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TANZANIA

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST, 2024

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NARCO urged to give land for meat firm





National Pg 6
Experts happy with EACOP implementation





School buses: Beef up surveillance, says VP

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has urged the police, specifically the traffic unit, to tighten control over school buses.

Officiating at the national observance week for road safety and 50 years of the National Road Safety Council, he said that many of the buses do not meet road safety standards and are operated by unqualified drivers.

The police need to step up regulatory controls on school buses as many are not fit for road use, he elaborated, specifying that many such buses carry more passengers than their capacity, and the drivers lack proper qualifications.

He cited the case of an accident last April 12 in Arusha, where seven children died from driver negligence, saying that the police need to ensure that all drivers, especially those with licences, observe

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SPORTS



SIMBA'S DOMINANT 4-0 VICTORY OVER FOUNTAIN GATE BOOSTS CONFIDENCE AHEAD OF CAF CONFEDERATION CUP

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MADUEKE NETS HAT TRICK FOR CHELSEA AFTER **BOOS OVER INSTAGRAM POST AND SLOT GETS WIN IN ANFIELD DEBUT** Page 19



Alcohol imports: ZRA found 'net zero' for tax compliance



Orthopaedic surgeons from Muhimbili National Hospital's Mloganzila campus perform knee surgery on a patient. The hospital has lined itself up to perform 30 hip and knee surgeries at an August 25 to 30 hip and knee replacement surgery camp in collaboration with India-based specialist Dr Venuthuria Ram Mohan Reddy. Photo courtesy of MNH-Mloganzi

Biteko hails TAZAMA for 4.35bn/- dividend cheque

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has received a dividend of 4.35bn/- from the Tanzania-Zambia Pipeline Co. (TAZAMA) apparently tied to the visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to Zambia, the sector minister says.

Dr Doto Biteko, the Energy minister and deputy prime minister, received a dummy cheque for that amount in Dar es Salaam yesterday, recalling that during the visit, the president emphasised effective project management to deliver tangible results and enhance people's lives in the two countries.

Officials from Zambia were present at the ceremony, with the minister noting that it is the first dividend payment since 2019. He praised TAZAMA board members and Energy ministry officials for enabling this achievement.

"It reflects the positive outcomes of

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Their sales do not provide appropriate receipts since purchases are not recorded with VFMS receipts, implying a high probability of deliberate tax evasion by such firms

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

NEWLY licensed importers' tax payments are reportedly below ten percent of projected revenue collections in that area, the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has affirmed in a recent report.

The ZRA report was yesterday circulated to major news outlets without a formal press conference, where it stated among many other things that numerous bars and nightclubs were accepting smuggled alcohol.

The alcohol consignments are not VAT-registered and thus don't require electronic receipt issuance tied to the virtual fiscal management system (VFMS)I that ZRA applies, in which case they are inapplicable for assessing value added tax (VAT) input.

The report stated that no smuggled alcohol seizures by the anti-smuggling have anywhere been reported in the first six months of 2024, despite that there are fairly numerous reports of seizures relating to cooking oil, rice and sugar in particular.

There is similarly no stable supply of alcohol to tourist hotels due to the lack of electronic receipts and some traders are unable to stock the commodity sufficiently, it said.

It referred to poor controls at Malindi port, with an investigation indicating that only one customs officer supervises inspections early in the morning when ships arrive.

Imported beer containers are likely to be part of the smuggling racket, unloading into trucks carrying food products from Dar es Salaam, "making it difficult to inspect the trucks due

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DCEA burns 1,165 acres cannabis farms at Mikumi

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), in collaboration with the public and security agencies, has destroyed 1,165 acres of cannabis plantations and seized 102 kilograms of cannabis seeds.

Aretas Lyimo, the DCEA commissioner general, made this affirmation at a press conference here yesterday that the plantations were located along the banks of Mbakana, Misigiri and Mgeta rivers within Mikumi National Park.

The nine-day operation targeted Nyarutanga, Lujenge and Mafumbo villages in the Morogoro Rural and Kilosa districts, he said, noting that six individuals were arrested at Nyarutanga village with 342 kilograms of cannabis.

They are now awaiting legal proceedings, he said, pointing at significant environmental damage in the area, with trees cut down to make way for cannabis cultivation, hence diminishing the sustainability of natural vegeta-

The damage in the park is disrupting the

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NMB Bank's Bancassurance head Martin Massawe (with microphone) briefs Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (L) at the bank's booth at the launch of National Road Safety Week activities in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

Biteko hailsTAZAMA for 4.35bn/- dividend cheque

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President Samia's visit to Zambia, where she directed us to manage these projects effectively to benefit our people," he specified.

He asked the TAZAMA management to exercise effective management of the pipeline while hinting at plans to increase its diameter from eight to 12 inches.

The two governments are in the procurement phase for a larger oil pipeline with a 24-inch diameter, to reduce transportation costs and protect infrastructure, he said.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, remarked that the company, once nearing collapse, has now been revived, even paying a substantial dividend to the government.

"We are accustomed to organisations requesting money from the government, but today we are witnessing the government receiving a dividend. This is something to be

truly proud of," he said.

Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu said that TAZAMA, with 58 years of operations, has shown promising progress indicated by resuming dividend payments.

This is in line with the observation of President Samia's 4Rs strategy of reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding, pointing out that the pipeline is owned by Tazama Pipeline Ltd, a jointly operated firm with Zambia holding 66.7 percent shares and Tanzania a 33.3pc stake.

In November 2016 the two governments discussed how to modernise the aging pipeline, examining an option to build a new pipeline to run parallel to the original line. The new project will be usable for the transportation of crude oil, refined oil and natural gas, he said.

In May 2020, the pipeline management said that it was seeking a \$400m loan to expand the 954km, 8-inch portion of the pipeline to 12inch diameter of the remainder of the pipeline, the registrar indicated.



ITV/Radio One managing director Joyce Mhaville (L) briefs Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko, who visited the twin media outlets at their Mikocheni Light Industrial Area premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Alcohol imports: ZRA found 'net zero' for tax compliance

FROM PAGE 1

to the port's infrastructure limitations, including the lack of scanning equipment for incoming goods." it

The Zanzibar Liquor Control Board (ZLCB), an advisory body for liquor regulation in Zanzibar established under the Liquor Act No. 9 of 2020, made changes to the licensing process last year.

Despite opposition to the changes, the board informed the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) at the beginning of this year regarding the modifications in the licence issuance process.

ZRA conducted an in-depth investigation into changes in liquor import licencing in Zanzibar and found the changes to be ineffective, the report said, underlining substantial tax losses between January and June this year, citing extensive tax evasion.

Nearly all licensed alcohol importers lack a transparent system for managing their business records, the ZRA says, pointing at the lack of an effective stock control system to monitor inventory trends against import documents.

There is also no compliance with electronic receipt issuance, with

one licensed importer, Kifaru, not faulty declaring of goods as coming having the financial capability to operate an alcohol business in Zanzibar.

The firm instead uses its licence to hire a trader based in Dar es Salaam to handle those operations, while it also has not paid VAT refunds for the period, since it began operations up to June 2024 as purchases exceed sales, it says.

It underlines ZRA's dissatisfaction with the entire process of importing alcohol at Zanzibar port, as many importers were removing their

goods from the port at night. This raises a high likelihood of from outside the country, it says, citing the case of a company named 101 Investments.

It uses the Forodhani area to distribute their goods where no customs officer checks incoming goods, the report noted, affirming that some large bars and restaurants act as alcohol distributors contrary to what is provided for in their business licences. Their sales do not provide appropriate receipts since purchases are not recorded with VFMS receipts, implying a high probability of deliberate tax evasion by such firms, o it added.

School buses: Beef up surveillance, says VP

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all road driving safety regulations. "All drivers who violate traffic laws should face strict penalties, whether they are government or private drivers," he emphasised, de-

manding that the traffic police con-

duct surprise inspections of vehicles and assess driver qualifications. They should take legal action against those who do not meet the

standards, he said, alerting that if effective measures to control accidents are not taken, accidents will be the leading cause of death by "Our nation lost a significant

number of lives in 2023, with 1,733 accidents resulting in 1,647 deaths and 2,716 injuries," he stated, pointing at a rise in motorcycle accidents. There were 435 accidents reported in 2023 leading to 376 fatalities, 44 more deaths than in 2022, he said.

Hamad Yusuf Masauni, the Home Affairs minister, said that curbing accidents demands implementing Cities initiative, which involves installing security cameras in cities. This project is nearing completion

and will be implemented in Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam, he said.

"We hope that once these projects are completed, we will be able to control accidents, especially in areas without police presence, thanks to the cameras that will be installed," he remarked.

Daniel Sillo, the deputy minister and chairman of the council, pointed at human error as a major cause of accidents, as some drivers do not adhere to road safety regulations.

This leads to human errors and contributes significantly to the rise in accidents, he said, affirming that to address this situation the council has developed a strategy involving a range of stakeholders. "We will evaluate the situation after a few months," he stated.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Camillus Wambura said that to tackle road accidents, the police have implemented various government directives, including installing surseveral projects, especially the Safe veillance systems to monitor speed and other road safety requirements.

SA President highlights need for energy transition

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasized that while inclusive economic growth is a government priority, low-carbon and climate-resilient development must be at its core.

Addressing Monday's inaugural Just Energy Transition (JET) Municipal Conference in Johannesburg, he highlighted that fossil fuelgenerated electricity accounted for most of South Africa's carbon emis-

Ramaphosa warned that reliance on coal-fired power stations poses a significant risk if left unaddressed, underscoring the need for the state to transition away from coal and diversify its energy sources.

"It poses threats to our economy, society, and (the) environment if we don't drive the energy transition in ways that are appropriate to national and local circumstances," Ramaphosa noted.

He emphasized the need to transition away from coal-fired power stations, while cautioning against "unilateral and coercive carbon adjustment measures" imposed by developed economies, stressing the importance of a collaborative approach.

Ramaphosa reaffirmed that South Africa, as a signatory to the Paris Agreement, is committed to global climate change efforts. He assured that the country's pursuit of a just energy transition would carefully consider its social and economic development trajectory. "We must pursue this commit-

ment in a manner that delivers just outcomes for those affected by the energy transition. We must pursue it in a way that contributes to inclusive economic growth, energy security and employment," said Ramaphosa.

As South Africa pursued a just transition, the president emphasized that municipalities should be at the forefront of providing clean, affordable energy to communities, businesses, and industries. "One of the aims of this conference is to unlock the institutional arrangements required to drive the decarbonisa-

ties are now able to purchase power directly from independent power producers and establish their power-producing entities after the Cabinet approved the JET Plan in 2023,

tion is, Ramaphosa said the country should guard against higher costs of energy which might deepen poverty and inequality, stressing that the state is working on financing the transition.

the energy transition does not contribute to energy poverty. It must not deepen inequality," he insisted. "As government, business, labor, and civil society, let us deepen our collaboration to achieve an energy future that is secure and sustain-



tion effort," he said. Ramaphosa also said municipali-

outlining a roadmap for them. As important as the just transi-

"We must therefore ensure that able for all."



Mndeme (L) pictured at the weekend with foreign tourists from various countries whom he had escorted Peak. This summit Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest single free-standing mountain in the world - at 5,895 metres above sea level. Photo Correspondent James Langa

DCEA burns 1,165 acres cannabis farms at Mikumi

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region's ecology on account of the erosion of natural habitats, while the rivers feed into the Julius Nyerere hydropower dam, crucial for electricity production capacity.

Local residents, especially the youth had volunteered to assist in destroying the plantations, he said, appreciating the cooperation of local authorities for supporting operations to combat drug production

and trafficking.

He appealed to residents of Morogoro and other regions to cooperate with law enforcers to curb cannabis growing and other forms of drug trafficking.

Saidi Mijinga, a Kisaki resident who volunteered to help clear the plantations, said that a vast expanse of land was used for cannabis cultivation, projecting how it would help the villagers had it been used for

growing appropriate crops.

It would provide food and income in market sales, he said, while Joseph Kibaya, a Nyarutanga resident, urged the public to always expose drug dealers and traffickers, due to the severe impact cannabis has on youths everywhere.

Last month DCEA stated that it has completed preparing a database for the pursuit of traffickers within and outside the country to

track their movements.

The database is operational as the hidden actors operate within the country while others initiate movements from outside the country, he stated.

The general public needs to actively collaborate with DCEA in availing information on such undertakings, as the seizure was possible through citizen collaboration, he

Dr Mwinyi vows to invest heavily in education sector

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has pledged that the government will continue to invest heavily in the education sector with special focus on improving infrastructure and supporting teachers.

At a special luncheon held at the State House yesterday, President Mwinyi honoured form four and form six students who excelled in the 2023 and 2024 national

He expressed his satisfaction with the growing number of students achieving top grades, emphasizing their importance for the nation's development.

The President outlined plans to enhance educational infrastructure, increase teacher recruitment, particularly in science subjects and address teachers' needs to boost their effectiveness.

Additionally, he revealed that the government will raise funding for higher education loans, encouraging students to take advantage of the support to pursue fur-

He highlighted the current positive trends among Zanzibar's students as a source of motivation for continued investment in the sector.

Dr Mwinyi assured students that the tradition of celebrating academic achievements with awards and shared meals would persist annually to foster motiva-

He encouraged students to remain diligent in their studies and congratulated the seven students who earned excellent (A3) results.

He also praised the dedicated efforts of teachers nationwide, recognizing them as essential contributors to the observed successes and urging them to continue their impactful work.

He further commended both district and regional governments for their effective management of the education sector, which has contributed to the recent accomplishments.

President Mwinyi also commended parents of the successful students and the school committees for their excellent supervision, leading to the students' diligent studying and ultimately excellent results.

He assured students that the tradition of celebrating and rewarding them, as well as having meals together, will continue annually to encourage hard work and suc-

Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, attributed achievements in the education sector to President Mwinyi's investments and pledged continued support for these initiatives.

He noted that the President's vision for modern educational facilities has fostered a conducive learning en-

The Minister for Education and Vocational Training Lela Muhamed Mussa, highlighted the achievements as a testament to the ruling CCM commitment to improving education and President Mwinyi's dedication to infrastructure development.

Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology praised Zanzibar's educational progress and acknowledged President Mwinyi's efforts.

He noted that the government has increased the budget for higher education loans from 4.64bn/- to 7.57bn/-, underscoring the importance of the investment for students and national development.

In total, there were 24,420 students who took the Form Four exams in 2023 from schools in Unguja and Pemba, with 16,771 from Unguja passing and 958 achieving first-class grades.

Two students, Mwanaarab Said Ibrahim from Lumumba Secondary School and Ilham Abdalla Awadh from Feza Schools- Zanzibar, along with three others from mainland Tanzania, won three awards at the Pan-African Mathematics Competition in South Africa.

WHO launches 6 months plan to halt mpox transmission

THE UN health agency has launched a six-month plan to help halt outbreaks of mpox transmission.

The plan includes ramping up staffing in affected countries and boosting surveillance, prevention and response strategies.

The World Health Organization said it expects the plan from September through February next year will require \$135 million in funding and aims to improve fair access to vaccines, notably in African countries hardest hit by the outbreak.

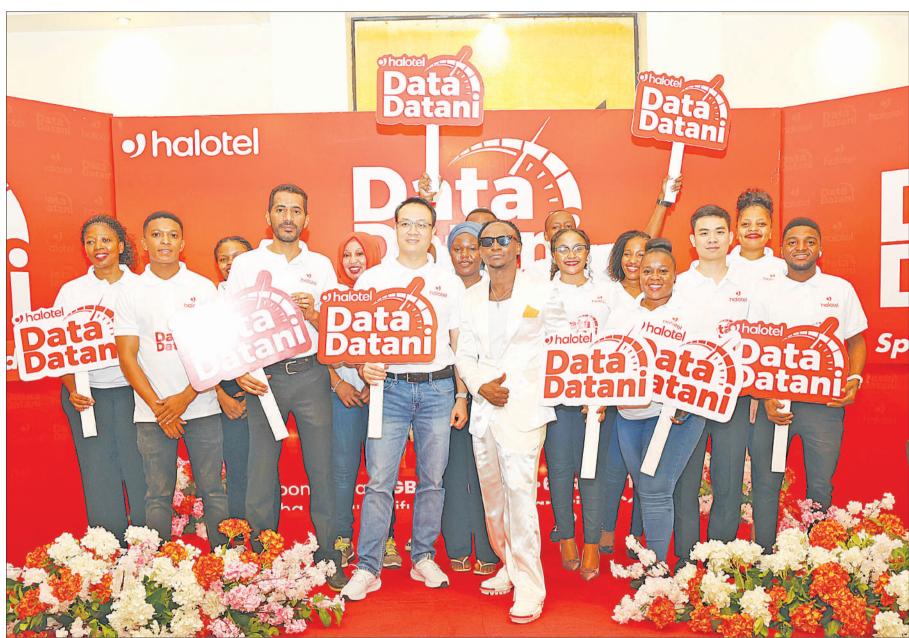
"The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped," said WHO Director-Gener-

al Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a statement. The agency is "significantly scaling up staff" in affected countries, it said. In mid-August, WHO classified the current mpox outbreak as a global health emergency.

Also Monday, German government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit said Germany is donating 100,000 doses of mpox vaccine to affected countries from stocks held by its military, German news agency reported.

Last Tuesday, Congo the hardest-hit country reported more than 1,000 new mpox cases over the previous week. In its latest update on the outbreak, the African Centers for Disease Control reported that as of Thursday, more than 21,300 suspected or confirmed cases and 590 deaths have been reported this year in 12 African countries.

Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but typically causes milder symptoms like fever, chills and body aches. It mostly spreads through close skin-to-skin contact, including sexual intercourse. People with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals.



Members of the Halotel Tanzania management and other staff as well as the firm's new 'ambassador', musician and actor, Elias Inyasi alias Barnaba Classic (in all-cream), attend the launch of 'Data Datani' services in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

INEC urges election officers in three regions to team up in facilitating PVR

By Guardian Reporter

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has urged election officers in the regions of Mara, Simiyu, and Manyara to collaborate closely with the commission and other stakeholders to facilitate the updating of the Permanent Voters' Register in their respective areas.

The call was made by INEC Chairperson Judge Jacobs Mwambegele during the opening of training sessions for regional and council-level officials in Musoma, Mara region.

importance of adhering to the Commission's guidelines and ensuring full cooperation to ensure the updating process is smooth and efficient.

"I urge you to maintain strong and close cooperation with the Commission throughout your duties. If you need any clarifications or instructions, do not hesitate to contact the Commission," Judge Mwambegele stated.

The Vice-Chair of INEC, Retired Judge Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk, who opened similar training in Simiyu, also called on officials to work with party agents,

Judge Mwambegele emphasised the voter education organisations, and process observers.

In Manyara region, the training for regional election officials was inaugurated by Commission Member Judge Asina Omari of the High Court. Judge Omari advised the officials to focus on the training to effectively instruct Assistant Registration Officers at the ward

"This training is designed to equip you with the skills needed to train Assistant Registration Officers at the ward level, who will then train biometric equipment operators and assistant

writers responsible for voter registration at the polling stations," Judge Omari emphasised.

The training sessions are preparations for the fourth round of updating the Permanent Voters' Register, which will cover Mara, Simiyu, and certain district councils in Manyara region, specifically Babati Town Council and the district councils of Babati, Hanang, and Mbulu.

The updating process will run from 4 September 2024 to 10 September 2024, with centres open from 2:00 pm to 12:00 am daily.



Joyce Ernest (R), an experienced entrepreneur from Muheza District's Utulivu Catering Group, takes her colleagues through the basics of cookery and catering at the weekend. The group has requested a loan from the local government authorities to help its members expand and improve their operations. Photo: Correspondent Storage (R), an experienced entrepreneur from Muheza District's Utulivu Catering Group, takes her colleagues through the basics of cookery and catering at the weekend. The group has requested a loan from the local government authorities to help its members expand and improve their operations. Photo: Correspondent Storage (R), an experienced entrepreneur from Muheza District's Utulivu Catering Group, takes her colleagues through the basics of cookery and catering at the weekend. The group has requested a loan from the local government authorities to help its members expand and improve their operations.

llega urges NARCO to give more land for meat company

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Abdallah Ulega has directed the National Ranching Company (NARCO) Board to allocate land to the Union Meat Group to receive and fatten live-

The move intends to ensure that the factory has a reliable supply of quality

national markets.

Minister Ulega issued the directives yesterday during a visit to Union Meat Group in Kibaha District, Coast Region.

"I direct the NARCO board to prepare a contract and complete the land transfer from Ruvu Ranch to Union Meat

Group within one month," he said. He emphasized the importance of

livestock for both domestic and inter- the factory developing a robust strategy to attract farmers and traders to supply livestock. "This will help ensure a steady supply of raw materials for the factory," he said, adding: "It is crucial to set competitive prices, ensure timely payments to those delivering livestock, and maintain transparency during the weighing process. By doing so, you will attract more farmers and traders, en-

suring a consistent and sufficient supply of raw materials."

Miriam Ng'wandu, group CEO stated that once operational, the factory will create job opportunities for over 1,000 Tanzanians.

She added that they are ready to start production as soon as the land is secured, as the factory requires a significant number of animals for slaughter.

Tuesday 27 August 2024

NEWS

Guardian

Young women trained on leadership, gender equality

By Getrude Mbago

OVER 200 girls and young women in Tabora, Dodoma, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions have been equipped with essential skills aimed to prepare them for various leadership opportunities to promote inclusive development in the society.

Under the 'Sauti Yetu, Nguvu Yetu' programme implemented by Msichana Initiative for the past two years, the girls have been also equipped with reproductive health and gender education to help them know themselves and be able to make informed decisions regarding their lives.

Speaking during the closure of the programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday Rebeca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative said that the organisation groomed 20 lead girls who also reached more than 200 other girls and young women with the education through various formed groups bringing change in their areas.

She said through the project, the organisation help build capacity of the girls and young women to become leaders, recognise and confront various forms of abuse to achieve their dreams.

The closing eventing brought together the trained young feminists from Tabora, Dodoma, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions.

Gyumi said that the two-year programme has been fruitful as it has produced champions who will be agents of change to lead other girls in their respective areas by imparting important knowledge to benefit others and support positive change in society.

She said: "Marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of girls and adolescent women in Tanzania, Msichana Initiative has invested efforts to transform mind-sets of people in the society towards girl child and women to promote equality and spur development."

According to her, as it is well documented that worldwide, women are still underrepresented in leadership and decision-making in various sectors, the programme has been timely in addressing this imbalance by empowering young girls to challenge harmful cultural norms and barriers, fostering their confidence to effect change.

"Empowering girls as champions for change is a powerful strategy in addressing harmful gender norms and promoting girls' rights. By facilitating dialogues and learning opportunities, girls have developed agency and leadership skills, enabling them to effectively advocate for their rights and raise awareness in their communities, she said.

Gyumi said as the first phase has reached an end, the organisation plans to commence its second phase next year to reach more other girls and young women with the essential skills to improve participation of girls in various leadership and development initiatives.

