officials. With a sense of urgency, three conservative candidates and a single reformist contender entered the race for Iran's highest elected office.

However, the electoral field was significantly narrowed by the powerful Guardian Council, which barred numerous candidates from standing, citing various reasons that ranged from insufficient allegiance to the Islamic Republic's ideals to a lack of qualifications, according to CNN.

The first round of voting, held

on June 28, saw none of the initial candidates securing the required majority of over 50 per cent of the vote. Instead, the race boiled down to two prominent figures: reformist lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian and ultraconservative former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili. Pezeshkian emerged with a slight lead of 3.9 percentage points over Jalili, garnering 42.5 per cent of the votes compared to Jalili's 38.6 per cent, according to the state news agency IRNA.

Despite the high stakes and contrasting ideologies repre-

sented by Pezeshkian and Jalili, the election was overshadowed by the lowest voter turnout in Iran's history since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979. Out of an eligible 60 million voters, only 24 million cast their ballots, resulting in a dismal 40 per cent turnout.

This significant drop in participation underscored widespread disillusionment and discontent among Iranians towards the ruling clerical establishment, despite Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's call for "maxi-

mum participation" to bolster the Islamic Republic against external pressures.

Trita Parsi, a prominent Iran analyst based in Washington, remarked on the unprecedented low turnout, noting that it reflected deep-seated dissatisfaction not only among reformists but also within conservative circles, including members of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which has historically been a bastion of support for hardline policies.

In the lead-up to the second

round of voting, critical shifts in political alliances have come to the forefront. Analysts have observed a notable split among conservatives, with some factions pivoting their support towards Pezeshkian, despite initial endorsements for other conservative candidates like Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in the first round, as reported by CNN.

This shift suggests internal divisions and discontent with the status quo among conservatives, who are crucial in determining the outcome of the

election.

Among those expressing support for Pezeshkian is Sardar Mohsen Rashid, a founding member of the IRGC, who publicly endorsed the reformist candidate and condemned what he termed "cowardly attacks" against him. The unexpected endorsement from figures like Rashid, as well as from Sami Nazari Tarkarani, who led Ghalibaf's electoral campaign, underscores the complexity of alliances and the fluidity of political dynamics in Iran.

ANI

Rwanda celebrates 30th liberation anniversary with President Kagame highlighting unity, progress

KIGALI

RWANDA on Thursday marked the 30th anniversary of its liberation with a grand celebration at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

The event, known locally as Kwibohora, commemorates the end of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, a tragic event that claimed more than one million lives.

The Rwandan Patriotic Army, the armed wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), brought the genocide to an end on this day, marking a new era for the nation.

The celebration featured a military parade, showcasing the strength and unity of Rwanda's defense and security forces. Thousands of Rwandans, including government officials, members of the Rwanda Defense Force (RDF), Rwanda National Police and other security organs gathered to honor the day.

"Today, we come to the end of our period of commemoration and celebrate the liberation of our country. Rwandans today are better and stronger than we have ever been. Our army and security forces are a powerful symbol of unity and safety," Rwandan President Paul Kagame said at the event.

He emphasized the significance of the liberation and the progress Rwanda has made



Rwandan President Paul Kagame delivers a speech at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali, Rwanda, on Thursday. Rwanda on Thursday marked the 30th anniversary of its liberation with a grand celebration at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

since then.

Kagame acknowledged the sacrifices made for Rwanda's freedom, saying "On July the 4th, we express our thanks to those who

liberated Rwanda and remember those who gave their lives.

"Kagame also highlighted the trust Rwandans have in their security forces, saying

"In opinion surveys ranking trust in public institutions, Rwandans consistently rate our security forces among the highest. That is no accident.

By nature, Rwandan security posture has always been defensive, not offensive. We only act when trouble is brought to us. We prioritize cooperation and working together."

The president outlined the broader scope of Rwanda's struggle today, noting that it is about more than just survival.

The focus is on living well, achieving success and overcoming poverty, dependence and indignity. Rwanda aims to be an upright nation of Africans contributing to building a better continent and a fairer world. Addressing the youth,

Kagame underlined their responsibility to protect, defend and make the country prosperous. He said that real liberation begins when guns fall silent, a stage that started 30 years ago, and now the younger generation is expected to take it further.

of activities to celebrate the anniversary have been held since last week, including a tour of key historical sites related to the liberation struggle, the inauguration of socioeconomic development projects, and the premiere of a film with the liberation struggle as the background. **Xinhua**

Over 28,000 evacuate as fast-moving wildfire expands in Northern California

LOS ANGELES

AT least 28,000 people are under evacuation orders as a fast-moving wildfire continued to burn on Thursday in Northern California amid a severe heat wave.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the Thompson Fire, which erupted on Tuesday near the City of Oroville in Butte County, had already consumed over 3,700 acres (about 15 sq km) of land as of Thursday noon, with only 7 percent containment.

At least four structures were damaged by the blaze and four firefighters were injured while battling the wildfire. Over 12,000 structures in the area are threatened, according to Cal Fire.

More than 1,900 firefighters are currently fighting the wildfire, continuing to strengthen containment and control lines.

Cal Fire officials said in an update that they are expecting high temperatures increasing the chances for fire growth on Thursday, adding that firefighters on the line will continue to remain hydrated and ready in the event the fire activity increases.

