



Ministry staff offer city land services on a 24-hour basis

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LAND offices will be rendering services on a 24 hour basis to resolve land disputes and issue title deeds.

Anthony Sanga, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development permanent secretary, made this affirmation during a meeting yesterday with Albert Chalamila, the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner, engaged in night time inspection of various projects.

The shift to round-the-clock operations has proven beneficial, resulting in the resolution of many conflicts and the issuance of 7,510 title deeds, he said, noting that daytime congestion made it challenging for individuals to seek services, prompting the decision to extend service hours.

"Many people cannot visit during the day, so night time is seen to be convenient for people to access services, not just at regional offices but also in the respective municipalities,

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Dodoma Jiji and JKT Tanzania seek to rebound in Premier League clash

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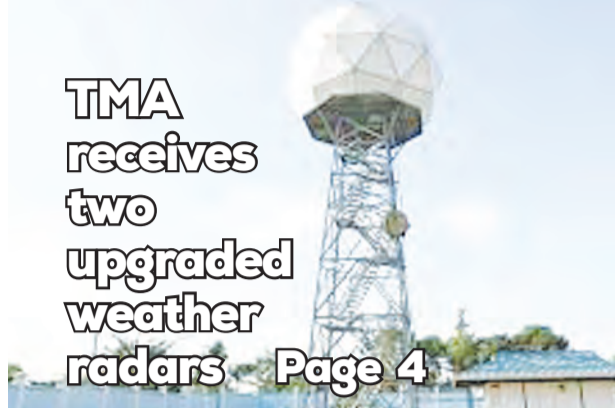


Khomeini Abubakar: 'We're ready to bring joy to Yanga fans'



Mwinyi orders ministry to avert human activities on road reserve

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a Cabinet meeting at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

It is high time we come together and strengthen our peace and security infrastructures so that they can effectively and efficiently address emerging and dynamic crimes

By Getrude Mbago

EAST African Community (EAC) partner states' police chiefs met in Dar es Salaam yesterday to devise a common strategy to tackle cross-border crimes in the region and enhance operational coordination.

Ramadhan Kingai, the director of criminal investiga-

EAC police chiefs consulting on cross-border operations

tions (DCI) presided at the opening session of the 8th meeting bringing together directors of criminal investigations as well as heads of Immigration, Prisons and motor vehicles registration agencies.

Officiating at the opening session, he said that emerging peace and security threats in the region pose a threat to social, political and economic development, setting out the need to develop harmonized strategies to fight contemporary crimes in the region.

The threats range from transnational organised crime, cross-border crimes, as well as human and drug

trafficking. Communal violence and pockets of terrorist or political and security tensions were also cited.

"It is high time we come together and strengthen our peace and security infrastructures so that they can effectively and efficiently address emerging and dynamic crimes," he said.

Kingai who represented the Inspector General of Police (IGP), pointed at the need for enhancing legal frameworks, continuous training plus capacity building for the public and law enforcement agencies, pointing at intelligence sharing as another key agenda item in the meeting.

He stressed that what shall be adopted at the police chiefs meeting will be put to action by the Tanzania police force as its implementation will help to make the region safer and more secure for business and integration.

Deputy Inspector General Thomas Jal Thomas of South Sudan called on member states to strengthen cross-border cooperation to counter terrorism and transnational organised crime. This is necessary for the region in order to facilitate the free movement of goods, persons, labour, services and capital, he stated.

Chairing the meeting, he

stated that one among key areas of the EAC integration process is to strengthen peace and security in the region to promote good neighbourliness.

Terrorism and transnational organised crime

take many forms, including organised violence, financial crimes, narcotics and human trafficking, migrant smuggling, piracy and cybercrime, he added.

UNEP decries 'inaction' in new emissions gap report

NAIROBI

AN emissions gap annual report for 2024 published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has delivered a sobering reminder that the world is far from fulfilling its climate funding commitments.

In a video statement released at a press conference for launching the report at UNEP headquarters here, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that humanity is "teetering on a planetary tightrope."

He stressed that without decisive action, the world risks plunging into climate

disaster, disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable. "Either leaders bridge the emissions gap, or we face catastrophic consequences," he declared in the message.

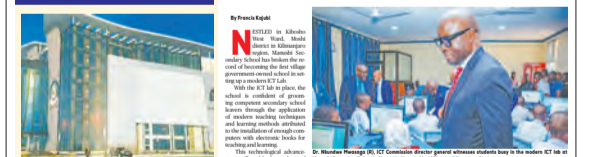
Released on Thursday, the report indicates that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions soared to 57.1 gigatons

of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent (GtCO₂e) in 2023, a record high that jeopardizes the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Global GHG emissions increased by 1.3 percent in 2023, placing the world on

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Ward secondary school sets new record in Tanzania's ICT sector



TBS contributes toilet worth 7m/- for Chamugasa Primary School in Busega



Financial services set for AI lending solutions



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Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R), congratulates Tanzanian national Dr Zaru Wendeline Kibwe in Washington, DC, on Thursday on his recent appointment as World Bank executive director overseeing the bank's Africa Region 1, which comprises 22 countries including Tanzania. Photo: Finance ministry

Ministry to offer city land services on a 24 hour basis

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namely, Kinondoni, Temeke, Ilala and Ubungo," he said.

A section of ministerial staff has been assigned to work from late afternoon to midnight in addressing community challenges during those shifts, he explained.

Ali Momba, who received

a title deed, shared that after learning about the nighttime services, he opted to finish up his daytime activities and visit the land offices at night.

"This practice should be permanent. Additionally, more machines should be added to improve service delivery. I thank the ministry for this innovation as it alleviates the inconven-

ience of long waits," he stated.

Rehema Buguni, another recipient of a title deed, expressed appreciation for the nighttime services, pointing out that daytime crowds often lead to extended delays, while the RC praised the appointment of two land commissioners for Dar es Salaam, given the region's wide ranging administration needs.

He praised the ministerial executive for this initiative, asserting that it will help reduce the long queues faced by those seeking resolutions for land disputes.

Many residents face land conflicts due to fraudulent land documents being sold, which exacerbate disputes, the RC noted, underlining that extended

service hours indicate attentiveness in resolving many issues.

He also aired the need for increasing the number of document-issuing equipment for quicker services, while expressing the wish that city businesses be able to operate 24 hours a day, where introducing land titles nighttime services is aligned with this goal.

Minister: PPP projects crucial in next Budget

By Augusta Njaji, Dodoma

THE government will prioritise the implementation of flagship projects in collaboration with the private sector to significantly boost the economy during fiscal 2025/26.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, stated this position at a presentation to the Budget committee of the National Assembly here on Thursday, citing rule 113(1) and (2) of parliamentary standing orders published in February 2023, where the proposals are being submitted to the committee to gather feedback from MPs during the preparation process.

He said that the government's focus on flagship projects reflects a commitment to leveraging public-private partnerships for sustainable economic growth and development prospects.

The proposals set the stage for the national development plan, focusing on enhancing investments across various sectors, creating a resilient economy, increasing industrial production and improving public services.

"The proposals for the national development plan for 2025/26 are guided by the national development vision 2025, which aims to position Tanzania among middle-income countries by 2025 and achieve high human development standards," he stated.

These proposals con-

centrate on developing and implementing initiatives that yield results in five priority areas outlined in the third five-year plan, he said, citing key areas as enhancement of the transport infrastructure and industrial production.

A total of 17 flagship projects are planned for execution in the upcoming financial year, he said, highlighting achievements from the current development plan for 2023/24.

Positive trends in the global scenario and national economy include a decrease in inflation, with effective implementation of projects depending on robust collaboration with the private sector to ensure that projects produce substantial outcomes, he emphasised.

The minister was accompanied by the permanent secretary, Dr Tausi Kida and key officials of the Planning Commission, while Oran Njeza (Mbeya Rural), the committee chairman, hailed the proposals.

"They included supplementary information on progress made in development projects undertaken in partnership with the private sector, he said.

In a related development, members of the Administration, Constitution and Law standing committee chaired by Florent Kyombo (Nkenge) discussed a report on the Planning Commission and ministerial performance along with drafting the Development Vision 2050, following an update on progress made.



Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Jerry Silaa (in all-white) pictured yesterday inaugurating a water project at Nkalakala village in Mkalama District, Singida Region. The project, complete with a tank with a 90,000-litre tank worth 348.9m/-, is expected to serve 12 water-drawing points. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Frelimo wins' Mozambique's disputed poll with 'landslide'

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE'S ruling party, Frelimo, has won the country's divisive, violence-marred election, extending its 49-year grip on power in the southern African nation, according to official results.

Daniel Chapo, Frelimo's relatively unknown presidential candidate, seen as an agent of change, will replace Filipe Nyusi, who has served two terms.

At 47, Chapo, who gained 71 percent of the vote, will be the first president born after independence in 1975. His closest challenger, Venâncio Mondlane got 20 percent. Chapo said in his victo-

ry speech: "We remained silent all this time, for respecting the law. We are an organised party that prepares its victories."

Following the announcement of the result, there have been violent protests in several towns and a number of people have been killed. There is also heavy police presence in some areas.

The election has been marred by allegations of rigging and the killing of opposition supporters, prompting protests across the country.

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who has also been hit by allegations of election fraud over the years, pre-

maturely congratulated Chapo on his "resounding victory", even before the results were announced. Ossufo Momade, the candidate of former rebel group Renamo, which was previously the main opposition party, came in third with 6 percent.

Political analyst Tomás Vieira Mário told the BBC that Renamo had lost its "historical position" because Momade, 68, had failed to attract young voters.

The numbers announced surprised all voters, including some members and sympathisers of the ruling party, especially Frelimo's landslide victory.

The deputy chairperson of the electoral commission Fernando Mazanga, who was appointed by Renamo, said the "results are against electoral justice".

"These results do not represent the reality," he said.

The electoral commission says 43 percent of the more than 17 million registered voters took part in the poll.

Parliamentary and provincial elections were held at the same time as the presidential vote.

Frelimo won 195 of the 250 seats in parliament. The opposition Podemos, which backed Mondlane for president, got 31 seats

UNEP desperate on 'inaction' in latest emissions gap report

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track for a 3.1°C temperature rise by the century's end—well above the limits set by the Paris Agreement, it showed.

Guterres asserted that limiting warming to 1.5°C is technically feasible but requires a 9 percent annual reduction in emissions until 2030 since "record emissions lead to record sea temperatures, fuelling extreme weather events."

He stressed the urgent need for action ahead of the upcoming COP29 summit in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku, urging the adoption of new national climate action plans technically known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that align with the 1.5°C target.

He appealed for swift reductions in emissions and a rapid phase-out of fossil fuels, also pointing to the necessity of increasing climate finance for developing countries which face significant climate-induced challenges.

"COP29 must set a new finance goal to unlock the trillions needed for a clean energy transition," he specified, tasking the G20 nations—responsible for 80 percent of global emissions—to lead in closing the emissions gap.

The wealthiest countries must act first; we need leadership now more than ever, he emphasised, as the UNEP report emphasizes that "the transformation to net-zero economies must begin urgently."

It warns that without immediate and ambitious action, the world is on a path toward 2.6°C warming, far exceeding Paris Agreement targets, thus G20 nations must significantly enhance their policies to meet their NDC targets for 2030.

To achieve the 1.5°C pathway, global emissions need to decline by 42 percent by 2030 compared to 2019 levels, necessitating an annual reduction of 7.5 percent, it elaborates, identifying solar and wind energy as crucial technologies.

They can potentially deliver 27 percent of the needed emission reductions while forest-related measures could provide another 20 percent, it said, underlining expected NDC submissions due before February 2025, with concrete plans and robust financial backing.

These plans need to particularly cater for developing countries that require international support, UNEP stresses, stating the need for a comprehensive approach and stronger public-private partnerships to accelerate progress. "We are running out of time," the report warns.

"The transformation to net-zero economies is unavoidable; acting sooner will save lives, ecosystems and economies," in the words of Anne Olhoff, the UNEP chief climate advisor, who underlined the urgent need for accelerated climate action ahead of COP29 in an exclusive interview with IPS. "The next six years are crucial—without accelerated action, we will miss the chance to limit warming to 1.5°C," she warned.

Olhoff stressed that while ambition is essential, "What we need most is immediate action."

The emissions gap report is a bridge between science and policy, advocating for financial and technical support to ensure a just transition for developing countries, she stated.

As chief climate advisor and part of the UNEP Copenhagen climate centre management, the leading expert provides climate science-policy advice and supports climate strategy development and implementation at the UNEP Secretariat.

Olhoff has worked with UNEP throughout her career and has more than 25 years' experience in international science-policy advice, technical assistance and research on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of sustainable development.

With the COP29 summit approaching, UNEP urges nations to align their policies with 1.5°C pathways. Without immediate action, the once achievable 2°C target may soon slip out of reach.

"Ambition without action is meaningless," the report stated, emphasizing that commitments must be supported by robust implementation plans.

Sub-Saharan Africa economy improving, challenges remain - IMF Outlook report

By Special Correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported that while the economic outlook for sub-Saharan Africa is gradually improving, implementation of necessary reforms is becoming increasingly challenging.

In its latest Regional Economic Outlook published yesterday, IMF highlighted persistent issues such as high poverty rates, limited job opportunities, and weak governance that must be addressed through effective policy to achieve sustainable development.

The report forecasts average economic growth in the region at a subdued 3.6 percent for this year, with a modest increase to 4.2 percent anticipated in 2025. However, inflation remains in double digits in nearly one-third of the countries, posing a significant risk to economic stability.

Catherine Patillo, Deputy Director of IMF's Africa Department, emphasized difficult balancing act faced by regional policymakers.

"They need to reduce macroeconomic imbalances—bringing inflation under control, stabilizing fiscal positions, and maintaining sufficient

external reserves to handle potential shocks," she noted. "At the same time, they must address substantial development needs driven by population growth and maintain social and political support."

Patillo pointed out that these challenges are compounded by subdued and uneven growth, tight financing conditions, and episodes of political and social fragility. The path forward will require difficult choices, but the IMF stressed that inaction is not an option. "To navigate these challenges, policies must aim to reduce macroeconomic vulnerabilities while simultaneously addressing development needs," she said. This includes ensuring that reforms are socially and politically acceptable and protecting vulnerable populations through enhanced social safety nets.

Making reforms palatable will require careful communication and consultation strategies, along with improvements in governance to rebuild public trust.

Patillo also raised concerns about the credibility of monetary policy frameworks in some countries, suggesting that central banks must work to bolster confidence among investors,



Sergeant Aman Hassan from the Kinondoni regional office of the Fire and Rescue Force conducts basic disaster preparedness training for The Guardian Limited staff at the TGL offices in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoko

tors, banks, and the public in their ability to keep inflation low and stable. The IMF highlighted the importance of multilateral concessional financing to facilitate adjustments and support development

goals, particularly in the poorest countries.

For nations facing external financing gaps, the IMF stands ready to offer assistance, having disbursed over \$60 billion since 2020—more than

double the amount provided in any ten-year period since the 1990s. The IMF also plays a crucial role in capacity development, with sub-Saharan Africa being the largest recipient of such support.

Mwinyi orders ministry to avert human activities on road reserves

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has directed the Ministry of Works, Communication and Transport to effectively manage road reserves by preventing construction and business activities in the public spaces.

Dr Mwinyi issued the directive on Thursday during inauguration of the new 24.5-kilometre Jozani-Charawe-Ukongoroni-Bwejuu road in Unguja South Region.

The initiative aims to alleviate

the financial burden of compensation for the government when implementing critical infrastructure projects.

He highlighted a concerning trend of individuals using road reserves for construction and business without recognizing their importance, which has sometimes resulted in damage to newly built roads.

He emphasized that citizens have a responsibility to help preserve roads constructed in their communities for their own devel-

opment.

Dr Mwinyi assured the public of the government's ongoing commitment to developing road infrastructure and encouraged support for the initiatives.

He confirmed that the government will complete the Tunguu-Makunduchi road to a four-lane standard, including streetlights from Mwanakwerekwe to Makunduchi.

Addressing regional water issues, he announced that four major water supply schemes have

been constructed to resolve water scarcity in the area.

Regarding electricity shortages, he acknowledged the government's awareness of the problem and mentioned the acquisition of a grid stabilization system, expressing satisfaction with improvements in some regions.

Dr Mwinyi approved a request from Unguja South community to build a bridge connecting the region to Unguja North, enhancing communication and improving economic and social services.

He revealed that the bridge's design has been completed and submitted for preliminary steps, assuring the public that cost estimates are forthcoming.

On education, Dr Mwinyi promised that the second phase of constructing 26 multi-story schools will include Unguja South region.

While addressing residents of Charawe Village, he encouraged them to leverage the newly constructed road for economic benefits, explaining that it will facilitate fast transportation of goods and

access to services.

At the event, Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla stated that the opening of the road serves as a catalyst for unlocking economic opportunities in the region. Minister for Works, Communication and Transport Dr Khalid Muhamed Salum noted that Zanzibar has gained global recognition for its rapid infrastructure development, attributing this progress to the efforts of President Mwinyi during the past four years of the 8th phase government.



Geophrey Pinda (L), Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, presents a land title deed to the Arusha regional manager of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura), Lorivii Jeremiah Long'idu, at Thursday's handing over of the documents to people who had acquired plots there through the Safari City Arusha project. Photo: Lands ministry

Arusha to host African HR managers meet next month

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 500 delegates from across the continent are expected to convene in Arusha as Tanzania hosts the 9th African Public Sector Human Resources Managers' Network (APS-HRMnet) next month.

APS HRMnet aims to professionalise human resources management in the public service by ensuring effective and efficient service delivery to citizens.

It was proposed to be formed through a recommendation of 29th Association of African Public Administration (AAPAM) Roundtable Conference that took place in Mbabane, Eswatini in September 2007.

The APS HRMnet conference will assemble human resource public sector ministers, permanent secretaries, HR managers, policymakers, academics and practitioners from across the African continent to engage in meaningful discussions and collaborative efforts.

Under the theme, 'Resilient Governance and Innovation: Fostering A Future-Oriented Public Sector Through HR Leadership', APS-HRMnet strives to build a resilient and innovative public sector that can effectively respond to the evolving needs of citizens and drive sustainable development.

Addressing a press conference

here yesterday, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) and President of APS HRMnet Xavier Daudi said the meeting will take place from 4th to 7th November at Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC).

"The conference is eyed as an important event that aligns with the network's mission to professionalize human resources management in the public service," he said, inviting HR managers to register for the meeting.

He also said the conference is an opportunity to reinforce the importance of resilient governance and innovation, ensuring that Africa's public sector remains future-oriented and capable of achieving its development goals.

The president explained the member countries are comprised of the five regions in Africa namely West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, North Africa and Southern Africa.

"Tanzania being one of the member countries of APS HRMnet was given the privilege of hosting the 9th Annual APS-HRMnet meeting," he added.

Daudi outlined some of the objectives of the networks as to promote excellence, integrity and professional standards in the practice of human resources management in the public sector in Africa.

Govt upbeat about growth following positive IMF projection for next year

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

TANZANIA is projected to be among the top 10 fastest-growing economies in Africa by 2025, thanks to national income growth which the government believes will stimulate investment.

Government Spokesperson Tobias Makoba addressed reporters in Dodoma on Thursday following the release of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s World Economic Outlook report for 2024 which highlights Tanzania's impressive economic growth.

economic growth.

"Our government is proud to announce that Tanzania's economy is expected to grow by 6 percent by 2025, up from 5.1 percent in 2024. This growth positions us among Africa's fastest-growing economies," he said.

Makoba said that as the economy expands, substantial increases in investment are anticipated, particularly in the agriculture, industrial, and tourism sectors, which will play a crucial role in reducing poverty.

"Despite global challenges like

Covid-19, we have demonstrated resilience, and the world acknowledges our rapidly growing economy, which is projected to reach a 6 percent growth rate next year," he said.

On local government elections, Makoba urged citizens to verify the voter list before October 27 deadline, which allows for necessary adjustments according to election regulations.

"Let us fulfill our constitutional duty. From October 26 to November 1, nomination forms for candidates will be issued. As our found-

ing leaders taught us, patriotic leaders emerge through elections. Let's participate in choosing leaders who will drive our development," he said.

He also noted that 83 organisations have applied to provide civic and election education and encouraged them to uphold their commitments.

Makoba stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability during the election period.

"Despite our differences, we must remember that peace, stability, and

unity are irreplaceable. The government welcomes differing opinions and is committed to respecting alternative views as we build our nation," he said.

He reiterated that freedom of the press and expression should not lead to the violation of ethical standards, morals, or the law, emphasizing that freedom comes with limits and responsibilities.

On the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Reform Commission, Makoba stated that efforts are underway to implement necessary

improvements in laws, policies and regulations.

"The commission has made over 300 recommendations to enhance justice across all institutions. The government diligently works on these recommendations, and we ask for your patience as we make progress," he said.

He noted that the government does not interfere with investigative processes related to the commission's recommendations under the jurisdiction of the relevant authorities.

Uganda calls for more international support as refugee crisis escalates

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni has called on the international community to increase logistical support for the East African country to address the escalating refugee crisis.

Museveni made the call on Wednesday during a meeting with visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi at the State House in Entebbe, about 40 km south of Kampala, the country's capital.

