

National Pg 3

MNH does kidney transplant on 100 patients



National Pg 4

Do maintenance during power surplus - Tanesco



National Pg 6

Labs established to boost coffee yields



'Be ready to employ energy use managers'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government will in the next two years formulate regulations for energy efficiency auditing for large electricity consumers.

Styden Rwebangila (pictured), the Energy ministry assistant commissioner for electricity development, made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the start of training for 132 certified energy managers from various regions.

Currently, the government is collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the country's first energy efficiency action plan, with financial support from the European Union (EU), he said, underlining that the overall objective is to enhance access to affordable, reliable and sustainable power flow to most consumers.

The government seeks to make it mandatory for each factory or industry to hire a certified energy efficiency manager in line with the scheduled regulations.

Training certified energy managers are to bring up a cadre competent in that field, insisting that certified energy efficiency managers are vital for pushing supervision in energy management and

auditing, he said. A key component of the action plan is to ensure that the relevant energy management and audit practices are properly implemented, with significant benefits in energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions realized, he stated.

The energy sector is currently undergoing significant reforms to address the growing energy demand, impacts of climate change, regional integration, global dynamics, emerging diverse technologies and socioeconomic development needs as a whole, he said.

Prof Ezekiel Masige, the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) deputy rector for academics, research and consultancy, said that the college has benefitted from the programme, having improved professional training capabilities.

Shelida Magomba, a certified energy manager, said that training has built the country's workforce capacities in energy management and auditing.

Last October, the government, the UNDP and the EU inaugurated an energy efficiency laboratory costing \$0.4m at the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Trophy hunting: Nairobi NGOs in jumbo petition

A LOT MORE THAN A BRIDGE



This is a view of J. P. Magfuli Bridge, now 90 per cent done, as captured by the Works ministry only days ago. It is 3.2 kilometres long and easily one of the major infrastructure projects being implemented by the government. It runs through Lake Victoria waters, as a crucial link on the Usagara-Sengerema-Geita highway. It is widely expected to be instrumental in vastly improving transportation across all regions in Tanzania's Lake Victoria zone. This will be chiefly by significantly enhancing the movement of goods and people between these regions and other parts of the country. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

"The killing of these iconic elephants for 'sport' is morally troubling and economically short-sighted."

By Guardian Reporter

IN an event tailored to coincide with World Elephant Day, scientists and conservationists yesterday handed the Tanzanian High Commission in Nairobi a global petition with over 500,000 signatures collected since March 2024, demanding a ban on trophy hunting of elephants.

Dr Cynthia Moss, the founder of the Amboseli Trust for Elephants and Dr Joyce Poole, the scientific director of the Elephant Voices activist group, led in organising the campaign for the petition, calling for an end to trophy hunting of elephants along the country's border with Kenya, within the Tanzania part of the conservation zone.

A considerable number of activists turned up in the ceremony where the consortium sent the petition by courier to the country's diplomatic mission and to the State House, all this availed at a press conference in Nairobi.

The petition emphasizes the significant ecological and economic value of the Amboseli-West Kilimanjaro elephant population, as a unique genetic reservoir that transcends national borders.

This reiteration follows a move by the Tanzanian authorities to issue hunting permits for 'super tuskers' targeting the Greater Amboseli-West Kilimanjaro elephant population, where the NGO leaders say five jumbos were targeted, hunted and killed by trophy hunters in Northern Tanzania in the last eight months.

Their major concern is that similar permits are set to be issued as the tourist peak season approaches, acknowledging however that the

TURN TO PAGE 2

TURN TO PAGE 2

Opposition Youth Day bonanza in ruins as police arrest leaders

Militant slogan of imitating Kenyan demos a sore with police headquarters

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Suluhi Hassan has taken a new turn as a militant tone of a party youth-planned rally to mark International Youth Day led to a frontal clash with the police force.

Reports from Mbeya said yesterday that the police command in the region has intensified security across various parts of

INTERNAL debate within the leading opposition party on whether to take up the 4Rs philosophy of President Samia

DPM lauds KCB for Geita branch opening



By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

KCB Bank has expanded its reach by opening a new branch in Geita, reinforcing its commitment to financial inclusion in Tanzania.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Doto Biteko graced the event here yesterday, at the inauguration of the KCB Bank branch in Geita town.

He applauded KCB Bank for its spirited investment drive in the country, which has positively impacted businesses and the lives of Tanzanians.

"I commend KCB Bank for this significant milestone. This new branch will provide local residents with access to banking services that will boost business and economic activities in the region," he stated.

Cosmas Kimario, the KCB Group's regional businesses director and KCB Bank Tanzania managing director, stated that the new branch aligns with the bank's strategy to extend its services, offering cost-effective and technology-driven solutions to foster a more financially inclusive economy.

"By opening this branch, KCB Bank

TURN TO PAGE 2

KCB Bank's Board Director, Jacqueline Woiso hands over gift to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Doto Biteko after unveiling the new KCB Bank branch in Geita District, Geita Region. Others are Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (2nd L), KCB Group's Regional Businesses Director and KCB Bank Tanzania Managing Director, Cosmas Kimario, Geita Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela (L) and Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs Christina Manyenye (R). Photo: KCB courtesy



Opposition Youth Day bonanza in ruins as police arrest leaders

FROM PAGE 1

the city, sensing agitation among opposition activists in the wake of planned demonstrations and rallies by the Chadema youth wing.

In the wake of the issuing of a militant motto by its Bavicha youth wing, police headquarters proscribed what were expected to be “peaceful protests throughout Mbeya City, ending up with a public rally at the Ruanda Nzove grounds.”

Chadema leaders who were expected to address the rally were arrested, starting with Mainland vice-chairman Tundu Lissu, and hours later, national chairman Freeman Mbowe was arrested upon arrival at the airport.

Reports on social media platforms indicated that other Chadema leaders including secretary general John Mnyika and Bavicha mobilisation coordinator John Pambalu were detained at the Songwe International Airport upon arrival.

CP Awadh Haji, the operations and training commissioner at headquarters, issued a statement at the weekend that due to seditious statements made by some party leaders, the police had placed a ban on the party’s public activities.

The statement said that the party is prohibited to hold both internal and external meetings on account of intelligence suggesting that the publicly aired statements of Chadema leaders were geared at causing public disturbances.

The regional police commanders in Mbeya was directed to ensure that the police stop all Chadema youth gatherings or converging towards erstwhile meeting places, while asking the Registrar of Political Parties to direct the opposition party from any such conference, citing violations of the law governing political party activities.

Before his being arrested as well, the party secretary general had insisted that the meeting at the grounds would proceed, arguing that the bans were unconstitutional.

The report said that during all of Sunday, police officers were reinforcing security around the city, particularly at the Ruanda Nzove grounds it was heavily guarded with firearms and tear gas vehicles readied. Journalists were prevented from taking photos.

Three police vehicles, including one equipped with water cannons, were stationed at the venue, while another police vehicle from the Officer Commanding District (OCD) Njombe was seen nearby.

A police vehicle marked “OCD Mbozi” was stationed near the Tanzania-Zambia highway at a nearby bus stand.

At the party’s offices in Kadege

suburb, police officers were stationed at every corner, but journalists could not figure out if anyone was inside. Other police vehicles patrolled streets and bus stations, in the city and Mbalizi town nearby.

When contacted for clarification, the regional police commander, SACP Benjamin Kuzaga did not respond and was still being awaited to explain the legal situation on the top Chadema leadership late yesterday.

Observers noted that these arrests come a year after President Samia Suluhu Hassan lifted a ban on opposition gatherings and pledged to restore competitive politics.

The measures were tied to a 4Rs philosophy seeking political reconciliation, economic reforms, social resilience and rebuilding of institutions, most of which was rejected by opposition hardliners around vice chairman Lissu.

A peep into ongoing disputes was visible as former Southern highlands zonal chairman Peter Msigwa alleging electoral interference by top leadership preventing his being re-elected to that position, crossed over to the ruling party.

In the past week, the vice chairman issued an alert that he would leave the party if it departed from the principles that brought him to join the party in the first place, a position that analysts comprehended to imply renouncing the hardliner views he espouses.

This position is what was being pursued when the police banned the Chadema rally, saying it was intended to incite violence, citing the party’s call for people to unite like the “youth in Kenya,” referring to the violent anti-government demonstrations for more than a month.

On Monday morning, a Chadema official reported uncertainty about the whereabouts of some detained leaders as the police had not officially commented on the arrests, with party John Mrema, the head of the organisation at its secretariat, saying that groups of youth traveling in hired buses were detained and escorted back to their regions.

Upwards of 10,000 young people were expected to gather in Mbeya to celebrate the Youth Day under the slogan “Take Charge of Your Future,” while subsequently party officials shared images of around 100 party members detained in Iringa and were later released and escorted back to their respective residential places.

The party organiser decried arrests of top leaders and party members as well as checking activities of its supporters across the country, demanding “immediate and unconditional release.”

‘Be ready to employ energy use managers’

FROM PAGE 1

Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO)

Bahati Mtono, the ministry’s director for human resources, administration and management said that the laboratory would be used for practical training while providing energy auditing services in industries, commercial buildings and households.

The project seeks to strengthen legal, regulatory, institutional and administrative structures, providing assistance to large energy consumers and general users, while focusing on skills development, particularly for women and youth, she added.

Lobbyists urge end to Zimbabwe crackdown ahead of SADC meet

By Special Correspondent, Harare

AMNESTY International and Human Rights Watch have called on Zimbabwean authorities to cease their crackdown on opposition and civil society members ahead of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit scheduled for August 17 in Harare.

In a joint statement on Friday, the organisations demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arrested over the past two months for allegedly exercising their rights to the freedom of assembly.

“Since mid-June, Zimbabwean authorities have conducted a massive crackdown on dissent. More than 160 people have been arrested so far,

including elected officials, opposition members, union leaders, students and journalists,” said Khanyo Farise, Amnesty International’s Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. The crackdown began on June 16 when police raided the home of main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change party leader Jameson Timba during a private gathering, arresting 78 people.

Police allegedly used tear gas and batons, resulting in multiple injuries, including one requiring surgery.

On June 24, police arrested 44 members of the Zimbabwe National Students Union for “disorderly conduct” after they were found holding an unsanctioned meeting. They were released after paying fines.



Chadema Deputy Secretary General (Mainland) Benson Kigaila briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the reported arrests of the opposition party’s 443 members and leaders, demanding their release. Right is the party’s Protocol, Communication and Foreign Affairs director, John Mrema. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Trophy hunting: Nairobi NGOs in jumbo petition

FROM PAGE 1

management of elephants in Tanzania is recognized as the sovereign duty of the Tanzanian government.

Scientists writing to the two Heads of State affirmed that the elephant population is shared and its protection has been stable for three decades, relating to an extant bilateral agreement.

“The loss of these elephants is not just a blow to elephant populations but to our collective efforts in conservation,” the scientists asserted, elaborating that until last year 30 years of no elephant hunting incidences were maintained.

“The recent hunting wave was triggered by a new quota that was issued in 2022 to Kilombero North Safaris,” they said, recalling that “the last unfortunate super tusker hunting incidence had been in 1994 lead-

ing to an international outcry when four well-known elephants (RBG, Sleepy, Saibulu, and Oloitipitip), subjects of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, were shot by trophy hunters on the Tanzanian side of the border.”

As a result of public outcry, in 1995 a moratorium on trophy hunting on transboundary elephant population was agreed upon between the two countries, in which case the reinstatement of hunting permits “threaten the survival of iconic Kenya-Tanzania cross-border elephants, the largest in Africa,” the research director insisted.

Only 10 elephants with tusks weighing around 45 kg (100 lbs) each remain in the Amboseli ecosystem, a conservation area with the highest density of these animals, they asserted.

The ‘Voices’ director said that hunting could cause the super-tuskers to disappear within the next three years, they said, underlining that “the recent killings of super-tuskers are particularly concerning due to the rarity and special role these older males play in elephant society.”

Whereas Kenya banned hunting in 1977 and the prohibition remains in place, while it has lately become legal on the other side of the border as hunting companies obtain licenses for their clients.

The petition lodged on the international campaign site Avaaz was backed by more than 50 African conservation organizations, urging the Tanzanian authorities to collaborate with their Kenyan counterparts to protect the biggest jumbos as a shared natural heritage.

Dr Paula Kahumbu, CEO at Wild-

life Direct remarked that the petition is directed at President William Ruto and President Samia Suluhu Hassan “to meet and agree on the shared immense scientific and economic value of preserving these cross-border elephants.”

The long-term benefits of ecotourism, science and conservation far outweigh the short-term gains from trophy hunting in one country, she declared, while the petition seeks to “highlight unethical hunting practices, including use of helicopters to locate elephants and the burning or burying of carcasses to conceal evidence.”

Dr Winnie Kiiru of the Elephant Protection Initiative linked with the Mpala Research Center echoed these sentiments, stating that “the killing of these iconic elephants for ‘sport’ is morally troubling and economically short-sighted.”



Mariam Mtunguja, a senior accounting analyst with the Capital and Securities Markets Authority, serves as a facilitator at an open financial education seminar held in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region, yesterday. The thrust was on investment, loans and savings. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

FROM PAGE 1

aims to drive financial growth and service excellence for the local community. This branch will offer Geita’s residents access to loans, savings and other financial services designed to improve the quality of life and stimulate business and investment opportunities.”

DPM lauds KCB for Geita branch opening

The Geita branch brings KCB Bank Tanzania’s total number of branches to 17 nationwide, with three branches in Arusha, eight in Dar es Salaam and one branch respectively in Morogoro, Moshi,

Kahama, Tunduma and Zanzibar, along with over 500 agents across the country.

In October 2022, KCB Bank reached trn/- in asset value, solidifying its status as a tier-one bank in the local financial sector.

KCB Bank has been a leader in advancing corporate social responsibility (CSR) through various community initiatives, significantly impacting the lives of many people, particularly youth and women, officials noted.

Smallholder farmers to benefit more from specialised training

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 168,000 small-holder farmers across five regions are set to receive specialized training and support aimed at boosting food production and promoting healthy diets based on locally available resources.

This initiative follows the launch of the Empowering Smallholder Farmers for Food Security and Climate Resilience- NOURISH project by SNV Netherlands Development Organization and Farm Africa. The five-year project (2024-2028) is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

The regions targeted are Rukwa, Songwe, Dodoma, Manyara, and Singida.

Speaking during the launch in Dodoma yesterday, Aradius Kategama, Food Security Director at the Ministry of Agriculture, praised SNV and Farm Africa for their efforts.

He highlighted how the NOURISH project is set to transform food production and encourage the consumption of nutritious meals.

"The NOURISH project's strategy of employing social behaviour change communication and collaborating with trusted local figures to provide education on nutrition, household dynamics, and food utilization is expected to foster better dietary practices and improve health outcomes," Kategama said.

He further noted: "By enhancing connections between farmers, processors, and markets, we can minimize post-harvest losses, improve food quality and availability, and ensure more food reaches consumers."

Michael McGrath, SNV Country Director, said that the project will focus on climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive productivity. It aims to diversify food supply, increase the availability of nutritious food in local markets, and improve the use of household resources, including time, finances, food, and land, to enhance food security and nutrition.

"NOURISH will facilitate strate-

gic linkages for smallholder farmers with extension services, seed multipliers, technology companies, and other key players to boost the knowledge and adoption of climate-smart agriculture techniques and technologies," McGrath said.

He said the project aligns with the government of Tanzania's National Climate Change Response Strategy (2022-2026) and its Nationally Determined Contributions (2021), which emphasize agricultural adaptation and resilience through improved crop varieties, strengthened extension services, climate-smart practices, and reduced post-harvest losses.

In addition to SNV and Farm Africa, the NOURISH project will be implemented in partnership with T-MARC Tanzania, Research, Community, and Organizational Development (RECODA) and the Mbozi, Ileje and Isangati Consortium (MIICO)-a consortium of organizations working with smallholder farmers in the Southern Highlands.

He noted that despite ongoing initiatives by the government and agri-food stakeholders, 11 percent of the population in central-northern Tanzania currently faces high levels of acute food insecurity. Chronic food insecurity and malnutrition are significant concerns, with over three million children under five suffering from stunted growth, particularly in the Southern Highlands where the prevalence is 46.2 percent.



By enhancing connections between farmers, processors, and markets, we can minimize post-harvest losses, improve food quality and availability, and ensure more food reaches consumers

EABC, ITC partner to lift market access for MSMEs

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Trade Centre (ITC) for the EAC-EU Market Access Upgrade Programme Phase II (MARKUP II).

This initiative is set to enhance market access and export competitiveness for over 400 MSMEs, women and youth in selected value chains in the EAC over the next year.

Adrian Njau, EABC acting executive director said yesterday: "EABC in partnership with the ITC is committed to building the capacities of businesses and business associations in the regional priority sectors to reinforce strategic vision and coordination, to employ harmonised standards and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and to promote a quality-focused culture in the region."

The MARKUP II project aims to conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the utilisation of the national and regional trade information portals, conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the utilization of the EAC Quality for Trade Platform, Support the EAC Quality Awards, Facilitate the Regional Value Chain Review Mechanism, Conduct "ITC She Trades" capacity building on gender-responsive procurement, investment, and services provision, and capacity building and training programmes - training boot camps for youth on how to trade under the AfCFTA.

The regional sectors of intervention include avocado, cocoa, coffee, essential oils, French beans, gum Arabic, horticulture, leather, pack-

aging, spices and tea.

He said: "The signing of this MOU underscores the shared commitment of ITC and EABC to fostering regional economic integration and trade facilitation within the East African Community. Through this partnership, both organizations aim to create a more supportive business ecosystem, enhance policy and regulatory environments, and improve market intelligence to drive sustainable and inclusive trade development."

EABC is the regional apex body of private sector associations and Corporates from the 8 East African countries. It was established in 1997 to foster the interests of the private sector in the integration process of the East African Community. EABC's vision is a borderless East Africa for business and investment.



Through this partnership, both organizations aim to create a more supportive business ecosystem, enhance policy and regulatory environments, and improve market intelligence to drive sustainable and inclusive trade development



Tigopesa chief officer Angelica Pesha (C) pictured in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone at the weekend addressing traders at a workshop on the services offered by the mobile phone service provider. Photo: Faustine Feliciane

MNH performs kidney transplant on over 100 patients in seven years

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has performed kidney transplant procedures on 102 patients since the service began in 2017.

Dr Julieth Magandi, MNH-Mloganzila deputy executive director said this when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the latest patient to be operated on.

"MNH-Mloganzila has contributed to this number with 10 patients," she said.

"This makes our hospital the leading center for kidney transplant in the country."

She added that MNH-Mloganzila recently conducted advanced and specialized kidney transplant to two patients, using the modern minimally invasive technique of Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy to harvest the kidneys from the donor.

Dr Magandi explained that this service was performed by local experts in collaboration with a minimally invasive surgery specialist

from South Korea, Prof. Park Kwan Tae.

"This transplant was carried out at the end of July this year. The patients who received the transplants were discharged within a week due to their improved health. This achievement was made possible by the investments made at the facility.

"It involved training experts, purchasing medical equipment, medicines, and supplies, as well as creating a supportive and conducive environment for providing this ser-

vice at our hospital," she said.

She called on the public to consider donating kidney to their relatives, which would help reduce the cost and time associated with dialysis treatments, which typically take about three hours per patient.

Dr Immaculate Goima, a kidney diseases specialist at the hospital, said that chronic kidney diseases can be caused by excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, indiscriminate use of painkillers, hypertension, and excessive use of traditional medicines.



Riot police officers on standby yesterday at Mbeya city's Ruanda Nzovwe grounds, where opposition Chadema were due to have organised a symposium in celebrating International Youth Day. The theme for IYD this year is 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development'. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM Secretary-General Dr Emanuel Nchimbi has described President Samia Suluhu Hassan's ongoing development efforts as a fitting tribute to the late President John Magufuli.

Dr Nchimbi made this statement during a prayer session at Magufuli's grave in Chato, Geita Region.

He commended the completion of various projects in Geita Region and Chato District that were initiated by Magufuli and emphasized the importance of continuing his legacy through diligent work and ongoing projects.

He said that President Samia's

Nchimbi declares key projects JPM legacy as he enters Geita

work-especially the continuation and completion of development projects from Magufuli's tenure-demonstrates a commitment to honouring the late leader's vision.

He said key projects include the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower Project, adding that significant amount of money has been allocated for development in Chato District.