Mandatory evacuations and evacuation warnings have been issued in part of Butte County due to the wildfire.

California governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday proclaimed a state of emergency in Butte County to support the response to the Thompson Fire.

"We are using every available tool to tackle this fire and will continue to work closely with our local and federal partners to support impacted communities," said the governor in a statement, noting that "As we head into some of the most challenging months of wildfire season, the state is better prepared than ever to protect at-risk communities with new tools, technology and resources."

Newsom earlier this week activated the State Operations Center to coordinate the state's response, dispatch mutual aid, and support local communities as they respond to the threats of heat and fire during the early July heat wave.

The City of Oroville declared a local emergency Tuesday evening, and its Fourth of July fireworks celebration show has been cancelled for public safety.

"Due to the ongoing Thompson Fire and extreme fire conditions, local and regional emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin. Consequently, the California Department of State Parks has announced the cancellation of the planned Fourth of July fireworks display," said the city in a news release, adding that with the fire still burning, "emergency response resources must be preserved and dedicated for true emergencies."

Oroville is only about 34 km from Paradise, a Butte County town devastated by the deadly Camp Fire in 2018. A total of 85 people were killed and over 11,000 homes destroyed by the wildfire, the deadliest in the history of California.

Temperatures are set to reach as high as 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) in Oroville on Thursday. About two dozen wildfires are burning in California as high temperatures increase wildfire threat across the western U.S. state.

The U.S. National Weather Service warned on Thursday that "a significant and extremely dangerous heatwave is set to build throughout the West to end this week and into the extended holiday weekend, with several days of record-breaking heat forecast."

High temperatures are forecast to reach into the 105-115 degrees Fahrenheit (40.6-46.1 degrees Celsius) range for interior California away from the immediate coastline, as well as across much of the Desert Southwest, said the service. Heat impacts can compound over time, therefore it is important to remain weather aware and follow the advice of local officials, the service noted.

Starmer pledges to stabilise UK as Labour win huge majority

LONDON

KEIR Starmer vowed to rebuild Britain as its next prime minister after his Labour Party yesterday surged to a landslide victory in a parliamentary election, ending 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government.

The center-left Labour won a massive majority in the 650-seat parliament. Rishi Sunak's Conservatives suffered the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services, and a series of scandals.

"We did it," Starmer said in a victory speech. "Change begins now ... We said we would end the chaos, and we will, we said we would turn the page, and we have. Today, we start the next chapter, begin the work of change, the mission of national renewal and start to rebuild our country."

Sunak said he would meet King Charles to formally resign as prime minister yesterday and would also stand down as leader of the defeated Conservative Party after Keir Starmer's Labour Party won a landslide election victory.

"I have given this job my all, but you have sent a clear signal that the government of the United Kingdom must change, and yours is the only judgment that matters," Sunak said in a speech to voters outside the prime minister's office in Downing Street.

"I have heard your anger, your disappointment and I take responsibility for this loss. To all the Conservative candidates and campaigners who worked tirelessly, but without success, I'm sorry that we could not deliver what your efforts deserved."

The election result has upended British politics. Labour won some 410 seats, an increase of 210, while the Conservatives, the western world's most successful party, lost about 250 lawmakers, including a record number of senior ministers and former Prime Minister Liz Truss.

The Scottish National Party imploded, losing 38 seats, ending its own decade of dominance in Scotland and leaving its dream of independence for Scotland in tatters, while conversely the Irish nationalists Sinn Fein became Northern Ireland's largest party for the first time.

Meanwhile, the populist right-wing Reform UK party, headed by Nigel Farage, the colorful Brexit campaigner and friend of Donald Trump, won more than four million votes.

While it secured only four lawmakers, its impact on the outcome by siphoning vast tracts of Conservative support will make Farage a major thorn in the side of the two major parties.

Sorry Sunak

Despite his convincing victory, polls have suggested there is little enthusiasm for Starmer or his party. Thanks to the quirk of Britain's first past the post system and a low turnout, Labour's triumph was achieved with fewer votes than it secured in 2017 and 2019 - the latter its worst result for 84 years.

The pound and British stocks and government bonds rose on Friday, but Starmer comes to power at a time when the country is facing a series of daunting challenges.

Britain's tax burden is set to hit its highest since just after World War Two, net debt



Labour Party leader Keir Starmer shakes hands with his supporters at the Tate Modern in London yesterday. AP

is almost equivalent to annual economic output, living standards have fallen, and public services are creaking, especially the much cherished National Health Service which has been dogged by strikes.

Some of Labour's more ambitious plans, such as its flagship green spending pledges, have already been scaled back while Starmer has promised not to raise taxes for "working people".

Likewise, he has promised to scrap the Conservative's controversial policy of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda, but with migration a key electoral issue, he will be under pressure himself to find a way to stop tens of thousands of people arriving across the Channel from France on small boats.

"I don't promise you it will be easy," Starmer said. "Changing a country is not like flicking a switch. It's hard work. Patient, determined, work, and we will have to get moving immediately."

Recriminations

Within the Conservative Party, the recriminations and

debate over its future direction began immediately, with some saying its failure stemmed from shifting to the right while others argued Reform had won over voters who felt the party was not right-wing enough for its traditional supporters.