Loveness Athuman from Nzega in Tabora noted that the organisation has introduced a unique programme to help girls participate in leadership roles and challenge the notion that girls cannot be leaders.

"In our society, many women and girls do not engage in leadership roles, believing they are reserved for men. However, this programme has empowered us and shown that we can be leaders in various fields, just like men. We are not frightened,"

Mwajuma Hima, one of the girls from Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam shared that they have already begun mobilising girls through various formed groups to be able to contest positions in this year's and next year's elections.

"Girls, let us rise; the time for being passive is over. Now is our time for us to stand firm, pursue our dreams and ensure we reach our goals," she said.

Leonardina Sostenes, another lead girl from Bagamoyo District, Coast Region said: "We have been equipped with self-awareness skills to tackle harassment, including sexual exploitation, especially during election periods, I am so happy to be part of this project, it has increased my confidence and ability to fight for others rights," she said.

Rosemary Batoba, Sauti Yetu, Nguvu Yetu project supervisor said efforts are still needed to train more young women who will lead others to bring positive changes in society.

She said the programme involved capacitating the girls with essential skills to strengthen their strategic thinking, enhance personal leadership skills, become great communicators, and improve their ability to overcome various challenges as well as enhance their ability to make strategic choices.

"We have been equipped with self-awareness skills to tackle harassment, including sexual exploitation, especially during election periods, I am so happy to be part of this project, it has increased my confidence and ability to fight for others rights"

STOP I SPEAK UP

SWEAK UP

SWEAK
LIFE
LL SWEAC

Officials from the Treasury Registrar's Office have a first-hand account of evidence of modern mining technology as deployed at Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in Shinyanga Region yesterday. They were on a working tour. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Karagwe ready to meet clerics to curtail murders and suicides

By Guardian Correspondent, Karagwe

AUTHORITIES in Karagwe District, Kagera Region have expressed commitment to collaborating with stakeholders and religious leaders to address issues of murder and suicide in the country.

Karagwe MP, Innocent Bashungwa made the commitment during the 30th anniversary celebration of a local non-governmental organization, Mavuno Project in Karagwe District, Kagera Region. The event also included the sixth graduation ceremony for Form Four students at Mavuno Model Secondary School.

Bashungwa also the Minister for Works acknowledged a recommendation from the organization's director, Charles Bahati, who suggested that the government engage with various NGOs and religious leaders to find effective solutions to

these critical issues.

He emphasized that the sixth-

phase government is dedicated to fostering peace, love, and mental stability among its citizens, enabling them to fulfill their responsibilities and benefit from ongoing development opportunities.

"We have taken this advice seriously and will act on it," Bashungwa said. "My office, the district council, and the district commissioner's office will coordinate to create a platform for dialogue. We will bring together, religious leaders, and relevant stakeholders to work towards a better future for our district, region, and nation."

He also praised Mavuno for its establishment of a girls' secondary school, which has become a crucial resource for rural communities.

Bashungwa urged parents to support their children in achieving their goals and commended Mavuno's exemplary management of student and teacher discipline. ment initiatives in various development areas and encouraged other

Earlier, Bahati highlighted the increasing incidents of murder and suicide, noting that the issues indicate deeper underlying problems that require urgent attention.

He stressed that such incidents damage the reputation of affected areas and can impede economic development due to widespread fear

To address these challenges, Bahati noted that Mavuno has been active in promoting campaigns for productive agriculture, environmental conservation, clean water, and solar energy. He emphasized the need for prompt action to address rising mental health challenges and prevent more severe consequences in the future.

Rasul Shandala, the District Executive Director of Karagwe, praised Mavuno for its support of govern-

ment areas and encouraged other organizations to follow Mavuno's example for the greater benefit of the community.

Andreas Horsche, Mayor of Furth, Munich, Germany, expressed satisfaction with Mavuno's accomplishments over the past 30 years and indicated a desire to continue supporting the organization's efforts for the benefit of the Karagwe and Kyerwa communities in Kagera Region.

Horsche's visit included an inspection of various projects funded by Germany, Austria, the United States, and Sweden, including the construction of clean water tanks, organic farming initiatives, environmental conservation efforts, solar energy installations, natural gas production from cattle manure, and support for educational infrastructure.

Nigerians turn furious over \$100million presidential jet in midst of economic tussles

ABUJA

THE recent purchase of a new \$100 million aircraft for President Bola Tinubu has sparked widespread outrage among Nigerians.

Many see this as a glaring example of a government out of touch with the daily struggles of its people, as the country faces its worst economic crisis in decades.

For ordinary Nigerians, who are grappling with soaring prices and widespread poverty, the sight of the shiny new Airbus A330 on the tarmac in Nice, France, was a bitter pill to swallow.

"They ask us to tighten our belts while he splurges on a jet," one frustrated citizen wrote on social media. Another added, "This purchase shows just how disconnected the president is from the suffering of

Former Education Minister Oby Ezekwesili condemned the jet as a symbol of the administration's "fiscal real/lessness and disherenty".

cal recklessness and dishonesty."
However, a presidential spokesperson defended the decision,
claiming the aircraft was bought at
a bargain price on the advice of the

Senate's security committee.

As Nigeria grapples with soaring inflation and a staggering 40 per-

cent of its population living in poverty, the expensive purchase has deepened the sense of frustration and disillusionment among many citizens.

The cost-of-living crisis that fuelled the protests is the worst in a generation in this oil-rich and most populous African country, which by 2050 is forecast to become the third most populous nation in the world, tied with the United States after India and China.

That crisis is blamed on the government's economic policies to save more money and attract investors, but which have contributed to pushing the inflation rate to a 28-year high of 34.19 percent while the currency, the naira, languishes at record lows against the dollar. At least 63 percent of the population is

The government has struggled to create jobs. And the world's longest war on militancy continues to unfold in its northeast.

Despite its oil wealth, Nigeria's population of more than 210 million people are also among the world's hungriest, accounting for 10 percent of the global burden, according to the U.N. food agency. Still, its politicians, often accused of corruption, are among the best-paid in Africa.



Researchers, health professionals and various other stakeholders pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday attending an international conference on strategies for combating diseases like dengue fever, yellow fever and Chikungunya. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Staple food in Africa to grow by 10pct by next year, FAO projects

By Correspondent Christina Haule,

Morogoro

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has underlined the importance of increasing investment in advanced commercial farming techniques to meet the increasing global population's food

Reports show that with the global population currently around 1.3 billion and projected to reach 1.5 billion by 2025, there is a pressing need to enhance food production and reduce hunger through modern farming methods.

Nyabenyi Tipo, FAO Country Representative made the remarks yesterday here at a meeting focused on experience exchange and capacity building for rice farmers in the country.

She highlighted that while rice is a staple food in Africa, with current production at 22.3 million tonnes, it is projected to increase to 34.9 million tonnes by 2025, yet there is a current shortfall of 12.6 million

"If agricultural conditions do not improve, countries will face a significant food deficit and may have to import food, potentially resulting in a loss of \$5.5 billion (13bn/-)," Tipo warned.

To tackle the challenges, the FAO has provided soil levelling, planting, and harvesting equipment to the Agricultural Research Institute Tanzania (TARI) Dakawa in Morogoro.

This initiative aims to make modern farming equipment more accessible to local farmers at affordable rental costs, thereby supporting agricultural development," she said.

Nyabenyi urged farmers who already own machinery, such as tractors, to consider acquiring additional equipment for soil levelling, planting, and harvesting to help expand their service range and support other local farmers.

"For those who have seen the benefits of these tools, I believe that farmers with tractors will find the additional equipment invaluable. It will reduce labor-intensive tasks and cut down on the time and cost spent on manual fieldwork," she said.

Dr Thomas Bwana, TARI Director General said the institute will continue to distribute the tools and identify specific centres for allocation to ensure that all farmers, including those in irrigation schemes, have access to the equipment.

Dr Bwana encouraged over 50 rice farmers from various irrigation schemes, who participated in a 10day training organised by TARI and FAO with funding from the South Korean government, to embrace the training and modern agricultural technologies.

He expressed gratitude to the South Korean government, noting that the training embodies the principle of teaching farmers how to enhance their own food production rather than simply providing food. This approach is expected to advance rice farming in Tanzania.

He added that TARI is committed to ensuring the sustainability of the training, aiming to transform farming subsistence commercial farming. This shift will boost both the farmers' and the nation's economy.

He highlighted that Tanzania is currently 120 percent self-sufficient in food, with a surplus of 20 percent, and aims to achieve 200 percent self-sufficiency while expanding its commercial farming practices

Minong Chweio, a representative from South Korea's Ministry of Food and Rural Development, stated that the provision of modern equipment demonstrates the strong partnership between the two countries and their shared focus on agricultural development.

Minong expressed confidence that the training will improve agricultural practices and enhance the economy of Tanzanian farmers, yielding positive results.

Asha Mohamed, a rice farmer from the Dakawa scheme noted that the training and use of modern technologies will significantly boost production and profitability, improving food security and promoting commercial farming.

Agrey Mbata, a farmer from the Mbuyuni Mbarali scheme in Mbeya region said the training has given him a deeper understanding of rice farming and how to improve productivity.

Kizimkazi festivals uplift Tanzania's tourism sector

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan said yesterday that Kizimkazi festivals have played a significant role in supporting government efforts for local and international tourists and investors.

The Head of State urged responsible ministries to ensure that the festival is included on the list of events aimed at promoting tourism in the country.

She made the remarks yesterday during the closing of the 9th Kizimkazi Festival held at Mwehe grounds in Makunduchi, Unguja South Region.

She described the festival as unique and a catalyst for development.

President Samia emphasised that development should be aligned with local customs and traditions, warning that deviating from or undermining the traditions could lead to regression.

"Embracing what is not ours is slavery, so we need to invest efforts to ensure that we promote what we have to attract guests and promote development."

She stressed the need to preserve customs and traditions, pointing out that the government utilises festivals to support and sustain the culture, customs and heritage.

She also underscored the importance of protecting and sustaining the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar for the benefit of future generations.

further expressed Samia satisfaction with the festival's success and the involvement of

numerous sponsors. "The training provided during the

festival, including entrepreneurship skills, is expected to open up further economic opportunities for the people of Kizimkazi," she said.

Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud, the Regional Commissioner of South Unguja, expressed pride in the festival, which has brought about significant achievements.

Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud, South Unguja Regional Commissioner expressed pride in the festival, citing the significant achievements it has brought about.

Abdulhamid Said, Kizimkazi Festival secretary, reported that the festival has contributed to various improvements, including in education.

He noted a significant increase in student pass rates in national exams within the district, with the Form Four pass rate rising from 10.33 percent in 2022 to 93.53 percent in 2023.

He noted that the pass rate for Form Four examination has risen from 10.33 percent in 2022 to 93.53 percent in 2023.

The number of students advancing to Form Five also grew from 118 in 2022 to 147 in 2023.

The festival's closing ceremony featured various forms of entertainment, including the traditional Shomoe dance, which is popular in Kizimkazi. The weeklong festival began on August 18 this

"Embracing what is not ours is slavery, so we need to invest efforts to ensure that we promote what we have to attract guests and promote development."



National Development Corporation director general Dr Nicholaus Shombe (in dark-blue jacket) briefs Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo (in suit) a delegation headed by the minister toured the government-owned General Tyre East Africa Limited factory in Arusha city's Njiro suburb at the

Govt chemist unveils guidelines for handling ammonium nitrate

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) has launched guidelines for the handling and management of ammonium nitrate to protect human health, the environment and properties in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Chief Government Chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko said that objectives of the guidelines are to provide guidance and directives for sound management of ammonium nitrate.

He said that the guidelines shall apply to importers, exporters, warehouse operators, re-baggers

and transporters, users, ports of control of ammonium nitrate in the properties and hazards of entry and exit, owners of disposal facilities and any other dealers involved in handling ammonium nitrate.

Dr Mafumiko said Tanzania enacted the Industrial and Consumer Chemical (Management &Control) Act, 2003 to manage and control chemicals, including ammonium nitrate.

Also, he said the law empowers the Registrar of Industrial and Consumer Chemicals to prepare guidelines for sound management and effective control of chemicals.

"The guidelines therefore have been prepared as part of ongoing efforts to improve management and

country. They do not stand alone; rather, they complement relevant available legislations, regulations, guidelines and procedures," he said.

Dr Mafumiko said Tanzania is a gatewayforthetransitofammonium nitrate to land-locked countries, mostly the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia which use large quantities of ammonium nitrate for mining activities.

He further said that the contribution of the chemicals to Tanzania and neighbouring countries' development remains to be of great importance.

However, he said despite contribution, economic

ammonium nitrates are less known by companies and people who store, use and transport it. "Management of the chemicals is of paramount importance because if not properly managed, they can cause severe effects, including explosions that endanger life, damage properties and the environment," he said.

Adrian Kayombo, Senior Engineer at the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), highlighted the importance of protecting the environment, adding that they needed to observe procedures when disposing of chemicals and avoid mishandling chemicals.



Work on Dar es Salaam's rapid transit bus infrastructure in progress as captured along the Afrikana stretch of the city's Bagamoyo Road yesterday.

Dodoma to host high-profile environment meet next month

By Henry Mwangonde

OVER 1,000 environmental experts and stakeholders will gather in Dodoma next month for a high-profile conference aimed at discussing and finding solutions to a range of urgent environmental issues facing Tanzania.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister of State Vice President Office (Union and Environment) unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking ahead of the conference scheduled to take place in the capital city between September 9th and 10th, this year.

Organised by the Vice President's Office, the conference will focus critical issues including

land degradation, water source trading, waste management, climate experts from public organisations, destruction, deforestation, loss of wildlife habitats, and the impacts of climate change.

"It will also tackle additional pressing topics such as coastal and marine ecosystem degradation, wetland destruction, pollution, and the spread of invasive species," she said.

Kijaji environmental said challenges are exacerbated by unsustainable human activities, including excessive reliance on firewood and charcoal, unsustainable farming practices, improper waste disposal, and poorly managed livestock grazing.

She said other key areas of discussion will include carbon

change adaptation, clean cooking energy solutions, tree planting initiatives, and the enforcement of national environmental laws.

The primary goal of the conference is to develop specific strategies to enhance accountability, effectiveness, and management in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.

Participants will include ministers and permanent secretaries from relevant ministries, regional and district commissioners, and directors from local government authorities across mainland

Tanzania. The conference will also feature the private sector, and nongovernmental organisations.

She commended President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for her unwavering commitment environmental issues.

"The President has played a crucial role in leading efforts to preserve our natural resources and ensure they contribute positively to national development," the

spokesperson said. The conference aims to foster a collaborative approach addressing Tanzania's environmental challenges and invites all stakeholders to engage in this vital dialogue to secure a

to sustainable future for the country. Tuesday 27 August 2024

Guardian

NATIONAL.NEWS

Work closely with NGOs, stakeholders urge govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

STAKEHOLDERS have appealed to the government to come up with strategies for working very closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have brought development and positive changes to the people.

They believe that some of such organizations working on the ground, especially in rural areas help transform the society, thus the need for the government to see how to empower them to scale up good projects in other parts of the

They were speaking during a meeting organized by Counsenuth, an indigenous, prominent, womenled, national, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for women, children, adolescents, youth and vulnerable groups in Tanzania. The meeting brought together leaders from the local government authorities, ministries of health and education and other stakeholders where the organization has been implementing projects.

Shinyanga District Officer, Julius Mtatiro who was previously stationed at Tunduru District, said Counsenuth helped transform area residents and boost education in the district.

He added that the organization contributed greatly to improving education standards in the district. "The government should find a way of partnering with such organizations that are result-oriented and help bring development to the people", he said.

counterpart, Chemba District Commissioner, Dr Gerald Mongella, thanked the organization for implementing projects in the district.

Counsenuth Executive Director,

Shakila Mayumana said organization implemented

In Chemba district, the organization, through funding support from the government of Ireland through Irish Aid, was implementing a four-year community-based gender-driven nutrition programme (Lishe Kijinsia) in Chemba DC, Dodoma region in collaboration with the LGA, to accelerate the reduction of childhood stunting in the first 1000

The program supported the district in the construction of 9 water wells in the neediest villages, facilitated the installation of a water harvesting system in 16 primary schools and conducted a geophysical survey to identify potential groundwater sources to facilitate availability and access to clean water and improve sanitation and hygiene WASH practices and production of fruits and vegetables.

"The government should find a way of partnering with such organizations that are result-oriented and help bring development to the people'

programme, Kijana Jiongeze,

participatory education performance improvement project implemented by the centre in partnership with the Tunduru DC, through the Secondary Education Department, with financial support from the Mastercard Foundation

She added that following the successful one-year (2019 to 2020) pilot phase of the project eight secondary schools in Tunduru District Council, Ruvuma region, it was later expanded to 23 public secondary schools using Participatory Performance Improvement Approach (PPIA).

Transforming Health Professio Prof Peter Msoffe Education, a director in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, speaks at the opening of a Health Professional Education Partnership Project conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspo

By Anna Cosmas, Dartu

RESIDENTS of Kipunguni Street in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region have raised concerns over rising cases of child abuse, calling for government intervention to address them including strengthening laws and policies.

In recent months, Kipunguni Street has seen an increase in reports of children being subjected to physical abuse and forced into exploitative labor.

Yohana Chacha, Kipunguni Street chairman, unveiled this during a recent community meeting.

He expressed concern over the situation, saying: "Our community has always boasted of being a safe place for children, it is heartbreaking to see the young lives being exploited and abused. We must take immediate and decisive action to protect them."

According to residents in the area, children are often subjected

Dar's Kipunguni Street residents decry rising cases of child abuse

to working long hours in hazardous active involvement in awareness conditions, with little regard for their safety or well-being.

One of the residents, Juma Khatib, outlined several key measures that the residents are implementing to combat the crisis, including increasing surveillance, organizing community patrols, and collaborating with local law enforcers and child protection agencies.

He emphasized the importance of community involvement in identifying and reporting cases of

Another resident, a local teacher at Kipunguni School Aisha Mohamed, said there have been several initiatives to address the issue, including their campaigns. "We cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering of these children," she said. "As a community, we need to educate ourselves and others about the signs of abuse and how to report it."

Ali Konya, a resident, stated that: "We need government intervention and more resources dedicated to protecting our children," he said.

"This disheartening to see our children being humiliated, authorities need to do more to prevent this abuse," said Suleiman Amani, a local shop owner.

However. despite community's, efforts residents see the war against child abuse face challenges as residents fear retaliation from perpetrators.

Additionally, limited resources and support from external agencies have made it difficult to fully address the issue.

To Reach

However, there is a growing sense of hope among the residents. The involvement of the chairperson and active participation from community members signify a united front against child exploitation and abuse.

As Kipunguni Street continues to battle this crisis, the collaboration between residents, local leaders, and authorities remains crucial.

Stakeholders believe the ongoing efforts to protect and support the children of Kipunguni Street serve as a testament to the community's resilience and dedication to safeguarding its future.

Adopt harmonised syllabus for better graduates, training institutions urged By Correspondent James Kandoya of medical doctors in Tanzania. The director clarified that

THE government directed the health higher education training institutions to adopt the new harmonized curriculum to have quality graduates and common competencies.

Prof Peter Msoffe, the Director of Higher Education at the Ministry for Education, Science and Technology said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the Grand Symposium and launching of Tanzania Health Educators Academy (THEA).

He said the Health Transforming Partnership Initiative to reach people: Transforming Health Professional Education in Tanzania (THET) - is a five-year funded project aimed at transforming the education environment for doctors and nurses in Tanzania to deliver quality care for improved health outcomes.

Prof Msoffe said that the new harmonized curricula are just one of the numerous achievements realized by the THET project over the past five years adding that it was a beacon of hope and progress paving the way for future medical and nursing graduates.

Prof Msoffe said in 2016, a Joint Medical and Dental Councils of East Africa Audit faulted the quality of medical education in Tanzania and recommended that the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) oversee the harmonization of undergraduate medical curricula.

He said TCU urged to take immediate action to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Audit team and support the development of a harmonized

although the directives were for Medical Doctor programmes, the problem existed in all other health professions programmes in Colleges and Universities.

"I therefore urge all Health Higher Learning Institutions in the country to join, support and be part of the scaling up of what has been accomplished through this initiative, which I believe is a good start in addressing some of the challenges that TCU and Professional Councils have been working on in recent years," he said.

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Vice Chancellor Prof Apollinary Kamuhabwa said THEA represents a commitment to the continuous professional development of health educators in Tanzania.

He said it will serve as a center of excellence offering training, resources, and support to health professions educators across the country, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of health professions education.

Prof Gideon Kwesigabo, Principal Investigator said the project was implemented by a consortium of three Health Universities namely MUHAS, Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences-(CUHAS), and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College-KCMUCu and the two United States-based universities namely Duke University and University Of California San Francisco.

He said that one of the big challenges has been the lack of harmonized teaching curricula for health professionals' disciplines offered in different training medical curriculum for the training institutions of higher learning.



Zanzibar's Tourism and Antiquities minister, Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga (R) and Zanzibar Tourism Board chairman Rahim Baloo enjoy the rare luxury of moving around on an ox cart at Wete on Pemba Island yesterday. Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdullah, had earlier in the day graced the launch of the event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

EXPERTS and Academicians yesterday showered praise on the implementation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, saying the project has complied with all international standards yet benefited local communities.

Speaking separately here yesterday, they said the mega project which starts at Hoima in Uganda and to Tanga's Chongoleani in Tanzania has been implemented professionally and that societies living alongside the project are set to benefit dearly.

Prof Faustin Kamuzora, Kagera Regional Administrative Secretary credited the project as unique

and met all required international standards. "Of projects I witnessed, EACOP is among the best projects whose implementation has the highest quality of standards. I have seen the project since it was during the feasibility study up to now," Prof Kamuzora said.

He said he hails from the Kagera Region where the project started in Uganda coming to the Tanzanian side where people living along the project understand the socioeconomic benefits of the mega

This pipeline passes through eight regions in mainland Tanzania: and they were happy with the Corporation (TPDC) (15 percent).

Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, and Tanga, encompassing 24 districts, 134 wards, and over 180 villages.

Experts happy with EACOP implementation

Dr Tasco Romanus Luambano, an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and Senior Lecturer of Mzumbe University, Mbeya Campus spoke tall about the project, saying the project completion would have a multi-plier effect on the socioeconomic growth of the country.

"I have visited some of the areas where the pipeline will pass through, in fact, I was really impressed. I tried also to talk to local communities, project for transforming their lives," Dr Luambano explained.

Oil and Gas Expert, Jackson commended Jalimba governments of Tanzania and Uganda for jointly agreeing to implement an important project, saying it put the two countries on the global map.

project shareholders The are TotalEnergies (62 percent), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) (15 percent), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) (eight percent), and the Tanzania Petroleum Development

New wave of cholera in Sudan threatens hundreds of thousands of refugees **KHARTOUM**

SUDAN has been hit by a deadly cholera outbreak that has infected hundreds of people in recent weeks, health authorities said. As of the start of this week, nearly two dozen people had died from the disease.

The country has been ravaged by a 16-month conflict and devastating floods.