"The only problem we have is logistics, like the food and schools, because they bring in extra needs. You had built a school for 1,000 people, and now there are 4,000, so you must handle that effect," Museveni said, according to a State House statement issued here on Thursday.

Museveni said Uganda has a favorable refugee policy that attracts refugees from neighboring countries.

"Actually, we don't have any problem with refugees; when they come, we give them security, and we don't also insist on putting them in the refugee camps. If they can

move out and do business, it's okay ... This is part of our ideology," Museveni said.

According to the UN refugee agency, Uganda hosts more than 1.7 million refugees, mainly fleeing conflicts in Sudan, South Sudan, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Uganda, which is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, receives about 10,000 new arrivals each month.

While visiting the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in the western Ugandan district of Kamwenge on Monday, the UNHCR chief said financing of the refugees has dwindled due to the increasing number of conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, and the DRC, among others.

Grandi noted that, unfortunately, the crises are taking longer, forcing a transition from humanitarian funding to development assistance because refugees need to be empowered so that they can be self-reliant instead of depending on relief aid. He said the persistence of these crises has had an impact on refugee-hosting countries, forcing them to improve social amenities like schools and health centers.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority director general Salim Msangi (2nd-R) briefs Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (R) on Thursday at the TCAA pavilion at the 17th Transport Sector Stakeholders' Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation held in Arusha city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt seeks to increase natural forest cover at local authorities

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is working on a comprehensive plan aimed at increasing natural forests across the country, it has been said.

Each local authority is expected to establish its own forest as part of efforts for conservation and environmental protection, which will also support carbon trading in the future.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), announced this on Wednesday during her visit to Kilindi District in Tanga Region.

During her visit, she inspected ongoing development projects, laid foundation stones, and launched new initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability.

Dr Kijaji states that the goal is for local authorities to participate ac-

tively in carbon trading.

She emphasized that a collective tree-planting initiative is expected to yield quicker benefits compared to individual tree-planting efforts.

The programme particularly targets landowners with large properties, encouraging them to allocate five to ten acres for tree planting.

"The success of tree-planting initiative will help mitigate the effects of climate change, including rising

temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns," she said.

Tanga Regional Commissioner Dr Batilda Burian highlighted the significant challenges posed by residents who cut down forests indiscriminately.

She noted ongoing efforts to educate the public about sustainable practices and the importance of preserving natural resources.

The region boasts over 700,000

hectares of forest, including three dedicated tree farms, but faces issues such as land encroachment and the introduction of livestock by pastoralists as well as problems related to charcoal burning.

Authorities also work to enforce regulatory measures to combat these challenges.

Dr Burian also emphasized that residents participate in mangrove farming, which plays a crucial

role in protecting marine environments.

Mangrove trees help prevent soil erosion and reduce damage in coastal areas, demonstrating the interconnectedness of land and marine ecosystems.

The government encourages community involvement in the initiatives, aiming to foster a sense of responsibility toward environmental conservation.



Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (2nd-R) presents a certificate in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to one of the women entrepreneurs who have recently free training conducted by the College of Business Education. Right is the college's rector, Prof Edda Lwoga. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Use free training opportunity to expand businesses, women traders in Ilala told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ILALA District Commissioner Edward Mpogolo has encouraged women traders in Dar es Salaam to utilise free education provided by the College of Business Education (CBE) to enhance their businesses and access international markets.

He made the call in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during the closure of a three-day training session for over 600 women traders from the district. Mpogolo emphasized the need for a shift from traditional business practices to more informed and strategic approaches.

"It has become common for many women traders to operate without the necessary skills and knowledge. This training has opened their eyes to new ways of accessing markets," he said.

Mpogolo highlighted the productive nature of the training, which covered crucial topics such as financial management, loan handling and effective repayment strategies to avoid conflicts with lenders.

"The Ilala District is grateful for the CBE programme. We believe that with this kind of education, our traders will see significant growth in their businesses," he said.

In a bid to extend benefits of the education, Mpogolo said that he held discussions with CBE Rector Prof. Edda Lwoga about bringing training to peripheral areas, enabling more women to participate.

"I am very happy to see that they have been given education on how to handle loans because in Ilala we have set aside 11bn/- for loans to traders; so, the education they received gives us confidence that they will do business and repay their loans without conflict," he said.

Mpogolo explained that the loan programme is categorized into three tiers: the first group will receive loans ranging from 500,000 to 10m/-; the second group will have access to loans from 10m/- to 50m/- and the third group will cater to those borrowing between 50m/- and 150m/-.

"We recognize the need to emphasize the first group, particularly for women who have been taking small, high-interest loans," he said, noting that many have relied on loans as low as 20,000/-.

Prof. Lwoga highlighted the institution's commitment to providing entrepreneurship training to women and youth to strengthen their business capabilities.

"By building their capacity, we stimulate the economy for individuals, families, and the nation. Today, we have taken the first step by empowering 600 traders from Ilala with skills on business initiation, market identification, financial management and loan repayment," she said.

TMA receives two weather radars after upgrades to boost efficiency

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has received two upgraded weather radars located in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam regions, following enhancements conducted by the US-based Enterprises Electronics Corporation (EEC).

The improvements, fi-

nanced by the government through its development budget, aim to improve efficiency of radars, which have been operational for over a decade.

The out-dated technology, featuring 'Edge 5' software has been replaced with the more advanced 'Edge 6' software, enhancing image quality for better interpretation.

During the handover ceremony at the Dar es Salaam radar office on Thursday, Masoud Faki, acting director of TMA's Zanzibar office, expressed his satisfaction with the improved image quality of the Bangulo radars.

He highlighted that the upgrades have significantly boosted the radars' capabilities in detecting severe

weather events.

"I am very pleased with how these devices have been installed. Now, the radars can operate efficiently, providing clearer images even over the ocean, which we expect will greatly assist in forecasting severe weather conditions and protecting our communities from weather-related disasters," Faki said.

He also expressed gratitude to the government for its commitment to enhancing weather infrastructure, noting the planned purchase and installation of three additional weather radars for Mtwara, Kigoma and Mbeya regions.

Edwin Kasanga, representative of EEC in Tanzania and Director of Infratech Lim-

ited (IFL) said the upgrades in Mwanza were completed in July, while those in Dar es Salaam were finalised in October.

He emphasised the importance of the training TMA engineers received during their capacity-building sessions in the US, urging them to utilise their newfound skills to ensure proper use and mainte-

nance of the advanced radar systems.

The newly upgraded radars have the capability to monitor weather events within a radius of over 250 kilometres, significantly enhancing Tanzania's ability to respond to severe weather and improve overall public safety.

Five groups get 10.5m/- to boost agriculture, fishery undertakings

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

IN efforts aimed at reducing harmful marine activities and enhancing individual income, Mwambao Coastal Community Network Tanzania has handed over 10.5m/- to residents at Sange Village in Pangani District, Tanga Region.

The amount was handed over to five groups with 150 members to help them enhance their businesses.

During the handover event recently here, Abubakari Massoud, planning coordinator for e Mwambao Coastal Community Network Tanzania said the funds are intended to boost employment opportunities for the village community, which relies heavily on fishing and agriculture for its economic activities.

According to him, the organisation has been providing financial support and equipment to coastal communities to reduce marine activities, aimed at conserving the environment and enhancing fishery productivity.

"This helps lessen economic activities at sea. Before this handover, we

provided them with entrepreneurial training and capacity-building in financial management. We believe the funds will create more job opportunities for the entire community and reduce economic activities at sea," Abubakari said.

Ramadhan Zuberi, head of Agriculture and Fisheries Department at Pangani District Council, urged the village residents and beneficiaries of the funds to use them wisely.

"We expect the funds to yield positive results. I have seen that in other wards and villages where funding was introduced, they have already made significant progress. For example, at Bweni Village, they have already generated 40m/- in a short time," Zuberi said.

He also requested the stakeholders to support a patrol boat to help combat maritime crime.

"Residents of this village have received education on environmental protection, but we face challenges from external fishermen encroaching on our waters. Having a boat would greatly enhance our security efforts," he said.



Dar es Salaam Port's acting director, Abed Gallus Abed (3rd-L), takes a delegation of visitors from a German vehicle manufacturing giant around the facility earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Minister appeals for voluntary tax compliance at trade expo

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson, Babati

DEPUTY Minister for Industry and Trade Exaud Kigae has urged traders to stop evading taxes and instead pay their dues voluntarily to stimulate development.

He emphasised that tax compliance is crucial for fostering economic growth and supporting public services.

He made the call in Babati yesterday during the inauguration of Tanzania Manyara Fair 2024, organised by Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) with sponsorship from Mati Super Brands Limited.

"It is important to prioritise our country's development and this is realised by

paying taxes for us to implement projects. Identified taxpayers should ensure that they issue legal electronic fiscal device (EFD) receipts," he stated.

He said the government will continue improving its education and awareness programmes to taxpayers in order to enhance voluntary tax compliance and thus expand tax base.

He emphasized products lacking a quality mark cannot be exported to other East African countries.

Regarding the trade fair, Kigae noted that such events provide valuable learning opportunities and highlighted Manyara as a strategic region for investment, making it easier to transport products

He assured attendees that the government will continue to develop policies aimed at attracting investors. The trade policy has already been revised and further improvements and new policies will be introduced to meet current demands.

Kigae also took the opportunity to admonish Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) for scheduling conflicting exhibitions, which prevents participation and complicates attendance for leaders.

"Exhibition conflicts are unacceptable and should not recur. TanTrade is responsible for granting exhibition permits; how can events be scheduled

to overlap?" he questioned, urging TanTrade to ensure exhibitions are productive and that organisers collaborate effectively.

Ngwandumi Mpoma, representing Mati Super Brands Limited, explained that the company employs 312 young people and sponsored the event for three consecutive years.

Despite this, he noted that local enthusiasm for the fair remained low, and expressed hopes for increased participation in the future to benefit businesses.

TCCIA's Executive Secretary in Manyara, Zainab Rajab, pointed out ongoing challenges in adding value to their products and expressed gratitude for

the government's continued support of business initiatives.

TCCIA National Vice President Boniface Ndengo called on the government to formalise small-scale traders and innovators.

He urged the Ministry of Industry and Trade to designate dedicated exhibition areas in each region to avoid relocation issues, aiming to establish large strategic companies.

Babati District Commissioner Emmanuel Kaganda said that the region currently has 200 factories, most of which are small, and highlighted the need for large factories, given the abundance of raw materials.



Danger lurks as pupils play in a roadside trench in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Malamba-Mawili suburb earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 3,000 scheduled to perform Hajj next year

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 3,600 pilgrims are expected to travel to Makkah, Saudi Arabia, for the year 1446 Hijri, which corresponds to 2025. Sheikh Ali Adam Ali, chairman of the network of Hajj institutions in Tanzania, made the announcement here on Thursday while speaking to journalists at Zinjibar Mosque.

He noted that while the Saudi Arabian government has allocated 25,000 slots for Tanzanian pilgrims, the number of applicants has not yet reached a quarter of that amount.

With preparations for Hajj starting early, the network aims to facilitate the travel of 3,600 pilgrims from across Tanzania, with Zanzibar contributing 2,300 and the mainland 1,300.

"Our organisation is committed to ensuring that the pilgrims from both Zanzibar and the mainland undertake the pilgrimage without any issues. We are fully prepared for this," said the chairman.

He highlighted that the Saudi government has long provided guidance on performing Hajj in line with its long-term development plans.

Sheikh Ali also mentioned that the Saudi government has prioritised various aspects of the pilgrimage to address the challenges faced by pilgrims.

Furthermore, he stated that the Saudi ministry responsible for Hajj and Umrah has released a new schedule of guidelines for conducting the pilgrimage following completion of the 2024 Hajj.

"Challenges do arise when pilgrims are in Makkah for Hajj or even during their travel, which is why this year's preparations started early to mitigate the challenges," he added.

Hassan Rashid Mohammed, head of Hajj and Umrah division at Zanzibar Commission for Religious Endowments and Trust Property, explained that the purpose of Hajj Fund is to provide citizens with an opportunity to save money for their pilgrimage.

He clarified that participation in the fund is voluntary, welcoming any citizen who wishes to save for the pilgrimage, noting that many have expressed their desire to go to Makkah but face financial constraints.

Heart rhythm specialists form association to uplift services

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

CARDIAC electrophysiologists in the country have formed an association to address gaps in accessing heart rhythm irregularity (arrhythmia) services stemming from a shortage of professionals in the field.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Yona Gandye, president of Device and Arrhythmia Society of Tanzania, highlighted that specialists in the area have united to connect with various stakeholders world-

wide to discuss ways to tackle the challenges faced by patients.

Dr Gandye, a specialist at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), noted that they have identified several challenges in delivering services, emphasising the need for greater attention to the area.

"This service has not been prioritised due to lack of specialists and limited facilities. We have developed strategies to raise awareness among other health professionals to ensure that patients can

access services in different locations and receive urgent treatment," he said.

Dr Peter Kisenge, Executive Director of JKCI, stated that issues related to the heart rhythm are significant and contribute to many deaths worldwide, with some individuals losing their lives at a young age.

He pointed out that the causes of heart rhythm irregularity problems include cardiovascular diseases and congenital conditions that can lead to malfunctions in the system.

"The establishment of this association will facilitate training for health professionals at various levels of expertise as well as provide guidance on how patients should manage their conditions once diagnosed with heartbeat issues," he said.

Dr Mwanaada Kilima, President of Tanzania Association of Internal Medicine Specialists (APHYTA), expressed pride in the formation of the new association, viewing it as a crucial step in combating internal diseases, including those related to heart function.

Dr Kilima who also specialises in internal medicine and respiratory conditions at the National Hospital Muhimbili (MNH) stated that the initiative to establish the association should be supported to help patients receive appropriate treatment.

"As an internal medicine association, we endorse this initiative and are here to offer any necessary cooperation to advance these efforts, recognising that diseases have not been given sufficient priority despite their significant impact on the society," she said.



Tigo Pesa director of operations Arnold Ngarashi (L) briefs members of the public in Mbeya city yesterday on the use of mobile loan and other financial services, as Financial Services Awareness Week activities got under way. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Confucius Institute hosts job exhibition in Zambia

LUSAKA

THE Confucius Institute at the University of Zambia hosted the 2024 job exposition, featuring participation from Chinese enterprises aiming to attract local job seekers.

Over 100 Zambia-based Chinese enterprises, along with local companies, took part in the exposition, offering about 1,200 job opportunities. The event drew a large crowd of job seekers from various universities and surrounding areas.

Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing said that more than 100 Chinese enterprises have come forward to offer over 1,000 job opportunities to the local community, stressing the growing cooperation and friendship between the two nations.

The ambassador said young people are important in shaping the future of bilateral relations between China and Zambia, noting that China will continue to provide opportunities for Zambians to further their education, including vocational training.

The significant presence of Chinese enterprises at the job expo reflects the strengthened and practical relations between the two countries, Han said.

Joel Kamoko, permanent secretary of Zambia's Ministry of Education, expressed gratitude to the Chinese enter-

prises for supporting the government's efforts to create jobs. He said that unemployment is a major challenge in Zambia and commended the Chinese firms for stepping up to offer opportunities to graduates.

Kamoko said that the job exposition reaffirmed the true and tangible friendship between China and Zambia.

Boniface Namangala, acting vice chancellor of the University of Zambia, said the purpose of the job expo is to connect students with industries. He thanked the Chinese embassy for motivating Chinese enterprises to participate and recognized the support of Chinese associations.

David Mwanza, the Zambian director at the Confucius Institute, said that the expo would accelerate the recruitment of local talent by Chinese enterprises.

Beyond serving as a bridge for language and cultural exchange between China and Zambia, the Confucius Institute would continue to provide significant employment opportunities for university students, Mwanza added.

Fan Guoping, the Chinese director at the Confucius Institute, said that the expo would bring mutual benefits to both enterprises and students. "It will also serve as a motivating force for students of the Confucius Institute to keep learning the Chinese language," he added.

Nigeria: Climate finance crucial to address flooding, drought threats

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S ambition to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2050 is increasingly jeopardised by climate risks, which necessitate urgent and comprehensive action to bolster resilience of its population and infrastructure.

According to the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)'s Landscape of Climate Finance in Nigeria 2024 report, Nigeria, as one of Africa's largest economies and a significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter, finds itself at a pivotal moment in its developmental trajectory.

The report emphasizes that investment decisions made now will be crucial in determining whether Nigeria's growth remains sustainable and equitable throughout the century.

Despite facing recent macroeconomic challenges, including record-high inflation and currency devaluation, Nigeria is striving to meet critical development goals. These include enhancing energy access, improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services (WASH), advancing quality housing and infrastructure, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring access to health and

education services.

To achieve the goals, Nigeria's infrastructure investment needs are projected at a staggering \$3 trillion by 2050, with the Government's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) estimated to cost \$1.9 trillion through 2060.

However, intensifying climate risks—particularly flooding, rising sea levels, and drought—pose serious threats to these aspirations. For instance, severe flooding in northeastern Nigeria in September affected approximately one million people, marking the worst such incident in the region in two decades.

The report advocates for a transi-

tion towards low-emission, climate-resilient growth as a pathway to fulfil development objectives while safeguarding the well-being of the Nigerian populace and the ecosystems essential for sustainable growth.

Despite witnessing an increase in climate finance—from \$1.9 billion in 2019/20 to \$2.5 billion in 2021/22—Nigeria still faces a significant climate finance gap. The country's estimated annual climate finance needs stand at \$29.7 billion, creating a shortfall of approximately \$27.2 billion.

In a broader context, the \$2.5 bil-

lion in climate finance represents less than 1 percent of Nigeria's GDP, almost equivalent to its \$2.3 billion spending on foreign debt servicing during the same period. Moreover, this amount pales in comparison to the \$9.3 billion spent on fossil fuel subsidies in 2022 and the \$6.7 billion in estimated losses due to flooding.

Public actors remain the predominant source of Nigeria's climate finance, contributing around 70 percent. Among them, multilateral development finance institutions (DFIs) emerged as the largest contributors, providing \$1.2

billion. Private sector participation, while increasing, accounted for \$0.8 billion—30 percent of the total climate finance—primarily through corporate investments, which exceed the average corporate contribution across Africa.

Investment in mitigation strategies is a dominant theme in Nigeria's climate finance landscape, totalling \$1.2 billion, largely due to initiatives in solar PV. Nevertheless, the nation continues to grapple with a significant energy access gap, highlighting the growth potential for decentralized off-grid solar solutions.

African health experts meet in Kampala to discuss cross-border mpox response

KAMPALA

EXPERTS from African countries that have reported mpox outbreaks, along with regional health bodies, started a meeting here on Monday to assess cross-border response to the viral disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Uganda posted on X platform that experts from 10 African countries, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and the WHO Regional Office for Africa discussed cross-border collaboration to contain the spread of the disease.

They will identify critical gaps, improve information sharing and promote regional cooperation to combat the virus, the health body said.

The 10 African countries include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

"Cross-border collaboration ensures prompt detection and response to disease outbreaks, standardized surveillance protocols, improved information sharing, and promotes regional and global cooperation," said Charles Njuguna, acting WHO representative to Uganda.

The death toll from Africa's ongoing mpox outbreak has surpassed 1,100, with 42,438 cases reported in 18 countries, including 8,113 confirmed cases, since the beginning of 2024, according to Africa CDC.

In August, the WHO declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, raising the alarm about its potential for further international transmission.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus, spread through close contact. Symptoms include fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, skin rash and back pain.



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), plants a tree at a Pangamlima village dispensary in Muheza District on Thursday shortly after laying the foundation stone for a building at the facility. Photo: VPO

World Polio Day: Over 100 new cases reported in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AS the globe marked World Polio Day on Thursday, Africa recorded 134 new polio cases in at least seven countries, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced.

The day which is marked in every October 24 was designed to raise awareness on the importance of polio vaccination to protect every child from this devastating disease

and to celebrate the many parents, professionals and volunteers whose contributions make polio eradication achievable.

Regional director of the WHO for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, stated that the circulating variant of polio type 2 has been detected in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria.

In 2023, 541 children worldwide were impacted by polio,

with 85 percent residing in 31 countries that are fragile, conflict-affected, and vulnerable, as reported by a recent UNICEF analysis on World Polio Day.

Over the last five years, polio cases in these regions have more than doubled, and routine childhood immunization rates have decreased from 75 to 70 percent, significantly lower than the 95 percent required for community im-

munity. A worldwide drop in childhood immunization rates has resulted in a rise in polio outbreaks, even in nations that had been free of the disease for many years.

This situation is particularly pronounced in areas affected by conflict, with 15 out of 21 such countries—like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen—currently facing polio challenges.

Recently, UNICEF and its partners have ramped up emergency measures to address the increase in polio cases.

In Gaza, for instance, UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, managed to vaccinate nearly 600,000 children under the age of 10 during the initial phase of a polio vaccination drive in mid-September.

The second and final phase has been carried out success-

fully in southern and central Gaza, although ongoing mass displacements and bombings have hindered efforts in the northern region.

This campaign marks the return of polio to Gaza after a 25-year absence.

In Sudan, the national childhood vaccination rate has plummeted from 85 percent prior to the conflict to just 53 percent in 2023, with active conflict zones seeing coverage drop to a mere 30

percent.