Earlier, upon arriving in Geita Region from Kagera Region, Dr Nchimbi encouraged locals to uphold Magufuli's work ethic as a way of honouring his legacy.

During his visit to Magufuli's grave, accompanied by CCM Central Committee members, Dr Nchimbi expressed appreciation for Magufuli's contributions to the party and the nation.

He also extended condolences to Magufuli's family and visited

his mother, Suzana Musa.

Dr Nchimbi, along with his delegation, began a three-day tour of Geita Region.

He noted that Magufuli had both trusted and groomed the current President.

"Despite the significant achievements made by Magufuli which earned our country immense global respect, it was Magufuli who also groomed the President we have today," Dr Nchimbi said.

Conduct maintenance during power surplus, Tanesco told

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko has instructed Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) to take advantage of the current power surplus to carry out essential maintenance of its machinery.

Dr Biteko made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when he visited and inspected operations at the Ubungo I, Ubungo II, and Ubungo III power stations, as well as the Grid Control Centre.

He instructed Tanesco to ensure that maintenance on electrical infrastructure is conducted regularly to ensure reliable electricity for Tanzanians, adding that it was time to conduct maintenance on machinery at the Kidatu, Kihansi, and Mtera hydropower stations.

"Through Tanesco, we will continue to work towards providing reliable electricity to all Tanzanians," Dr Biteko said.

He said that Tanesco nears completion of maintenance work on the Northern Zone power lines to improve electricity availability and expressed gratitude to residents in those areas for their patience during the maintenance period.

He said the power sufficiency was partly due to the progress of the Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Project (JNHPP), where three turbines have already been connected to the national grid, with the fourth turbine expected to be operational later this month.

Additionally, three turbines at the Rusumo project are also operational.

Deogratius Mariwa, Tanesco's Director of Systems Control, said that Tanesco was improving its grid system to meet current needs by constructing five regional grid control centers along with additional facilities to assist during power outages.

Mariwa reported that the company was upgrading its grid system to meet growing demands.

This includes constructing five new regional grid control centers and additional facilities to support power outage management.

He outlined plans to add 20 more stations in the next three years and connect the grid systems with Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and eventually Mozambique to enhance electricity supply.

The new stations will be located in Arusha, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, and Dodoma regions, with contractor selection currently underway.

He also said that there are currently 67 grid stations in operation.

The visit was also attended by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy Felchesmi Mramba, his deputy Dr James Mataragio, and Tanesco management.

"Through Tanesco, we will continue to work towards providing reliable electricity to all Tanzanians"



Mark Tsoxo, Heifer International Tanzania's Country director, briefs journalists at the agricultural exhibition held in Dodoma Urban District last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Initiative seeks to give free sanitary pads to 40,000 school girls annually

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

OVER 200m/- has been raised in the first round of a fundraiser targeting to provide free sanitary pads for school girls in the Northern Zone.

Arjun Kaur Mittal, a 16-year-old pupil at North London Collegiate School in Dubai who has hatched the mission through 'Her Needs Tanzania' said the organization intends to be issuing free menstrual health towels to over 40,000 pupils in Tanzania annually.

"My target is to raise 700m/- for the cause, being a special task to ensure that female pupils in Arusha and Northern Tanzania stay healthy

and confident during their menstrual circles," said Kaur, who has so far distributed sanitary pads to over 400 school girls here.

"It costs six dollars to support one girl with sanitary pads in a year, which is a more worthy cause, costing the same price as a cup of Starbucks coffee," she said, adding the mission to provide sanitary pads to girls will be sustainable in coming years.

To start with, Mittal has distributed sanitary pads to the girls who are students of the Mkonoo Secondary School in the Terrat Ward of Arusha, an occasion which went hand in hand with the provision of awareness training on

the importance of using sanitary pads for girls, in ensuring health among young people.

"Sanitary pads are extremely important in that they give female pupils the confidence of attending class at all times regardless of their menstrual conditions," said Arusha Member of Parliament Mrisho Gambo during the fundraiser held at TGT grounds in Arumeru.

Satbir Singh Hanspaul, Managing Director Hanspaul Group, representing the business community in Arusha, said free sanitary pads for girl pupils are as important as books; therefore the government should consider

exempting the health items from taxes to make the towels more affordable and accessible to all.

A number of teachers in Arusha admit that many pupils have been missing classes during their monthly menstrual circles due to lack of proper hygiene materials, therefore once the sanitary tissues become readily available, the problem will be solved.

"We are especially advising that the girls be provided with recyclable pads that can be washed and reused again to save costs," said Lydia Urio, a teacher from Arumeru, adding that many young girls also become overly self-conscious during their menstrual periods.

LOSS OF PASSPORT



My name is **BRENDA ALFRED ANTHONY**, I would like to announce the loss of my passport with passport number: **TAE377202** issued on 22/12/2020. POLICE REPORT RB NUMBER: **PHO/DAR/KIN/168166/2024**

By Correspondent Faustine Felician

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Dr Selemani Jafo has directed the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive inspection of mining companies to identify those that are suspected to have been merged illegally.

During his first visit to the FCC offices in Dar es Salaam since his appointment yesterday, Jafo highlighted concerns that some mining and other sector companies have merged illegally, leading to revenue losses for the government.

"Despite the commendable work being done by the FCC, it is important also to audit the

Undeclared mergers: Minister orders thorough inspection of mining firms

mining companies. Some have merged and are conducting business without following the correct procedures. Mergers must receive approval from the FCC. Please conduct this audit to determine the extent of the revenue loss to the government," he said.

He also urged the commission to continue fostering an attractive investment environment,

particularly in the industrial sector.

"If the FCC performs its duties effectively, investors will also increase hence help create more jobs for Tanzanians. Let us support the government in this endeavour," Jafo said.

Dr Agrey Mlimuka, FCC board chair, assured the minister that the commission will work to ensure that all the directives are implemented.

FCC Director General William Erio said that the commission's major role is to protect consumers and create a supportive environment for investment.

He said that the commission will continue to support the government's efforts in improving investment climate and ensuring fair competition in the market.

AMERICAN EMBASSY, NETHERLAND, UNICEF, HELIOS TOWER (HTT) & UMOJA HOUSE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from American Embassy, Netherland, European Union (Diplomats), UNICEF and Umoja House. We shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles & Generator by public auction on Saturday August 17, 2024 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street. **Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am;** Sofa sets, Recliner, Chest drawer, Book case, Office table, Chairs, Steel file cabinet, Beds, Mattress, Fridge double door Up Right Freezer, Washer, Dryer, Electric/Gas cooker, Garden table, Garden chairs, Used roofing sheets, Photo copy M/c: Canon, Nashuatec MP6500 & Xerox 7970, Laptops, Computer set, Printer HP Laser Jet, Flat TV, GYM m/c, A/c split unit, etc.

Motor Vehicles & Generator Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Toyota Land Cruiser V8 Station Wagon	1VDO Diesel Engine	2009	Paid
2	Mitsubishi Pajero Shogun	4M41 Diesel Engine	2010 & 2013	Not paid
1	Nissan Patrol Station Wagon	TD42 Diesel Engine	2011	Paid
2	Generator KVA 500KVA - 3 Phase	Perkins Diesel Engine	-	Not paid
1	Generator 150KVA - 3 Phase	John Deer Diesel Engine	-	Not paid
1	Generator 8.8 KVA	Kubota Diesel Engine	-	Not paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from August 14 to 16, 2024 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle or Generator winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by August 22, 2024 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle or Generator will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via **CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards** will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information, contact:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA)
CELL NO: 0754 284 926
Insta: universalauctioncentre

DAR ES SALAAM
E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com



Baraka Isoso (C), a leader of the Youth Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi suburb and an expert in making liquid soap, takes his fellow youths through the basics of the business. The idea was to mentor them into gainful self-employment. Photo: Guardian Photographer

ACT seeks to heighten oversight role amidst corruption allegations

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE opposition ACT-Wazalendo has said it will continue executing its primary role of overseeing the government by exposing corruption and negligence to ensure transparency, integrity and efficiency in the conduct of public affairs for the benefit of citizens.

Ismail Jussa, ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) made the statement yesterday when addressing a public rally at Ayoub Grounds in Magomeni Constituency, Urban West Region, Unguja.

Jussa said that the party was actively involved in uncovering corruption, particularly in construction projects such as roads, school buildings, hospitals and other social services.

“As opposition parties, we need to invest efforts to make the government accountable for various wrongdoings. By revealing corruption within the public sector, we will enable citizens to make informed assessments and evaluations. Our responsibility also includes proposing alternative policies,” he said.

He pointed out that currently, 27 projects in Zanzibar face corruption issues, and despite discussing the issues publicly, no legal action has been taken, even though public funds have been misused in the projects.

Jussa urged the government to allow an independent international commission to investigate the issues thoroughly.

“We have clear evidence in these 27 projects. If our claims are unfounded, the government has to allow an independent international commission to investigate and uncover the truth,” he said.

Among the projects cited by Jussa as being susceptible to corruption are the construction of 10 district hospitals and one regional hospital, various school construction projects, a project for purchasing electricity poles, boat procurement, leasing of small islands, Gombani Stadium, a procurement fund, leasing of Old Town buildings and handling services at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

Omar Said Shaaban, ACT-Wazalendo lawyer and Zanzibar Trade and Industrial Development Minister, claimed that Zanzibar has been facing poverty due to poor economic planning since the 1964 revolution.



As opposition parties, we need to invest efforts to make the government accountable for various wrongdoings. By revealing corruption within the public sector, we will enable citizens to make informed assessments and evaluations. Our responsibility also includes proposing alternative policies

Landslide kills 21 at dumpsite in Uganda

By Joseph Winter, Kampala

AT LEAST 21 people were yesterday known to have died after a landslide at a massive dumpsite in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, police have said.

Rescuers were continuing to dig through the waste in the hope of finding more survivors after the landslide, which followed weeks of torrential rain.

The 36-acre (14-hectare) Kiteezi landfill is the only one serving the whole of Kampala, a city home to an estimated four million people.

Kampala Mayor Erias Lukwago told the AFP news agency it was “a disaster [that] was bound to happen”, and that “many, many more could be still buried”.

The city authorities had reportedly been trying to find a new site for many years.

A huge hill formed by the build-up of rubbish collapsed late on Friday night, burying houses on the edge of the site while residents were asleep, reported the Reuters news agency.

President Yoweri Museveni ordered an investigation into how people had been allowed to live so close to the “potentially hazardous and dangerous heap”, and ordered the removal of those in what he called the “danger zone”.

On Monday morning, a spokesperson from the national police force said 21 bodies had been retrieved, four of which were children.

Kampala police spokesman Patrick Onyango told AFP on Sunday that 14 people had been rescued.

“The rescue operation is still ongoing until we are sure no-one is trapped,” he said.

Onyango said that some 1,000 people had been forced to leave their homes because of the landslide. He did not specify how many had been living on the site, or whether they were living nearby.

Many people earn their living by trawling through the piles of rubbish looking for anything that can be resold.

The Uganda Red Cross has been providing tents to those in need of temporary shelter.



Muheza traffic police commander Leonard Bandola has a word with school bus drivers and owners after routine inspection of their vehicles yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Govt positive about 80pc uptake of clean cooking energy by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has promised to intensify community awareness campaigns to ensure that 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean cooking energy by 2030.

Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President’s Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamisi made the statement in Dar es Salaam at the weekend at a sports bonanza organized by an environmental ambassador Grit Mwimanzi in collaboration with Vingunguti Ward jogging clubs union.

The event aimed to highlight the importance of clean cooking energy and environmental conservation.

He underscored the importance of promoting adoption of clean cooking energy, citing the increasing environmental damage, climate change impacts and health issues associated

with traditional fuels like firewood and charcoal.

“Promoting clean cooking energy is a key priority for the government which has been instrumental in reiterating this issue,” said.

Khamisi said that the Vice President’s Office has implemented several awareness strategies, including a national dialogue on clean cooking energy held in 2022, which has provided clear guidelines for transitioning from traditional energy sources.

Khamisi emphasized that clean cooking energy is safe, affordable, sustainable and readily accessible.

“The government in collaboration with various stakeholders works to encourage communities to move away from toxic and greenhouse gas-emitting energy sources,” he said.

He said that reliance on non-clean cooking energy is linked to environmental degradation such as

deforestation for firewood and charcoal which exacerbates drought and impacts ecological systems.

The deputy minister further said the government was also collaborating with the private sector and research institutions to expand energy technologies, equipment and commercial systems to reduce the cost of clean cooking energy.

He highlighted Tanzania’s commitment to leading national, regional and international initiatives to ensure clean cooking energy remains a priority, urging citizens to support government efforts.

In addition, Khamisi urged Tanzanians to stop invading and damaging water sources through activities like agriculture which cause major environmental harm.

“Let us continue educating people about planting environmentally friendly trees and avoid agriculture along river

banks to protect our environment. Communities are essential protectors and conservators of our natural resources,” he said.

Ilala District Commissioner Edward Mpagolo stressed the importance of environmental conservation, encouraging the society to embrace tree-planting and participate in the monthly environmental clean-up activities held on the last Saturday of each month.

“Environmental conservation is a collective responsibility. I urge everyone to engage in tree-planting and support the use of clean cooking energy as part of our commitment to the government’s efforts,” he said.

In his remarks, Mwimanzi called for more concerted efforts to promote clean cooking energy to support the government’s goal of environmental protection and improving Tanzanians’ health.



Empty tables and little else at Dar es Salaam’s Kinyerezi market yesterday, with traders until recently stationed there shipped out – apparently on account of a long-running acute shortage of customers. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOGADISHU

AT least 39 people were killed in recent inter-clan clashes in Somalia in the past two months, the United Nations humanitarian agency said yesterday.

Land disputes were blamed on the conflicts, which left 35 dead in the Mudug region, in central Somalia, and four others dead in Luuq, in southern Somalia, the UN Office for the

UN: 39 die in two-month armed clashes in Somalia

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a humanitarian update released in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

About 42,000 people, mostly women, children, and the elderly were displaced by violence in Luuq early July, including 12,000 who fled to hard-to-reach

locations outside the town, OCHA said. Those newly displaced include communities that were already displaced by floods and are now experiencing secondary displacement, the UN agency said.

OCHA said clan conflicts in the Mudug region from June 26 to July 2

forced over 26,000 people to abandon their homes, about 30 percent of them herders who managed to flee with their livestock.

About 96,000 families have been affected by recent armed conflicts and climatic shocks in Galmudug State, it said.

'Innovation plays key role in reaping more in agriculture'

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

HEIFER International has underlined the importance of partnership, innovation, and commitment to achieving major milestones in the agriculture sector, supporting transformation in local farmers' lives.

Mark Tsoxo, Heifer International Country Director, made the remarks at the just-ended 31st Farmers' Exhibition in Dodoma, which also marked Heifer International's 50th anniversary of transforming local farmers' lives in the country.

Tsoxo emphasized Heifer International Tanzania's impact through collaboration with the government and other stakeholders over the past five decades.

"Our journey in Tanzania has been marked by partnership, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to ending hunger and poverty. Over the past 50 years, our work with the government and project partners has led to significant milestones that showcase the resilience of Tanzanian farmers and the collaborative spirit of our stakeholders," he said.

He said that the Nanenane exhibition provided a suitable platform for Heifer International to showcase its contributions to Tanzania's agricultural sector since 1974. This milestone underscores Heifer's 50 years of working with Tanzanian farmers and rural communities to enhance their income and livelihoods.

For half a century, Heifer International has partnered with the government, particularly through the Ministry of Livestock, to combat hunger and poverty while caring for the earth using the Pass-On-the-Gift approach.

Tsoxo said that Heifer has integrated dairy programmes with various agricultural activities, distributing over 282,050 dairy cows, 57,200 dairy goats, and other livestock to rural communities across several regions including Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Manyara, Singida, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Mara, and Shinyanga.

Heifer has also facilitated the creation of 52,522 groups in local communities, such as the Buswema group in Rungwe and the Tumaini Jipya group in Mufindi, Iringa region.

It has supported the formation of 116 primary dairy cooperatives, including MUKOTU Dairy Cooperative and Mufindi Dairy Cooperative, and has initiated six programs focused on youth.

"These efforts have strengthened the agricultural value chain and

Research body institutes labs to enhance coffee productivity

By Correspondent James Lanka, Arusha

THE Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) has introduced state-of-the-art laboratories designed to enhance coffee productivity and competitiveness in both local and foreign markets.

The laboratories are for soil, pathology, biotechnology and cupping.

In addition, the institute has developed 23 hybrid coffee varieties that are resistant to diseases, aimed at improving farmer productivity. The hybrids include nineteen Arabica varieties which are tall and compact, and four Robusta varieties.

Twisege Mwakabuta, Research Officer at TaCRI's Coffee Crop Improvement Department, said this recently here during Nanenane Farmers' Exhibitions 2024 for Northern Zone.

Mwakabuta noted that for years, many local farmers had been discouraged by coffee diseases, which led some to abandon coffee cultivation.

"The most challenging diseases include coffee berry and coffee leaf rust for Arabica and coffee wilt disease for Robusta varieties," she said.

She said that the tall Arabica hybrids that have been developed by the state-owned coffee research institute are N39-1, N39-2, N39-3, N39-4, N39-5, N39-6, N39-7, KP423-1, KP423-2, KP423-3. Others in the category in question are N39-8, N39-9, N39-10,

supported over 1.1 million families, 40 percent of whom are led by women. Heifer's impact extends to Tanzania's dairy cattle population, with 282,050 dairy cows distributed through the Kopa Ngómbe Lipa Ngómbe (HIT) programmes," Tsoxo said.

In recent years, Heifer has adopted a Market System Development approach, increasing milk flow to the formal market from 55,000 to 129,000 litres per day, attracting \$3.6 million in private sector investment.

The organisation has also established 22 milk collection centres with a total capacity of 72,000 litres per day, representing 20 percent of the country's collection capacity.

"We have also launched the Tanzania leg of the AYUte Africa Challenge, which empowers young agritech entrepreneurs across the continent by offering financial awards, expert advisory support, and a focus on enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability," he said.

Tsoxo noted that the challenge targets innovative startups with strong scaling potential, providing a platform for young visionaries to create tech-driven solutions for smallholder farmers, drive economic growth, foster innovation, and empower a new generation of agritech leaders.

"As Heifer International Tanzania looks toward the future, we remain committed to harnessing technology, including mobile-based services and digital platforms, to improve farming efficiency and market access," he said.

He also mentioned that through Heifer's programs, around 106,000 sunflower farmers have been digitally profiled and are now visible to key actors in the ecosystem. Ongoing collaboration with financial institutions aims to provide affordable capital for farmers, facilitating investments in quality inputs and infrastructure.

Moreover, sustainable agricultural practices are a central focus, with the organisation offering training in climate-smart agriculture and agroecology to support the productivity and resilience of Tanzanian smallholder farmers.

Since its founding in 1944, Heifer International has collaborated with over 46 million people worldwide to end hunger and poverty sustainably while caring for the Earth. Operating in 19 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas, Heifer supports farmers and food producers in strengthening local economies and building secure livelihoods that provide a living income.

N39-11 and N39-12.

The compact Arabica hybrids introduced are TaCRI 1F, TaCRI 3F, TaCRI 4F, and TaCRI 6F.

Robusta varieties that have been developed include Maruku 1, Bukoba 1, Maruku 2, and Muleba 1.

Fatuma Jumapili, a biotechnologist at TaCRI, said that these varieties not only improve yield up to 5,000 kg per acre but also enhance beverage quality with good bean sizes and a pleasant aroma.

As demand for these hybrids surpasses TaCRI's production capacity, Jumapili said that the institute was collaborating with farmer groups and municipalities to ensure a steady supply of seedlings.

TaCRI uses various methods to produce hybrids, including clonal propagation, seeds, grafting and tissue culture.

Through its technology transfer unit, TaCRI provides training to coffee farmers on adopting the new hybrids to replace old plants.

Established in 2000 as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Ordinance (CAP. 212), TaCRI became operational in September 2001. Its primary goal is to rejuvenate the Tanzanian coffee industry through stakeholder-led and demand-driven research.

TaCRI aims to enhance productivity, quality and profitability in the coffee subsector, ultimately increasing competitiveness of Tanzanian coffee on the global market.



Specialist surgeons in urology and nephrology perform a kidney transplant on a patient at the Mloganzila campus of Muhimbili National Hospital at the weekend. Photo courtesy of MNH-Mloganzila

Campaign delivers 120 artificial limbs to PwDs

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

Authorities in Arusha have distributed 120 artificial limbs to persons with physical disabilities in the central business district and the environs in addition to 600 wheelchairs.