The outbreak is threatening refugees and displaced communities.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that the spread of the disease is of particular concern in states hosting refugees - mainly Kassala, Gedaref, and Jazirah

Five refugees have died from the disease, the UNCHR said.

Eritrean refugee Amena Adam Ali is recovering after contracting cholera.

She was treated at a clinic in one of the refugee camps

Her small daughter, who has also developed cholera symptoms, lies next to her.

Cholera is a fast-developing, highly contagious infection that causes diarrhea, leading to severe dehydration and possible death within hours when not treated, according to the WHO.

It is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

The cholera outbreak is the latest calamity for Sudan, which was plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare across the country.

The conflict has turned the capital, Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields, wrecking civilian infrastructure and an already battered health care system. Without the basics, many hospitals and medical facilities have closed their doors.

It has killed thousands of people and pushed many into starvation, with famine already confirmed in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the wrecked northern region of Darfur.

Sudan's conflict has created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 10.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration. Over two million of those fled to neighboring countries.

The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the U.N. and international rights groups.



The cholera outbreak is the latest calamity for Sudan, which was plunged into chaos in **April last year when** simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare across the country

.......

ATMIS police officers hone skills to counter explosive devices at checkpoints

MOGADISHU

AFRICAN Union Transition Mission in Somalia (AT-MIS) said its 19 police officers have wrapped up intense United Nations-backed training on vehicle checkpoint screening to boost regional security.

ATMIS said the six-day training organized by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) that was held in the Hiran region of central Somalia was also aimed at countering the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to civilians and critical infrastructure.

"This training was insightful because it depicted the true picture of what is required of us as police officers when performing vehicle checkpoint procedures, both theoretical and practical," said Moffat Chungu, team leader of ATMIS Individual Police Officers in Beledweyne, in a statement issued Saturday evening.

Chungu stated that the training, which took place in the central Somalian town of Beledweyne, was crucial to the war against terrorism. The nation has been battling al-Shabab's insurgency for almost 20 years.

According to ATMIS, explosive devices are the preferred weapons of choice for the al-Shabab fighters who target the AU mission's convoys, Somali security forces and civilians traveling along the main supply routes.

The indiscriminate use of explosive devices poses a significant threat to both civilians and security forces,

ATMIS is thus developing the capacity of the Somali Security Forces to detect and deter the use of IEDs by illegal armed groups.

UNMAS is a key partner to ATMIS and has over the years worked consistently to strengthen the capacity of both ATMIS and Somali security forces to effectively identify and disarm IEDs.

These efforts have been crucial in mitigating the impact of IEDs laid by al-Shabab militants, which have historically led to substantial civilian casualties and severe disruptions to the movement of people and goods.



Prof Riziki Shemdoe (R), Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary, pictured in Mwanza city yesterday opening a meeting whose thrust is on the need to encourage stakeholders in the fishing industry to combat illegal fishing and the illicit trade in fishery products in Lake Victoria. Photo: Vitus Audax

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Dodoma

THE horrid annual windstorm which used to terrorize Dodoma City and its suburbs for years is reportedly 'dead,' thanks to ongoing tree planting campaigns that are now bearing fruits.

Scribe members of the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania, who are visiting Dodoma under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Preserve Natural Resources project, learned that the red-dusted, series of cyclones that used to sweep the Dodoma landscape between the months of September and November, have disappeared.

"The whirlwinds used to be known as 'Kimbunga cha Kongwa,' and usually unleashed disaster around this time. every year, preceding the short vuli

Deadly windstorms fade away after 800,000 trees get planted in Kongwa According to Godlove, the founda-

rains," explained Hagali Mbulla the Records Manager and Training Coordinator of the LEAD foundation in Dodoma. She explained that in the last two or three years, residents of Dodoma are no longer experiencing the usual deadly windstorms that sometimes used to cause disaster in the local areas.

In the ongoing efforts to combat negative effects of climate change, according to Mbulla, LEAD has managed to plant a total of 800,000 thriving trees in the windswept parts of Kongwa District of Dodoma, transforming much of the landscape from Mars like red surface dotted with rock, into lush green

savannah grassland and bushy country-

Speaking to the Journalists Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) the communications manager of LEAD, Godlove Kihupi explained that the organization has managed the feat through the restoration of Semi-Arid Lands of Tanzania programs.

"Until now LEAD which is an acronym of 'Leadership, Environment and Action for Development,' has managed to plant over 22 million trees, all of which are thriving in the selected districts of Arusha, Dodoma, Manyara and Singida regions," he said.

tion's collaborative efforts spanning more than 616 villages have empowered 250,000 households through the guidance of 3,000 champion farmers by equipping local communities with climate resilient practices that also serve to ensure food security.

On the other hand, in their latest 'Heat Adaptation Project,' in Dodoma, LEAD aims at investigating how trees can help to protect outdoor agricultural workers from extreme heat in Tanzania and understand how trees can modify microclimates to shield farmers from rising temperatures due to climate change.



A fruit vendor in an eager wait for customers at her business premises along Majengo Street in Muheza town yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Food security fears as rain stays away in northern Cameroon

YAOUNDÉ

AS northern Cameroon, faces a dramatic drop in rainfall, farmers in the town of Pitoa are suffering.

Dandy Emma, who grows maize and millet on eight hectares of land, has lost a large part of his production even though it is just the beginning of the growing sea-

"There is very little rain. On the millet field, everything is already dry. Last year I harvested between 7 and 8 bags per

car, but this year, as you've seen, it hasn't rained," he said.

"Behind me here is the maize field and it's the same thing too. I usually harvest between 8 and 10 bags, but this year it's not going well because of the lack of

rain." Edward Litassou, a cotton farmer, has not seen a single drop of rain in his field. His plants are being eaten away by caterpillars, with more than 12 hectares of

production at risk. "If you look at this field, you can see

the crumpled leaves. What's more, we've had drought everywhere with rice, red millet, and maize too. So that's really had an impact on our agriculture this year,"

The situation is so bad that this Muslim community has organised fasting sessions to pray for the rain to return.

A local weather expert, Yinda Martial, believes climate change and weather patterns are to blame for the disruption in rainfall.

"This phenomenon is part of climate

change. In addition, during this period, a high-pressure system has established over the city of Garoua and surrounding area. This has meant that rain clouds have not formed," he says.

One of the consequences of the lack of rain is the explosion of cereal prices on local markets.

With the area regarded as the bread basket of northern Cameroon and neighbouring countries, and as the rains stay away, there are increasing concerns about food security.

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Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Surprise after Chinese firms join tax complaints omnibus

TESTERN embassies penned letter to the ministry. It was countersigned by a dozen or so countries featuring among noticeable Tanzania's more development partners.

The Chinese embassy has now added to the number. China did not sign on the letter but instead organised a public hearing of the case of Chinese firms where the Chinese ambassador was present as well as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general.

This latter event was not a dialogue as such as there was little in response to substantive issues other than statutory reminders and goodwill VOWS.

The main complaint by the Chinese firms was that contractors are severely affected by the valueadded tax (VAT) administration by TRA, this being expressed at a forum for Chinese businesses operating in Tanzania held at the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

It is not routine that the media get to hear of Chinese civic organisations operating at home or in foreign countries, as basically this is a precept of pluralistic society. But there are subtle forms of pluralism we often skip.

Thus, the Chinese Investment Association for enterprises operating in Tanzania met for the 2024 Tanzania-Chinese Enterprises Tax Exchange Conference.

VAT administration was at the top of the list of complaints, one being the idea that VAT takes a large portion of the firms' profits.

That needs some explanation, including as to whether it is the way the tax is administered that is at issue or the tax levels as such, as investment presumes knowledge of tax rates prevailing in a country. It is unlikely the rates have been rising of

There was a part in the charges or claims, many of which had already been aired in the letter on woes by

Western firms, that project owners are responsible for providing documentation for tax exemptions

firms which are then vetoed by the

Since we take for granted that this is the case, it follows that there is a communication hiatus somewhere between the government and tax administrators.

public administration is conducted, that there are meetings at each level of an organisation and all these make decisions. Something as vast as the government can have awfully too many meetings each inclined in a specific intent, exploiting inherent

There are few avenues through which to understand why this is the case, as in the past there were no serious complaints on tax administration except on individual basis by either objecting to electronic fiscal devices or overestimation and

to optimise collections and likely to be clearing one or two bars rather too hastily. But reform creates a wider tax base, not gazette shortcuts.

while either the documents are not provided or tax waiver accords are not gazetted.

Failing to gazette the matter and making it mandatory to do so for the waiver accord with the state agency responsible for the purpose is tantalising. It is to suggest that the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) negotiates agreements with foreign

minister. Some could be heard mumbling that there is "something someone wanted" that they pay up for the notice to appear, which is implausible in case the government as a whole is behind such agreements as pivotal to its foreign investment canvassing

This can in part relate to the way

So the complaints first by local businesses or large taxpayers, then by Western firms and now by Chinese firms cannot just be a communications problem but one of substance.

suspicions of bribes earlier.

Tax authorities are under pressure

Increasing grain storage capacity up to 1m tonnes signals regional trade focus

| HEfunctions of the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) are changing in ways that remind those with some extra decades under the belt of the erstwhile National Milling Corporation (NMC).

The difference is that even if the agency has similar ambitions, the country is now much too complex or vast economically for its impact to be felt across the board.

After NMC left the scene, dissolved in the late 1980s to the early 1990s, it was the national electricity supply monopoly - Tanesco - whose finances occupied the limelight with each deal being a big issue of state communications.

The news was that the NFRA intends to phenomenally boost its operational parameters, owing to repeated cajoling by the government to take charge of what many see as a chaotic grain sector, but in ways that make the new arrangements commercially viable.

possibility has ascertained with insistence by President Samia Suluhu Hassan that the NFRA raise its offering price for both maize and rice to farmers in the Southern Highlands and up to Morogoro Region - where plenty of crop is grown.

Just how far this directive will be carried out remains an open question, as parastatals don't take directives of top leadership for their weight in gold for each word said in public.

Part of the wish to raise warehouses capacity for grain storage to 700,000 or up to one million tonnes by June next year relates to regional needs in grain supply.

Meanwhile, the curbing of merchant purchasing of grain threatens to leave massive tonnage rotting unless the capacity buildup is accelerated.

That partly explains what happened at the middle or end of the past farming season where NFRA itself said that a significant tonnage application by the World Food Programme would save large amounts of maize from 'rotting in households' for lack of market. It was an admission of grain

NFRA administrators say that the agency has shifted its focus from storing grains for domestic use to selling them in both local and international markets.

In that sense, the reserve epithet is valid just half of the way, much as the 'milling' segment was only partial by combining the functions of grain buyer, miller and flour conglomerate.

This skewed government budgets on account of the substantial subsidies to prevent wide urban maize flour disquiet as it has elements of instability in terms of capacity to be used by dissidents.

Yet it appears that the agency will now have to be running as for quite a while it appears to have been walking.

The NFRA top executive has stated that the storage capacity as of June 2024 stood at 0.4 million tonnes even as there are contracts with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia for a combined 1.15m tonnes of grain.

While our grain unit and its wider production or marketing environment has a litany of conflicting 'philosophies', praising the market but detesting dealers, we are having it lucky in the region.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO **Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA** feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767

General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

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Fast-acting interventions needed for Sudanese refugee children as needs outpacing response

By Joyce Chimbi

S peace eludes wartorn Sudan, thousands of displaced people fleeing the deadly battle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have found refuge in neighboring countries, including

The Sudanese refugee population in Egypt has grown almost sevenfold in what is considered the worst displacement crisis in the world, impacting 10 million people, with at least 2 million having fled to neighboring countries, including Egypt. In Egypt, over 748,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with the UNHCR, a majority of whom are women and children who have recently arrived from Sudan. This number is expected to continue to rise.

"When Sudan plunged into conflict, the international aid community, UN agencies, civil society and governments developed a response plan to meet the urgent needs of refugees fleeing Sudan to seek safety in five different countries, including Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt, South Sudan and the Central African Republic," Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director ofEducation Cannot Wait (ECW), the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises within the United Nations, told IPS.

To put it into perspective, the 2024 Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan calls for USD 109 million to respond to refugee education needs across the region. To date, only 20 percent of this amount has been mobilized, including USD 4.3 million-or 40 percent of the requirement for Egypt.

ECW was among the first to respond in the education sector, providing emergency to support partners in all five countries.

The government of Egypt has demonstrated great commitment to providing refugees with access to education services, but with 9,000 children arriving every month, the needs are overwhelming.

Consequently, nearly 54 percent of newly arrived children are currently out of school, per the most recent assessment.

Sherif says despite Egypt's generous refugee policy, the needs are great, resources are running thin and additional funding is urgently needed to scale up access to safe, inclusive, and equitable quality education for refugee as well as vulnerable host community

"Families fleeing the brutal conflict in Sudan endured the most



These Sudanese refugee children are among the 748,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who have sought refuge in Egypt. Credit: E0

lives ripped apart. For girls and boys uprooted by the internal armed conflict, education is nothing less than a lifeline. It provides protection and a sense of normalcy amidst the chaos and gives them the resources they need to heal and thrive again,"

The government of Egypt has demonstrated great commitment to providing refugees with access to education services, but with 9,000 children arriving every month, the needs are overwhelming.

On a high-level stock-taking UN mission to Egypt in August 2024, ECW, UNHCR and UNICEF are urging donors, governments and individuals of good will to contribute to filling the remaining gap and scaling up the education response for refugee and hostcommunity children.

"We have seen the important work that is being undertaken by UNHCR, the Catholic Relief Service and local organizations. But needs are fast outpacing the response, and Egypt now has a growing funding gap of USD 6.6 million. Classrooms are hosting as many as 60 children, most of whom are from host communities," Sherif says.

additional Stressing that resources are urgently and desperately required to ensure that refugee and host community children in Egypt and other refugeereceiving countries in the region can attend school and continue learning. With the future of the entire region at stake, ECW's call to action is for as many donors as possible to step in and help deliver the USD10 million required here and now to adequately support the refugee and host communities.

"We have seen the important work that is being undertaken by

unspeakable violence and had their UNHCR, the Catholic Relief Service and local organizations, such as the Om Habibeh Foundation. But needs are fast outpacing the response," Sherif says.

> "In the spirit of responsibility sharing enshrined in the Global Compact on Refugees, I call on international donors to urgently step up their support. Available funding has come from ECW, ECHO, the EU, Vodafone, and a few other private sector partners. We should not abandon children in their darkest hour. This is a plea to the public and private sectors, and governments to step in and deliver for conflict-affected children," she

said. Dr. Hanan Hamdan, UNHCR Representative to the Government of Egypt and to the League of Arab States, agreed.

"Forcibly displaced children should not be denied their fundamental right to pursue their education; their flight from conflict can no longer be an impediment to their rights. UNHCR, together with ECW and UNICEF, continue to ensure that children's education, and therefore their future, are safeguarded," she said.

"To this end, it is crucial to further support Egypt as a host country. It has shown remarkable resilience and generosity, but the increasing number of displaced individuals requires enhanced international assistance. By strengthening Egypt's capacity to support refugees, we can ensure that more children have access to education and eventually a brighter future," Hamdan added.

Duringthehigh-level ECW mission in Egypt, the ECW delegation met with key strategic partnersincluding donors, UN agencies, and local and international NGOs-and with Sudanese refugees to take stock of the scope of needs and the ongoing education response by aid partners.

Hopkins, Representative in Egypt, reiterated the agency's commitment.

"UNICEF is steadfast in its commitment to ensure that conflict-affected Sudanese children have the opportunity to resume their education. In Egypt, through innovative learning spaces and the Comprehensive Inclusion Programme, UNICEF is working diligently, under the leadership of the Egyptian government, in cooperation with sister UN agencies and development partners, to create inclusive learning environments and strengthen resilient education systems and services," Hopkins said.

"This not only benefits displaced Sudanese children but also supports host communities by ensuring that all children have access to quality education.'

In December 2023, ECW announced a USD 2 million Emergency Grant in Egypt. The 12-month grant, implemented by UNHCR in partnership with UNICEF, is reaching over 20,000 Sudanese refugees in the Aswan, Cairo, Giza and Alexandria governorates.

The grant supports interventions such as non-formal education, cash grants, social cohesion with host communities, mental health and psychosocial support, and construction and refurbishment work in public schools hosting refugee children to benefit both refugee and host community children. As conflict escalates across the globe, ECW is committed to ensuring that all children have a chance at lifelong learning and earning opportunities.

Beyond Egypt, ECW has allocated USD 8 million in First Emergency Response grants in the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan to address the urgent protection and education needs of children fleeing the armed conflict in Sudan. In Sudan, ECW has invested USD 28.7 million in multi-year and emergency grants, which have already reached more than 100,000 crisis-affected girls

During the mission, ECW called on leaders to increase funding for the regional refugee response and other forgotten crises worldwide. ECW urgently appeals to public and private donors to mobilize an additional US\$600 million to reach 20 million crisis-impacted girls and boys with safe, quality education by the end of its 2023-2026 strategic

IPS

Guardian FEATURES

By Telesphor Magobe

N a world in which people from different cultures and nationalities live, work and interact together must develop skills and competences that promote their coexistence and interdependence. The kind of education that can help us learn to live together in our diversity is intercultural or multicultural

The spirit behind intercultural or multicultural education is to promote cultural diversity and see others not as a threat, but as fellow global citizens. It is about cultivating in us positive attitudes about people of cultures and nationalities and going beyond personal limitations that make people turn inwards and reserved to the extent of failing to appreciate others and reach out

If these skills and competencies are not cultivated from childhood people may learn them at a later stage, but they might have harboured cultural prejudices which may be difficult or may take a long time to overcome. Exposure to other cultures may help individuals perceive others more positively than when they don't have such an opportunity. Thus, we can say that we are all challenged to be open to other people lest we turn inwards and develop negative attitudes and tendencies towards others.

Nowadays people speak of how the world has become like one village and have become global citizens who are open to cultural differences and people from other nationalities. In many parts of the world in general, and in Africa in particular, trading markets such as East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) promote cross-border trade and the movement of people, goods and services. Regional grouping or integration is a form of multiculturalism.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (EAC) report of 2019 titled "Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA): Next Steps for the African Continental Free Trade Area" says AfCFTA aspires towards deepening the integration of the African continent beyond merely a free trade area. Its objectives, among other things, are to create a liberalised market...through... negotiations, to lay the ground for the establishment of a Continental Customs Union and to contribute to the movement of capital and natural persons.

Agenda 63: The Africa We Want under aspiration 3.2.4: A peaceful and secure Africa it is states that "Under this aspiration, Africa is envisaged to emerge as a conflict-free continent with harmony among communities at the grassroots level and inter-state and intrastate wars eliminated and mechanisms put in place to prevent and/ resolve conflicts. Diversity (ethnic,

Intercultural education as lifelong learning to promote unity in diversity



religious, economic, cultural, etc) would be a source of wealth and accelerated economic growth rather than a source of conflict.

Młynarczuk-Sokołowska (2013) in her article titled "Intercultural Education: from Theory to Practice" observes that "diversity in a multicultural society is often perceived as a threat, which leads to hostility and discrimination. In an intercultural society, on the other hand, interactions establish and regulate social relations and consequently intercultural communication." The author suggests that intercultural competence includes knowledge, skills and attitudes that facilitate establishing friendly relations with people from different cultural backgrounds and nationalities.

Essentially, seeds of inculturalism or multiculturalism are already there what is needed is to let them as quoted in Peter Ottuh (2020)'s article titled "Xeno-about other people and this negative attitude will make

sprout, failure of which we are sure of being xenopho-

Xenophobic tendencies in society are a result of people who perceive themselves as having more rights than others due to lack of exposure and openness to others. According to Peter Ottuh (2020), it involves attitudes of fear, jealousy, hatred, negative perceptions, distrust, and manifestation through acts of violence or discrimination.

As human beings, we should bear each other and see each other interdependent. When people start perceiving others as a threat to them, it means they are not open to others. They can be violent to others because they perceive them as a threat to them and so they can easily abuse them and wrongly justify it. Mlambo (2019)

phobia in Africa: origins and manifestations" suggests that "the manifestation of xenophobia undermines social cohesion, peaceful co-existence, and good governance as well as constituting a violation of human rights."

Hussein Solomon and Hitomi Kosaka (2014) in their article titled "Xenophobia in South Africa: Reflections, Narratives and Recommendations" express similar views as those of Peter Ottuh (2020). Thus, it is good to do something about xenophobia, lest it overtakes us and turns us into violent persons.

Through intercultural education learners come to respect and celebrate diversity, promote equality and challenge any form of discrimination. This is the direction of our education we must take if we really want to live as global citizens, otherwise we won't be positive

Zanzibar slave market: A legacy of painful sufferings and resilience

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

HE history of the African slave trade is a welldocumented chapter of human suffering and humiliation. Among the most notorious centres of this trade was Zanzibar-an island that served as a significant transit point in East Africa for cen-

Not only was Zanzibar the fulcrum of political and economic power along the eastern coast of Africa, but it also housed one of the largest slave markets in the re-

Slaves, captured from the mainland, were brought to Zanzibar in chains to be sold to different countries around the globe. Slaves endured gruelling journeys spanning thousands of miles from the hinterlands, often suffering horrific hardships.

Due to its central location, Zanzibar played a crucial role in the abolition of slavery, influencing illegal human trafficking practices both in Africa and globally. The East African slave market, infamous in the region, was ultimately closed by order of the Sultan in 1873.

In 1879, the Anglican Cathedral of Christ's Church was constructed on the exact spot where the slave trade had operated. Its altar was placed precisely where slaves were once whipped and then displayed for sale.

The church stands as a symbolic monument to emancipation from the oppressive rule of Arab traders along the eastern coast, who inflicted severe injuries and suffering on Africans. Its design holds immense cultural, historical, and moral significance, not only for East Africa but also on an international scale.

Today, visitors walking through the narrow, winding streets toward the former marketplace in Mkunazini, located on the eastern side of Old Stone Town in Zanzibar, will eventually come upon the historic church. This church, the first of its kind constructed in East Africa, stands as a testament to the resilience of those who suffered under Muslim-Arab dominance.

The church, towering and brownish in colour, was erected under the orders of Sultan Sayyid Majid. Designers placed the altar at the exact location where slaves were displayed for sale and whipped to test their physi-

As recounted by Salim Othman Juma, a tour guide at the site, slaves were lined up in order of size, tied to a tree, and whipped with a stinging branch to gauge their resilience. Those who did not cry or faint fetched higher prices at the market.

Such stories serve as a poignant reminder of the cruelty faced by marginalized Africans, leaving a lasting impression on the consciousness of those who hear them.

The former whipping tree is marked by a white marble circle at the altar, surrounded by red marks symbolizing the bloodshed of slaves. Slaves were transported aboard dhows from the mainland, packed so tightly that many fell ill and died or were thrown overboard during transit.

Many more perished from severe beatings, com-



Three of the five statues chained around their necks to symbolize the brutality endured by Africans during the slave trade period in Zanzibar.

pounded by the lack of proper nourishment to make them appear strong. They were often forced to trek long distances, carrying heavy loads of ivory tusks from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, and Mozambique.