"There is a massive gap on the centre right of British politics and my job is to fill it, and that's exactly what I'm going to do," said a triumphant Farage after finally being elected to parliament at his eighth attempt. "Believe me folks, this is just the first step of something that is going to stun all of you."

The growth in support for a right-wing alternative echoed recent similar results in Europe, where the far right have been surging. But, unlike France where Marine Le Pen's National Rally party made historic gains in an election last Sunday, overall the British public has plumped for a center-left party to bring about change.

Starmer has promised to improve relations with the European Union to resolve issues created by Britain's split from the bloc. However, despite op-

posing Brexit, rejoining the EU is not on the table. He may also have to work with Trump if he wins November's presidential election. Trump has already sent congratulations to Farage, via his social media platform Truth Social.

Turnaround

The election victory represents an incredible turnaround for Starmer and Labour, which critics and supporters said was facing an existential crisis just three years ago when it appeared to have lost its way after its 2019 drubbing. A series of Conservative scandals - most notably revelations of parties in Downing Street during COVID lockdowns - undermined then prime minister Boris Johnson and its commanding poll lead evaporated.

Truss' disastrous six-week premiership in 2022, which followed Johnson being forced out, cemented the decline, and Sunak was unable to make any dent in Labour's now commanding poll lead. Sunak stunned Westminster and many in his own party by calling the election earlier than he needed to while trailing badly in the polls, and his campaign then proved a disaster. "What is crystal clear to me tonight is it is not so much that Labour won this election, but rather that the Conservatives have lost it," said defence minister Grant Shapps, the most high-profile minister to lose his seat.

"We have tried the patience of traditional Conservative voters with a propensity to create an endless political soap opera out of internal rivalries and divisions, which have become increasingly indulgent and entrenched. **Agencies**

Biden says 'I'm not going anywhere' as calls to quit race grow

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden said "I'm not going anywhere" as he faced calls by many Democrats to end his re-election bid, using the Fourth of July celebrations on Thursday to hit back at doubts about his stamina and mental acuity to continue his campaign.

The 81-year-old Democrat's shaky showing at a June 27 debate with Republican rival Donald Trump means his every appearance is now closely scrutinized. Many Democratic voters are worried about whether he can keep up a grueling pace of work for the next 4-1/2 years and some in his party have urged him to step aside.

Biden was hosting the annual US Independence Day festivities at the White House on Thursday, including a barbecue for a few thousand active-

duty military service members and their families.

Biden, in a suit with no necktie, began his remarks with a forceful "Happy Independence Day!"

Reading from a teleprompter, Biden made no major errors in delivering brief remarks, but at one point appeared to go off script to make reference to a war cemetery that Trump declined to visit while in office.

"By the way, you know, I was in that World War I cemetery in France. The one that one of our colleagues, a former president didn't want to go..." he said, his voice dropping to a low volume and trailing off.

"I probably shouldn't have said, anyway," Biden added, before continuing his remarks.

As Biden mingled and took selfies with guests, someone called out for him to "Keep up the fight."

"You got me, man. I'm not

going anywhere," Biden said, repeating his pledge to remain in the race despite the growing calls to step aside.

Abigail Disney, granddaughter of Walt Disney who founded the company that bears his name and who has been a major Democratic donor, became the latest donor to call for Biden to withdraw from the presidential election, telling CNBC on Thursday that she will halt donations to the Democratic Party until he does so.

Vice-President Kamala Harris is the leading contender to take his place in the Nov 5 election if Biden were to drop out, sources have said, though his allies believe he can assuage the concerns of voters and donors.

Among the events on Biden's calendar being closely scrutinized is an interview with ABC News on Friday that will be aired in full at 8 pm ET (0000



GMT Saturday). He also travels to Wisconsin the same day for a campaign rally.

Dozens of Democrats in the House of Representatives are watching closely and prepared to ask Biden to step aside if he falters in the ABC interview, a source told Reuters. Democrats see capturing control of the House in November as critical, as it could be their last hold on power in Washington

if Trump returns to the White House and Republicans capture the Senate. Biden faces a new reality since last week's debate - even if he doesn't falter verbally or physically, serious concerns about his viability as a candidate are likely to linger. If he mangles words or looks unfocused or confused, he will face renewed pressure to depart.

if reelected, Biden would be 86 at the end of a second term. He is being asked by some former supporters to step aside to preserve his legacy and lessen the chances of a second Trump presidency. With just four months to go before the election, a decision needs to be made soon, they say.

Democrats, including top allies, have left the door open to having Harris at the top of the Democratic ticket.

Seen by doctor

The White House has repeatedly said the president was suffering from a cold and jet lag on the night of the debate. On Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden had not had any kind of medical exam since his annual physical in February.

"He did not get checked out by the doctor. It's a cold, guys. It's a cold," she said at a news briefing.

However, spokesperson Andrew Bates said on Thursday that Biden saw a doctor after the debate. "Several days later, the president was seen to check on his cold and was recovering well," he said.

Trump, 78, who made multiple false statements from the debate stage in Atlanta, falsely claimed in a video that was circulated on social media that he had driven Biden out of the race. He made disparaging comments about Harris in the same video.

Asked in a radio interview with WURD that aired on Thursday morning, whether there was any reason for the American people to be concerned after last week's debate, Biden demurred.