Arusha Urban MP, Mrisho Gambo, through a humanitarian campaign known as "Touching Lives!" undertaken in association with other well-wishers, has donated artificial limbs to the needy here.

"We are also working to provide a total of 1000 pupils and students

with disabilities with National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) covers to ensure that they can access treatments from public hospitals without problems," Gambo said when speaking during the ceremony to present the items to beneficiaries.

"But for the children to be supported with these facilities, they must all be enrolled in school, therefore, I appeal to parents and guardians not to keep children with disabilities at home," added Gambo.

Other items that were donated include 500 cooking stoves, eight sewing machines, and an assortment of bedding materials

such as mattresses and beds for families of people with disabilities.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Godwin Mollel who attended the function said that many of the disabled pupils and students come from poor families; therefore the idea of providing them with national health insurance coverage was a welcome one.

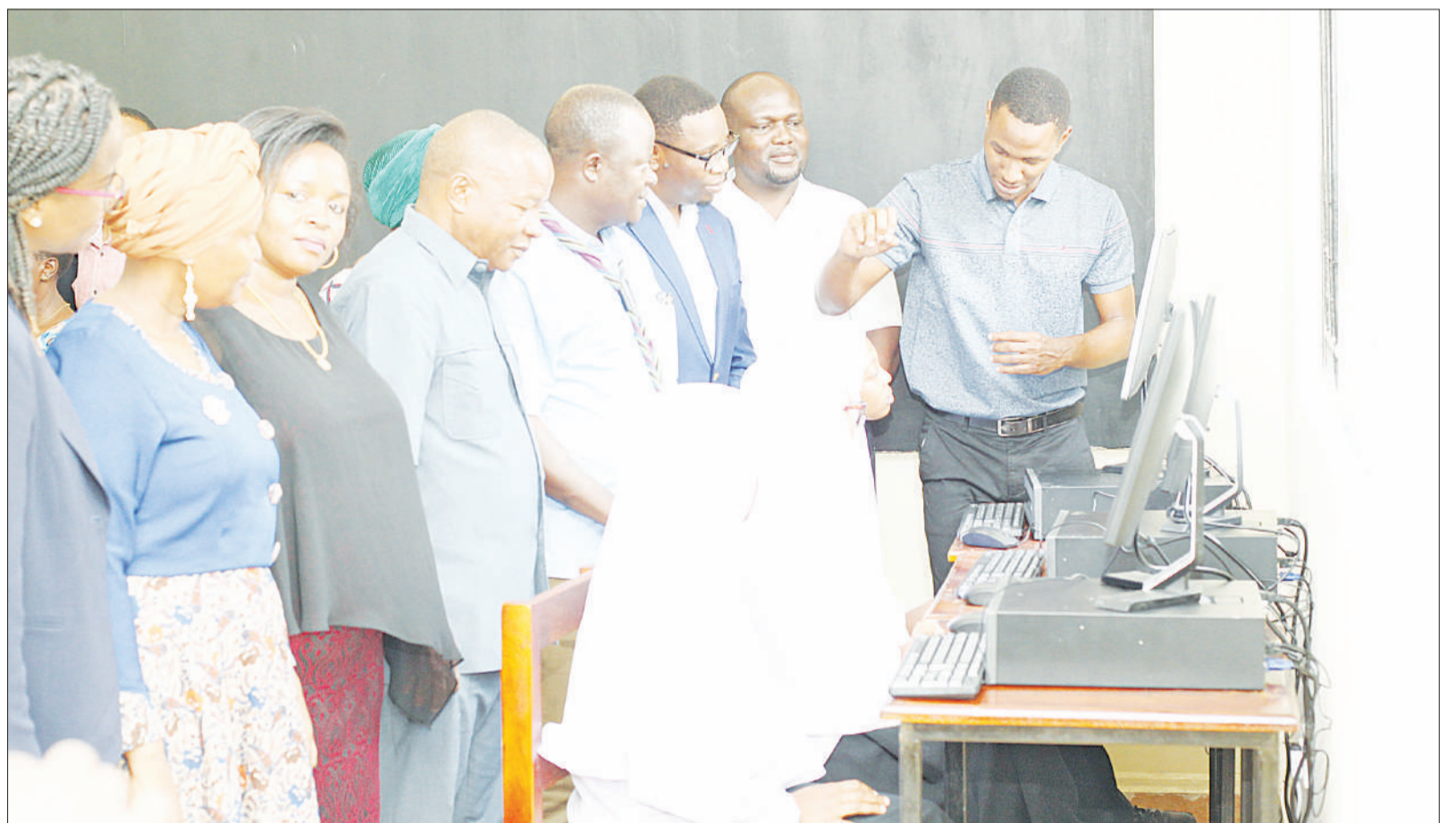
Satbir Singh Hanspaul who is among the members of the local business community supporting the initiative said as long as residents of Arusha join hands, it will be possible for all the persons in need to be reached and served.

Anzirani Saidi, one of the

beneficiaries from Albinism Women Sewing Group based in Sakina area, said they were glad to receive sewing machines that will further aid their undertaking.

With a population of more than 500,000 residents, Arusha Urban District is yet to compile the number of people with disabilities who currently need support.

The city however has streams in primary schools that are especially dedicated to pupils with disabilities, such as the Meru Primary which has a special department for children with impaired hearing. Uhuru Primary also caters for pupils who are challenged mentally.



Nixon Michael (R), Realising Education for Development (READ) Tanzania's head of finance and administration, clarifies an issue in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to Kinondoni municipal secondary education officer Mtundi Nyamhanga (4th-R). It was at the re-opening of Magomeni Makuti Secondary School's library, recently refurbished and restocked with furniture, books and computers by the agency in partnership with Deloitte. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DRC gvt sets free over 500 prisoners citing congestion

KINSHASA

MINISTER of Justice of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Constant Mutamba, announced t the weekend the release of 527 prisoners from the central prison of Makala in Kinshasa.

During this event, he also delivered 2,000 mattresses to the inmates out of a total of 7,000 ordered, aiming to improve their detention conditions.

"A state governed by the rule of law means that everyone must be subject to the law. Your place is in

your home where you will spend the night tonight. You must return to your homes. In this regard, I inform you that next Saturday, we will continue with the release of some prisoners who have been unjustly detained," stated Constant Mutamba.

He reminded the public that he had promised to improve the detention conditions of prisoners, in line with instructions from the Head of State.

"This is what is being done. I also guaranteed that no prisoner would sleep on the floor anymore. Based on the instructions given to

the director of the central prison of Makala, we have already provided the prison with the first batch of mattresses. The beds are currently being manufactured, and starting next week, no prisoner will have to sleep on the floor. Meanwhile, the prison's health center is undergoing rehabilitation, and several pavilions are also being renovated. Our ambition is first to reduce overcrowding in the prison and then to rehabilitate it thoroughly," he said.

The Minister also announced the construction of a new prison in Maluku, on a site he had recently

visited. In July, the Congo's government had stated that at least 7,000 inmates were to be granted conditional release from the Makala Central Prison in a bid to ease overcrowding at the facility.

Located in Kinshasa, it is the country's largest jail, built for 1,500 inmates in 1957, but now holding more than 15,000 people, including children and women.

Conditions are notoriously bad at the prison with inmates crammed into cells, eating poorly, and some suffering from water and respiratory diseases.

Price volatility rocks Addis Ababa, with capital reeling from forex rate shake-ups

ADDIS ABABA

THE prices on the menu have been erased at a small hotel in a suburb of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

That was no mistake, the waiters said, as businesses in Addis Ababa struggle to keep up with spiralling inflation since the government implemented a flexible exchange rate policy late last month.

Since then, the Ethiopian birr has lost 60 percent of its value against the dollar as of yesterday, sparking anxiety as customers were forced to pay more for basic commodities and some businesspeople are hoarding.

The menus at the Samra Hotel in Bole, a leafy suburb of Addis Ababa, captured the instability: There's a new price for every meal at any moment.

"Previously, prices would be updated bimonthly but nowadays it's daily, if not by the hour, to reflect the changing landscape of the market," said Rahel Teshome, who works at the hotel.

Many supermarkets in Addis Ababa are hoarding products in warehouses and only selling small quantities in their stores to escape punishment by city authorities, who have vowed to crack down on hoarders. Consumers who want to buy in bulk must pay inflated prices for products they are told to pick from warehouses.

In Merkato, the capital's biggest open-air market, guards are stationed in an attempt to keep businesses from raising prices. Last week, police officers raided some warehouses and confiscated 800,000 liters (210,000 gallons) of edible oil they later distributed to local cooperatives, which offered it at previous prices.

More than 3,000 stores accused of hoarding have been shuttered across the country.

The Addis Ababa City Trade Bureau has warned that more actions will be taken against people who take advantage of the floating of the birr to hike prices.

The new exchange rate policy was a historic decision in a country where the government for decades fixed the price of foreign currencies, allowing a black market to flourish. Commercial banks now can set foreign exchange prices, and non-bank entities are permitted to operate foreign exchange bureaus for the first time.

The International Monetary Fund approved a four-year credit facility worth \$3.4 billion coinciding with Ethiopia's reforms. The IMF pledged to disburse \$1 billion immediately to address pressing needs, with Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva describing the reforms as a "landmark moment for Ethiopia."

Ethiopia, which suffered foreign currency shortages in the months leading to the reforms, imports many essential commodities. To help consumers cope with the impact of the new policy, authorities imported 14 million litres (3.7 million gallons) of edible oil, but such interventions have been minor given the rising prices of other essential goods.

Experts say Ethiopians face unpredictable days ahead in a country where official salaries have generally stagnated for years.

Those with fixed incomes will be most affected by the floating of the birr, said Getachew T. Alemu, an Addis Ababa-based public policy specialist, adding that the immediate injection of IMF funds will not be enough to absorb the pressure.

"Things could get worse, especially for fixed incomes, unless cautious policy actions are taken," he said.

The government, as it cracks down on price speculators, has appeared unable to follow its own advice. Last week, authorities raised the price of ordinary passports from 2,000 to 5,000 birr, shocking people such as Almaz Teferi, who was starting the process of getting one.

She and some of her friends hope to find work as domestic labourers in one of the Gulf States.

"I have been working as a cleaner to raise the fee for the passport. I came and double-checked the fee on Monday and by Thursday the price had been raised quite significantly," Teferi said.

Nigeria immigration probes woman filmed at an airport 'tearing' husband's passport

LAGOS

THE Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has called for an investigation into an event at Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos, where a woman was filmed tearing a Nigerian passport.

According to local media reports, the woman identified as Favour Igiebor, was seen in the video confessing to damaging the passport, reportedly belonging to her husband. Despite her admission, the airport officials did not take any action but allowed her to leave with her two children.

NIS spokesperson Kenneth Udo confirmed the incident in a statement issued on Sunday, adding that the Comptroller General of Immigration, K.N. Nandap, had ordered Igiebor to be summoned for further investigation.

The NIS stated that if the allegations are confirmed, her actions would violate the Immigration Act 2015, which could lead to legal consequences. The agency emphasized its commitment to upholding the law and maintaining national security.

According to the law, the deliberate destruction of a passport is a serious offence, which is clearly stated in the Immigration Act 2015, specifically under Section 10(b). The law clearly states that any act contrary to this act can result in penalties, including fines, imprisonment, or both. The specific penalties are outlined under Section 10(h) of the Act, which details the consequences of such offences.

If someone is found guilty of destroying a passport, they may face legal action, which could include being fined, imprisoned, or subject to other legal penalties as determined by a court of law.



Dr Jeremiah Magesa (R), a programme manager with the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI), briefs journalists at an agricultural show held in Arusha city late last week on 23 newly developed hybrid coffee varieties said to be highly tolerant to diseases. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

DRC to discuss reopening of borders with Zambia amid trade tensions

KINSHASA

A MINISTERIAL meeting was scheduled for yesterday between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia regarding Lusaka's move to close several border posts in response to Kinshasa's newly decided import restrictions, the DRC government announced.

The meeting was to be held in Lubumbashi, the capital of the southeastern border province of Haut-Katanga, as Zambia closed on Saturday several border posts with the DRC in response to the DRC's decision in June to ban the import of products, including beers and soft drinks for 12 months.

The meeting yesterday was expected to discuss the issue of reopening the borders, according to a statement issued by the Congolese Ministry of Communication and Media.

On Sunday, the DRC Ministry of Foreign Trade said there is no dispute in trade relations between the DRC and Zambia related to the temporary restrictive measures the government took to boost local industry.

According to the DRC government, the decision was taken to protect local production and the jobs it generates. "The DRC is increasingly noting a negative impact on its economy as a result of imported inflation, as the Ministry of National Economy report reveals that certain imported products contribute 60 percent to inflation," a recent DRC government statement said.

Zambia and the DRC rely heavily on roads for the export of precious metals, notably copper and cobalt. Zambia is a key export route for the DRC, the world's second-largest producer of copper in 2023.

Over 100 students set to fly out tomorrow for higher education

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A GROUP of more than 100 Tanzanian students are set to fly out tomorrow for further studies abroad.

This was said at the weekend in Dar es Salaam by Director General of Global Education Link (GEL) Abdulmalik Mollel when handing over Visas to the first batch of 100 students at a meeting also attended by their parents.

The purpose of the meeting was to hand over visas, discuss preparation

for the trip, bring together parents, students, and representatives of the universities the students will be attending, and fill out necessary documents.

Mollel explained that their aim was to give the students their completed visas, provide health insurance, and inform them of flight dates, accommodations, travel companions, and reception arrangements.

He mentioned that the students would start departing for different universities worldwide from

Wednesday, with groups of 50 to 70 students leaving every week for various countries.

Mollel advised the students to focus on their studies, avoid luxuries, and ensure they graduate with good grades to honour the sacrifices their parents have made to pay their fees.

He emphasized the importance of avoiding wrongdoings, such as drinking alcohol and frequenting nightclubs, which can lead to failing to complete their studies abroad, disappointing their parents.

Aiman Mohamed, who is set to study in India, expressed his gratitude for the coordination provided by Global Education Link, which enabled him to enrol at Sharda University in India.

Rita Nichalaus, also from Mwanza, expressed her happiness for the guidance they received regarding what to do and not what to do while studying abroad.

She mentioned that understanding the habits and cultures of the locals is essential to avoid potential troubles while abroad.



This was once a road - complete with a bridge across a river at Kwa Nipe-Malamba Mawili in suburban Dar es Salaam. Right is Jonas Kilamba briefing Correspondent Sabato Kasika at the site yesterday on how he and other residents of the area are raising money with which to rehabilitate the road.

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

Treasury Registrar investments quite reassuring to public firms

FULLY grasping and comprehending the events witnessed at the recent handover of the Bumbuli-based Mponde tea factory in Tanga Region is hard.

However, one of the salient observations is that the firm is projected to start making a profit after four years from onset of production.

Senior officials at the office of the Treasury Registrar hinted that the firm's asset value had increased from 790m/- to around 4.5bn/- while attracting more investors.

In remarks that were more noticeable on the significance of the crop for the zone and the government, the business prospects were less vivid except for that projection on a turn to profitability.

Tea production is currently down in Lushoto and Korogwe districts and it is hard to say how having the Treasury Registrar move to do something about it could help pension funds in particular.

Rushing to save the factory was way different from remarks over what follows in case there is clear inefficiency, as the government says it will not hesitate to resort to liquidation.

It's tricky gauging how observers can make a distinction line, as the TR actually appealed to pension funds and other public agencies to invest in agriculture as "it carries a big population and increases job opportunities".

Strictly speaking, that is what the TR's Office is primed to do - and it is precisely this outlook that is demonstrated on the decision. This applies even if it was made a few years ago, as it reflects the mood in decision making generally.

Still, there is another attitude towards public firms that isn't as lenient not just in overly expecting government subsidies and, even less, directing pension funds to sink cash there.

It is a well-covered area of concern if indeed the Mponde tea factory venture is the result of investment decisions by the Public Social Security Service Fund (PSSSF), the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) and the TR's Office, with 2.5bn/- taken up so far and 4.05bn/- projected to be used up to its completion.

What appears to be the case is that this investment decision is being defended or maintained even while an investment advisory from a reputable accounting firm would suggest the opposite.

This was a rush to save the tea crop in the area, not because there is a shortage of tea but to assist the farmers there.

What the public now hears are details of that arrangement, where WCF and PSSSF took up 42 per cent of shares and the TR's Office landed just 16 per cent shareholding.

But even if it has minority shares, it is the TR's Office that is calling the shots. Still, the remarks as to the government's readiness to withdraw shareholding in parastatals deemed to be underperforming or privatise them (to get new investors to take over those organizations, to use a more cumbersome formulation) is nowhere to be seen.

This posture would be valid were it that Mponde tea factory stood as an exception, but it sort of looks like a model.

One reason the government finds it difficult to let industries that are out of date, are too costly or lack markets fail is that there is a communal stakeholder base that can affect ruling party fortunes if this or that factory collapses.

In other words, the communal sourcing of the legislature, where each constituency demands that its factory or processing plant be revived if it failed (and not sold to a private investor where local authorities get little leverage) compels policy abdication. Actions speak louder than words.

What holds back big savings, investments is social security

FINANCIAL institutions are well-known for fads and fashionable products involving a minimum of pursuit of gain to cultivate the willingness to spend cash over likely benefits.

A new fad being promoted isn't altogether as much play as it looks like upbringing as well, which financial stakeholders say is part of ongoing efforts to promote financial literacy.

A major bank has embarked on such a move, and it is unclear whether it is an 'academy' for new savers coming of age or, conversely, all part of corporate social responsibility in that those targeted may decide to save with other banks.

The idea of an academy is not usually expected when it comes to finance and, even less, the idea of fitness. Yet this is what is happening, as a commercial bank that often lends to the government unveils what it projects as a 'financial fitness academy' with a special emphasis on children.

The move will have both adherents and critics, but it looks rational in the sense of imprinting the particular bank's name in the minds of children just being exposed to the whole idea of saving. By mental projection, they could also start with it.

Still, there was a silver lining that this academy was a one-time event which may still leave tangible impressions, though not as profound as a prolonged initiative aiming at fitness in an athletic or

sporting sense of the term.

The children were thus put to a 'blitz' about essential financial skills, including earning, spending, saving and even giving where the point is to make informed financial decisions in the future.

That is easier said than done, as knowing where to keep one's money safely is far easier than actually doing so and when one is trying to project fostering financial discipline from an early age it is overload.

For instance, it is arguable where a secure financial future starts in life: whether it is in the discipline and knowledge tied up with financial literacy or those are two things with little in common.

Savings are tied up with feeling secure in the first place and wishing to guarantee the future from a comfortable present.

That is why it was previously successful professionals who moved to save as they had more than the common people. They already were true role models with the lives they led, while more unequal society scarcely makes teachers, doctors or journalists the role models children would seek to emulate.

Instead, many strive after fashion in an effort to be accepted in leisure environments, this except for a few usually middle-class families who are happy at home and shun outward luxury.

Teaching children in such families that savings are worthwhile is profitable, while those at the bottom of the ladder will scarcely pay attention.



Democracy is blamed for Africa's many crises when state failure is the culprit

By Paul-Simon Handy and Félicité Djilo

AFRICA'S myriad governance and security crises are often blamed on a lack of democracy. But is that the case? Or should these crises instead be linked to state dysfunction that disrupts the building of accountable governance systems?

Coups and unconstitutional changes of government are back in Africa after two decades of decline. The downswing resulted from the combined pressure of the international environment and the normative mechanisms of the African Union and regional economic communities.

In the past decade, all regions of Africa have experienced some form of civil or military breakdown of the state order. Juntas use their apparent popular support to extend transition periods indefinitely, plunging regional and continental mediation processes into an unprecedented crisis.

These signs of breakdown in Africa's collective security systems have led many observers to conclude that Africa is experiencing a crisis of democracy. But this analysis isn't entirely accurate.

First, Afrobarometer surveys indicate that African attitudes towards democracy remain largely positive. Most Africans want to live in a democracy but are disappointed by the quality of existing democratic systems.

Research by the ISS African Futures and Innovation team suggests that although many countries on the continent have the essential elements of electoral democracy, liberal democracy remains minimal.

Second, perceptions of democratic success seem to be influenced by democracy's electoral dimension. For example, before its coups in 2020 and 2021, Mali was long considered a model of democracy in west Africa. But it was the country's ability to organise peaceful elections and power transfers that was celebrated, rather than the construction of solid institutions of democratic participation and accountability.

