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Govt orders nationwide digital health integration



National Pg 5

Tea Board eyes advanced technology factories



National Pg 6

Project launched to enable women to own land



President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in Mobhare Matinyi as an ambassador at a ceremony held at Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

‘Digital shift strategies led to shifting of Information’

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEVELOPING a national digital strategy that must be effectively addressed and implemented led to splitting of Information from the Communications portfolio, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has explained.

Addressing a gathering at the Tunguu State House here yesterday, she emphasised the need for a strategic national approach to digital technology, at the swearing-in of ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretar-

ies and ambassadors, lately appointed to those positions.

The president recreated the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports and appointed Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the former Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister and a former journalist, to the new position, saying it is for more effective management of the communications sector.

Owing to the rapid growth of the global

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TRC can use export credits, says key MP

By Correspondent James Kandoya

USING export credit agency financing is an innovative strategy to accelerate the completion of railway infrastructure projects, a parliamentary committee believes.

Oran Njeza (Mbeya Rural), the chairman of the Budget Committee of the National Assembly, has urged the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) to explore the use of ECAs, as government agencies, private entities or semi-government organisations can use such credits.

Such credits offer vital support to domestic companies by mitigating risks associated with international trade, he said in a telephone interview, stressing the transformative role ECAs can play in supporting large-scale development.

“In today’s rapidly changing global economy, leveraging innovative financing mechanisms is crucial for achieving ambitious infrastructure goals,” he said.

Unlike terms of traditional loans, which require physical collateral, ECA financing allows TRC to use portions of its foreign exchange inflows as collateral.

“This approach will enable TRC to access substantial funding from reputable institutions specializing in ECA products, while reducing reliance on commercial loans. By adopting this model, TRC can significantly enhance its funding strategy,” he stated.

Underscoring the importance of the

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‘Take complaints on civic polls seriously’

By Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has demanded that complaints arising from the local government elections should not be dismissed.

Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu, the commission chairman, issued this appeal at an event to mark Human Rights Day here yesterday, underlining that the complaints be used for reflection on how to address issues that arose.

This should help to ensure that the complaints do not recur during the 2025 gen-



Marking the day is coordinated by institutions that oversee anti-corruption, human rights and good governance efforts in UN member coun

eral election, he said, affirming that he had come across several complaints about the elections through media reports, stressing the importance of taking these concerns seriously.

“I have seen in various media platforms complaints about candidates being disqualified and other challenges that arose during voting and the announcement of results,” he said.

“As officials, including those who managed the local government elections, we should not disregard these complaints,” he said, suggesting that any valid complaints “should be addressed to prevent such problems in the upcoming 2025 general elections.”

He similarly urged public servants to work with integrity, avoid complacency and provide excellent services to citizens, speaking after commission secretary

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Minister laments financial sector woes, bad loans rise

By Henry Mwangonde

MISCONCEPTIONS about financial services and the rise in non-performing loans, exacerbated by dishonest practices with a section of bank employees, hinder efforts at greater financial inclusion in the country.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, made this observation at the opening session of the financial sector forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday, emphasizing the need for collective action to overcome barriers preventing broader access to financial services.

These drawbacks harm the financial sector and must be addressed to safeguard its stability, he said, appealing for greater collaboration among stakeholders to address ongoing challenges to achieving financial inclusion.

While underlining the progress made in expanding financial inclusion across the country, he pointed at major hurdles to inclusion particularly in rural areas, even with the rapid pace of technological advancements in financial service delivery.

He said that limited public understanding of financial services is an acute challenge, while lamenting widespread

Acknowledging strides made in financial inclusion, he said that challenges being faced require joint solutions, pointing at practices in the financial sector, such as loan insurance. Some banks exert pressure on customers to repay loans within an unrealistically short period, he stated.

“This has led to the loss of collateral, damaging trust in financial institutions,” he said, explaining that such practices have driven many individuals to seek out unregistered lenders, “further eroding confidence in formal financial systems.”

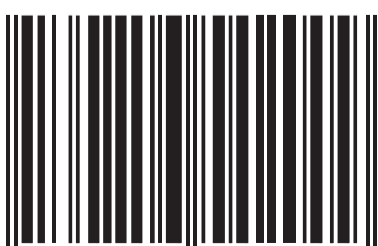
“This behaviour undermines the trust people have in banks and we must work together to address this issue,” he stated, reaffirming the government’s commitment to taking strong action against unregistered financial service providers/

They often operate outside regulatory oversight and exploit vulnerable borrowers, he said, explaining that this effort is

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The Guardian Limited (TGL) print manager Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (gesturing) pictured at the company’s printing unit in Dar es Salaam yesterday Briefing Republic of Korea’s Ambassador to Tanzania, Eunju Ahn, on newspaper printing. The envoy was on a familiarisation tour of the newspaper publishing firm. Right is TGL deputy general manager Jackson Paul. More photos on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



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'Digital shift strategies led to shifting of Information'

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communications and information technology sector, the government is committed to adapting to these rapid advancements, she said in an event attended by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, among others.

She expressed dissatisfaction with the current pace of progress in the information technology sector, stressing the need for accelerating these efforts, similarly expressing the need to enhance the role of the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) and the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC), encouraging them to become more self-sustaining and commercially viable.

She said that reshuffling ministers and deputy ministers between ministries was intended to increase efficiency within the government and ensure better service delivery to the public.

The government also intends to nominate Prof Mohamed Janabi as candidate for the position of World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa.

Helected, Prof Janabi will succeed Dr Faustine Ndugulile, who suddenly passed away on November 27 while receiving medical treatment in India, while being awaited to as-

sume the role next March.

She expressed confidence in Prof Kabudi's extensive experience, including his background as a journalist, and expressed belief that he would effectively tackle the challenges facing the media sector.

On shifting Dr Ashatu Kijaji to Livestock and Fisheries, the president highlighted the importance of addressing the concerns of pastoralists and fishermen, including issues related to land use and conservation.

She also tasked Hamad Yusuf Masuani, shifted to Union and Environment in the Vice President's Office (VPO) with reinforcing efforts to cement the union. Regarding diplomatic appointments, the president urged ambassadors to remain vigilant and engaged in their roles, particularly those posted to regions experiencing political instability.

She underscored the importance of maintaining a strong, effective representation of Tanzania in the international arena, pointing at volatile places like Mozambique and elsewhere.

In addition to appointing Prof. Janabi as a health advisor, she encouraged him to focus on improving the quality of services at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

'Take complaints on civic polls seriously'

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Mathew Kirama, explained why the day falls on December 9.

It is celebrated in accordance with the international anti-corruption treaty of 2003, in line with a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, on the occasion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Marking the day is coordinated by institutions that oversee anti-corruption, human rights and good governance efforts in UN member countries, he said, listing them for this case as Office of the President - Public Service Management and

Good Governance, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs ministry, the Public Service Ethics Secretariat, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), and the Public Service Commission.

Auxiliary institutions involved were the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, the National Audit Office, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, and the Internal Auditor General's office.

In the meeting, Neema Mwakalyelye, the PCCB deputy director, encouraged public servants to uphold strong ethical standards to contribute to the betterment of society.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch one of several documents on Tanzania's financial sector. They include the 2023/2024-2028/2029 Financial Access Strategy for Small and Medium Enterprises, the Public Crowd funding Guidelines, and the 2023 Guidelines for the Issuance of Sharia-Compliant Bonds for Corporates and Public Institutions (Capital Markets and Securities (Corporate and Subnational SUKUK Bonds)). It was at the opening of the 2024 Financial Sector Stakeholders Forum. Photo: Finance ministry

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part of a broader strategy to ensure that financial services are more accessible, safe and reliable for all Tanzanians.

On a more positive note, he cited the growing presence of commercial loan insurers in the market, now numbering 45, helping to mitigate some risks in the lending sector.

The growth is an indication that the financial services industry is evolving and adapting to the demands of the modern economy he stated.

Dr Natu Mwamba, the permanent secretary, had earlier said that the forum serves as a vital platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, developing collective solutions to financial sector challenges.

Minister laments financial sector woes, bad loans rise

"This forum allows us to engage in open discussions, share advancements in the financial sector and identify the most effective ways to implement new policies," she said.

Collaboration among all stakeholders - including financial institutions, regulators, and policymakers - is essential for driving meaningful reforms in the sector, she stated.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, expressed the need for financial sector stakeholders to contribute

expertise to developing the new curriculum for business subjects in schools.

Business education will be made mandatory in the revised curriculum, aimed at preparing young Tanzanians to become entrepreneurs and better equipped for the business world, he specified.

Stressing the nurturing of future entrepreneurs from an early stage, he said the syllabus needs to be aligned with industry needs and prepare students to succeed in the

evolving financial landscape.

The forum brought together key figures from the banking, insurance and fintech sub-sectors, focusing on collaboration and innovation to meet the growing financial needs of the population.

As the forum progresses, it is expected that actionable strategies will be developed to tackle existing challenges, further advancing Tanzania's efforts to achieve comprehensive financial inclusion, organisers said.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute acting executive director Dr Tulizo Shemu Sanga (L) has a word with Dar es Salaam residents on Monday at a special Tanganyika Independence Anniversary outreach camp, whose focus was on free heart screening and treatment. Photo courtesy of JKCI

TRC can use export credits, says key MP

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standard gauge railway (SGR) in TRC's development agenda, he said it was a transformative project for regional trade and economic integration.

"This connectivity is expected to boost trade flows across the region, stimulating economic activity and foreign currency inflows. These inflows will, in turn, enable TRC to access more concessional financing through ECA facilities," he elaborated.

The SGR is not just a railway but a catalyst for regional economic growth, he said, pointing at its potential to position Tanzania as a trade hub, unlocking new opportunities for investment and collaboration.

By leveraging export credit guarantees, TRC can minimize foreign currency exposure while gaining access to working capital and funding that traditional banks may be reluctant to provide due to the complexities of international trade, he further noted.

Currently, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) administers the export credit guarantee scheme (ECGS) and the small and medium enterprises credit guarantee scheme (SME-CGS), he pointed out.

By integrating ECA financing, TRC can diversify its funding sources and adopt a sustainable financing model for its infrastructure projects, he emphasized, noting that with the launch of freight services

on the SGR, the economic impact is expected to triple TRC's revenues from increased cargo throughput.

"This financial strength, combined with strategic partnerships enabled by ECA financing, will position Tanzania as a regional trade powerhouse," he said.

"Innovative financing solutions like ECA are key to unlocking Tanzania's infrastructure potential. They pave the way for sustainable growth, regional integration and economic resilience," he added.



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Opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses journalists at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt orders nationwide digital health integration

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has mandated that all digital health information systems be linked to the community unified system (UCS) under the Ministry of Health to improve service delivery at the grassroots level.

The UCS is designed to facilitate patient identification and enrollment across various community health services, with a particular focus on supporting community health workers (CHWs).

Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel, issued the directive during the integration of the Afya-Tek mobile application-based referral system, which aims to enhance maternal, child, and adolescent health. The Afya-Tek system has been piloted in Kibaha District and Kibaha Town Council since 2019.

Dr Mollel emphasized the need to scale up Afya-Tek nationwide and instructed that, by January 15, all operational digital health systems must be harmonized with the UCS. This initiative aligns with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive to ensure that digital systems across the country are unified.

Afya-Tek has already proven effective in Kibaha, improving the continuity of care by linking primary healthcare providers. Dr. Angela Dillip, Director at Afya-Tek, highlighted that inadequate coordination between public sector CHWs, health facilities, and private sector Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs) contributes to preventable maternal and child deaths.

The platform was developed with input from users and uses open-source technology that integrates with government systems. It provides individualized decision support during client visits, guiding healthcare providers on next steps, including education, treatment, or referrals.

Between July 2020 and June

2023, Afya-Tek enrolled 241,000 individuals, including 7,557 pregnant women, 6,582 postpartum women, 45,900 children, and 25,700 adolescents. The system has facilitated over 626,000 home visits, resulting in 38,100 referrals to health facilities and 24,300 linkages to ADDOs. Notably, 89 percent of the referrals were attended to at health facilities.

Afya-Tek is Tanzania's first digital health programme to integrate both public and private sector primary healthcare providers, showing great potential for improving maternal, child, and adolescent health.

The system is now poised for national expansion and integration with the UCS for greater sustainability.

Boniface Magige, Pharmacy Council Registrar emphasized that integrating Afya-Tek into the UCS would streamline operational systems within the Ministry, saving time and improving overall coordination.

The initiative, led by the local NGO-Apotheker, was initially piloted in Kibaha District and Kibaha Town Council.

Silvanus Ilomo, Acting Director for ICT at the Ministry of Health assured that the successful elements of Afya-Tek would be incorporated into the UCS to further enhance the effectiveness of digital health solutions.

“ It provides individualized decision support during client visits, guiding healthcare providers on next steps, including education, treatment, or referrals

Biteko to launch landmark power transmission project

By Polycarp Machora, Dodoma

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko is today set to preside over a ground-breaking ceremony of a major power infrastructure project valued at 513bn/-.

The project entails the construction of a 400-kilovolt power transmission line from Chalinze in Coast region to Dodoma, alongside the expansion of critical power substations.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Energy, the project is set to enhance the capacity of the national power grid while facilitating the delivery of electricity from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) to central and northern regions of

Tanzania. “This initiative will not only bolster the grid’s capacity but also reinforce the distribution of electricity from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, ensuring reliable power supply to key regions,” the statement, signed by Neema Mbuja on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, reads.

Having previously struggled with power shortages, Tanzania is now poised to enter a new era of energy distribution. The 400-kilovolt transmission line will connect Dodoma to the wider national grid, significantly improving power access and reliability across the country. This is especially crucial for Dodoma, the political heart of the nation, which has experienced

rapid growth in both governmental and industrial sectors.

Fully funded by the government of Tanzania, the project will also see the expansion of power substations in Chalinze (Pwani Region) and Zuzu (Dodoma), allowing the grid to meet the increasing electricity demand.

The improvements will ensure steady power supply to Dodoma and its surrounding areas, while also facilitating electricity distribution to the northern and south-eastern industrial zones.

The upgrades are expected to stimulate economic growth by bolstering industrialization, particularly in regions with expanding mining operations and sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. As the project

progresses, it is anticipated to drive both public and private investment in previously underserved areas.

The Chinese company TBEA Co. Ltd. has been selected as the contractor for the construction of the transmission line and substation expansions. With its global expertise in similar projects, TBEA is seen as a key partner in ensuring the timely and efficient completion of this transformative initiative.

For the government, this project is part of a broader strategy to secure energy independence and meet the country's development goals. With a focus on sustainable growth, the initiative is one of many steps being taken to establish energy as a key driver for Tanzania's future prosperity.

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Republic of Korea's Ambassador tours The Guardian Limited



The Guardian Limited deputy general manager Jackson Paul welcomes the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Eunju Ahn, to The Guardian Limited offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The envoy was on a familiarisation tour of the company, which publishes The Guardian and Nipashe daily newspapers. Photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (gesturing) introduces the ambassador to TGL heads of department, including (from-R): Dennis Ntaita (Circulation), Weapon Mwachombe (Marketing), Ally Muhidin (Advertising) and Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (Printing).



Ambassador Eunju Ahn signs a visitors' book upon arrival at the TGL offices. To her right is TGL deputy general manager Jackson Paul.



Managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R) briefs ambassador Ahn on pre-press operations in the TGL newsroom. Left is TGL deputy general manager Jackson Paul and second right is TGL finance manager Samuel Orgeness.



Managing editor Wallace Mauggo shows the visiting envoy around the TGL newsroom. This is at one of Nipashe newspaper's news desks. Standing (R) is Salome Kitomari, head of the Digital Unit



Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (L) exchanges greetings with the ambassador.



TGL chief photographer Selemani Mpochi (R) is introduced to the ambassador.



TGL print manager Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (2nd-L) briefs the visiting envoy on newspaper printing.



Opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses journalists at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

“Independence expands communication with reduced charges at 63rd anniversary”

By Guardian Reporter

ADVANCED Technologies and affordable services have transformed Tanzanians lives as they mark the 63rd independence of the Mainland, according to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) report.

TCRA report shows that Tanzanians have enjoyed a wider choice of technology and services in the past five years.

Tanzania has passed a critical turning point in its efforts to bridge the digital divide, with recent reports showing it leads East Africa in critical enabling indicators.

The country has narrowed differences in the penetration of communications services among the population, geographically and in device affordability and usage.

Mobile phone voice tariffs gone down by 946 per cent between 2005 and September 2024. On-net (subscribers networks) call

charges fell from 219 shillings to 26, while off-net (to other networks) tariffs fell from 292 to 28.

The convergence of tariffs across networks enables seamless voice communication since subscribers do not need separate SIM cards.

TCRA's July September quarterly report shows that the annual growth rate of off-net traffic was seven times that of on-net between 2019 and 2023.

In a statement issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam, TCRA Director-General Dr Jabiri Bakari attributes to reduced network interconnection charges during the period from 34.92/- in 2013 to 1.76/- only in January 2024. Other growth indicators are increased SIM cards, mobile money accounts, internet usage and licences for various services.

Active SIM cards increased from 110,518 in 2000 to 80,662,041 in September 2024.

Some 1,015,820 were for machine-to-machine (M2M) communication, indicating increased adoption of automated communications in Tanzania.

Mobile money accounts increased by 245 per cent between 2015 and September 2024 - from 17,639,349 to 60,815,533.

Internet subscriptions increased by 1,061 per cent from 3,563,732 in 2008 to 41,376,545 in September 2024.

A recent report by the East African Communications Organization (EACO) attributed Tanzania's growth to robust policies and a focused, inclusive and focused regulation framework. Rural coverage initiatives have also contributed to the growth.

Tanzania is constructing and upgrading over 1,000 mobile phone base stations in rural and underserved areas to support advanced mobile communications technologies.

Tea Board unveils plans to invest in advanced technology factories

By Correspondent Halfan Chusi

THE Tea Board of Tanzania (TBT) has announced plans to invest in advanced technology factories that will help reduce production costs and increase the value of tea.