"No, I had a bad debate," he said, adding that this should not erase what he has done as president for three and a half years. **Agencies**



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return to Britain's Jacob Fearnley during their second round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Thursday, July 4, 2024. AP Photo

Novak Djokovic's knee is pain-free at Wimbledon but his movement is not quite where he wants it

LONDON

THE good news, Novak Djokovic said, was that his surgically repaired right knee was pain-free at Wimbledon on Thursday.

The bad news, he knows, is that his movement, such a big part of his success, was not yet back to normal during a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 victory in the second round over Jacob Fearnley, a 22-year-old from Scotland who played college tennis in the United States – and that'll need to improve if Djokovic is going to contend for the title, the only reason he is back competing so soon after tearing his meniscus.

"The more matches I have, the better the chance I'll have to feel more comfortable moving around and gain that speed, agility, change of direction – that freedom that I'm looking for, really. I had it in certain moments today, certain moments in the first match, but then it's still not there," said Djokovic, who has won seven of his 24 Grand Slam trophies at the All England Club. "In a way, it's expected and normal when you come back from surgery. The body's trying to understand what's going on."

When Fearnley, a wild-card entry ranked just 277th and participating in his first major tournament, grabbed the third set, a roar arose at Centre Court.

"I noticed they were probably more towards me in the crowd," Fearnley said. "That was pretty obvious."

Similar sounds came when he went ahead 5-4 in the fourth, particularly from a cheering section that included four teammates from his days at TCU in Fort Worth, Texas.

"It was really emotional," said Tomas Jirousek, who played with Fearnley on the Horned Frogs tennis team and was wearing a school sweatshirt.

Might this really turn into a tight contest? Might Djokovic, who hasn't reached a final of any tournament this season, really be forced to a fifth set? Of course not. Djokovic is too savvy, too superb at the biggest moments, and grabbed 12 of the last 17 points to reel off the final three games.

Still, the 37-year-old from Serbia, who has been wearing a gray sleeve on his knee, plans to watch some video of this match, the way he usually does, to get a sense of where he can get better for his next match, which will be against Alexei Popyrin on Saturday for a spot in the fourth round.

"I do watch specific moments where I thought I've done well or moments where I haven't done so well, and just try to analyze that myself. Then, of course, with my team

members," Djokovic said. "Draw some conclusions, take it to the practice court and work on it."

Fearnley, meanwhile, smiled while discussing the way his follower count on Instagram doubled to about 5,000. But he also vowed that whatever surge in popularity this performance on a much grander stage than he's used to, and against a much greater opponent than he's used to, is not "going to really affect me."

It was a big day for the locals, all-in-all, with several attention-grabbing matchups involving British players at the All England Club and national election going on around the U.K.

"A great day for British tennis," Fearnley said, "and there's no better place to do it than at home, at Wimbledon."

That included Andy Murray, a two-time singles champion at Wimbledon, teaming with his brother, Jamie, during a loss in men's doubles that began a farewell tour of sorts.

Murray, 37, has said he plans to head into retirement after playing at the All England Club – in men's and mixed doubles, but not singles, on account of recent back surgery – and the Paris Olympics.

In one all-British matchup won by the unseeded player, Harriet Dart came back to eliminate No. 32 Katie Boulter 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10-8). In another, Cam Norrie defeated No. 28 Jack Draper 7-6 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (6).

"He sort of knew all my patterns of play. I felt like his backhand was incredible today. Just wasn't allowing me to do the things that I wanted to do," said Draper, who recently overtook Norrie as their country's highest-ranked man. "I felt like I wasn't able to be brave enough."

No. 5 Jessica Pegula became the highest-seeded woman to lose so far, dismissed by Wang Xinyu 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-1, and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz exited the men's bracket when he needed to stop playing after injuring his right knee while diving to hit a shot late in the fourth set against Arthur Fils. Play was delayed for several minutes while a trainer examined then taped up Hurkacz's knee; when action resumed, Hurkacz immediately tried to dive for another volley, then couldn't continue.

Seeded winners included No. 1 Iga Swiatek – whose current unbeaten streak reached 21 – No. 4 Elena Rybakina, No. 10 Ons Jabeur, No. 11 Danielle Collins, No. 13 Jelena Ostapenko, No. 9 Alex de Minaur, No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov, No. 13 Taylor Fritz and No. 14 Ben Shelton, who won his second consecutive five-setter.

AP

Coastal Union urged to bolster squad ahead of 2024/25 CAF CC

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA's Coastal Union management has been advised to sign players who will efficiently help the team perform well in the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup.

The CAF Confederation Cup is an annual association football club competition established in 2004 from a merger of the CAF Cup and the African Cup Winners showdown organized by the Confederation of African Football.

Clubs qualify for the competition based on their performance in their respective countries' premier leagues and cup competitions.

CAF Confederation Cup is the second-tier competition of African football, ranking below the CAF Champions League.

Coastal Union, nicknamed 'Wagosi wa Kaya' or 'Mangushi', qualified for the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup after taking fourth place in the just-ended Premier League.

Young Africans won the Premier League silverware, followed by runners-up Azam FC and Simba SC which took third place. Young Africans and Azam FC, therefore, would represent the country in the CAF Champions League.