Adjacent to the church is the exhibition of the slave market of Eastern Africa, which displays photographs and historical information about the trade. There is also an underground tunnel where newly arrived slaves were kept, often in darkness and without adequate food for days, leading many to die of starvation and suf-

The church, now 145 years old, is notable for its Saracenic architectural design, with construction methods that pushed the limits of local coral stone techniques. Black cobblestones on the floor of the church serve as a somber reminder of the dungeons once used to imprison slaves.

Edward Steere, the first bishop of the church and a significant figure in Zanzibari history, wrote a Swahili handbook in 1885. He was born in England in 1829 and passed away in 1882. He is buried behind the high altar inside the cathedral.

A visit to the site reveals a stone monument created by Scottish artist Clara Solnas in 1997. The monument depicts five Africans chained by their necks, representing the severe betrayal and suffering of those sold into slavery.

Today, the location of the former slave market is one of the most popular sites in Old Stone Town, which was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. The place attracts over 100,000 visitors annu-

The legacy of the slave trade in Zanzibar is commemorated each year on the UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the African Slave Trade, observed in March.

A section of Old Stone Town has been set aside for this remembrance, marking it as a site of African suffering. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has preserved this area to remind the world of the darkest chapters in history, where the dignity and respect of Africans were brutally stripped away. In May of this year, a foundation stone was installed by President Hussein Ally Mwinyi as a symbol of reconciliation and remembrance.

The city's slave trade, driven by Europeans, Indians, Arabs, and local leaders, eventually came to an end. Zanzibar became a focal point in the campaign

against slavery, led by Scottish explorer David Livingstone and other activists in the late 19th century.

From the end of the 15th century, the Portuguese controlled Zanzibar for nearly two centuries until they were expelled, and the island became part of the Oman Sultanate in 1698. Under Omani control, the trade of slaves, ivory, and spices flourished.

By the 19th century, the Zanzibar Sultanate had emerged as the primary slave market in Eastern Africa, thanks to its strategic location in the Indian Ocean. It is estimated that between 1830 and 1873, approximately 600,000 people were sold as slaves, with many more dying in the process.

By Bernardo Araujo

DIDN'T know what to expect when I arrived at Cocotá. The large plaza, 11 hectares (27 acres) snatched from the sea by land reclamation more than five decades ago, was all too familiar. Everything in it was more or less as I remembered, from the skate tracks and sport courts to the concrete benches and walkways. Everything, save for the small, curious cluster of trees I'd come to visit, which looked more like a small forest than just another garden built by the city administration.

Cocotá is a neighborhood of Governor's Island (or Ilha do Governador), a 39-square-kilometer (15-square-mile) island in the northeastern part of Rio de Janeiro. A large section of the island is occupied by the Brazilian Air Force and Rio's international airport, leaving roughly half of its area to the more than 200,000 residents. Not long ago, I used to be one of them, which made the object of my visit all the more surprising: I would never expect an agroforest – where useful trees, shrubs and annual plants are grown together in a system that provides fruits, vegetables and habitat for animals - to take root here, in the middle of my city.

My hosts for the evening were enjoying the shade of the miniature "food forest," as agroforestry plots are often called. Victor Huggo, a local architect, rose from his seat at the roots of a jambolan tree (Malabar plum, Syzygium cumini) to greet me. Across from him was Lucas Marques, a geography student at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), who extended his hand. Both young men had lived on Governor's Island for many years, and neither were people you'd expect to be tending an agroforestry plot in a public square. But this is the point of the whole initiative.

The Cocotá Agroforest was born of the will of a few community members, and for seven years it has been growing out of initially poor soil without any kind of governmental or corporate support, amid the concrete jungle of Brazil's second largest city. This unusual idea is now spreading, too, inspiring more than a dozen other agroforests and agroecology-based gardens across the island, but its genesis is perhaps its most surprising aspect.

Vegetables and sunflower seeds

In 2017, TV Globo, Brazil's largest media company, promoted an event on Governor's Island seeking to integrate local artists and stimulate further cultural projects there. Dancers, musicians, yoga teachers, theater groups, martial artists and more gathered at Cocotá for the festival, and among the scheduled activities was the creation of a small community garden led by an organic farmer named Pedro Vettorazzo but handled by the community itself.

"I think I was passing by with my mother, and then we got involved and started digging," says Paulo Randall, a local skateboarder who used to hang around the plaza. "The earth there was really, really hard."

By the end of that day, lettuces, parsley, chives and kale were planted, but Globo's involvement with the garden ended as soon as the festivities were over, leaving its fate in the hands of residents.

Randall was one of the first community members to start acting on behalf of the plot and add to it. Finding himself with a few too many germinated sunflower seeds at home – leftovers from a healthy diet – he decided to plant them in the garden.

The flowers took well to their new environment and started drawing the attention of community members, especially older folks. Seeing Randall taking daily care of the new, colorful garden, people started offering him more plants.

Soon, other locals, such as Victor Huggo (who goes by his compound name) and Marques also became involved with planting, pruning and watering. Their care followed no real method at first, however, and the poor, reclaimed soil of the plaza proved a barrier to their efforts.

But as they studied more and eventually came into contact with UFRJ students participating in agroecological projects at the university, a very specific kind of agriculture started to take shape.

An urban agroforest blooms

Agroforestry is an agroecology practice that integrates trees – often the fruit- or medicine-producing kind – with crops or livestock. It draws knowledge directly from forestry and ecological succession theory, which pays attention to how plant communities change over time; or, more to the point, how certain species, when colonizing a new area, transform local conditions in ways that allow other species to survive

In 2017, none of the people who now invited me into the heart of their community project knew exactly what an agroforest was or how they were supposed

"As we worked, each of us studied individually," remembers Victor Huggo. Slowly, they learned a bit more from books, movies, articles and from their own practice.

MONDAY FIME 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)

"The plot was like a school," says Marques, who also

Rio's grassroots agroforestry sustains various birds, bees and communities



Building a pergola at the entrance to the Cocotá Agro-forest in 2023

had the opportunity to interact with agroforestry proj Now, seven years later, these self-taught agroforesters were educating me – someone who has dedicated more than a decade to ecological studies – on how to use chayas (Cnidoscolus aconitifolius), tree marigolds (Tithonia diversifolia) and pigeon peas (Cajanus cajan) as green manure. These plants help build up the organic matter and structure of the soil and also enrich it with nitrogen. Also, chopping down banana trees after they fruit is a technique that helps maintain local humidity, and adding other pruned plant matter to the mix helps enrich the soil for fruit trees.

Today, bananas, jambolan plums, Barbados cherries (Malpighia emarginata), lemon vines (Pereskia aculeata) and much more grow in an area of about 558 square meters (6,000 square feet). But even as its methods became more sophisticated, the initiative never abandoned its ideological roots.

Every community member is welcome to get their hands dirty, to learn how agroforestry works, and, perhaps most importantly, to benefit from what's being produced. Anyone can help themselves to the food and medicinal plants in the plot, and throughout the year, people – particularly those in need – collect locally grown pigeon peas, avocados, graviolas and

"We see people coming here and consuming things on a daily basis," Victor Huggo says.

Spreading roots

"Everything germinated here," says Jefferson José Nogueira, locally known as Jack, referring to the Cocotá Agroforest as we walked from it to a Brazilian public emergency care unit (UPA) just 200 meters (600 feet) away, sited between the plaza and Guanabara Bay, He has been involved with the initiative since its early months and, around three years ago, took the lead in one of its many resulting outgrowths.

"When we started here, everything was overgrown with weeds," he says. In 2021, he led an effort to start another agroforest right on UPA land about the same size as the original plot in Cocotá.

Looking around, it seemed incredible that it started only three years ago: bananas, passion fruits, papayas, guavas, achiote (Bixa orellana) and moringa (Moringa oleifera) were already growing well in the care center's plot. Thanks to its easy access to freshwater via the center – a privilege the original forest didn't have – the yard contains a vertical vegetable farm and a nursery. There are also chairs and a table by the bay so that UPA employees can enjoy their lunch breaks outside, surrounded by the sea and trees. Soon, when the yard has a bit more shade and a richer soil, Nogueira wants to plant cacao and jussara palms (Euterpe edulis).

As with the Cocotá plaza, Nogueira started planting in the UPA without any support, but recently, after a change in the care center's administration, the new director fell in love with the initiative, hiring Nogueira to take care of it.

And now, two more agroforests – also "children" of the university and Cocotá initiatives – are being tended by a UPA worker in a different Governor's Island neighborhood, called Ribeira. A long-time contributor to the agroecological initiative, Alexandre Henrique decided to replicate everything he learned from Cocotá in his own backyard there.

"There was a time in my life when things weren't going so well, and I would come [to Cocotá] and eat Barbados cherries and lemon vine leaves from the garden, and I was able to get through the morning,' he says. The memory compelled him to start a new plot in an abandoned lot in front of his house.

"When we had our first pigeon pea plant [in Cocotá], we saw a family harvesting it, saying that it was what had fed them in northern Brazil." he says. According to him, everyone should have access to food grown in the streets.

"I don't harvest anything I grow in front of my house. I plant there so that people can learn to pass by, look and take what's ripe," Hen-

Other effects of these initiatives have also reached local schools. In 2019, at Sun Yat Sen, a public school located in the neighborhood of Tauá, the pedagogical coordinator Gabriela Sinhorelo started another agroforestry endeavor together with UFRJ students participating in Capim Limão, one of the university's own agroecological projects. According to her, they "have been doing ecological literacy work." Over the last five years, the chil-

dren have taken part in the creation of a hanging garden, an herb spiral, a small orchard and in the planting of different nonconventional food plants (so-called plantas alimentícias não convencionais, or PANCs). Sinhorelo says the plants have already ameliorated the heat in some parts of the school, but adds that agroecology has changed more than the local climate and landscape: It has changed the minds and perspectives of everyone taking part in the project.

Rewilding the urban land-

Isabela Maciel is the only active member of the Cocotá initiative with formal academic ties, and she is trying to understand how bee diversity responds to changes in the urban landscape

"We want to know how the landscape affects biodiversity in these agrosystems," she says. Her master's research mapped 18 different agroecological plots on Governor's Island, mostly in schools and public spaces.

Maciel had become involved with the initiative in 2018, while still an undergrad. Her past work had looked into the relationship between bee and coffee plants in two other municipalities of Rio de Janeiro state, but her work on the island is still just beginning.

Her personal experience with the agroforest drove her scientific curiosity. "As we planted, we started seeing different bee species appearing along the years," she says, and birds too. "When I started here, there weren't many trees, so birds didn't hang around much. But as the trees grew, [we] started seeing pionus parrots (Pionus sp.), waxbills (Estrilda astrild),

fork-tailed flycatchers (Tyrannus savana) and more."

Maciel isn't alone in her observations. According to geography student Marques, especially throughout the first years of the Cocotá Agroforest, a succession of insect species followed the growing number of plants they cultivated.

"In the beginning, leafcutter ants dominate because they love degraded soil," he says. "However, as the soil improves, the leafcutter ants can no longer survive, and new species of ants, including some carnivorous ones, start to ap-

But ants weren't the only newden into an agroforestry system, you see different creatures appearing in cycles. There was a time when spiders, colorful grasshoppers, many birds and cicadas appeared. It's fascinating to see this diversity and how each one contributes to the balance," Marques

The day fireflies appeared was truly magical, because it's something very rare here in the city," he

Similar experiences seem to come with every agroecological plot. During my short visit to the UPA clinic, Nogueira also mentioned that after the planted trees grew a bit, many birds started to visit the care center's yard every morning. Bees are now frequent visitors too, and he took the opportunity to show me some of the traps Maciel had set up in the area. At Sun Yat Sen, according to teacher Sinhorelo, ladybugs are the stars of the show.

"In certain seasons, when the pigeon pea blooms, we have all kinds of bees and ladybugs," she says. "It's the most beautiful thing. The children walk around with ladybugs in their hands."

TUESDAY FIME 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 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

MCHAGANGANYIKO)

WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMA

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

MCHAGANGANYIKO)

THURSDAY 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 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS

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)

FRIDAY 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 SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME

07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI

22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI

SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME

07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 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









Food vendors drilled on better ways to use clean cooking energy gadgets

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

IFTY food vendors in Morogoro Region have been provided with essential training and clean cooking energy tools to promote sustainable practices.

This is part of Taifa Gas Company's initiative to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's ongoing drive to promote clean energy across Tanzania.

During the handover event, the traders received gas stoves, cylinders, and fuel under soft condi-

Angellah Bhoke, Taifa Gas corporate affairs manager said the initiative is designed to help the entrepreneurs adopt clean energy solutions in their businesses, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly

"This initiative is part of Taifa Gas's broader effort to reduce reliance on traditional cooking fuels such as charcoal and firewood, which are harmful to health and the environment. By facilitating the transition to LPG, we aim to set an example of how young people can engage in sustainable practices while running their businesses," she explained.

The food vendors received complete 38kg LPG sets and stoves in July 2023, under a flexible payment plan from Taifa Gas.

"Through this innovative credit programme, Taifa Gas is not only empowering the youth of Morogoro but also setting an example of how businesses can contribute to sustainable development and environmental conservation while enhancing the livelihoods of local communities," Bhoke

One year on, the beneficiaries are completing their payments with a changed perspective on clean energy use.

"I don't think any of us would want to return to using firewood or charcoal after this transformation. For me, it's been a year of significant change. I used to spend between 70,000/- and 75,000/on charcoal, but now almost 90 percent of my cooking is done with gas," said 31-year-old Issa Sudi, a beneficiary at the Msamvu market in Morogoro.



One of the small food business owners at the Msamvu market in Morogoro, Halima Kimairo, one of the beneficiaries of a 50 cooking gas cylinders credit programme continues with her business at the market over the weekend in the municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.Mauritania.

wards clean energy as a positive

He is joined by fellow young food vendors like Neema Mnokela, Shadrack Michael, Mawazo Sudi, who has been a food ven- Cosmas, and Sharia Mpishi, who dor at the Msamvu market for have become role models in their

nearly 9 years, views the push to- community by embracing clean fumes from traditional fuels, imenergy solutions.

> "The use of LPG has made meal preparation more efficient, significantly reducing cooking times and operational costs. Additionally, this shift has decreased our

proving our health," said Mnoke-

Since the launch of the clean cooking agenda by President Samia in 2022, Taifa Gas has invested an estimated 2bn/-under exposure to harmful smoke and its Corporate Social Investment

programme to support the campaign's sustainability.

The company has also expanded its network of depots across the country and maintained a robust transport system to ensure LPG reaches all regions.

Woman entrepreneur finds niche by leveraging traditional cuisine in Namibia

WINDHOEK

an informal settlement about 10 km from the city center of Windhoek, the Namibian capital, a local woman entrepreneur is leveraging traditional food to transform the business scene in the area and has achieved success via catering busi-

Saima Mukwiilongo, the owner of Sai's Kitchen, said she established the eatery in 2017 in the informal settlement popularly known as Havana, to redefine the often overlooked local cuisine and create employment, which is a challenge in Namibia.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency, the country's unemployment rate stands at 33.4 percent.

The food outlet, which is named after the first three letters of the founder's name, offers traditional meals using indigenous ingredients. The menu includes dishes made with spinach, peas, tripe, marula oil, chicken, mahangu (pearl millet), maize porridge, and various types of meat. It provides a range of services, including sitdown dining, takeout, delivery, and event catering.

"It is also about taking people back to their cultural roots and making traditional food easily accessible in an urban setting," she said in a recent interview.

Mukwiilongo developed her culinary skills while working at a restaurant in Windhoek during her second year of studies at the International University of Management, where she was pursuing a degree in HIV/AIDS management.

"While I wanted to earn money to offset costs, it sparked my inter-



An employee serves traditional dish at Sai's Kitchen, an eatery in the informal settlement popularly known as Havana, in Windhoek, Namibia

with my boy siblings as I am the only girl child,"

According to the 30-year-old mother, her other goal was to redefine business models in informal settlements, which are dominated by informal and unregistered businesses.

"While the outlet architecture is still corrugated iron to create an essence of belonging, the business model is formal and friendly, which is our niche," she said.

Over the years, Mukwiilongo has managed to est in food, something I was not attract new clientele by highlighting the value of

really good at. Growing up here, I played more tradition through aggressive social media mar-

According to her, many people are surprised to find a food enterprise like hers in an informal settlement. Eight years on, the establishment has served nearly 10,000 clients who seek to immerse themselves in traditional food. Sai's Kitchen has also become a hub for socialization.

"Therefore, we have not only attracted people to dine but also to visit Havana's informal settlement for the first time, promoting diversity and exposure," she said.

To sustain the business, proceeds are rein-

vested along with continued robust marketing strategies. From initially starting as a one-person operation, the outlet now employs ten staff

Meanwhile, Sai's Kitchen has made a significant impact on the local community since its opening.

The catering enterprise also sources ingredients from local vendors and entrepreneurs, positively aiding the local economy. "I grew up here in Havana, and I'm a firm believer in starting where you are, which, in my case, is at home," Mukwiilongo said.

For Windhoek-based vendors like Selma David, this creates a value chain that aids the growth of informal trade at the grassroots.

In addition, locals have resonated with the eatery's meals and broader contribution to shifting business norms in informal settlements.

Apollo Shigwedha, 34, who works at a government agency, has lived in Windhoek for over 11 years. He said he learned about Sai's Kitchen from social media, where he got the chance to immerse himself more by socializing in informal settlements. The visits broadened his perspective and helped him embrace multiculturalism through the cuisine offered at the catering

The outlet is also a popular spot for those seeking natural options and the health benefits of traditional foods. "We have also received tourists keen for a true township experience," Mukwiilongo said.

As part of its business growth strategy, the enterprise has expanded, opening another branch in the Windhoek Ausspannplatz suburb, a walking distance from the Windhoek city center.

Despite this, some challenges persist. These include scaling the business in the face of uncertain client numbers and the high cost of living affecting ingredient prices, according to Mukwiilongo.

Mukwiilongo said she hopes to diversify the food menu of her catering business by including other African cuisines. It has also tailored the menu to incorporate traditional food with contemporary drinks to meet the demand for inclusivity.

"While expanding to open similar branches is also on the horizon, our primary focus remains on bringing hope to our community," she said.

Sudanese turn to home farming for survival, livelihood amid war

AHMED Al-Nour Al-Haj, a resident from Omdurman, a populous city north of Sudan's capital Khartoum, turned his home into a small farm where he grows vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products.

"I grow essential vegetables such as onions, okra, eggplant, mallow, and pumpkin, along with fruits such as lemon and mango, and various types of dates," Al-Haj told Xinhua.

"The war has pushed us to resort to this means to obtain food and achieve self-sufficiency," he added.

Since April 15, 2023, Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, resulting in the loss

of at least 16,650 lives. An estimated 10.7 million people are now internally displaced in Sudan, with approximately 2.2 million others seeking refuge in neighboring countries, according to the latest UN data.

A recent report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) showed that about 25.6 million people -- more than half of the population of Sudan -- face acute hunger, including more than 755,000 people on the brink of famine.

The risk of famine is particularly severe in 14 areas across the country, including some hotspots in Khartoum, the OCHA report showed.

Al-Haj was not the only one in adapting to the challenges of life in the State of Khartoum. The war has led to severe food short-



ages and high commodity prices, forcing thousands of families in the state

to turn to home farming, or indoor farming, to secure their food supply. "I sought a way to help my family and decided to farm inside our home in Omdurman," said Nadia Ezz El-Din, a university student from Omdur-

"I cultivate various crops and vegetables that we need on a daily basis,

including tomatoes, peppers, and hot peppers," she said. In Ezz El-Din's view, home farming has enabled thousands of families to provide their daily sustenance under harsh conditions of the war.

For others, it has become a livelihood source, with families earning income by selling their homegrown agricultural products.

Zahra Saleh, who runs a small greengrocer near her home in Omdurman's Karari neighbourhood, views home farming as "a job opportunity and a daily source of income."

"All the vegetables I sell were grown at home," Saleh

Salahuddin Idris, a Sudanese agricultural expert, explained that home farming was possible for Khartoum residents due to the area's fertile lands, favourable climate, and abundant water resources.

With home farming gaining popularity in the State of Khartoum, the local government plans to offer support to productive families.

"We are seeking to localize vegetable production in Khartoum State and working to provide certain types of seeds," Acting Minister of Social Development of Khartoum State Siddiq Hassan Freini said.

FEATURE

By Farai Matiashe

HEN Wonder Mwatamawenyu tested positive for HIV as a young man more than two decades ago, he thought he had signed his death warrant.

His society told him that HIV and AIDS, which were spreading rapidly in Zimbabwe in the 1980s and 1990s, had no treatment.

Mwatamawenyu tested HIV-positive in 2003 after going to donate blood at a health facility near his house in Matika village, just outside Mutare in eastern Zimbabwe. "I was shocked. I did not believe it," the 51-year-old father of six said.

"I later got sick and health workers encouraged me to take antiretroviral therapy (ART) medicine which I have been taking since 2004," the tall, wiry man said, referring to the standard HIV treatment that was first rolled out in the country that same year.

Mwatamawenyu is one of about 1.3 million people living with HIV in Zimbabwe today. In the 20 years since he was diagnosed, much has changed.

When ART was first introduced around the world, patients used to take a combination of many drugs, but the treatment is now available in fixed-dose combinations that allow people to take just one or two pills. Taken every day for the rest of a person's life, ART remains the most accessible HIV treatment globally because it is effective in stopping the virus from replicating in the body and is cost-effective, particularly in low-income communities.

Though ART does not cure HIV and AIDS - there is no cure - it helps patients' immune systems and reduces mortality and morbidity. The disease is also no longer a death sentence, despite its seriousness.

AIDS-related deaths peaked in Zimbabwe in the 1990s and new HIV infections were high in the early 2000s when Mwatamawenyu was diagnosed. But the figures have declined over the years because of interventions like ART, and awareness campaigns on preventing mother-to-child transmission.

For those living with the disease, many say the sense of community they have managed to build has been a lifeline - more than just the medical care.

Stigma

Mwatamawenyu, who speaks at a million miles a minute, is the preacher of a small religious group. He said that when news reached his congregants that he had HIV, most left him.

They thought I was dying. About 70 percent left. They thought I could transmit HIV to them just through a handshake."

People became aware of his health status because of his frequent visits to the local clinic, walking distance from his home, to collect his medication and for routine checkups, Mwatamawenyu said.

They give me hope': Beating HIV stigma with community support in Zimbabwe



Mwatamawenyu fetches water in a well in a garden in Matika village

He had also lost his father to AIDS in the mid-1990s.

While his congregants were afraid, his family was always supportive, particularly his mother.

"She encouraged me to take ART," he said, also adding that his wife was HIV-negative but passed away in 2007 from an unrelated illness.

Born and raised in Chimanimani, some 150km from Mutare, Mwatamawenyu shares his story with others who are part of a group of people living with HIV from their village.

Group member Ruth Mlambo, a mother of four, tested HIV-positive in 2002 when a doctor revealed that her husband was positive and had been taking ART medicine.