Beatrice Banzi, TBT Acting Director made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a meeting with a delegation from Japan. The delegation is in Tanzania to learn and exchange knowledge about tea cultivation.

The delegation, which arrived on December 7, will remain in the country until December 14, during which time they will visit various tea farms across the country.

At the meeting held at the Board's offices in Dar es Salaam, Banzi highlighted the lessons they have learned from Japan regarding the use of modern technology to streamline agricultural work.

“We have observed that, due to a shortage of labour, they have started to innovate ways to carry out farm work without people, using industrial revolution technologies,” Banzi said.

She added: “What we expect from this meeting is an industrial revolution of our own, because while they lack manpower, we have it, but the challenge lies in the funds to pay workers. Therefore, it is better to use modern technological factories that can help reduce the cost of tea production, just as they do.”

She said that beyond industrial advancement, their expectations from the Japanese delegation also include improving the quality of tea produced in Tanzania in order to dominate both the domestic and international markets.

“Achieving this will help us expand the tea market,” she said.

Edna Chuku Economic Affairs Officer, Embassy of Tanzania in Japan who accompanied the delegation, emphasised the significant role the visit will play in the tea sector.

She noted that the delegation had brought with them two major tea companies from Japan: Kawasaki Kiko and Nasa Cooperation.

She further stressed that Tanzania would greatly benefit from effectively using their technology and expertise.

“The aim is to support the strengthening of economic diplomacy. Tanzanian tea needs to improve its competitiveness, much like coffee in Japan, and through this meeting, I see that we are heading in the right direction,” Chuku said.

She said the arrival of the delegation will bring positive developments, as they have shown a genuine interest in investing in Tanzania's tea sector.

Given that Japan lacks a large workforce and their production is limited due to their geography, they are seeking markets in various countries, with Tanzania being one of them.

TBT Marketing Manager, Selemani Chillo, said that the tea market situation is improving, with new markets already opened in Oman, and plans to expand further, with a visit to Saudi Arabia next week.

“We have invited the Japanese to Tanzania to explore various tea opportunities and learn from their technology, which can be used here to add value to tea and expand the market,” he said.

Gaelle Lagrouas, a representative from Nasa Cooperation, expressed her excitement about visiting Tanzania and seeing the vast potential in the tea sector. She promised to collaborate in expanding and promoting the market.

The visit by the Japanese delegation is a follow-up to a visit by the Tanzania Tea Board to Japan in July this year where used the opportunity to invite the Japanese to Tanzania for knowledge exchange.

Victoria Finance Plc
9th Floor, Mwangi Tower Building-Kijinyasi
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Govt advised to launch special Court for GBV and VAC cases

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has been urged to establish a special court dedicated to handling all cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) to streamline the processing and resolution of the cases.

This was raised in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during an event to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV.

The event brought together legal aid stakeholders, police, GBV officers, medical professionals, artists and community development officers to raise awareness about violence and strengthen legal support for human rights in the country.

Christopher Mwambona, Assistant Inspector of Police in Kinondoni suggested that instead of building a new facility, a dedicated room could be set up to process cases more efficiently.

He also advocated for extending the services available at Mwananyala Regional Referral Hospital's One Stop Centre to all hospitals in the Kinondoni Police Region.

During the event, participants received education on GBV and VAC, and 11 individuals were counselled and referred to court or community development officers. Reported cases included child maintenance and abandonment.

Mwambona expressed gratitude to the German Development Agency (GIZ) Tanzania, Society in Action for Equality (SAFE), PROLA, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA), the Tanzania Police Force, Kinondoni Municipal, the University of Dar es Salaam, and Mwananyamala Hospital for organizing the event.

He called for monthly events at Coco Beach to continue educating the community on GBV and VAC.

Neema Mdemno, legal advisor

for GIZ Tanzania and PROLA, encouraged the public to report GBV and VAC at local police stations, the One Stop Centre, or community development offices, stressing the importance of not keeping these issues hidden.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the effects of GBV, provide legal support information, and empower the community to take collective action against violence. It also facilitated collaborative learning through dialogue, music, and community testimonies.

The event was part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, running from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day). This year's theme is "Towards Beijing +30: Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls."

The event featured live performances by popular Tanzanian artists, who used music and personal testimonies to promote awareness and inspire positive change.

Coco Beach, a popular public space in Dar es Salaam, served as an ideal venue to engage a large audience in discussions about GBV, highlighting the importance of addressing this issue in public spaces.



It also facilitated collaborative learning through dialogue, music, and community testimonies

Govt urged to fortify safety for human rights defenders

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has urged the government to urgently establish legal and policy frameworks that recognise and protect human rights defenders.

This plea was made during a national dialogue in Dar es Salaam yesterday, marking Human Rights Day and coinciding with the conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The event, themed "Reflection on the State of Human Rights Promotion and Protection," brought together various stakeholders, including lawyers, advocates, human rights activists, and senior journalists.

THRDC Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa pointed out that Tanzania lags behind other African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger, which have enacted laws to protect human rights defenders.

He stressed that the lack of legal recognition exposes defenders to risks, including arbitrary arrests, detentions, and other forms of harassment.

"The 2024 THRDC report shows that human rights defenders in Tanzania continue to work in an unsafe legal environment, making their efforts increasingly difficult," he said.

Olungurumwa also cited restrictive laws, such as the Media Services Act of 2016 and the 2020 amendments to the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act (BRADEA), which have further hindered advocacy for human rights.

For example, the BRADEA amendments now require

petitioners in public interest cases to demonstrate a personal interest, limiting the scope for challenging abuses.

Olungurumwa revealed that the coalition had already submitted a draft law to the government for review and urged authorities to prioritise the process.

"We appeal to the government to fast-track the enactment of this law to provide much-needed protection for human rights defenders," he added.

The dialogue also addressed other systemic challenges affecting the promotion and protection of human rights in Tanzania.

Veteran journalist Generali Ulimwengu criticised the diminishing role of the media in holding those in power accountable.

"Many media outlets have now aligned their reporting with influential entities, neglecting the struggles of marginalised communities and failing to challenge government institutions," he said.

Advocate Rugemeleza Nshala lamented the judiciary's retreat from its historical role in advancing human rights, recalling the period of judicial activism in the 1980s and 1990s, which led to landmark rulings that reshaped policies and strengthened human rights protections.

Bishop Emmaus Mwamakula, Head of the Moravian Revival Church in Tanzania, urged religious institutions to remain committed to advocating for justice and equality.

"We must use our platforms to speak out for the oppressed and defend the principles of human rights," he said.



Singida regional commissioner Halima Dendego plants a memorial tree at the Singida Regional Referral Hospital grounds on Monday in marking the 63rd anniversary of Tanganyika's Independence. Photo: Correspondent Tobias Mwanakatwe

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

A new state-of-the-art hospital is set to begin offering full medical services, including surgeries, in Arusha City starting in March 2025.

The Arusha Technical College (ATC) Polyclinic, a modern health facility, will provide comprehensive care to residents of the city and surrounding areas.

The hospital, which was built under the ATC Department of Bio-Medical Engineering, is designed to be equipped with cutting-edge medical technology.

It will serve not only as a teaching centre for students in biomedical engineering but also as a fully operational hospital offering a range of medical services.

Dr Musa Chacha, Principal of Arusha Technical College, explained that although the facility is primarily intended for practical training for students,

New state-owned hospital set to open in Arusha next year

it will operate as a full-service hospital. The centre will treat both inpatients and outpatients with a wide array of medical conditions.

"Once fully operational, the hospital will offer various services, including eye care, maternal and child health, treatment for respiratory issues, various surgeries, dental care, and treatment for ear infections," Dr. Chacha said.

He was speaking during the 16th graduation ceremony of the college, where 1,139 students graduated in various disciplines, including electrical and biomedical engineering.

Although construction of the new hospital was completed months ago, the facility is awaiting

the delivery of medical equipment and supplies, which are expected to arrive between January and February 2025. Once the equipment is in place, the hospital will be ready to begin treating patients.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Prof. Daniel Mushi, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Prof. Mushi praised the ATC for the hospital project, which was funded through the college's own revenues.

"I commend Arusha Technical College for this impressive achievement. The hospital project was funded through the college's internal revenues, and

the institution is also financing its staff to further their education and acquire new skills," said Professor Mushi.

He also highlighted the government's commitment to advancing technical and vocational education, with over 100bn/- allocated for the establishment of vocational training centres in 64 councils across the country. This includes new centres in the Songwe Region in the Southern Highlands.

Once operational, the new hospital will significantly improve healthcare access in Arusha, contributing to the region's overall medical infrastructure and providing vital services to local communities.



Dar es Salaam-based students and members of Women's Organisation for Development Efforts (WAJIKI), a local community-based CSO, pictured in the city on Sunday taking part in a march in marking this year's edition of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' (Nov 25 to Dec 10) campaign. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ActionAid Tanzania launches project to help women own land in Chamwino

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

ACTIONAID Tanzania has launched a special initiative aimed at empowering women in Chamwino district, Dodoma region to secure their legal rights to land ownership.

The initiative, which is part of the Transformative Impact Fund (TIF), seeks to address longstanding gender-based discrimination in land ownership within the rapidly developing district.

Speaking during launching of the initiative on Monday here, the project's coordinator from ActionAid Tanzania, Happy Itros said the project is being implemented through the Transformative Impact Fund

(TIF).

He explained that the initiative is also being implemented in other countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In Tanzania, the programme is focused on two regions—Dodoma and Singida—specifically targeting ten villages in Chamwino district: Mlowa Barabarani, Mlowa, Nzali, Kawawa, Msanga, Iringa Mvumi, Makang'wa, Chinangali II, Chamwino and Mahama.

Itros highlighted the significant challenges women face in Chamwino, where traditional patriarchal views often prevent women from owning land, hindering their economic empowerment and development.

"In many areas of the country, communities still hold negative attitudes toward women owning

land, depriving them of equal opportunities for economic growth," she said.

She added: "This project aims to challenge these misconceptions and create equal opportunities for both women and men."

The project will also focus on mobilizing communities and providing educational resources to shift these harmful beliefs. Additionally, it aims to create platforms for farmers, particularly women, to voice their concerns and address the challenges they face, while advocating for policies that promote sustainable and ecological agriculture.

Samwel Mesiak, Coordinator at ActionAid Tanzania, emphasized that the barriers to land ownership for women in Tanzania are deeply rooted in traditional customs and outdated beliefs.

"Our campaign focuses not only on empowering women to own land but also on advocating for gender parity by addressing all forms of gender-based violence," he said.

Nuru Mpanda, an accountant and representative of the Small Women Farmers' Forum (JUWACHA) in Chamwino district stressed that both women and men have equal rights to land ownership, underscoring the importance of challenging outdated customs that prevent women from claiming their rights.

The project is expected to pave the way for greater gender equality in land ownership and economic participation for women in Chamwino and beyond, contributing to the overall empowerment of women across Tanzania.



Village chairpersons of communities neighbouring one of the mines in Mara Region show dummy cheques for a combined 2.1bn/- in royalties issued by the mine and presented at the weekend by Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (seated 5th-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

Heavy rains destroy 13 houses in Makambako Town Council

THIRTEEN houses in Mlowa Ward of Makambako Town Council in Njombe Region have been damaged as a result of heavy rain and strong winds.

The storm which occurred over the weekend here caused major damage, with roofs torn off and walls collapsing. The affected areas included Mkolongo Street, where six houses were damaged, Mludza Street, where five houses were impacted, Itipingi with two houses, and Mgevalala where one house was destroyed.

Mlowa Ward Councillor Odilo Fute said that while no injuries or fatalities were reported, the damage to property was extensive.

He revealed that residents whose homes were affected have sought

refuge with their neighbours. Despite the lack of casualties, Fute expressed concern over the situation, urging stakeholders to provide support to help the victims rebuild their homes and recover from the crisis.

"While no lives were lost, the emotional and financial toll on the families is significant. They have lost their shelter and many of their belongings. The situation is dire, and we are calling for assistance to help these residents rebuild and restore normalcy to their lives," Fute said in an interview.

Jailos Ngimbudzi, Chairman of

Mkolongo Street, confirmed the storm's impact on his area, noting that six houses were affected.

Ngimbudzi mentioned that a disaster management committee meeting would be held to assess the situation further and discuss the best course of action for providing aid to the victims.

"The damage is widespread, and we must act quickly to support the affected families," Ngimbudzi said.

Some residents, like Shadrack Kilamlya, described the harrowing experience of witnessing the storm firsthand.

"The rain was intense, and the

winds were incredibly strong. I was outside when the roof of my house was torn off. It was a terrifying experience," Kilamlya said.

He, along with other residents, appealed for materials like timber, iron sheets, and nails to begin repairs.

Makambako Town Council's disaster management committee has already visited the affected areas. It continues its assessment to determine the most effective way to assist the victims, including providing immediate relief supplies and longer-term support for rebuilding efforts.



Muheza District Chief Medical Officer Fani Mussa pictured in Muheza town on Monday – Tanganyika's 63rd Independence Day anniversary – viewing a plaque at a designated hospital built with government and Anglican Church support and opened by Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere on July 15, 1981. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Correspondent

Kevela stresses economic support for women as she is awarded PhD

THR chairperson of the CCM Women Wing (UWT) in Njombe Region, Scholastica Kevela has emphasized the role of microfinance institutions in empowering women economically—giving them the ability to own homes, educate their children and engage in other developmental activities.

She urged Tanzanians, especially women, not to give up, stressing the importance of staying strong and pushing forward.

She made the remarks over the weekend soon after she was awarded a PhD in Finance by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT).

The PhD was conferred by former Prime Minister and Chancellor of OUT, Mizengo Pinda, during the university's 43rd graduation

ceremony held in Kigoma Region over the weekend.

Dr Kevela, also the Director of Yono Auction Company, shared her commitment to using her newly acquired knowledge to economically empower women, particularly those in rural areas.

She explained that her research in Njombe focused on how women can benefit economically, politically, and socially through financial institutions, with a particular emphasis on microfinance.

She also explored how the institutions support women who head households in rural

communities.

Dr Kevela advised the government to focus more on financial institutions, especially those in rural areas, and ensure they increase capital to enable more people to access larger loans, which could significantly improve their lives.

She also expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her leadership and efforts in creating an environment conducive to education, which has helped many Tanzanians advance academically.

"We view President Samia as our

role model. I encourage Tanzanian youth and my fellow women to pursue education. It fosters understanding and personal growth. The Open University is a great place to study, offering flexibility to balance education with other responsibilities," she said.

In his remarks Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, emphasized that Tanzanians have great hope in the university's graduates, seeing them as a driving force for the country's development.

The ceremony celebrated 4,307 graduates, with 55 receiving PhDs.

Arusha High School students win four awards at African competition

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

STUDENTS from Arusha Science High School have scooped a total of four prestigious innovation awards at the recently concluded Junior Achievement Africa Company of the Year (JA-COY) Competition in Mauritius.

The 14th edition of the Junior Achievement Africa Company of the Year Competition took place in Port Louis, Mauritius, from December 4th to 6th, 2024.

The event brought together teams from 11 countries across the continent, all competing for the coveted title of "Company of the Year" as well as several branded awards.

According to an official statement from the event organisers, the Arusha Science High School students outshone their peers from more than 11 African nations by securing four awards, including the grand prize.

The team from Arusha won the Entrepreneurship Excellence Award, the Best Application of Project Management Award, and the Girl LEAD Award. They were also named the overall winners, claiming the Grand Prize Award in the highly competitive JA-COY continental competition.

The success of the Arusha Science High School team in the prestigious competition highlights the growing entrepreneurial talent and innovation among young people in Tanzania and across Africa.

The Junior Achievement (JA) Africa Company of the Year Competition is one of the premier events for high school innovators across the continent. It provides young students with the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and innovative ideas. The competition drew top student-led companies from countries including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, South Africa, and Tanzania, among others.

Participants pitched their business ideas to a panel of judges, demonstrating their innovation, creativity, business acumen, and potential for positive social impact.

Junior Achievement Africa is one of the continent's largest organizations focused on youth economic empowerment. As part of the global Junior Achievement Worldwide network, JA Africa operates in 20 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, reaching over 900,000 youth annually.

Through its partnership with local ministries of education, the organisation delivers programmes in more than 3,000 schools each year, empowering young people in the areas of financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

Junior Achievement Worldwide is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the world dedicated to preparing young people for the future of work. It offers hands-on, blended learning experiences designed to equip students with the skills needed for success in the modern job market.

Police root for strict forensic standards in proof handling

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Dodoma

THE police have stressed the importance of adhering to professional standards and expertise in the collection, storage, transportation and processing of samples for criminal evidence requiring forensic investigation to ensure accurate results.

The Chief of the Scientific Investigation Commission, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Theopista Malya, made the appeal here over the weekend during a meeting with over 150 stakeholders, including police officers, doctors, prosecutors, magistrates, officials from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and social welfare officers.

She highlighted that failure to follow proper procedures could result in justice being denied to Tanzanians across various sectors.

Stakeholders in forensic science were being trained by experts from the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA) Central Zone on the proper management of samples.

SACP Malya emphasised that achieving the goals requires stakeholders involved in the criminal justice process to perform their duties with diligence, accuracy, cooperation and mutual support.

She explained that the Criminal Procedure Act and the Human DNA Act empower health professionals and police officers to collect and submit various samples to the Government Chemist Laboratory for forensic analysis. These samples serve as evidence for decision-making and legal actions.

"That's why we have police officers, doctors, and others here today, to build their capacity to perform their work with professionalism and follow investigative procedures, ultimately ensuring results that cannot be disputed in court," said SACP Malya.

She further noted that this training is crucial for those involved in criminal cases requiring forensic investigation, as it enhances their ability to handle, transport, and store evidence samples correctly while adhering to all legal procedures.

Gerald Meliyo Mollel, Manager for GCLA Central Zone in Dodoma, explained that improper sample collection complicates the process of obtaining accurate results. He stated that the purpose of gathering

these stakeholders was to train them in the correct procedures for collecting, storing, transporting, and processing forensic samples to ensure justice is served in court.