In response, UNICEF and its partners have conducted two emergency polio vaccination campaigns in recent months, successfully reaching 2.9 million children under five through door-to-door efforts.

Effective polio vaccination initiatives in fragile, conflict-affected, and vulnerable regions are vital for preventing further cases and safeguarding already at-risk children.

Nearly 480,000 children suffering from malnutrition in Kenya

NAIROBI

SOME 479,498 children under the age of five in Kenya's 23 arid areas are facing acute malnutrition and need treatment, the country's National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) said Thursday.

Although malnutrition cases remain high, the number represents a decline from 760,488 in July, according to NDMA's September update released in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

"The reduction in cases is attributed to availability of milk albeit in low quantities prioritized for consumption by the under-fives, and consumption of diverse diets due to the slightly elevated purchasing power by households," the NDMA said.

The authority said that 110,169 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are malnourished and in need of care, down from 112,401 in July. The malnutrition cases stemmed from adverse climate events, low incomes and poor healthcare-seeking behavior.

NDMA also noted that 1 million Kenyans still require humanitarian assistance, a figure that has remained unchanged since July.

According to the World Health Organization, as of the end of June, about

10.8 million children and nearly 1 million pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished and in need of treatment in the Horn of Africa. The UN health agency said the crisis was caused by increased conflict and climate disasters, including drought and recent El Nino rains that caused severe flooding, displacing thousands more.



The reduction in cases is attributed to availability of milk albeit in low quantities prioritized for consumption by the under-fives, and consumption of diverse diets due to the slightly elevated purchasing power by households



A motorcycle taxi rider (R) based at a stand in Dar es Salaam's Mbagala Rangi Tatu suburb pictured yesterday receiving a sticker with a message meant to raise public awareness on sexual corruption. It was all in implementation of an ongoing "Safe Journey Without Sexual Corruption Is Possible" campaign conducted by a local CSO known as the Women in Development Efforts Organisation (WAJIKI). Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Rwanda secures funding for its green city project

KIGALI

THE Green Climate Fund (GCF), a global climate finance initiative, has approved a grant of \$28 million to support Rwanda's Green City Kigali initiative, a pioneering project aimed at developing climate-resilient and low-emission urban infrastructure.

The grant was announced during the 40th GCF board meet-

ing held in the Republic of Korea (ROK), according to a statement released by Rwanda's Ministry of Environment yesterday. The GCF was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010 in Incheon, ROK.

According to the statement, the Green City Kigali project addresses the challenges of Rwanda's rapidly urbanizing capital, where

about 77 percent of the population lives in unplanned settlements, making the city vulnerable to climate-related risks such as floods and landslides.

"This agreement underscores the strength of our partnership at a critical time when the effects of climate change are increasingly evident. These impacts not only threaten the country's economy but also pose serious risks to the

lives of our people," said Valentine Uwamariya, Rwanda's minister of environment, in the statement.

She added that the project represents a proactive step toward creating a sustainable urban environment and improving the quality of life for all Rwandans.

The project, which is part of a larger 600-hectare urban transformation plan, will focus on building resilient infrastructure,

such as storm water management, water security, renewable energy, and improved waste management systems. It will also establish a technical and vocational education and training center to promote green construction skills and sustainable livelihoods.

"This project not only represents a new model for urban development in Rwanda but has the potential to provide a template for

other cities in Africa and around the world to plan resilient and sustainable urban development for a changing climate," said Henry Gonzalez, chief investment officer of the GCF, in the statement.

The project is set to be implemented over the next five years, positioning Kigali as a model of climate-resilient urban development in the region, according to the statement.



Dr Jim Yonazi, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), makes a presentation on disaster management in Tanzania. This was during the twin Ninth African Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Eighth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, Namibia, earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Malawi grappling with fuel crisis amid a shortage of forex

LILONGWE

A PROLONGED fuel shortage has disrupted business in Malawi as the country has run out of foreign currency reserves, forcing fuel importers to stop their operations.

Since June, the government has managed to allocate only \$37 million every month, failing to meet the required \$51 million for the monthly importation of the commodity, Minister of Information and Digitalization Moses Kunkuyu said on Wednesday at a press briefing.

Consequently, fuel delivery in the country has been suspended for about 10 days, the minister said.

Kunkuyu, also the Malawian government's spokesperson, added that \$50 million have been secured from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to help ease the country's fuel shortage.

The southeastern African country has been experiencing a fuel crisis since October 13, causing motorists to spend hours in queues at gas stations across the country.

Malawi has faced fuel crises before, with a similar shortage in 2022 that lasted over a month. At the time, it severely disrupted transport, commerce, and daily life across the country.

The current crisis has already impacted businesses and public services, raising concerns about the country's economic stability.

A week ago looming fuel crisis that is now forcing people to travel long distances and spend hours in queues in search of the commodity.

UN agency appeals for increased funding to save lives in Botswana

GABORONE

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has called for increased funding and innovative solutions to address drought-induced food short-

ages in Botswana and ensure food security.

Carla Mucavi, FAO representative in Botswana, said on Tuesday during the World Food Day commemoration in Gaborone, the country's capital, that about 37,000 people

in Botswana are facing food insecurity due to prolonged drought conditions. Globally, around 733 million people are undernourished, she noted.

Mucavi stressed that the 2024 Botswana Vulnerability Assessment Committee Re-

port identifies the urgent need for increased financing. She called for innovative financial solutions, such as blended finance and concessional loans, to bridge the funding gap and strengthen resilience against challenges like climate change

and economic instability. In its efforts to assist Botswana in tackling hunger, malnutrition, and land degradation, the FAO has approved four new projects to support aquaculture, fodder production, school feeding programs, and the

Green City initiative. These projects have secured funding and are set to begin implementation in 2025.

Meanwhile, Botswana's government launched a multi-million-U.S.-dollar agriculture program in April to improve

community welfare while achieving national food security and nutrition targets.

World Food Day, celebrated annually on Oct 16, was established by the FAO in 1945 to raise awareness about hunger and food security challenges.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2024

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

Potential of municipal uplift good as natural resources attract capital flows

CONTRACTS are being signed for what is described as the second phase of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project.

This is presumably for the construction of a total of 250 kilometres of tarmac roads across all of the city's five municipalities.

The project is billed at 1.1trn/- virtually the entire Dar es Salaam city, especially its more centrally located zones, expecting their inner roads to constitute part of the wider infrastructure.

There are projects within a wider project, this time around including a redevelopment plan for the Sinza suburb, whose outer ends are noticeably metropolitan, alongside a Msimbazi Valley component.

What first comes to mind when roads are being improved, security is uplifted with night lighting and round-the-clock CCTV camera recordings. It's not merely that life will improve for most city dwellers but also that investment and employment opportunities are created.

One way to ensure this has been to attract housing sector investors by extending special sub-citizenship status for the Diaspora, though it hasn't had much promise. By contrast, we see more of global venture capital gunning for rare metals and millions of electronic gadgets sold daily these days of renewable energy.

That is why the precise mode of city growth in the years ahead is hard to project, this including how far employment will be created, how far there will be greater stagnation and how far security will increase or stagnate.

The wider social trends have not been positive, with wild accusations of police 'indifference' to reports of crime. According to some global reports, much of Africa is witnessing some form of decline in governance.

Countries experiencing chaos do not significantly attract investors, even as global investors are

yearning to spend money in Africa, whether it is for the mining of rare metals, agro-based production and processing, or vehicle assembling or manufacturing if the climate is right.

Most of Africa is crushed by population growth, with the respective economies not being reformed substantially enough to create the jobs the continent badly needs to keep its cities peaceful.

While many people now appreciate the fact that chaos doesn't pay, it remains a hard lesson to project, as governance lapses sowing chaos keep being created.

Yet there is some reform taking place in most African countries, a case in point being the way the Bola Tinubu government in Nigeria removed structural fuel subsidies.

The gross misuse of that facility used to stand as a channel for the rapid rise of naira billionaires selling fuel at market prices across borders, meanwhile as fuel prices were routinely cushioned.

The scrapping of subsidies implies that the government will obtain more revenues and scale up its public utilities functions, while dampening speculative investments arising from the subsidy surpluses for speculators.

All reform has pains, including what Nigerians are reporting at the moment, and this serves to caution other countries on what daring to reform entails and implies.

Reform has to be systematic enough or merely rapidly creating economies based on private companies as a show of rise in democratic conduct or a dimension of competitive economy will not come to much effect.

Even with more glittering cities as we see them coming up, the next decade in Africa doesn't promise to be any more liveable than it has generally been. Urgent well-calculated remedial action is much more of a necessity than anyone wishing the continent well could wish to see happening.

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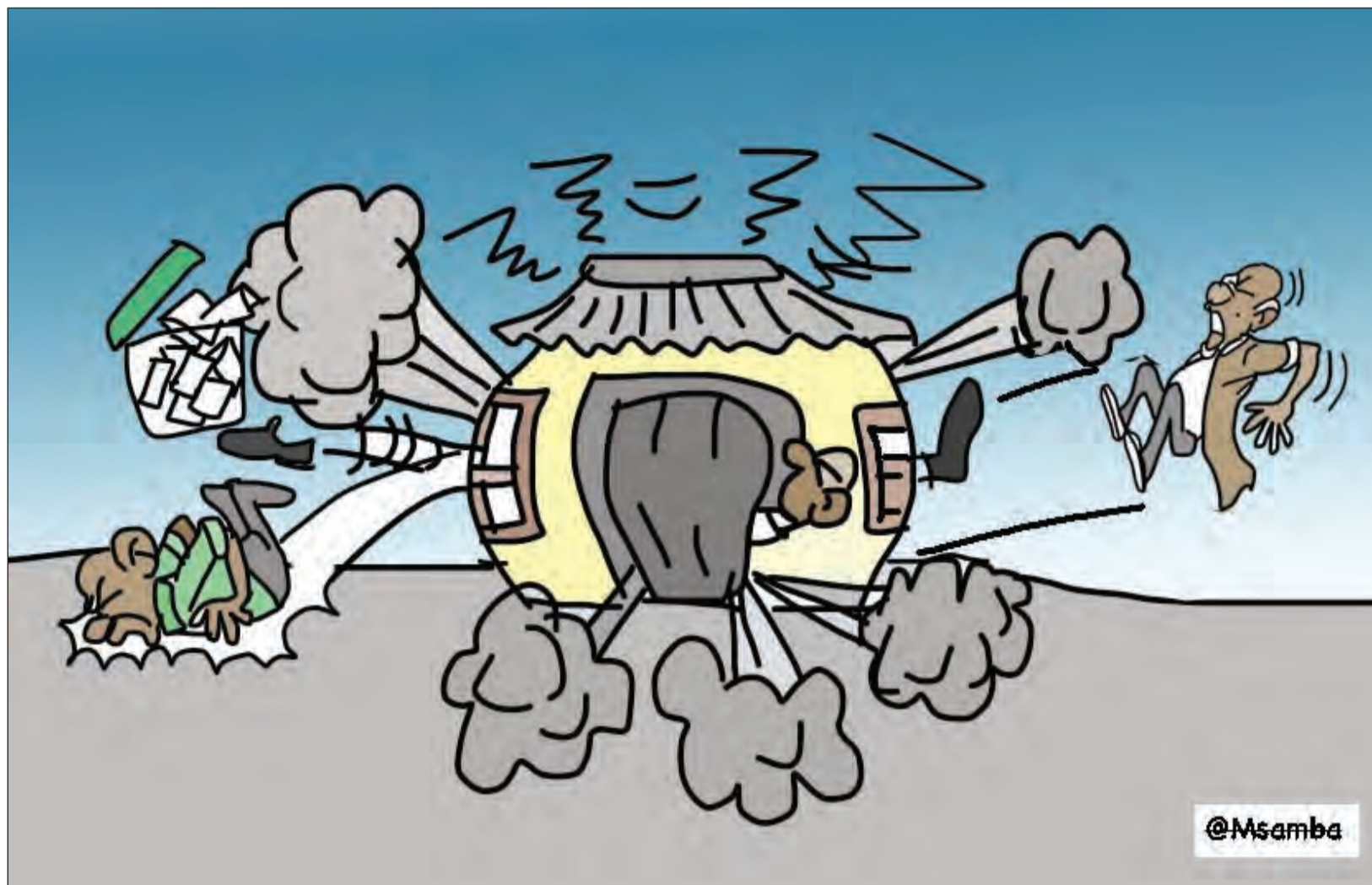
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The impact of media literacy for meat production

UNITED NATIONS

WITH the emergence of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and social media, the dissemination of public information moves at a faster speed than ever before. Social media platforms have become an integral tool for users of younger generations to access the news. Although this shift has led to public news being more accessible to younger users, it has also led to an overall decline in media literacy.

According to a study by the Pew Research Center, approximately 54 percent of U.S. adults get their news from social media platforms such as X (formerly known as Twitter), TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

In an increasingly digital age, media literacy has seen a significant decline. Experts have attributed this to the rise of social media, which has led to shorter attention spans among younger generations. Gloria Mark, PhD, professor of informatics at the University of California, states that the average attention spans recorded in 2004 were about two and a half minutes. In the last five years, this has dwindled to about 47 seconds.

Social media platforms offer users a rapidly changing and endless flow of content, which has a negative impact on attention spans. Constant switches from one source of stimuli to another have adverse effects on the default network of the brain and its functions, making it difficult for users to maintain attention.

A study published by the University of British Columbia titled Mind-wandering as spontaneous thought: a dynamic framework, states that "attention and the focus of thoughts frequently shift back and forth between the internal and external environment; there is often a simultaneous deactivation of the DN (default network of the brain) in many different task paradigms".

While news organizations have social media accounts in an effort to spread the truth and get more engagement, they find themselves being overshadowed by content creators who can more effectively captivate the short attention spans of internet users. These users often incorporate sensationalized language and spread false narratives.

The same study from the Pew Research Center reports that 64 percent of adults surveyed reported feeling confused on what is real or not due to the misinformation or 'clickbait' that runs rampant on social platforms. 23 percent reported that they shared false information either knowingly or unknowingly.

Misinformation, while not always intentionally harmful, can have negative effects on the relationship between experts and the public. "Polarization on topics such as climate change and vaccines has damaged public trust in science, which makes it harder for sci-



Ma Moe Wathan (21) feeds her daughter Pan Ei (1.8 year) in their hostel room in A Lal village, Hlaing Thar Yar township, Yangon, Myanmar.

entists to serve society," said Dr Ataharul Chowdhury, an agricultural scientist at the University of Guelph.

The rise of generative AI in media spaces has added a layer of complication, as social analysts describe it as an amplifier for misinformation. The field of AI is largely unregulated and offers users the tools to create hyper realistic images and photos that could easily deceive viewers.

As Gita Johar, the Meyer Feldberg Professor of Business at Columbia Business School, Columbia University explained, the presence of AI and the "amount of misinformation" created in social media sites is going to multiply.

"People have started realizing that AI is behind a lot of this misinformation. Over time, they're not going to know what to trust anymore, plus there's such a deficit of trust in society as it is. As AI does more and more, even if you have disclaimers saying such and such was produced by AI, what you're going to see is consumers becoming more skeptical of information," she said.

The effects of the decline in media literacy has significant ramifications on the ways that people conduct their daily practices, including when it comes to food. Facts about the relationship between the meat industry and food production have

been largely divisive among the American public.

According to the United Nations (UN), the meat production industry is a significant contributor to the climate crisis, emitting more greenhouse gases than the world's biggest oil companies. Additionally, meat production is responsible for dwindling water resources and exacerbates deforestation.

A 2023 survey conducted by the Washington Post-University of Maryland reports that 74 percent of Americans think that meat production and consumption has little to no detrimental impact on the environment.

A report published by Changing Markets Foundation (CMF) used opinion mining and language processing algorithms to detect over 948,000 tweets from 1 June 2022 to 31 July 2023 that contained misinformation about meat production and its impacts, as well as false statements about alternative practices such as adopting plant-rich diets and consuming poultry instead of red meat.

CMF summarized the main sentiments found in misleading posts that focused on meat production and consumption. 78 percent of users disparaged alternatives of meat and dairy products and discredited their potential benefits for the environment and public health. 22 percent of users tweeted that meat

consumption is wholly beneficial for the human body. Many users also attempted to refute scientific data on the environmental impact of global animal agriculture.

Misinformation surrounding agriculture and plant consumption has become widespread in the past two decades. Genetically modified crops and organic farming have been points of significant contention for both farmers and consumers in recent years.

While there are supporters for both sides of the argument, it is farmers and marketers who appeal to the consumer's fears of health concerns and environmental damage to convince people to buy their products. "Agri-food misinformation creates anxiety, uncertainty and confusion among farmers and consumers," says Chowdhury.

Transparent advertising is essential for the agriculture industry, especially in today's climate where people do not know if they can trust the food that they are eating. "Businesses can lead the way here. Advertisers need to work together to make this happen. It's good for them, and it's good for society. It's really a win-win. Then they can actually force platforms to abide by some kind of rules and procedures and make sure that they're actually monitoring and trying to prevent the spread of misinformation," says Johar. **IPS**

Hopefully, the 133bn/- will help in property creation, not just enhanced use of banks, etc.

EACH new financing arrangement by the government where more than 1bn/- is put to some social purpose is worth reflecting upon, at least to figure out the resultant impact on current social or economic trends.

This calls for a carefully considered trajectory of expectations at the sociopolitical level, where each event affects existing tendencies.

Social and economic movement is like a push and pull scenario, where some think we are pushing while others believe we are pulling. Reports say that the government has allocated over 133bn/- to enhance the financial sector, focusing on strategies to help citizens move away from informal financial systems.

It is said that the funds will be spent on conducting research within the sector, check out the use of formal financial services among ranked firms, and seek to propel greater adoption of technology in finance.

Whatever may be the specific underlying premises, much of this is noticeable as bank agents increasingly replace automatic teller machines, and sending money by such agency now calls for little education.

The sums set out are relatively sizeable and, as if the movers of the project also feel as much, a cabinet minister recently let out a gasp that the funds which began to be

utilised in the 2021/2022 financial year "are expected to be fully spent by the 2025/2026 financial year".

This implies that the project is of great consequence, meanwhile as there is a way in which the funds could be rapidly sent to specific destinations.

Notably, the government is in the process of ensuring that the new education curriculum integrates financial literacy and entrepreneurship for the good of our youth.

Of course, no one should rush into suggesting that this will mean that millions of the youth will automatically become gainfully self-employed - only that their education won't go to waste. The underlying paradigm reflects the 'piecemeal' reforms in social outlooks and economic behaviour pursued by those detesting big private property and uncomfortable with systematic reform.

It remains to be seen if indeed 46 per cent of Tanzanians currently rely on informal financial services such as keeping money at home, hiding it in containers or burying it.

Letting this description remain at the national level can be misleading as this large portion of people are also likely to be poor and thus are neither savers nor depositors.

It is meanwhile also worth remembering that those targeted may be nomadic pastoralists who aren't in formal transaction business outside selling their livestock.

By Guardian Reporter

Empowering next generation to achieve their full potential through education, entertainment

IMAGINE a colorful bus traveling across Tanzania, turning every stop into a lively celebration of education and fun. This was the scene during the Ubongo Building Brains Tour 2024, a transformative journey that has captivated primary school students, parents, and teachers alike.

For nearly a month, this tour which was launched in July by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports, Hamis Mohammed Mwinjuma, led by Ubongo in partnership with the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and Hope and Healing, made learning an exciting adventure across the Arusha and Mara regions.

The heart of the tour was a vibrant Ubongo-branded bus adorned with popular cartoon characters, turning each town into a festival of learning. As the bus traveled through Usa River and Morombo in Arusha, and in Musoma and Butiama in Mara, it brought interactive games, engaging storytelling, and thrilling competitions to children. This hands-on approach made education accessible and enjoyable for primary school students.

“Ubongo cartoons have a unique way of teaching through entertainment. My child learned to count effortlessly thanks to the popular character dubbed Akili and Me. I believe these tours should happen more regularly and reach even more regions, not just as a one-time event,” says Lilian Mollel, a parent from Morombo, Arusha region.

The tour’s reach has been impressive in the two regions. It reached about 134,000 people, with 124,230 primary school students, 940 teachers, 8,554 caregivers participating in the activities. Special attention was given to inclusivity, with more than 4,000 students with disabilities benefiting from the tour. Additionally, over 2,000 new users registered for Vodacom’s e-Fahamu platform, which offers valuable educational resources for students and teachers.

Robert Chacha, a resident from Butiama in Mara region shared his experience of the tour: “This tour has been a blessing for our community. It’s wonderful to see children so enthusiastic about learning. The interactive games and stories have made a real difference, and it’s great to see them enjoying education in such a creative way.”

The Building Brains Tour has not only made learning exciting but has also strengthened the connection between education and entertainment. This innovative approach has transformed the way primary school students engage with their studies, setting a new standard for educational experiences in Tanzania.



Sandra Oswald (second right), Vodacom Tanzania Foundation Manager, addressing journalists during the launch of the Building Brains Tour 2024. Left is Hamis Mwinjuma, Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Zuweina Farah, External Affairs & Vodacom Tanzania Foundation Director, expressed her excitement about this exciting journey with Ubongo, “This partnering with Ubongo on this tour has let us combine our efforts to make quality education available to every child. The mix of Vodacom Foundation’s e-Fahamu platform with Ubongo’s engaging content has

created a strong partnership that improves learning outcomes through technology and creativity.”