"He hid it away from me. It was painful," the 53-year-old former book-keeper and healthcare worker said, recounting the distressing memories.

Mlambo said they kept the diagnosis a secret from the community at the request of her shy husband until he passed away in 2004. When she finally revealed she had HIV, she faced stigma and discrimination.

"My late husband's relatives did not know that he died from AIDS, so they accused me of cheating following his death," said Mlambo.

Newly widowed and left to look after her schoolaged children while struggling with her health, she was helpless and the future was uncertain, she recalled.

She has carried her scars since.

Last year Zimbabwe reached the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) target dubbed 95-95-95, whereby 95 percent of people living with HIV should be diagnosed while 95 percent of those living with HIV should be on ART medication and 95 percent of those should achieve viral suppression.

This helps in reducing HIV transmission and mortality as the 95-95-95 target results in 85 percent of all people living with HIV with viral load suppression, according to UNAIDS.

More than 1.2 million out of 1.3 million people living with HIV in Zimbabwe are on medication, according to government officials. About 97 percent of those have achieved viral suppression.

Over the years, the numbers of people dying from AIDS have also been declining. In 2002, 130,000 AIDS-related deaths were recorded compared with 20,200 in 2021, according to a report from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Behind these strides in HIV prevention and treatment are men and women like Mwatamawenyu and Mlambo who fought hard to change their predicament.

Two years ago, there was a successful campaign to remove a law criminalising the wilful transmission of HIV, because research showed that women were being charged for this crime when venturing out in search of healthcare.

Recently the government tried to sneak it back into law, but lawmakers resisted and it was removed.

Daniel Molokele, chairperson for the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health said they spoke strongly against it. The Ministry of Justice was trying to get it recriminalised to protect minors, but gender activists said criminalising sexually transmitted infections violates human rights and increases stigma.

moved," Molokele said.

Evellyn Chamisa, the national coordinator for the Network of Zimbabwe Positive Women, an activist group, said involving all stakeholders - especially policymakers and beneficiaries in everything from prevention and treatment to awareness - made successful strides in achieving the UNAIDS target.

"Letting the people own the epidemic and put them in front in programming is important," she said.

Community support

Community health groups like the one Mwatamawenyu belongs to create a platform for people living with HIV to get counselling, financial resources and other social support.

Back in 2004, he said the odds seemed impossible, but discovering there were many like him was a huge relief.

"I joined some groups of people living with HIV and this was a boost. I had developed low self-esteem. They gave me hope," said Mwatamawenyu, his smile bright.

Looking at ease, Mlambo said she started taking ART medication in 2014 after falling sick, but HIV and AIDS-related awareness campaigns on radio and in the community changed her life.

She also took on entrepreneurship projects and started attending counselling sessions, she said, adding that the idea was to keep herself busy so that she did not stress.

Groups of people living with HIV share an unbreakable bond and where there is a bond there is hope, said Mlambo.

A devout Christian who goes to the Anglican Church, she is also popular in her village, having appeared on national TV talk shows, in church and on different platforms, inspiring many with her journey.

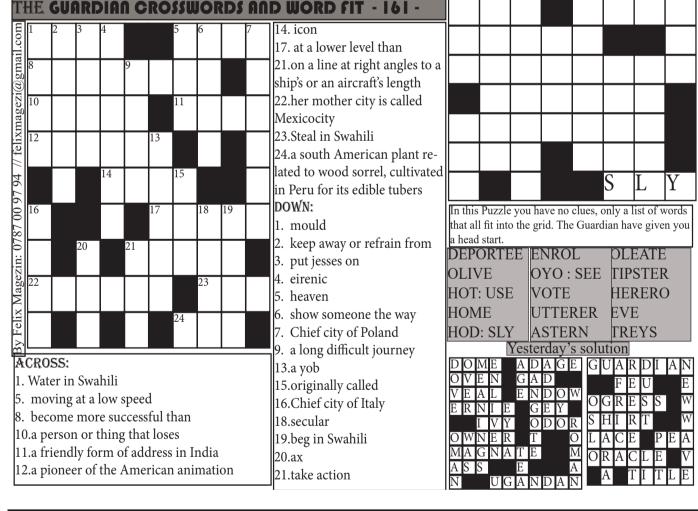
Martha Tolana, an HIV/AIDS activist, said while there has been great political will in the fight against the disease in Zimbabwe, HIV support groups provide a haven for people living with it.

"Providing peer counselling, advice and support on appropriate nutrition, treatment and adherence support, dealing with stigma and discrimination, as well as livelihoods support has been a game changer," she said.

"Home-based care also started in the support groups," Tolana said, referring to psychosocial support given to people living with HIV in their homes by informal or formal caregivers.

Zimbabwe has also been making progress in reducing mother-to-child transmission. It is mandatory for pregnant mothers to get tested for HIV and if they are positive, they get medication to prevent transmission to their unborn baby.

Though the current mother-tochild transmission rate is eight percent, which is still high, it has declined from 30 percent in 2004, according to UNICEF.



















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SIVART MONEY

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Multi-faceted approach needed to enhance sexual and reproductive health rights in Africa

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Qatar Airways offers ticket discount for visa card holders

Transaction costs obstruct Tanzania's digital payment adoptions

By Guardian Correspondent

S the country is gearing towards cashless economy, specifically payments of goods and services, the new report By Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has revealed that the transaction costs have been cited as among the factors obstructing the usage of digital payment systems.

"The increase in cost to consumers deters not only the adoption of digital payments but also the actual usage," says the National Payment Systems annual report 2023.

This limitation obstructs the importance and uptake of digital payments in facilitating financial transactions in comparison to other payment channels.

BoT is therefore advocates for the affordability of payment system products and services to consumers to attain the cash-lite agenda by promoting the adoption and usage of digital payments.

The Bank in collaboration with stakeholders, conducted a market study to explore the pricing structure of digital products encompassing operational, regulatory, commission, interoperable cost elements and the policy compliance in order to tackle the prevalent challenge of high transaction fees on money transfer to banks and mobile money operators.

Emmanuel Tutuba, governor of the BoT says efforts to create a conducive environment for digital payments included reduction of fees and

charges, reduction of transaction levies for digital transactions, strengthening of risk management systems for non-bank PSPs, and increasing use cases in digital products.

Additionally, TANQR was implemented to enable merchants to receive payments from various networks via a standardized quick response code.

Measures were also taken to minimize losses from cyber-attacks, including revising contactless card limits, alerting the public on financial scam messages, and developing cloud computing guidelines.

In addition, the governor explains that TANQR Guidelines were published to facilitate seamless adoption of the standards.

In 2023, the payment systems, including TISS, TACH, and TIPS, demonstrated strong performance in electronic fund transfers

The report says, digital merchant payments surged during last year, partly due to supportive regulatory reforms and the elimination of transaction levies.

In 2023, cross-border transactions processed through SWIFT decreased while fund transfers through EMIs in the EAC and SADC regions recorded impressive growth, resulting in a positive net transfer.

In addition, mobile payments rebounded, driven by the uptake of person-to-person transactions as BoT implemented TANQR and reduced fees on digital payments to foster usage.

The report shows during last year year, there was a notable surge in the adoption of digital payments, both retail and large-value payment platforms, through our Systemically Important Payment Systems (SIPS) and regional payment systems, namely the East African Payment System (EAPS) and



the SADCRTGS.

"Through close collaboration with payment system stakeholders, the Bank continued to implement initiatives to foster a cash-lite agenda," said Tutuba.

This included encouraging the widespread adoption of digital payment solutions, particularly for merchant collections and disbursements.

"This momentum in digitalization was underpinned by the safety, reliability and efficiency of the payment systems. In a bid to ensure accessibility and affordability of payment services, the BoT in collaboration with stakeholders provided guidelines on fees and charges for digital transactions involving both retail and large-value transactions," he said.

These measures aim to increase usage of digital payments, promote financial inclusion and support the transition towards a more inclusive and efficient payment ecosystem in the country.

Tutuba said the BoT continued to uphold a

robust supervisory framework to safeguard the payment systems against potential risks, thereby maintaining trust through their reliability, efficiency, security, and inclusiveness.

"Our strategic priorities remain centered around key objectives, including enhancing public awareness, fortifying consumer protection measures, fostering innovation in adaption of digital products, preserving the affordability of payment systems, and adhering to compliance standards,'

"These initiatives collectively aim to reinforce the resilience and efficiency of the payment infrastructures while promoting broader objectives of financial inclusion, digital transformation, financial stability and economic growth in general."

During 2023, POS increased by 18.25 per cent to 8,652 from 7,317 reported in 2022. Both local and foreign transaction volumes increased by 46.95 and 43.72 percent, respectively.

The value of local transactions grew by 43.04

percent to 1,922.2bn/- in 2023 from 1,343.8bn/- processed in 2022.

The report shows that mobile payment transactions also increased by 41 percent to 5,061.2 million from 3,595.04 million, recorded in 2022.

Mobile transaction value rebounded from the negative growth of 0.79 percent in 2022 to attain an overall growth rate of 35.33 percent. In terms of value, mobile payments increased to 154,705.7bn/- in 2023 compared to 114,315.98bn/-, recorded in a similar period in 2022.

The growth in both volume and value was partly explained by the reduction of the transaction levy and exemption from the transactions levy of all digital government transactions and merchant transactions related to the purchase and sale of goods.

The government was among the key players facilitating the high adoption and usage of mobile payments in Tanzania.

The digitalization of government payments such as salaries, social benefits, and tax payments all fueled the usage of mobile payments.

Payment to Business (P2B) indicated an exponential growth rate of 71.41 percent and 68.68 percent in volume and value. The number of P2B transactions was 1,350.84 million and the value was 18,250.3bn/-. Payment to business reflects the merchant adoption of digital payments.

Merchant payments experienced significant adoption, with the number of merchants increasing by 68 percent to 657,346.

LEARNING THROUGH LENDING:

China-Africa economic engagement through FOCACs past, present

By Lucas Engel

AS the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) approaches, it is warranted to look back at the trajectory of China-African economic engagement and assess its current state.

For China, FOCAC, in its early years, provided a platform for assembling the ideological foundation of its growing ties with Africa while promoting policies that matched China's needs as a growing economy with opportunities in Africa.

However, pledges and rhetoric at the last two FOCACs reflect the realization that Chinese and African needs and objectives do not reach perfect equilibrium without intervention and correction.

Chinese and African officials have identified fundamental deficiencies in their previous modes of economic engagement, and actions taken in recent years exemplify the political will necessary to implement chang-

However, it remains to be seen whether China can match political will with financial means to bring about real change.

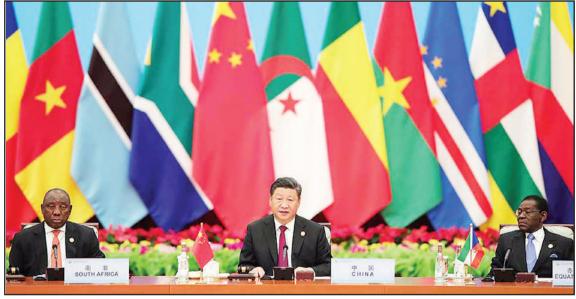
A return to the infrastructure lending that characterized past China-Africa economic engagement is not realistic, and yet the recent focus on industrialization cannot succeed without infrastructure. FOCAC 2024 will indicate how, if at all, China and Africa might resolve this dilemma.

Economic interaction at the first FOCACs in the 2000s sought to lay the groundwork for trade relationships that would allow African exporters of primary commodities to benefit from a Chinese economy with double-digit growth and an insatiable appetite for raw resources. China-Africa trade grew from \$11.67 billion in 2000 to \$257.67 billion

As China's current account balance ballooned after accession to the World Trade Organization in 2000, dollar reserves turned from FOCAC lending pledges to Chinesebuilt infrastructure in Africa.

Between 2000-2022, Chinese lenders provided approximately \$170.08 billion in sovereign loans to Africa, around 64 percent of the total amount committed by the World Bank during the same period.

Chinese loans to Africa not only narrowed



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (L) and Equatorial Guinea President Thedoro Nguema during previous FOCAC meeting. File Photo

the infrastructure gap left by traditional donors who shifted emphasis from hard to soft infrastructure in Africa and elsewhere but also allowed Chinese contractors and heavy industry to expand to new markets as the Chinese market became increasingly saturated and competitive. The scaling down of financial pledges at the 2021 FOCAC and the complete absence of the word "infrastructure" from Chinese leader Xi Jinping's keynote are often attributed to Africa's debt troubles and China's growing aversion to credit risks associated with African countries.

While these factors undoubtedly contributed to a general scaling down of financial pledges, they cannot fully explain the qualitative shift in rhetoric and pledges that reflect a growing awareness that more of the same will not fix fundamental deficiencies in China-Africa economic engagement. In this context, interaction at the 2018 and 2021 FOCACs can be viewed as a renegotiation of the basic tenets of China-Africa economic engagement.

African observers have expressed concern over the growing trade deficit and a disappointingly familiar pattern of the exchange of raw African resources for manufactured goods from China. Indeed, from 2000-2022, extractives comprised 89 percent of all African exports to

Consequently, the commodity price crash of 2014-15 and sustained low prices contributed to a widening trade deficit with China that reached 2.6 percent of Africa's gross domestic product in 2022.

To that end, China's recent focus on lending to smalland medium-sized enterprises and trade finance support indicate Beijing's willingness to follow through on corrective measures and exemplify China's sincerity when it

comes to laying the groundwork for more diversified and sustainable trade with Africa.

However, quality without quantity will not be enough to turn lessons learned into tangible results. Effective support for industrialization and value-added industries will depend on China's ability to integrate elements of its previous engagement strategy, especially infrastructure funding, into its new approach to Africa.

Energy infrastructure, in particular, will be key to realizing the potential of Sino-African collaboration on valueadded industries associated with transition minerals. Yet Africa's ability to absorb debt and China's willingness to provide the level of loan finance that drove infrastructure development in the past represent hurdles that will be difficult to overcome.

A renewed focus on infrastructure would have to rely on Chinese investment, a dubious economic prospect, as past Chinese investments in Africa focused largely on mining and manufacturing, not infrastructure. Public private partnerships (PPPs) represent a promising avenue for risk-sharing that could attract Chinese firms to infrastructure investment, but the expansion of Sino-African PPPs is hampered by several factors. First, PPPs are relatively new to Africa.

African governments are still in the process of rolling out the legislation and building the expertise that will allow them to negotiate, design, and implement PPP projects. Second, Chinese companies that are used to execute engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts in Africa will be wary of the higher risks and longer horizons associated with PPPs. Getting the incentives right will be difficult.

Tazama pipeline swings back into business, issues 4.3bn/- dividend

By Francis Kajubi

EPUTY Prime Minnas commended the Mumba. Tanzania-Zambia Pipelines Limited (TAZAMA) for making a rebound in its operations that has led it to dishing 4.35bn/- in dividends to the treasury from its 2023 profits.

Addressing governments' del-Dar es Salaam yesterday at TAZA-MA's dividend declaration event, Dr Biteko who also doubles as the Energy Minister, said that the government is reconsidering more venture project as it sees changes reflecting in its financial books.

He said the last time the company declared dividends was in 2019.

According to him, TAZAMA board of directors and management has really taken good care of shareholders' interests with government to earn the cited dividend.

Dr Biteko said the declaration of the dividends has been made possible after the convention of the TAZAMA pipeline.

"The pipeline is however facing security threats such as vandalism of the pipe and destruction of the underlying floor. The security risks should be vigilantly worked on with wider interest of the people from our two nations," said Dr Biteko.

He said TAZAMA is considerwhich will deliver five million metric tons per annum.

On his part, Peter Mumba, the said the past financial year has been one of remarkable achievements for the company.

enced before, convention of the remaining 33 percent. End.

pipeline from commingled feed stock to low Sulphur gasoil we have managed to maintain operation efficiency ster Dr Doto Biteko and improve our service delivery," said

> The efforts, he said, have not only strengthened the company's market position but also enhanced financial performance.

Nehemiah Mchechu, Treasury Registrar said that TAZAMA was established in 1966 and in this year marks 58 years. egates from the two countries in He said that in the past five years shareholders had never received but due to reforms initiated by the sixth government, finally light at the end of the tunnel is to be realized.

He commended TAZAMA's manlucrative investments in the joint agement for successfully recording a 52.24bn/- profit after tax in last year's operations.

> "This is an incredible rebound in profit generation and dividend disbursement since 2019. The dividend amount dished brings a hope that TAZAMA is going to perform well going forward," said Mchechu.

He said for the new business direcregistration of lucrative profit tion the company has converted its that has resulted for them the pipeline from pumping crude oil to pumping finished products.

> In the new plans of operations expansion, he said, the company is looking forward at maximizing its profits. He said the good results registered so far are a result of focus, determination and discipline in execution of the company's functions.

> Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Planning and Investment Minister in the President's Office said that the dividend is a testimony that state-owned enterprises can perform even better if the government instruments decide so.

"TAZAMA has been turned from a ing the construction of a pipeline drying entity to a green entity with an anticipated brighter future. Zambia has been a good and beneficial friend for Tanzania through socioeconomic company's board chairperson bilateral relations for decades now and the spirit should be maintained," said Prof Mkumbo.

TAZAMA is a government paraster-"Despite numerous challenges nal, with Zambia holding 67 percent that the company had experi- of the shares and Tanzania holding the **SMART MONEY**

MONEY, BUT NOT FROM BANKS:

Stablecoins and capital adequacy

By Lewis McLellan

ONE of the most interesting consequences of the arrival of blockchain and the cryptoasset market is that it has once again become fashionable to ask questions like 'what is money?' Generally speaking, the definition includes reference to the terms 'medium of exchange', 'store of value' and 'unit of account'. That triumvirate disqualifies most pretenders from the cryptoasset or commodities worlds.

Until recently, the only things that qualified for all three categories were issued either by central banks (cash, central bank reserves, central bank digital currencies) or by banks.

Then stablecoins appeared, arising $organically as a service for the {\it crypto} asset$ industry. And suddenly a much bigger group of people could feasibly create money, or at least something that looks like and can be used as money.

This may be no bad thing. Transaction services businesses like PayPal have shown us for years that payment services need not be provided only by banks. It's not obvious that the issuance of money should be different. Perhaps unbundling money from the business of mortgage lending and so forth is a healthy evolution. But, like it or not, it's here. Ultimately, the criterion that matters is acceptance, and with a daily volume of \$64bn, stablecoins are certainly accepted.

Just like banks

The model for stablecoins' creation of 'money' is broadly the same as that of banks. Both take deposits and invest them to cover the costs of providing payments infrastructure. In exchange, depositors get a form of money: either deposits that they can spend with their cards or stablecoins that they can exchange with people or merchants (often, but not always, for cryptoassets like bitcoin). You can withdraw your bank deposit as cash or redeem your stablecoin token for a commercial bank

The rules governing money creation are important. Not just anyone can create money. If they could, it wouldn't be trustworthy. That's why I can't go into a shop and pay with a piece of paper on which I have written the words 'pay the bearer £10'. The rules we have are remarkably effective. We can pay with debit cards (commercial bank money) with no discounting of the value of our currency to account for the credit risk

that commercial bank money entails. If we want stablecoins to be a real, safe form of money, they need their own rules. Banks have a complex array of prudential rules governing how they invest your money and under what circumstances the state will protect depositors. At present, stablecoin issuers do not have to obey the former, and stablecoin holders do not benefit from



Nevertheless, if stablecoins are to become a systemically important form of money - which might happen whether we want it to or not - then rules to prevent runs and protect users are vital.

Not like banks at all

One simple solution would be to make a law that requires all money issuers to have a banking licence and to obey the same rules as banks. But although the model for stablecoin money creation is similar to that of banking, there are some key differences.

For one thing, stablecoins do not engage in fractional reserve banking. They aim to maintain reserves of at least the value of the coins in circulation. That alone suggests different rules are in order. A paper from Gordon Liao, Dan Fishman and Jeremy Fox-Green at Circle examines how to begin thinking about these rules and how they should differ from the rules applied to banks.

They point out the fundamental difference between stablecoin issuers and banks' business models: '[Stablecoins] aim to maintain at least a one-to-one value between the value of the reserve assets and the quantity of circulating tokens. This is distinct from a bank's balance sheet. which is designed to intermediate credit and other market risks for its customers, including maturity transformation and other asset-liability mismatches.'

They highlight a number of other features that suggest that ensuring stablecoins are adequately capitalised must be approached differently to how we treat banks.

The first difference is that commercial bank deposits basically always trade at par. When you attempt to pay with HSBC bank money, a seller will not discount your HSBC money to 90 or 80 pence in the pound because it has doubts about the integrity of HSBC's balance sheet. That is precisely what happens with stablecoins. You can look up the secondary market value of Circle or Tether on major crypto exchanges. If all is well, it will be very close to a dollar. If, as was the case during the run on Silicon Valley Bank in 2023, which held much of USDC's reserves, there are concerns about the issuer's ability to honour redemptions, it might fall well below a dollar.

This is not really the same thing as 'breaking the peg'. At no time did anyone redeem their USDC with Circle at less than par. Indeed, anyone who bought at the

2023 low of around \$0.97 would have made a tidy profit by redeeming at par.

Nevertheless, this transparency of the expression of negative sentiment might result in a run. Runs can be damaging to even well-capitalised providers, since some of the assets in which they are invested might be illiquid. A run could force them to sell at a loss, damaging their ability to meet redemptions. Banks get around this issue by borrowing from central banks against their illiquid assets. Stablecoins do not have this option. Liao, Fishman and Fox-Green point out that stablecoins should therefore be required to hold more highly liquid assets than banks. That means fewer long-term loans.

On the other hand, the fact that banks' make long-dated loans means that deposits need to be offset by capital buffers. That is, if the loans go bad, they need to have set capital aside to protect depositors. Stablecoins, with their more limited exposure to credit, would need smaller capital buffers.

Liao, Fishman and Fox-Green also point out that stablecoins differ from bank deposits in the underlying technology they use. In some respects, the transparency, immutability and core cryptography that blockchain offers might reduce the operational risks relative to those that banks face, but the authors argue this depends on how the technology is implemented and that it is difficult to generalise. This difference in operational risk profile is an important input into stablecoin capitalisation rules but whether it should make them more or less stringent will depend on the particular case.

The regulatory response

Policy-makers can say: 'stablecoins are not really money. If stablecoin issuers want to issue money, they can apply for a banking licence' and refuse to supervise their activities. Governments can ban them, and money issuance will remain the preserve of the banks.

But the stablecoin business model arose organically to serve a need. Perhaps a new business model for money provision will allow money to meet needs that banks struggle to, improving financial inclusion or delivering new functionality. Stamping out the model might rob us of potentially valuable innovation.

More importantly, stablecoins are already here. They arose outside of the regulatory perimeter and, short of a comprehensive global enforcement operation, could continue to operate there. At present, stablecoins have a 24hour trading volume of \$64bn. That's \$64bn of money spent each day where the issuers are not under prudential supervision, and where users' holdings have no state insurance.

Whether we like it or not, money has broken out of banks. It still needs rules.