This is clear from the population's deep distrust of politicians. Most Malians criticise the political class for the poor results it achieves in terms of security and economic and social development - even though it was elected through more or less transparent processes.

Democracy has often been blamed for failures that are actually the state's responsibility. But democracy is no more than a means - an enabler that needs an



Burkina Faso's coup leader Ibrahim Traoré attends oath-taking ceremony as Burkina Faso transitional president in Ouagadougou on 21 October 2022. Photo: Stringer / Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

underlying structure to operate properly. That structure is the state. To use a metaphor from the information technology world, the state is the hardware or the operating system, while democracy is the software. Using the most sophisticated software on an obsolete operating system can lead to profound malfunctions.

African states are still relatively young and suffer from the teething problems inherent in the state-building process. Historically, state building has often been complex, non-linear, violent and disputed. Contestation arises when states try to impose their authority in contexts where there are several modes of governance and forms of authority.

The expansion of Islamist-inspired insurgencies in some Sahelian states reflects insufficient territorial control by the governments of affected countries. Sixty-four years after independence, many states, particularly in the vast areas of the Sahel, still don't have complete control over their territory. That makes them particularly vulnerable to armed insurgencies, especially in cross-border areas or far from the capital.

ISS African Futures and Innovation research reveals that the most difficult task for African leaders is enforcing state authority in the context of an international order that essentially favours individual rights. Yet the process of state formation has rarely been inclusive or even participatory in other parts of the world.

But this international normative context alone doesn't fully explain the relatively poor state of Africa's governance - despite the continent's vulnerabilities to global developments. While most governments have managed to impose state authority in their territories, their approach hasn't been balanced. They have overinvested in defence and security forces - often to protect their own regimes - and neglected the functions of the state that bind citizens to the nation through service delivery.

Transport infrastructure, a functional state presence especially in remote areas, and consistent rule of law are often lacking. Building state capacity entails improving the effectiveness of government and having a legitimate monopoly of the means of force. Enforcing law and order precedes - or goes hand in hand with - establishing administrative capacity to deliver regular services.

But weak economies limit government revenues and reduce the state's capacity to provide sufficient public goods, thereby creating fertile ground for violence.

Research shows that citizens in some conflict-affected countries experience the state's presence more through extortion and repression than basic service provision. This blurs the lines between representatives of the state and those of armed groups.

Confronted with a young, connected and increasingly urban population demanding

rights and services on the one hand, and a narrow tax base and unfair conditions of international funding access on the other, African governments often find themselves at an impasse.

Democratisation - it was believed - would promote strong states firmly rooted in territories with clearly identified borders. However, the challenges of establishing a democracy have made state-building harder in Africa. Far from helping to create inclusive societies, the democratisation process - accompanied by the inevitable ambitions of political actors - has often fuelled social divisions.

Weakened internally, African states struggle to strengthen the continental and regional collective security frameworks of the African Union and regional economic communities. The current crisis of multilateralism on the continent is also a crisis of the African state because a collective of weak states doesn't translate into strong regional and continental bodies.

Democracy needs strong states with viable institutions - something that is lacking in Africa. Governments on the continent do not have the luxury of sequencing - they must simultaneously build capacity, institutions and inclusion.

The future of the African Union and regional economic communities lies first and foremost in consolidating the capacity of states to form viable entities. Only then can countries cooperate usefully with their peers.

DM

By Peter Fabricius

Is Russia's war against Ukraine spilling over into Africa?

RUSSIA appears to be intensifying its offensive – on various fronts – to gain influence in Africa, and its enemy Ukraine is fighting back, threatening to make the continent a major proxy battlefield.

Minor military skirmishes elsewhere in Africa exploded last week when Moscow's Wagner Group (now Africa Corps) took heavy casualties in a battle with Tuareg separatists and jihadists in Tinzaouaten, Mali. This was a setback for the Kremlin, which appeared to be expanding its presence or at least re-buffering Western efforts to regain lost African ground.

Russian soldiers had already begun filling the vacuum left by the US with the withdrawal of its last troops this week from Agadez, Niger. The US base had been used to monitor Islamist extremists throughout the Sahel. In Faustin-Archange Touadéra's Central African Republic – effectively a client state of Moscow's for some years – Wagner operatives scuppered attempts by the US security outfit Bancroft Global Development to establish itself in Bangui in January.

Russia has also maintained a strong foothold in Libya, fighting on the side of strongman Khalifa Haftar, the military head of the eastern government based in Benghazi, against the UN-recognised government in Tripoli, in the west.

That war went cold in 2020, but as Chatham House Libya expert Tim Eaton told ISS Today, thousands of Wagner troops were expected to remain in Libya. The Russians still operate their airbase at Jufra in central Libya, and Russian military materiel is still entering the east. "There is a lot of speculation over the extent to which Russian engagement in Libya is about Libya, or access to Africa (particularly the Sahel) or both," Eaton said.

'Marketing campaign'

On the propaganda front, Russia's state-owned television network RT seems to be trying to relaunch or rebrand itself in Africa. An extensive marketing campaign of billboards and other advertising media featured images of liberation heroes such as Tanzania's Julius Nyerere, Uganda's Apollo Milton Obote, Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe. "Your Values. Shared," the billboards read. In a press release, RT claims it is committed to the "dismantling of neo-colonialist narratives in news media".

But it's difficult to establish RT's actual presence in Africa. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the network was widely pulled off the air and now seems to be operating largely through Chinese proxies.

South African media analyst Anton Harber said RT's campaign was "too dated" to hold much sway with young Africans. Also: "There is a huge irony in RT promoting itself as a voice of anti-colonialism at a time when Russia is increasing its influence on the continent in ways that could be described as neo-colonial. One thing we know about RT is that it is not an African voice, but Putin's outlet, there to serve him and his country. So it is dressing up its ambitions for influence in Africa, with a paternalistic anti-colonial rhetoric."

However, Samuel Ramani, Russia-Africa relations expert at the Royal United Services Institute and Oxford University, believes plugging the old anti-Western



An image captured from a video provided by the Russian Defence ministry shows a crew preparing to launch a rocket from their Uragan multiple launch rocket system in South Donetsk, Ukraine, on 11 August 2024. (Photo: Russian Defence Ministry Press Service / EPA-EFE)

colonialism line "will definitely increase Russia's soft power over time". Russia's information war, as in the US in 2016, is also being conducted below the radar in Africa, with bots trying to influence election outcomes in South Africa, Madagascar and perhaps elsewhere.

Though Moscow's African offensive is broadly aimed at the West, it is also more narrowly aimed at Ukraine, at least concerning propaganda. And Ukraine is fighting back.

Ukraine's special envoy for Africa and the Middle East, Maksym Subkh, said the country is opening several new embassies in Africa. This is not only to boost diplomatic, economic and other relations but to counter Russia's anti-Ukraine propaganda. A wider diplomatic footprint would allow Ukraine to help Africans counter Wagner's influence because, he said, Kyiv had learnt how to deal with Wagner when it was fighting it in Ukraine.

After last week's fierce battle in Tinzaouaten, when Tuareg separatists claimed to have killed 84 Wagner fighters and 47 Malian troops, senior Ukrainian intelligence agency spokesperson officer Andriy Yusov said the Malian rebels had received the 'necessary' information to conduct the attack – implying it came from Ukraine.

In response, Mali's military junta severed diplomatic relations with Ukraine, accusing it of supporting "international terrorism". Ukraine denied the charge, saying Mali had acted hastily without investigating the full circumstances of the

incident or providing evidence of Ukraine's involvement.

Mali's fellow military junta regime in Niger also broke diplomatic ties with Kyiv. And Russia accused Ukraine of opening a new front in Africa – which is of course deeply ironic.

If the Russia-Ukraine war has indeed spilt over into Africa, it could have grave implications for the continent. The Economic Community of West African States, in a rather general statement, condemned "foreign interference in the region ... as well as any attempt to draw the region into the current geopolitical confrontations." The African Union seemingly hasn't responded. His development may not be entirely new in Africa. Ramani suggests that if Ukraine were indeed involved in Wagner's defeat in Mali, that would be consistent with its strategy towards Africa, which he said had two prongs. First, diplomatic outreach through establishing new embassies and second, "below-the-radar special operations like we have seen against the RSF [Rapid Support Forces] in Sudan".

RSF is engaged in a ferocious civil war with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Russia, and particularly Wagner, are widely known to have been supporting the RSF. And in February, the Kyiv Post reported that Ukrainian special forces were operating in Sudan, backing the SAF against the RSF-aligned Wagner forces.

Ramani suggested that Wagner's defeat in Mali was no cause for complacency. It would lead to introspection, and

Wagner forces probably being placed under greater state control, "much like the process currently underway in Libya".

He added that "it might also give Burkina Faso and Niger, which are allowing small contingents of Russian advisers to operate in their countries ... second thoughts about entrusting Russia more broadly with counter-terrorism missions". But Ramani says Russia has suffered major military setbacks before – and will bounce back.

"Russia is a very agile, flexible and nimble player which can take advantage of coups and crises. Its influence is likely to endure mainly because African countries see it as an integral pole within the international system and a power to be engaged with alongside others, and not a country that should be isolated like the West wants them to."

Peter Fabricius is a consultant at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Pretoria.

Mass future migration will reshape global demographics – hard borders are not the answer

By Jakkie Cilliers

THE future will almost inevitably see large-scale migration on a level unknown in several generations, possibly centuries. It won't happen in the next two years but will steadily ramp up so that by mid-century, hundreds of thousands of people globally are likely to be on the move annually.

Large-scale migration will occur because of push and pull factors. The push factor will be caused by climate change and the lack of opportunity in regions such as Africa and the Middle East. The pull will be from declining populations and demand for labour in countries such as Germany, China, Russia, Poland, Japan and South Korea.

The push effect of climate change is already evident in regions that include some of the poorest countries globally, such as the Horn of Africa and west Africa, and is exacerbated by deprivation.

Research by the Institute for Security Studies' African Futures and Innovation team indicates that growth requirements of more than 15% a year are needed to end extreme poverty in Africa before mid-century. China and the Asian Tigers managed sustained growth rates approaching a much more modest 10% a year. In an era of slow growth globally, Africa is unlikely to approach even that rate. The result in Africa will be many economies with a surplus of educated people but limited formal sector jobs.

As we see in our long-term employment forecasts, the implication is that many Africans will survive in the informal economy and remain poorer than in most other regions, although their situation will steadily improve. They will inevitably search for opportunities abroad, eventually pushing against an open door as demand for labour elsewhere increases. This will happen even as African governments work to create job opportunities, constrain outward migration and grow their economies.

The pull effect will be provided by the declining populations of regions such as Europe, with its high standards of living, freedom and infrastructure. This year, the population numbers of 29 countries globally – including Finland, South Korea, Germany, Russia, Japan and Ukraine – are in absolute decline.

Already in 2022, Europe had six million vacant jobs. Technology can compensate for the decline in the size of the labour force as a percentage of the total population, but artificial intelligence does not cut hair, drive garbage trucks and look after the elderly.



The pull effect of labour shortages in rich European countries and elsewhere will eventually create an unstoppable momentum. Consider, for example, that in the European Union, 112 million people are currently aged over 65 years – roughly 22% of the total population. By 2050 it will have increased to 142 million (30%).

No amount of investment in hard borders and other controls will succeed in the face of huge demand for elder care, or compensate for Europe's labour force reduction from its current 251 million to 228 million. The challenges with stricter border control are evident in how countries like the US, Italy, Spain and others struggle to contain the current trickle.

By 2050 the populations of 64 countries will be in an annual decline. In China, that trend starts in 2026. By the end of the century, the number of countries with falling populations will have more than doubled to 147 out of 188 countries in our database, including India (from about 2057)

and the US (from about 2082). Most countries still experiencing a population increase by 2100 will be in Africa, with a few possible outliers such as Canada and Australia (due to high rates of expected inward migration). This also includes a poor country such as Afghanistan with its tenaciously high fertility rate. The only countries with large populations that will still increase would be Nigeria (then the fourth-largest population globally) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (sixth-largest population globally).

The world will have to consider the ramifications of these changes and design appropriate strategies. In the short and medium terms – before the labour shortages in destination countries become acute – increased migrant flows will polarise electorates and energise nationalist and nativist movements. This is already evident in the US, Germany, the UK, France, Sweden and elsewhere.

Eventually, in those countries with

declining populations that don't attract migrants, rural and urban areas will be scarcely populated, with low or no demand for additional housing. Employers will struggle to recruit staff. The consequences in authoritarian countries such as China, North Korea and Russia are less clear and more likely to contribute to economic stagnation and eventually regression.

Richer, democratic countries that attract large-scale migration will struggle with cultural matters, including social tensions if migrants are not well integrated. On the other end of the equation, large outflows of skilled and semi-skilled people could undermine sending countries' economies. The effect of a brain drain is already decimating the health profession of Nigeria and Ghana, for example.

In previous centuries, when large-scale migration occurred, such as from many European countries to the US, an entire logistics value chain was established to

process and manage the flows legally. We will probably eventually see the same, with flows this time from Africa.

Instead of hardening border protection, African and Western governments should negotiate bilateral agreements where Africa supplies skilled workers to Europe as part of formal, government-to-government arrangements. This could help Europe meet its skills gaps while African governments gain funds to train and educate more people.

For this reason, the World Bank encourages strategic migration management by making labour migration an explicit part of the development strategy in migration-origin countries. Governments in destination countries need to match migrants' skills and attributes with their labour needs. The alternative – migration as part of organised crime – is simply too ghastly to contemplate.

DM

Kenyan police taunted as they square up to Haiti's gangs

PRESSURE is mounting on Kenyan police officers to deliver on their promise to help bring Haiti's rampant gangs under control, six weeks after setting foot in the Caribbean nation.

When the first contingent of 200 elite Kenyan police officers flew into Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on 25 June, they filed confidently off their Kenyan Airways flight clad in helmets and combat gear, carrying their weapons and holding high the Kenyan national flag.

They chanted in Swahili while they psyched themselves up on the airport tarmac, as did a second batch of 200 Kenyan officers who landed three weeks later.

"Let's go!" and "We're moving!" came the cries.

Hopes were high that the Kenyan police would bring much-needed muscle to Haiti's beleaguered National Police (PNH), as they struggled to hold back a deadly offensive by Haitian criminal gangs that have terrorised the capital and large swathes of the country for more than three years.

The Kenyans are the advance guard core of a UN-mandated, multinational force that will seek to restore peace to Haiti.

They were initially welcomed and feted by Haitian government leaders, and by many in Haiti's media too.

Radio Independante FM posted on X a welcome greeting in the country's Creole language for the Kenyans, saying:

"Haiti is the country of all Africans. Since you are black Haiti is your home... You Kenyan soldiers are at home and must be welcomed to help fight these wasters [the gangs] that prevent us from living in our country".

However, weeks after the much anticipated deployment, which had already been delayed by legal challenges in Kenya and logistical hitches, many Haitians seem frustrated and disillusioned that the force, along with their Haitian police colleagues, have not moved more quickly and decisively against the gangs, their bosses and their known hideouts.

Frustrated commentary, expressing impatience and disappointment, is on the rise in Haitian media and social media circles.

There has been chorus of calls for "actions not words" and "concrete results".

Some of the sharpest criticism accuses the Kenyans of "theatrics" and being mere "tourists".

Critics point out that - despite high-profile joint patrols by Kenyan and Haitian police in Port-au-Prince where they have exchanged fire with suspected gangmen - the gangs only seem to have tightened their grip on the capital's south-western and north-eastern suburbs since the Kenyan mission began.

Gang members have attacked and burned or partially destroyed police stations and continue to prey on major highways out of the capital and inland.

There is a feeling among some that the Kenyan force has been too slow to make its presence felt.

"What are the Kenyans waiting for to act against the bandits?," asked local news outlet AyiboPost in an article posted to X on 11 July, a fortnight after the East Africans landed.

Some two weeks later, online news website Le Filet Info was commenting pointedly: "The presence of the Kenyan



Kenya police officers patrol the streets of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on June 28 /HANDOUT

police in the country does not manage to frighten the bandits. "They continue to massacre members of the civilian population."

The Kenyan contingent has already experienced its first casualty since arriving in Haiti.

On 30 July, a Kenyan policeman received a gunshot injury in the shoulder in Port-au-Prince when a Kenyan patrol engaged gang members.

That same day, the Haitian police chief Rameau Normil, accompanied by the Kenyan force commander Godfrey Otunge, appeared to try to counter unfavourable local media commentary by announcing that more than 100 "bandits" had been killed by the Haitian and Kenyan police in operations conducted under a state of emergency declared in the most gang-plagued zones since mid-July.

Such statements however have not succeeded in placating

public scepticism.

Confidence was not improved by the publication online of videos showing top Haitian government officials, as well as Kenyan and Haitian police escorting them, making a hasty retreat on 29 July, amid a barrage of gunfire, from the abandoned General Hospital in downtown Port-au-Prince they had just visited.

Both Haitian and Kenyan police had said this facility was firmly under their control.

Despite such criticism Haiti's interim Prime Minister Garry Conille told BBC HARDtalk he welcomed the support

given how undermanned the Haitian police are.

"We do need the help... yet it's coming in too slow and Haitians are growing impatient," he acknowledged.

The prime minister also batted off those who questioned the deployment of Kenyan officers given their heavy-handed handling of recent anti-government riots at home.

"The respect for our laws and operational procedures have been very very good and we're very happy with the accompaniment we're receiving," he said, emphasising that the role of the Kenyans was to support and accompany

the police - not operate independently.

Nonetheless the Kenyans have faced open defiance from prominent Haitian gang leaders.

Only days after the arrival of the first group of Kenyans, Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, an outspoken leader of the "Viv Ansanm" (Live Together) gangs coalition, appeared in a provocative video lasting almost eight minutes that was posted on X.

Leading his masked foot soldiers in a strutting, chanting war dance through his Delmas 6 stronghold, they held their automatic weapons aloft.

"Here's Kenya [the Kenyans], bullets [for them]," they chanted in Creole at one point.

Other gang leaders, including Wilson "Lanno Sanjou" Joseph, the boss of the "400 Mawozo" gang, and youthful gang chief "Ti Bebe Bougoy", have also been appearing in videos taunting both Haitian authorities and the Kenyans, while the gangs continue to boast of their attacks.

In mid-July, the Kenyan contingent of the multi-national force launched their own X account, @MSSMHaiti, in a bid to set the tone of the public narrative of their mission in Haiti.

Its daily reports on the Kenyans' activities range from receiving visiting dignitaries at their base, to human rights lessons, and upbeat accounts of "reassurance" patrols on the streets of Port-au-Prince.

But the determined optimism of the @MSSMHaiti stream, particularly references to "significant success" and "gradual return to normalcy", appears to have rankled many in Haiti.

Some Haitians have denounced the Kenyan reports as, at best, overblown - and, at worst, "propaganda".

Digital trade & the sustainable development goals: A dynamic agenda

BANGKOK

THE rapid growth of digitalization has fundamentally altered commerce, impacting production and facilitating the movement of goods. The 2023 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR), has pointed out that although digital trade revenues of Asia and the Pacific account for a significant share of global trade, this growth is uneven, with trade concentrated in a few areas, leading to disparities across the region.

Studies show a positive relationship between digital trade and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These linkages among digital trade policy and the social and economic pillars of the SDGs may appear more indirect, but they do manifest through economic channels.

Various facets of the relationship between sustainable development and digital trade are evident, such as the impact of digital trade on wealth inequality in the region, the role of the Internet in export expansion, how e-commerce facilitates small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and how digital

trade can help achieve the ambitious agenda behind the SDGs.

However, better digital infrastructure does not necessarily engender competition and instead requires active measures from the government to promote linkages between export superstars and domestic suppliers.

Additionally, robust regulatory frameworks on digital trade can help eliminate "monopolistic and restrictive" trade policies, contributing significantly to a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Examples of good practices

Different policy measures to establish an inclusive digital trade and e-commerce landscape have been used across the region. For example, research on internet courts in China showed how such public and digitized judicial systems benefit smaller and medium-sized firms compared to private dispute resolution mechanisms, which are highly costly.

Similarly, research on the Pacific Alliance's trade policies, particularly its binding agreements and work instruments, provided a framework to incorporate net neutrality in the promotion of equita-



Online transactions and E-commerce have become a key part of people's life in Asia and the Pacific.

ble digital development.