The Building Brains Tour is more than just an event; it’s a movement to improve school readiness, learning outcomes, and the enjoyment of learning. By bringing educational content directly to communities, Ubongo is fulfilling its mission to

equip Africa’s future generations with the knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes needed for personal and community growth.

“I like Ubongo Kids cartoons because they offer so much learning for our children. It’s fantastic that the content is available in both English and Kiswahili, using simple language that’s easy for kids to understand,”

says Manka Mushi, a resident from Usa River, Arusha region.

By bridging entertainment with learning, the Building Brains Tour is not only making education fun but also empowering the next generation to dream big and reach their full potential. With its commitment to inclusivity and modern educational tools, Ubongo is paving the way for a brighter, more informed future for children throughout Africa.

Report stresses urgency of addressing climate change

By Telesphor Magobe

CLIMATE change is a global concern because its effects are felt and seen everywhere across the world. Both developed and developing countries are affected although in varying degrees. This calls for urgency to address it before it is too late to make any significant intervention.

Tanzania is not left behind in seeking ways of addressing climate change impact as it participates in global efforts to mitigate it. Climate change is an urgent issue which needs not only global efforts, but also national efforts that can be translated into concrete action. A new UN report stresses this urgency to address climate change.

The UNEP FI “2024 Climate Risk Landscape Report” says 2023 “broke records for the hottest day for a staggering 116 days in a row and marked the warmest year on record.” It says the financial sector’s significant influence on economic activities—principally, through funding decisions, investment strategies, and risk management—positions financial institutions as key drivers in steering the global economy toward sustainable practices and resilience against climate impacts.

“This sense of urgency has accelerated the need for financial institutions to accurately assess and respond to the financial implications of climate change, which manifest in a multitude of forms.” The UNEP report focuses on dissecting the latest trends, methodological advancements, and approaches used to tackle common challenges in climate risk assessment process. It also provides practical steps for basing decisions on the analysis results and integrating various tools into the existing systems of financial institutions.

The report says 2023 having six record-breaking months and two record-breaking seasons in global surface air temperature, the urgency for enhanced transparency in climate-related risks and for greater resilience and adaptability have become paramount. “The year saw significant progress in global standards and regional practices for climate-related disclosures, stress testing, and green-washing, highlighting the need for additional transparency and bolstered resilience in the financial system,” it says.

In particular, the report says the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, saw progress towards a global consensus about climate action. During that conference an agreement was reached which signalled the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, just, and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance. However, not much has been achieved in cutting down greenhouse gas emissions.

COP28 participating countries were encouraged to accelerate “ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets” in their next nationally determined contributions. The agreement also clarified the need to more than double the current levels of adaptation finance to meet urgent and evolving demand.

“This global consensus sets the stage for governments and policymakers to intensify their efforts to address climate change. For financial institutions, these developments signal the likelihood of heightened compliance requirements and reinforce the necessity to adapt rapidly to a changing regulatory landscape influenced by climate imperatives.” Where such efforts are brought to the grass-



roots there is the likelihood of success while where they remain at conference level there is no change taking place as far as addressing climate change is concerned. Thus, this saying ‘think globally and act locally’, makes a lot of sense when it comes to the implementation of global climate change commitments.

The report suggests that increasing accessibility of data from governments, universities, and nongovernmental organisations is revolutionising how corporations approach climate-related challenges. Enhanced by the rise of open-source climate tools, there is now rich information readily

available. Although primarily available at national or global levels, these tools still serve as essential preliminary filters that enable users to gain an initial understanding of climate-related risks in the regions in which they operate. They are crucial in offering both a general overview and specific insights of potential risks and impacts related to climate challenges across various scales and sectors.

Citing Hansen and colleagues in their study of 2023, the report says research shows the likelihood of the global temperature increase reaching 2 Celsius by 2050, given the current carbon dioxide concen-

trations and the latest calculations of Charney (fast-feedback) equilibrium climate sensitivities. “This potential discontinuity between 1.5° C and 2° C scenarios could make predicting outcomes of climate change’s impacts exceedingly challenging,” it says.

The report suggests that in an increasingly volatile climate landscape, astute decision-making lies in sustainable financial management. It says utilising climate risk assessment results effectively is not just about understanding data, it is also about converting these data into actionable insights to fortify financial strategies. Thus,

financial institutions will need a structured pathway of decision-making.

This calls for local efforts to address climate change in a manner that reflects global commitments, but grounded in concrete action at national and local level. When climate change is prioritised in national programmes it becomes easy to address it, but when it is seen as something that can be addressed by others, then it becomes a problem. So, every Tanzanian must participate in climate change mitigation and it is only through this that it can be addressed at local level and reflect the urgency it needs.

Egyptian parliament moves to strengthen support for people with disabilities alongside the elderly

CAIRO

In a significant move to address the challenges faced by people with disabilities and the elderly, six Egyptian parliamentary committees met in Cairo on October 12 to discuss national strategies and legislative efforts.

The Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Government of Japan, organized the meeting with the focus of aligning Egypt's policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Roughly 1.2 million people with disabilities currently receive state assistance, while Egypt's elderly population continues to grow. According to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), 10.64 percent of Egyptians have a disability, and the elderly population reached 9.3 million in 2024, representing 8.8 percent of the total population—4.6 million men (8.5 percent) and 4.7 million women (9.2 percent). The parliamentary committees convened to enhance support for these vulnerable groups.

Dr. Abdelhadi Al-Qasabi, Chairman of the Committee on Social Solidarity, Family, and People with Disabilities, emphasized recent legislative developments. He pointed out that Egypt has passed important legislation, such as the Elderly Care Law in 2024 and the Law on the Rights of Persons with



Delegates from the Forum of Arab Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population and Development Association met in Cairo to discuss support for people with disabilities and the elderly. Credit: APDA

Disabilities in 2018, to safeguard these vulnerable groups. He underlined that these laws show the state's adherence to the Egyptian Constitution, which upholds everyone's right to a dignified life free from discrimination.

"Egypt has made significant strides by adopting policies and laws that protect and empower people with disabilities and the elderly," stated Al-Qasabi. "We aim to ensure they are not only recipients of support but contributors to the nation's progress."

The "Karama" program of the Egyptian government, which offers financial aid to those with impairments, was the focus of the gathering. Egypt's Minister

of Social Solidarity, Dr. Maya Morsy, noted that the program, which has an annual budget of about 10 billion Egyptian pounds, currently serves 1.2 million people with 1.3 million integrated services cards distributed to make access to social services and healthcare easier. "We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities receive their integrated services cards within 30 days, enhancing their access to vital resources."

Morsy emphasized the Elderly Care Law, which assures those over 65 have better access to social, economic, and healthcare services. "We aim to create an environment where the elderly can

live independently, free from abuse or exploitation, while continuing to contribute to society," she told the audience.

Dr. Hala Youssef, UNFPA Advisor, emphasized the need for international cooperation in meeting the SDGs and ensuring that no one falls behind.

"Parliamentarians play a strategic role in creating a legislative framework that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable," Youssef added. "Innovation and technology can be powerful tools for inclusion, providing people with disabilities access to education, employment, and social participation on an equal footing."

Youssef went on to emphasize disturbing global figures, stating that 46 percent of seniors over 60 have some type of handicap and that persons with disabilities were among the hardest struck during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Children with disabilities are four times more likely to experience violence than their peers, while adults with disabilities face higher risks of abuse and exploitation," Youssef said, urging a stronger commitment to protecting their rights.

Dr. Sami Hashim, head of the Committee on Education and Scientific Research, stressed the integration of individuals with disabilities in the educational system. He emphasized that, especially in the age of artificial intelligence, education must be adaptable, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

"Our education system must not only teach knowledge but prepare individuals for success in an increasingly technological world," said Hashim. "This is particularly important for students with disabilities, who should have access to the tools and opportunities that will allow them to thrive."

The forum emphasized the critical need for national and international collaboration to build inclusive, egalitarian communities, given that 80% of the one billion persons with disabilities worldwide live in developing nations and that the number of older people in need of assistance is rising.

IPS UN Bureau Report

BANGKOK, Thailand

Over half of Asia-Pacific's population now live in cities. While urbanization brings people closer to opportunities and better services, many urban dwellers are also experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change such as floods, urban heat and infectious diseases. Urban activities are among the major contributors to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Consequently, building adequate capacities to adapt and promoting low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development are strategic priorities to reduce the region's GHG emissions and safeguard its people. ESCAP, through the Urban-Act project, is supporting cities in Asia to identify important local actions to increase resilience and transition to climate-sensitive urban development.

Moving from business-as-usual to climate-sensitive development requires substantial investment and good enabling conditions. To meet Indonesia's climate target, for example, the country needs -USD 285 billion in total financing for 2018-2030 - a significant amount for a country facing a myriad of urbanization challenges.

In 2024, ESCAP and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA), assisted countries including Indonesia, to assess their national enabling conditions for urban climate finance.

The assessment evaluates four dimensions of the enabling conditions: climate policy, budget and finance, climate data, and vertical and horizontal coordination. In Indonesia, assessing national enabling conditions for subnational climate action in the urban context is part of an integrated approach to scale up climate action.

First, from the policy perspective, climate change is an important aspect of Indonesia's national development. Climate-related targets gain prominence in the latest national medium-term development plan and will become even more so in the upcoming long-term development plan.

At the subnational level, however, the capacity to mainstream climate action varied. Lack of awareness, competing priorities and limited funding are among the main challenges that create significant gaps between budget allocation and achieving climate targets.

Second, despite the fiscal decentralization policy that allows subnational governments to manage their revenue and expenditures, reliance on central government transfers remains a com-

Unlocking urban climate finance: Some key insights from Indonesia



Credit: ESCAP Photo/Nur Hamidah

mon practice. In general, subnational governments face difficulties in generating revenue.

This reality exacerbates the challenge of allocating sufficient funding to build cities' adaptive capacity and mitigate GHG emissions. Public-private partnership as a potential source of infrastructure financing has not made a significant contribution to subnational finance. Debt is not prevalent among subnational governments. Municipal bonds, introduced nearly twenty years ago, have not seen successful issuance by any subnational government.

A recent regulation on carbon pricing allows subnational gov-

ernments to generate revenue from carbon trading, but effective implementation requires technical guidance and capacity building - a similar issue with thematic global climate funds.

Officials from cities participating in an Urban-Act workshop expressed that their cities received limited information about the mechanisms and had limited technical capacity to access the funds.

Third, Indonesia has developed several information systems facilitating subnational climate analysis and/or progress reporting, including AKSARA and National Registry System which record mitigation and ad-

aptation activities, SIGN SMART records GHG emissions inventory at the provincial level, and SIDIK which allows analysis of adaptive capacity disaggregated at the village level.

Subject to data availability and quality, the analysis produced by these platforms could aid subnational governments in their development planning and efforts to access financing.

Finally, on vertical and horizontal coordination, Indonesia's development planning forum, Musrebang, which fosters inclusive and participatory community discussions mandates for development aspirations to be discussed at all levels of gov-

ernment. However, the extent of climate discussions within these forums varies.

To improve conditions for Indonesian cities to access climate finance, there is a need for enhanced technical support to align subnational development planning and budgeting with national climate targets.

This includes strengthening institutional capacity to internalize climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into development programmes/activities, starting from understanding cities' vulnerability to

climate change and the major contributing sectors of GHG emissions all the way to monitoring and evaluation.

Such improvements would enable subnational governments to set measurable targets, prioritize actions, mobilize funding, and follow a clear and trackable roadmap. Policy to enable subnational governments to generate revenue from activities contributing to GHG emissions to finance climate action could be explored further. Incentives provision can also encourage private and subnational governments to move in this direction.

Climate data reporting platforms can be utilized and optimized better by encouraging more participation of subnational governments and relevant stakeholders - which should be accompanied by building technical capacity in data management to improve quality and evidence-based planning.

As climate change is a multistakeholder and multijurisdictional issue, national and subnational governments must facilitate cross-jurisdictional and collaborative urban climate actions to effectively tackle its potential impacts.

Climate action cannot be delayed any longer as the cost of inaction is far outweighing the cost of action. Assessing the enabling conditions at the national level is a crucial first step in understanding the challenges and opportunities of mobilizing urban climate finance. Member States can start by utilizing the tool to foster local climate actions.

Nur Hamidah is Urban Climate Change Specialist, ESCAP; Rebecca Purba is Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division; Anna Amalia Senior Planner, Ministry of Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia.

Change of mindset is a basic requirement for our youth to benefit from land ownership

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale, Arusha

IN many African countries the youth are yet to realize the value of land and this requires scaling up of education and awareness campaigns in order to change their mindset so that they may see the importance and value of land.

Only then will they be able to demand their right to own land and work to protect such right. In due course they will also strive to make their land a major source of livelihoods now and in future.

During the third day of the Fourth International Youth and Land Governance Conference (CIGOFA 4) taking place in Arusha City, some delegates highlighted the fact that while various stakeholders were working to promote land rights and secure tenure of land, the youth must be ready to show interest in owning land and value it as the basis for their future wellbeing.

"We talk about youth empowerment in agriculture as a means to attaining food security and there are arguments that land rights for youth could lead to and promote sustainable food systems but these arguments may only hold water if the youth themselves are serious about owning land and using it to change their lives for the better," explained Ashley Rukudzoz Kavumbura from Zimbabwe

when he made an online presentation on Harnessing Youth Potential in Agriculture: Securing land rights to bolster food security.

He said that you that economic empowerment for the youth could be meaningful and go a long way towards poverty reduction among families and coupled with appropriate education in land governance, food shortages would be reduced. But the youth must be willing change.

Some delegates observed that they youth have lost interest in pursuing land rights and ownership due to persistent conflicts as a result of which they become frustrated and lose hope of building their future on land.

"Those who own land lack security of tenure as their land could be taken away any time. They feel that those in power sell land indiscriminately and make conditions for the youth to own land difficult. Besides, there are no concrete strategies to help them own and develop land. This creates a hopeless situation," explained Koume Francis, a participant from Ivory Coast.

She argued that when it comes to allocation of land, governments do not take the youth into consideration and at the end of the day, many of them become landless. They are left without a future.

"So if we really want the youth to build a better future, governments must recognize the right



Land tenure expert, Da Passano Guglielma (R) makes a contribution at CIGOFA 4 conference. Left is Innocent Antoine Houedji, Executive Director of Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (Yilaa)

of the youth to own land and empower them to develop and use it to better their lives," she said.

During discussions, some delegates pointed out that in some countries youth who owned land sold it at give-away prices and spent the money on luxury. Eventually they became poorer than when they owned land and their future was doomed. For this reason they argued that it was important to identify who among the youth seriously need land. Some of them would prefer to build their future on other resources.

However, Da Passano Guglielma, a Land Tenure specialist from Italy, said that when the youth own land it is not right to tell them what to do with it.

They may sell it or rent it or do with it whatever they deem fit; it is their property. "The important thing is that the youth need to get adequate and correct information on land rights, information on land laws, information on security of tenure and maybe how to get funding in order to develop their land so that ownership becomes meaningful," she said, adding that

generally the youth are aware of the importance of land but there are a few who fail to manage their property due to ignorance.

"They need education and more information to realize that land is a source of livelihoods for their families and by selling it they bring suffering to their children and the whole family," she said.

Guglielma has worked with UN Agencies for over 20 years during which she engaged with many African Governments on issues of land reforms. She explained that land administration should be in-

clusive, responding to what the people want.

Currently the youth want to be involved in all processes of decision making in matters related to land ownership. "Some youth have long term strategy and vision but they face barriers.

Others are lucky to own land and they should be free to do whatever they want with it, but they need education and information to make the right decisions so that they don't sink into poverty and put their families in trouble," she explained.

Capacity building crucial for digital sequencing success

By Oritro Karim

AS climate change wreaked havoc on local agriculture, Tiambo, a livestock scientist at the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH) and at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), focused on conserving and developing livestock that could withstand environmental stress.

Christian Tiambo has always wished to uplift local farmers' communities through cutting-edge science.

Tiambo's research took an exciting turn when part of his PhD studies was to characterize and establish local poultry populations with interesting resilience potential. Yet, the need for local access to advanced genomic tools was a barrier to fully unlocking this potential.

Today, the power of digital data and sequencing information is transformative. It is driving the discovery of genes and innovation in agriculture through the identification and deep characterization of pathogens in plants and animals. That is helping scientists to breed livestock suited to local conditions and production systems, thereby benefiting local communities that have been custodians of genetic resources for generations.

But there is a catch: Africa, like other parts of the global south, is a genetic goldmine but has not fully capitalized on the digital sequencing information (DSI) derived from its genetic heritage. DSI is a tool that provides information for the precise identification of living organisms and allows the development of diagnosis tools and technologies for conservation in animals and plants. Besides, DSI is also used in investigating the relationships within and between species and in plant and animal breeding to predict their breeding value and potential contribution to their future generations.

Tiambo said DSI can be used to adjust the genotypes and produce animals with desired traits, adapted to local conditions but which have higher productivity.

A promising innovation has been the development of surrogate technologies in poultry, small ruminants, cattle or pigs—giving opportunity to local and locally adapted and resilient breeds to carry and disseminate semen from improved breeds in challenging environments.

"Farmers would not need to keep requesting inseminators and semen from outside their village," Tiambo explained, noting that this shift could dramatically improve livestock breeding, dissemination of elite genetics, boost food security and alleviate poverty in remote rural areas of Africa.

Global cooperation among stakeholders of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is key to establishing international guidelines on benefit-sharing from animal genetics resources and their associated information, including DSI.

Christian Tiambo, a livestock scientist at the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health. Credit: ILRI



Using genetics and associated traditional knowledge includes adapting specific livestock to specific environments. This contributes to the development of improved and elite tropical animal breeds with particular traits that meet community needs to improve livelihoods, he said.

"Local livestock is not just for food but is our heritage, culture and social value," said Tiambo, adding that conserving livestock is conserving local culture, social ethics and inclusion, with gender aspects being considered. For example, the Murtu cattle and the Bakosi cattle in Nigeria and Cameroon are animals used in dowry. The Bamileke cattle remain sacred and maintain the ecosystem of sacred forest in part of the western highlands of Cameroon.

"I have never seen any traditional ceremony done with exotic chicken in any African village," he said.

Genetics and DSI, according to Tiambo, are "game changers" in breeding livestock with desired traits faster. What used to take five to seven years or more, he says, can now be done in just three or four cycles with the help of genomics.

ILRI has been working with the Roslin

Institute, the Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization and collaborating with the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), the National Biosafety Authority, farmer communities, and National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in Africa and Southeast Asia in the conservation and development of improved local chicken using stem cell technologies.

DSI needs infrastructure and human resources. "A lot of infrastructure, equipment and skills are coming from outside Africa, but how can we also generate DSI and use it locally?" Tiambo asked. He worries that without developing local capacity to harness DSI, "a lot of helicopter research will still be happening in Africa where people fly in, just pick what they want, fly out, and no scientists in Africa are involved in generating and using DSI."

Technologically advanced countries have often exploited these genetic resources, developing commercial products and services without clear mechanisms for sharing the monetary and non-monetary benefits with local communities as ethics and common sense would require—an injustice that needs urgent correction.

The use of DSI on genetic resources is one of the four goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted in 2022 with the aim of stopping global biodiversity loss by 2030.

ThankGod Ebenezer, bioinformatician and co-founder of the African BioGenome Project, argues that Africa must seize this moment to build and strengthen local capacity to produce and use DSI from genetic resources.

"The establishment of a benefit-sharing mechanism for DSI is a first step in the right direction and Africa needs to maximise even this first step by putting in a framework to generate and make use of DSI locally," Ebenezer told IPS, explaining that Africa needs to be able to do genetic sequencing on the ground with local scientists having the capacity to translate and use it.

The Africa BioGenome Project, of which Tiambo is also a founding member, is a continental biodiversity conservation initiative that has laid out a roadmap for how Africa can benefit from DSI and the planned multilateral fund.

"The main benefit comes from being able to use DSI and ultimately share it with the global community in line with the national and international rules and regulations," said Ebenezer. "Because if you cannot use DSI yourself, you will always feel like a supplier, like someone who gets crude oil from the ground and asks someone else to add value to it and gets several products."

At COP16 in Colombia (Oct 21-Nov 1, 2024), world leaders will discuss mechanisms for fair and equitable sharing of DSI benefits, a critical step for Africa and other biodiversity-rich regions. For example, Africa hosts eight of the 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world, according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

"In terms of the negotiation, we would like the DSI fund to be approved so that it's ready for implementation because this is an implementation COP," Susana Muhamad, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia and COP16 President-designate, told a press briefing ahead of COP16.

"We would like the decision of the parties to give the COP the teeth for implementation. One is the DSI," Muhamad said.

Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, is hopeful that COP16 will operationalize the multilateral mechanism for the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequencing information in genetic research.

"We are going to look at that. And I think it's a very complex term and issue, but it is ultimately about how those industries, sectors and companies that use digital sequence information on genetic resources that are often located in the global south, but not exclusively, how they use it and how they pay for using it," said Schomaker, noting that COP15 agreed to establish a multilateral mechanism and a Fund for DSI.

The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the CDB, including the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. Target 18 of the CBD seeks to reduce harmful incentives by at least USD 500 billion per year by 2030, money that could be channelled to halting biodiversity loss.