"We have realised that it is crucial to teach them the key factors to consider when collecting, transporting, storing, and processing samples, to ensure that the expected results are achieved and justice is served. The goal is to ensure that the sample investigation process is robust, safe, and accurate for the country's development," Meliyo said.

He also pointed out that prosecutors and magistrates are trained to understand the entire process, including how registered chemists from the Government Chemist Laboratory handle and process evidence. This ensures they are well-informed when presenting evidence in court.

Some stakeholders, such as the Chief Prosecutor for Dodoma Region, Paschal Marungu, and the Senior Magistrate at Mpwapwa District Court, Timothy Lyon, praised the initiative, highlighting how it will greatly benefit their work.

Marungu explained that his office is responsible for coordinating investigations, preparing, registering, and prosecuting cases at all levels. He emphasised that the training is invaluable for investigators, prosecutors, and others involved in the criminal justice process.

He added that many criminal cases they handle rely on expert evidence, such as that provided by the Government Chemist Laboratory.

Fidelis Bugoye, Forensic Science Manager at CGCLA, spoke on the importance of collecting human DNA samples, noting that they are increasingly relied upon in medical treatments, resolving social issues, and ensuring justice in the criminal justice system.

“The goal is to ensure that the sample investigation process is robust, safe, and accurate for the country's development”

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Yes, new survey on energy access will be of some use

SURVEYORS from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are understood to be collaborating with the Rural Energy Agency (REA) in preparing to set on the third survey on availability of clean energy across the various regions.

There has been preliminary training for 110 enumerators on how to conduct the survey, and as usual those trained with best instructors from national-level institutions are then expected to train other enumerators or surveyors.

The training was conducted by experts drawn from the Energy ministry, the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) and NBS. But, as the survey will cover 10,500 households, 110 enumerators is way too few for comfort.

The survey is intended to gather data on cooking and lighting energy, which the chief government statistician believes is crucial for this aspect of economic activity to be clarified adequately for attaining the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the National Vision, 2025.

According to the national statistics agency, even though the 2025 vision is coming to an end, it cannot be completed without accurate data. That also applies to preparing Vision 2050, as the government's plan is to ensure that the 2024-2034 period will suffice for a wholesale shift to clean cooking energy countrywide.

Explanations that the survey will help the government to understand the situation on the ground, gather public input and assess the increase in income related to clean energy

use, among other factors, are not strictly speaking sufficient to decide on the move.

Surveys or research studies are carried out to understand issues whose mechanisms are not in public sector control or are not directly influenced by government decisions.

That is not the case with accessing the use of natural gas or electricity, as the whole issue of costs vis-à-vis average incomes is well known. It all means that the survey is about how many people use gas, etc.

It is thus categorical that the range of issues on which the survey needs to be conducted to provide answers is fairly limited.

For instance, it could help to clarify how far houses regularly often relying beans for meals can't afford gas.

With the main policy issues fairly easy to figure out, what was perhaps needed is a periodical survey, the sort that the Bank of Tanzania conducts before issuing quarterly reviews of the economy, the money market, the stock exchange, etc.

NBS can organise limited surveys of the kind from time to time, without having to set on a demanding target calling for nationwide surveys to establish where we are - in like manner as the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey.

To the latter has been added a malaria indicator survey, although that needs no survey since anyone with malaria will unavoidably visit a hospital.

In all these instances, the bits of information needed were fairly minimal, meaning that the various initiatives can doubtless be qualified as tied to capacity building.

Partnership between media fraternity, telecommunications could prove vital

THERE was some surprise recently when it was heard that media operators and those in telecommunications are engaged in some strategic partnership intended to address the critical need for effective research communication in the country.

The relevant stakeholders were reported as determined to launch a research platform by early next month to bridge the gap between researchers and journalists.

Research is usually aimed at specific academic institutions, as each work or publication is a mark of achievement or presence of a university department, and on the part of a specific researcher or team of like-minded researchers.

Quite often research also links institutions across borders or continents pursuing like-minded engagements whose other face is the formation of NGOs. They pursue active social work to change reality on the ground, often in the wake of findings by research conducted somewhere.

The drive is intended to help in fostering a more informed and engaged public discourse on scientific research at national level and across the sub-region.

A research agency specialised in science communication is said to be collaborating with a knowledge-based business company.

The two parties have already signed memorandum of understanding for collaboration, seeking to leverage mutual expertise to lead initiatives in media training.

This will target writing for policy impact, data communication and the dissemination of research beyond academic circles.

This initiative can be said to have been long-awaited, at least in the sense that those working in universities as full-time academics

scarcely ever write in newspapers or engage regularly in explaining their work before a really wide public.

Only on some occasions like annual research conferences or international gatherings of this or that sort does the public hear bits and pieces of what this or that researcher has been doing. Still that isn't a big omission as when it has a direct impact on public policy, merely a whisper at top academic levels can send ripples.

It can thus be said that the link-up has the media profession more in mind, the issue being how far the media is suited to take up such work and how far the newspapers, etc., have room for scientific work and its propagation.

The link-up may indeed help journalists to be more at ease with scientific gatherings, in the process enhancing their skills.

But when key stakeholders say that expanding the reach of research findings could see the partnership making a significant impact on communities and policymaking, they could have overstated the capacity of research as such.

That is also what may come to frustrate those engaged in the work, if they start dreaming of direct connection between research dissemination and policy impact. This is because policy can result from discordant, even opposed, research outcomes.

The conduct of research is in the first place guided by intuition, which then enables an individual however well-trained to notice a problem and move to address it.

Someone else could do much the same but from a different perspective, as whoever obtains funds is also tied to some particular standpoint or orientation. It can get pretty hard to decide the way forward.



Hints for effective covering of elections in West Africa

By John Chukwu

ELECTIONS in West Africa since 2020 have resulted in peaceful democratic transitions in countries such as Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal, amid coups d'état elsewhere in the region - in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

Violence, ballot box snatching, misand disinformation, vote buying, voter apathy and voter suppression have marked many of the region's elections.

In many of the countries, journalists have been attacked and pressured to favour particular political parties or candidates in their coverage.

Before the end of the year, three important elections are set to take place - in Ghana, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. Here are some tips for journalists as they embark on their coverage:

One: Be apolitical

Many media outlets in West Africa are owned by politicians and push partisan content. Journalists should strive not to allow media ownership to influence their coverage and should detach their own political sentiments or personal biases from their reporting.

Every report filed before, during and after an election should remain neutral, devoid of support for a particular party or candidate.

"Your job is to report the facts, not to support or undermine any candidate," advised Ridwan Dini-Osman, a Ghanaian journalist who covered the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections in his country.

Beninese journalist Loukoumane Worou Tchehuou cautioned that journalists should steer clear of aligning with political actors and "avoid waging political war by proxy" in their election coverage.

Three: Fact-check all information

RESearch shows that elevated blood sugar affects the brains of healthy people just as it does to those of people with diabetes.

A study published in October in *Neurobiology of Aging* and conducted in Canada by Baycrest Academy for Research and Education (BARE) has found that high blood sugar levels may impair brain health even in individuals without diabetes.

"Our results show that even if someone does not have a diabetes diagnosis, his or her blood sugar may already be high enough to be negatively impacting his or her brain health," Jean Chen, senior author of the study and senior scientist at the Rotman Research Institute, part of BARE, said in a press statement.

Previous research has established that high blood sugar has adverse effects on brain health in people with diabetes but, until now, its impact on healthy people's brains has not been well understood.

"Blood sugar exists on a spectrum - it isn't a black and white categorisation of

coverage.

He was referring to the practice of aiding particular political candidates through smear campaigns on their opponents.

"It's best to stick to reporting the facts. No matter what's going on around you, always come back to the facts. Focus on verified information like official results, statements and policies," said Dini-Osman.

He elaborated: "Include a diversity of perspectives in your reporting, too. It's important to cover all sides of the story. If you're quoting one candidate, make sure to include what his or her opponent is saying. Even if a side is controversial, its voice still needs to be heard to give a full picture."

Two: Know your rights - and the rules

Meanwhile, Mayowa Oladeji advised that journalists ought to familiarise themselves with their legal rights by reading what's stipulated in their countries' constitutions and electoral codes.

Oladeji, a reporter at Ripples Nigeria who has covered presidential and state government elections in Nigeria, underscored the need for journalists to know these rules before Polling Day "as that will help them to avoid future issues that could impede reporting".

Journalists should also check for information from agencies that oversee elections on accreditation ahead of Polling Day. For instance, the Ghana Journalists Association and the Electoral Commission of Ghana announced an application period with instructions for media outlets to obtain accreditation to cover earlier.

High blood sugar linked to impaired brain activity even in healthy people

healthy or unhealthy," Chen said in the press release.

The study analysed data from 146 healthy adults aged 18 and older. Researchers evaluated blood sugar levels, brain activity through magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans, and heart rate variability via electrocardiogram readings.

The researchers utilised data from the Leipzig Study for Mind-Body-Emotion Interactions (LEMON) dataset.

Higher blood sugar levels were associated with decreased connectivity in brain networks crucial for cognition, memory, attention and emotion regulation.

The adverse effects were more pronounced in older adults, who generally had higher blood sugar levels than younger participants, but the association was present across all age groups. However, women experienced a more substantial effect than men.

"The findings highlight the importance of managing your blood sugar through healthy diet and exercise, not only for your body but also for your brain," Chen stated, adding "It's also important to get regular checkups and to work with a healthcare provider,

To avoid spreading misinformation that can inflame tensions during an election, journalists should take extra care to ensure the authenticity of all statements, photos, videos and statistics used in their articles. Even when under pressure to meet a deadline, etc., verifying information and quotes is imperative.

Reporters in West Africa can visit the websites of organisations such as Africa Check, PesaCheck, FactCheckHub and Dubawa for fact checks of sensitive stories that can help guide them if they're working on similar reporting.

Journalists should also avoid amplifying what other outlets have published without ensuring that the information is correct - including whether the sources quoted in the reporting are legitimate.

Capture critical moments

Journalists have a unique ability to document key moments of an election first-hand. "Journalists should capture all the 'drama' they see on Polling Day," says Kwetey Nartey, a journalist at JoyNews in Ghana who has covered five elections in the country dating back to 2008.

Reporters should interview political candidates as well as voters and when possible visually document political candidates, electoral officials, election materials and voters.

They should report on whatever conflicts arise between authorities or security officials and voters as well as any disruptions or acts of electoral malpractice such as manipulation of voter registration, multiple thumb-printing and falsification of results.

Further, journalists should report on the official counting of votes at polling stations to help ensure the authenticity

of official election results.

Some reporters even go live on their personal social media channels or those of their media outlets to provide viewers with real-time accounts of what is happening at the polling station they are reporting from.

Prioritise safety

Journalists must always prioritise their own security. Past elections in Nigeria and Ghana, for example, have been plagued by violence at polling stations, which has resulted in deaths and injuries.

In Nigeria, nearly 20 journalists and media outlets were attacked during last year's election, while 2020 saw several Ghanaian journalists shot at and otherwise attacked while covering the country's election.

In this environment, having a safety net is key. "Journalists need to work with colleagues and local guides to stay safe," Oladeji said.

Newsrooms should have the contacts of the police and the electoral body of their various countries in order to help their reporters getting into trouble. Organisations such as Media Foundation for West Africa and West Africa Journalists Association can also provide support to journalists in the region.

Importantly, noted Dini-Osman: "Always have an exit strategy in case things get out of hand."

• **A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. John Chukwu is a Nigerian freelance journalist and writer reporting on politics, health, social justice, conflict and technological developments in sub-Saharan Africa.**

indicate illness or lower resilience to stress. The researchers noted that future studies could explore methods to enhance brain function through improving HRV, which may present an easier intervention target than blood sugar levels, particularly for non-diabetic people.

Research has also linked high blood sugar to heart disease and eye conditions by damaging the blood vessels in these organs. It can also reduce the kidney's ability to filter waste, which can lead to chronic kidney disease.

• **The Epoch Times (Health) dispatch. George Citroner reports on health and medicine, covering topics that include cancer, infectious diseases and neurodegenerative conditions. He was awarded the Media Orthopaedic Reporting Excellence (MORE) award in 2020 for a story on osteoporosis risk in men. Osteoporosis is a bone disease that causes bones to become less dense and more likely to break. It's often called a "silent disease" because people with osteoporosis may not notice any symptoms until they break a bone.**

Tanzania's role in Zambezi River basin is pathway to regional cooperation, sustainable development

TANZANIA is part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) where the Zambezi River plays a major role in shared regional sustainable water resource management and development. Our reporter interviewed Agnes Kisaka (pictured), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water and Vice Chair of Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)—on the sidelines of the on-going 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the UNCCD in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Here are excerpts.

What are Tanzania's roles in sharing and managing resources of the Zambezi River?

Tanzania plays a vital role in the sustainable management of the Zambezi Watercourse. As a riparian state that share the Zambezi, Tanzania is committed to equitable resource sharing and fostering regional cooperation as it supports the facilitation of peaceful dialogues and negotiations among riparian states, ensuring fair and sustainable utilization of the basin's resources.

The commitment reinforces the country's dedication to collaborative governance and addressing transboundary water challenges. To enhance basin-wide decision-making, Tanzania actively shares data and information on water resources through the Zambezi Water Resources Information System (ZAMWIS).

This effort improves information sharing and coordination with other member states, promoting informed management of water and related resources. Tanzania ensures timely submission of notifications regarding planned measures and updates on operational water resource projects within the basin.

These contributions align with integrated water resource management (IWRM) principles and support the basin's resilience to climate change impacts, such as floods and droughts.

Tanzania's upstream position makes it crucial to maintaining water flows and quality for downstream countries like Zambia and Mozambique, which rely on the Zambezi for hydropower and agriculture.

The country collaborates on climate resilience strategies, biodiversity preservation and low-carbon growth initiatives under the Zambezi Regional Investment Plan. Through alignment with Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocols, Tanzania also contributes to regional development goals, including poverty alleviation and food security, further cementing its role in fostering sustainable development and cooperation across the basin.

What steps have been taken to ensure better management of water resources against challenges such as drought or floods?

Tanzania, in collaboration with the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), is advancing regional efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and improve water resource management. By sharing of data and information of water resources, Tanzania supports the enhancement of the ZAMWIS which strengthens prediction and informed decision-making across the basin.

ZAMCOM, with support from Swedfund International, is implementing a project to advance water storage capacity, preparing bankable projects that bolster community resilience to floods and drought while promoting economic growth in Tanzania and the broader region.

ZAMCOM, with financial support from the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) has prepared the Zambezi Regional Investment Plan focusing on Nature, People, and Climate (NPC). This integrated initiative addresses climate change impacts, such as floods and droughts,



through sustainable solutions that balance environmental conservation with socio-economic needs.

Tanzania will benefit from this initiative and its active participation in these efforts highlights its commitment to fostering regional cooperation, enhancing disaster preparedness, and building resilient communities in the face of climate challenges.

How does Tanzania benefit economically and socially from being part of this community?

Tanzania's participation in the Zambezi watercourse community fosters coordinated and joint planning for sustainable water resource management and development, including irrigation, hydropower, and water supply projects.

This collaboration ensures access to technical expertise and shared studies, enabling Tanzania to better manage its water systems within the basin. Regional partnerships provide Tanzania with financial support for implementation of initiatives that enhance water security, agricultural productivity, and energy reliability.

These efforts strengthen Tanzania's economic development while bolstering its capacity to address climate resilience and ecosystem preservation.

Economically, Tanzania benefits from enhanced water access for agriculture, industry, and hydropower, along with funding for infrastructure and climate adaptation projects. Socially, joint initiatives improve livelihoods, foster capacity building, and promote biodiversity conservation, contributing to community resilience and food security.

Regional trade and energy collaborations further amplify these advantages, while cross-border cooperation fosters peace and stability. Through its active role in the basin, Tanzania not only gains significant economic and social benefits but also contributes to regional sustainable development and prosperity.

How does Tanzania ensure sustainable use of water from the Zambezi River?

Tanzania actively supports the sustainable management of the Zambezi Watercourse by collaborating with the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and other riparian states. This include

sharing hydrological data and information through ZAMCOM to ensure informed decision-making for equitable resource use and preservation. Tanzania also adheres to its obligations by timely notifying ZAMCOM of planned measures and providing updates on water and related investment projects, fostering transparency and collaboration. These measures help maintain the basin's ecological balance while addressing regional development needs.

Engagement in governance and stakeholder forums underscores Tanzania's commitment to equitable resource sharing and inclusive dialogue. Through active participation in ZAMCOM's Multisector Stakeholders Forum, Tanzania validates project outcomes and ensures stakeholder ownership.

Tanzania's involvement in ZAMCOM Governance meetings facilitates peaceful negotiations among member states, promoting regional stability and cooperation. These platforms enable Tanzania to align its national strategies with regional sustainability objectives, enhancing the resilience of the Zambezi Watercourse.

By integrating these efforts into a broader framework of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Tanzania balances the water needs of agriculture, industry, and ecosystems while addressing environmental challenges.

Participation in transboundary conservation and climate adaptation programs strengthens biodiversity, mitigates degradation, and enhances water quality. This collaborative approach not only safeguards the basin's resources for future generations but also supports Tanzania's socio-economic development and regional peacebuilding efforts.

What steps are being taken to ensure the Zambezi River development projects protect the area's biodiversity?

ZAMCOM is promoting regional integration and cooperation in the management and development of transboundary water resources across the Zambezi Watercourse through initiatives such as PIDACC Zambezi and the Zambezi Region NPC Investment Plan (IP).

These programmes integrate the management of water, land, and biodiversity to achieve sustainable development goals while protecting ecosystems. Tanzania actively contributes to these efforts by supporting strategies that balance water demands with environmental conservation, ensuring that development projects align with regional priorities and protect the ba-

sin's rich biodiversity.

To safeguard biodiversity, riparian states, including Tanzania, implement Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for major projects, ensuring compliance with environmental standards. Nature-based solutions like wetland restoration and sustainable fisheries are prioritized, while transboundary conservation efforts establish protected areas and wildlife corridors to preserve critical habitats.