Coastal Union Football Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION FC

Coastal Union would battle it out in the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time, whereas Tanzania's other envoys in the showdown, Simba SC, are experienced contenders in the tournament.

In an exclusive interview, some Coastal Union SC fans, who also double as the club's permanent members, said good signings will help to bolster the squad.

They said the first objective Coastal Union had in the just-ended Premier League was to make sure that the team finished in the top four and it was fulfilled.

"Our first objective was well-achieved and the outfit succeeded in stepping into one of

Africa's biggest tournaments under the Confederation of African Football umbrella after impressive performance and more efforts," one of the members Ali Shabani noted.

The other member Nassoro Mohamed stated efforts should also be put into preparations, including having stability in the squad.

According to Mohamed, Coastal Union's registration committee should conduct better scouting of players who will have great contributions given the coming competition is extremely challenging.

The members noted the team still needs good players, particularly midfielders and strikers who are energetic and pacy.

Coastal Union Chairman Steven Mguto further refuted the information alleging that the side's defender Lameck Lawi has been signed by Simba SC.

Mguto, who is also the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) chairman, revealed in an interview with a radio station in Tanga, saying that Simba SC could not meet some requirements presented by Coastal Union leadership to finalize the player's transfer.

"Lawi is still a Coastal Union player, Simba SC leaders showed interest in seeking his service for next season but we issued our conditions, maintaining they ought to be patient because there was a foreign team that had also presented a good offer for Lawi. The club had scheduled trials for the defender," Mguto disclosed.

The official added: "Later, we got back to Simba SC and told them to deposit the agreed amount for transfer on the agreed time, they were late in depositing."

"I heard they have announced to have secured his signature, the fact is that we didn't issue a release letter to Simba SC to sign him because we are in high need of his services," Mguto remarked.



Gymkhana Cricket Club's players jubilate with a trophy upon the conclusion of the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 30 Overs Cup Division B showdown's final in Dar es Salaam recently. The outfit cruised to victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC) A to lift the title. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Yanga target Congolese midfielder Onoya Sangana Charve

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a strategic move to bolster their midfield, Young Africans are in the advanced stages of negotiating the acquisition of Onoya Sangana Charve, a defensive midfielder from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Charve, who currently plays for AS Maniema Club, is expected to add significant depth and strength to Young Africans' midfield. The club is keen to reinforce this area ahead of the upcoming season to enhance their competitive edge.

Charve's arrival is anticipated to bring a new dynamic to the side's midfield lineup. Despite already having a strong roster that includes Khalid Aucho, Mudathir Yahya, Jonas Mkude, and Salum Abubakar, the club's man-

agement believes that Charve's addition will provide the necessary boost to secure their ambitions for the season.

In a related development, Zawadi Mauya, a defensive midfielder, will not be part of Young Africans' squad for the 2024-2025 season. After four seasons with Young Africans, Mauya is departing as his contract has expired.

The midfielder joined Young Africans at the beginning of the 2020-2021 season from Kagera Sugar.

Mauya's departure marks the end of a notable tenure with the club, during which he contributed significantly to their successes. His exit creates a gap that Young Africans hope Charve will fill effectively, ensuring that the team remains strong and com-

petitive in the forthcoming season.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi has been a driving force behind the decision to recruit another defensive midfielder.

The club's insiders reveal that Gamondi has stressed the need for a reliable backup to Aucho, who is pivotal to the team's defensive strategy. The absence of the Ugandan, due to injuries, suspensions, or other reasons, has previously left the team vulnerable, most notably in their CAF Confederation Cup final loss to USM Alger and their quarter-final exit against Mamelodi Sundowns.

"We have recognized the necessity for a robust defensive midfield presence," said a source within the club's leadership.

"Aucho's absence was a critical

factor in our defeats. We need a player who can fill his shoes seamlessly, ensuring we don't suffer from the same shortcomings in crucial matches."

Yahya, another key player, often plays a dual role, assisting both in attack and defense, which puts additional pressure on Aucho as the sole dedicated defensive midfielder.

The club's pursuit of Charve is aimed at alleviating this pressure and providing much-needed support.

The informant credited Maxi Nzungeli for playing a significant role in identifying and facilitating the negotiations with Charve.

If the discussions proceed as planned, Charve will soon don the Young Africans jersey.

Rising stars Gakpo, Guler lead charge as Netherlands battle Turkey for Euros semis

BERLIN

CODY Gakpo and Arda Guler endured frustrating seasons but both have established themselves as their teams' vital players as the Netherlands face Turkey in a Euro 2024 quarter-final clash today in Berlin.

Netherlands won the competition for the first and only time in 1988, with Ronald Koeman, Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten among a talented squad.

The current roster is less illustrious but Liverpool left winger Gakpo, 25, is successfully staking his claim to be their leading light, with three goals this summer.

"Gakpo is our star," former Netherlands international Pierre van Hooijdonk said on Dutch channel NOS.

Overshadowed by Mohamed Salah at Anfield, where he has played inconsistently, Gakpo has burst into life in Germany as a constant threat coming in off the left.

Half of the forward's 12 goals for his country have come at major tournaments, with three at the World Cup two years ago.

With another he will match compatriots and former stars Ruud van Nistelrooy and Arjen Robben on seven.