The World Resources Institute (WRI), in a position paper, has urged COP16 to provide more finance and incentives to support nature and biodiversity goals. There is currently a USD 700 billion gap between annual funding for nature and what's needed by 2030 to protect and restore ecosystems, the WRI said, noting that "many of the world's most biodiverse ecosystems—and biggest carbon sinks—are in developing countries that cannot save them without far more financial support."

The WRI commented that bringing in more private sector finance will require incentives, which can come from policy and regulation as well as market-based strategies to make investments in nature more attractive.

But this should not substitute for shifting harmful subsidies and delivering international public finance to the countries that need it most, WRI argued.

As the world scrambles to stop biodiversity loss by 2030, the upcoming COP16 discussions could be pivotal in ensuring that Africa finally benefits from its own genetic wealth.

Between Harris and Trump, more doubts than certainties for Latin America

CARACAS

MIGRATION, trade, the defence of democracy, the confrontation with China and the collapse of multilateralism are issues that shed more doubts than certainties on Latin America's expectations of the imminent presidential elections in the United States.

Interest and tension have grown after dozens of polls and bookmakers have shown similar chances of victory for Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, particularly in a few decisive states.

Latin America has been treated by many US administrations as its 'backyard', but it is now commonplace that Washington's international priority lies far from the region.

Nevertheless, "we should not underestimate the ways in which Democrats and Republicans are different", warned Tullo Vigevani, former professor of international relations at Brazil's Paulista State University.

"For example, their proposals and policies are very different on the environment, in general and in relation to Latin America; on renewable energy and biofuels - particularly in the case of Brazil - and regarding human rights and some authoritarian trends in the region", Vigevani told IPS from Sao Paulo.

Even if some governments are more sympathetic to Harris or Trump, Vigevani believes that both Washington and the region's capitals will seek understandings and a relationship as normal as possible, after the 5 November election.

Migration rules

Among the campaign issues, such as economy and employment, taxes, health, wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and the opposing personalities of both candidates, migration stands out, with Latin American countries being the main expellers of migrants to the United States.

"It is a sensitive issue for Americans, whether they are Democrats, Republicans or independents. It affects the immigrant population, the millions of refugees, and therefore the countries of Latin America," Vilma Petrash, a Venezuelan professor of political science and international relations at Miami Dade College, told IPS.

Of the 336 million people living in the United States, 46.2 million were of foreign origin in 2022, according to the non-governmental Pew Research Center; 49% are already U.S. citizens, 24% are legal permanent residents, and the rest, more than 11 million people, are unauthorised immigrants, eight million of whom are from Latin American and Caribbean countries.



The two White House hopefuls debated on ABC television on September 10, 2024, but their mentions of Latin America were mainly dedicated to the issue of migration.

In fact, the United States is currently home to 65 million 'Hispanics', as Latin Americans are called in the country, according to different reports, and they have become a desired prize for the two candidates.

Trump, who pushed for the construction of a wall on the southern border during his presidency (2017-2021), now offers massive deportations of illegals - one million immediately, according to his vice-presidential candidate, James Vance -, and to contain irregular border immigration even by using the military.

They are "the enemy within", Trump has said, and has stigmatised migrants: he said that criminals from Venezuela have left their country for the United States, "leaving Caracas as one of the safest cities in the world", or that Haitians "are eating the pets" in the northern industrial state of Ohio.

Harris, who is the current vice-president and lead programmes with which president Joe Biden also tried to address causes of migration, such as poverty in Central America, has said that the immigration system "needs reform", without going into details.

Whichever side wins, the controls will predictably increase, and Washington's announcement that it will not renew in 2025 the temporary stay permits (parole), which allow Venezuelans, Haitians, Cubans and Nicaraguans to enter and remain in the United States for two years, was a warning sign.

The United States isolates itself The migration issue shows the United States' willingness to isolate itself, to withdraw, instead of taking a proactive approach, as a great global power, to solving problems in the region and the world.

According to Petrash, "after Washington's retreat from the wars it got into in the Middle East, there is resistance among people to getting in-

volved in the world's problems, which weakens the liberal democratic order. Donald Trump's 'America First' policies are a case in point".

The expert said from Miami, in the southeastern state of Florida, that there is also a lack of consensus over foreign policy, and in general over governance, to the point that a part of the population still, countering evidence, supports the version that it was Trump and not Biden who won the election four years ago.

While Biden has consistently supported Ukraine in the war against Russia, and Israel's current military offensive in the Middle East, his political action in favour of democracy in Latin America has been weaker, and Harris would continue this, although with revisions, according to Petrash.

This is despite the certainty that, for example, among the alternatives for containing regional migration, in which the exodus of more than seven million Venezuelans in the last decade stands out, is to promote a solution to the democratic crisis in that country.

As a result of its policies and omissions, its polarised political confrontation and doubts about its electoral system, and the rise of isolationism, the United States "would have to regain the moral stature necessary to help stem democratic backsliding in the region", says Petrash.

These setbacks are expressed in left-wing governments with authoritarian tendencies, such as those in Nicaragua and Venezuela, but also in sectors that have backed right-wing presidencies such as those of Jair Bolsonaro (2019-2022) in Brazil and the current administrations of Javier Milei in Argentina and Nayib Bukele in El Salvador.

Bolsonaro, Milei and Bukele have openly identified with Trump, whose sector harbours a far-right conservative current. For Petrash, this could favour a rapprochement with Latin American countries where there is a democratic backlash.

China moves forward

Petrash points out that the United States's international retreat was acute in Latin America, "its natural strategic zone", after the failure of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) initiative in 2005. "It abandoned its vision of free trade in the region and let China move forward with its enclaves," she said.

China, "an economic, political and ideological rival, has sold itself as successful authoritarianism, and has taken advantage of Washington's absences in Latin America to advance its quiet, pragmatic diplomacy," says Petrash.

Trade between China and Latin America reached US\$480 billion in 2023 after increasing 35-fold in 2000-2022, while the region's total trade with the world increased four-fold, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Nevertheless, trade with the Asian giant is still far from the region's trade with the United States, which in the same year amounted to US\$1.14 trillion.

Relations between Latin America and China "have grown and even strengthened in strategic areas such as new materials for energy production, lithium bat-

teries -South America has large reserves of the mineral-, or artificial intelligence", Vigevani states.

Brazil and Mexico

Meanwhile, Brazil is concerned about Washington's disdain - which will be evident if Trump wins - for multilateral institutions, starting with the United Nations and the proposed renewal of its Security Council in order to make it effective.

For Vigevani, this distancing from multilateralism is illustrated by the blockade, which Washington has maintained since 2020, on the appointment of new members to the dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), initiated by Trump and continued by Biden.

"Even if relations with Brazil and Latin America in general look normal, this United States refusal raises doubts for the future, because it is saying it is not interested in multilateral organisations," said Vigevani.

In the case of a Trump victory, the Brazilian professor points out, there are also unanswered questions about what his war and peace policies will be.

An example is the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Trump has said that "ending this war quickly is in the best interest of the United States" and that he can achieve "a peace agreement in one day", without offering further details, said Vigevani.

"It is important because, despite the war, Brazil has a strong relationship with Russia, and a very active participation in the Brics group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)," Vigevani recalled.

According to Petrash, with Trump's international policy, "the great power can be the bull in the china shop, and even more, the bull isolating itself in the china shop".

At the other end of the region is Mexico, a partner of Canada and the United States in the trade agreement known as USMCA, which replaced in 2020 the North American Free Trade Agreement that has existed since 1994.

Along with maintaining the 3150-kilometre southern border of the United States, a destination for hundreds of thousands of migrants who cross the region each year, Mexico faces the campaign promise from both Harris and Trump that they intend to revise the USMCA as soon as they reach the White House.

Trump is expected to introduce tariffs and protectionist barriers, for example on Mexican production involving Chinese parts or technologies, and Harris is expected to increase environmental and labour requirements that favour industries with United States labour.

Whichever side wins, "with the new American policy of bringing companies back to the United States or to its partners in the USMCA, possibly the biggest issue now is the end of globalisation and the return to a developmentalist nationalism", summarised Vigevani.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions provided. Clues include 'a state of mind or feeling', 'sesame', 'crush with foot', etc. Solutions include 'CASE L W STRANGE', 'HELAMITE TAILOR', etc.

A 10x10 grid puzzle with a list of words to fit into the grid: GRID, MOMBASA, IMMUNE, DAB, MEN, UNNAMED, SEE, MAR, CANDID, FAMOUS, FRIDGE, SUE, GRAMMAR, NUT.

RADIO One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI'. It features a grid of daily programs from Monday to Sunday, including 'HALLI YA HEWA', 'AMKA NA BBC', 'NIPASHE', etc. The ad includes social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and the Radio One logo.



Aside view of the TBS complex in Dar es Salaam.

TBS contributes toilet worth 7m/- for Chamugasa Primary School in Busega

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has contributed 7m/- to help address the shortage of toilets at Chamugasa Primary School in Busega District, Simiyu Region.

During the handover ceremony for the new toilet facilities yesterday here, TBS Lake Zone manager, Happy Kanyeka emphasized that the initiative is part of the bureau's commitment to support efforts in addressing social challenges.

"We are giving back to the community what we receive. This effort aligns with the significant strides being made by the government, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, to enhance the learning environment for pupils," Kanyeka said.

She also urged pupils to be mindful of TBS-certified products by checking labels when purchasing items for their needs. "When you are sent to buy soda, water, notebooks or other products, make sure to look for the TBS logo and pay attention to the information, especially the expiration date," she advised.

Redempta Missanga, head-teacher of Chamugasa Primary School, expressed gratitude to TBS for the support in con-

structing the toilets.

Established in 1959, the school continues to face challenges, including a shortage of eight classrooms and 200 desks.

"This school has 678 pupils (345 girls and 333 boys) and eight teachers (five women and three men). We call on various stakeholders to continue supporting efforts to improve the teaching and learning environment," Missanga said. Pupils such as Elizabeth Mafayo, Editha Misana, and Zainabu Kusekwa thanked TBS for their contribution to the new toilet facilities, which have alleviated previous difficulties.

"We faced challenges due to the lack of toilets. We thank TBS for helping us build new ones. Now, we have no more problems," Mafayo said.

Rhobiri Chacha, acting education officer for Busega District Council, highlighted the importance of effectively utilising contributions from stakeholders to encourage ongoing support.

"When we demonstrate good stewardship of what we receive, and the results are visible, we motivate them to help even more in other areas," Chacha said.

Ward secondary school sets new record in Tanzania's ICT sector

By Francis Kajubi

NESTLED in Kibosho West Ward, Moshi district in Kilimanjaro region, Manushi Secondary School has broken the record of becoming the first village government-owned school in setting up a modern ICT Lab.

With the ICT lab in place, the school is confident of grooming competent secondary school leavers through the application of modern teaching techniques and learning methods attributed to the installation of enough computers with electronic books for teaching and learning.

This technological advancement will enable the students of the school to access more online learning material.

ICT Commission Director General, Dr. Nkundwe Mwasaga has launched the lab recently in Manushi village during the event which coincided with the school's 15th graduation.

"I am very happy to witness the digital revolution taking place in one of the secondary schools located in remote areas like this one. We are used to seeing the development of ICT in cities;

This technological advancement complements the digital economy inclusive goal as specified in the UN's sustainable development goals," said Dr. Mwasaga during the launch event.

He said that Manushi has been a model school for public schools in rural areas that still do not apply technologies in offering education.

He said Tanzania has more than 4,000 public ward secondary schools where the Commission has begun to motivate its teachers and secretariats in offering education through digital medium.

"There will be sessions for villagers to use this lab to learn digital and ICT lessons. Sufficient experts for teachers shall be deployed by the Commission and we will engage the Ministry of Education in deploying sufficient ICT experts in rural schools," he said.

Manushi Secondary Headmaster, Hamisi Mbaawa said the presence of the lab will facilitate the achieving of quality education. He said the lab cost 50mn/- for construction and equipment.

Engineer Bahanza Amali, Director General of the QSoft Technology Company that supervised the construction said the lab is important at the present time in preparation of competitive youth



Dr. Nkundwe Mwasaga (R), ICT Commission director general witnesses students busy in the modern ICT lab at Manushi Secondary School in Manushi village in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region.

with great knowledge in technology.

He said technology has revolutionized the ordinary systems for managing studies, content creation and digital libraries.

"In an increasingly globalized world, the boundaries to offering education are expanding. Through online classes, students and teachers can have real time learning sessions wherever they are;

Technology not only enables different learning styles, but also incorporates interactive features that enhance student to student engagement," he said.

According to Bahanza, in the current job market in the world, skills are more important than before, so he believes that the school will establish programs that focus on practical skills successfully.

This is the case when the Commission is seeking for local and foreign partnership with the private sector in enhancing technology in the wake of generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Just last week, Almwawe, an Italian enterprise listed on the Euronext Growth Milan (Ticker: AIW) and a member of the Almwava Group, a data and artificial intelligence player, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Information and Communication Technologies Commission (ICTC).

The agreement covers the development and introduction of Almwawe's Italian LLM model, Velvet, in its Swahili version - Tanzania's official language together with English - through the exchange of data, experiences and technologies.

The collaboration is focused on providing an effective tool based on generative AI for use by the

Tanzanian public sector.

Under the MoU, Almwawe will provide Velvet as an Open Source version to the ICTC, while the ICTC will provide local data and information for training the Swahili language version of the model.

The goal is to develop an LLM model 'tailored' to the local context, free of bias, capable of optimizing administrative processes through digitization and improving the efficiency of structures, as well as interactions with citizens.

Valeria Sandei, Chief Executive Officer of Almwawe, said that the agreement is an important step in the collaborative journey with Tanzania and the entire African continent.

The adoption of Velvet - the multi-lingual, multi-modal foundational model we are developing on the Leonardo Supercomputer managed by Cineca - in Swahili, tailored to the country's needs in full collaboration with local institutions, demonstrates how generative artificial intelligence can be a key lever for accelerating digitization, improving public services, and fostering socio-economic development.

"Our experience in the country, which has developed over recent years through strategically-important projects, and the significant experience in the use of artificial intelligence in government gained in Italy, allows us to enthusiastically tackle this technological challenge," said Sandei.

On this aspect, Dr. Mwasaga said the collaboration with in making the model will enhance accomplishment of the goal to build a Kiswahili Large Language Model which suite the public sectors in Tanzania through various areas: Capacity Building- which de-

velop professional skills that will support all the development and deployment phases of LLMs in Kiswahili;

Data gathering and cleansing - both parties will collaborate in selecting the right data sources, collecting the data and cleansing it to prepare a quality Kiswahili dataset to train the LLM.

According to him, other areas are sharing experience on issues related to the project of implementing LLM in Kiswahili; the players will consider allocating reasonable financial and human resources through their budget plans to facilitate the implementation of respective activities; collaborate in project development and implementation of Kiswahili for Velvet LLM.

"We highlight in particular the projects with the Judiciary of Tanzania for the digitization of criminal and civil cases using proprietary AI voice technologies in Swahili and English, within the 'Citizen-centric Justice in Tanzania' program," said Dr. Mwasaga.

The program, he said, is funded by the International Development Association -World Bank Group, with the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) for the re-engineering of a statistical data platform for all countries within Africa, as part of the African Information Highway (AIH) initiative, and with South African Tourism, through the provision of D/AI Destinations, Almwawe Group's all-in-one platform for destination marketing and management.

The Swahili-speaking countries in Africa are 12, involving a population of more than 70 million people.

Financial services set for AI lending solutions

By Guardian Reporter

Tausi Africa has introduced the local market with Manka, an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered financial analytics platform designed to improve credit assessments in Tanzania's informal economy.

The platform analyzes both bank and mobile money statements, enabling financial service providers to make faster and more accurate lending decisions.

By reducing credit assessment times from approximately three hours per customer to less than two minutes, Manka aims to enhance efficiency within the financial sector and support financial inclusion.

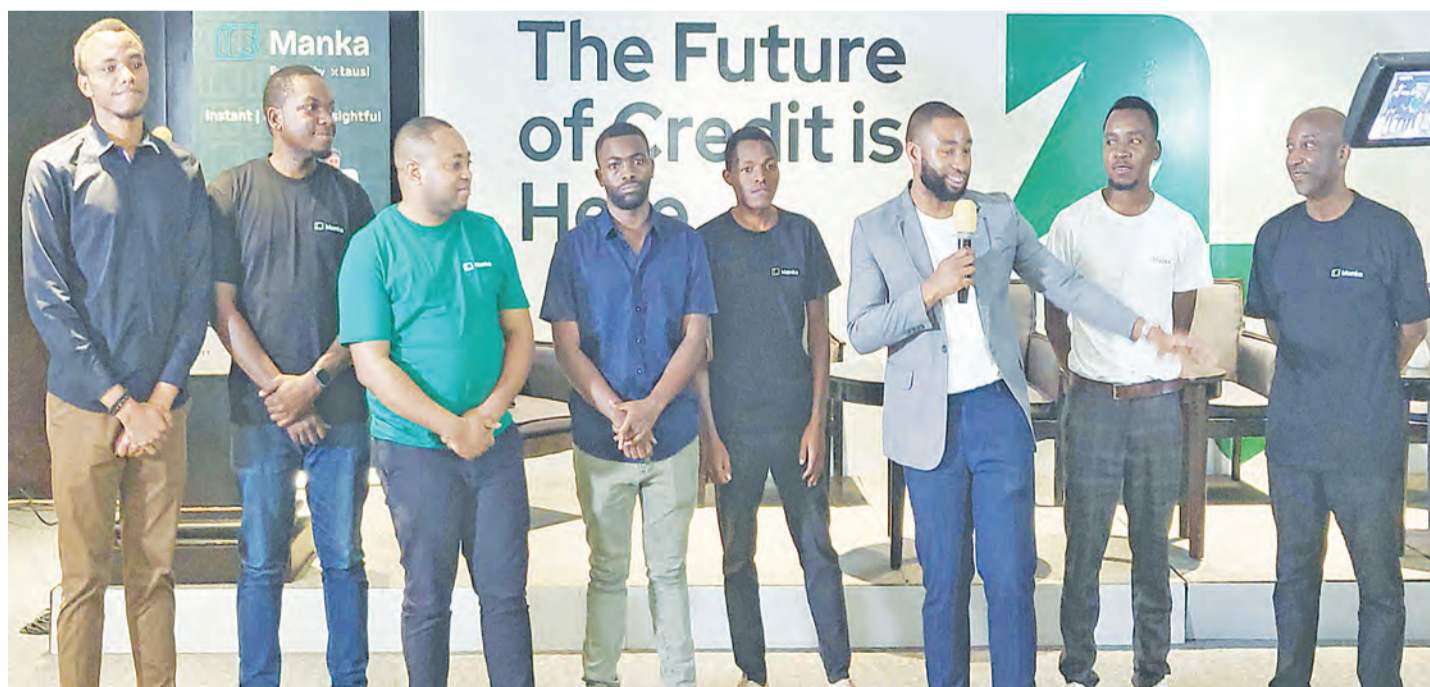
The launch event took place on Thursday in Dar es Salaam bringing together stakeholders from across the banking and financial sectors to discuss the platform's potential impact on lending practices.

Eric Massinda, CEO Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT), delivered the keynote address at the event, stating, "Manka represents a significant advancement in Tanzania's financial landscape," he said.

According to him, by leveraging alternative data and technology, the platform addresses key challenges in lending, particularly in underserved sectors.

He said Manka's ability to streamline credit risk assessments will not only improve access to finance but will also drive more inclusive economic growth and give the customers the power over their data.

"As Tanzania continues to embrace open finance, solutions like Manka are critical to ensuring that financial institutions can bet-



Tausi Afrika Technologies Limited CEO Derick Kazimoto (3rd-R) speaks at the launch of Manka, an AI-powered financial analytics platform designed to improve credit assessment in Tanzania's informal sector

ter serve their customers and support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)," said Massinda.

At the launch, Tausi Africa also announced its partnership with Credit Info Tanzania to expand the reach and impact of Manka within the financial sector.

This collaboration enables both companies to offer Manka's advanced credit analytics capabilities to a broader range of financial service providers, empowering them to

serve their customers with improved financial insights and solutions.

The partnership represents a shared commitment to enhancing financial services and supporting economic growth in Tanzania.

Edwin Urasa, Country Manager, Credit Info Tanzania, commended the innovation, stating: "Manka will significantly optimize how we assess credit risk in underserved markets. Beyond just risk assessment; Manka will empower banks to enhance

customer acquisition efforts while creating opportunities for more personalized financial offerings. By leveraging AI, financial institutions will make more confident, data-driven decisions in record time, ensuring broader access to much-needed credit."

For his part, Derick Kazimoto, CEO of Tausi Afrika Technologies Limited said Manka is designed to improve access to credit by enabling financial service providers to serve their customers more effectively.

He asserted that by optimizing credit assessments and providing insights into customer behavior, Manka allows institutions to offer faster, more personalized financial solutions—not just in credit, but across a range of products.

"Manka helps match customers with financing options that are better aligned to their specific needs, increasing access to suitable financial solutions in the market. Our focus is on empowering FSPs to meet the needs of their customers, opening up opportunities for better financial inclusion," he said.

The platform uses AI to provide comprehensive credit risk analytics and pre-score consumers across multiple financial institutions with enhanced accuracy.