Lewis McLellan(pictured) is the Editor of the Digital Monetary Institute,

advocacy kicked off in 2023 with three highprofile trips to Namibia, Niger and Cape Verde taken by a team led by Professor Myriam Sidibe, Founder and Chief Mission Officer of Brands on a Mission, and supported by her father - renowned public health expert and Senior Advisor of the African Voices project - Dr Michel Sidibe.

Professor adds that their unique positioning fatheras relationship daughter emphasises

intergenerational dialogue in African communities and the crucial role men and boys play in championing equitable sexual and reproductive health as both gatekeepers and service-users.

Professor Sidibe and Dr Sidibe's unique dynamic modelled positive intergenerational engagement to wide ranging audiences including First Ladies, Community-Based Organisations and the media.

These in-country visits, in addition to the project's successful International Women's Day campaigns in Kenya focused on Menstrual Health and ending Genderbased Violence (inspired by the recent #EndFemicideKE Movement), connected multi-sectoral players resulting in engagement and advocacy at the highest levels of government, including with The Organization of African First Ladies for

Secondly, the African Voices project has also leveraged digital platforms, social media and Artificial Intelligence (AI), aiming to further destignatize sexual and reproductive health topics.

One key aspect has been the engagement of African youth influencers to appeal to young audiences, including engagement with the African influencer Angella Summer Namubiru as a goodwill ambassador.

Collaborations with the Tanzanian-based production company Songai led to the creation of "Fatima TV," an AI animation film inspired by the three countries visited by Professor and Dr Sidibe, featuring Fatima, a virtual preteen influencer who engages with young people on crucial SRHR issues.

Dr Ekua Yankah explained the vision behind this short film: "Fatima TV came about because we were trying to create a timeless documentary about sexual and reproductive health. The kind of thing that people could watch 10 years' time and still believe was

relevant. What you normally find in documentaries is that you have a Northern European or Global North voice speaking about a population in the Global South.

And so, we reversed that and made the film in the voice of a young girl of a fictional character. Her name is Fatima and Fatima is an activist".

Fatima basically represents what African youth are now and what they will be in the future. And this approach of her having been created with AI is also us placing ourselves within global conversations about artificial intelligence, about what Africa's future can be.

Thirdly, looking ahead, the African Voices project remains dedicated to centering African youth voices to tackle Sexual and Reproductive Health challenges - the team will be discussing this further at the Sexual Violence and Research Initiative Forum in Cape Town, South Africa this October.

With Africa's youth are set to constitute 75% of the population under 35 by 2030 investing in their health and well-being is crucial for transformative societal change in Africa. We need fresh approaches that engage new stakeholders - such as brands that know and are shaped by young people - to challenge harmful SRHR norms.

In conclusion, we need diverse sectors to come and act together to achieve real, lasting impact in SRHR on our continent".

Professor Sidibe is currently Chief Mission Officer and Founder of Brands on a Mission, a B-corp aiming to get brands and companies to drive impact in health and wellbeing through their business models. She has just been selected as one of the 100 most influential Africans in the world for her work on changing global corporate behaviour.

UAE's non-oil foreign trade reaches \$381bn in H1 2024

DUBAI

UAE's non-oil foreign trade has reached a record high of AED1.4 trillion (\$381.17 billion) in the first half of 2024, rising 11.2 percent yearon-vear (YoY), according to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

"Our foreign trade is nearing AED 1.4 trillion in these six months, with a 25 percent growth in non-oil exports. Our target is to achieve AED 3 trillion in non-oil foreign trade by the end of this year," he said in a statement published on his official website.

The UAE has set ambitious economic goals, targeting AED 4 trillion in foreign trade by 2031.

"Our economic relations with various countries have strengthened, with trade increasing by 10 percent with India, 15 percent with Turkey, and 41 percent with Iraq, making Iraq the top destination for UAE exports, followed by India, Turkey, and others," Sheikh Mohammed stated.

Non-oil exports to the UAE's top 10 trade partners surged by 28.7 percent, while trade with all other countries increased by 12.6 percent.

Gold, jewellery, cigarettes, oils, aluminium, copper wires, printed materials, silver, iron industries, and perfumes topped the list of the UAE's most important export categories in the first half of 2024, collectively

growing by 36.8 percent YoY. Other goods grew by 1 percent.

Re-exports

Re-exports reached AED345.1 billion in the first half of 2024, growing by 2.7 percent YoY and increasing by 11.2 percent compared to the same period in 2022.

The statement said re-exports with major trading partners grew, particularly Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India, the US, Kuwait, and Qatar.

Kazakhstan joined the list of leading re-export partners, nearly doubling its growth due to increased re-exports of telephone devices.

Overall, re-exports with the top 10 trading partners grew by 7.6%, with telephones and diamonds leading the way. The highest growth was seen in re-exports of aircraft parts, cars, and transport vehicles.

Non-oil imports

The UAE's non-oil imports reached AED 800 billion in the first half of 2024, up 11.3 percent YoY and 34.6 percent compared to the first six months of 2022, the statement disclosed.

A significant portion of these imports are re-exported. Imports from the top 10 markets grew by 7.2 percent, accounting for 48.7 percent of total imports.

Other countries, which account for 51.3 percent of UAE imports, grew by 15.4 percent YoY in the first half of



Multi-faceted approach needed to strengthen sexual and reproductive health rights in Africa

By Professor Myriam Sidibe

IN Africa, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) challenges exist within a complex cultural ecosystem involving family, friends, sexual partners, government, private and social sectors, all of which are sculpted by gender and

These relationships and perceived roles lay the foundation for the day-to-day realities of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), as well as influence the experiences of men, boys and more marginalised communities invisibilised by societies.

The reality is that conversations on sexual and reproductive health can be uncomfortable, controversial and at times dangerous, particularly on the African continent. Since early 2023, the Africa Voices Project has been working in this sensitive spot aiming to subvert norms and tackle these issues with a fresh approach.

According to project lead Dr Ekua makers, government and UN agencies, it is really important



Yankah, African Voices keeps conversations on sexual and reproductive health and rights alive, using unique and innovative ways. First, unlike the traditional norm where such conversations tend to be held at the highest levels with policy to consider the voices that young people listen to and that are influential in this time and age within their homes.

African Voices The

2024

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Equities market to benefit from liquidity tightening

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS in financial markets are expected to shift their focus from bonds to equities market driven by recent gain in banking counters and liquidity tightening.

Analyst says the reallocation is expected to be driven by rising bond yields, which make equities more attractive in comparison.

Isaac Lubeja, Advisory and research manager, Zan Securities Limited says the recent gains in banking stocks and the overall year-to-date return of 7.91 perecent on the TSI index suggest continued strength in the domestic equity market.

"As liquidity tightens in the money markets and yields rise, equities may benefit from increased inflows, particularly in sectors showing robust performance," he said in the company's weekly market wrap up.

Overall, the report shows the equity market is expected to remain buoyant, with potential for further gains in the coming weeks.

In the debt market, tight liquidity in the money markets is expected to push yields higher.

A shift towards equities with strong fundamentals will likely decrease dereport observes.

This reduced demand could lead to further pressure on bond prices, potentially driving yields even higher.

"In the coming weeks, we anticipate the one-year Treasury bill yield to exceed 11 percent, while long-term rates are expected to stabilize around the 16 percent mark," the report says.

During the trading week ending on August 23th, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) saw a decrease in turnover compared to the prior week.

The total market turnover decreased to 3.087bn/-, reflecting a 51.55 percent downtick from the previous week's

MBP was the top gainer for the week, appreciating by 9.84 percent to close off the week at 335/- per share while DCB gained 8.33 percent closing off the week at 130/per share.

MKCB share price increased by 3.7 percent reaching 560/- per share while NICO appreciated by 2.53 percent to reach 810/per share while TPCC gained 0.52 percent concluding the week at 3840/- per share.

During the week ending on August 23rd, the secondary bonds market activities saw a decrease compared to the previous week as overall turnover decreased by 15.43 percent, from 32.7886bn/- to 27.7307bn/-

Similarly, there was a notable decrease

Trading activities primarily focused on the long end of the yield curve, with the 20-year and 25- year bonds traded contributing to 99.25 percent of the total turnover.

In the corporate bond segment, there was a decrease in activity compared to the previous week.

However, on Wednesday 21st August 2024, the Central Bank was in the market offering 156bn/- to investors for a reopening of the 20-Year Treasury bond offering a 15.49 percent coupon rate annually.

This auction was catered for investors with more preference for long-term pa-

The auction was subscribed by 158.89 percent the auction received bids totaling 247.866bn/- n and accepted bids worth 142.781bn/-. billion.

In this auction the 20-yr Treasury bond still sees high demand, as weighted average yield to maturity has increased in this auction by 22.7 basis points relative to the previous auction held on late July from 15.1683 percent to 15.3953 percent.

The amount offered has decreased in this auction from 183bn/- to 156bn/- in the last auction, however the central bank accepted less than required accepting bids worth 142.781bn/-.

Moreover, the price floor has slightly increased from 100.00 to 100.002 in the pre-

mand for fixed-income securities, the in the number of trades, falling from 75 to vious auction in July 2024. **Qatar Airways offers ticket discount for visa card holders**

By Guardian Reporter

VISA cards holders in Tanzania and East Africa at large will benefit from discounts of between 12 percent to 22 percent, when paying their tickets through the card.

In Tanzania, those who holds the CRDB Bank's Visa Tembocard will benefit from 22 percent discount, which include 12 percent discount by Visa International and 10 percent cash refund, which will be debited into their accounts after paying for

Speaking yesterday during the launch of the programme, which will last for six months, the acting director of retail and intermediate banking, CRDB Bank Muhumuliza Buberwa said this collaboration is targeting to promote cashless economy.

"This 22 percent discount is aimed at motivating our customers to build the culture of using visa cards in making payment. I would like to encourage our customers who are planning to travel using Qatar Airways to benefit from the discount," he said.

"CRDB Bank and Qatar Airways look the same when it comes into innovative solutions. Out bank is the leading in creating innovative goods and services to meet customer expectation, the same as the Qatar Airways which has also scooped number of international awards on

The Qatar Airways country manager Isaac Wambura said their planes at Hamad International Airport in Doha are landing in more than 170 airports across the world, which gives an opportunity to CRDB customers to assure of their



Muhumuliza Buberwa, the acting retail and intermediate banking director , CRDB Bank (2nd R), along with the Qatar Airways Resident Manager, Isaack Wambua (L), press a button to officially launch of a ${\bf discount\ for\ passengers\ who\ pay\ their\ fares\ using\ Tembocard\ Visa\ cards\ in\ Dar\ es\ Salaam\ yesterday.}$ Right is Farid Seif, head of card business, CRDB bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

affordable travel arrangement.

"This discount by CRDB Bank ending in December this year, involves all 4 million customers using Tembocard Visa to pay for their flights. In recognising that others have businesses outside the country and they travel in different purposes, I am sure that they will use this opportunity to travel with Qatar Airways,"

The different statement issued by Qatar Airways in Nairobi yesterday, said this exclusive campaign between the global payment technology company and the award-winning airline, seeks to provide unparalleled value to Visa cardholders when they book their travel with Qatar Airways.

"We are delighted to team up with Visa for this exclusive campaign. At Qatar Airways, we believe in rewarding our loyal customers with exceptional offers. This partnership allows us to do just that, providing a unique benefit

to Visa card holders," said Hendrik du Preez, Vice President - Africa at Qatar Airways.

The Visa-exclusive campaign runs up to November 2024.

During this period, Visa cardholders will receive up to 12 percent off on all Qatar Airways flights when they book online and use their Visa card for payment, the statement said.

"Visa is always looking for innovative ways to bring value to our cardholders. This partnership with Qatar Airways allows us to provide our customers with exclusive discounts, enhancing their travel experiences," said Chad Pollock, General Manager and Vice President for East Africa at Visa.

To take advantage of this offer, Visa cardholders simply need to book their flight on the Qatar Airways website or app and pay using their Visa card and use the promo code VISA.

The discount will automatically be applied at checkout.

Students encouraged to cultivate saving culture

By Guardian Reporter

STUDENTS and teachers at Pugu Secondary School in Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam, received comprehensive financial education in a strategic effort to instill a strong culture of saving and foster entrepreneurial mind-

Led by Sarah Laiser, Head of Compliance at NBC, the one-day training aimed to equip young learners with the knowledge to effectively utilize financial institutions and make sound financial

School Headmaster Boniface Orenda expressed his gratitude to the bank for the initiative. "This education will help students, especially those about to graduate, to develop saving habits and entrepreneurial skills, even if they are unable to pursue higher edu-



NBC Head of Compliance, Sarah Laiser, plants a fruit tree at Pugu Secondary School in Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam, during a visit by the bank's officials to conduct a seminar on financial literacy and savings education for students. The event was witnessed by the school's Headmaster, Boniface Orenda, and other bank officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Orenda emphasized the importance of financial education, noting that it becomes even more crucial after graduation when students engage in various economic activities, including business.

For those continuing with higher education, financial literacy helps them make informed decisions about student loans and money manage-

"The comprehensive financial education program provided by the bank has the potential to transform these young individuals' lives, empowering them to make informed financial decisions, nurture their entrepreneurial aspirations, and ultimately contribute to the economic growth of their communities and the nation," he added.

Sarah Laiser explained that financial education for students is essential as it enables them to understand how to manage money, create and follow budgets, and make sound financial choices from an early age.

"Our presence here today is also to help students recognize the importance of saving, investing, and using credit responsibly. We believe they are the future entrepreneurs, investors, and officials, so it's vital to prepare them early to utilize financial institutions for improving their

NBC officials presented on various financial topics, entrepreneurship, and related subjects. The students, including those with special needs, were actively engaged in discussions and had opportunities to ask ques-

"We also introduced our specialized services to students and teachers, including Student Accounts and Mwalimu Accounts tailored to their needs. Additionally, we presented gifts such as jerseys from clubs participating in the NBC Premier League, sports equipment, and personal items, which were handed over to the school management and various students," Laiser added.

In a gesture of environmental commitment, NBC officials planted fruit and shade trees on the school premises, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

Fruit stakeholders sit to discuss interventions for improved consumptions

By Guardian Reporter

FRUITS and vegetables are essential for good health due to their high nutritional value. However, their consumption remains alarmingly low in Tanzania, contributing to malnutrition and diet-related diseases, which are increasingly becoming leading causes of premature death globally.

In response to this issue, stakeholders from around the world have gathered in Arusha for a twoday conference titled FRESH Science Conference 2024.

The conference aims to address the barriers to fruit and vegetable consumption and identify policy actions and program priorities to improve the situation.

Dr. Gabriel Rugalema, Associate Director General for Africa and Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Vegetable Center, emphasized that the conference is part of the Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) research initiative. The initiative focuses on designing, testing, and scaling approaches to sustainably increase fruit and vegetable intake through an end-to-end approach and a food systems lens.

Rugalema urged participants to go beyond conventional intervention frameworks and consider other critical factors, such as strengthening seed systems for fruits and vegetables, changing cultural perceptions of their consumption at the family level, and re-evaluating entry points that reflect the realities on the ground.

In his keynote address, Daniel Roiruki, representing the Arusha

Regional Commissioner's Office, highlighted the importance of improving diets by increasing fruit and vegetable intake. He pointed out that poor diets are a leading cause of malnutrition and diseases worldwide and pledged his office's support to promote fruit and vegetable production and consumption in the Arusha region.

Dr. Deanna Olney, Global Coordinator of the FRESH initiatives from the International Food Policy Research Institute, presented research findings during the conference. She explained that FRESH seeks to understand consumers' dietary patterns and the factors driving low fruit and vegetable consumption to identify strategies for changing dietary behaviors.

Dr. Nyamizi Bundala also addressed the participants, drawing attention to the dangerously low levels of fruit and vegetable consumption, both in Tanzania and globally. She stressed that poor diets and low fruit and vegetable intake are complex issues that require integrated approaches, not only to increase consumption but also to improve availability, accessibility, affordability, and desirabil-

Bundala also highlighted national policies aimed at improving nutrition through increased fruit and vegetable intake.

The two-day conference focuses primarily on research and activities in Tanzania and the East African region. It will also leverage learnings and experiences from other countries to enhance the supply and consumption of fruits and vegetables.



Dr. Gabriel Rugalema, Associate Director General for Africa and Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Vegetable Centre, addresses delegates in Arusha yesterday.

WORLD

Kamala Harris raises \$540 million since launching her presidential campaign

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRAT Kamala Harris has raised \$540 million in little more than a month since she began her race for US president, with a surge of donations flowing in during the Democratic National Convention last week, her campaign said on Sunday.

A memo released by Harris' campaign manager, Jen O'Malley Dillon, said the \$540 million raised included \$82 million that came in during convention week and is a sign of Democratic enthusiasm for her

"This is the most ever for any presidential campaign in this time span," she said. Vice-President Harris became a candidate for president on July 21 when President Joe Biden stepped aside under pressure from fellow Democrats concerned about his cognitive ability after he

stumbled during a June 27 debate against



US Vice-President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris waves as she arrives to speak on the fourth and last day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, on August 22, 2024. AFP

Republican Donald Trump.

The Harris candidacy has generated momentum that has put Trump on the defensive and he has struggled to maintain the media spotlight on him.

Harris and her vice-presidential

running mate, Tim Walz, take their campaign for the White House on a bus tour through Georgia this week, looking to build support in a state looming large in the Nov 5 election.

PM Starmer says fixing UK problems will take time

LONDON

PRIME Minister Keir Starmer will warn Britons next week that the changes needed to fix Britain's many problems will take time, saying "things will get worse before we get better" in a speech he describes as a chance to level with the public.

After being elected as prime minister at a July landslide election, Starmer has repeatedly blamed the former Conservative government for leaving Britain in a parlous state, something he said allowed "thugs" to spark this month's anti-migrant riots.

In a speech due on Tuesday, a week before Britain's parliament returns to work after a summer break, Starmer will say that "change won't happen overnight" but that his government is determined to tackle a multitude of problems ranging from overflowing prisons to long waiting lists for health services.

"I said change would not happen overnight. When there is rot deep in the heart of a structure, you can't just cover it up. You can't tinker with it or rely on quick fixes. You have to overhaul the entire thing," Starmer will say, according to excerpts of his speech provided by his office.

"We have inherited not just an economic black hole but a societal black hole and that is why we have to take action and do things differently. Part of that is being honest with people about the choices we face and how tough this will be. Frankly, things will get worse before we get better."

Starmer, a former Director of Public Prosecutions, was forced to cancel his summer holiday this month to tackle riots that targeted Muslims and migrants. The riots began after the killings of three young girls in northern England was wrongly blamed on an Islamist migrant based on online misinformation.

Starmer said the Conservative government's failure to tackle problems had widened cracks in society making it harder to deal with rioters than when he was Britain's top prosecutor from 2008 to 2013.



Britain Prime Minister Keir Starmer (L), and First Minister of Wales Eluned Morgan talk during their meeting in Cardiff, Wales, Monday, Aug 19, 2024. AP

system was broken. They were betting on it, they were gaming it, they saw the cracks in our society after 14 years of populism and failure and they exploited them. That's what we have inherited," he will say.

Appealing to what he calls Britain's working people such as

"And those people throwing teachers, nurses, small business to make tough decisions. rocks, torching cars, making owners and firefighters, Starmer "If we don't take tough action threats, they didn't just know the will say his government has tak- across the board, we won't be en the "first steps towards the able to fix the foundations of change people voted for" on July the country like we need," he

> But he will say the poor state of making unpopular decisions Britain's public finances - which now if it's the right thing for the his finance minister says are on country in the long term. That's course to show a 22 billion pound what a government of service (\$29 billion) overspend this year means." - mean his government will have

will say. "I won't shy away from

PM Modi takes stock of bilateral relations with Australian counterpart

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday spoke to the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese and took stock of the bilateral relations between both countries.

PM Modi (pictured) and Australian PM Albanese also discussed about their cooperation in the multilateral fora, including the Quad.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Delighted to speak to my friend Anthony Albanese. We took stock of progress in our bilateral relations and cooperation in the multilateral fora, and education. Also discussed

including the Ouad."

Earlier on July 29, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Australian counterpart Penny Wong and spoke about intensifying the bilateral ties between the two na-

Jaishankar said that he and Wong also discussed deepening practical cooperation across the Indo-Pacific.

In a post on X, he said, "A great start this morning meeting Australian FM Penny Wong in Tokyo. Spoke about further steps to intensify our bilateral ties including in security, trade



deepening our practical cooperation across the Indo-Pacific. Look forward to continuing this at the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting shortly."

Wong said on July 29 that Australia is launching a new Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre, to help undersea cable networks in the Indo-Pacific.

The centre will ensure that Indo-Pacific networks are resilient and all countries can benefit from reliable connectivity and the growth of the digital economy, a statement from the Australian Foreign Minister's office said. The

statement added that the work is integral to the prosperity and security of the region.

"We rely on a vast network of undersea cables, which carry over 95 per cent of international data traffic from emails to e-commerce, accessing news, social media and streaming content," the statement said.

Wong said in the statement that Australia will invest more than USD 18 million over the next four years in the Centre, which will draw on the region's extensive undersea telecommunications cables expertise and experience. **ANI**

EAM Jaishankar calls on Singapore President, PM on sidelines of ministerial roundtable with Singapore

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday called on Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the President of Singapore on the sidelines of the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable. The exter-



nal affairs minister was also accompanied by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Electronics & IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Jaishankar (pictured) said that he valued Shanmugaratnam's guidance on ways to further take forward the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership.

In a post on X, he said, "Honored to jointly call on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of Singapore. Conveyed the warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Value his guidance on ways to further take forward the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership."

Jaishankar also called on Prime Minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong, and said he appreciated Wong's engagement in the round table in Singapore.

In a post on X, he said, "Delighted to call on Prime Minister Lawrence Wong of Singapore today morning along with my colleagues Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal and Ashwini Vaishnaw. We conveyed the warm greetings of PM, Narendra Modi. Appreciate PM Wong's continued engagement with the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable."

Earlier in the day, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met former Financial Action Task Force (FATF) President T Raja Ku-

The discussion highlighted the strong partnership between India and the FATF, focusing on past collaborations and future

The Ministry of Finance took to X and posted, "Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met former FATF President T Raja Kumar, in Singapore, today.

Trump says he will keep Musk in cabinet if elected as President

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump said that he would like to keep Tesla CEO Elon Musk in his cabinet if he's elected as Presi-



In an interview with Shawn Ryan, which is yet to be broadcasted, the host of US-based 'The Shawn Ryan Show', Trump said that he would keep Musk in his cabinet but doubted if Musk could do it with so many things already on his plate.

Ryan asked Trump if keeping Musk in the cabinet would require him to do something with artificial intelligence.

"He wants to be involved now. Look, he's running big businesses and all that, so he can't really. I don't think he'd be [able to handle the work of cabinet]. I'd put him in the cabinet, absolutely. But I don't know how he could do that with all the things he's got going," Trump said.

Trump said that Musk can consult with the country and produce ideas, especially on AI.

"But he can sort of, as the expression goes, consult with the country and give you some very good ideas, like on AI. There's nobody knows more about it than Elon. It's a big thing," he said.