"He is a great player who is solid on the ball... and super important for us," said Koeman after the 3-0 last 16 win over Romania, in which Gakpo scored and also brilliantly teed up Donyell Malen.

"He is one of the players with extra qualities and fortunately he makes the difference at moments like this."

In Gakpo's way is Turkey goalkeeper Mert Gunok, whose sensational last-minute save to claw out Christoph Baumgartner's header was compared to Gordon Banks denying Pele at the 1970 World Cup.

At the other end, Real Madrid attacker Guler is Turkey's main weapon.

After months of injury problems and struggling to earn a chance in the Spanish capital, Guler burst into life in the final weeks of the season.

With the Spanish title won, Carlo Ancelotti let Guler loose and he blossomed at the perfect time to take the creative controls for Turkey this summer.

The 19-year-old scored a stunning effort against Georgia in Turkey's thrilling opening win and created both of his team's goals against Austria in the 2-1 last 16 win with set pieces.

"He put in a great performance and he ran like he's never done before in his career, and I'm proud of that too," said Turkey coach Vincenzo Montella.

Atmosphere advantage?

It is only the fourth time Turkey have reached the quarter-finals of a major tournament and the first since 2008. They are boosted by the return of captain Hakan Calhanoglu and defender Samet Akaydin from suspension.

AFP

A dinner and 'super' wine helped Switzerland become a contender at Euro England's up next

DUESSELDORF, Germany

SWITZERLAND is on the verge of making history at Euro 2024, but a few months ago it was a team under severe pressure.

A dinner and some "super" red wine in Duesseldorf – where Switzerland plays England on Saturday – helped captain Granit Xhaka and coach Murat Yakin turn things around.

The Swiss team eliminated defending champion Italy last week and is a step away from the semi-finals, which would be its best-ever result at any tournament.

Just over four months ago, however, things were very different. Switzerland had won just one of its previous seven games, and that was against tiny Andorra. During that time, Xhaka had publicly criticized the team's training sessions – and by implication Yakin – and likened the team's performance to a kick-about "in the park."

In February, Yakin came to visit Xhaka for dinner in Duesseldorf, just up the road from where Xhaka was playing for the then-undefeated Bayer Leverkusen.

What exactly they talked about remains a secret – and so does the menu – but both men have said the dinner was an important moment in the bond between coach and captain. It may have helped that Xhaka scored his first goal for Leverkusen the next day.

"We players are happy that we have a coach who is open to hearing the players' opinions and there have never been problems. We are men enough to talk about it," Xhaka said last month.

"Good food, super wine and I scored the next day... I think we are both very ambitious. We both just want success for ourselves, for the team. And that is what counts. Everything else is history."

AP

In-form Switzerland eye Euro 2024 history against England

DÜSSELDORF, Germany

SWITZERLAND have never reached the last four of a major international tournament but have shown that they can battle with the big boys ahead of their Euro 2024 clash with England today.

Murat Yakin's side were ruthless in dumping hapless holders Italy out of the tournament last weekend and went within seconds of beating hosts Germany and topping Group A.

The Swiss are also one of two so-called "dark horses" who are left in the tournament alongside Turkey, with the other six either previous champions or, in England's case, heavily tipped to break their Euros duck.

"We sent out an important signal tonight with the game we played," said Yakin after beating Italy.

"We did not only club together and defend as a unit and sit back, we showed we could attack and dominate proceedings."

Switzerland have reached their second straight Euros quarter-final with a squad



From left to right: Steven Zuber, Yann Sommer and Remo Freuler celebrate after knocking out the defending champions Italy. Photograph: Agencies

which contains very few stars, with Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Granit Xhaka and Manuel Akanji of Manchester City their biggest names.

Instead Switzerland have a team unit which is more than the sum of its parts and has a great chance to reach a historic semi-final by eliminating England, who would already be out of the tournament were

it not for the last-gasp heroics of Jude Bellingham against Slovakia.

Driving the Swiss forward is Bologna teammates Dan Ndoye, Michel Aebischer and Remo Freuler, who are making an impression in Germany after pushing their unfancied Serie A club to the Champions League.

The trio have all been key to Switzerland reach the quar-

ters, netting or setting up a goal in three of their team's four matches. Freuler crossed for Ndoye's goal against Germany and opened the scoring against Italy, while Aebischer has scored once – against Hungary – and laid on two more, including Ruben Vargas' stunner which sealed victory against the Italians.

Switzerland also have Kwadwo Duah, the first player born

in England to score at this year's Euros, in their ranks, although the Ludogorets striker is likely to be on the bench behind Monaco forward Brel Embolo.

"How they've played this tournament and the players they've got, they've been brilliant," said England defender John Stones on Thursday.

"They've got some great players and I think it will be a really good match up, a test for us."

If Switzerland do get past England, they will face either the Netherlands or Turkey as a lop-sided knockout bracket has led to four of the top sides left in tournament all on the other side of the draw.

Hosts Germany and Spain kick off the round on Friday in a battle of the two best-performing teams before Portugal take on France.

"It really sends a tingle down your spine, gives you goosebumps, it's hugely gratifying," said Yakin of his team's displays.

"We're on the right track and doing things the right way. We've earned the right to be here but we're not done yet."