Manka reflects Tausi's mission of "Unlocking access to finance for the African informal economy" by fostering financial inclusion and driving greater access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

He said that Manka symbolizes financial responsibility and wisdom, attributes inspired by its namesake from the Chagga tribe.

These values are reflected in Manka, delivering transparent and insightful financial analysis that enables informed decision-making and paves the way for increased financial opportunities across Tanzania.

The efficiency Manka brings to credit assessment will help financial institutions better serve customers while reducing the risks associated with lending, especially in sectors that have traditionally been underserved.

IMF wants structural reforms to improve Nigeria's growth outlook

LAGOS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Nigerian authorities to embark on structural reforms to improve the nation's economic outlook.

Tobias Adrian, financial counselor and director of Monetary and Capital Markets at IMF, said in Washington DC that Africa's most populous nation needs structural reforms to have a chance for long-term economic growth.

"The various foreign exchange measures introduced by the authorities earlier this year were necessary. These steps have helped improve the country's vigilance and overall financial stability. There is also more to be done on structural issues to enhance the growth outlook," Adrian said at the ongoing IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington D.C.

Structural reforms are designed to ensure an economy is fit and better able to realise its growth potential in a balanced way, according to the European Central Bank (ECB). They include: the overall business environment, a simpler tax system or less bureaucracy to make it easier for companies to conduct business and plan for the future.

Nigeria faces a tough business environment due to multiple taxation, delays in the justice system, high cost of energy and funds, and poor infrastructure.

Though tax reforms are ongoing, Taiwo Oyedele, chairman of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, said the Nigeri-

ans pay over 200 unofficial taxes.

Adrian said Nigeria must do more to resolve these challenges to prepare the economy for long-term growth.

He noted that the monetary policy reforms so far carried out by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) are encouraging.

"The central bank has been transitioning to an inflation-targeting regime and has liberalised the exchange rate, which we welcome. The rate hikes implemented so far have been appropriate, especially given the challenges posed by high inflation, which still stands around 30 percent."

On his part, Wale Edun, Nigeria's minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, said the government's goal is to improve the supply of foreign exchange organically without heavy intervention from the CBN.

He acknowledged that while the CBN might still intervene in the market from time to time, the ultimate aim is to achieve a stable exchange rate without reliance on the central bank's interventions.

"We are trying as much as possible to improve our supply organically without the central bank having to put in money all the time. And so, we are trying to get to a level where that stability is there without the central bank intervening or the market depending on the central bank," he said.

Edun also highlighted the positive impact that foreign portfolio investment (FPI) has had on the economy.



"We have had some significant amount of improvements in terms of flows from the relative side, foreign portfolio investment (FPI) have put in a significant amount," he said.

He stressed that the removal of fuel subsidies, combined with the market-based pricing of petroleum, has brought positive changes.

He said that the country has seen improved its confidence among investors, with many willing to commit more resources to the Nigerian market.

"We have seen good response from investors through the FPI. We have also seen improved confidence for people who want to put in a lot more resources."

Nigeria raised over \$900m in its first domestic FGN US dollar bond

in September. The bond, which was over 180 percent oversubscribed, marked a crucial step in broadening Nigeria's funding avenues amidst global economic headwinds.

Edun told investors that, "The IMF said to us that we shouldn't do domestic issues of dollar bonds. We did it and we were 100 percent oversubscribed, but we still value their viewpoint and took it into account."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says Nigeria's 10 percent-to-GDP ratio is too small to effect the required change on the economy. It also noted that the nation must reduce its debt servicing costs to achieve fiscal stability.

Daide Furceri, division chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, told the media at the IMF/World Bank meet-

ings in Washington DC, USA, that Nigeria faces significant challenges, particularly in terms of revenue mobilisation.

"Nigeria has a very low revenue-to-GDP ratio, around 10 percent," he said, noting that the country's debt servicing obligations are consuming a large portion of its revenue, similar to other low-income countries where this ratio averages around 15 percent," he said.

"This means a large share of revenue growth is used just to finance the debt," Furceri explained, emphasising the need for Nigeria to broaden its tax base and increase revenue mobilisation."

Furceri also pointed to the impact of rising food prices and droughts on Nigeria's economy, calling for

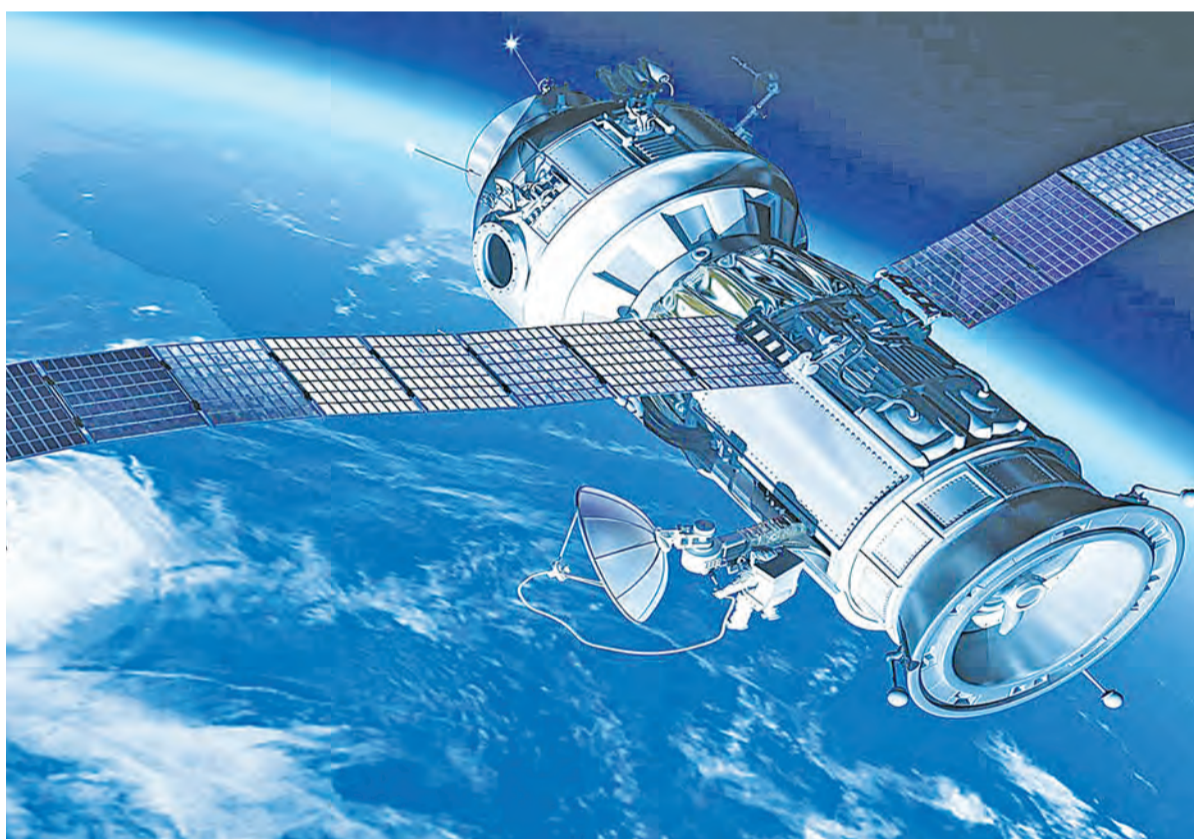
transparent mechanisms to ensure that government resources reach the most vulnerable populations. He stressed the importance of balancing revenue growth with targeted social safety nets, especially in countries like Nigeria that are facing both fiscal and humanitarian challenges.

Debt servicing took about 74 percent of Nigeria's federal revenue in the first quarter (Q1) of 2024, amounting to N1.31 trillion out of the N1.76 trillion retained revenue, said the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin. This is the lowest in five years, according to BusinessDay's analysis of Nigeria's debt service and revenues between Q1 of 2020 to Q1 of 2024.

The decrease was driven by naira devaluation and partial petrol subsidy removal at that time, experts said.

According to Vitor Gaspar, director of Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, "Deficits are high, and global public debt is projected to rise to about \$100 trillion this year." He added that at the current rate, the global debt-to-GDP ratio could reach 100 percent by the end of the decade, surpassing even the levels seen during the pandemic.

Despite this alarming outlook, he noted the differences across countries, saying, "In about one-third of the countries, public debt is higher and projected to grow faster than pre-pandemic levels. This includes major economies such as China, the United States, Brazil, and the United Kingdom, representing around 70 percent of global GDP."



China willing to share BDS expertise with more nations

HUNAN

China is willing to partner with other countries in sharing the development results of the Beidou navigation satellite system, or BDS, especially in exploring its potential in regional short message communication, services and international rescue efforts, a senior official of the National Development and Reform Commission said on Thursday.

Xiang Libin, deputy minister of the NDRC, said Beidou has been recognized by the International Civil Aviation Organization of the United Nations as a global standard, and that cooperation between China and the African Union as well as the League of Arab States in BDS is intensifying.

Cooperation agreements have also been signed between China and South Africa as well as Egypt in Beidou applications, he said at the Third International Summit on BDS Applications, which is being held in Zhuzhou, Hunan province from Thursday to Friday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of BDS.

The applications of Beidou in key industries have expanded, with its coverage in transport, energy, natural resources and emergency ex-

ceeding 90 percent, he said.

Beidou has been widely installed in applications for the general public, with 98 percent of smartphones and shared bikes equipped with it.

Meanwhile, high-accuracy maps based on Beidou have covered the whole country, with daily usage exceeding hundreds of billions of times, he said.

The country will continue to support the large-scale application of Beidou, push for deep integration of Beidou with intelligent cars, smart agriculture and the low-altitude economy, and empower sectors such as delivery services, low-altitude tourism and emergency rescue, Xiang added.

Wang Jiangping, deputy minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said Beidou has developed into a world-class navigation satellite system and its high-accuracy regional short message communication service has been fully proven to have the ability to serve the whole globe.

Beidou has been widely used in communication, transport, agriculture, forestry and public security and is serving important infrastructure while also generating significant economic and social benefits, he

said.

By the end of last year, the total output of the country's satellite navigation and location services industry had exceeded 530 billion yuan (\$74.5 billion), while homegrown Beidou chips and modules have exceeded 400 billion pieces and there are a total of 1.4 billion pieces of equipment using the Beidou system, he said.

The MIIT will continue to accelerate Beidou applications, push for market, industrial and international development of Beidou and enable it to better serve the whole world and bring benefits to all, he added.

Aarti Holla-Maini, director at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, said China is a central member of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the Beidou navigation satellite system is expanding its applications and services to make it available to both industry and public sector users.

Space has a crucial role to play in achieving social and economic development, she said via a video link.

Modern society depends on satellites and data and the many services they provide and enable; this reliance is only going to grow in the future, she said.

KRA to enforce tax compliance by mobile phone importers, retailers

NAIROBI

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), in collaboration with the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), will track all imported or locally assembled mobile phones from the 1st January 2025 to ensure taxes on the devices are paid.

"The authority will provide means by which tax compliance status of mobile devices can be verified before purchase by retailers or end-users," said CA in a statement.

Mobile phones that will not have their IMEI numbers uploaded for tax compliance will be greylisted by the CA. The authority will provide a window of opportunity for their distributors to regularize their status, after which when it elapses, the devices shall be blacklisted.

"The new requirement will only apply to all devices imported or assembled in the country from November 1, 2024. All existing devices that will be on the mobile networks by October 31, 2024, will not be affected," the authority further stated.

While the CA database can be regarded as a means to determine tax compliance of items bought or sold, there is concern that the data may be used for other not-so-reasonable purposes. With the government possessing a mobile phone's IMEI number, one's exact location can be determined, thus rousing fears of state surveillance.

KRA's modus operandi in pursuing tax compliance over the years has involved tracking business transactions in a controversial manner that may be regarded as an invasion of privacy. Over a week ago, KRA also announced that it will integrate with cryptocurrency exchanges to monitor transactions worth KSh 2.4 Trillion yearly and collect taxes.

After the fall of the Finance Bill 2024 due to unfavourable tax policies, KRA has been forced to devise new measures to collect revenue. To broaden the tax base, KRA has resorted to technology to net evaders and heightened its focus on previously ignored revenue spots.

The taxman's targets have been soaring, aiming to surpass KSh 3 trillion in collections by the end of 2024/2025. These targets over the

years, in a tough business environment, remain unfulfilled because KRA attempts to collect higher taxes have increasingly led to traders employing avoidance strategies or hiking prices thus selling less items.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) is exploring technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning to analyse vast data sets to identify tax evasion patterns.

Humphrey Wattanga, KRA Commissioner General, says the implementation of Application Programming Interfaces, AI, and machine learning will be pivotal in enhancing revenue mobilization through improved efficiency, accuracy and compliance.

"AI and Machine Learning will analyse vast data sets to identify tax evasion patterns, optimize resource allocation, and predict future revenue streams. Ultimately, integrating technology will not only boost tax collection but also foster trust and transparency within the tax system," KRA Director General Wattanga said.

"We must leverage on the power of the rapid innovation and technological advancements that are driving the global economy. Tax administrations must proactively adopt technology-driven solutions and systems that facilitate trade and improve domestic resource mobilization," said Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary.

"Innovation, from digital taxation platforms that simplify compliance to block chain technologies that enhance transparency in trade logistics, offers powerful tools for revenue generation and efficient trade management."

Speaking during the 2024 KRA Annual Summit, Mudavadi underscored need to in-

tegrate technology in tax collection noting that from experience, automating customs procedures has significantly reduced cargo clearance times across the East African Community common border points. This has greatly enhanced the movement of goods and facilitated international trade.

Similarly, adopting electronic invoicing systems helps to integrate the informal economy into the formal tax base, widening the scope for domestic resource mobilization.

We must rethink traditional tax rules and be prepared to implement global solutions that ensure all sectors contribute equitably to the national resource base.

Governments should also invest in capacity building and technical skills training for their public servants to fully leverage these technologies and maximize the gains from innovation.

Data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning enable tax authorities to identify trends, improve compliance and risk profiling, and forecast revenue with greater accuracy.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the three-day summit, Cabinet Secretary Treasury, John Mbadi called for collaborative engagements and partnerships with key stakeholders to enable governments develop sound policies that encourage investment, job creation and ultimately economic growth.

"Such engagements, centred on shared goals and a unified vision, are critical to shaping effective policy frameworks and advancing citizen participation in public governance. They also deliver mutual benefits to governments and all stakeholders."



WORLD

NATO expansion, threats from Trump and Kursk developments – Putin

KAZAN

WHILE Moscow is ready to consider any options for peace with Kiev in order to resolve the Ukraine crisis based on the realities on the ground, it will not agree to anything else, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a news conference summarizing the BRICS Summit.

According to the head of state, the Russian Army has been advancing on all sectors of the line of engagement in the special military operation zone, while as many as 2,000 enemy troops have been encircled in the Kursk area. Russia is opposed to an escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, the head of state stressed. Also, he criticized NATO's expansion as unfair and said it makes no sense threatening Russia as he commented on alleged threats from former US President Donald Trump.

TASS has gathered key takeaways from the president's statements.

On restoring communication with Europe

Allegations that Russia refuses to revive dialogue with European countries are just lies, Putin said. "We have never refused to do so, nor are we refusing now. If some wish to resume relations with us, they are welcome. We keep saying so all the time. But we are not being obtrusive," he explained.

Putin attributed destabilization inside the EU to what he termed erroneous policies being pursued by the European elites. He rejected corresponding Western accusations against Russia as rubbish. "This [destabilization] is a net effect of the domestic policies in these states. <...> As a popular saying goes here, it's an attempt to put one's own

blame at somebody else's door and to shirk responsibility for wrong decisions in the economy or domestic policies," he added.

On special op and situation in Kursk region

The Russian Army is advancing on all sectors of the line of engagement in the special military operation zone and it has been acting resolutely in all directions. Meanwhile, Kiev has been losing fewer tanks on the battlefield only because it has been using them less, Putin explained.

Ukraine's incursion into the borderline Russian region of Kursk was meant to show to the United States that its investment in Kiev has not been useless. "They want by all means to show to the current [US] administration and the electorate supporting the current administration, this party [the Democrats], that their investments in Ukraine have not been in vain," the head of state pointed out. "They [the Ukrainians] are working for them (the US – TASS), not for the interests of the Ukrainian people," he added.

Some 2,000 Ukrainian troops have been encircled in the Kursk Region. "[Russian troops] are actively working in the Kursk direction. Some units of the Ukrainian army, including those in the Kursk Region, have been blocked and encircled. About 2,000 men," Putin specified.

On alleged threats from Trump

As regards alleged threats "to hit Moscow" from former US President Donald Trump, threatening Russia makes no sense at all, Putin said, as Russians only feel emboldened by threats.

On relations with US

Post-election relations between Mos-



Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a press conference at BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, Thursday.

cow and Washington will depend on the future US administration, the Russian leader said. "If the United States is open to building normal relations with Russia, we will reciprocate. If they don't want to, they don't have to. It will be up to the future administration," he added.

On Ukraine conflict

Everybody in BRICS is seeking to put an end to the Ukraine conflict as soon as possible, preferably by peaceful means, Putin assured reporters.

"We know what is being done and how in launching unmanned speedboats in the Black Sea. We know who is present there, what European countries of NATO these people come from, and how they go about doing this job. The same applies to instructors and military servicemen. And the same applies to the use of high-precision weapons, including ATACMS, Storm Shadow and other missiles. Ukrainian soldiers cannot use them without space reconnaissance, target setting and Western-made software. They can do this only with the direct participation of officers from NATO countries," he argued.

Russia is ready to consider any options for peace agreements with Kiev to resolve the Ukraine crisis based on the realities on the ground, Putin continued.

Regarding peace talks, "the ball is in Kiev's court," the Russian leader said. However, he continued, the ringleaders of the Kiev regime have refused to negotiate as, among other reasons, they would have to cancel martial law and hold an election.

On Middle East conflict

Russia is opposed to any further

escalation in the Middle East, as, strategically, it will gain nothing from it, Putin maintained. "We are very concerned about what is happening in the [Middle East] region. And no matter who says what, Russia is not interested in the [Middle East] conflict getting worse," he said. "Strategically, we will gain nothing from this, we will only face additional problems," he added.

On NATO expansion

Putin described the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance as unfair. "Haven't we said this? 'Don't do it. NATO expansion violates our security.' No, they preferred to have it their way. But is this fair? There is no justice here. We wish to change this situation and we will achieve this goal," Putin insisted.

On GDP growth

Russia's GDP growth may amount to around 4% this year, Putin said. "As you can see, we are living a normal life as we work and progress. Our economy is growing. We saw a 3.4-3.6% growth last year. This year, [growth] may reach around 4%, probably 3.9%," he surmised.

On BRICS Summit

According to Putin, the 16th BRICS Summit has successfully ended to become one of the most significant events on the global political calendar. "It became the culminating point of the Russian chairmanship in the association and one of the most significant events on the world political calendar. I have repeatedly said that Russia's approach to the BRICS chairmanship is responsible," he stated.

Ramaphosa calls on nations to leverage BRICS for economic, social development

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa underscored the significance of utilizing the BRICS platform to advance social, economic, and cultural development among member nations during the just-concluded 16th BRICS Summit on Thursday.

"The BRICS outreach and BRICS plus engagements are important platforms for developing strong ties among countries from the greater Global South and emerging markets," Ramaphosa noted.

He welcomed Russian initiatives to strengthen BRICS countries through various plans designed to improve the future of BRICS nations' transport networks and connectivity under the theme "Innovation and Digitalization of Transport."

"These efforts will help us integrate and deepen our inter-connectedness in new and imaginative ways," Ramaphosa said, adding that the multilateral system remained the cornerstone to resolving global issues and should be safeguarded.

Ramaphosa highlighted the need for collaborative efforts to enhance the well-being of people within the BRICS bloc.

The African Union has launched an initiative to create a single unified air transport market in Africa to support the continent's economic integration, Ramaphosa said, adding that "for BRICS and friends of the BRICS, we need to use these projects to further connect the greater Global South."

Touching on global affairs, particularly the Middle East conflict, Ramaphosa reiterated South Africa's concerns about the ongoing situation, saying that the world cannot sit idly by and watch it unfold.

Turning to conflicts on the African continent, Ramaphosa highlighted the war in Sudan, now in its second year, emphasizing that it should not be overlooked. He also mentioned the conflicts in the Sahel and the Great Lakes regions.

"We must remain committed to the peaceful resolution of all disputes through negotiation and inclusive dialogue," he added.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks at BRICS Summit extended format session in Kazan, Russia, Oct 23, 2024. AP

Xi urges more efforts to achieve marine sci-tech breakthroughs

BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged more efforts to achieve marine sci-tech breakthroughs in a reply letter to faculty and students of the Ocean University of China.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, congratulated the university's faculty, students and alumni on its centenary.

In the letter, Xi asked the university to take the centenary as a new starting point, step up efforts to achieve original and pioneering sci-tech breakthroughs, and nurture more outstanding talent to contribute to building China into a leading country in education and a strong maritime country.

The Ocean University of China was founded in 1924 as the Private Qingdao University and adopted its current name in 2002. *Xinhua*

BRICS becomes key driver for global peace, economic recovery, governance

By Joseph Matthews

WITH an expanded membership, BRICS has become a pivotal force in promoting global peace and stability, economic recovery, and governance, advocating for a more equitable and orderly multipolar world.