Indonesia's introduction of single submission for freight transport applications and its impact on sustainability in supply chains was another case study. This policy instrument has had significant impacts across multiple domains, such as increasing time effectiveness, reducing costs, and increasing transparency in shipping and port clearances. Lessons learned and the way forward

There is a need to understand the specific

digital trade policy instruments that promote sustainable development. It is critical to acknowledge key differences and similarities between trade and digital trade policy to strategically leverage their interlinkage to achieve the SDGs. Social development works in tandem with economic progress.

A key concern is the lack of data on cross-border e-commerce in the Asia-Pacific and Latin America regions, which hinders the implementation and evaluation of programs

designed to promote the participation and productivity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

More concerted efforts to improve data measurement through private-public partnerships could be a possible policy intervention to address this issue. States should establish effective monitoring systems by improving the availability of economic statistics and third-party evaluations for measuring the progress and impact of SME support programs.

However, given the diversity in operations of SMEs across sectors, it is essential to devise and tailor policies that cater to their specific needs and realities.

There is also a need for sharing real-world examples of successful government initiatives and SME support programs so neighboring countries can draw lessons from them. There are doubts about the long-term usefulness of stand-alone Digital Economy Agreements (DEAs) due to the lack of stringent legal provisions for possible breaches, unlike market-access free trade agreements (FTAs).

Lastly, the United States, which has played a pivotal role in advocating for an open global trade environment, gradually step back from its position, it is time to rethink the leadership that would guide the establishment of digital trade provisions in the future.

This involves showcasing how digital trade rules will be established and enforced moving forward. Who will provide such public goods for digital trade is a major question facing the global economy.

Given its rapid digital-economy growth, significant market size, and increasing influence in global digital trade, should that leadership come from the Asia-Pacific region?

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	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	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	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	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	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)
22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)		22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Adapting to change: Pastoral farming in a warming climate

By Dominic Wabwireh

FARMERS in Kenya are increasingly adopting camels as a drought-resistant substitute for the cattle they have traditionally raised.

In rural Kenya, it's typical to see pastoral farmers herding their cattle.

For the Borana and Samburu communities in the northern region, cattle represent social status, particularly in cultural rituals as well as weddings and are vital for providing milk and meat to families, but climate change is disrupting this traditional way of life.

In Lekiji village, located 252 kilometers from the capital, Abudlahi Mohamud a camel herder tends to his camels.

The 65-year-old, who is a father of 15, suffered a significant loss during the 2022 drought, as nearly all of his 30 cattle perished. "I had a herd of 30 cattle before the drought, but when it struck, only one survived," he explains.

Heartbroken by the tragedy, Mohamud chose to invest his savings in 20 camels, believing it to be a wise decision.

In 2022, climate change and droughts led to the death of approximately 2.6 million cattle, but camels proved to be more resilient and better suited to withstand climate challenges.

Mohamud, states that "Rearing cattle is difficult due to inadequate pasture. In contrast, camels are easier to rear as they primarily feed on shrubs and can survive in harsher conditions. When the pasture dries out, all the cattle die."

A report from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

indicates that the extended drought of 2022 resulted in the loss of approximately 2.6 million cattle, with damages estimated at 226 billion Kenya Shillings (1,753,618,750 United States Dollars).

The rising population has intensified competition for grazing areas and water resources.

Mohamud states that a small camel is priced at approximately USD 600D, while cows can be purchased for about USD 150D.

According to the Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), more than 70 percent of Kenya's land is made up of rangelands.

However, camels may offer a potential solution.

While camels may not be the first animals that come to mind when thinking of Kenya, farmers in the area are increasingly adopting them as a drought-resistant option compared to cattle.

Although camels make up only six percent of Kenya's herbivore population, totalling 960,000, they offer distinct benefits over cattle.

The Somali community in Northern Kenya was the pioneer in camel herding, a practice that eventually extended to other tribes like the Samburu, Turkana, Pokot, and Maasai.

By incorporating camels into their traditional herding methods, these pastoralists can mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and maintain food security.

Nearby, 26-year-old Musalia Piti tends to his father's herd of 60 camels.

After losing 50 cows in a drought, the family opted to invest in camels, allowing them to sell some when they require cattle for cul-



A herder tends to his camels as they drink from a water point in the desert near Dertu, Wajir County, Kenya.

tural ceremonies.

Camels require less water and can graze on a broader range of plants.

Their elongated bodies help minimize the surface area exposed to sunlight, allowing them to better cope with heat stress.

The shift from cows to camels represents a major adaptation to growing climate threats and is intended to enhance long-term climate resilience.

The goal is to foster long-term sustainable climate resilience, but this transition has also affected cultural traditions.

For the Samburu, cattle symbolize status and serve as dowry in marriages.

Lesian Ole Sempere, a 59-year-

old elder from the Samburu community, discusses the significance of cattle in marriage ceremonies: "It's essential to do everything possible to acquire cattle for weddings, even if our herds are smaller now. At first, you might not be required to provide cattle for the dowry, but giving a cow as a gift to the parents is advisable. This act helps persuade them to recognize their daughter as your legitimate wife."

Cattle possess certain advantages over camels, and raising a caravan of camels can take more time in the short run.

Nevertheless, the Samburu remain committed to their cultural practices and reject the notion that these traditions will vanish due to the shift from cows to camels.

By incorporating camels into their herds, which they sell when they need cattle, the Samburu demonstrate their dedication to maintaining their cultural identity despite evolving conditions.

Calvince Okoth, a Veterinarian and Livestock Manager at Mpala Research Centre, notes that the recent droughts have diminished available pastures in the community.

One effective strategy for managing these pastures is implementing rotational grazing, which involves designating specific paddocks for use during the dry season.

However, a significant challenge arises from the communal ownership of the land, allowing unrestricted access for anyone at any

time.

There are also encroachment issues, as individuals can also access these pastures.

Climate change is leading to unpredictable weather patterns in the Horn of Africa, prompting the adoption of new agricultural methods in the area.

In response to droughts that are decimating their cattle, some Maasai farmers have turned to fish farming.

Additionally, camels offer a viable alternative that may help preserve traditional pastoralist lifestyles in the 21st Century.

Whether or not Camels will be fully embraced by these communities it is a matter of wait-and-see.

Mass circumcision is marketed to tourists in Uganda's remote area

KAMPALA

THE dancers shook their hips to the beat of drummers who led the way, anticipating the start of mass circumcision among the Bamasaba people of Uganda's mountainous east.

Yet the frolicking in the streets belied a dispute brewing behind the scenes as some locals questioned their king over the very public presentation of Imbalu, the ritualized circumcision of thousands of boys every other year in this remote community near Uganda's border with Kenya.

Could it be turned into a carnival, put on for the gaze of foreigners? Or should it remain a sacred ceremony in which families quietly prepare their sons to face the knife with courage?

The king, known as the Umukuuka, had his way ahead of the Aug. 3 ceremonial inauguration at a park in the town of Mbale, arguing for a traditional festival that also looked attractive to visitors. The organizers of Imbalu received over \$120,000 in financial support from the Ugandan government and a corporate sponsor.

The Umukuuka asserted that organizing a modern Imbalu was challenging and defended his decision to market the ritual as a tourist event in line with Uganda's national development plan.

"Everything is changing as the population expands. People may not manage to follow the cultural processes," he said, citing the economic hardship and commercialization he said were diluting the communal aspect of Imbalu. "But we are fighting through the clan system that (Imbalu) remains intact."

But the Ugandan government's intervention has raised eyebrows among many Bamasaba and underscored angst over the most important ceremony for this ethnic group of four million Ugandans. Some said they felt the Umukuuka, in his first year in office, was trivializing Imbalu by



Daniel Wabuyi reacts during his traditional circumcision ritual, known as Imbalu, at Kamu village in Mbale, Eastern Uganda

exposing it to outside interests.

"Our leadership is being hijacked by" national political leaders, said Wasukira Mashate, an elder who is a custodian of Bamasaba cultural property, charging that the Umukuuka was missing the counsel of clan leaders with real spiritual authority.

"I don't think they are having any role" in Imbalu, he said, speaking of clan leaders. "It was for our own benefit culturally, but now it is becoming a national event because the government of Uganda has captured it."

At the ceremonial inauguration, an angry crowd gathered outside the totemic shrine of the clan that historically has launched Imbalu by cutting the first candidates. Clan members pointed to the young mixed-breed bull tethered to the grass as offensive, saying only a local breed would suffice as an appropriate sacrifice to the gods.

"This cow is exotic. We are Bamasaba, and he brought us a white animal," said Kareem Masaba, speaking of the Umukuuka. "He has insulted us. His predecessors used to come into the shrine and participate in the rituals, but this man would not come here. He is disrespecting us."

The dispute over the sacrificial animal delayed the inauguration into the late afternoon as anger grew among men wielding machetes, sharp sticks, and other crude

weapons. The Umukuuka, seated not far away in a tent among dignitaries from elsewhere in Africa, did not budge. Clan members retaliated by refusing to present the first group of initiates before the Umukuuka, a former forestry officer whose real name is Jude Mudoma.

The mass circumcisions will last until the end of 2024.

The tribal initiation of boys into adulthood has long been controversial in African countries such as South Africa, where incidents of botched, deadly circumcisions among Xhosa-speaking people have inspired campaigns for safe clinical circumcision. Among the Bamasaba, whose cutting method is just as violent, there have been no calls to end the practice. The strongest adherents see Imbalu as more important than ever amid widespread infant circumcision in hospital settings. They say those boys who are not initiated in the tribal way risk suffering lifelong social delinquency.

Tribal circumcision is performed by a traditional surgeon wielding a knife usually fashioned from melted nails. Bamasaba hundreds of kilometers away in the Ugandan capital of Kampala is known to hunt down Imbalu dodgers they then cut by force. The bodies of uncircumcised men can be violated before burial.

Circumcision "helps us to be strong," said Peter Gusolo, a traditional surgeon, gesticulating to express his people's purported sex prowess. Those who resist circumcision will be cut "even if (they) are dying," he said. "We circumcise you at night. We bury you in the morning."

He added, "We cannot bury you in the land of the Bamasaba without (being circumcised). No, no, no. It is in the constitution of the culture of the Bamasaba. ... It is a curse if you bury into the land people who are not circumcised."

Gusolo, whose family lives in a house on the side of a hill planted with Arabica coffee plants, spent days isolating himself in a cave and postponing intimacy with his wife so that he could be possessed by the spirit of Imbalu. Even though men like Gusolo wield certificates issued by local health authorities to prove their skill, the title is hereditary. The surgeons say they cannot afford to be flippant with their work because the wounds they inflict will not heal if they are not spiritually strong.

The first candidate for initiation this year was a teenager whose face had been smeared with mud and the dregs of homemade beer. He spread his legs and unblinkingly stared at the sky while a swarm of frenzied people around him pushed and shoved, demanding

courage. The surgeon, applying no anesthetic, took hold of the boy and skinned him with a swift movement of his hands. A member of the boy's family, aiming to protect the boy from the threat of witchcraft, collected the skin and took it home.

Emmanuel Watundu, the father of a 17-year-old boy who was among the first to be cut, said he stood by Imbalu, describing it as the life-changing event his son asked for. But he criticized what he saw as a carnival atmosphere by "peer groups (who) normally behave differently than we used to."

Outside Watundu's house, where a crowd had gathered, drunken people of all ages danced wildly, and one woman briefly exposed her breasts. A politician seeking a seat in the national assembly had a procession marching on the dirt road. Boys fondled girls and swung their legs at them.

Watundu said the street dancers he saw were "from different areas" and that most people attending Imbalu came "to do business." He said of the Ugandan government's involvement that it had "given some bad picture" about the Umukuuka's role as the chief organizer of Imbalu.

Wilson Watira, who chaired the Imbalu organizing committee, defended the government's role as a supporter of the Bamasaba tradition. The exuberant street processions left people feeling joyful, he said.

"When it comes to the performance of culture, of culture itself ... it remains culture. We only want to show the world that even when we are performing this culture, it can also attract other people," he said.

In the past, people thought the ritual was barbaric and brutal, Watira said.

"It's the reason why we said, 'No, we are not barbaric. We can make this thing very attractive, and you will enjoy it.'"

Killings of Palestinian journalists continuing, aided by uninterrupted flow of arms from US

UNITED NATIONS

THE growing number of killings of Palestinian journalists in Gaza has triggered a demand for a cut-off in US arms supplies to Israel.

A letter addressed to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken—and signed by scores of reporters, news outlets and journalist unions—says Israel has killed more than 165 Palestinian journalists since October 7 last year.

Initiated by three international organizations – Defending Rights & Dissent, the Courage Foundation, and Roots Action—the letter says: “This is the largest recorded number of journalists killed in any war.”

While Israel’s indiscriminate bombing of the densely populated Gaza means no civilians are safe, Israel has also been repeatedly documented deliberately targeting journalists, says the letter.

“Israel’s military actions are not possible without U.S. weapons, U.S. military aid, and U.S. diplomatic support. By providing the weapons being used to deliberately kill journalists, you are complicit in one of the gravest affronts to press freedom today,” says the letter, currently in circulation, and addressed to Blinken.

Sarah Leah Whitson, Executive Director, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), told IPS despite pleas of the international community to suspend arms to Israel in the face of its unprecedented atrocities against Palestinians in Gaza, including the killing of over 165 Palestinian journalists, it beggars the imagination that Biden is now seeking to sell Israel new weaponry to facilitate even more slaughter.

On August 9, the U.S. State Department officially notified Congress of its intent to proceed with a new authorization for weapons to Israel, including 6,500 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) guidance kits to Israel, despite extensive evidence documenting the Israel Defense Force’s (IDF) use of U.S. weapons to carry out war crimes and crimes against humanity, said DAWN, in a press release Friday.

This “is a slap in the face of humanity and all the values we hold dear,” Whitson said.

Blinken also announced his decision not to sanction the IDF’s notorious Netzah Yehuda battalion, despite credible evidence of its systematic and gross human rights violations in the occupied West Bank, in violation of strict U.S. laws requiring the imposition of such sanctions.

“It is mind-boggling that despite the overwhelming evidence of the IDF’s unprecedented crimes in Gaza that has shocked the conscience of the entire world, the Biden administration is greenlighting the transfer of additional lethal weapons to Israel,” said Whitson.

“It is hard to comprehend how the Biden administration can justify rewarding Israel with new weapons, despite Israel’s persistent defiance of every single plea the Biden administration has made urging a modicum of restraint, and despite the very apparent fact that such sales violate black letter U.S. laws prohibiting weapons to gross abusers like Israel,” she pointed out.

Meanwhile, as of August 9, 2024, preliminary investigations by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) showed at least 113 journalists and media workers were among the more than 40,000 killed since the war began, making it the deadliest period for journalists since CPJ began gathering data in 1992.

Journalists in Gaza face particularly high risks as they try to cover the conflict during the Israeli ground as-



A funeral ceremony is held for Palestine TV correspondent Mohammed Abu Hatab, who was killed in Israeli air strike in Khan Younis on November 03, 2023. File photo

sault, including devastating Israeli airstrikes, disrupted communications, supply shortages, and extensive power outages, CPJ said. This has meant that it is becoming increasingly hard to document the situation, and CPJ is investigating almost 350 additional cases of potential killings, arrests and injuries.

Dr Ramzy Baroud, a journalist and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle, told IPS Israel has killed, as of last week, 168 Palestinian journalists, the same way it has killed over 200 aid workers, hundreds of doctors, medics and people from every category and background. None of this is coincidental.

A simple proof that Israel deliberately targets journalists is the fact that it habitually produces and promotes stories that justify their murder, often accusing them of terrorism. Israel is yet to provide a single set of credible evidence against any of the killed journalists, he said.

On October 11, Israeli President Yitzhak Herzog had said “there are no innocent civilians in Gaza”. This disturbing Israeli logic applies to all Palestinians in the Strip, including journalists.

“Israel must be held accountable to its ongoing murder of journalists. But a huge responsibility falls on the shoulders of journalists and media organizations around the world, who often ignore the very murder of their colleagues in Gaza, let alone circulate

Israeli’s unfounded accusations often without questioning its credibility or merit,” he said.

The fact that Gazans continue to report on their own genocide by Israel is heroic beyond words. But they must not be disowned, and must not continue to report and die alone without a true international solidarity that could hold their murderers to account, said Dr. Baroud, who is also a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA).

Dr. James Jennings, President, Conscience International, told IPS the heroic martyrs of the free press in Gaza deserve to be honored by all humanity, at the very least with the Nobel Peace Prize. Standing under the bombs, reporting the truth, then paying with your life is a superhuman act of courage.

The job of journalists is simply to journal—to shine a light on the truth by writing down or telling what they see on the battlefield. Killing the messengers is a sign that the perpetrators fear them and their influence, he pointed out.

Deception and lies are major part of war. How else could people slaughter myriads of others and do it with impunity?, he asked.

But truth has two sides—sending and receiving. Refusing to credit honest reporters means that we really don’t want to hear what they are saying anyway. Choosing to believe lies because we want them to be true is what enables wars to continue.

“Even worse than lying to the enemy is lying to yourself. Attempting to cover the plain truth by denying facts or looking the other way is tantamount to insanity. When will Americans stop lying to themselves and start believing their own ideals?”, asked Dr Jennings.

Ibrahim Hooper, National Communication Director at the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, said:

“The only thing that can explain the shocking silence of American and international media professionals about the mass killing of their Palestinian colleagues is the decades-long and systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian people, in which the lives of Palestinians have lesser or no value. Journalists worldwide must begin to speak out about these killings and about the Israeli genocide in Gaza.”

In a press release last week, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said it is monitoring attacks and threats against journalists.

The agency noted that in recent months, multiple journalists covering protests in different parts of the world have been subjected to various forms of attacks, including killings, injuries, arbitrary detentions, and confiscation of their equipment, while exercising their rightful duties as journalists.

UNESCO recalls “that all authorities concerned have the duty and responsibility to ensure the safety of journalists covering protests around the world, in accordance with international norms and human rights obligations”.

The joint letter to Blinken says Israel has gone to great lengths to suppress media coverage of its war in Gaza, imposing military censorship on both its own journalists and international reporters operating in the country; and, with Egypt’s help, blocking all foreign journalists from Gaza. Israel shut down Al Jazeera, raided its office, seized its equipment, and blocked its broadcasts and website within Israel.

The world relies only on the Palestinian journalists in Gaza to report the truth about the war and Israel’s widespread violations of international law.

“Israel’s deliberate targeting of these journalists seems intended to impose a near blackout on coverage of its assault on Gaza. Investigations by United Nations bodies, NGOs, and media organizations, have all found instances of deliberate targeting of journalists.

In a joint statement, five UN special rapporteurs declared: “We have received disturbing reports that, despite being clearly identifiable in jackets and helmets marked “press” or traveling in well-marked press vehicles, journalists have come under attack, which would seem to indicate that the killings, injury, and detention are a deliberate strategy by Israeli forces to obstruct the media and silence critical reporting.”

Meanwhile, under international law, the intentional targeting of journalists is considered a war crime. While all governments are bound by international law protecting reporters, U.S. domestic law also prohibits the State Department from providing assistance to units of foreign security forces credibly accused of gross violations of human rights. Israel’s well-documented pattern of extrajudicial executions of journalists is a gross violation of human rights.

IPS

RADIO One

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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALLUMBANO YA HOJA 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LA MICHEZO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11.00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.30 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBEAUS ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00-05.00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



The power of educating girls: A transformative journey
Page 14



Tanzania's black rhino population gains
Page 14



EU's sovereign ambition in capital markets suffers setback
Page 15

DSE gets 3.6bn/- weekly turnover with Tanzanian banks dominating

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded a weekly turnover of 3.6bn/-, as local investors dominated both buying and selling activities.

The market reports show that the banking counters specifically CRDB Bank and NMB Bank, were top movers, while the largest trading volumes being held by local investors.

According to weekly report by Exodus Advisory Services Limited, members of DSE, CRDB counter led the market with 83.08 percent of the total, amounting to 3.05bn/-, primarily due to block trades on Monday and Tuesday.

NMB followed with a 13.22 percent, representing 0.49bn/- in transactions.

Market analysts expect that the banking counter will continue to dominate the market activity due to recent profitable record for the half year financial results, include other listed non-banking counters announcing their half year results.

As more companies disclose their financials, analysts anticipate continued high activity in the market.

The report shows Monday had the largest transaction of the week after a turnover of 1.8bn/- was recorded through the transactions of 2.99 million shares traded in 422 deals, including 2.5 million shares

traded on the block trade pre-arranged board on CRDB counter.