Collaboration through ZAMCOM, adherence to SADC protocols, and community engagement enhance the effectiveness of these efforts. Partnerships with NGOs and international funding further support eco-friendly infrastructure and restoration projects, ensuring development benefits align with environmental stewardship.

How does Tanzania cooperate with other countries in managing disputes over the use of water in the Zambezi River?

Tanzania cooperates with other riparian countries in managing disputes over the Zambezi Watercourse through active participation in regional frameworks like the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) and adherence to the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses.

By engaging in structured dialogues, joint planning, and transparent negotiations, Tanzania ensures equitable resource allocation and minimizes conflicts. Key actions include sharing hydrological data, adhering to notification procedures for planned measures, and collaborating on transboundary projects to address shared challenges. These measures promote sustainable water management while fostering trust and mutual understanding among member states.

How does this cooperation help strengthen the relationship between member countries?

This cooperation strengthens relationships by encouraging shared responsibility for the river's resources, reducing tensions, and enhancing long-term stability. Through initiatives like irrigation and flood management projects, Tanzania and other member countries achieve mutual economic and social benefits, reinforcing a sense of shared purpose. Capacity-building programs and neutral mediation further support conflict resolution and solidarity. By aligning national efforts with regional priorities, Tanzania contributes to regional integration, stability, and sustainable development across the Zambezi River Basin.

Tanzania gains in digital network readiness for five consecutive years

By Telesphor Magobe

TANZANIA has climbed in Network Readiness Indexes (NRIs), ranking progressively for five consecutive years since 2020. In NRI 2024 Tanzania ranks 103rd out of 133 surveyed economies worldwide.

In 2023 Tanzania ranked 104th out of 134 surveyed economies. In 2022 it ranked 107th out of 131 surveyed economies. In 2021 it ranked 107th out of 130 surveyed economies and in 2020 it ranked 110th out of 134 surveyed economies.

Each surveyed economy was measured in four pillars, namely technology, people, governance, and impact and each of these pillars is further divided into three sub-pillars. Thus, technology is subdivided into access, content and future technologies. The people pillar is subdivided into individuals, businesses and governments. Governance is subdivided into trust, regulation and inclusion, and impact is subdivided into economy, quality of life and sustainable development goal (SDG) contribution.

The report says technology is a foundational component of NRI, which aims at evaluating the technological infrastructure crucial for a country's engagement in the global economy. The people pillar assesses the application of information communication and technology (ICT) across individuals, enterprises, and the public sector. The governance pillar emphasises the creation and reachability of structures that revitalise the networked economy across trust, regulation and impact dimensions. The impact pillar endeavours to gauge the diverse implications of engagement in the networked economy.

The surveyed countries include 52 high-income economies, 36 upper-middle-income economies, 32 lower-middle-income economies, and 13 low-income economies.

The top 10 economies (which are only high income economies) with their scores in brackets in the NRI 2024 ranking include the US (78.96), Singapore (76.94), Finland (75.76), Sweden (74.99), Republic of Korea (74.85), Netherlands (73.94), Switzerland (73.71), United Kingdom (73.57), Germany (73.54) and (Denmark 72.70).

The least 10 economies (which include two lower-middle-income and eight low income economies are Mauritania (27.16), Madagascar (27.00), Mozambique (26.63),



Burkina Faso (25.91), Angola (25.25), Sierra Leone (23.43), Chad (22.22), Democratic Republic of Congo (21.49), Burundi (20.69) and Yemen (20.24).

In terms of pillar-level performance, the US leads the technology pillar, with strong performance from Switzerland and Netherlands, while China leads access metrics. Republic of Korea leads the people pillar, followed by the US and Singapore. Denmark, Norway and Netherlands lead the governance pillar. Finland leads the impact pillar, with strong performance from Sweden and Ireland.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Mauritius leads digital readiness, ranking 60th globally, demonstrating balanced performance across multiple dimensions. It shows strength in the impact (47th) and people (51st) pillars, with notable achievements in digital businesses (23rd). It also performs well in the regulation (61st) of emerging technologies, and excels in digital inclusion (60th), especially in addressing the socioeconomic gap in the use of digital payments (49th) and in the rural gap in the use of digital

payments (43rd).

The report says "several middle-and low-income economies have exceeded expected performance across one or more of the foundational pillars in the NRI, reflecting capabilities in digital readiness that align with higher-ranking countries." These economies, the report adds, have achieved scores above projections for their income levels across the technology, people, governance, and impact pillars.

Moreover, the report says China, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Kenya each performs well in all four pillars, leading in their respective income groups. "Africa has the highest number of economies (20) surpassing expectations in at least one pillar, with 14 countries performing well in governance. Rwanda and Kenya excel in all four dimensions, while Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Tanzania, and Burundi demonstrate strength in three pillars."

Ghana shows strength in technology, people and governance; Malawi in people, governance and impact; Zimbabwe in technology, people and governance; Senegal in technology,

governance and impact; Tanzania in technology, people and governance; and Burundi in technology, people and impact.

Tanzania in particular shows strength in the technology pillar (access sub-pillar) in Fibre to the Home (FTTH)/building internet subscriptions indicator (19/133), (content sub-pillar) in AI scientific publications (42/133) and (future technologies sub-pillar) in the investment in emerging technologies indicator (58/133).

It also shows strength in the people pillar (individuals sub-pillar) in the mobile broadband internet traffic within the country indicator (65/133), (governments sub-pillar) in the government promotion of investment in emerging technologies (31/133) and in the research and development (R&D) expenditure by governments and higher education indicator (61/133).

Another pillar in which it shows strength is the governance pillar (trust sub-pillar) in the cybersecurity indicator (45/133), in the impact pillar (economy sub-pillar) in domestic market scale indicator (67/133), and in the prevalence of gig economy indicator and (quality of life sub-pillar) in freedom to make life choices indicator (50/133).

The report's goal is to enhance the ways people can harness technology to its full potential, a measure reflected in the three pivotal domains of societal wellbeing: 1) to have a positive impact on the economy, 2) to have a positive impact on a country's quality of life and 3) to help a country achieve all sustainable development goals (SDGs). "Each of these objectives aligns with the United Nations' vision for a brighter and more sustainable future."

The NRI report is produced and published by Portulans Institute (PI), an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC.

High-quality Belt and Road cooperation creates new opportunities for win-win development

ON December 2, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the fourth symposium on Belt and Road construction work in Beijing and delivered an important speech.

He acknowledged the major achievements in Belt and Road cooperation and made comprehensive arrangements for promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the present and near future, providing important guidance and charting the course forward for promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the next golden decade.

As changes of the world, the times and history unfold, Xi's groundbreaking proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become a milestone of historic significance in the history of human development.

Since the BRI was put forth in 2013, the Belt and Road cooperation has consistently embraced the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefits. It has stayed committed to the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together." The sectors and scope of Belt and Road cooperation have continued to expand, while the level of cooperation has been further elevated.

The cooperation has demonstrated greater international appeal, influence, and rallying power, and has made major achievements, making China's contribution to enhancing friendship with Belt and Road participating countries and boosting their economic and social development.

So far, more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents. China has hosted three sessions of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and has established over 20 specialized multilateral cooperation platforms under the BRI.

This year, China signed the Belt and Road cooperation plans with countries including Egypt, Timor-Leste, and Peru.

Dilma Rousseff, president of the New Development Bank, said that never before in history has any initiative brought together over 150 countries like the BRI.

Belt and Road cooperation transcends differences between civilizations, cultures, social systems, and stages of development. It represents humanity's joint pursuit of development for all, represents the advancing of the times, and is the right path forward.

Through high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, China shares with the rest of the world the development opportunities of Chinese modernization, injecting more confidence and strength into global peace and development.

Last year, China announced eight major steps it will take to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, demonstrating its commitment to deepening Belt and Road partnerships and building an open, inclusive and interconnected world for common development. With these concrete actions, China has demonstrated its role as a responsible major country.

The BRI and its core principles have been written into documents from the United Nations (UN), the G20, APEC, and other international and regional organizations. Its role as a driver and leader of global development continues to strengthen.

A recent report by Brussels-based think tank Bruegel revealed that since its inception, the BRI has appeared nearly 1,000 times in UN documents, with over 500 mentions in 2019 alone. This underscores the global vision embodied in this Chinese initiative.

Belt and Road cooperation was proposed by China, but its benefits and opportunities are for the world to share.

China and the Belt and Road partner countries have achieved fruitful results in "hard connectivity" of infrastructure. The China-Europe freight train network has expanded to 227 cities in 25 European countries; the Silk Road Maritime routes connect 145 ports across 46 countries globally; and the Air Silk Road links 104 cities in 54 countries. A large number of signature projects and "small yet smart" people-centered programs have been launched.

China and the Belt and Road partner countries are also steadily advancing "soft connectivity" of rules and standards. China has signed 113 standardization cooperation documents with 69 countries and organizations, and inked 23 free trade agreements with 30 countries



A man competes in a drone assembly and reconditioning contest of the second Belt and Road International Skills Competition at the Chongqing International Expo Center, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, June 25, 2024. (Photo by Sun Kaifang / People's Daily Online)

and regions, with prominent improvement in trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

China and the Belt and Road partner countries have been deepening "heart con-

nectivity" between peoples. China has set up the Chinese government scholarship Silk Road Program and launched the Action on Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity. The flourishing exchanges between

non-governmental organizations, think tanks, media organizations and the youth have composed a symphony of friendship for the Belt and Road cooperation.

Conforming to the new trends of global

development, high-quality Belt and Road cooperation is witnessing new highlights and releasing new vitality in green, digital and innovative development. It is injecting fresh impetus into the global economy, creating new opportunities for global development, and building a new platform for international economic cooperation for win-win outcomes among partner countries.

Belt and Road cooperation has entered the new stage of high-quality development. China is ready to work hand in hand with Belt and Road partner countries and continue adhering to the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together," and the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, and the goal of pursuing high-standard, people-centered and sustainable cooperation, follow through on the eight major measures for supporting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and focus on connectivity.

China will work to improve and promote the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation mechanism, create new space for win-win development at a higher level and with greater resilience and sustainability.

These efforts aim to support the modernization of countries worldwide and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily



Photo shows a view of the Friendship Square in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which is part of the Chinese-aided Addis Ababa riverside green development project. (Photo by Zhao Xiaoyu)

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

'Africa's worsening food crisis: Time for agricultural revolution

By Special Correspondent

THE UN State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 report reveals that food insecurity in Africa is the highest of any world region.

The prevalence of undernourishment is 20.4 percent (some 298.4 million Africans) – over twice the global average. The figure has grown steadily since 2015.

Climate change and conflict are contributing to this problem. But I suggest that something more fundamental lies at the heart of the challenge:

The ideas and plans used in the postcolonial period to guide how Africa produces food and seeks to reduce malnutrition. While rates of food insecurity vary across the continent, and are worse in central and west Africa, this is a region-wide challenge.

In a new book, *Decolonising African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation*, I argue that to feed Africa better, decision-makers and donors ought to reduce the focus on commercial agricultural production as a way to address food insecurity stop thinking that agricultural development is solely about commercialising farming and supporting other industries adopt an agroecological approach that uses farmer knowledge and natural ecological processes to grow more with fewer external inputs, such as fertilisers.

Conventional approaches have failed across various contexts and countries. I look at what's going wrong with how governments think about agriculture – and where the focus needs to be instead to tackle Africa's hunger

crisis.

Focus on production agriculture

Many of the core ideas around agriculture date back to the colonial era.

Modern crop science, or agronomy, was developed in Europe to serve colonial interests. The goal was to produce crops that would benefit European economies. Although this approach has been criticised, it still heavily influences agriculture today. The idea is that producing more food will solve food insecurity.

Food security has six dimensions. While increased food production might address one of these dimensions – food availability – it often fails to address the other five: access, stability, utilisation, sustainability and agency.

Food insecurity is not always about an absolute lack of food, but about people's inability to get the food that is there.

Unstable prices may be one reason. Or people may not have cooking fuel. Agricultural practices may be unsustainable. This often happens when farmers have limited control over how and what they farm.

The west African nation of Mali, for example, has focused on cotton exports based on the idea that it would bolster economic growth and that cotton farmers could use their new equipment and fertiliser to grow more food. Research shows, however, that this led to the destruction of soil resources, indebtedness for farmers, and alarming rates of child malnutrition.

Another example is South Africa's post-apartheid land reform initiatives, which adopted a large scale commercial agricultural



model. This has led to high rates of project failure and has done little to address high rates of malnutrition.

Agriculture as a first step

The second major challenge in addressing Africa's high malnutrition rates is that many countries and international organisations don't value agricultural development for itself. It's seen as the first step towards industrialisation.

Commercial agriculture has become paramount. It tends to focus on a single crop, with expensive inputs (like fertilisers) and with connections to far-away markets. Smaller farms, focused on production for home consumption and local markets, are less valued. These farms may not add to national economic growth in an important way, but they help the poor achieve food security.

For example, the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa funded a rice commercialisation project in Burkina Faso. Women farmers were encouraged to leave traditional practices behind, buy inputs, work with improved seeds, and sell to bigger urban markets. Sadly, research I worked on revealed that this didn't provide great nutritional gains for the participants.

In another case, as its diamond exports

boomed, Botswana largely gave up on pursuing food self sufficiency in the 1980s. Crop agriculture was not seen as a significant contributor to the economy. This undermined the food security of poorer rural inhabitants and women.

Agroecology as the way forward

Mounting evidence of failure suggests it's time to try a different way of addressing Africa's food security woes.

Agroecology – farming with nature – is a more decolonial approach. It covers formal research by scientists and informal knowledge of farmers who experiment in their fields.

Agroecologists study the interactions between different crops, crops and insects, and crops and the soil. This can reveal ways to produce more with fewer costly external inputs. It's a more sustainable and cheaper option.

Common examples of agroecological practices in African farming systems are polycropping – planting different complementary crops in the same field – and agroforestry – mixing trees and crops. These diverse systems tend to have fewer pest problems and are better at maintaining soil fertility.

No African country has fully embraced

agroecology yet, but there are promising examples, many unplanned, that point to its potential.

In Mali, for example, farmers briefly abandoned cotton in 2007-2008 due to low prices. There was then an upsurge in sorghum production. This largely saved the country from the social unrest and food price protests that happened in most neighbouring countries.

A few land reform projects in South Africa allowed larger farms to be split into smaller plots, which had higher rates of success and more food security benefits. This suggests that a different, less commercial approach is in order.

The beginning of a revolution

Agroecology is a promising way forward in addressing Africa's worsening food crisis.

It also has the backing of many African civil society organisations, such as the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa and Network of West African Farmer Organisations and Agricultural Producers.

African government leaders and donors have been slower to recognise the need for a different approach. We are beginning to see signs of change, though. For example, Senegal's former agriculture minister, Papa Abdoulaye Seck, trained as a traditional agronomist.

He now sees agroecology as a better way forward for his country. And the European Union has also begun funding a small number of experimental agroecology programmes.

New study seeks to co-produce solutions on climate resilience

By Getrude Mbago

ARDHI University (ARU) and the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) have jointly launched a special project aimed to explore and advance nature-based solutions (NbS) in urban areas.

Dubbed: 'Listen, Learn & Leap: Co-Producing Equitable and Sustainable Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience in East African Cities', the three-year collaborative project brings together a diverse group of partners including the University College London (UK), Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) in Kenya, ARU, CCI and ICLEI Africa.

The project, funded by UK Research and Innovation Fund, aims to build practical evidence for the uptake, efficiency, adaptability and scalability of NbS for water management in urban informal settlements in East Africa.

Speaking during the official launch of the project in Dar es Salaam recently Prof Wilbard Kombe from ARU and Principal Investigator of the project said the initiative aims to explore the socio-political factors that support the uptake, sustainability and institutionalisation of NbS, with a particular focus on amplifying the voices and perspectives of young people, especially young women and girls living in informal settlements.

"Through the initiative, we will work to ensure that the marginalised groups play a central role in the design and management of localised NbS solutions in communities," he said.

Prof Kombe said the aim is to engage local communities in creating solutions that not only address immediate environmental challenges but

also contribute to long-term social and economic well-being.

He noted that nature-based solutions are actions that protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems to address societal challenges such as climate change, food and water security, human health and disaster risk reduction.

For example, mangrove tree planting in coastal areas can mitigate flooding from storm surges and coastal erosion while providing critical habitat for biodiversity, including fish, birds and plants.

Prof Kombe said the collaborative effort is set to generate valuable insights into how nature-based solutions can be scaled and institutionalized to build climate resilience in East African cities, while also promoting social equity and environmental sustainability.

"We aim to leverage learning from residents and local governments to ensure practice and policy impact, as well as academic contribution. Incorporating urban nature, green infrastructure, and Nature-based Solutions to flooding issues prevalent in the planning process of informal settlements, the project emphasizes resident-driven gender-equitable informal settlement improvements," he said.

Dr Tim Ndezi, CCI executive director said the participatory research approach aims to engage local communities in identifying and implementing nature-based solutions that can address climate change and environmental degradation while fostering sustainable livelihoods.



"The study will explore various NbS initiatives, including tree planting, waste management and erosion control measures," he said.

Dr Ndezi said in Dar es Salaam, a group of youth in the Karakata Street in Ilala District has launched a bamboo planting project along the Msimbazi River to combat erosion.

The effort, aimed at protecting the riverbanks, is part of a broader movement to use bamboo as a sustainable, eco-friendly solution to environmental challenges.

In other parts of the city, such as Chamazi and Kiburugwa in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam, local communities are actively engaging in urban farming initiatives

to improve food security and contribute to climate resilience.

The projects also involve mangrove planting, a key NbS that helps protect coastal areas from flooding and provides habitat for biodiversity.

Abdallah Lungu, Senior Environmental Officer in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) urged the private sector to play a significant role in financing climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation projects especially those targeting at attracting sustainable nature-based solutions.

According to him, the private sector is a key partner in financing sustainable nature-based solutions for climate change in Tanzania and the

East African region at large.

He said climate change is real and investments are playing a critical role in accelerating positive impact for humans and nature, the stakeholders for the new nature-based study which will further help improve climate resilience.