Originally composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, BRICS has grown into a significant international cooperation platform. Following its expansion in the past year, the new members have further strengthened BRICS' influence.

BRICS has consistently championed the principles of openness, inclusivity, cooperation, and mutual benefit. It has become a catalyst for safeguarding global peace, advancing shared prosperity, enhancing global governance, and facilitating the democratization of international relations.

The group has also staunchly defended multilateralism and the free trade system while calling for reforms in global gover-



This photo shows a view of the Kazan Kremlin in Kazan, Russia, Oct. 20, 2024. Xinhua

nance to amplify the voices of emerging markets and developing countries.

The 16th BRICS Summit, taking place in the Russian city of Kazan from Tuesday to Thursday, marks the first top-level meeting following the group's expansion. Recent sta-

tics indicate that BRICS countries now account for about 30 percent of the global GDP, nearly half of the world's population, and one-fifth of global trade.

The summit is being held at a critical juncture, as the world faces two major conflicts – one in Europe and another in the Middle East – both of which have triggered significant global uncertainties. These conflicts, fueled by external players with vested interests, are worsening challenges like food security, economic instability, and disruptions in global supply chains.

The summit offers a crucial opportunity for world leaders to advocate for political solutions to these conflicts. Dialogue and negotiation remain the only viable pathway to de-escalating these crises and preventing further harm to global peace and economic progress. *Xinhua*

BRICS mechanism conducive to cooperation among developing countries -- UN economist

GENEVA

THE BRICS mechanism plays a key role in promoting cooperation among developing countries and emerging markets against the background of global geopolitical turmoil, said a UN senior economist.

The BRICS countries have become an important force in the world economic landscape, and their development experience is worth learning for the Global South countries, said Liang Guoyong, a senior economist with the United Nations Conference

on Trade and Development, in a written interview with Xinhua.

Cooperation in various fields among the BRICS countries has continued to deepen, and economic and trade exchanges between BRICS countries and other developing countries have continued to expand, Liang said, adding that the increasing international trade, investment, as well as scientific and technological exchanges have provided important opportunities for the economic development of all parties

concerned.

He said that the cooperation mechanism among the BRICS countries has transcended specific regions and become a core mechanism for cooperation among emerging economies, playing a positive role in building a more inclusive global economic and trade system.

In the future, cooperation among the BRICS countries in new areas such as digital economy, artificial intelligence, cross-border payments and logistics will enable the mechanism to play a greater

role in promoting international economic and trade cooperation, he added.

The appeal of the BRICS mechanism lies in the expanding influence of its members in the global political and economic system, while the mechanism offers an effective way for members to strengthen economic and trade exchanges and promote economic development, he said.

Liang expressed his belief that under the current situation, in order to promote economic and trade cooperation among developing countries

and enlarge the development pie, it is necessary to give full play to the international cooperation mechanisms at all levels, especially BRICS.

He said that the primary reason why South-South cooperation has once again become the focus of global attention in recent years is the increasing strength of the Global South countries, as South-South trade has accounted for nearly 40 percent of global trade.

Also, South-South cooperation has become the main driving force for developing

countries to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade, investment and infrastructure construction, and the BRICS countries, including China, play an important role in this, he added.

The expert said that China has become the world's largest trading country and the second-largest importer in goods trade, and its growing imports have provided an important driving force for the economic growth of other developing countries.

At the same time, as one of

the world's largest foreign investors, China has provided important support for the industrialization and economic diversification of low-income countries, said Liang.

In the past decade, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the establishment of financing institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank have effectively promoted economic and trade cooperation among developing countries, he said.

Xinhua

Israeli killings of civilians 'normalized' partly by international tolerance

HONG KONG

HUMANITARIAN organization Save the Children has lamented that the international tolerance of Israeli "slaughter" has "normalized" attacks on civilians. This comes amid the latest massacres involving children and journalists in the Jabalia refugee camp in north Gaza and in south Lebanon.

Alexandra Saieh, head of humanitarian policy and advocacy at Save the Children International, underscored that the situation for children in Gaza was now "absolutely catastrophic" and that no military goal could justify the mass slaughter of civilians being seen in Gaza daily, according to a report by Al Jazeera.

"The international community has normalized attacks on schools in Gaza. We are seeing Israeli forces attack schools-turned-shelters in Gaza now on a regular basis. And by the international community refusing to take action, they've just normalized this," Saieh was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera.

In an analysis published in September, British charity Oxfam said more women and children have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli military over the past year since Oct 7 than the equivalent period of any other conflict in the last two decades.

"Conservative figures showed that more than 6,000 women and 11,000 children were killed in Gaza by the Israeli military over the last 12 months. Data from 2004-2021 on direct conflict deaths from the Small Arms Survey, estimates that the highest number of women killed in a single year was over 2,600 in Iraq in 2016," the report said.

Latest atrocities reported by Wafa News Agency on Oct 25 involved the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya. Israeli forces reportedly stormed the hospital, instructing patients to move to the main courtyard. The hospital director noted that some windows in patient rooms were shattered from shelling by Israeli forces.

The hospital was surrounded, with Is-



Mohamed al-Dalu gestures to the site where his brother, Shaban, was killed in a fire after an Israeli strike hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Oct 16, 2024. AP

raeli military vehicles firing upon the facility, endangering sick children inside, according to the Wafa report.

Israeli forces also carried out an airstrike on a residential complex in the Jabalia refugee camp the same evening, reportedly killing 150 civilians, including women and children.

Jordan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemned the Israeli attacks targeting the Jabalia camp as "savage", in what it said was "a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law, a continuation of the systematic brutal targeting of civilians, and a horrific war crime for which those responsible must be held accountable", the Jordan News Agency reported.

Sufian Qudah, the ministry's official spokesperson, said Israel continued to commit "war crimes and ethnic cleansing", and it does "not care about the international will calling for an end to the war and the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe it is causing".

In southeast Lebanon, it was widely reported that an Israeli airstrike hit a compound housing journalists, with Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV confirming its cameraman and broadcast technician were among the casualties early in the morning on Oct 25.

Al-Manar TV of Lebanon's Hezbollah group also said its camera opera-

tor Wissam Qassim was also killed in the airstrike on the Hasbaya region.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists update on Oct 24, its preliminary investigations showed at least 128 journalists and media workers were among the tens of thousands killed in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Lebanon since the conflict began, making it the deadliest period for journalists since the committee began data gathering in 1992.

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 Israeli citizens, who include academic professionals, Holocaust and history experts, as well as former ambassadors and law experts in Israel and abroad, have penned an open letter to the international community in 11 languages to "intervene immediately and implement every possible sanction towards achieving an immediate cease-fire between Israel and its neighbors".

They accused the government of Israel of having "abandoned its citizens who are hostages" and "neglecting the residents of the south and north of Israel".

"The lack of true international pressure, the continuation of arms supplies to Israel, economic and security partnerships and scientific and cultural collaborations, bring most Israelis to believe that Israel's policies enjoy international support," the letter published in British daily newspaper The Guardian read.

"The leaders of many countries make repeated statements about the horror they feel and verbally denounce Israel's operations, but these condemnations are not backed by practical actions. We are replete with empty words and declarations," it said.

They also appealed to "save us from ourselves" and urged to use "real pressure on Israel for an immediate cease-fire".

IMF official says Asia clearly the powerhouse of global economy

WASHINGTON

ASIA, which is contributing 60 percent to global growth, is clearly the powerhouse of the global economy, said Krishna Srinivasan, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Department.

"This is the most dynamic region of the world. It has a huge amount of labor force. A lot of that is also a skilled labor force. It's a region which is highly integrated in global supply chains.

And lastly, it's a region which has seen a huge increase in productivity growth," Srinivasan told Xinhua in an interview earlier this week. "For these three reasons, this region is contributing a lot more than other regions," he said. In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released on Tuesday, the IMF maintained its global growth forecast in 2024 at 3.2 percent, consistent with its projection in



Krishna Srinivasan, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Department, speaks during an interview with Xinhua in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Oct. 22, 2024. Asia, which is contributing 60 percent to global growth, is clearly the powerhouse of the global economy, said Krishna Srinivasan, director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Asia and Pacific Department.

July. Emerging and developing Asia, meanwhile, is expected to grow 5.3 percent.

"Emerging markets in Asia are pulling their weight much more than advanced economies," as advanced economies are still seeing interest rate tightening and weak domestic demand, Srinivasan said.

The IMF official noted that going forward, the region also will have to confront the risks of geo-economic fragmentation, impact of artificial intelligence (AI), impact of climate change and so on.

The impact of geo-economic fragmentation on Asia is particularly concerning, he said. According to IMF estimation, there were roughly 1,000 trade restrictive measures in 2019, but in 2023, the number had surged to 3,000.

"A lot of trade distorting measures are happening, which is leading to greater fragmentation," Srinivasan said. "In a region like Asia, which has benefited the most from regional integration and integration of supply chains, any kind of frag-

mentation means that Asia risks losing the most," he continued.

The IMF official noted that there is redistribution of trade – for example, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economies have benefited in some targeted sectors because of the U.S.-China trade war.

However, "over the long term, everybody loses, because the dynamism of the global economy declines, global output declines," he said.

Noting that IMF research shows that for every trade restriction, whether it's a tariff or non-tariff barrier, there's a 74 percent probability that countries will retaliate, Srinivasan urged policymakers to focus on ways to reduce these trade restrictions.

The IMF official said the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) provides a very good forum for such a dialogue, as this is a group of 21 economies which account for a large part of global trade.

"So it provides an economic forum, a forum for dialogue between countries on how to alleviate these trade frictions and how to embrace, or how to continue with multilateralism," he said. The latest WEO report showed that the Chinese economy is expected to grow by 4.8 percent this year, down by 0.2 percentage points from the previous projection.

Gaza faces risk of polio spreading if vaccination continues to delay: UN

UNITED NATIONS

AN immediate ceasefire is needed in the Gaza Strip as the enclave faces the additional threat of polio spreading, if the final phase of a vaccination campaign continues to delay in the besieged North Gaza, a UN humanitarian official said on Thursday.

The third and final phase of the polio vaccination campaign, which was set to start on Wednesday in northern Gaza, had to be postponed due to the escalating violence, intense bombardment, mass displacement orders, and lack of assured humanitarian pauses.

"It is imperative to stop the polio outbreak in Gaza before more children are paralysed and the virus spreads," said Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). "The vaccination campaign must be facilitated in the north through the implementation of humanitarian pauses."

The current conditions, including ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure, continue to jeopardise people's safety and movement in northern Gaza, making it

impossible for families to safely bring their children for vaccination and health workers to operate, Wateridge said.

Since the beginning of the second round of the polio vaccination campaign on Oct. 14, 442,855 children under age 10 have been successfully vaccinated in central and south of Gaza, representing 94 percent of the target in these areas.

To interrupt the transmission, at least 90 percent of all children in every community and neighbourhood need to receive a second vaccination following the first round, including more than 119,000 children across northern Gaza.

The spokesperson said people in North Gaza are experiencing extreme suffering with "harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction."

More than 400,000 people remain trapped in the north where Israel has intensified its offensive against Hamas militants.

For three weeks, there has been no food or aid reaching the north, and there are no markets or shops selling food. The military offensive has also cut off access to the essentials for survival, including water.

Chinese pharmaceutical companies make inroads into Africa amid growing health cooperation

BEIJING

WILLIAM Kwame Amakye, who hails from Ghana, typically spends 10 to 12 hours a day in a laboratory. As a postdoc research fellow at the South China University of Technology (SCUT), he is committed to acquiring knowledge and experience in China to advance his career.

"I worked in a clinic in Ghana as a nutritionist for two years, and one of the major challenges we face there is the high cost of medicine.

Many of the drugs are imported, which drives up healthcare costs," said Amakye. With the desire to do more to help patients in Ghana, Amakye found himself longing for further study in medicine and nutrition.

Thanks to a scholarship

from the Chinese government, he came to China for the first time in 2014 and finished his postgraduate studies. In 2018, he continued to study for a doctoral degree in food science and engineering and then pursued a postdoc at SCUT in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

Amakye's experience amounts to one of the many forms of healthcare cooperation existing between China and Africa, which allow medical students, professionals and researchers from African nations to gain valuable training and expertise in China. China and Africa share a longstanding history of health cooperation, marked by decades of collaborative efforts in medical assistance, healthcare training and pub-

lic health initiatives.

In 1963, China dispatched its first medical team to Algeria. So far, the country has sent some 25,000 medical team members to 48 African countries, treating around 230 million patients and winning the hearts of the African people thanks to such dedication.

Moreover, China's pharmaceutical companies have significantly increased their efforts to expand into Africa, aiming to provide more affordable medicines and healthcare solutions to the continent.

Globally, in 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases and 608,000 malaria deaths, respectively, in 85 countries, according to the WHO.

Africa was home to 94 percent of these malaria cases and suffered 95 percent of

malaria deaths worldwide. In Abidjan, the economic capital of Cote d'Ivoire, Chinese pharmaceutical giant Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical is constructing a manufacturing facility for antimalarial drugs and antibiotics, with the first phase set for completion in 2025.

Once all three phases are completed, the facility is projected to produce 5 billion tablets annually and create nearly 1,000 job opportunities in the Grand-Bassam area in east Abidjan, according to Fosun.

Fosun is part of a growing wave of Chinese pharmaceutical companies establishing manufacturing plants in Africa.

In most nations in sub-Saharan Africa, imports account for 70 to 90 percent of their

drug consumption, which bumps up the cost of many pharmaceutical products and leaves citizens vulnerable to supply chain disruptions.

Chinese medical firm Jijia International Medical Technology on Oct. 7 this year signed a memorandum of understanding with Zambia's Industrial Development Corporation for the construction of an oral cholera vaccine plant in the country.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema and Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing in Lusaka. Hichilema said the agreement will make Zambia the first African country to manufacture this cholera vaccine.

"This partnership will save lives, boost productivity, and serve humanity," he said. "The

implementation of this project will provide robust health protection for the people of Zambia, promote local employment, and enhance Zambia's emergency response capabilities in the face of a public health crisis," said Su Yonglin, deputy general manager of Jijia.

"The entry of Chinese pharmaceutical companies into Africa will help enhance the pharmaceutical supply capacity of host countries and improve local healthcare conditions.

Additionally, it will elevate the pharmaceutical industry in these nations, reducing the cost of medicines while promoting the development of related industries," said Tian Muye, an assistant research fellow at the China-Africa Institute.

According to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027), China will continue to encourage and support Chinese private enterprises in investing in Africa's pharmaceutical industry.

"China-Africa cooperation in medicine and healthcare holds great potential. Africa presents both significant opportunities and challenges in healthcare delivery, areas where China has made substantial progress," said Ren Jiaoyan, a professor at SCUT.

"Meanwhile, China's large industrial base seeks broader markets, and Africa offers a dynamic market that can benefit both sides. This enables China and Africa to carry out mutually beneficial cooperation," Ren added.

Xinhua



Denver Nuggets development coach Stephen Graham wears a shirt in honor of former Nuggets center Dikembe Mutombo who died last month as players warm up before an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 in Denver. (AP Photo)

Nuggets honor Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo with video tribute, 55-second round of applause

By PAT GRAHAM

THERE was a video tribute celebrating Dikembe Mutombo's big accomplishments on and off the court. Then, Denver Nuggets fans stood and applauded for 55 seconds – his number.

The late Mutombo was remembered by the franchise in the first quarter of the season opener Thursday night against Oklahoma City.

Denver players and coaches showed their respect, too, by wearing T-shirts emblazoned with an image of the big man's iconic finger wag.

Mutombo, the basketball Hall of Famer known for his enormous smile and heart, unmistakable voice and, of course, that finger wag, died last month of brain cancer. He was 58.

"I feel really fortunate to have gotten to know him and coached him and spend time with him," said Nuggets coach Michael Malone, whose team stenciled Mutombo's name and "55" on the floor near Denver's bench. "He'll be missed by many, many people."

Mutombo helped the Nuggets become the first No. 8 seed to upset a No. 1 seed in the NBA playoffs, when they knocked off Seattle in 1994 in a best-of-five series.

It was not only an indelible moment in Nuggets lore but an endearing image – Mutombo on the floor when the horn sounded, flat on his back, holding the ball over his head with a beaming smile.

It's a picture that Malone has in his office.

After a stellar career at Georgetown, Mutombo was taken with the fourth overall pick by Denver in the 1991 NBA draft. He spent five seasons in the Mile High City, becoming an instant fan favorite.

Mutombo's 18-year NBA career also included stops in Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets.

The 7-foot-2 center was an eight-time All-Star, four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year and three-time All-NBA selection.

He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career. He's second in career blocks in NBA history.

More than hoops, he was known for his generosity. He built a hospital in the Congo and that facility – named for his mother – has treated around 200,000 people.

He's worked on behalf of the Special Olympics, UNICEF, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"His legacy is much more than on the court," Malone said. "It's everything he did for his native country, building hospitals, giving back."

"That's what you want to see from people, is that when they make it, they find a way to give back and make people's lives better."

"Dikembe Mutombo will always be remembered as an ambassador of this game, on and off the court, with a huge, huge heart."

AP

Aucho reflects on youth development and Yanga's CAF Champions League aspirations

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans' mid-field anchor Khalid Aucho has urged Tanzanian fans to stand behind the country's budding talents.

In a recent interview, Aucho (pictured) emphasized that supporting young players in their growth and development is crucial to achieving long-term success, especially during challenging times.

Aucho highlighted teammate Clement Mzize as a shining example of young talent in the Tanzanian league.

Mzize, 20, has excelled this season and has been called up to the national team by interim coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman.

Despite facing scrutiny after some performances, Aucho believes Mzize's dedication and raw talent mark him as a future star.

Referencing Mbwana Samatta, a former Aston Villa forward and Tanzanian national icon, Aucho urged fans to support players like Mzize to reach their full potential and become role models for future generations.

"Fans should wholeheartedly support players like Mzize. He has the physical attributes, speed, energy, ambition, and an exceptional finishing touch. His talent deserves the admiration of the entire nation," Aucho said.

Aucho pointed to Mzize's experience playing alongside seasoned players like Zambian



Kennedy Musonda, Zimbabwean Prince Dube, and Congolese Jean Baleke as evidence of his high potential.

With proper nurturing, he believes Mzize could emerge as a top-class player in the years ahead.

The Ugandan midfielder also imparted advice for aspiring players, stressing resilience, patience, and hard work.

"Patience is key. Opportunities come with hard work and perseverance," Aucho noted,

reflecting on his own journey through the ranks to become an international.

"In a team of 11 starters and several substitutes, opportunities arise through hard work and perseverance. I recall receiving my national team call-up while still playing for the Uganda U20 national team.

"Despite the presence of experienced midfielders like Tonny Mawejje and Hassan Wasswa, and playing for Tusker in Kenya at

the time, coach Micho recognized my potential and gave me a chance.

"I made my debut in the CECAFA Cup and gradually worked my way into the starting lineup. Patience and dedication are crucial in such situations," he added.

Aucho's experience spans clubs in Bulgaria, India, Egypt, Kenya, and now Tanzania, fueling his confidence in Young Africans' potential to compete at the continent's highest levels.

He credited strategic acquisitions such as Clatous Chama and the return of Kibwana Shomari and Koussia Yao for bolstering the team's depth and versatility, which he believes will be vital in this season's CAF Champions League.

"This season, we have assembled a squad capable of competing with any team on the African continent. The team management has made strategic signings, such as bringing in Chama, a player who can turn the tide of a match even in the most challenging situations.

"Combined with the other talented players in our squad, I believe we have what it takes to dominate the league.

"Last season, we reached the CAF Champions League quarterfinals, but losing in penalties to Mamelodi Sundowns was a missed opportunity. This season, our ambition is to go even further," Aucho said, emphasizing the importance of their reinforced squad.

Young Africans are enjoying exceptional form this season, clinching six consecutive Premier League victories with clean sheets and extending their unbeaten home record to an impressive 51 matches, including 46 wins and five draws.

The team's defensive solidity is notable, having conceded only one goal across all competitions this season.

Their next challenge awaits today as they face Coastal Union away at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

Khomeini Abubakar: 'We are ready to bring joy to Yanga fans'

By Guardian Correspondent



THE defending NBC Premier League champions, Young Africans, are set to face Coastal Union today at the Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, aiming to continue their dominance.

Young Africans, who remain unbeaten this season in the league with six wins in six matches, enter the field determined to strengthen their campaign as they aim to claim their fourth consecutive title.

Speaking on behalf of his fellow players, goalkeeper Khomeini Abubakar (pictured) expressed great confidence in winning the game against Coastal Union.

"First of all, we thank God that we're in good health and are well-prepared to bring joy to our fans. The coach has addressed everything important; we just need to follow his instructions and give it our all."

"Yanga is a big team with a strong technical staff, and everything is in order," said Abubakar.

"We don't feel any pressure; we're ready to help the team in any way we can. Whoever gets the chance will have to fight for the team."

"I believe that Diarra (goalkeeper Djigui) embodies our technical team's strategies. Whatever Diarra does, know that it's part of the team's tactics, which we all embrace together," Abubakar added.