During the first day of the week, foreign investors appeared by buying shares valued 18.9m/-, which was equivalent to 1.04 percent of total value of shares bought. No foreign investors selling activity was recorded during the day.

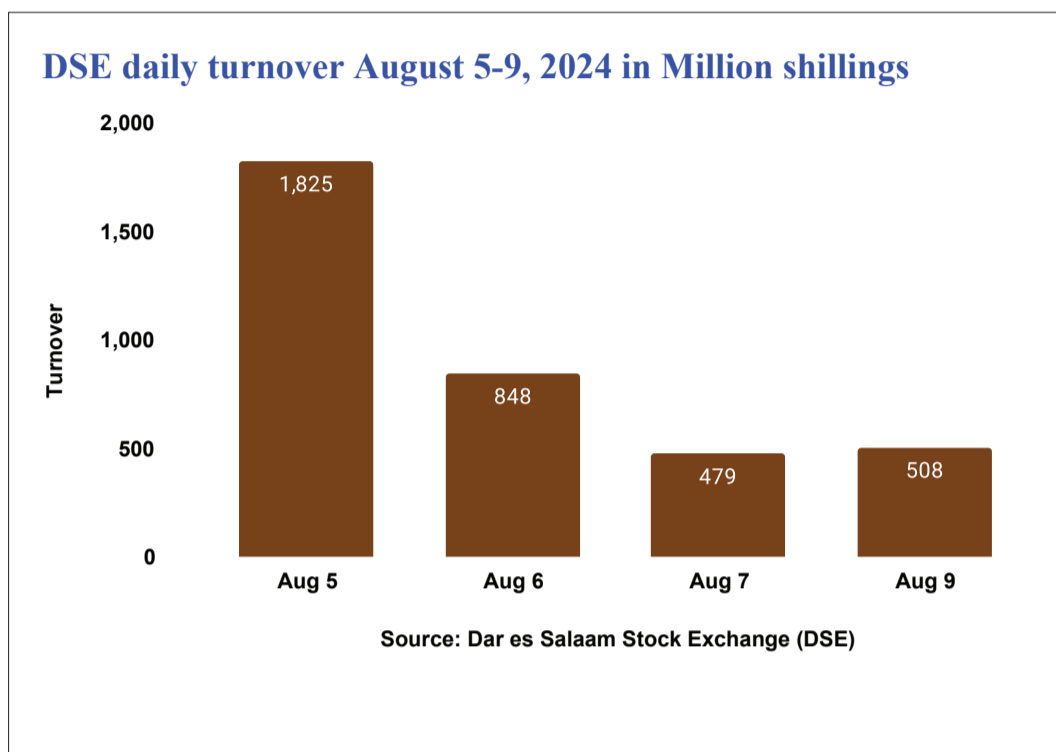
CRDB Bank was top mover after transacting 2.91 million shares valued 1.7bn/- traded in 255 deals at a price ranging from 590/- to 630/-, which pushed the company's share price to close at 620/- from an opening price of 600/-.

Second top mover was DCB Bank counter, which transacted 28,428 shares valued 3.1m/- traded at a price ranging from 100/- to 110/- per share in 21 deals, followed by Afriprise counter which transacted 20,016 shares valued 4.8m/- traded in 50 deals.

Other active counters during the day were DSE, Maendeleo Bank Plc, NICO, NMB Bank, Swissport, Tanzania Cigarette Company Limited (TCC), Tanzania Portland Cement (TPCC) and Vodacom Tanzania (VODA).

On Tuesday, the daily report shows a total turnover of 848m/- was recorded through the transactions of 1.18 million shares traded in 450 deals, of which CRDB counter moved 636,000 shares through block trade pre-arranged market board.

During the day, foreign investors sold shares valued 620m/-, which was equivalent to 73.11 percent of total shares sold, the largest selloff by foreign investors. However, foreign investors also appeared on buying activity through purchasing shares valued 6.55m/-.



Again, CRDB was top mover after recording the transactions of 1.1 million shares valued 689m/- traded at a price ranging from 610/- to 620/- per share in 43 deals.

NMB Bank counter was the second top mover, after recording the transactions of 17,147 shares valued 91.3m/-, traded at a price ranging from 5,300/- to 5,500/- per share in 21 deals, followed by DCB Bank counter, which transacted 20,282 shares valued 2.2m/- traded at a price ranging from 100/- to 120/- per share in 17 deals.

Wednesday was dominated by normal trade arrangement, after a turnover of 486.3 being

recorded through the transaction of 386,323 shares traded in 454 deals, with foreign investors participated in selling shares valued 192.5m/-.

CRDB Bank counter was top mover, after recording the transactions of 312,348 shares valued 191m/- traded at a price ranging from 600/- to 620/- per share in 323 deals.

NMB Bank counter was the second top mover, after recording the transactions of 51,467 shares valued 282.5m/- traded at a price ranging from 5,400/- to 5,500/- per share in seven deals, followed by Afriprise counter, which transacted 8,627 shares valued 2m/- traded in

38 deals.

After farmers' day on Thursday, the market resumed on Friday of which a total turnover of 508m/- was recorded through the transactions of 770,847 shares traded in 471 deals through under normal trade arrangements, dominated by banking counters.

CRDB Bank counter was top mover again, after recording the transactions of 665,387 shares valued 410m/- traded at a price ranging from 600/- to 620/- per share in 42 deals, followed by DCB counter which recorded the transactions of 77,056 shares traded in 23 deals.

The total market capitalization declined by 0.29 percent to 17.2trn/- due to decline of both local and cross listed companies, while domestic market capitalization increased, rising by 0.38 percent to 12.1trn/- due to increase of CRDB Bank share price.

The All-Share Index (DSEI) decreased by 0.29 percent, closing at 2,061.04 points, while the Tanzania Share Index (TSI) increased by 0.38 percent, ending at 4,593.16 points.

The index for the Banking, Finance & Investment sector rose by 1.10 percent, closing at 5,665.37 points, while the Industrial & Allied (IA) sector index edged down by 0.06 percent to close at 5,071.53 points.

The Commercial Services (CS) sector index remained unchanged, closing at 2,134.27 points.

Tobacco exports value hit historical record of \$438m

By Guardian Reporter

The Value of exported tobacco has hit US\$438.5 million during the year ending in June, more than doubled the amount recorded during the year ended in June 2023, data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations have shown.

The amount is more than the targeted US\$400 million by the government.

This development has enabled tobacco to surpass coffee and cashewnuts, as the leading traditional exports earning commercial crop, which is currently produced under contractual farming between farmers and buyers.

The increased of the exported value of the crop resulted from an increase of production to 122 million kilo, making it the second producer in Africa after Zimbabwe, as well as an increased commodity price in the world market.

Tanzania's ascent to the second position underscores the nation's strategic focus on enhancing agricultural output and increasing its influence in the tobacco industry across the continent.

This accomplishment is a testament to the government's commitment to fostering sustainable development and economic growth through the agricultural sector.

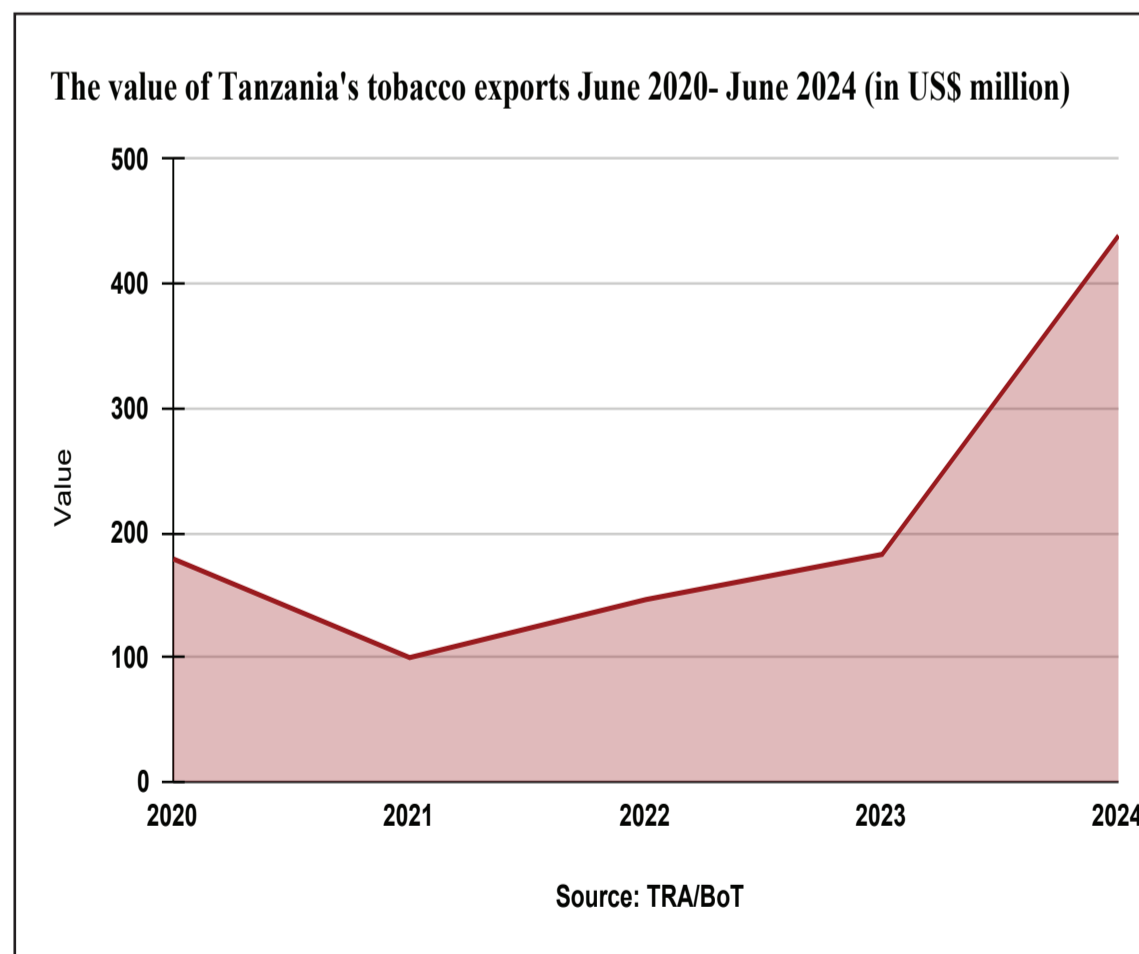
Minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe said recently that the effort by the government to attract investors during the last three years has stimulated the crop production, as well as increasing the exported volume while prices have grown from US\$1.4 per kilo to US\$2.4 per kilo.

In the 2024/25 season, the country aims to produce a staggering 200,000 tons of tobacco, with an even more ambitious goal of reaching 300,000 tons in the 2025/26 season, according to the minister.

The minister further said the target is to increase exports earning between US\$600 million and US\$700 million annually.

These objectives signify Tanzania's commitment to sustained growth and development in the tobacco industry, showcasing the nation's determination to solidify its standing as a key player in the African agricultural landscape.

Bashe applauded Tanzania's farmers' associations and tobacco companies, stating that for the first time more than 50 percent



of tobacco has been bought and sold abroad by local companies.

According to Statista, the tobacco products market in Tanzania is projected to generate revenue of US\$644.9m in 2024.

"This market is expected to exhibit an annual growth rate of 3.47 percent (CAGR 2024-2029)," says Statista.

The fastest growing export markets for Raw Tobacco of Tanzania between 2021 and 2022 were Japan, Belgium, Poland, and South Korea.

Last week, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan laid the foundation stone for a \$300 million cigarette factory in Morogoro.

The Serengeti Cigarette Co. factory will supplement the recently reopened Mkwawa leaf-processing facility, which is in the process of expanding its annual capacity from 80 million kg to 200 million kg.

Upon completion, the factory will be the world's second-largest leaf-processing facility, according to Minister of Agriculture Hussein Bashe.

During the previous administration, the Mkwawa plant ceased operations due to financial and regulatory challenges, including fines totaling 2trn/- (\$740.66 million) imposed by The Fair Competition Commis-

sion and the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

When President Hasan's government took office in March 2021, it annulled the fines as part of a program to revive and expand Tanzania's tobacco business.

Upon completion, the new cigarette factory will employ 12,000 permanent and seasonal positions and generate additional demand for local leaf.

The surge in tobacco production is expected to have cascading effects on Tanzania's economy, including job creation, increased foreign exchange earnings, and improved livelihoods for farmers.

The minister highlighted the importance of sustainable practices in ensuring the long-term viability of the sector, emphasizing the need for responsible farming and environmental conservation.

In response to this milestone, stakeholders in the tobacco industry have expressed optimism about Tanzania's potential to further shape the African tobacco market.

The nation's ability to meet and surpass production targets has instilled confidence among investors, with the private sector indicating interest in expanding operations and exploring new opportunities within Tanzania's burgeoning agricultural landscape.

Afreximbank to double intra-African trade financing

ABUJA

AFRICAN Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) plans to double its financing of intra-African trade from US\$20 billion in 2021 to US\$40 billion by 2026, Haytham ElMaayergi, Afreximbank's Executive Vice President, Global Trade Bank, has said.

ElMaayergi was addressing participants and guests in Abuja at the African Caucus Meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), recently where he represented Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank.

Attended mainly by ministers of finance and Central Bank Governors from across Africa, the meeting had the theme "Facilitating Intra-African Trade: Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Africa", and was aimed at identifying key challenges facing Africa in achieving full integration and at engaging in strategic dialogues to engender sustainable solutions.

ElMaayergi said that Afreximbank had been a champion in facilitating intra-African trade since its founding and that it had committed US\$1 billion to support the funding of the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund and a US\$10-million grant to facilitate the establishment and operationalisation of that fund.

"The Bank is also partnering with the AfCFTA Secretariat and the African Union Commission (AUC) to ensure a successful implementation of the Pan-African Payments and Settlements System, the African Trade Gateway and the Afreximbank African Collaborative Transit Guarantee Scheme," he continued.

ElMaayergi noted that Nigeria was a key founding member of the Bank and had continued to play a critical role in its growth and success as its second largest shareholder, adding that Afreximbank had also played a critical role in supporting the country's development agenda.

"Since inception in 1993, the Bank has approved over US\$40 billion in support of Nigerian public and private sector entities," he said, adding that it was currently implementing several of its flagship continental initiatives in the country, including the African Medical Centre of Excellence and the Afreximbank African Trade Centre.

Highlighting the existence of several other continental multilateral financial institutions created to help address the critical financing gaps in Africa and facilitate trade, with privileges and capitalisation granted them in order to enable them to fulfil their mandates, ElMaayergi indicated that it was to enhance their effectiveness that the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI) was launched, in collaboration with the AUC, on the margins of the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU in Addis Ababa in February.

He noted that the AU had recognized African multilateral financial institutions as crucial for strengthening the continental financial framework and advancing the AU's Agenda 2063 and called on the meeting participants to reaffirm their commitment to those institutions.

He urged the World Bank and the IMF to work with AAMFI in addressing the continent's challenges.

"Most especially, we call on you to reaffirm that the special privileges and immunities that you have given these institutions, including the preferred creditor status, are essential for addressing the continent's development needs, and to call upon all stakeholders to respect the treaty obligations you have made to these institutions," added ElMaayergi.

The power to educate girls: A transformative journey

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AN educated girl has the potential to make a profound impact on society, driving progress in social, economic, and political spheres.

Rebecca Muhema, a 20-year-old, is a shining example of this potential.

She is one of 401 vulnerable children who have benefited from the Evangelistic Assemblies of God Tanzania (EAGT)'s vocational training programs, which include education at nursery, primary, secondary, and college levels, all funded by Compassion International Tanzania.

Muhema's journey began at the tender age of three when EAGT's church took her from her parents to the Ilula Child and Youth Development Center where she received an education from nursery school to college.

The vocational skills have empowered her to start her own business, become self-employed, and lift her family out of poverty.

Born into a very poor family, Muhema expressed deep gratitude towards Compassion International Tanzania and the Ilula Center for supporting her education and that of other vulnerable children from impoverished backgrounds.

Through the skills she acquired at the



Rebecca Muhema sews clothes to raise her income at Ilula-centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Peace Maker Training Centre, supported by EAGT's church, Muhema has been able to establish a tailoring business and create handcraft products.

With her sewing machine, she now makes clothes that she sells to her peers and others in her community.

The income from her business not only supports her family when food and other necessities are scarce but also allows her to save for future needs.

Currently, Muhema is pursuing a journalism course in Morogoro Region,

thanks to continued support from Compassion International Tanzania.

Her dream is to become a successful journalist and expand her tailoring business to create jobs for others.

Muhema and her peers have also been trained in various vocational skills, including entrepreneurship, handcraft production, tailoring, welding, weaving, chalk making, and computer applications.

These life skills have enabled them to create a range of handcraft products,

CURRENT NEWS

which they sell locally.

Bujo Paight, coordinator at EAGT-Ilula Child and Youth Development Center, highlighted the impact of their Child Sponsorship Programme, which offers children living in poverty the opportunity to attend school and receive the necessary resources to pursue their dreams.

In addition to education, the program provides health insurance, basic needs, tutoring, and emotional support.

Under this program, 40 youths have graduated from the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), with 10 receiving essential tools such as computers, construction equipment, sewing machines, and other materials to help them start their careers.

Seventy-eight more are currently enrolled in VETA, receiving training to become self-employed.

The program has also seen three students complete their diplomas in nursing and midwifery, while two others have earned bachelor's degrees in community development from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) based in Morogoro.

Romana Mallya, a mother of two and senior reporter for Nipashe Newspaper, emphasized the importance of investing in girls' education, noting that girls are the future mothers of society.

She encouraged parents and guardians to go beyond to support their daughters' education, as educated girls can bring positive change to their communities, families, and the nation.

Mallya also acknowledged the barriers that girls face in accessing education, such as child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and cultural norms.

She stressed the importance of raising girls' self-awareness to empower them to speak out against gender-based violence and to start their own businesses. Sarah Kalokola, a former teacher at Kinondoni Primary School in Dar es Salaam, highlighted poverty as a significant obstacle to girls' education.

She urged parents and guardians to support girls' education, as it equips them with knowledge, skills, confidence, and independence, enabling them to make informed decisions about their lives.

According to UNICEF, poverty is a key determinant of whether a girl can access and complete her education. Girls who face multiple disadvantages, such as low family income, living in remote areas, or belonging to minority groups, are the most likely to be left behind.

Additionally, violence remains a critical barrier, with millions of girls at risk of sexual assault on their way to or at school each year, leading to lower attendance and higher dropout rates.

Educating girls is not just a moral imperative; it is a catalyst for creating stable and resilient societies, reducing inequality, and unlocking the full potential of future generations.

SPECIAL REPORT

Tanzania's black rhino population gains against invasive species -2

By Francis Kajubi

NEARLY 63 years ago, Tanzania's first President, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, emphasized the crucial role that wildlife plays in the nation's economy, particularly through tourism.

Speaking at the 1961 symposium on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Arusha, Nyerere's address laid the foundation for wildlife conservation in post-independence Tanzania.

This historic speech became known as the "Arusha Manifesto."

Nyerere highlighted that the survival of wildlife is a matter of great concern for all Africans.

He noted that wild creatures and their habitats are not only sources of wonder and inspiration but also vital components of the continent's natural resources, contributing significantly to the economy through tourism.

In his words, he said: "In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife, we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to ensure that our children's grandchildren enjoy this precious inheritance."

Nyerere's vision for conservation continues to resonate today, particularly in addressing the decline of black rhinos in Tanzania, across Africa, and globally.

Philbert Ngoti, National Rhino Coordinator at the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, recently discussed the challenges faced by Tanzania's black rhino population.

Since the late 1960s, the population has sharply declined due to various factors, including the spread of invasive alien plant species (IAPS).

Inadequate control of these species in national parks and game reserves has contributed to a dramatic decrease in rhino numbers—from over 1,000 in 2009 to just 161 in 2019. In the late 1960s, there were around 10,000 rhinos.

In response to this crisis, the Tanzanian government implemented the National Rhino Conservation Action Plan (2019-2023), which has significantly reduced the spread of IAPS and positively impacted rhino populations.

Ngoti explained that invasive species are challenging and expensive to control and

eradicate, with their ecological effects often being irreversible.

The species whether plants or animals, can multiply rapidly, displacing indigenous species and disrupting ecosystems.

"We have successfully eliminated invasive alien species in national parks and other conservation areas, creating ecosystems favorable for the survival of black rhinos," Ngoti stated.