"Sustainable nature-based solutions are a way of mitigating climate crises as far as every development partner is concerned. It is important we continue to sensitize communities, especially those living near rivers or watersheds, on applying nature-based solutions to address climate change threats," he said.

Kissa Kasekwa, the coordinator of the Tanzania Federation for Urban Poor (TFUP) in

Mnyanyani and Vingunguti wards in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam shared that as part of the project, their groups had commenced bamboo planting two months ago with the aim of stabilising the banks of nearby rivers and improving the local environment.

"We are excited about the progress we have made, and we are committed to expanding these efforts to build a more resilient community," Kasekwa said.

Nature-based solutions are actions that protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems in order to effectively and adaptively address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water

security, and disaster risk reduction while also providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Flooding in coastal areas, for example, is a common problem caused by storm surges and coastal erosion. This problem, which has traditionally been addressed with manmade (grey) infrastructure such as seawalls or dikes, can also be addressed by actions that take advantage of ecosystem services such as tree planting. Planting mangrove trees, which thrive in coastal areas, reduce the impact of storms on human lives and economic assets while also providing habitat for fish, birds, and other plants supporting biodiversity.

BUSINESS

BoT to usher in online complaints filing system mid-January 2025

By Francis Kajubi

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is set to introduce an online financial complaints resolution system (FCRS) mid-January 2025 targeting making it easy for financial services consumers to deliver their complaints directly to the central bank.

Addressing stakeholders from the financial sector yesterday in Dar es Salaam Dr Khadijah Kishimba said that the system has already been developed and the central bank had decided to take them through the system features before it's brought into effect.

Dr Kishimba said that BoT through a two-day workshop to financial services providers targeted at preparing and revealing the system's features to stakeholders such as bankers, insurers and microfinance institutions executives before it is brought into effect.

She said financial services consumers are required first to file their complaints to their service providers and if unsatisfied with the offered solutions are allowed to file the complaints directly to BoT with attached evidence of previous initiatives on settling the

matter.

According to her, in fulfilling the goal of financial inclusion confidence creation among service consumers is essential especially when it comes to handling consumer complaints.

She asserted that complaints are now being received in the central bank's branches or in the complaint desks in the respective banks, which is a matter of concern for many consumers.

"We felt the need for a system that will enable consumers to submit their complaints in a simpler way. The system has been designed by the central bank in collaboration with the e-Government Authority," said Dr Kishimba.

According to her, BoT issued the Financial Consumer Protection Regulations, 2019 to guide financial services providers (FSPs) to have in place the effective complaints handling mechanism to resolve customer complaints.

Further, the regulations prohibit FSPs from engaging in unfair or deceptive market practices.

Violet Luhanjo, BoT's Assistant



Side view of the central bank's twin towers in Dar es Salaam. File Photo.

Manager Complaints Resolution Division said that one of the central bank's objectives of developing the system is to offer timely resolutions of financial complaints.

"Other objectives are to empower consumers in exercising their rights and access to adequate, timely, and efficient redress for their complaints and for easy management of complaint records," said Luhanjo.

According to her, some features of the system include development of a portal for submission of complaints, FSPs portal which covers notice of response, extension of time and file review.

She mentioned other features as complaints status; and complaint processing which requires confirmation of complaints eligibility, request for more information, digital signature, team management; and processing timeline.

Elizabeth Mhina, NMB Plc Customer Experience Manager said that financial services providers as key stakeholders have been consulted and engaged in all processes of developing the system.

"The integration of the system between financial service providers and the central bank will add more confidence to financial services consumers. Most frequent complaints from customers are related to money theft through ATM machines and loss of ATM cards," said Mhina.

Clean cooking energy drive wins RC's praise

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

COAST Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge, has expressed his satisfaction with the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders in championing the clean cooking energy campaign across the region. The initiative aims to uplift diverse social groups, notably educational institutions and food vendors.

During a regional advisory committee here over the weekend, RC Kunenge commended stakeholders dealing with clean energy for playing an instrumental role in advancing the important campaign.

He urged municipal directors to actively collaborate with the stakeholders to ensure that both institutions and restaurants adhere to clean energy standards within the designated timelines.

Highlighting the impactful contributions of Taifa Gas, RC Kunenge detailed energy companies like Taifa Gas for their commitments towards empowering schools and food vendors to transition to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through its notable Corporate Social Respon-



Coast regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge

sibility (CSR) initiatives.

"Taifa Gas has proven to be a reliable partner on this journey, much

like other stakeholders. Schools such as Ruvu Girls and Bibi Titi Girls have reaped significant benefits from

their efforts. For instance, Ruvu Girls Secondary has received free LPG infrastructure and tanks," RC Kunenge noted, emphasizing the forthcoming inauguration of Bibi Titi Girls Secondary School by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

RC Kunenge also remarked on the transformative impact witnessed among food vendors in the region, many of whom have now adopted gas cylinders (LPG) provided by Taifa Gas. "These changes have greatly benefited our local food vendors by enabling them to utilize clean cooking gas, and we sincerely appreciate the initiative taken by Taifa Gas," he mentioned.

Angellah Bhoke, Taifa Gas's Corporate Affairs Manager, highlighted that the achievements have been substantially fueled by the company's commitment to support the cooking energy campaign launched by President Samia in 2022.

"Through this initiative, Taifa Gas has spearheaded a series of programs aimed at realizing the President's vision, including the launch of our environmental conservation campaign centered on the use of clean energy, particularly in the Coast region," she elaborated.

Bhoke also pointed out that the campaign has effectively mobilized the municipality towards environmental conservation and raised awareness about clean cooking energy via LPG. This has resulted in significant measures, such as the prohibition of charcoal transportation into Dar es Salaam by motorbike and a reduction in forest harvesting permits issued by local authorities.

"The success of this campaign has empowered us to expand our initiatives into other regions, including Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, reinforcing our steadfast commitment to supporting President Samia's clean cooking agenda.

Empowering young people to thrive in the digital age

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE young generation in Mbeya Region will be able to contribute to technological advances and thrive in the digital age after Generation Tech Space (GTS) has introduced a new programme aimed at empowering youth from all backgrounds with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital age.

Davina Kanan, Generation Tech Space, chief executive officer says this last week when speaking about empowering tomorrow's innovators: The role of generation tech space in fostering Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education for economic development at the just-ended 9th National Science, Technology and Innovation Conference and Exhibition (STICE) held in Dar es Salaam.

The event was organized by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTEC) in collaboration with the ministry of education, science and technology and it brought together scientists, researchers and lecturers from various organizations and higher-education

institutions.

GTS was established to ensure inclusivity and diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education through innovation and creativity.

"As GTS, we engage in various activities to ensure that every young generation, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to take the lead in solving community problems in their localities," she says.

She says that they conduct outreach activities in primary and secondary schools, host workshops and training sessions in STEM fields, such as robotics, digital skills, seminars, science events, and hackathons, to ensure the younger generation can participate inclusively.

Additionally, they incubate them from ideation to market scale level by imparting them with skills to solve social challenges aligned with the 17 SDGs for national development and the world at large.

"Under the incubation programme, we select ideas from the incubatees and then train them on how to use those ideas to solve society problems or challenges they face in their daily lives," she says

Additionally, they take the best ideas from the incubatees and link them with industrial partners as well as potential investors, so that after the programme, they will be able to stand alone and successfully run their companies.

Through a range of programs and initiatives, GTS seeks to bridge the gap in STEM education, equipping young people with the tools they need to become the tech leaders of tomorrow.

Kanan says a study by the World Bank (2018) shows that countries with higher levels of STEM proficiency tend to experience greater economic growth and development. By excluding large segments of the population from STEM opportunities, societies are limiting their capacity for innovation and progress.

"Although she has successfully established GTS, one of the most important things we need from various stakeholders is funding. 'We are seeking funds to support our programmes and are open to partnerships to ensure STEM is accessible to everyone, no matter the background where they are coming from,' she says

So far, GTS has successfully



Davina Kanan, Generation Tech Space, chief executive officer (L) explained how the young generation can contribute to technological advances through STEM at the just-ended National Science, Technology and Innovation Conference and Exhibition in Dar es Salaam.

reached underserved communities where STEM has never been heard. They have established clubs in these communities, conducted follow-ups on these clubs, and make sure that members are actively engaging in innovation and creativity activities related to STEM.

Currently, they have established 20 clubs in schools located in remote areas and have more than 200 alumni who have succeeded to enroll in STEM programmes at various universities and colleges in Tanzania.

"This has been a significant stride for our organization. Currently, we have two projects, and we are actively seeking donors to support this initiative," says Kanan.

Also in October this year, they launched an online programme which will be freely accessible to everyone eager to learn more about technology and STEM at large.

"We want new generation to be leaders by using technology to solve problems in the re-

spective communities," she says

Kanan appeals to the government and other stakeholders to increase opportunities for studying abroad and learning in developed countries especially in the field of STEM education.

"As GTS, we are very happy to see the progress made so far, through our programmes, GTS has made a significant impact on over 500 students by equipping them with technical skills, increasing their interest in STEM fields, and fostering a supportive learning environment.

These results are not merely anecdotal but are based on systematic, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) metrics that reflect the efficacy of GTS's approach.

Additionally GTS's hackathons and innovation challenges have been instrumental in cultivating creativity and problem-solving

skills.

By assembling diverse teams to address real-world issues in healthcare, agriculture, and education, GTS's approach encourages collaborative innovation.

Projects created during these events have proven practical, with many progressing to further development with GTS support, highlighting the potential for real-world impact beyond initial stages.

GTS is a non-profit organization established in March 2023 with the mission of empowering young people in Tanzania through access to technology and opportunities in STEM fields.

"We empower the next generation by providing programs and activities that equip youth with digital skills and introduce them to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics," she says.

Method Matope, a student at Pandahili Secondary School, is one of the youth who have benefited from GTS's programmes. He joined GTS's summer program and has successfully designed a low-cost irrigation system.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from GTS, he designed a low-cost irrigation system using recycled materials, aimed at addressing water scarcity issues on his family's farm. This system not only conserves water but also reduces operating costs, supporting the family's livelihood.

Method's project exemplifies how GTS's programs inspire young students to leverage technology to solve everyday challenges, fostering aspirations such as his goal to become an agricultural engineer.

Three Nigerian states attract major investments across Q3

LAGOS

OUT of the 36 states in Nigeria, only five were the top destinations for investment during the third quarter (Q3) of 2024.

According to the Nigeria Capital Importation Report for Q3 2024, these states collectively attracted \$1.25 billion of foreign and domestic capital, signaling growing investor confidence in the Nigerian economy.

Lagos, often referred to as the commercial hub in Nigeria, continues to lead the primary destination, recording \$650.42 million inflows, followed by Abuja (FCT) with \$600 million, and Kaduna with \$1.95 million. Others were Enugu and Ekiti states with \$184,229 and \$96,600 respectively.

Adeola Adenikinju, president of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES), said for states in the South-West region, proximity to economic hubs like Lagos presents unique opportunities. By leveraging Lagos' leadership and economic activities, these states position themselves as supply hubs or service centres.

"Lagos is currently the powerhouse of the country and has a relatively strong governance structure. Abuja is also investing significantly in road infrastructure, which is likely to attract more development. In Enugu, the government has been actively encouraging private sector investment, positioning the state as the regional hub for investment in the South-East," he said.

Muda Yusuf, chief executive officer of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), said some of these states have natural resources that can attract investment.

Lagos State has the potential to attract more investments, as it is known as an economic hub. It has seaports, two airports, and a population of over 20 million, which makes it a huge market.

Peter Mbah, governor of Enugu State, at the 26th Nigerian Institute of Town Planners event held recently, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment, particularly in land administration.

Mbah, who was represented by Chimaobi Okorie, commissioner for lands and urban development, encouraged investors, both domestic and international, to consider Enugu State as a prime destination, offering high returns on investment.

He assured them that his administration is committed to addressing the challenges facing investment in the country.

"We have derided investment flows through our flexible land administration policies. We have invested optimally in our security architecture and we have started reaping the fruits.

"Today, Enugu State is the most secure and peaceful state in the country. It's a deliberate effort undertaken by our administration because we intend to make Enugu the premier destination for investment and

business," he added.

Similarly, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State governor, has assured investors that he is consistently creating an enabling environment for businesses and reforming the tax system.

Lagos, according to the governor, contributes 30 percent of Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) and 50 percent of non-oil GDP. The state's GDP is equivalent to 24 African countries combined.

Sanwo-Olu noted that the Lagos State government is fostering an environment where businesses can flourish through its development agenda, stressing that the agenda embodies his vision for a 'Greater Lagos.'

"Allow me to emphasise that in our team's development agenda, we are unraveling our commitment to fostering an environment where business can flourish. This agenda embodies our vision for a greater Lagos," the governor said recently.

NBS added that these inflows came into Nigeria through the banking sector, which recorded the highest inflows; the financing sector, and the production/manufacturing sector.

"Investment is a catalyst for job creation. Once investment inflows are not there, new job opportunities cannot be created. They would also miss out on revenue opportunities," Adenikinju said.

"Attracting more investments depends on the output capacity of that state and how they can invest with it," he further said.

Some states, which include Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Gombe, Jigawa, Kebbi, Taraba, Yobe, and Zamfara haven't generated FDIs in the last six years.

"When a state struggles to attract investments, it often reflects poorly on its economic health, with potential negative impacts on GDP, employment rates, and poverty levels," Adenikinju noted.

According to Israel Odubola, a Lagos-based analyst, the implication for states without investment is that there will be more reliance on FAAC allocations.

"And because FAAC allocation is largely constituted from oil proceeds, it makes them more vulnerable to economic shocks," he said, noting that job creation opportunities will be limited.

Financial reporting is one of the most critical business processes that companies must understand and appreciate.

It is the comprehensive review of monthly, quarterly, or yearly financial data to drive better business performance and results.

According to the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) of Nigeria, financial reports are expected to be credible, accurate, and reliable for investors to make informed decisions for investment based on proper valuation standards.

However, some financial experts have highlighted seven things firms should look for to improve their financial reports and attract investors within and outside Nigeria.



Lagos city

"There is a firm connection between valuation and global connectedness in business and credible valuation standards are critical in achieving the goal of the N1 trillion economy in 2030," Gboyega Fatimilehin, founding partner of Diya Fatimilehin & Co., said.

He said proper asset valuation and accurate financial reporting are important for attracting investment both domestic and international into the Nigerian economy to ensure credibility of reporting.

"Consistent application of asset valuation standards help stakeholders to make better-informed decisions by providing a more transparent and reliable view of the company's assets and their impact on the financial statement," he added.

Transparency signifies openness, clarity, and accountability. It refers to the absence of hidden information or secrets and a willingness to share relevant details.

Companies must ensure transparency in their financial statements. It spotlights clear and accurate information investors need to make the right decisions.

Wrong investment decisions will affect whatever asset they are taking from the financial reports, however, all items listed in the report must be transparent.

A valuation standard is a set of guidelines or principles established to ensure consistency, transparency, and objectivity in the process of determining the fair value of an asset or liability.

Proper asset valuation and accurate financial reporting are important for attracting investments – both domestic and international – into the Nigerian economy to ensure the credibility of reporting.

It is also essential for preparing financial statements that truly represent the financial position and performance of a business. It affects key financial metrics such as asset values, depreciation expenses, profitability ratios, and so on.

Consistent application of asset valuation

standards helps stakeholders to make better-informed decisions.

Market structure defines the competitive landscape. By understanding the structure, companies can compare their financial performance against relevant benchmarks. It allows them to see if their profitability, margins, or growth rates are keeping pace with competitors in a concentrated market.

However, understanding the market structure helps investors understand the level of risk associated with the company. They can better interpret the financial health presented in the reports.

Risk management is the process of identifying, analysing, and controlling potential negative events that could impact businesses. It is about proactively preparing for the unexpected to minimise harm and maximise success.

Having a frequent revaluation is vital to understanding and measuring the risks in the market. In the banking sector, bank regulators have to follow common standards by monitoring bank values regularly.

Corporate governance policies are essentially the rulebook that defines how a company is directed and controlled. They establish the framework for transparent, accountable, and ethical decision-making.

Implementing strong governance policies demonstrates a company's commitment to transparency and accountability which can attract investors and improve access to capital.

Nigeria has taken steps toward stronger governance for the financial reporting of firms through the FRC and International Financial Reporting Standards.

Strong corporate governance policies are essential for creating a strong foundation for sustainable business success. However, a well-functioning governance framework promotes sound decision-making of investors by ensuring all rel-

evant perspectives are considered.

Fair values represent the estimated price at which an asset or liability is bought or sold in the market. It provides an accurate picture of a company's financial health, reflecting the current market value of its assets and liabilities.

The users of financial statements are concerned about certain disclosures like fair value and tangible assets in a report.

Tangible assets that are valued can be classified into property, plant, and equipment which include land, buildings, and vehicles that can be seen. If this has been chosen to be disclosed at fair value, it should be done frequently. It can also be classified as an investment property which can only be land, building or both owned for capital appreciation or rental purposes.

For the purpose of recording and disclosure, these fair values are necessary and it has to be done at the end of every reporting period.

Accuracy means that something is factual and it aligns with necessary guidelines. Valuers of financial statements need to be accurate by indicating the kind of method of input used to arrive at each item highlighted in the statement.

Valuers need to give enough information to their clients by explaining what category each item falls into. Their consent is attained to any reference or disclosure of that valuation in the report to make sure that it's not presented in a misleading way.

Tanzanian awarded honorary doctorate for exceptional community contribution

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN tax and accounting expert Yona Malundo has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Lead Impact University, a prestigious institution based in the United States (US) for his commitment to inclusivity and community empowerment.

The recognition honours his decade-long dedication to community service and his unwavering commitment to professionalism, ethics and excellence.

The 18th graduation ceremony of the university, held in Tanzania, celebrated outstanding individuals, with Dr Malundo being one of the key honorees.

During the ceremony, Dr Malundo expressed his gratitude for the recognition, emphasising that the award was not just for him but for the community he serves.