(Agencies)

Southgate under pressure to twist for Euros showdown with Swiss

DÜSSELDORF, Germany

SAVED by a dramatic late fightback to beat Slovakia, Gareth Southgate will take charge of England for the 100th time in today's Euro 2024 quarter-final against Switzerland under pressure to tear up his tactical plan.

The Three Lions have stumbled their way through to the last eight, winning just one of their four games within 90 minutes, and a star-studded squad who thrive when playing for their clubs has so far failed to deliver.

Yet history could still beckon for Southgate's men in Germany.

England are the highest ranked side left on the 'soft' side of the draw with Turkey or the Netherlands waiting in the semi-finals should they manage to defeat the Swiss in Duesseldorf.

Switzerland, who cruised past holders Italy 2-0 in the last 16 and held Germany 1-1 in the group stages, promise to be a step up from anything England have faced at the tournament so far.

Failure to change tack is likely to see Southgate bow out as England boss at a century of matches and invite a tidal wave of criticism for failing to make the most of the talent at his disposal.

He has already been targeted at this tournament with thrown beer cups after a dull 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group stages.

Southgate has so far stuck to his guns with 10 of the same 11 starting all four matches.

There will be one enforced change to face the Swiss as defender Marc Guehi is suspended.

But it is further forward that Southgate faces bigger challenges



England's head coach Gareth Southgate poses with fans at the media centre at the team's base camp, the Weimarer Land golf resort, near Blankenhain, on July 4, 2024, during the UEFA Euro 2024 football championship. PHOTO: AFP

to correct England's imbalance.

Any questions over Jude Bellingham's role as a number 10 appear to have been wiped away by his stunning overhead kick deep into stoppage time against Slovakia to keep England alive.

Foden 'sorry' for Southgate

However, Bellingham's position as the creative hub of the team does cause Southgate other issues.

Phil Foden, who picked up Premier League player of the year awards for his starring role in Manchester City's title triumph this season, has looked out of sorts shunted out to the left to accommodate the Real Madrid man.

Meanwhile, there is little threat down England's left as Foden has drifted inside and

Southgate's decision not to take a fit natural left-back, with Luke Shaw battling back from injury, has proved misguided.

"I feel sorry for Gareth," Foden told reporters this week. "We (the players) have to be lead-

ers. In games we could have got together a little bit more and worked out a solution."

Southgate also admitted after the Slovakia match that both his goal-scorers, Bellingham and Harry Kane, were physically exhausted 15 min-

utes from the end but were kept on for the one moment of magic they can produce.

Bar a Bellingham exhibition for the first half of a 1-0 win over Serbia in England's opening game, both have been far from their best but are un-

droppable in the eyes of their manager.

Instead, Southgate is reportedly looking at switching to a back three, which served him well in reaching the 2018 World Cup semi-finals and the final at Euro 2020.

That would allow both Foden and Bellingham to play centrally, behind Kane, but runs the risk of still leaving England too easy to play against without natural width.

John Stones said he hoped the second chance offered by the Slovakia fightback will act as a "turning point emotionally" for a squad trying to find their mojo.

"It's time for us to realise where we are and the magnitude of what we can achieve and put that into practice," added the Manchester City defender.

Bellingham's memorable goal in Gelsenkirchen stopped the rot and all will be forgotten and forgiven should England emerge victorious in Berlin on July 14.

On the other hand, if they are instead on a plane home on Sunday morning, Euro 2024 will be a stain on Southgate's legacy after eight years as England boss.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

In-form Switzerland eye Euro 2024 history against England

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Simba SC bolster attack with young striker Mashaka

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Sports Club have completed the signing of young striker Valentino Mashaka from Geita Gold on a two-year contract.

The 18-year-old striker (pictured), with great scoring ability and the capability to create chances, has joined the Msimbazi Street-based side in their attempt to revamp their squad.

The former Azam FC academy graduate impressed Simba with his blistering pace and knack for finding scoring opportunities.

Mashaka joins established strikers Steven Mukwala and Freddy Michael in the squad and creates a strong attacking trio with different skill sets, giving Simba more tactical options and potentially making them more unpredictable for opponents.

Known for possessing great speed and the ability to exploit opportunities, Mashaka could be an attacker who would be used to break defenses with his runs and create scoring chances for himself or his teammates.

His age (18) indicates he's still developing, but his skills caught the eye of Simba as he could be a player with a lot of potential for future growth.

Last season with Geita Gold, Mashaka was involved in seven goals, scoring six goals and contributing to one assist.

The striker won the Best Player of the Month accolades twice at Geita Gold last season and Simba believe he can replicate the performance he showed in the previous campaign.

Before joining Geita Gold, Mashaka joined Ruvu Shooting from Azam FC academy in January last year where he scored four goals in eight games.

In the July main transfer window last year, he joined Geita from Ruvu Shooting.

Mashaka began his football journey in 2016 at the Kilombero soccer academy until 2018 when he moved to Azam FC after successfully passing his trials. He spent four years at Azam.

In 2021/2022 he was sent on loan to Transit Camp but he was released by the club at the end of the season. He then joined Ruvu Shooting before joining Geita Gold.

Mashaka is the sixth new addition to Simba's squad for the 2024/2025 season. He joins the likes of Abdulrazack Mohamed Hamza (Super Sport United), Lameck Lawi (Coastal Union), Joshua Mutale (Power Dynamos), Steven Mukwala (Asante Kotoko), and Jean Charles Ahoua (Stella Club d'Adjamé).