Research has revealed that Tanzania's national parks were infested with various invasive plant species, including succulents, shrubs, and parasites.

Alien animal species, such as invertebrates, amphibians, fish, reptiles, insects, and birds, also posed significant threats.

Ngoti emphasized that efforts under the National Rhino Conservation Action Plan have nearly eradicated IAPS in protected areas. The negative impacts of these species on biodiversity, such as predation, parasitism, competition for resources, and disease, have been substantially mitigated.

According to Ngoti, rhino health-related mortalities have dropped to less than 0.5 percent during the plan's implementation, down from an estimated 10 percent.

Illegal Rhino killings have also decreased to less than one percent, compared to the previous rate of eight percent.

"We have improved our investigation of wildlife crimes, intelligence gathering, and prosecution of organized rhino poaching, as well as enhancing control over rhino horn trafficking," said Ngoti.

According to the guidelines for Invasive Alien Species Management in Tanzania's National Parks 2017 by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) the challenge related to control over invasive alien species is complicated because their introduction and spread are externally driven by factors such as increasing human mobility, encroachment of protected areas and climate change.

The introduction of aliens in national parks and other conserved areas whether by humans, mammals, birds, insects or parasites are prohibited by the existing laws and policies.

For instance, the Environmental Management



Common invasive alien species in national parks found across the East African sub-region. File Photo.

Act, 2004, Section 67 (2) (h) prescribes prevention of the introduction, control or eradication of alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

On the other hand, the Wildlife Policy 1998 Section 3.3.3 (vii) provides for 'regulating the importation of exotic species and re-introduction of a species known to be indigenous to the area in order to safeguard against negative effects resulting from their introduction and reintroduction into the wild'.

This journalist has learned that the National Policy for Tanzania National Parks, 2011 Section 3.7 sub-section 3.7.7 defines what exotic species are and prohibits introduction of new exotic species.

The policy provides for effective control including eradication of exotic species wherever such species threaten or impact on national park resources or public health and when control is feasible.

Further, the Natural Wealth

and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, 2017 provides for conservation and protection of natural resources to ensure that the country and its citizens benefit from such resources.

Tanzania has also ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its subsequent protocols and other biodiversity related agreements.

The two legislations provide opportunities for complementing government efforts towards conserving wildlife habitats and biological diversity.

The Environmental Management Act 2004 calls for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The National Environmental Policy, 2021, on the other hand, states that Tanzania is one of the mega rich biodiversity hotspots in the world with about 14,000 known important plant and

animal species.

It is among the top 12 countries with high biodiversity and among 15 countries with the highest number of endemic species.

The policy highlights that the country hosts six out of the 25 globally known biodiversity hotspots located in various terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

It asserts that the importance of these wildlife resources lies in their biological value in terms of value of the species and habitat found therein, their economic value and the potential to contribute to sustainable development of the country.

"Considerable achievements have been made in addressing the loss of wildlife habitats and biodiversity. This is demonstrated by the size of land under protection, which is about 40 percent of the total land area which is 6.5 percent marine and 33 percent terrestrial," reads part of the policy.

The policy clarifies that the country's total protected areas cover approximately 28 million ha (58.2 percent) found in both wildlife protected areas and forest reserves.

It underlines that forest and wildlife conservation have improved whereby forest plantations have increased from 16 to 22, while natural forests have increased from 597 to 802 since 1961 and nature reserved forests increased from 12 to 17.

These forests, reads the policy, have been fully proclaimed as Nature Forest Reserves (NFRs) to conserve wildlife habitats and its biodiversity and include Amani (covering 8,380 hectares) and Uluguru (covering 24,115 hectares).

The list goes on with Kilombero (covering 134,511 hectares); Nilo (covering 6,225 hectares); Rungwe (covering 13,652 hectares); Magamba (covering 9,283 hectares); Chome (covering 14,283 hectares) and Mkingu (covering 23,388 hectares).

By extension, there is Udzungwa Scarp (covering 32,763 hectares), Rondo Plateau (covering 14,000 hectares); Minziro (covering 25,000 hectares) and Mount Hanang (covering 5,871 hectares).

Wetlands forests which did not exist before 1961 have now increased to 44 while national parks are 22.

At present, a network of wildlife Protected Areas (PAs) in Tanzania comprises 22 National Parks, 24 Game Reserves, 27 Game Controlled Areas, 38 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

"The importance of these wildlife resources lies in their biological value in terms of value of the species and habitat found therein, their economic value and the potential to contribute to sustainable development of the country," reads the environmental policy in part.

To be continued.

EU's sovereign ambition in capital markets suffers setback

By Burhan Khadbai

THE European Union's long-held desire to be seen as a sovereign issuer in the capital markets is now on hold. This comes as Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) followed MSCI in declining to add the EU to its government bond indices following a consultation which began in April 2024.

Inclusion in sovereign indexes would widen the EU's investor appeal, cut borrowing costs and boost the euro's status as a liquid and safe asset. The new European Commission, which takes office in the autumn, should make the sovereign recognition question a prime strategic objective.

ICE's decision - which followed a consultation that began in April 2024 - was widely expected following MSCI's ruling in June, but flew under the radar with no official announcement, even by way of press release. Instead, it merely included the decision in a 'rule announcement' under the 'publications' section of its website on Friday 2 August. The ensuing chaos in global markets on the following Monday kept the EU decision inconspicuous.

The decision was a non-event in terms of the impact to the EU's bonds, albeit with a marginal sell-off. Much of the impact had already occurred following MSCI's decision in June.

"There was a lot of volatility in the market for other reasons so that makes it more difficult to assess [the impact to the EU's bonds]," said Christoph Rieger, head of rates and credit research at Commerzbank. "Secondly, many investors are on holiday so there are not much meaningful flows and thirdly, communication was not very good in the sense that the results were published on the website without a press release. We happened to have seen it by coincidence."

Both ICE and MSCI have been criticised for the lack of communication throughout their respective consultation periods. "The process has not been transparent, and this is something we have complained about, especially with MSCI, where no one really knew who was involved and what the survey was about," said Rieger.

In a statement sent to OMFIF, MSCI



said it 'published the proposal on our website in May 2024 and communicated directly with clients'. ICE did not reply to a request for comment.

Lack of consensus

ICE did not give much detail as to why it rejected the proposal to include the EU in its government bond indices other than saying, 'there were many views for and against this proposal, but nothing close to a consensus'. It added that those in favour of classifying the EU as a sovereign argued that the EU issues debt on behalf of euro area member states.

But those against this argued that other supranational and agency issuers also issue debt on behalf of sovereigns while not being classified as sovereigns themselves. It went on to list the likes of the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Stability Mechanism and the European Financial Stability Facility as examples of this.

This is valid in that these issuers do issue debt on behalf of European sovereigns while not being seen as sovereigns. But they are completely different types of issuers compared to the EU and do not issue anywhere near the amount nor the frequency that the EU does. The EU behaves like a sovereign in this sense with auctions, as well as syndications and a volume of supply that is on par with other European sovereigns.

Many investors already view and trade the EU as a sovereign, including central banks and official institutions who have migrated the EU from supranational to sovereign portfolios. The EU's bonds have also been performing extremely well, demonstrating its increased demand and liquidity as a safe asset.

The 10-year segment in particular has been

strong for the EU, with the issuer's bonds trading through France since March 2024 and was quoted at 16 basis points through OATs on 7 August. With the EU trading through OATs, more investors are using the likes of Austria or the Netherlands as a hedge versus the EU rather than France.

However, the strong performance of the EU over France does require context. "The reason why the EU has managed to hold up well over OATs is because OATs have been at risk due to the French elections, budget and the pressure on their credit ratings," said Pooja Kumra, senior European and UK rates strategist at TD Securities.

Temporary setback

While it is a blow that both ICE and MSCI have declined to include the EU in its government bond indices, it is only a temporary setback. ICE said that it 'will continue to monitor investor views on this topic and would consider future consultations if consensus builds in support of a change'. Additionally, as a small consolation, ICE has created new indices for market participants to include EU debt.

Meanwhile, MSCI said it 'intends to re-evaluate the eligibility criteria in the second quarter of 2025' for the inclusion of EU bonds to its government bond indices.

"What the EU is lacking versus other EGBs [European government bonds] is that fact they don't have a futures and liquid repo market," said Kumra. "Both are crucial to achieving sovereign status, especially a futures market, which helps to hedge risk. The EU has been working on building both these tools. Thus, we would be keen to see how indices like MSCI and ICE respond to this in their next review to consider the issuer in the sovereign index."

The EU's repo facility is expected to go live in the autumn. This will allow the EU to serve as a backstop for its primary dealers to cover potential short positions, which will contribute to increased liquidity. Meanwhile, a futures market for EU bonds is also moving closer to reality, although this will ultimately be launched by a derivatives exchange and market participants rather than the EU itself.

Burhan Khadbai (pictured) is the head of content, sovereign debt institute at OMFIF. He also has extensive experience covering the sovereign, supranational and agency bond market from his time at GlobalCapital.

Financial institutions encouraged to sponsor mathematics competitions

By Francis Kojubi

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is calling on financial institutions to support national mathematics competitions for secondary school students at both O-Level and A-Level.

This plea was made by Dr. Sylvester Rugeihyamu (pictured), Head of the Mathematics Department at UDSM, during the announcement of five students who passed the entrance exams for the 2024 Pan African Mathematics Olympiads (PAMO).

Speaking at an event in Dar es Salaam, Dr. Rugeihyamu highlighted the lack of participation from financial institutions, including banks and other key economic players, in sponsoring these competitions, despite their reliance on skilled mathematicians for daily operations.

"We are grateful to TCRA for recognizing the importance of mathematics and facilitating these students' participation in African competitions. We also urge the Ministry of Education to allocate a dedicated budget to fund these competitions at the national level and support our representatives in international events," said Dr. Rugeihyamu.

On August 8, 2023, the national mathematics competition exams were conducted, with 812 students from 12 regions in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar participating. Organized by the Mathematics Association of Tanzania (MAT), five students emerged as winners and will now represent Tanzania at PAMO, which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 14 to 20 this year.

The winning students include three girls and two boys: Ambrose Rutashobya from Iyunga Technical Secondary School, Zakaria Mwita from Azania Secondary School, Ilham Abdulla Awadhi from FEZA Secondary School Zanzibar, Mwanarab Said Mbwana from Lumumba Secondary School Zanzibar, and Stella Maliti from Marian Girls Secondary School.

Dr. Said Sima, Chairman of the Mathematical Association of Tanzania (MAT), provided some historical context, ex-



plaining that MAT was founded in 1966 under the Mathematics Department at the University of Dar es Salaam.

The association's primary goal is to enhance mathematics learning in the country through collaboration with the government and education stakeholders.

Dr. Sima noted that MAT is responsible for organizing mathematics competitions, which had been on hold for several years but resumed last year.

These competitions are held at the national, regional, continental, and global levels.

Every year, MAT organizes national competitions for O-Level and A-Level students, known as the Junior and Senior Tanzania Mathematics Olympiads (TAMO).

The exams take place every August, with results announced the following March on International Day for Mathematics (IDM),

where winners receive prizes, including laptops.

Top performers in the national competitions earn the opportunity to compete in international exams, categorized into the East Africa Mathematics Olympiads (EAMO), Pan African Mathematics Olympiads (PAMO), and the International Mathematics Olympiads (IMO).

The objectives of these competitions include identifying talented students in mathematics and developing strategies to nurture their abilities.

Semu Mwakyanjala, Principal Communication Officer at TCRA, emphasized the importance of mathematics in the digital economy and encouraged both public and private institutions to sponsor these competitions and student trips to cultivate a strong pool of mathematicians across all levels.

China fuels African lithium boom to secure crucial battery material

By William Clowes

CHINESE miners and refiners are driving a surge in African lithium output, shrugging off concerns over a glut to lock in future supplies of the critical battery metal.

The continent is projected to account for almost 11 percent of global supply this year, compared with close to zero at the start of the decade, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights. That's projected to increase to more than 14 percent by 2028.

A spike in lithium prices through 2021 and 2022 fueled a wave of investment by Chinese companies in African production.

The metal has since plunged more than 80 percent after supply increased while sales of electric vehicles lag expectations.

Despite an anticipated global production surplus this year, China - which makes most of the world's lithium chemicals - continues to expand its refining capacity and is growing more dependent on material from overseas, said Claudia Cook, an analyst at Benchmark Mineral Intelligence.

"As there is growing resistance to Chinese involvement in lithium projects in the Western world, Africa is well-positioned to fill this feedstock gap."

More than two-thirds of the continent's output comes from Zimbabwe, where Chinese firms, including Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co., Sinomine Resources Group Co. and Chengxin Group Co., have spent billions of dollars to commission mines and processing plants. Companies from China or with Chinese backing are also developing projects in Mali, Namibia and Nigeria.

Across Africa, 15 mines that are under development or being expanded are due to be producing by 2030, according to Lukasz Bednarski, S&P's principal research analyst for lithium and battery metals. Most are "sustainable," even at current prices, he said.

"It's really significant growth in the last three years," Bednarski said.

That new capacity will come online as the market is predicted to return to a deficit, following a peak global lithium surplus in 2027, according to Benchmark.

While production from Zimbabwe is more transparent due to

the presence of industrial mines, supply from nations like Nigeria - which until now has exported lithium ore that's been extracted with rudimentary tools - is harder to track. That country was the second-biggest source of African lithium during the past year and a half, said Thomas Matthews, battery metals analyst at CRU Group.

More than half of Africa's production last year came from hand-dug or small-scale activity, according to Matthews. That is changing though, with "growth in output from industrial operations expected to eclipse the informal activity," he said.

Nigeria opened its first lithium processing facility in May and has several more China-backed projects under development, as the government seeks to regulate the trade and maximize revenue.

Low-grade material from Africa made up more than a quarter of all China's lithium imports on a metal contained basis during the first half of this year, Matthews said.

Western companies are also looking to tap African lithium. Sydney-registered Atlantic Lithium Ltd. is building Ghana's first lithium mine, supplying concentrate to the US that can benefit from tax credits introduced by President Joe Biden. London-listed Andrada Mining Ltd. and Canada's Tantalex Lithium Resources Corp. are developing projects in Namibia and Democratic Republic of Congo respectively.

Companies belonging to Algy Cluff - a British businessman best known for helping pioneer the UK's offshore oil and gas industry in the 1970s - and Hugh Morgan - an Australian entrepreneur who headed a copper and nickel miner that was acquired by BHP Group for A\$9.2 billion (\$7.1 billion) 20 years ago - are also aiming to produce significant volumes of lithium in Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

While Australia, Chile and China are expected to make up about 70 percent of total supply this year, African mines will help reduce their share to just over half by the decade's end, according to Benchmark's Cook.

The continent's rising prominence "represents a wider trend in the diversification of where lithium is being produced," she said.



Global stocks tick up, yen slips

LONDON

EUROPEAN stocks and US futures rose slightly on Monday, while the yen slipped as a holiday in Japan removed one source of recent volatility, and investors looked ahead to US and Chinese economic data.

Stock markets tumbled on Monday last week, driven by a plunge in Japan, on the back of weak US jobs numbers and the unwinding of a highly popular Japanese yen trading strategy.

Yet some stronger-than-expected US data helped allay fears of a global slowdown and stocks recovered almost all of their losses by Friday.

Markets were calmer on Monday with Europe's STOXX 600 index (STOXX), opens new tab up 0.2 percent after finishing last week 0.3 percent higher. Germany's DAX

index (.GDAXI), opens new tab was up 0.3 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 (FTSE), opens new tab was 0.5 percent higher.

Investors were looking ahead to US consumer price index data for July on Wednesday, which is expected to show month-on-month inflation ticked up to 0.2 percent after a minus 0.1 percent reading in June.

"It's a pretty benign expectation," said Timothy Graf, a senior macro strategist at State Street. "Inflation is really not the problem it once was."

"The balance of risks is that policy has been too tight for too long. Now you're starting to see that show up in the labour market."

Futures for the US S&P 500 ticked up 0.2 percent. The index ended broadly flat for the week on Friday, recovering from a 3 percent drop on Monday.

WORLD

Fruitful FOCAC summit results anticipated

JOHANNESBURG

THE upcoming 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is expected to bear fruitful results to further deepen Sino-African relations, according to observers in Africa.

Alan Khan, senior director of corporate affairs at Durban University of Technology in Durban, South Africa, said the summit, to be held from Sept 4 to 6 in Beijing, is expected to strengthen the strategic partnership between Africa and China.

With the African Development Bank estimating that Africa's need for infrastructure funding is between \$130 billion and \$170 billion annually, Khan said the FOCAC summit will present an opportunity to address such a challenge.

"China is currently the biggest trading partner with the African continent, and therefore this partnership is highly important for all the involved parties, since these economies are interdependent," said Khan.

"The summit presents an opportunity to deepen cooperation in areas such as education, infrastructure development, healthcare and technology. We anticipate concrete commitments and action plans that will drive sustainable development and mutual growth."

As African countries intensify efforts to boost intra-Africa trade, quality infra-

structure, such as roads and railways, is needed to support the free movement of goods and support trade on the continent, Khan said.

Therefore, it is likely that the FOCAC summit will prioritize infrastructure development to enhance connectivity between African countries, as well as connectivity between China and Africa as a whole, he added.

"This connectivity is the engine that drives economic growth and feeds into" the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, which has drawn the participation of 44 sub-Saharan African countries, Khan said.

The upcoming summit, similar to previous FOCAC meetings, is expected to discuss educational exchanges and research, which will help boost scholarships and collaborative research projects to stimulate innovation and skills development in Africa, he said.

In addition, more cooperation is expected in areas that will boost the sustainable and long-term development of Africa, such as healthcare and green technologies, he said, adding that these priorities are essential for fostering long-term sustainable growth and improving the quality of life across the African continent.

"FOCAC has been highly beneficial in nurturing China-Africa relations," Khan said. "There have been significant invest-

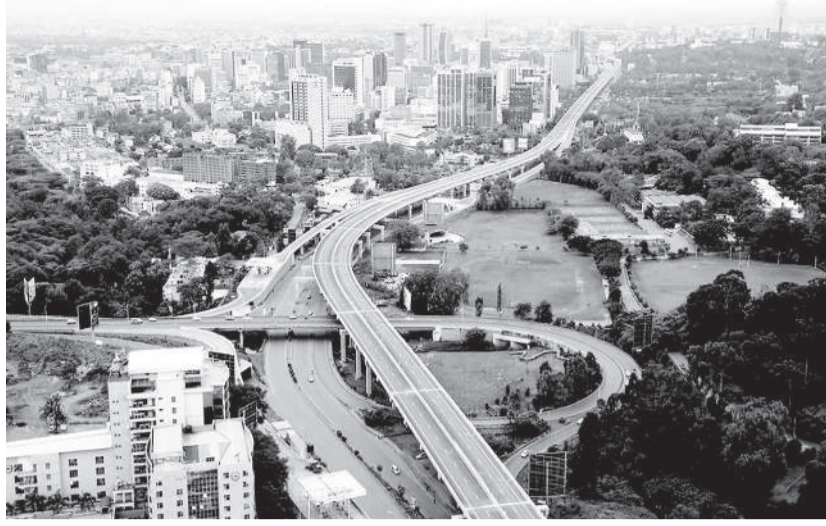


Photo taken on May 8, 2022 shows a section of the Nairobi Expressway in Nairobi, Kenya. XINHUA

ments in roads, railways and ports that have improved trade and mobility for many African nations.

There have been joint efforts in combating diseases like Ebola and COVID-19, including improving healthcare infrastructure and capacities for some countries in Africa. In terms of people-to-people exchange, important exchange mechanisms and platforms have been established under FOCAC."

One of the numerous projects supported by FOCAC in Africa is an institute at Durban University of Technology that supports technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, and promotes vocational training that aligns with local needs, he said.

Khan said he also expects that more projects will be established across Africa that will improve inclusive development, benefiting all segments of society, and will align with environmental sustainability goals in order to mitigate climate change impacts on many African countries.

Oliver Bulaya, a prominent advocate of smart agriculture in Zambia, said that under FOCAC, increased Chinese investment and development initiatives have had a significant impact on local communities in the nation over the past two decades.

He said he hopes that future cooperation will focus more on addressing environmental and social challenges for local communities, so that FOCAC can contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive development path for Zambia.

Meanwhile, speaking with representatives of the Chinese community in Kenya at a meeting on Aug 6, Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya's prime cabinet secretary, said the upcoming FOCAC summit will renew practical cooperation with China in a wide range of areas, such as trade and investment, green financing, affordable housing and people-to-people exchanges.