Trump said that if the US doesn't focus on building AI, somebody else--most likely China--will do it.

"It's very important for the country. If we don't do it, China is going to do it or somebody else. But most likely China. And China is working right now to develop a massive flood of electricity. And we don't, because we have people that are not even thinking about that," he said.

Trump said that Musk is an 'unusual character'. He said that Musk was a genius and we must cherish him.

"We have a great relationship. He's [Musk is] great. He is a totally unusual character. He's great, and he's smart, and we have to cherish our geniuses. You know, we don't have too many of them. He is a brilliant guy, and what he really would like to do is get involved in cutting some of the fat. And he does know how to do it, and he loves the country. You know, it's just an amazing thing."

Trump said that if this election doesn't go the right way, the country will be doomed.

"We have to win this election. This election is going. November 5 will be the most important day, in my opinion, in the history of our country, because if our country goes the wrong way with this election, I think this country is doomed," he said. Trump said that the fact that his podcast with Musk on August 13 was viewed by millions was 'crazy'.

"We had a conversation the other day... I hear it had hundreds of millions of people. I heard it had the biggest audience that there's ever been. I mean, would you say that's a correct statement? There's never been anything even close. I heard 750 million people. I mean, numbers that are crazy,"

Let's not have World War III: Donald Trump criticises Biden administration over Middle East

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump has criticised the Biden administration's efforts concerning the situation in the Middle East and stressed that they should not have a third world war.

Questioning the Biden administration on who is negotiating for the US in the Middle East, he said US President Joe Biden is sleeping on a beach in California while Vice President Kamala Harris is holding a campaign bus tour with her running mate and Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz.

In a post on X, Trump stated, "Who is negotiating for us in the

Middle East? Bombs are dropping all over the place! Sleepy Joe is sleeping on a Beach in California, viciously Exiled by the Democrats, and Comrade Kamala is doing a campaign bus tour with Tampon Tim, her really bad V.P. Pick. Let's not have World War Ill, because that's where we're heading!"

Trump's statement comes amid escalating tensions in the Middle East following Israeli military pre-emptive strikes against what it said were "terror targets in Lebanon" after it claimed to have identified Hezbollah as "preparing to fire missiles and rockets toward Israeli

territory."

Hezbollah rejected the allegations, terming them "baseless." In response, Hezbollah responded with strikes of its own, which it called the "first phase" of its response to Israel. It has termed the salvo a "complete success," CNN reported.

Earlier on Thursday, Trump said, "There will be no future under Comrade Kamala Harris, because she will take us into a Nuclear World War III! She will never be respected by the Tyrants of the World!"

He made the remarks after Harris in her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention (DNC)

The Washington Post reported. Trump took to his Truth Social account to make statements against Harris over her speech. In her address, Harris said, "I

spoke about the war in Gaza,

will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused," Harris said, also stressing the widespread suffering of Palestinians," according to The Washington

Post report. Around 100 Israeli Air Force fighter jets have struck and

eliminated thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels aimed at northern and central Israel, according to a statement issued by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Sunday. The fighter jets targeted more than 40 Hezbollah launch areas.

The IDF stated that they would defend their civilians and Israel. In a post on X, the Israeli Defense Forces said, "Approx. 100 IAF fighter jets struck and eliminated thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels, aimed for immediate fire toward northern and central Israel. More than 40 Hezbollah launch areas were struck. We will do whatever is needed

to defend our civilians and the State of Israel."

Earlier in the day, Israel declared an emergency for the next 48 hours amid the country's escalating tensions with Lebanon. Israel's Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, declared an emergency. This comes as a "special situation in the home front," which enables the IDF Home Front Command to issue restrictions.

In emergencies, the legal term "special situation" is used to give authorities more authority over the civilian population, simplifying attempts to protect them. It is valid for 48 hours, unless extended by cabinet

ministers.

As tensions continue to rise, the Israeli public remains on high alert, bracing for the possibility of further incidents. The IDF said, "Hezbollah has just launched over 150 projectiles from Lebanon toward Israeli territory. We target terrorist infrastructure, they target civilians."

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari warned the Lebanese citizens who are in southern Lebanon of possible attacks by Israel in retaliation to Hezbollah strikes, according to CNN report.

ANI

Germany's Scholz vows tougher asylum rules after suspected Islamist attack

CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz vowed to step up deportations and bring down irregular migration yesternday during a visit to the city of Solingen, where three people were killed in a mass stabbing over the weekend.

"This was terrorism, terrorism against us all," Scholz (pictured) told reporters in the western city after laying a flower at the site of the attack in memory of the victims.

The attack, which investigators believe was carried out by a suspected Islamic State member from Syria, has fueled political tensions over asylum and deportation rules as well as violent crime ahead of three state elections



next month. "We will have to do everything we can to

lowed to stay in Germany are repatriated and deported," Scholz said.

He described the suspected attacker as a "Dublin case", referring to the European Union rules under which asylum seekers must lodge their applications in the first EU country they arrive in.

Authorities had planned to deport the suspect in Friday's knife attack, a 26-year-old Syrian man, to Bulgaria last year, according to German media.

However, the deportation was unsuccessful because the man had not been at his refugee accommodation when authorities tried to carry out the measure, the reports said.

Emirates' unaccompanied minors service prepares for busy period

EMIRATES is currently operating one of the busiest time periods for its Unaccompanied Minors Service, as many children return to Dubai from summers spent abroad to start the new school year. In the coming week alone, Emirates will welcome more than 900 children, who are flying alone using the acclaimed family-friendly service.

Over the past five years, more than 120,000 children have availed of Emirates' Unaccompanied Minors and Young Passenger services. The majority of children who have travelled alone in Emirates care are aged 11 years or younger.

The families who currently use the service the most are British, then Indian, followed by American, Filipino and French. When children are flying without their family, Emirates is there every step of the way. For those aged between five and 11 years old, Emirates' Unaccompanied Minors Service ensures young people enjoy a supervised and safe trip from check-in to destination, with plenty of fun and memorable moments along the way.

When parents and guardians bring their young flyer to Dubai International Airport (DXB), they can go straight to the Unaccompanied Minors Lounge near the check-in area. Proof of identification must be provided to Emirates by the person dropping off the child and the guardian will need to sign a permission form.

Children will be swiftly checked in and can then relax with video games, free Wi-Fi, dedicated and private space supervised by the Emirates team. the young ones can enjoy com- vise whether the child would like plimentary drinks and snacks to sit by the window or the aisle,



while they wait for their flight and use the children's bathrooms. At the airport, a specialist member of Emirates' team will meet the child at the Unaccompanied Minors check-in desk.

Emirates specialist stays with the child all the way through the airport, taking care of them and carrying their passport for safety.

The specialist helps them through security and immigration, facilitating priority boarding so that the child has time to get settled on their flight, before introducing them to the cabin crew at the aircraft door for the next stage.

While in the air, Emirates cabin crew are on hand to make sure the young flyer has a comfortable and memorable jourand comfortable sofas. In the ney. Parents and guardians can request any special dietary requirements in advance and ad-

or seat siblings together.

Emirates cabin crew regularly check on the child to ensure they are enjoying their trip, are eating their meals and whether they need any support in adjusting their seat or inflight entertainment system.

Children onboard Emirates can pass the time with free Wi-Fi when they sign up to Emirates Skysurfers, complimentary toys and giveaways, more than 100 video games and a huge array of children's content on the awardwinning inflight entertainment ice, including new release movies, Disney Classics, Marvel Studios and Star Wars collections, and the complete Harry Potter movies series, CBeebies, Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network.

If it's the child's birthday, parents and guardians can order a cake 48 hours before the flight and Emirates cabin crew will celebrate the special occasion. Special memories are captured with a Polaroid camera so children have a keepsake of their travels.

Once children land at their destination, a specialist member of Emirates' team will be at the aircraft door to welcome them.

The child will be accompanied through the airport until they meet their parent or guardian at Arrivals, and proof of identification must be provided to Emirates by the person collecting the child.

Children aged 12 - 15 years old are permitted to fly alone without using Emirates' Unaccompanied Minors Service at parents and

However, parents and guard-

guardians' discretion.

ians who would like some extra support and supervision for their solo travellers aged between 12 and 15, can request this service. For an additional fee of USD 50 for each leg of the journey, support will be provided for children aged 12- 15 years, which includes all aspects of the Unaccompanied Minors Service.

National projects and wage growth – Vladimir **Putin holds meeting on economic issues**

MOSCOW

EMPTY promises for the sake of "ticking boxes" in national projects are unacceptable, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting on economic is-

The president noted that the country has a record-low unemployment rate, and real wage growth for January-May 2024 amounted to 10.1%.

On national projects

- Empty promises for the sake of "ticking boxes" in national projects are unacceptable "without achieving real results, practical positive changes in people's lives."

Wage growth and record low unemployment

- Wages in Russia in real terms for January-May 2024 increased by 10.1%.

- The country "maintains record low unemployment", in June the figure reached 2.4%.

On economic growth

- The Russian economy this year "con-

tinues to grow at a good, high rate." - In the first half of the year, the country's GDP grew by 4.6%.

On lending

- The volume of bank lending in Russia is growing at an accelerated pace, despite the increase in the key interest



"It is very important that the rapid development of the financial sector does not lead to negative consequenc-

On fighting inflation

- The fight against inflation should be primarily based on the growth of the supply of goods and services. "I once again draw the attention of both the Government and the Central Bank of Russia - it is necessary to increase the effectiveness of coordinated actions to reduce inflation," Putin said.

- It is necessary to strengthen positive trends in the real sector, support business investments in modernization and opening of new production facilities, in creating jobs and training personnel.

Elon Musk, Edward Snowden denounce arrest of Telegram CEO

PARIS

AFTER the arrest of the Telegram chief executive officer (CEO), the owner of the US social media platform X Elon Musk, and former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden both condemned this arrest and stressed the freedom of speech on Sunday.

The founder and CEO of the encrypted messenger Telegram, Pavel Durov, was arrested Saturday evening at Le Bourget Airport in Paris.

Following a tweet with the tag #FreePavel on X, Musk wrote several other posts stressing the importance of protecting free speech and democracy.

For Snowden's part, in his posts on X, he called the arrest of Pavel Durov "an assault on the basic human rights of

speech and association." "I am surprised and deeply saddened that (French President Emmanuel) Macron has descended to the level of taking hostages as a means for gaining access to private communications. It lowers not only France, but the world,"

In response to the arrest, the Telegram group said on its X account that the company "abides by EU laws, including the Digital Services Act."

"It is absurd to claim that a platform or its owner is responsible for abuse of that platform," it added. According to the French daily Le Figa-

ro, Durov's arrest warrant was issued by a special unit within the French Interior Minister tasked with combating crimes against minors, in coordination with various investigative services. Durov is accused of violating French

law by failing to take action against the use of his messaging platform by subscribers involved in offenses such as cyberbullying, sharing pedophilia content, and glorification of terrorism, the French media outlet said.

Telegram, the instant messaging app founded by Durov, allows up to 200,000 members per chat group and claims not to collect users' information or censor content. With approximately 900 million subscribers, it is now one of the world's leading messaging platforms.

Agencies



India is in favour of peace, says JDU leader KC Tyagi

NEW DELHI

JANATA Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi yesterday said that India is in favour of peace and ceasefire in the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

Speaking to ANI about the issue, Tyagi said that in the past few days, the Indian government has sent medical and food supplies to help Palestine and that the Indian government is in favour of ending the war.

"The Indian government is in told ANI.

Mohammad Makram Balawi,

favour of ending the war there. In the past few days, the Indian government has sent medical and food supplies to help Palestine. Hamas Hezbollah are different and Palestine is a separate nation which has been supported by Mahatma Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee as well," he

who is the Secretary General of League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds met with Tyagi, MP Sanjay Singh, MP Javed Ali Khan, Ex MP Mohammad Adeeb, Ex MP Meem Afzal, Ex MLA Pankaj Pushkar, Ex MP Santosh Bhartiya, MP Mohibbullah, and Ex MP Danish Ali. They condemned Israel's aggression and expressed solidarity with Palestine, a statement from KC Tyagi's office said. Earlier, US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken announced that Israel has accepted a proposal to bridge gaps in ceasefire negotiations and urged Hamas to accept it ahead of further negotiations expected later.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv, Blinken stated, "In a very constructive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu today, he confirmed to me that Israel accepts the bridging proposal and supports it.

German firms ramp up investment, not to miss out on China's growth opportunities

GERMAN businesses are growing increasingly optimistic about China's innovative vitality and open market benefits, leading to a surge in their investments in the Chinese market.

German investments in China have shattered records, reaching an unprecedented 7.3 billion euros (8.2 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half of 2024, according to the latest data from the Central Bank of Germany.

This momentum continues unabated, highlighting the deepening economic ties between the two countries as they mark the 10th anniversary of the China-Germany comprehensive strategic partnership.

BOOMING INVESTMENT Several prominent Ger-

man companies have dem-

commitment to China through significant increases in investments.

Volkswagen is investing 2.5 billion euros (2.8 billion dollars) in the Chinese city of Hefei to establish its largest R&D center outside Germany. BMW is boosting its investment in its Shenyang plant in northeast China by 20 billion yuan (2.8 billion U.S. dollars) to upgrade production capacity and boost innovation. Bayer revealed a 600-million-yuan (84.2-million-dollar) investment for a new supply center in Qidong in coastal Jiangsu Province.

This consistent increase in investment not only acknowledges China's vast market potential but also reflects confidence in its infrastructure, comprehensive industrial chain and business environment.

During the 7th China Inter-

onstrated their long-term national Import Expo Germany Roadshow in June, Wu Zhengping, deputy director general of the China International Import Expo Bureau, emphasized the strong participation of German companies in the expo, noting the number of exhibitors and the space they occupied were the highest among European nations. This robust involvement signals the high level of confidence that German businesses have in China's economic prospects.

"Over 90 percent of German leading global companies have partnerships with China. Any company aspiring to lead in the global market must collaborate with China," said Walter Doring, chairman of the Academy of German Hidden Champions, adding that German firms embedded in the Chinese market face bright prospects and continued growth opportunities that will enhance competitiveness worldwide.

Zhai Qian, minister of economic and commercial affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Germany, noted that Germany's strengths in traditional sectors like machinery, automotive and pharmaceuticals complement China's advances in green development and the digital economy. This synergy injects new dynamism into bilateral economic ties and pushes cooperation to new

DRIVING FACTORS

Behind the sustained increase in German investment in China lies confidence in the country's long-term economic prospects, positive signals emanating from China's high-level opening-up and a continually improving business environment.

Tobias Wahl, board chair-

man of the Hawk brand at Karcher Group, highlighted how his company successfully introduced deep-cleaning concepts to the Chinese market, yielding impressive results. This success further strengthened Karcher's commitment to the Chinese market, with the company now investing 2 billion yuan (280.7 million dollars) to advance its localization strat-

"German companies approach investment decisions with a strong focus on market potential and profitability, carefully analyzing global markets to identify regions with the highest opportunities and growth potential," said Zheng Chunrong, director of the German Studies Center at Tongji Uni-

The sustained growth of German investment in China highlights the market's significant scale and prom-tion, smart mobility, artificial ising prospects. For many German companies, China remains a preferred hub for global supply chain layouts. Michael Schumann, chair-

man of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade, emphasized that what previously had to be imported from Germany or other parts of Europe is now sourced from China. This shift has led to the creation of production models such as "In China, For China" and "In China, For the World."

China's growing innovation leadership is fostering greater synergy between China and Germany.

"China's significance surpasses mere consumption; it has become a hub of innovation, leading the transformation across various sectors such as electrificaintelligence, digitalization, and energy efficiency," said Stefan Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH.

Schumann echoed this sentiment, stating that China's innovation leadership is gradually strengthening, and more German firms are investing strategically in the country to participate in local innovation. In the automotive sector, for instance, German manufacturers are increasingly benefiting from China's expertise in electric

vehicles. According to the 2024 Global Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index published by global management consulting firm Kearney, China has risen from seventh place last year to third this year, ranking first

among emerging markets. Xinhua

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SPORT



People with Disabilities tennis team player, Lucy Shirima, is pictured during a training session at the Gymkhana Club grounds in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba Queens fall short in CAF Women's Champions League qualifiers semifinal

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Queens have failed to qualify for the CAF Women's Champions League CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers finals after a narrow 3-2 defeat to Kenya Police Bullets FC in a semifinal match held at the Abebe Bikila Stadium yesterday afternoon in Addis Ababa.

Despite being the favorites to advance, Juma Mgunda's Simba Queens were unable to overcome their Kenyan league rivals.

The Kenyan side, led by coach Beldine Odemba, displayed resilience and tactical superiority, ending Simba's hopes of qualifying for the second continental women's football campaign.

Heading into the game, Simba Queens were expected to dominate due to their free-scoring form throughout the tournament.

However, Kenya Police had other plans and emerged victorious to move one step closer to qualifying for the showpiece event. The winner of the final will secure a spot in the continental competition.

Simba Queens started the match aggressively, seeking an early lead. Jentrix Shikangwa forced Kenya Police goalkeeper Annedy Kundu into making a crucial save, while Corazone Aquino's shot narrowly missed the target, showing Simba's intent to control the game from the outset.

However, Kenya Police Bullets managed to withstand the early pressure and gradually found their rhythm, proving particularly dangerous on counterattacks.

Against the run of play, they took the lead through Lucy Kwekwe, who pounced on a spill from Simba's goalkeeper Carolyne Rufa to score the opening goal.

Simba Queens responded quickly, equalizing just ten minutes later. Kenya Police's keeper Kundu spilled a cross from Harambee Starlets winger Elizabeth Wambui, and Aquino seized the opportunity to score

an easy tap-in, leveling the game before halftime.

The second half saw more action, with Simba taking the lead 11 minutes in. Aquino controlled the ball superbly before beating Kundu with a well-executed half-volley for her second goal of the match and her fourth of the tournament.

However, Simba's lead was short-lived. Just five minutes later, Diana Wacera equalized for Kenya Police with a powerful header from a free-kick delivery, making it 2-2.

Kenya Police continued to create scoring opportunities, with Kwekwe, Rebecca Okwaro, and Lydia Akoth all coming close to adding to their tally. Despite their dominance in the final third, a lack of composure prevented them from converting these chances. The decisive moment came eight minutes from time when Okwaro capitalized on a defensive lapse, rounding goalkeeper Rufa and slotting the ball into an empty net to put Kenya Police ahead 3-2.

The goal caused jubilation on the Police bench and proved to be the match-winner.

Rufa sustained an injury during the goal attempt and required medical attention. The goal proved to be the winner for the Kenyan team.

With this victory, Kenya Police will advance to the final, where they will face the winner of the second semifinal between Kawempe Muslim and Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

Should they triumph in the final, they will become the second Kenyan team to qualify for the CAF Women's Champions League, following Vihiga Queens' qualification in 2021.

This result marks a significant setback for Simba Queens, who were hopeful of making a deep run in the tournament. As they regroup and reflect on this defeat, their focus will now shift to preparing for future challenges and building on their strengths.



Juma Mgunda

SPORTS

Yanga stroll into the next round while Azam sadly fall by the wayside

By Lloyd Elipoked

AFTER comfortably registering a dominant 4-0 rout of the luckless Burundian side Vital'O in the first leg of their CAF Champions League's First Preliminary Round tie a tad over a week ago, many Young Africans' supporters likely believed that the second leg would be plain sailing for their beloved football outfit.

Despite the bullishness of the Young Africans fan base, the Jangwani Street club produced such an unexpectedly impressive tour de force in the second leg against Vital'O that went far beyond the expectations of the club's army of supporters.

Indeed, in the second leg, the Tanzanian champions surprisingly emerged as 6-0 winners to clinch the tie by a whopping 10-0 on aggregate.

Doubtlessly, the fabulous triumph has strengthened the hopes of all ardent Young Africans devotees that their club will be able to overcome all teams, including the big guns en route to making a deep run in continental football's top-tier championship.

Still, well before that happens, Young Africans will have to negotiate their way through the 2nd preliminary round first leg tie of the CAF Champions League where they will face off against the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, which promises to be quite a fascinating affair.

It should be noted that while exuberance presently reigns supreme among the Young Africans faithful, a mood of despondency has settled over Azam FC fans following their team's slim 2-1 loss on aggregate to Rwandan juggernauts APR FC.

Indeed, the demoralizing defeat in the first preliminary round saw Azam FC come a-cropper and exit the CAF Champions League almost as hastily as their campaign in the revered football championship



Young Africans attacking midfielder Pacome Zouzoua and his teammates celebrate their first goal against Vital'O during the second leg of their CAF Champions League first preliminary round match at Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Young Africans won 6-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

had started. Consequently, this then means that Young Africans are our country's lone representatives in the CAF Champions League and it is hoped that the Jangwani Street-based club can deliver the goods in truly dazzling style.

Dear Reader, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, this writer would like to revisit our meltdown at the Paris Olympics earlier this year for seemingly the umpteenth time.

For those who have been dwelling under a large boulder for the last several weeks and are in the dark as a result, our national contingent to the quadrennial, entertaining multi-sport spectacle returned home from the games utterly bereft of even a single medal.

Ever since the Paris Olympics wrapped up a few weeks ago, there have been some noteworthy suggestions that have emerged from the Post-Olympics analysis of our unquestionably dismal overall performance at the mega sporting event.

Indeed, one such helpful suggestion came from the talented marathoner, Alphonce Simbu,

who remarked that it was high time for our sports fraternity to focus on a broader range of sports and not just restrict ourselves to the same handful of sports when it comes to partaking in the Olympic Games.

To be candid, an assessment of Simbu's suggestion will reveal that it is right on the money.

It is an irrefutable fact that oncepopular sports like table-tennis, squash and handball have been grossly neglected and as a result, have now become alarmingly stagnant.

It is hoped then that our sports administrators will swiftly see the error of their ways and furthermore, that they will move expeditiously to revive the aforementioned sports that have been in the doldrums for some time now.



Pak Stars A cricket side. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Pak Stars cruise to TCA Dar 50 Overs Cup Div A semi-finals

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

PROMISING cricketer Ivan Ismail put up a stellar batting showing to propel Pak Stars A to this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 50 Overs Cup's Division A semi-finals after garnering a six-wicket thrashing of Aces A in the city recently.

Ismail's solid batting, buoyed by experienced player Zafar Khan's all-round exploits, had Pak Stars A confidently getting down to a gallant chase of Aces A's total and assuring themselves of progression to the semi-finals.

Aces A, led by senior cricketer Asif Butt, went in to bat first and were skittled for 140 runs in 37.1 overs, with top-order batsmen playing a pivotal role in the club's ability to register the convincing total.

After a slight wobble resulting from an early dismissal of the opener Butt that made his way back to the pavilion while being one run short of two digits, fellow top-order cricketer, Nassib Kelvin, partnered Alishihab Bukhari to ensure Aces A's cricketers are in control their innings.

Kelvin made his experience count given the performer notched 30 runs- consisting of four boundaries and a sixer-propelling the batting outfit to 46 runs in the eighth over when the performer was run out by Rana Waqas from Mohammad Ali's bowling.