"This honour is not just for me, but for the community I serve," he stated. "This doctorate inspires me to continue my efforts to ensure no one is left behind," said Malundo who is the director of Y.H. Malundo & Co, a firm engaged in accounting, auditing, tax consulting and financial management.

Through his firm, Malundo has made essential services such as accounting, auditing, tax advisory,

and financial management accessible to individuals from all economic backgrounds. His firm is known for its professional excellence and positive impact on society.

His leadership has transformed his company into a pillar of support for individuals and businesses seeking financial clarity and stability.

The keynote speaker at the event, Bishop Peter Rashid Abubakar, Chief Coordinator of Lead Impact University in Tanzania, praised Dr Malundo's work and described the honorary doctorate as a testament to the university's mission of recognizing individuals who make significant contributions to society.

"Lead Impact University honours those who create meaningful change. We assess not just qualifications but the profound impact individuals have on their communities. Dr. Abubakar remarked.

Additionally, Dr Abubakar revealed plans to establish a branch of Lead Impact University in Tanzania, strengthening the university's ties to East Africa. He also commended the efforts of all the honorees and encouraged them to continue their transformative work.

Other distinguished recipients of honorary doctorates included Dr. Paul Kanijo, Director General of Jenga Africa Empowering Society Build Nation (ESBN); Dr. Emmanuel Jere-

miah, Director of Mesodate Consultants and Secretary-General of the Millennium Solution Development Trust Fund; and the husband-and-wife duo, Dr. Boniface Mbelwa and Dr. Christian Robert Mbelwa. Each honoree was recognised for their unique contributions to business, consultancy, and community development.

Among the attendees was Dr Juliet Banigwa, a Special Seats Councillor for the ruling-CCM in Dar es Salaam, who congratulated the honorees and highlighted the pride their recognition brings to the nation.

"These accolades are not just personal milestones but also a reflection of the potential and talent we have as a country," Dr. Banigwa said. "They serve as a reminder of the power of dedication and community service in building a stronger, more united society."



This honour is not just for me, but for the community I serve," he stated. "This doctorate inspires me to continue my efforts to ensure no one is left behind," said Malundo who is the director of Y.H

Coffee price surges to highest on record

LONDON

COFFEE drinkers may soon see their morning treat get more expensive, as the price of coffee on international commodity markets has hit its highest level on record.

On Tuesday, the price for Arabica beans, which account for most global production, topped \$3.44 a pound (0.45kg), having jumped more than 80 percent this year. The cost of Robusta beans, meanwhile, hit a fresh high in September.

It comes as coffee traders expect crops to shrink after the world's two largest producers, Brazil and Vietnam, were hit by bad weather and the drink's popularity continues to grow.

One expert told the BBC coffee brands were considering putting prices up in the new year.

While in recent years major coffee roasters have been able to absorb price hikes to keep customers happy and maintain market share, it looks like that's about to change, according to Vinh Nguyen, the chief executive of Tuan Loc Commodities.

"Brands like JDE Peet (the owner of the Douwe Egberts brand), Nestlé and all that, have [previously] taken the hit from higher raw material prices to themselves," he said.

"But right now they are almost at a tipping point. A lot of them are mulling a price increase in super-



markets in [the first quarter] of 2025."

At an event for investors in November, a top Nestlé executive said the coffee industry was facing "tough times", admitting his company would have to adjust its prices and pack sizes.

"We are not immune to the price of coffee, far from it," said David Renne, Nestlé's head of coffee brands.

The last record high for coffee was set in 1977 after unusual snowfall devastated plantations in Brazil.

"Concerns over the 2025 crop in Brazil are the main driver," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank.

"The country experienced its worst drought in 70 years during August and September, followed by heavy rains in October, raising fears that the flowering crop could fail."

It is not just Brazilian coffee plantations, which mostly produce Arabica beans, that have been hurt by bad weather.

Robusta supplies are also set to shrink after plantations in Vietnam, the largest producer of that variety, also faced both drought and heavy rainfall.

Coffee is the world's second most traded commodity by volume, after crude oil, and its popularity is increasing. For example, consumption in China has more than doubled in the last decade.

"Demand for the commodity remains high, while inventories held by producers and roasters are reported to be at low levels," said Fernanda Okada, a coffee pricing analyst at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

WORLD

Israeli navy launches attack to destroy Syrian fleet

JERUSALEM / CAIRO

THE Israeli military announced on Tuesday that its navy carried out a large-scale operation to destroy the former Bashar al-Assad regime's fleet.

The strikes destroyed "numerous" vessels armed with sea-to-sea missiles in Mina al-Bayda Bay and the port of Latakia on the Syrian coast in an overnight attack between Monday and Tuesday, it said.

The operation aimed to prevent the fleet's weaponry from falling into hostile hands, it added.

Separately, the Israeli Air Force has conducted about 250 airstrikes in Syria since the collapse of Assad's government, Israel's state-owned Kan TV reported.

Israeli officials said the strikes were intended to destroy advanced weapons that could threaten Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar told reporters on Monday that the Israeli army launched strikes targeting "strategic weapons systems, residual chemical weapons capabilities, and long-range missiles and rockets" in Syria to prevent them from falling into the hands of "extremist elements," claiming that Israel does not

aim to interfere in Syria's internal politics.

He also said that "the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) carried out a targeted and temporary operation to take control of areas near the border" with Syria because Syrian militants crossed into the buffer zone between the two countries over the weekend, violating the Agreement on Disengagement signed in 1974 between Israel and Syria.

Airstrikes are expected to continue in the coming days, an anonymous Israeli official told Xinhua.

Multiple regional countries, including Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, among others, condemned the occupation, calling for respecting Syria's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

The Israeli move constitutes "an occupation of Syrian land and a blatant violation of its sovereignty," the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, adding that the move is also a clear violation of the Agreement on Disengagement signed in 1974 between Israel and Syria.

The Israeli practices violate international law, the unity and safety of the Syrian land, the statement said, describing the Israeli action as "exploitation of



Israeli soldiers joke next to an armored vehicle parked near the so-called Alpha Line that separates the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights from Syria, in the town of Majdal Shams on Monday. AP

the state of vacuum in Syria to occupy more Syrian land."

Egypt called on the UN Security Council and international forces to assume their responsibilities and take a firm stance against the Israeli attacks on Syria in a way that guarantees its sovereignty over all its territories.

Also on Monday, Syrian online media outlet Sawt al-Asima reported that Muhammad al-Bashir, born in 1983 and an electrical engineer and head of the "Syrian Salvation Government" opposition group in Idlib under the aegis of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), has been tasked with forming a new Syrian government.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that his country would continue diplomatic consultations with relevant parties as well as the United Nations to help stabilize the situation, highlighting the necessity to hold dialogue among different segments of the Syrian society.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fi-

dan on Monday voiced readiness to support and coordinate efforts with all stakeholders to secure Syria's territorial integrity and stability, saying that Türkiye will make efforts for the safe return of over 3.5 million Syrian refugees residing in the country back home.

China hopes all parties concerned will proceed from the fundamental interests of the Syrian people and find a political solution to restore stability in Syria as soon as possible, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters on Monday, stressing that the future of Syria should be decided by the Syrian people.

Outgoing US President Joe Biden said that Washington "will engage with all Syrian groups, including within the process, led by the UN, to establish a transition away from" the Assad government, while President-elect Donald Trump said on social media that "The United States should have nothing to do with" the situation in Syria.

Russia comes close to achieving special military operations' goals – intel chief

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is reportedly nearing the objectives of its special military operation, while the Ukrainian army faces potential collapse, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Sergey Naryshkin stated.



"The situation on the front lines is not in Kiev's favor. We hold the initiative in all areas and are close to achieving our goals, while the Ukrainian armed forces are on the verge of collapse and the Zelensky regime has lost its legitimacy, along with the ability to make agreements," he pointed out in an interview with Razvedchik (or Scout) magazine.

According to Naryshkin (pictured), all attempts to create instability in Russia have failed. "The people understand that we are not fighting against the Kiev junta but against the collective West, and our freedom and sovereignty are at stake in this confrontation," the SVR chief noted.

"The West's strategic goal in the Ukraine conflict was perfectly clear – to impose a war of attrition on us in order to divide Russian society and create conditions for a 'color revolution.'"

That said, they will fight 'until the last Ukrainian,' and once there are no Ukrainians left, the Baltic nations, the Eastern Europeans, and later, the Germans will be forced to join the fight against 'the scary Russian bear,'" Naryshkin noted.

"The globalist powers already have the technologies they need to brainwash common people and put pressure on local elites," he added.

The SVR director emphasized that a further escalation of tensions "will not only fail to deplete Russia's resources, which is what Washington and London are aiming for, but will bring the West closer to its own defeat."

"Despite sanctions and the theft of our sovereign assets, the Russian economy is growing, and import substitution efforts continue at a high pace, particularly in technology sectors," he observed.

"New logistics routes are emerging, and our economic ties with non-Western countries, primarily in Greater Eurasia, are strengthening," Naryshkin concluded.

Turkey supports Syria's integrity but will not tolerate terrorism – Erdogan

ANKARA

TURKEY is committed to international law and has no claims to Syrian territories, but will not tolerate increased terrorist activities in that country, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

"Turkey has been strictly observing international law from the very beginning of the Syrian conflict. We have been on the side of freedom, dialogue, justice and peace in Syria."

Despite the hostile attitude on the part of Syria's state regime, we have been advocating the principle of Syria's territorial integrity and oneness. We have no territorial claims to Syria.

But we will not tolerate the activity of Syrian arms of the Kurdistan Workers' Party there. We are keeping a close eye on them," he said after a government meeting.

"Turkey's calls on the [Syrian President Bashar Assad] regime to find ways of resolving the Syrian conflict through dialogue were arrogantly turned down by the former regime, which showed zero appreciation for Turkey holding out a helping hand," he noted.

"Turkey is not interested in territories and is not seeking to infringe upon the sovereignty of a foreign state. The only goal of our transborder operations is to protect our home country and people against terrorist attacks."

Neither the Kurdistan Workers' Party (outlawed in Turkey) nor Islamic State (outlawed in Russia as a terrorist organization) are dialogue partners for our country. On the contrary, they are our opponents.

Our duty as neighbors and brothers is to strongly support the Syrian people's efforts toward reviving their country," Erdogan stressed.

According to the Turkish leader, his country will spare no effort to reach lasting peace, stability and security in Syria.



Xi says China will continue to be biggest engine of world economic growth

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday China has full confidence to achieve this year's economic growth target and will continue to play its role as the biggest engine of world economic growth.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting in Beijing with heads of major international economic organizations, who are here to attend the "1+10" dialogue.

The foreign dignitaries included President of the New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, President of the World Bank Group Ajay Banga, and Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Xi briefed the guests on the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, especially the important measures recently adopted by China. He said that after more than 40 years of sustained and rapid development, the Chinese economy has ushered in a phase of high-quality development, contributing around 30 percent to the world economic growth.

China will further opening-up to the outside world, proactively align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and build a market-oriented, law-based and international-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with heads of major international economic organizations, who came here for the "1+10" Dialogue, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Dec. 10, 2024. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

ized business environment to provide more opportunities for and share more development dividends with other countries, he said.

China is willing to maintain dialogue, expand cooperation and manage differences with the U.S. government, and push bilateral relations forward in the direction of steady, healthy and sustainable development, Xi said, expressing the hope that the U.S. side will work with China in the same direction.

"Tariff wars, trade wars and sci-tech wars go against the trend of history and the laws of economics, and there will be no winners," he said.

Noting the progress in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) over the past decade, Xi welcomed international

opportunities to the world, especially countries in the Global South, they said.

They noted that the BRI, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative have fully demonstrated China's role as a responsible major country and provided an important platform for countries in the Global South to achieve their own development.

Amid global economic challenges and the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, countries around the world are looking to China with hope and belief that it will remain a key engine of global economic growth, they said.

Xinhua

Russian defence chief commends growing defense ties with India

MOSCOW

MOSCOW and New Delhi are effectively developing defense cooperation, Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov said.

"We are pleased with the robust level of defense cooperation between Russia and India on multilateral platforms, primarily within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and

the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting," he stated during talks with Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.

The Russian defense chief stressed that the relationship based on trust between the two countries' leaders was crucial for strengthening bilateral ties between Russia and India.

Belousov thanked his counterpart for visiting Moscow to hold the 21st meeting of



the Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission on Defense Cooperation. He noted that Moscow and New Delhi "share a strong friendship based on mutual respect, which has stood the test of

time."

According to Belousov, the outcome of this year's meetings between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which took place in Moscow in July and on the sidelines of the BRICS group's summit in the Russian city of Kazan in October, "helped strengthen our special and privileged strategic partnership, including in

the defense sector." "We are committed to executing all the agreements that were reached at the highest level. I am confident that our meeting will contribute to further boosting Russia-India relations in the field of defense and security," Belousov stressed, adding that the meeting was expected "to thoroughly discuss critical issues related to bilateral defense cooperation." Agencies

South Africa kicks off first G20 engagement with focus on solidarity, equality, sustainability

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa commenced Monday its inaugural Group of 20 (G20) engagement under its presidency, which began on Dec. 1, setting the tone for its leadership tenure.

At the opening of the first G20 Sherpas Meeting in Johannesburg, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Raymond Lamola

outlined South Africa's agenda to advance shared global goals through key priorities. In his address, Lamola highlighted the theme of South Africa's presidency, "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," and emphasized key objectives such as bolstering disaster resilience, addressing debt challenges faced by low-income countries, and mobilizing resources for a just energy transition.

"We will address these challenges through our high-level deliverables and priorities, which lie at the core of the original G20 mandate of promoting strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth and by building partnerships across all sectors of society to find collective solutions," he said.

Lamola noted the pivotal role of Sherpas in translating G20 leaders' commitments

into actionable cooperation. "The first Sherpas Meeting of the G20 is important traditionally, as it sets the stage for the upcoming presidency and the critical conversations on some of the most vital issues of our time," he said. "In the spirit of Ubuntu, our shared humanity, we will address these challenges through our high-level deliverables and priorities."

Lamola reiterated the need

for South Africa's presidency to bridge the Sherpa and Finance tracks, announcing the establishment of three temporary task forces, an initiative, and a commission.

These structures will focus on priorities including inclusive economic growth, industrialization, employment creation, reducing inequality, food security, artificial intelligence, data governance, and innovation for sustain-

able development. The minister further said South Africa's G20 presidency would "emphasize" the importance of adhering to universal values and strengthening multilateral institutions. "Now more than ever, multilateral institutions must be strengthened and reformed to deliver broad global consensus and serve as platforms to resolve disputes."

The minister also said mul-

tilateral institutions which focused on economic and developmental mandates should be empowered, "as the need for their intervention is even much bigger now."

He affirmed South Africa's intention to align its G20 efforts with the African Union's Agenda 2063, a strategic framework for Africa's socio-economic transformation.

Xinhua

European countries put Syrian asylum bids on hold after Assad's fall

BERLIN

EUROPEAN countries put asylum applications from Syrians on hold until further notice on Monday after rebels seized the Syrian capital and President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia following 13 years of civil war.

The decision, which affects tens of thousands of open claims, reflects the rapidly changing political situation in Syria as well as a resurgence of right-wing parties across Europe keen to restrict immigration.

Germany opened its doors wide to a surge of asylum seekers in 2015 at the height of Syria's civil war, and is now home to nearly a million Syrians, the largest community in Europe.

The Berlin Interior Ministry said on Monday it would not process asylum requests until there was more clarity on political developments in

Syria. Britain paused decisions on asylum claims as well, with the interior ministry saying it was assessing the situation.

Under a British government scheme, 20,319 Syrian refugees had been resettled in the country between March 2014 and February 2021, according to the Refugee Council.

Other countries including Norway, Italy, Austria and the Netherlands also announced suspensions of Syrian requests. France said it hoped to announce a similar decision shortly.

In its statement, the Italian government said it would keep a diplomatic presence in Damascus, expressing "deep gratitude" to the embassy staff there.

Syrians top asylum seekers to Germany

Syria was the top country of origin for asylum seekers in Germany this



Syrians display and wave the Syrian opposition flag as they celebrate in Damascus, Syria, on Monday. AP

year, with 72,420 applications submitted by the end of November, data from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) shows. Some 47,270 remain undecided.

The pausing of applications does not affect those already granted, according to BAMF. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said assessments would depend on developments in Syria, and that it was too soon to say whether the country was

safe to return to.

Norwegian immigration authorities said Syrians' asylum applications would neither be denied nor approved for now.

Denmark also paused processing applications and said Syrians whose applications had already been rejected, and who had been given a deadline to leave, would be allowed to remain longer due to the current uncertainty.

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer instructed his interior minister to suspend all current Syrian asylum applications and family reunifications, and said cases in which asylum had been granted would also be reviewed.

Greece paused the asylum applications of about 9,000 Syrians, a senior Greek government source told Reuters. Officials have said the government will meet on Friday to finalise the move.

Sweden's immigration authority did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Germany is gearing up for a snap election in February, with far-right and conservative parties topping opinion polls.

An Infratest survey published on Friday indicated that voters view migration as Germany's second-biggest problem after the economy.

Agencies

New Zealand spy agency says terror attack remains 'realistic possibility'

SYDNEY

A terror attack in New Zealand remains a "realistic possibility" over the next year as evolving global and domestic security trends continue to drive extremist sentiment, the country's intelligence service said yesterday.

Following its annual review of the national terror threat levels, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) said people were getting exposed to an increasingly diverse range of violent extremist narratives through online networks, raising the risk of radicalization and potential violence.

"An attack is a realistic possibility amid what is a deteriorating global security environment," NZSIS Director-General of Security Andrew Hampton said in a statement.

There is no change to the national threat level, which has remained at 'low' since November 2022, Hampton said.

The NZSIS said it was severely concerned about the impact of the online networks on young people, "who are being exposed to and influenced by violent extremism in ways we haven't seen before."

A report published last week by the "Five Eyes" intelligence partners - Australia, the US, Canada, Britain and New Zealand - said they were increasingly concerned about the radicalization of youth, and minors who support, plan or undertake terror activities.