AFCON local organising committee and subcommittees inaugurated



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is pictured congratulating the AFCON 2027 Local Organising Committee chairman Leodger Tenga during the launch of the committee which is charged with effectively planning and executing a successful Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 tournament in Tanzania. Looking on from right are the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, Gerson Maigwa, and the Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro. The event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has inaugurated the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and 13 subcommittees that are charged with effectively planning and executing a successful Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 tournament in Tanzania.

In September 2023, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) awarded hosting rights for the 36th edition of the AFCON 2027 to the East Africa joint Pamoja bid by Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Among the requirements is the establishment of the local organising committee that will be responsible for organising the tournament.

Speaking during the launch of the committee at an event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Majaliwa said the government has great confidence the committee will achieve success.

"Tell us what we should do to become champions. Let this assembly raise what we should do now and start preparation. We have created a committee with professionals and ex-

perts in the sports industry, we hope they will lead us to great success," he said.

Majaliwa said that the government has continued with preparations including building and upgrading infrastructure such as parks, roads, railways, and air and water transport.

"The government has positioned itself well to host this competition. We have the required capacity, abil-

ity, and determination to make this competition a success," he emphasised.

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, acknowledged the patriotism and political will of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan that ensured great strides made in the sports industry.

He has said that the AFCON 2027 local organising committee will have 13 sub-

committees of experts from diverse areas.

"The committees will be for infrastructure, communication, finance, treatment and prevention, transport, protection and security, law, marketing, advertising, event management, team management, fans and spectators," he said.

The AFCON 2027 local organising committee is chaired by Leodger Tenga, and deputised by Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud.

It comprises people of vast experience in different fields, including Neema Msitha, who currently serves as the secretary general of the National Sports Council (NSC), and the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

Others are Said Kassim Marine (Assistant Secretary), Suleiman Mahmoud Jabir, Nehemia Msechu, Wilfred Kidao, Ally Mayay, Ameir Mohamed Makame, Naima Said Shaame, Mohamed Abdulaziz, Madundo Mtambo, Jacqueline Kavishe, Gilead Teri and Aboubakar Bakhresa.

The committee also involves Professor Mohamed Janabi, Abubakar Liongo, Thomas Ndonde, Rona Lyimo, Ramadhan Dau, Hassan Mabena, Abdul Nsekela, Jumanne Muliro, Abdul Mhinte, Saleh Ally, Hamad Abdullah, Johnson Palangyo and Kheri Salum Ally.

Azam FC kick off pre-season training for 2024/2025 campaign

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC officially began their pre-season training yesterday for the upcoming 2024/2025 season at their home ground, Azam Complex at Chamazi.

The training session saw the introduction of the club's new signings, Jhonier Blanco, Franck Tiesse, Adam Adam, and Nassor Sadun, marking a fresh start for the team as they prepare for the challenges ahead.

In a significant reshuffle, Azam also announced the departure of several players who will not be part of the squad next season.

The players leaving the club include Ayoub Lyanga, Daniel Amoah, Edward Manyama, Malickou Ndoye, and Issa Ndala. Additionally, Prince Dube, who terminated his contract in March 2024, has also left the club.

Reports suggest that Dube may be on his way to join Young Africans, although no official confirmation has been made.

The Ice cream makers have secured the services of goalkeeper Mohamed Mustafa on a permanent basis from Sudanese club El Merreikh. The club had initially brought Mustafa in on a loan agreement, but after his impressive performances, they have decided to buy him outright.

Mustafa will now remain with Azam until 2026, providing stability and experience in the goalkeeping department.

The 2023/2024 season saw Azam finish in second place in the Premier League standings, narrowly edging out Simba on goal difference. A crucial 2-0 away victory against Geita Gold on the final day of the campaign at Nyankumbu ground se-



Some of Azam FC players are pictured during a training session at their Azam Complex at Chamazi, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of Azam FC

cured their position.

This remarkable achievement ensures that Azam, alongside champions Young Africans, will represent Mainland Tanzania in the CAF Champions League next season.

Reflecting on the season's challenges, Azam's management expressed pride in the team's resilience and determination.

"Finishing second in the league and reaching the final of the Confederation Cup is no small feat," remarked the club's spokes-

person, Thabith Zakaria. "It demonstrates the strength and talent of our players and coaching staff."

Azam's first official competition for the new season will be the Community Shield, set to kick off on August 8, 2024. This will be followed by the 2024/2025 CAF Champions League Preliminary Round, scheduled between August 16 and 18, 2024.

The team's management and fans are hopeful that the new signings and the continuity of key players like

Mustafa will bolster their chances in these prestigious tournaments.

The club's preparations are focused on building a cohesive unit capable of competing at the highest level both domestically and in continental competitions. The addition of new talent is expected to enhance the squad's depth and provide fresh options for the coaching staff.

Blanco, Tiesse, Adam, and Sadun are all highly regarded for their skills and are anticipated to make significant

contributions to the team's success.

With the new season on the horizon, Azam are determined to build on their previous successes and make a strong impact in the CAF Champions League.

The club's management has been working tirelessly to ensure that the team is well-prepared and equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead. The focus remains on maintaining high standards of performance and achieving the club's long-term objectives.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