Bukhari - slotted in at number three - was the eventual top run-getter during the club's turn with the bat, scoring 34 from 59 balls while blasting three boundaries.

Youthful cricketer Hamza Ally (19 runs) and senior performer Ally Mpeka who notched 11 runs, moreover, contributed significantly to Aces A's total.

Aisah Chibanda and Jeremiah Makanya - key performers for Aces A in various club showdowns in recent years - experienced

a less convincing outing having ended with single digits.

Chibanda ended two runs short of a two-digit figure and Makanya was three runs short of two digits. Khan led Pak Stars A's bowling attack, taking four wickets

for 32 runs in 10 overs, and was ably assisted by Ali (3-24 in 10 overs) to keep Aces A's batting unit in check.

Needing 141 runs from the allotted 50 overs to grab a victory,

Pak Stars A hardly wasted time- cruising to the win for four wickets in mere 27.3 overs.

Ismail, a regular opener for the batting outfit, zealously orchestrated the chase, blasting 74 runs which included five

boundaries and four sixes, and deservedly garnered the Player of the Match prize. Khan moreover displayed his all-round prowess, ending with

an impressive 65-ball 40 while blasting six boundaries.

The equally experienced cricketer had impressively proved his worth following brief coells that top order orielectors.

his worth following brief spells that top-order cricketers Nisar Ahmed (two runs) and Mohamed Omary (five runs) had endured. Team captain Kashif Adnan and Hassan Raza had a fifth-

to the last four, as Adnan ended with three runs not out and Raza chipped in with 11 runs not out-nailing a four and a sixer. Pak Stars A cricketers' chase was moreover buoyed by 11 extras leaked by Aces A's bowlers, which included four byes

wicket stand which made certain of Pak Stars A's progression

and seven wides.

Pace bowler Mpeka was by far the Aces A cricketer who sought to frustrate Pak Stars A's chase with his two wickets in

sought to frustrate Pak Stars A's chase with his two wickets in five overs, his efforts, however, ended in vain.

Medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, and Jatin Prajapati took one

Medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, and Jatin Prajapati took one wicket apiece for Aces A, who consequently had their hopes of embarking on a successful campaign in a second successive showdown this season going up in smokes.

Slot enjoys perfect Anfield start as Liverpool ease past Brentford

By Kieran Canning

ARNE Slot enjoyed a winning bow as Liverpool boss at Anfield with Luis Diaz and Mohamed Salah scoring in a 2-0 win over Brentford on Sunday.

The Reds join Manchester City, Arsenal and Brighton as the only sides with maximum points from two games of the new Premier League season.

Tougher tests lie ahead of Slot in his daunting task of succeeding Jurgen Klopp, starting with a visit to Manchester United next weekend.

But the early signs are positive for the Dutchman as his side are yet to concede and showcased their wealth of attacking options, spearheaded by Salah.

"Most players are quite used to what we want because it is not too different to what Jurgen did in the past," said Slot after building on an opening weekend win at Ipswich.

"We still have to prove a lot against teams that can end up in the top six"

Slot is expected to instill a more possession-focused approach than the one adopted by Klopp in his near nine years in charge.

However, Liverpool's opener was straight out of the Klopp copybook.

From a Brentford corner, Salah released Diogo Jota, who timed his pass perfectly into Diaz to charge through on goal and fire into the top corner on 13 minutes.

Thereafter there were only flashes of the football Slot is hoping to bring in the first half.

Brentford were again missing Ivan Toney, who is expected to leave the club before Friday's transfer deadline.

But the Bees still posed a threat without the England striker and should have levelled 10 minutes into the second half.

Nathan Collins met Mathias Jensen's enticing cross with a bullet header that Alisson Becker did brilliantly to parry.

That warning awoke Liverpool from their slumber early in the second period.

Collins made a goal-saving block moments later to deny Jota turning in Trent Alexander-Arnold's low cross

Vitaly Janelt was next to get a vital foot in to prevent Salah rounding off a slick team move.

Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken then produced a brilliant stop to turn Diaz's powerful effort behind.

As is so often the case, the Reds had to turn to Salah to provide the clinical finish to finally make the points safe.

The impressive Diaz this time bagged the assist and the Egyptian managed to time his run perfectly to remain onside and dink the ball over Flekken.

"In the first half there is more energy in the other team, then in the second half it eventually leads to gaps that open up," added Slot.

"In the end Brentford didn't have the legs anymore to defend us."

Slot was serenaded in the closing stages by the 60,000 crowd chanting his name -- as they had been instructed to do by Klopp at his farewell in May.

For much of last season Liverpool looked on course to give Klopp a glorious goodbye as they rivalled City and Arsenal for the title until falling away in the final weeks of the season.

There has been much consternation among the Liverpool support at the lack of a single new signing heading into the final week of the transfer window to strengthen that squad

But they look best placed of the rest to push City and Arsenal again if there is to be a three-way battle for the title.

AFP

Vicent Kompany praises Bayern Munich's 'outstanding mentality' in comeback win

BERLIN

NEW Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany praised his team's mentality

after Sunday's come-from-behind 3-2 win at Wolfsburg.

In his first Bundesliga match in the Bayern dugout, Kompany's side held a 1-0 half-time lead but were 2-1 down in the second-half, before turning the match in their favour.

Telling broadcaster DAZN he "enjoyed his first Bundesliga game as coach", Kompany said Bayern's mindset carried them to victory.

"We were dominant in the first half and didn't concede any chances. The start of the second half wasn't good.

"We conceded twice, but in the end the mentality was good and that's why we won the game.

"I played football long enough and know that you can lose or draw such a game. The fact we won shows that the mentality was there, even though not everything was perfect."

Speaking with reporters after the game, Kompany lauded Bayern's "outstanding mentality", saying "you can make mistakes but it's about how you react after the mistakes.

"We got the goals because we created the chances. A tough, tough away game but in the end a very good win."

England captain Harry Kane was again crucial for Bayern, with a hand in each of the visitors' three goals.

Kane played a key pass in the lead-up to Jamal Musiala's opener. His second-half header forced Wolfsburg into conceding an own goal and his pinpoint assist created Serge Gnabry's 82nd-minute winner.

"It's not perfect yet", Kane told Bayern TV after the match, saying his side "got punished a little" in the second-half.

301 pui **AFP**

Real Madrid suffer Vinicius Jr contract blow after Saudi Pro League transfer decision

MADRIE

REAL Madrid and Brazil winger Vinicius Junior has decided to wait until the end of the season before making a decision on interest from the Saudi Pro League, according to a report.

The 24-year-old has emerged as one of the world's best wingers with Los Blancos and is one of the leading candidates to claim this year's Ballon d'Or after his starring performances powered the club to a La Liga and Champions League double in 2023/24.

His success has seen him become a high-profile target for Saudi Arabia, where officials remain keen to sign up the world's biggest talents after previously recruiting the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and N'Golo Kante. It had been reported that Vinicius had said no to a potential transfer to the Middle East this summer, with Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti rubbishing the rumours as "just speculation".

However, ESPN now report the Brazil international has delayed making a decision on his future until 2025 as he does not want to scupper his chances of winning the Ballon d'Or.

Lucrative wages in the region of €350m a year were said to have been discussed with the former Flamengo attacker, who has a €1bn release clause in his current contract with Madrid. The Spanish and European champions were not willing to negotiate a fee lower than that monstrous figure, but there is thought to be optimism from the Saudi Pro League that Madrid will lower their demands next year when Vinicius will have only two seasons left on his deal. (AGENCIES)

Madueke nets hat trick for Chelsea after boos over Instagram post and Slot gets win in Anfield debut

Tuesday 27 August 2024

By MATTIAS KAREN

AFTER being constantly booed by the home crowd for a disparaging social media post about Wolverhampton, Noni Madueke responded with a second-half hat trick to give Chelsea its first Premier League win under manager Enzo Maresca.

SPORTS

Madueke netted three goals in a 14-minute span – all of them assisted by Cole Palmer – to spark a 6-2 win over Wolves on Sunday that at times had the same kind of chaotic feel that envelops most things at Chelsea these days.

But the emphatic second-half performance also indicated that Maresca may already be figuring out how to use the wealth of attacking talent at his disposal – and overshadowed a more routine 2-0 win for Liverpool against Brentford in new manager Arne Slot's first game at Anfield.

Madueke's hat trick capped a day where he had already drawn headlines for an Instagram post that used an expletive to describe "everything about this place" after Chelsea arrived in Wolverhampton. While he later deleted the post, Wolves fans let him know they didn't appreciate the sentiment and booed him every time they got the chance.

*Turns out that may have been a bad idea.

After Chelsea gave up the lead twice in an eventful first half that was highlighted by Palmer's improvised long-range lob for his team's second goal, Madueke made sure there was no way back for Wolves in the second.

His goals all had a similar feel to them, with Palmer picking him out on the right side of the area and Madueke beating goalkeeper Jose Sa with a shot from an angle – the first taking a deflection before sailing inside the far post.

New signing Joao Felix then sealed the rout after sidefooting home a cross from fellow substitute Pedro Neto, the winger who joined from Wolves this month.

Madueke was apologetic to Wolverhampton residents after the game, and his opinion about the West Midlands city seemed to have can to avoid that's what that's what the again.



Chelsea's Noni Madueke shoots to score against Wolves. (Agencies)

improved after the hat trick.

"Obviously it was a mistake, and I'm sure that Wolverhampton is a great town," Madueke said, adding that he won't be posting on Instagram again any time soon.

"I'll be giving my social media accounts to my manager, I think," he said. "I think I'm just going to leave the social media."

*Shades of Klopp in Slot's Anfield debut Slot has clearly brought his own style of play to Anfield, but there were still shades of Jurgen Klopp in the way Liverpool secured the win in the Dutchman's home debut as manager.

Liverpool's goals came from a lightning counterattack and a clinical finish from Mohamed Salah – two of the things that fans at Anfield became very used to seeing under Klopp.

"I think Liverpool fans saw these performances under Jurgen Klopp many, many, many times," Slot said. "I want to see everybody sprinting back and doing everything they can to avoid conceding a goal and that's what we did very well today."

*There are some clear differences, though.

Just like Slot doesn't have the German manager's energetic mannerisms on the touchline – and there were no post-game fist pumps toward the Kop, only applause and a wave – his team also shows more composure in possession rather than the all-out blitz often deployed under his predecessor. According to stats provider Opta, Liverpool completed 92% of its passes against Brentford – its highest percentage in the Premier League since at least 2003-04.

"If I am honest, I think most players are quite used to what we want, but that has a lot to do with us not doing much different to what Jurgen has done," Slot said. "There are details maybe a bit different but it also has to do with the opponents you face."

Luis Diaz gave Liverpool the lead by finishing off a quick counter that Salah started after a Bournemouth corner in the 13th minute, with Diogo Jota delivering the assist. Salah then added the second by dinking the ball past goalkeeper Mark Flekken after being played through on goal in the 70th.

That's two goals in two games for

Salah, who also netted in an opening 2-0 win at Ipswich.

A tougher test will come next weekend, though, when Liverpool visits archrival Manchester United.

*VAR denies Bournemouth Bournemouth was denied a late winner by a disputed VAR decision and had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home against Newcastle.

Dango Ouattara thought he had secured the win for Bournemouth with a header in injury time, but it was disallowed for handball even though the ball hit the upper part of the arm.

Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola was left "very frustrated" by the decision.

"It was so obvious. I think everyone who watches the game would agree," Iraola told the BBC. "I have just seen the video and the fact is it doesn't touch the arm, it is the shoulder, a clear goal and three points for us."

Bournemouth had taken the lead through Marcus Tavernier in the 37th, but Anthony Gordon equalized for Newcastle in the 76th.

AP

Endrick makes Madrid debut and becomes youngest foreign player to score for club in Spanish league

MADRID

ENDRICK needed only 10 minutes to make an impression in his debut with Real Madrid.

The Brazil teenager replaced Kylian Mbappé late in the match and scored deep into stoppage time to seal Madrid's 3-0 win over Valladolid on Sunday.

The goal made Endrick the youngest foreign player to score for Madrid in the Spanish league at 18 years, 35 days, surpassing Frenchman Raphael Varane, who was 18 years, 152 days when he scored in 2011. "He's looking very good and he has a lot of potential," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said of Endrick. "He has shown his quality very quickly with his control and he's got a very powerful shot. He's a center forward and very dangerous in tight spaces."

It was the first league win for defending champion Madrid after it opened with a 1-1 draw at Mallorca last weekend.

Mbappé scored in Madrid's UEFA Super Cup win over Atalanta at the start of the season but has yet to find the net in the first two league matches. The France star was making his debut at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium as a Madrid player.

Federico Valverde had put Madrid ahead in the 50th, and Brahim Díaz added to the lead in a breakaway in the 88th.

Endrick scored six minutes into stoppage time with a low shot into the near corner after going past a defender entering the area. He had replaced Mbappé in the 86th.

"He deserves it," Valverde said of Endrick. "He has to keep working, he still has a long way to go with this



Real Madrid's Endrick scores his side's third goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Valladolid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024. (AP Photo)

club, he should keep working hard because he deserves it." Endrick was only 16 when he was

sold to Madrid by Brazilian club Palmeiras for more than 40 million euros (around \$45 million), plus add-ons, in 2022.

He stayed with Palmeiras until arriving at Madrid for this season after turning 18. Madrid had already done

similar deals with Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, who are now regular starters with the Spanish club.

Endrick was an unused substitute in the team's first two matches this season, against Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup and at Mallorca.

Barcelona defeated Athletic Bilbao 2-1 on Saturday for its second consecutive win to start the season.

lencia on Friday, also has two wins to open its campaign. *Atletico's first win After an opening draw at Villar-

Celta Vigo, which defeated 3-1 Va-

real, Atletico Madrid earned its first league victory of the season by defeating Girona 3-0 at home with goals from Antoine Griezmann, Marcos Llorente and Koke Resurrección.

Griezmann put Atletico ahead in the 39th off a free kick prompted by a handball by Girona goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga outside the penalty area. Llorente added to the lead with a long-range shot in the 48th, and Koke closed the scoring from close range in stoppage time after an assist by Llorente.

Girona, which surprised with a third-place finish last season, had opened with a 1-1 draw at Real Betis.

In other results, promoted Leganes beat Las Palmas 2-1 at home, while Betis drew 0-0 at Alaves.

Villarreal were to host Celta later yesterday.

AP

GWiji by David Chikoko



Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Madueke nets hat trick for Chelsea after boos over Instagram post and Slot gets win in Anfield debut

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mixed CAF Confederation Cup fortunes for E. African Police clubs

JOHANNESBURG

THE Kenyan Police team won and qualified and the Rwandan Police side lost and were eliminated in the CAF Confederation Cup first round, second legs on Sunday.

South Sudanese Rashid Toha scored the only goal of a two-leg tie against Ethiopian opponents Coffee after 19 minutes in Addis Ababa to take his Kenyan club through 1-0 on aggregate.

Victory earned the Nairobi-based outfit a final qualifying round showdown with title-holders Zamalek of Egypt, who also won the African equivalent of the Uefa Europa League in 2019.

Both legs are scheduled for September with the Kenyans enjoying home advantage first as they seek to reach the group stage at the first attempt.

Hopes of two Police clubs from east Africa advancing were raised when Nigerian Elijah Ani gave the Rwandan team an early lead over Algerian visitors CS Constantine.

His goal halved the two-goal advantage the north Africans took to Kigali after the first leg last

But Zakaria Benchaa dealt a huge blow to the local side five minutes before halftime when he equalised in a stadium named after deceased Brazilian superstar Pele.

It left the hosts needing to score at least three goals to survive, and the situation deteriorated further on 60 minutes when Mounder Temine netted a second Constantine goal.

The Algerian club retained the lead for a 2-1 second-leg victory and a 4-1 aggregate triumph, which secured a second-round date with Nsoatreman from Ghana.

Coastal Union of Tanzania were another east African side to fail after being held 0-0 by Angolan visitors Bravos Maquis in Dar es Salaam.

Bravos won 3-0 on aggregate and will play Saint-Eloi Lupopo from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo next month.

The other Angolan challengers, Lunda Sul, also drew 0-0, at home to Elgeco Plus of Madagascar in Luanda, and progressed on away goals after a 1-1 first-leg stalemate.

Lunda have been paired with Sekhukhune United of South Africa, one of 12 clubs who received byes based on previous results in the competition, in the second round.

Pavnesville achieved rare home and away victories for a Liberian club in a CAF competition when they defeated Fovu Baham of Cameroon 1-0 in Yaounde through a 47th-minute Mark Paye goal.

The Liberians took a 4-0 lead into the return match after Fovu fielded only eight players in the first leg as others in the travelling party were not registered with CAF.

AGENCIES

TO NIGHT MJADALA **MJADALA** 3:00 Mpera Mpera MJADALA is a program that 15:00 Funguka 15:30 Mpera Mpera

brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to 6:00 Zote Kuntu discuss timely, national devel opment issues. :00 SSELEKT

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental chal lenges and opportunites and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping

eastafrica

05:00 Supa Breakfast RADIO 12:00 Kipenga Xtra 13:00 Planet Bongo 16:00 EA Drive

19:00 Kipenga 21:00 The Cruise

18:30 #HASHTAG

19:00 EATV SAA 1

23:00 Kurasa 23:05 EATV SAA

Simba's dominant 4-0 victory over Fountain Gate boosts confidence ahead of CAF Confederation Cup

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA head coach Fadlu Davids expressed his satisfaction with his squad's performance following a commanding 4-0 victory over Fountain Gate FC in their Premier League match on Sunday at the KMC Complex. This dominant win showcased Simba's growing form, leaving them with a perfect record of six points from two matches.

The victory was powered by goals from Edwin Balua, Steven Mukwala, Jean Charles Ahoua, and Valentino Mashaka, as Simba controlled the game from start to

Davids was particularly pleased with how his players executed their tactical instructions and demonstrated a solid understanding of the game plan.

"I am pleased with the way the lads played today," Davids remarked after the match. "We controlled the game well, created chances, and capitalized on them, although we could have scored even more if we had been more

Davids emphasized the importance of the win, not just for the scoreline but for the team's overall development.

"The important thing is that we have secured a great victory by scoring four goals. This is a significant step in our plan to build a strong team. Now, we are shifting our focus to the CAF Confederation Cup, where we need to maintain this level of quality to ensure we advance to the later stages of the competition," he added.

The match saw Simba take early control, with Balua opening the scoring in the 13th minute. He headed in a cross from Ahoua, setting the tone for what would be a dominant performance by Simba. Mukwala doubled the lead just before halftime, finishing off a precise pass from Shomari Kapombe to make it 2-0.

Simba's relentless pressure continued in the second half. Ahoua, who had already provided an assist, scored in the 59th minute with a powerful shot from inside the box after receiving a pass from Balua, extending the lead to 3-0.

Mashaka capped off the scoring in the 81st minute with a composed finish after another assist from Ahoua, sealing the comprehensive 4-0 victory.



Simba Sports Club attacking midfielder Jean Charles Ahoua scores his side's third goal during their Premier League match against Fountain Gate FC at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Simba won 4-0. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

Match for his stellar performance. He was directly involved in three of the four goals, scoring one and assisting two.

Ahoua's outstanding form continued from Simba's previous match against Tabora United, where he also contributed a crucial assist. His consistent impact has made him the second Simba player this season to win the Player of the Match Award, following central defender Che Malone Fondoh.

Simba's impressive display against Fountain Gate FC sends a strong message as they aim for success on multiple fronts this season. With two wins in the Premier League, they are also gearing up for their upcoming challenge in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The Msimbazi Street-based side is set to face Libyan side Al Ahly Tripoli in the CAF Confederation Cup playoff round, with Ahoua was named Man of the the first leg scheduled to take place in Lib-

ya between September 13 and 15, and the return leg at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam between September 20 and 22.

A victory in this tie would see Simba advance to the group stages of the competition, a key objective for the club as they seek to make their mark on the continental stage.

As Simba prepare for these crucial fixtures, Davids and his squad are focused on maintaining the momentum they have built in the early stages of the domestic league.

The blend of young talent and tactical discipline positions Simba as a formidable force in both domestic and continental competitions.

Their next challenge will be to carry this momentum into their upcoming matches, starting with the crucial CAF Confederation Cup playoff against Al Ahly Tripoli.

Dickson Job recalled as Taifa Squad is announced

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NATIONAL soccer team (Taifa Stars) interim head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman has announced his 23-man squad for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 qualifiers against Ethiopia and Guinea next month.

After missing the last two matches - the international friendlies in March and the World Cup qualifier against Zambia in June - due to a fallout following the AFCON 2023 campaign, Young Africans' vice-captain Dickson Job has been recalled to the squad by Coach Morocco.

Job is among seven Young Africans players named in the squad, which also includes Clement Mzize, Ibrahim Hamad, Mudathir Yahya, Nickson Kibabage, Aboutwalib Msherry, and Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto, highlighting the dominance of Young Africans players in the Taifa Stars lineup.

Coastal Union midfielder Charles Semfuko has earned his first call-up to the senior national team, while long-time captain Mbwana Samatta has been left out of the squad without any official explanation from the coach.

Coach Morocco (pictured) only explained the omission of striker Simon Msuva from the squad due to his current unattached status following the end of his stint in Saudi Arabia.

"Simon Msuva is a national team player. I have talked to him, and right now, he is focusing on securing a new club. He is a player that we really need in the team, but without a club, it becomes a challenge," Morocco stated. "When he signs with a club and

performs well, he could return to help us. It's difficult to call a player to the national team when he is still dealing with contract issues with a new team," the coach

Taifa Stars have been drawn alongside DR Congo, Guinea, and Ethiopia in their group for the AFCON 2025 qualifiers. The top two teams in the group

will qualify for the tournament, which is set to be hosted in Morocco from December 21, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

The team will kick off their qualifying campaign with a home game against Ethiopia on Monday, September 2, before traveling to Guinea four days later.

As Taifa Stars gear up for these crucial matches, fans and stakeholders will be keenly watching how Coach Morocco's selection and tactics unfold in the pursuit of a place in the AFCON 2025 tournament.

The squad:

Goalkeepers:

Ally Salim (Simba SC) Aboutwalb Mshery (Young Africans) Yona Amos (Pamba FC)

Defenders:

Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC) Nathaniel Chilambo (Azam FC) Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC) Dickson Job (Young Africans) Pascal Msindo (Azam FC) Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans) Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto (Young Africans) Nickson Kibabage (Young Africans) Abdulmalik Zakaria (Mashujaa FC)

Midfielders:

Adolf Mtasingwa (Azam FC) Himid Mao (Talaal El Geish, Egypt) Novatus Dismas (Goztepe, Turkey) Mudathiri Yahya (Young Africans) Hussein Semfuko (Coastal Union) Edwin Balua (Simba SC) Feisal Salum (Azam FC)

Forwards:

Wazir Junior (Dodoma Jiji) Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver Whitecaps, Canada) Clement Mzize (Young Africans) and Abel Josiah (TDS TFF Academy)

Flexibles by David Chikoko