The team is enjoying exceptional form this season, clinching six consecutive Premier League victories with clean sheets and extending their unbeaten home record to an impressive 50 matches, including 45 wins and five draws.

After Arusha, Young Africans will travel to Zanzibar for another away game on Wednesday against Singida Black Stars.

After Singida Black Stars, Young Africans will lock horn with Azam FC, who are the last team to beat them both home and away, on November 2.

A comparison of Kylian Mbappé's Real Madrid, Yamal's Barcelona ahead of their first clasico

By JOSEPH WILSON

WHEN Real Madrid added Kylian Mbappé, Barcelona looked doomed to becoming a regular runner-up to its fierce rival.

Then Hansi Flick arrived with fresh ideas, Lamine Yamal blossomed into a star, his teammates stepped up their game, and Saturday's clasico promises to be a highly entertaining and close-fought match.

It will be the first clasico for Mbappé and Flick. Barcelona leads La Liga by three points from second-placed Madrid.

Here is a line-by-line look at the teams set to face off at the Santiago Bernabeu.

*The forwards

Real Madrid became the envy of soccer when Mbappé walked away from Paris Saint-Germain and joined Madrid as a free agent last summer.

He has teamed up with the already brilliant Vinicius Júnior to form the most lethal one-two punch in soccer, especially when either has any room to dribble at defenses caught off guard.

They have scored eight goals across all competitions, while Vinicius also has seven assists. Vinicius arrives in particularly great form after his hat trick fueled a 5-2 comeback from two goals down against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday.

But with Rodrygo doubtful and Endrick unused by coach Carlo Ancelotti in recent games, Barcelona collectively may be able to counter Madrid's firepower up front.

Robert Lewandowski is playing at his best since arriving in Barcelona. Under Flick, his former coach at Bayern Munich, the 36-year-old Poland striker has scored 15 times, including a league-leading 12.

Raphinha has morphed from a hard-working winger into a scorer and team leader.

The Brazilian struck his second hat trick of the season – and his career – to power Barcelona's 4-1 rout of Bayern in the Champions League on Wednesday. He has nine goals and a team-high eight assists overall in this campaign.

Yamal has chipped in with five goals and seven assists after helping Spain win the European Championship in July and is an unpredictable playmaker from his spot on the right. He upstaged Mbappé when the then-16-year-old scored the goal of Euro 2024 as Spain beat France in the semifinals.

*The midfielders

For the first time since the departure of Andrés Iniesta, Barcelona can field a midfield that is at least more creative, if not better, than Madrid's.

Flick has plenty of options. Pedri delivers the final pass, Dani Olmo gives it scoring, and Flick has plucked a fine holding midfielder in Marc Casadó from the La Masia training academy.

Barcelona can also call on Netherlands mainstay Frenkie de Jong, Olympic gold medalist Fermín López, Pablo Torre, and Gavi Páez, who recently returned from a serious leg injury.

While Barcelona has more finesse, Madrid is struggling to find its flow in attack without those great long passes that the now retired Toni Kroos delivered season after season.

The Madrid midfield should, however, have more scoring punch thanks to the attacking instincts of Jude Bellingham and Federico Valverde. Bellingham delivered late winners in both of Madrid's clásico victories last season.

Ancelotti could use a four-man midfield and include Luka Modric or Eduardo Camavinga to play along with stopper Aurélien Tchouaméni.

*The defenders and goalkeepers

Madrid will have to manage without serial winner Dani Carvajal after his season-ending leg injury. Lucas Vázquez will likely take his place at right back and have to tangle with Yamal.

Eder Militao and Antonio Rudiger provide Madrid with a solid anchor with Ferland Mendy on the left.

Jules Koundé is enjoying his strongest season yet for Barcelona and will have another go at Vinicius. Inigo Martínez will likely partner with 17-year-old Pau Cubarsí to try to stop Mbappé in the middle, while Alejandro Balde patrols the left flank.

Both teams will be without their top goalkeepers. Andriy Lunin is in for the injured Thibaut Courtois after performing admirably in the Belgian's place for a long period of last season. Inaki Peña still has to prove he is the right player to replace Marc-Andre ter Stegen. If not, then Wojciech Szczęsny could take his spot for Barcelona.

*The coaches

Flick's Barcelona is no longer dragged down by its obsession to control the ball. The German manager has Barcelona attacking with speed, and players like Raphinha and Yamal are thriving.

Barcelona actually lost the possession game against Bayern, 58%-42%, while not suffering in defense. That shift would have been unthinkable under previous coaches like Xavi Hernández.

Ancelotti, meanwhile, is having to deal with a problem that any coach would love to have: How to fit Mbappé and Vinicius in the same lineup since they both like to play on the left flank. **AP**

Arsenal v Liverpool is the Premier League title clash no one saw coming

By Miguel Delaney

JURGEN Klopp might well recognise something in Mikel Arteta's words this week. The Arsenal manager insisted his team would be "flying" for Sunday's home match against Liverpool, despite a number of absences potentially grounding the squad. Such optimism – that can sometimes seem so extreme that it's delusional – is very much in-keeping with Klopp's approach of only ever speaking positively in public. Don't let people consider the negatives. The idea is that such assertiveness then manifests in the match itself.

This match may still see a personnel crisis manifest for Arsenal. If all injuries are confirmed, it could ensure Arteta has already lost seven of his best XI for significant games this season. This game alone could miss 75 per cent of his preferred defence and 50 per cent of his ideal attack. Some of those have been the result of red cards, in a way that has been partly self-inflicted, but some have been the rank bad luck of injuries. The frustration is all the deeper since this was supposed to be the season Arsenal closed the fine margins to Manchester City and the title. Instead, such absences open up all manner of space for error. It's partly why they are now four points behind Liverpool.

That's of course where there is an extra edge to this match. Arsenal have been so fixated on chasing down City, yet here are Liverpool coming back around the outside to lead.

This fixture might well end



Klopp and Arteta shared some heated moments on the touchline (AFP)

up being the title clash that people didn't expect, particularly if the City hearing goes the way executives at both clubs hope. If the champions are found guilty of the most severe charges and docked significant points or expelled from the Premier League, Sunday's game could end up being the title race itself. City insist on their innocence.

The American ownerships of both Arsenal and Liverpool are very much on the same side of that issue, which has resulted in both enduring fractious relationships with City. When a series of headlines blew up after Arsenal's 2-2 draw at the Etihad, figures from Anfield even sent messages to their London counterparts about how "now you know what it's like". And then some. Arsenal's relationship with City is much worse than Liverpool's ever was.

Such dynamics are partly how the online myth of the "red cartel" has spread, even if people only have to look at how all of the old "big six"

got together in what would have been the actual cartel of the Super League. It was the owners of Liverpool and Manchester United who led on that, with Arsenal offering counsel, although City and Chelsea had been involved from the earliest meetings in 2016.

There are obviously alliances of convenience between American capitalist ownerships, especially in how they would prefer to effect Premier League regulation so the competition starts to make them more money rather than cost them money. Their influence doesn't necessarily spread that far, though, since they still need to ensure they have 14 votes from the 20 clubs for any decision to be passed. That voting formula is why the big six never got major changes to TV revenue distribution through.

It's similarly worth saying that any such alliances are only ever temporary, and can change once they're pitted against each other.

When one boardroom discussion saw officials idly discuss what might happen if City are found guilty and who should be credited with City's trophies, one executive connected to another American-owned club scoffed: "What would Arsenal get? One title?"

While there are generally good terms between Arsenal and Liverpool at the top level, an edge has grown between the teams. They've had a few feisty encounters, and Klopp was far from popular at Arsenal. Ironically, some at Liverpool now see Arteta's sideline activity in the way others used to see the German's: that it's annoying. He had that kind of presence. That's why Arsenal might also look a little enviously at just how quickly Liverpool appear to have got over Klopp. At least so far.

Arteta and his staff have fought for every centimetre for five years, to restore the club from a basket-case sitting eighth in the league to one that finished within two points of the title. Arsenal had superseded Liverpool as the main challengers. That is a status that may be all the more important if City do temporarily fall away as a consequence of the hearing.

And yet here Liverpool are, before a big game and yet after huge upheaval, back on top of the league.

Such succession is something that is evidently done well at Anfield. They have faced more departures of major figures than any other club, yet still enjoyed more glory.

Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Kenny Dalglish offered managerial spells that other clubs would con-

sider historic periods of greatness, and they all followed one after the other. Barely a season was missed. It's not like Liverpool endured the anguishes of United after Sir Matt Busby or Sir Alex Ferguson, or Arsenal after Arsene Wenger.

It's so far been as smooth as Arne Slot's passing game. Liverpool are gliding, rather than flying. The reality is there's no magic formula or mythic trait to the club in this sense, mind. It's merely about planning. Liverpool's old "boot room" nurtured an idea that figures like Paisley and Fagan bought into, and that has a version for the modern age in the club's advanced analytics and recruitment. Liverpool's approach has been so sophisticated that they were able to reconstruct a team with real potential in advance of Klopp going, not to mention one suited to pretty much any modern manager.

The Arsenal hierarchy have duly been influenced by Liverpool in that way, too, seeking to replicate the approach. They've perfected to such an extent that, as with Klopp's long peak, most signings fit right in. Riccardo Calafiori and Jurrien Timber offer proof of that. That's another way the hierarchies have aligned, having previously experienced one major difference.

Liverpool were aided in how Klopp left in his peak, rather than letting anything fester. By contrast, Wenger arguably stayed eight years longer than he should have. Arsenal have consequently had a lot to work out, which is why Arteta has achieved success in getting the club this far. Slot's Liverpool now have to match that over a full season.

It adds a final edge to this game. Although Slot has handled the transition almost perfectly up to this point, the fixture list has helped. It's been a soft introduction, that has now entered a very testing period. Liverpool have barely had any injuries, either, which is another contrast to Arsenal.

THE INDEPENDENT

All eyes were on Ten Hag & Man U - but Mourinho steals show again

By Simon Stone

NOT for the first time in his long and storied career, Jose Mourinho left the scene of a major game with the conversation all about him.

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag may still be under pressure after his side's 1-1 Europa League draw with Fenerbahce in Istanbul.

United goalkeeper Andre Onana may have made a sensational first-half double save to deny eventual Fenerbahce goalscorer Youssef En-Nesyri.

And Manuel Ugarte's block to prevent the Moroccan firing into an empty net soon after might just have been equally as good.

But all of this is a side issue compared to what happened around Mourinho, who ended the game sat on a step in the stand behind the home dugout, passing instructions to his coaching staff as he tried to engineer a winner.

Endless touchline antics, a second-half sending off and some box office post-match interviews. This was trademark Mourinho.

"I quite enjoyed watching Jose," said former Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes on TNT. "It looked like there's a bit of enthusiasm back with him."

"It looked like he was enjoying himself, he was laughing to himself, he was having a giggle. I en-

joyed watching him."

But that was not the end of the matter. Not by a long way.

***Mourinho's next move? 'A club at the bottom in England'**

European governing body Uefa are bound to be in touch – which is where we probably should start.

In 2023, Mourinho was given a four-match touchline ban for his behaviour around the Europa League final when his Roma side were beaten by Sevilla in Budapest. Premier League referee Anthony Taylor was abused in the airport on his way home after footage emerged of Mourinho waiting in an underground car park after the match to question the official about his performance.

So, as he reflected on being red carded by another leading official in French referee Clement Turpin in Istanbul, Mourinho made reference to the previous incident.

"If I appeal I will get six months," said Mourinho, when asked by an English journalist if he would appeal against his dismissal. "Since the Sevilla-Roma final there is nothing to do. That is why the future is better without European competition, so I don't get upset."

This was a follow-up to his first answer, to the man from another broadcaster who he knows exceptionally well, which in itself built

on something he said in the lead-up to the game which suggested after spells with Chelsea, Manchester United and Tottenham, his time in the Premier League may not be over.

"The best thing I have to do is when I leave Fener is that I go to a club that doesn't play in Uefa competition," he said. "So a club at the bottom in England who needs a coach in two years, I'm ready to go."

"I don't want to speak anymore about it. I want to speak about the game."

Except this is Jose, so speaking about the game comes with loaded answers – including, at one point, suggesting the local media would be unhappy with the outcome of the game because they would have preferred Fenerbahce to lose.

***Mourinho's thoughts on the ref? 'The best in the world'**

But we are drifting away from the point. Because Mourinho had already given another explosive answer to TNT Sports about Turpin's behaviour.

"The referee told me something incredible," he said. "He said at the same time he could see the action in the box and my behaviour on the touchline. I congratulate him because he is absolutely incredible."

"During the game, 100 miles per hour, he had one eye on the penalty situation and one eye on my behaviour on the bench."

"That is why he is one of the best referees in the world."

The interview was textbook Mourinho.

"That [Mourinho's interview] was better than the game," said Scholes. "He looks like he's got the mischievousness back about him. It was good to see that version."

The incident Mourinho was talking about was a perceived foul by Ugarte on Bright Osayi-Samuel in the second half when the scores were level.

As it turned out, Osayi-Samuel was forced off injured. But Turpin felt there was no foul and VAR agreed, to the utter consternation of the entire Fenerbahce bench, whom Mourinho led in their protests.

***Mourinho's view on Man Utd? 'They did well'**

It contributed to an evening that will go down in the pantheon of great Mourinho press conferences.

Maybe not quite up there with anointing himself as the Special One or the Antonio Conte match-fixing riposte, but a worthy equal of his 'respect, respect, respect' effort of late 2018 when he was United boss.

It was around that time Mourinho spoke of United's 'football heritage', their reduced status in the modern game.

In Europe, that status now sees them 21st in the Europa League table, splitting Viktoria Pilzen and Elfsborg. United still have to play the former in one of their five remaining games.

Mourinho had a view about that too.

"I know you [media] will say Man Utd didn't play well," he said. "But why didn't they have shots, why weren't they good enough? My players deserve credit for that performance."

"They will qualify. The point for them is a positive point. It is difficult to play here. Porto is the same. I think they did well. If they win the next match they have six. A point for them is positive."

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Arsenal v Liverpool is the Premier League title clash no one saw coming

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Yanga now pursue seventh straight victory in Premier League clash against Coastal Union



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) are set to take on Coastal Union FC in an NBC Premier League clash today, with the eagerly awaited away game scheduled to kick off at 4:15 p.m. local time at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Due to ongoing renovations at their regular venue, CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, Coastal Union will temporarily host their home matches in Arusha.

This will mark the first encounter between the two clubs in six months, with Young Africans narrowly defeating Coastal Union 1-0 in their last season league match.

Coastal Union enter today's game on the back of a morale-boosting 2-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji FC on October 18.

Young Africans come into the fixture in superb form, having won 12 consecutive matches, including victories over domestic rivals Simba SC and Azam FC, as well as Ethiopia's CBE Bank.

The team has demonstrated exceptional defensive resilience, with ten consecutive clean sheets, extending their unbeaten streak to an impressive 20 matches. This performance highlights a well-coordinated squad that excels both offensively and defensively.

Ahead of the match, Young Africans' head coach Miguel Gamondi (pictured) expressed his enthusiasm about returning to Arusha while acknowledging

the challenges posed by their demanding schedule.

"I am very happy to be in Arusha again," Gamondi said. "We have a challenging schedule, but we've managed to arrange it so we can get some time to rest. Though it's not ideal for preparation, we're here to adapt and fight through it."

Gamondi emphasized Young Africans' squad depth and tactical versatility, which has been crucial for their success.

"Yanga have a wealth of talent, allowing me to use different systems without impacting individual performance. I prioritize finding ways to utilize space effectively over sticking

to rigid formations," he explained. "My communication with all players remains strong, even though not everyone gets playing time."

Meanwhile, Coastal Union have seen recent changes in its coaching staff. Just three days ago, the club appointed Juma Mwambusi as head coach.

Mwambusi, who previously served as an assistant at Young Africans under Dutch coach Hans van Pluijm, signed a one-year contract, bringing extensive experience to Coastal Union. He takes over from David Ouma, who was dismissed in August after a run of poor results.

Currently, Coastal Union sit in 10th place with eight points from eight matches (two wins, two draws, and four losses).

Mwambusi's debut game against Young Africans will be a critical test, as Coastal Union look to make a statement under his new leadership.

"This match presents an opportunity for us to test our readiness against a strong opponent," a Coastal Union official commented. "We have full confidence in Coach Mwambusi and believe he will steer the team toward success."

In the standings, Young Africans currently hold the second position in the Premier League with a perfect record of 18 points from six matches. Following this encounter, Young Africans will face a demanding lineup, including Singida Black Stars, Azam FC, and the newly-promoted Tabora United.

Coastal Union also have a challenging road ahead, with matches against Kagera Sugar, Singida Black Stars, and Ken Gold.

Today's clash in Arusha promises an intense battle, as Coastal Union aim to disrupt Young Africans' winning streak, while the Jangwani Street-based side seeks to continue their dominant form.

Fans can expect a fierce contest as both teams fight for crucial points in the league.



Dodoma Jiji and JKT Tanzania seek to rebound in Premier League clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC and JKT Tanzania FC are set to face off in an NBC Premier League clash at Jamhuri Stadium today, with both teams keen to shake off recent defeats and reestablish momentum in their league campaigns.

Dodoma Jiji FC enter this fixture following a 2-0 loss to Coastal Union last week, a setback after their 2-0 triumph over Tabora United earlier in October.

Led by coach Mecky Mexime (pictured), Dodoma Jiji have been struggling with consistency, winning only two out of their eight league games so far, while recording three draws and three losses.

With nine points in total, they currently sit in the lower half of the table, and Mexime acknowledges that today's match could be pivotal in boosting his team's standing.

In a pre-match interview, Mexime emphasized his team's readiness, noting the importance of tactical adjustments for today's fixture.

"We've thoroughly analyzed JKT Tanzania's strengths and weaknesses. Both teams are eager to get back on track, so we'll need to be disciplined and focused to come out on top," he stated.

"We're selecting players who are best suited for the intensity of this match. Compared to previous games, this one requires a fresh strategy, and we've prepared accordingly."

The Dodoma Jiji coach also highlighted the need for caution regarding yellow card accumulation, particularly as physical play is expected.

"Yellow cards are a natural part of the game, and our players understand the importance of smart fouls to protect our advantage. It's about strategic defense without risking unnecessary suspensions," he added.

On the opposing side, JKT Tanzania FC will be aiming to rebound after a 2-0 defeat to Young Africans, the league's top-performing team this season.

Coach Hamad Ally acknowledged the challenges of limited recovery time between matches, given the recent tight schedule, but he remains optimistic about his squad's readiness.

"Despite the quick turnaround after the Young Africans game, we began preparations early, focusing on recovery and tactics," Ally explained.

JKT Tanzania currently holds a goal difference of zero, a telling sign of their evenly balanced performance in attack and defense.

Known for their high number of draws this season, the team has won only two games but also managed to avoid defeat in four others.

Notably, their biggest win, a 4-2 victory over Tabora United, contributed to the dismissal of Tabora's coach Francis Kimanzi.

This record demonstrates JKT Tanzania's potential when they find rhythm, yet it also underscores the inconsistency that Ally is keen to resolve.

The coach acknowledged Dodoma Jiji's capabilities under Mexime and stressed that both teams' previous losses add intensity to today's game.

"Dodoma Jiji have a talented squad and an experienced coach, so we'll need to bring our best. Both teams are coming off a loss, and we need to be resilient and make use of limited scoring opportunities," he said.

With the stakes high, today's match promises a tactical battle between two ambitious sides determined to improve their league positions.

Coastal Union aim to disrupt Yanga's perfect NBC Premier League record

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans are off to a stellar start in the NBC Premier League season, the only team yet to drop any points after securing six consecutive victories.

As they prepare to face Coastal Union this afternoon at Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, Young Africans have the opportunity to extend their unbeaten streak to 25 games across all competitions.

Under head coach Miguel Gamondi, the team has now achieved 13 consecutive Premier League wins, underscoring their dominance in the competition.

Young Africans boast the best de-

fensive record in the league, having yet to concede a goal in any of their six matches this season.

Their defensive solidity has been matched by offensive prowess, reflected in their seven consecutive wins against Coastal Union, or "Wagosi wa Kaya," across all competitions.

Since 2010/11, the two sides have met in 22 league encounters, with Young Africans claiming 14 victories compared to Coastal Union's three, and five matches ending in draws.

In these contests, Young Africans have also maintained a strong home record, winning five of their 11 home fixtures.

In his pre-match conference,

Coach Gamondi acknowledged the challenges posed by the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium pitch.

"We're playing against a team that has improved significantly in their last two to three games," Gamondi stated. "We expect a challenging match, especially since the pitch isn't in the best condition for our style of play. However, we'll give it our all and aim for a determined performance to win."

Coastal Union, on the other hand, have faced a challenging season. Despite a promising fourth-place finish last season under coach David Ouma, his tenure was cut short after a few matches, and the team will now be led by newly appointed

coach Juma Mwambusi.

Coastal Union have shown recent improvement, going unbeaten in their last three matches and collecting seven points out of nine.

Forward Maabad Maulid has been a key player, leading the team's scoring with three goals this season.

Wagosi wa Kaya currently sit in 10th place after eight matchdays, but they will be looking to build on their recent momentum as they take on the league leaders.

Today's matchup offers Coastal Union a chance to disrupt Young Africans' impressive run and make a strong statement under Mwambusi's new leadership.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