The NZSIS said the most likely terror attack in New Zealand, the second-safest country in the world according to the Global Peace Index, will be by someone who acts alone.

A lone gunman armed with semi-automatic weapons targeted Muslims attending Friday prayers in two Christchurch mosques in March 2019, killing 51 people and wounding dozens, in the country's worst peacetime mass shooting.

The report highlighted NZSIS's concerns about the volume and accessibility of extremist views online and said the agency was aware of the impact it was inflicting on some communities, such as those affected by conflicts in the Middle East.

"There is now a growing threat from individuals embracing a fluid mix of ideologies, conspiracy theories and highly personalized grievances, who are fixated on violence, and whose intentions are difficult to assess," the NZSIS said.

Experts call for investing in infrastructure to speed up industrialization in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

UNITED Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) experts have called for investing heavily in infrastructure development and strengthening global partnerships to speed up industrialization and economic transformation in Africa.

The appeal came Monday at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, during the opening of Africa Industrialization Week 2024 themed "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence, Green Industrialization, and Intellectual Property for Africa's Transformation."

Batanai Clemence Chikwene, program manager at the African Trade Policy Center within the UN Economic Commission for Africa, said Africa needs to invest more in the infrastructure and energy sector to accelerate its advancement toward industrialization.

"Africa needs to invest highly in basic infrastructure development mainly on roads, airports, energy as well as on education sectors to be able to realize fast industrialization and economic transformations," Chikwene told Xinhua in an interview.

He said the industrial sector in Africa has been characterized by sluggish development attributable largely to a number of supply-side constraints, including the lack of the required industrial capacities, inadequate

China stimulates domestic demand to strengthen economic upturn

BEIJING

AS China navigates a complex global economic landscape, it seeks to stimulate domestic demand to tackle both immediate and long-term challenges.

China's policy for invigorating consumer spending and investment has produced results, according to guest speakers who joined the ninth episode of the China Economic Roundtable hosted by Xinhua News Agency, which was broadcast on Monday.

GATHERING STEAM

China has stepped up efforts, combining immediate policy measures with structural reforms, to stimulate domestic demand.

Thanks to these measures, including promoting equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-ins, stabilizing the property market, and addressing local government debt risks, signs of improvement in domestic demand are beginning to emerge.

Retail sales of consumer goods, a main gauge of consumption, rose 4.8 percent year on year in October, quickening from the 3.2 percent increase in September, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Driven by the trade-in program, which offers consumers



This photo shows the recording site of the 9th episode of the China Economic Roundtable. (Xinhua/Li He)

subsidies on the replacement of a wide range of products, household appliances and audio-visual equipment reported a 39.2 percent surge in combined sales in October compared to a year earlier.

Growth of the country's fixed-asset investment had remained stable for two consecutive months, posting an annual increase of 3.4 percent in the Jan-Oct period.

Backed by stable economic recovery and a revitalized tourism industry, the country's railway network handled a record of over 4 billion passenger trips in the first 11 months of the year, surpassing the 3.86

billion trips recorded for the entire year of 2023.

Zhao Chengfeng, an official of the National Development and Reform Commission, said the country has allocated about 6 trillion yuan (about 834.84 billion U.S. dollars) in government investment funds so far this year. These funds have supported the implementation of major national strategies and the building up of security capacity in key areas, facilitated post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, strengthened disaster prevention and relief efforts, and backed projects to improve livelihoods, boost employment

and spur consumption.

"These projects are expected to play an important role in driving this year's economic growth and fulfilling the full-year economic and social development targets," Zhao said.

China's GDP grew 4.8 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2024. The country set a target for economic growth of around 5 percent for this year.

GROWING PAIN

The lack of effective demand in China stems from both cyclical and structural factors, which analysts view as challenges emerging from the development process.

"It's a growing pain that China must go through during the process of its economic structure transformation and upgrading, and the transition from old to new growth drivers," said Chen Lifan, a researcher at the Development Research Center of China's State Council, a government think tank.

Chen said the adjustments in China's property market led to a reduction in investment demand, while increasing uncertainties in the world's economic development dampened external demand, eroding the momentum of domestic demand growth.

China's property market saw 1.8 billion square meters of commercial residential housing sold in 2021, but the figure fell to 1.12 billion square meters in 2023, according to the NBS data.

According to Nobel laureate economist Michael Spence, China has reached the stage of development where domestic, not external, demand should account for the bulk of aggregate demand.

"The transition from an export- and investment-led growth model to one based on domestic consumption and innovation amounts to a fundamental structural transformation," he wrote in a signed article recently. **Xinhua**

Zero-tariff treatment for LDCs mirrors China's commitment to high-level opening up

CHINA has given all the least developed countries (LDCs) with which it has diplomatic relations zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines, starting from Dec. 1.

It marks China's significant move to expand unilateral opening up and share development opportunities with the world, representing the country's firm determination to promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

China is the world's first major developing country and the first major economy to grant zero-tariff treatment to LDCs, which demonstrates its commitment to advancing high-level opening up and providing new opportunities for the world through its high-quality economic development.

Reform and opening up is a historic process in which China and the world achieve development and progress together. China is committed to a fundamental state policy of opening up and pursues a win-win opening-up strategy. China's development is both domestic and external-oriented. While developing itself, China also shares its development outcomes with other countries and peoples.

At present, despite the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, economic globalization remains a mighty historical trend, and its development momentum has never changed. China is pursuing high-standard opening up to advance deep-level reform and high-quality development, proactively working in line with the general trend of economic globalization.

It was stated at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that China will remain committed to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world and continue to promote reform through opening up. Leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market, the country will enhance its capacity for opening up while expanding cooperation with other countries and develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy.

China has taken a range of measures to advance a broader agenda of opening up across more areas and in greater depth, such as steadily expanding institutional opening up, deepening the reform of the management systems for foreign trade, foreign investment and outbound investment, optimizing the



International students from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea join an e-commerce training program hosted by a trade company in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province, Aug. 30, 2024. (Photo by Lyu Bin/People's Daily Online)

layout for regional opening up, and improving mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines to all the LDCs that have diplomatic relations with China is the country's concrete action to implement the guiding principles from the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC. It

reflects China's proactive measures to further advance opening up and expand unilateral opening up to LDCs, as well as its efforts to steadily expand market access. China demonstrates with tangible actions that its resolve to pursue high-level opening up remains unwavering and that its doors to the world will only open wider.

Pursuing high-standard open-

ing up and unilaterally opening its doors wider to the LDCs is one of the eight actions outlined by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 19th G20 Summit to support global development. Xi noted that from now to 2030, China's imports from other developing countries are likely to top \$8 trillion. This fully demonstrates China's commitment to sharing its opportunities and

building a just world of common development.

Global prosperity and stability cannot be achieved in a world where the rich become richer and the poor poorer. True development means common development of all countries.

China pursues economic globalization that is people-centered and delivers more balanced development and more equal opportunities, so that different countries, classes and communities can all benefit from development.

The zero-tariff treatment will help LDCs expand their exports to China and better share the opportunities in the Chinese market, thereby contributing to their industrial development, employment growth, and poverty reduction.

With a population of over 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million, the vastly huge Chinese market is the most promising in the world.

In recent years, China has actively leveraged the "green lanes" for African agricultural exports to China to facilitate the entry of more eligible LDCs' agricultural products into the Chinese market. It has helped relevant countries enhance trade capacity building by conducting skills training and providing assistance to cross-border e-commerce businesses.

Besides, international exhibitions hosted by China such as the China

International Import Expo (CIE) and the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) have widened the access of high-quality and distinctive products from LDCs to both the Chinese and global markets.

China's actions have created new opportunities to other developing countries, enabling broader participation in a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. This reflects China's commitment to openness, global vision, and sense of responsibility.

Munteha Jemal Seid, Plenipotentiary Minister of the Embassy of Ethiopia in China, stated that the zero-tariff treatment demonstrates China's determination and sincerity in advancing high-level opening up and promoting South-South cooperation.

Looking ahead, China will take even more proactive measures for further opening up, introduce more voluntary and unilateral opening-up policies, and expand its globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas.

Together with its partners, China will commit itself to openness to meet development challenges, foster synergy for cooperation, build the momentum of innovation, and deliver benefits to all. It will promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and write more stories of win-win cooperation.

People's Daily

SPORT

Dar es Salaam's vibrancy showcased at 'Bata la Disemba' carnival

By Guardian Correspondent

THE highly anticipated Bata la Disemba carnival, held from December 6-8, 2024, at the Leaders Club Grounds in Dar es Salaam, concluded with a spectacular celebration of music, culture, and community.

The three-day event drew over 5,000 attendees, offering a vibrant mix of entertainment, local cuisine, live sports, and thrilling performances by top African artists.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila praised the event, stating:

"The Bata la Disemba carnival not only showcased the vibrant energy of Dar es Salaam but also highlighted our city as a center of culture, business, and economic growth.

"It celebrated the spirit of unity and joy that defines our community while enhancing our reputation as a cultural and tourism hub."

The carnival featured electrifying performances by renowned artists such as Zuchu, Master KG, Chino Kidd, Linah Sanga, Johmakini, and G Nako, among others.

Attendees enjoyed an exciting mix of music, games, comedy, and live sports, creating an unforgettable experience throughout the weekend.

Obabiyi Fagade, a representative of the organizers,

Heineken Beverages International in Tanzania, emphasized the event's broader impact: "The success of Bata la Disemba reflects our commitment to bringing people together in celebration, fostering joy, and contributing to the local economy.

"This event supported local businesses and entrepreneurs while showcasing Tanzania's potential as a growing cultural and economic hub."

The carnival provided a significant boost to local vendors, highlighting Dar es Salaam's diverse culinary scene and giving small businesses an opportunity to connect with thousands of customers. This aligns with the organizers' mission to support local economic growth and create impactful opportunities.

The event concluded with a dazzling fireworks display to mark Tanzania's 63rd Independence Anniversary, leaving attendees in awe.

Many hailed it as the biggest and most memorable event of the year, with the carnival's blend of entertainment, culture, and community spirit leaving a lasting impact on all who participated.



An artist pictured recently performing during the Bata la Disemba carnival, held from December 6-8, 2024, at the Leaders Club Grounds in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent

SPORTS

Filmmakers urged to align content with national values



The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Principal Communication Officer, Semu Mwakyanjala (3rd L), greets the Acting Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Film Board (TFB), Dr. Genad Kasiga, following the official launch of the Tanzania Film Festival Awards (TFFA) 2025 in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on film producers and actors to create content that reflects the country's values and meets societal needs.

Speaking at the launch of the Tanzania Film Festival Awards (TFFA) 2025 in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, TCRA Principal Communication Officer Semu Mwakyanjala emphasized the influential role of the film industry in shaping public perceptions.

Representing TCRA Director General Dr. Jabiri Bakari, Mwakyanjala urged participants of the TFF Awards 2025 to adhere to film production principles, rules, and regulations, highlighting the importance of content that aligns with Tanzanian cultural values, beliefs, and

norms. Mwakyanjala reminded filmmakers of the Broadcasting Content Regulations, which mandate that 60% of aired content be locally produced. He stressed that films should reflect societal relevance and avoid promoting moral decay.

"Content producers have a noble role to play. The films they create have a direct impact on shaping societal perspectives, either positively or negatively. Therefore, the content must uplift society rather than detract from its values," he said.

The TCRA representative also emphasized the importance of clarity and appropriateness in language use, ensuring that films communicate effectively to a broad audience.

Mwakyanjala underscored the need for films to transform lives positively, promote national unity, and improve

living standards. He also encouraged filmmakers to showcase Tanzania's unique cultural identity and national values, which serve as the foundation of the country's social fabric.

Guest of Honor Dr. Genad A. Kasiga, Acting Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Film Board (TFB), officially launched the 4th phase of the TFF Awards 2025.

Dr. Kasiga highlighted the economic potential of the film industry, noting its capacity to generate income and create employment opportunities.

"The film industry is not just about entertainment; it is a business and a platform for promoting talent, especially among the youth. It has become one of the most promising sectors for income generation and skills development in our country," said Kasiga.



FILE: Young soccer players in action during a previous edition of the Chipkizi Cup tournament. Photo: Courtesy of Agencies

Chipkizi First 15: Tanzania's youth team to train and play in Spain

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA will send 15 young football talents selected from the ongoing East Africa Youth Soccer Tournament in Arusha to Spain in 2025.

The players, aged 17 and under, will form a new international soccer team named Chipkizi First 15.

The Future Stars Academy (FSA) of Arusha, the organizer of the Chipkizi Cup 2024, has partnered with the international sports management firm New Hera Interconnection to make this initiative a reality. "All top-performing young footballers—including the best scorer, most disciplined players, and other outstanding participants—stand a chance to play in Europe during 2025," said Alfred Itaeli, Director of Future

Stars Academy.

Over 320 youth soccer teams from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Zanzibar are competing in the Chipkizi Cup, now in its 15th year.

New Hera Interconnection, which focuses on creating opportunities for African athletes and clubs, will select the 15 most promising players from the tournament. The organization provides sports solutions for athletes, academies, and federations aiming for global excellence. In addition, Malian football legend Frederic Kanoute is expected to visit Arusha during the tournament to scout players for his academy.

Kanoute's sports academy, based in Mali, aims to groom young talents for top European clubs.

The Chipkizi Cup has contributed significantly to football development in East Africa. According to Zakayo Mjema, Chairperson of the Arusha Regional Football Association (ARFA), the tournament has nurtured over 22 players currently representing

national youth teams in the CECAFA region, with others securing spots in European clubs.

"The Chipkizi Cup has been instrumental in identifying talents who now play internationally," said Mjema during the event's flag-off ceremony.

The tournament, which includes football, basketball, and swimming, is staged at multiple venues in Arusha, such as UWC, Agha-Khan, Saint Constantine, Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds, and Braeburn International.

South Africa headed for test showpiece but crowds still disappoint

By Mark Gleesoni

SOUTH Africa's two-test series success over Sri Lanka on Monday catapulted them to first place in the World Test Championship and put them firmly on course for next year's final in what would have been unthinkable less than a year ago.

Five test wins in a row, made up of away victories over West

Indies in Guyana in August, two in Bangladesh in October and two more over Sri Lanka, means South Africa top the table of test results over the last two-year cycle and are within touching distance of a place in the final at Lord's from June 11-15.

They beat Sri Lanka by 109 runs at St George's Park in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) on Monday, to add

to their 233-run win in Durban a week earlier.

If South Africa go on and win the two-test home series over Pakistan, which starts in Pretoria on Boxing Day, they will be assured of place in the final. "We weren't even thinking about this when we went to the West Indies in August," said coach Shukri Conrad of limited expectations for the side after starting the 2023-25 WTC cycle

with a 1-1 series draw against India and then effectively forfeiting a two-test series in New Zealand in February after failing to avoid a clash of dates with the SA20 league.

Cricket South Africa allowed their top test players to stay home and earn lucrative salaries in the domestic Twenty20 competition, instead sending an under-strength side where half the team had no

previous test experience. They were roundly defeated by New Zealand.

But South Africa have worked their way into contention with five wins in their subsequent six test outings in what could be a boost for the longer format of the game in a country where it is under threat.

To be the best player in major league.

South Africa already play a

lot less than other countries - 12 tests in the latest WTC cycle to 21 for England and 19 each for Australia and India - to the annoyance of the players.

"In South Africa T20 cricket dominates but I think test cricket is something that is still highly treasured by a lot of the players," captain Temba Bavuma told a press conference.

But poor crowds are a

problem. "A lot of people say we don't play enough tests, but they don't even show up for the few test matches that we have," CSA chief executive Pholetsi Moseki said.

Progress to the WTC final might engineer a shift in attitude that could be a boost for the red ball game and hand the test format a lifeline.

REUTERS

Messi excluded as Bellingham and Real dominate FIFPRO honours

LONDON

SIX players from Champions League winners Real Madrid and four from Manchester City feature in this year's FIFPRO World 11 announced on Monday by the global players' association, with Lionel Messi absent for the first time in almost 20 years.

The 2024 FIFPRO World 11 is the first edition since 2006 to exclude Messi. The Argentinian, who holds the all-time record with 17 selections, was replaced in the front row by Erling Haaland, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Jr.

Jude Bellingham topped the men's overall voting, with the Real Madrid and England midfielder receiving 11,176 selections from his peers.

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk was the sole player outside of Real and City included in the men's team of the year.

English players led the 2024 Women's World 11 with five selected: Lucy Bronze, Mary Earps, Alex Greenwood, Lauren James, and Keira Walsh.

Bronze's seventh selection tied her with Wendie Renard for the women's appearance record. Zambian Barbra Banda became the first African player in the Women's World 11.

Advertisement · Scroll to con-

tinue

MEN'S WORLD 11

Goalkeeper: Ederson (Manchester City, Brazil)

Defenders: Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid, Spain), Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool, Netherlands), Antonio Rudiger (Real Madrid, Germany)

Midfielders: Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid, England), Kevin De Bruyne (City, Belgium), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid, Germany), Rodri (City, Spain)

Forwards: Erling Haaland (City, Norway), Kylian Mbappe (Paris St Germain/Real Madrid, France), Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid, Brazil)

WOMEN'S WORLD 11

Goalkeeper: Mary Earps (Manchester United/Paris St Germain, England)

Defenders: Lucy Bronze (Barcelona/Chelsea, England), Olga Carmona (Real Madrid, Spain), Alex Greenwood (City, England)

Midfielders: Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona, Spain), Alexia Putellas (Barcelona, Spain), Keira Walsh (Barcelona, England)

Forwards: Barbra Banda (Shanghai Shengli/Orlando Pride, Zambia), Linda Caicedo (Real Madrid, Colombia), Lauren James (Chelsea, England), Marta (Orlando Pride, Brazil)

REUTERS

Premier League official Coote sacked after investigation

LONDON

PREMIER League official David Coote has been sacked by referees' body the PGMOL following a "thorough investigation" into his conduct.

Coote, 42, was suspended by the PGMOL (the Professional Game Match Officials Limited) on 11 November pending a full investigation after a video allegedly showing him making derogatory comments about Liverpool and the club's former manager Jurgen Klopp was circulated on social media.

A further investigation was opened two days later after the Sun published photos it says were taken during this summer's European Championship, alleging that they appear to show Coote sniffing a white powder through a rolled up US bank note.

The PGMOL said Coote's actions made his position "untenable".

Neither the pictures nor the video have been verified independently by the BBC.

"David Coote's actions were found to be in serious breach of the provisions of his employment contract," the PGMOL said.

"Supporting David Coote continues to be important to us and we remain committed to his welfare."

Coote has the right to appeal the decision to terminate his employment.

The PGMOL first took action against Coote on 11 November following the release of a video on social media, which allegedly showed him criticising Liverpool and their former manager Klopp.

The video appeared to refer a Premier League match that Coote officiated between Liverpool and Burnley in July 2020, which finished 1-1. Klopp criticised Coote after the game, saying the referee failed to give fouls for challenges made on Liverpool's players.

The FA opened an investigation the following day.

On 13 November, the PGMOL said it was taking further allegations "very seriously" following the publication of images showing appearing to show Coote sniffing a white powder.

Coote was working at the Euros in his capacity as a match official and Uefa, European football's governing body, also suspended Coote as it launched its own investigation.

On 27 November, the FA opened a new investigation following an allegation that Coote had discussed giving a yellow card before a Championship match between Leeds and West Brom in 2019.

A report in the Sun claimed Coote exchanged messages with a fan discussing giving a yellow card before and after the game.

Coote denied any wrongdoing and said the allegation was "false and defamatory".

The contents of the report have not been verified by the BBC

The exchange referred to a booking Leeds defender Ezgjan Alioski received in the match from Coote. There is no suggestion of any financial gain by Coote and the booking is regarded as entirely correct.

Coote was appointed as a Premier League referee for the first time in April 2018 when West Brom won 1-0 at Newcastle.

He oversaw 11 games in the top flight during 2018-19 and has gone on to referee 112 Premier League games, including three Liverpool fixtures.

- July 2020 - 1-1 draw with Burnley at Anfield
- March 2024 - 2-1 win against Brighton at Anfield
- November 2024 - 2-0 win over Aston Villa at Anfield

Coote has refereed Liverpool on a further five occasions in cup games.

As one of the PGMOL's most highly-rated video assistant referees (VAR), Coote has been the VAR for 64 Premier League matches, 11 of which have involved Liverpool, the first of which was in September 2019.

In October 2020, Coote was the VAR when Liverpool drew 2-2 with Everton and Klopp complained about the decision not to send off Jordan Pickford for a challenge on Virgil van Dijk, as well as a stoppage-time goal from Jordan Henderson being disallowed for offside.

Liverpool asked the Premier League to review those two VAR decisions.

Coote was then not appointed as the VAR of a Liverpool Premier League match until September 2023, the first of seven Liverpool Premier League matches as VAR last season.

BBC

Footballers' dementia risk 'not linked to lifestyle'

LONDON

A NEW study has found no evidence that the high dementia risk among footballers is linked to health and lifestyle factors.

It increases the likelihood that heading footballs has caused brain injuries.

The research was led by Glasgow University's Professor Willie Stewart, who five years ago discovered footballers were three-and-a-half times more likely to die from a neurodegenerative disease than the normal population.

"Our data suggests this relationship between higher rates of neurodegenerative disease among former professional footballers is not driven by those wider general health and lifestyle factors, widely recognised as dementia risk factors," said Professor Stewart.

"In the past, we would say that we felt the strongest risk was probably to do with head injuries and head impacts in sport, but we couldn't be certain that their relationship to alcohol, smoking, diabetes or blood pressure - these other risk factors might be involved.

"Now, we actually know, having looked at the data, that these other risk factors don't appear to be contributing to the dementia risk."

A group of families - including relatives of the late 1966 World Cup winner Nobby Stiles - are taking legal action against football authorities over what they say are brain injuries caused by repeated impacts between head and ball.

Two former Premier League players - Gary Pallister and Steve Howey - have told BBC Sport of their health fears after years of heading footballs.

Howey, who is one of the claimants in the legal action, said he has undergone scans which have shown cognitive decline.

Leading campaigner Judith Gates,



Professional footballers are three-and-a-half times more likely to die from a neurodegenerative disease than the normal population. Agencies

of Head Safe Football, has written to Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy to ask that heading the ball is declared a national health issue in order to safeguard players in the future.

Gates' husband Bill, a former Middlesbrough defender, died last year aged 79 as a result of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). She founded the Head Safe Football charity to increase awareness of the danger of head impacts and signs of head injury.

The new study was funded by the Football Association, the Professional Footballers' Association, the Medical Research Council and the United States' National Institutes of Health.

Published in medical journal Jama Network Open, it looked at the electronic health records of 11,984 former professional footballers and 35,952 matched individuals from the general population in Scotland.

Researchers compared key dementia risk factors across the two groups, including a history of smoking, depression, alcohol-related dis-

orders, diabetes, hypertension, hearing loss and obesity.

Overall, the study team found that the rates of these risk factors were similar - or lower - among former players.

Former professionals were at lower risk of alcohol-related disorders, smoking, diabetes, and obesity. The research found they were at similar risk of hearing loss, depression, and hypertension, compared with the general population.

Stewart told BBC Sport the report "really moves the conversation on quite a bit".

He said: "What we're seeing is that these footballers are generally healthy men with good lifestyles.

"Their blood pressure is good, their weight is good, they're not smoking, they're not drinking, but they've got a real problem with dementia, which is still there, and that we say is related to the head injuries, the head impacts in sport. That's the problem that we're dealing with here."

The FA said: "We continue to invest in and support multiple projects in order to gain a greater understanding of this area through objective, robust and thorough research.

"We have already taken many proactive steps to review and address potential risk factors which may be associated with playing football whilst ongoing research continues."

The Professional Footballers' Association, the trade union for professional footballers in England and Wales, has a dedicated brain health team to support former members concerned about brain health and educating current players on brain health in football.

In September 2023 it launched the Football Brain Health Fund, making available an initial £1m to assist former players and their families who have been impacted by dementia and other neurodegenerative conditions.

BBC

Dan Ashworth's departure puts an end to Manchester United's latest farce

BY RICHARD JOLLY

A LEADER at Manchester United was abruptly removed on Saturday. Yes, Bruno Fernandes was substituted in the defeat to Nottingham Forest. It proved the prelude to a more seismic change.

The departure of Dan Ashworth, confirmed on Sunday morning, means United have stripped themselves of the man they headhunted, who Sir Jim Ratcliffe described in February as "one of the top sporting directors in the world", who only a few weeks ago, along with CEO Omar Berrada, hired new head coach Ruben Amorim.

Ashworth's brief tenure - marginal reigns, someone quipped - can feel a microcosm of Ratcliffe's United. There was the initial excitement, the promise to target the best of the best, the wait, the cost, the anticlimactic reality and then another sacking.

There was the money poured down the drain, too, given that United forked out some £2m in compensation to Newcastle for his services and now, while his exit is officially by mutual consent, it was instigated by the club and they will presumably have to pay off Ashworth.

Once again, fans and staff are entitled to feel they will have to pay for the failures of the decision-makers.

It amounts to a further waste of money by a co-owner who has put up ticket prices, sacked around 250 employees - with the possible exception of the ambassador Sir Alex Ferguson, all almost certainly paid rather less than Ashworth - given Erik ten Hag a new contract only to dispense with the manager several months later and spent around £200m in the transfer window.

Perhaps Ashworth and co will be vindicated in time but thus far, only Noussair Mazraoui, the cheapest of the five acquisitions, could rank as a success.

And if that reflects in part on Ashworth, the decision to retain Ten Hag in the summer came when he was still on gardening leave; he and Berrada claimed they had no input in it and they, unlike Sir Dave Brailsford or Jason Wilcox, had not been able to work alongside the Dutchman at Carrington.

So Ashworth goes, having spent almost as long on gardening leave as in



Dan Ashworth's departure signals the latest error from Man Utd's decision-makers (AFP/Getty)

situ at Old Trafford; he had 133 days to look at his lawn, 160 to assess a failing club.

In an interview published by the fanzine United We Stand on Saturday, and seeming to display a remarkable lack of self-awareness, Ratcliffe criticised United's buying before his arrival and said they wanted the best recruitment in the world.

That one of his flagship appointments has gone several months into the new regime suggests his own recruitment is substandard.

United's statement announcing his exit referred to a "transitional period for the club" but Ashworth was supposed to be part of a new structure that would last for years; he was never

intended to be an interim sporting director. But so far, the Ineos reign has been characterised by impatience and incompetence. There has been plenty of talk about grandiose ambition, of wanting people who are "best in class", of being "one of the best clubs" in the world, of having a stadium to rival the Nou Camp or the Bernabeu (but preferably one someone else should pay for). Yet United retained Ten Hag after finishing eighth in their worst Premier League season thus far. They are now 13th. They bought players for Ten Hag and now have a squad that doesn't suit Amorim. "I like the squad," said Ashworth in September, in the same interview when he and Berrada gave Ten Hag their "full backing".

Times change at Old Trafford, and quickly. Ashworth, the man charged with shaping United's future, instead becomes part of their past, his reign spanning a mere 23 games.

For him, it has been a disastrous 2024; perhaps longer, given that most of the credit for getting Newcastle into the Champions League belonged to others.

For United, who dispensed with football director John Murrough as part of their preparations for bringing in Ashworth, there is a question as to whether they hire another executive, if they reshape their ever-changing structure further.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Footballers' dementia risk

'not linked to lifestyle'

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

South African champions Mamelodi Sundowns name Portuguese Cardoso as coach

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African champions Mamelodi Sundowns, who will compete in next year's Club World Cup in the United States, named Portuguese Miguel Cardoso as their new manager yesterday after firing Manqoba Mngqithi.

It is the second coaching change in six months for the Pretoria club, owned by the family of Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe.

Cardoso, 52, is a former coach at Rio Ave in Portugal, Nantes in France, La Liga outfit Celta Vigo and AEK Athens.

Last season he took the Tunisian club Esperance to the African Champions League final but was fired in October after a poor start to the new season.

Mngqithi's departure follows Sundowns drawing their opening two matches of the group phase of this season's Champions League and a shock loss in last month's South African League Cup final.

He had taken over in July from Rulani Mokwena, who was sacked despite winning the league by a record 23-point margin.

At the Club World Cup next June, Sundowns are in Group F with Borussia Dortmund, Fluminense and South Korean club Ulsan HD.

Meanwhile, rebels toppling the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad prompted the country's soccer federation to change the colour of the national team's kit and logo from red to green.

Syrian rebels seized the capital Damascus unopposed on Sunday after a lightning advance that sent Assad fleeing to Russia after a 13-year civil war and six decades of his family's autocratic rule.

As the events unfolded, the Syrian soccer federation announced it was changing the colour of its logo and the kit of the men's first team.

"Our new national team uniform," the Syrian football federation posted on Facebook alongside a photo of several players clad in green.

"The first historic change to happen in the history of Syrian sports, far from nepotism, favouritism and corruption," it added.

REUTERS

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

WEDNESDAY

- 11:00 DADAZ
- 12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
- 13:00 MJADALA (r)
- 13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
- 14:00 Mpera Mpera
- 15:00 Funguka
- 15:30 Mpera Mpera
- 16:00 Zote Kuntu
- 16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
- 17:00 SSELEKT
- 17:55 Kurasa
- 18:00 Kall Za Wana
- 18:30 #HASHTAG
- 19:00 EATV SAA 1
- 20:00 DADAZ (r)
- 21:00 UJENZI
- 21:30 Mid week Movie
- 21:00 UJENZI
- 21:30 Mid Week Movie
- 23:00 KURASA
- 23:05 EATV SAA 1

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

Pak Stars A storms into 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League final

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga



Pak Stars A cricketers are pictured celebrating once a teammate took a wicket in a recent Dar es Salaam tournament game against Aga Khan SC at Leaders Club venue. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

ZAFAR Khan shone with the bat as Pak Stars A booked a place in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League final with a six-wicket victory over Caravans in the last-four phase last weekend.

Pak Stars A were, therefore, slated to face Aces A in the showdown's final the same weekend.

Caravans won the toss and opted to bat in the semi-final at Annadil Burhani Oval, ending up with 158/6 in 20 overs - with seasoned cricketers playing a pivotal role in securing the total.

Caravans reached 25-1 after 15 balls following the dismissal of opener Praveen Puthanpurayil, who got out with 15 runs having been bowled by Pak Stars A's Hasan Raza.

The batting team moved to 53-3 as two more wickets fell within the opening six overs, forcing the other top-order batsmen to fight for control of the innings.

The other opener, Issa Safari, posted 19 runs before his dismissal, leaving the crease after the other top-order batsman, Hamisi, had experienced a short stay, having got out with five runs.

Senior all-rounder Kassim Nassor slotted in at number four, laid his hands on the bat and went on to have a stellar performance at the crease, grabbing 58 runs not out.

Skipper Jitin Singh, who has so far struggled to exhibit his virtuosity in the showdown, fought to regain his edge having scored 14 runs.

Caravans reached 86-5 upon Singh's dismissal in the 13th over.

The batting team vainly battled to fight off the opponents' bowlers' pressure, having dropped two more wickets later in the innings.

The club, for that matter, had to pin its hopes on Nassor's experience to add more runs and conclude the batting time with a respectable total.

Youthful player Salmini Yusuph (27 runs not out) had Caravans mounting a late surge, as the performer forged a seventh-wicket stand with Nassor.

Nisar Ahmed ended with 2-15 and Younas Afridi chipped in with 2-41 in their respective four-over spells as Pak Stars A fought to prevent Caravans from amassing a huge total.

Needing 159 runs to come out victorious, Pak Stars A confidently chased Caravans' total to emerge victorious with two balls left whilst dropping four wickets.

They faced an unexpected early setback after a mere eight balls, as the opener, Ivan Ismail, left the crease with a mere eight runs.

Ismail had time to clear the boundary twice in his otherwise brief stay at the crease, leaving Pak Stars A at 20-1 following his dismissal.

His fellow opener Ahmed was ruthless at the crease, given the cricketer cracked balls all over the pitch and grabbed 35 runs.

Ahmed had Pak Stars A reaching 88-2 once the cricketer left the crease shortly before halfway through the innings. Mohamed Omary, slotted in at number three, had Pak A zealously pushing for a successful chase as the cricketer scored 34 runs.

Omary had Pak Stars moving to 110-3 when he made his way back after 12.3 overs.

Khan thereafter took the crease and scored 51 runs not out, forging a fifth-wicket stand with Hasan Raza (15 runs not out) and ultimately keeping the game beyond Caravans' reach.

Sixteen extras made up of 10 wides, two leg byes and four byes-given away by Caravans were further a boost to the Pak Stars A chase.

Nassor ended his bowling turn with 2-28 to end with the best bowling figure when Caravans fielded.

The experienced cricketer's efforts could hardly bail Caravans out, as Pak Stars A were uncompromising at the crease.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

Strikers, Pak Stars A, Delaware Upanga SC A, Aga Khan SC, Caravans, Aces A, and Lions A are the teams battling for the silverware in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

Yanga now vow to revive CAF CL campaign after consecutive defeats

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans are determined to turn their fortunes around in the CAF Champions League group stage following a string of disappointing results.

The team has suffered two consecutive 2-0 defeats, first at home against Al Hilal of Sudan and most recently away to MC Alger of Algeria.

Despite these setbacks, the club remains optimistic about its chances to progress, with 12 points still up for grabs in their remaining four Group A matches.

Speaking after the latest loss at the July 5 Stadium in Algiers, Young Africans' communication and information officer, Ali Kamwe (pictured), acknowledged the challenging circumstances the club is facing.

He urged fans to remain calm and assured them that the team is working on a strategy to bounce back.

"It was a difficult result to accept, and it's not the outcome we had prepared for. Our goal was to win, but football is unpredictable. There are highs and lows, and right now, we are in a tough period," Kamwe said.

Drawing comparisons to other football giants, Kamwe highlighted that even successful clubs like Manchester City have endured challenging phases.

"This is not unique to us. Even Manchester City has faced difficult times. What matters is how you respond. We need to come back stronger and ensure this situation doesn't persist," he added.

Despite the disheartening start to their group-stage campaign, Kamwe emphasized that Young Africans still have a fighting chance to advance to the quarter-finals.

"We need to focus on the remaining 12 points. With determination and proper preparation, we believe we can achieve this goal," he stated.

Kamwe also expressed the collective disappointment within the club, noting that the poor results have affected everyone, from the coaching staff to the players and fans.

However, he urged unity and resilience, emphasizing the importance of regrouping and moving forward.

Young Africans' back-to-back



losses have placed them at the bottom of Group A. The team's most recent defeat in Algeria saw Ayoub Abdellaoui and Sofiane Bayazid score for MC Alger, compounding Young Africans' struggles.

Earlier, the Tanzanian champions suffered another 2-0 loss to Al Hilal at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The team has managed just one win in their last five matches across all competitions, a worrying statistic for a side with high ambitions.

To keep their hopes alive, Young Africans must deliver strong performances in their upcoming fixtures.

Young Africans' next group-stage match is a crucial away tie against DR Congo's TP Mazembe on December 14, followed by the return leg in Dar es Salaam on January 3.

They will then travel to face Sudanese gi-

ants Al Hilal on January 10 before concluding their group-stage campaign at home against MC Alger on January 17.

Kamwe reiterated the club's commitment to learning from its mistakes and making necessary adjustments to improve performances.

"These results are painful, but they are also a test of our resilience. We need to prepare for the next game and focus on getting back on track. The road ahead is tough, but we believe in the strength and determination of this club," he said.

Acknowledging the vital role of supporters, Kamwe called on Young Africans members and fans to remain patient and supportive during this challenging period.

"This is the time for unity. Let's come together, support the team, and work towards achieving our goals. The journey is

Flexibles by David Chikoko



I suggest that we get rid of the suggestion box

PUT THAT IN THE SUGGESTION BOX

JUST THINKING OUT OF THE BOX!