Khan, from South Africa, said that Chinese engagement in Africa is different from that of the former colonial powers and some other major nations.

"Chinese engagement often focuses on mutual benefit and noninterference, prioritizing development and long-term investments," he said. "In contrast, Western partners sometimes emphasize governance reforms and conditional aid. China's approach has been appreciated for its focus on practical development outcomes and respecting domestic sovereignty."

Agencies

Chinese foreign minister discusses ties, Mideast with Iranian counterpart

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday held phone talks with Acting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani at request, focusing on bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East.

Noting that Iran is a country with important influence in the region and a comprehensive strategic partner of China, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that China has always promoted its relations with Iran from a strategic and long-term perspective.

China stands ready to work with the new Iranian government to continue to firmly support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests, steadily advance practical cooperation in various fields, unswervingly promote the sound development of bilateral relations, and constantly add new content to the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, said Wang.

Iran is welcome to actively participate in the events hosted by China as the rotating chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and strengthen this new type of international organization, he said.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Iran within the framework of the BRICS mechanism, further increase the voice and influence of the "Global South," and promote more just and reasonable development of international governance, said the Chinese minister.

Bagheri Kani expressed his gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping for sending a special envoy to the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, saying that President Pezeshkian is firmly committed to developing Iran-China relations and ensuring that bilateral relations are not affected by changes in the international and regional situation.

Iran is willing to enhance coordination with China on international and regional affairs and give more strategic connotations to bilateral ties, Bagheri Kani said.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East. Bagheri Kani briefed Wang on Iran's position regarding the assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh and Iran's perspectives on the regional situation, stressing that Iran is determined to defend na-



This combo photo shows Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani. XINHUA AND AP

tional sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, while striving to maintain regional security and stability.

Bagheri Kani thanked China for upholding a just stance on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and looked forward to China playing a greater role in easing the situation and promoting security in the Middle East.

Wang said that China always upholds fairness and justice in Middle East affairs and supports all parties in safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests, especially sup-

porting Palestine in restoring its legitimate national rights.

China firmly opposes and strongly condemns the assassination, believing that it gravely violates the basic norms governing international relations, seriously infringes on Iran's sovereignty security and dignity, directly undermines the Gaza ceasefire negotiation process, and shocks regional peace and stability, he added.

What is pressing now is that the international community should join forces and urge all parties to the

conflict to earnestly implement relevant Security Council resolutions, to create conditions for the early realization of a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Wang noted.

China supports Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty security and national dignity in accordance with the law, supports its efforts to safeguard regional peace and stability, and is willing to maintain close communication with Iran, Wang said.

Xinhua

HAMAS has said a ceasefire plan for Gaza must be based on where talks were a month and a half ago rather than any new rounds of negotiations.

In a statement on Sunday night, the group called on mediators "to present a plan to implement what was agreed upon by the movement on July 2, 2024, based on [President Joe] Biden's vision and the UN Security Council resolution".

On 2 July, Hamas issued its response to the outline ceasefire plan announced by Mr Biden on 30 May.

The details of Hamas's response have not been made

Hamas says ceasefire must be based on group's July response

public but the group is understood to have dropped a demand for a full ceasefire at the outset rather than an initial six-week pause put forward by the president.

Negotiations resumed a week later, with Hamas accusing Israel of introducing new conditions.

Hamas sources told the BBC that the introduction of the new conditions - that displaced Palestinians should be screened as they return to the north of Gaza, as well as the question of control of the

Philadelphia corridor that borders Egypt - have been sticking points.

It has also been widely reported in the Israeli press that these new demands were made by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and that they have caused friction with his negotiating team.

Last week, international mediators from Qatar, Egypt and the US urged Israel and Hamas to resume urgent discussions on the ceasefire and hostage release deal on 15 August.

The mediators said they were prepared to offer a bridging proposal to overcome differences on the implementation of Mr Biden's framework agreement.

Israel responded on Thursday, saying it would send a team of negotiators to take part in the meeting. Hamas rejected any new proposals, but the BBC understands that the group is open to resuming talks at the point prior to which the new conditions were introduced.

On Monday, the leaders of

the UK, France and Germany issued a joint call for talks to resume, saying there "can be no further delay".

UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz echoed the mediators' call for ceasefire talks to resume in a joint statement.

"We agree that there can be no further delay," the statement said.

"We have been working with all parties to prevent escalation and will spare no

effort to reduce tensions and find a path to stability."

The countries also called for the de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East - which have risen since the assassination of senior members of Hamas and Lebanese group Hezbollah.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin confirmed on Sunday night that he had ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East which will join the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which is heading to

Indian stock markets open with marginal dip

MUMBAI

INDIAN markets opened with a marginal dip yesterday, with both indices registering a decline during the opening trade.

The Nifty 50 index opened at 24,320.05 with a decline of 47.45 points or 0.19 per cent, while the BSE Sensex opened at 79,296.67, down 409.24 points or 0.69 per cent.

In the broad market indices on the National Stock Exchange, all indices including Nifty Next 50, Nifty 100, and Nifty 200 registered a marginal dip on opening. The volatility index of NSE, India VIX, surged during the opening session.

"Global as well as domestic factors are likely to influence the market this week. Globally, stock markets will be keenly watching the US consumer data and the core CPI numbers, which will indicate the strength/weakness of the US economy. Domestically, there is the Hindenburg report and its likely fallout. It appears that this 'revelation' is unlikely to impact the market meaningfully," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, at Geojit Financial Services.

In the sectoral indices, except Nifty Consumer Durables, all other indices faced selling pressure and opened in the red. In financial announcements, Vodafone Idea, NMDC, Happiest Minds, Orchid Pharma, and National Aluminium Company, among others, are among the major companies reporting their first-quarter earnings today.

In the Nifty 50 list, the top gainers during the opening session include Britannia, ONGC, Grasim, Tech Mahindra, and Asian Paints, while the top losers include Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, NTPC, Power Grid, and State Bank of India.

In the global markets, the S&P 500 was up by 0.47 per cent to 4,464.05, and the Nasdaq Composite was up by 0.51 per cent to 13,644.85. The Asian markets showed mixed movements, with Japan's Nikkei 225 gaining 0.26 per cent and China's Shanghai Composite falling 0.27 per cent. ANI

US 'strengthening' military in West Asia; UK, France, Germany warn Iran against attack on Israel

WASHINGTON

THE US is "strengthening" its capabilities in West Asia in light of "escalating regional tensions" by sending an additional guided missile submarine to the region, the Pentagon has said.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom, France and Germany yesterday issued a joint statement welcoming the tireless work of their partners in Qatar, Egypt and the United States towards an agreement on a ceasefire and the release of hostages.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said they are deeply concerned by the heightened tensions in the region, united in our commitment to de-escalation and regional stability.

They called on Iran and its allies to refrain from attacks that would further escalate regional tensions and jeopardise the opportunity to agree a ceasefire and the release of hostages.

"They will bear responsibility for actions that jeopardise this opportunity for peace and stability. No country or nation stands to gain from a further escalation in the Middle East," the joint statement read.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon statement came on August 11, the same day that US Department of Defence Press Secretary Major General Pat Ryder held a call between US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin with Israeli Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant.

"Secretary Austin reiterated the United States' commitment to take every possible step to defend Israel," according to the statement.

Austin has ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, equipped with F-35C fighters, to accelerate its transit to the Central Command area of responsibility, adding to the capabilities already provided by the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group.

Additionally, Austin has ordered the USS Georgia (SSGN 729) guided missile submarine to the Central Command region.

Austin and Gallant also discussed Israel's operations in Gaza and "the importance of mitigating civilian harm, progress towards securing a ceasefire and the release of hostages held in Gaza, and our efforts to deter aggression by Iran, Lebanese Hezbollah, and other Iran-aligned groups across the region," the statement read.

Iran has warned it will take revenge for the assassination in Tehran of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Iran has blamed Israel to have been behind the July 31, 2024 killing, which it said was a retaliation for the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas that killed 1,200 people in Israel and took around 250 hostages.

US President Joe Biden along with leaders of Egypt, and Qatar have called on Israel and the Hamas movement to resume talks on the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip on August 15 in Doha or Cairo.

ANI

the region.

Iran previously said it will respond to the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh at the "right time" in the "appropriate" manner and that the US bears responsibility for his death because of its support of Israel.

Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination, though Israel has not commented directly.

Meanwhile on Sunday, the Israeli military ordered thousands of Palestinians in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, to relocate to what it has designated "humanitarian zones".

Agencies

Russia ready to develop system of equal indivisible security in world – Putin

KUBINKA

RUSSIA is ready to develop the system of equal indivisible security in the world together with foreign partners, appreciates their interest in the Army 2024 international military and technical forum, President Vladimir Putin said.

The head of state made an address in which he welcomed the participants of the forum. He pointed out that the forum attracts the interest of specialists from many countries of the world.

"We appreciate this attitude and have been doing everything to support it, since we treasure our partnerships and are committed to developing them by working together with others in order to ensure equal and



indivisible security and build a new, fairer multipolar world order. We can see that our commitment to promoting constructive co-operation has resonated with others who were sincere and proactive in their positive response," the head of state said in a video message.

The president emphasized that dozens of countries have sent delegations to the forum, more than 120 companies have announced their participation, and several foreign expositions will be placed at the Army 2024 forum site.

"This forum prides itself for this inclusive and truly international scope, our mutual commitment to dialogue, as well as its packed business program," Putin underscored.

The Army 2024 international military and technical forum takes place on August 12-14 at the Patriot exhibition center. During the event, participants will see, among other things, samples of weapons, military and special equipment. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner. **Agencies**



Russian defense chief sees special military op as armed conflict between Moscow, West

PATRIOT PARK

MOSCOW'S special military operation in Ukraine is actually an armed conflict with the US-led collective West, Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov said at the opening ceremony of the Army 2024 forum.

"I welcome you all at the opening ceremony of the Army 2024 International Military-Technical Forum. As you know, the event is taking place amid the special military operation. In fact, it is an armed conflict between Russia and the collective West," he pointed out.

According to Belousov, the armed

confrontation "is driven by the desire of the US and its allies to maintain their dominance and prevent the construction of a new multipolar and equitable world order."

"In this regard, the confrontation affects the interests of every country," the Russian defense chief stressed.

The Army 2024 Forum is taking place at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center outside Moscow on August 12-14. The event's participants and guests will be able to see a wide range of weapons, military and special equipment. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner. **Agencies**

'China's position on Ukraine crisis consistent, clear'

BEIJING

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson yesterday said China's position on the Ukraine issue is consistent and clear.

It is reported that Ukrainian troops recently launched offensive into the Russian territory of Kursk region.

Russia said that the Ukrainian army's attack has caused more than 60 civilian casualties, and the Russian army has stopped the Ukrainian army's attack. Kursk region has declared a state of emergency.

According to media reports, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a speech that Russia brought conflict to his country and must have now felt the consequences.

The US side said it was not made aware prior to the attack, that the US side did not feel like this is escalatory in any way and that Ukraine was doing what it needed to do to be successful on the battlefield.

The US side said that the attack is consistent with US policy



The screenshot captured from a video released by Russia's Defense Ministry on Sunday shows Russia's Su-25 ground-attack aircrafts taking off to conduct strike operation in the border area of Kursk region. XINHUA

with regard to what Ukraine can and cannot do with US weapons, that the United States supports Ukraine to defend themselves against attacks that are coming across the border.

When asked to comment on

the development, the spokesperson said the Chinese side calls on all parties to observe the three principles for deescalating the situation, namely no expansion of the battlefield, no escalation of fighting and no fueling the

flame by any party.

China will continue to maintain communication with the international community to play a constructive role for the political settlement of the crisis, said the spokesperson. **Xinhua**

Kagame sworn in for fourth presidential term with massive win

KIGALI

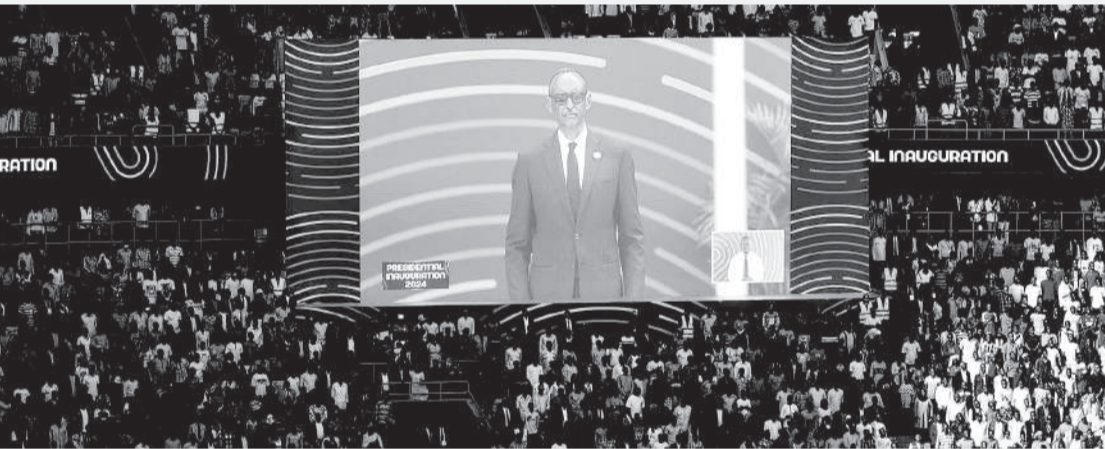
RWANDA'S President Paul Kagame sworn in for the fourth term with over 99 per cent of the vote, Al Jazeera reported.

The Chief Justice Faustin Nteziyayo administered the oath of office to Kagame, where he pledged to "preserve peace and national sovereignty, consolidate national unity", Al Jazeera reported.

The President, in a post on X wrote, "I can only begin by thanking all Rwandans for putting your trust and confidence in me. It is an honour to serve as your President for another term.

The electoral campaign was a period of joy and satisfaction for all of us. Millions attended rallies, and almost everyone went to vote. But it isn't just about numbers.

There is a much deeper meaning behind what all of us saw and experienced. That reality is undeniable; it stems from the spirit of togetherness among Rwandans, as well as a shared determination to be the owners of our future. This is exactly what we have been work-



Rwanda President Paul Kagame is seen on screen moments after taking the oath of office in front of supporters during the Presidential Inauguration ceremony at the Amahoro stadium in Kigali on Sunday. AFP

ing for all of these years." President Kagame.

The National Electoral Commission of the African country stated that Kagame won 99.18 per cent of the votes, Al Jazeera reported.

Meanwhile, Rights activists, on the other hand, claimed Kagame's win was a reminder of the lack of democracy in the country. Two out of eight applicants were authorised to run in the presidential race and those who criticised Kagame

were barred, Al Jazeera reported.

The activists also claimed that Kagame rules in an atmosphere of fear and does not allow dissent, causing arbitrary detentions, intimidation, disappearances and killings if any dissent is reported, Al Jazeera reported.

Frank Habineza, Democratic Green Party leader won 0.5 per cent of the votes and an independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana won 0.32 per cent, Al Jazeera re-

ported.

"I proudly cast my vote for President Kagame and made it a priority to be here today to witness this historic inauguration. His leadership has been transformative for our nation.

Under his leadership, Rwanda has risen from our tragic past and forged a path towards prosperity, unity and innovation," Tania Iriza, a supporter of the President told Al Jazeera. **ANI**

PARIS

INTERNATIONAL media reported on Wednesday that the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) had exonerated athletes who tested positive for doping in exchange for them acting as "informants." The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) subsequently issued a statement criticizing this practice for its "contravention of World Anti-Doping Code".

This news quickly garnered widespread attention from the media, athletes and sports officials at the Paris Olympics, raising common concerns.

Question 1: Why did the U.S. shift from recognizing cannabis as a banned substance to pushing for its removal from the prohibited list?

Background: In 2009, U.S. star swimmer Michael Phelps was suspended for three months for using cannabis, and some sponsors decided not to renew their contracts with him. Over time, the call to remove cannabis from WADA's Prohibited List

Five key questions over USADA's anti-doping practices

has grown stronger in the U.S. What caused this change? In the eyes of Americans, what are the criteria for including a substance on the banned list?

Question 2: How can the fact that most U.S. athletes operate outside WADA's global anti-doping system not undermine fair competition with athletes from other countries?

Background: WADA President Witold Banka stated at the 142nd session of the International Olympic Committee: "90 percent of U.S. athletes are not under the jurisdiction of the World Anti-Doping Code. I am referring to professional and collegiate leagues. According to data released by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee on July 10, 75 percent of U.S. elite athletes participating in international competitions come from the collegiate system, including the NCAA. This means that most U.S. elite athletes originate from a system operating outside globally recognized clean sport standards." So, how are these athletes from U.S. professional leagues and the NCAA tested? What is the frequency of testing, and what are the standards for penalties? How can fair competition be ensured under two different anti-doping systems?

Question 3: Where does the U.S. "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" place existing international

rules with its extraterritorial jurisdiction?

Background: The core of the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" lies in its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Under this law, individuals involved in doping, aside from athletes, may face criminal penalties, and its scope includes international events with U.S. athletes, events sponsored by companies with U.S. operations, and events broadcast in the U.S. The law effectively grants the U.S. judicial authority over doping-related fraud in nearly all major international events, including the Olympics, but it does not apply to domestic professional leagues such as the NBA or NFL, as these do not fall under the "major international sports competitions" defined by the Act.

Meanwhile, hundreds of countries and stakeholders worldwide have signed UNESCO's "International Convention against Doping in Sport," adhering to the World Anti-Doping Code and supporting the existing global anti-doping framework. When the U.S. enforces extraterritorial jurisdiction over doping violations, it clearly conflicts with the unified global anti-doping system. Where does this leave existing international rules? Will other countries also enact legislation to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction, and ultimately, whose interests will be harmed?

Question 4: With the U.S. hosting the Los Ange-

les Summer Olympics and the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, can international sports participants avoid the threat of the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act"?

Background: In the case of the contamination of trimetazidine involving 23 Chinese swimmers, the U.S. used the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" to leverage domestic judicial and political means to investigate, extending its jurisdiction and summoning FINA Executive Director Brent Nowicki, which created a sense of crisis in the international sports community. The Paris Olympics are nearing their conclusion, and the next Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, with Salt Lake City hosting the Winter Olympics in 2034. Although the U.S. Olympic Committee Chair, the 2034 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics Organizing Committee Chair, and the Governor of Utah have all expressed support for WADA's work under the World Anti-Doping Code and pledged to do everything possible to alleviate concerns in the international sports and anti-doping communities about the U.S. anti-doping system, can these

promises be fulfilled? Can international sports participants avoid the threat of the "Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act" while competing in the U.S.?

Question 5: Why is the U.S. so strict in overseeing anti-doping efforts in other countries, yet covers up and tolerates doping violations domestically? What is the basis for the U.S. allowing "informant" athletes to escape suspension?

Background: On August 8, WADA issued a statement accusing the USADA of covering up and tolerating doping violations while criticizing other countries' anti-doping agencies. In at least three serious doping cases, the USADA did not impose suspensions on athletes in exchange for them acting as "informants," without notifying WADA or following procedures. WADA considers this a clear violation. Allowing athletes who have used banned substances to continue competing threatens the integrity of sports. Is this fair to other athletes competing in the same events?

Xinhua

SPORT



Ecobank managing director Dr Charles Asiedu in action during the 5th Corporate Masters Golf Series 2024 held on August 2 and 3 at the Gymkhana Club in Dar es Salaam. The annual tournament is held to bring together golfers from various corporate companies for intercompany golf challenges. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ouma sees bright future for Coastal Union after Simba test

By Correspondents Nassir Nchimbi & Seth Mapoli

COASTAL Union head coach David Ouma praised his players' confidence and tactical growth despite their narrow 1-0 defeat to Simba in the 2024/2025 Community Shield third-place match on Sunday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The loss followed a 5-2 semi-final defeat to Azam FC, marking a winless run for Coastal Union in the mini-tournament.

Ouma's squad had a chance to equalize late in the match when Simba was reduced to 10 men after substitute Fabrice Ngoma received a second yellow card, leading to his dismissal. Despite the numerical advantage, Coastal Union couldn't capitalize and find the back of the net.

The Kenyan coach (pictured) revealed that he took lessons from Simba's semi-final match against Young Africans, where Simba dominated the midfield. In response, Ouma decided to bring Lucas Kikoti into the midfield to add control and balance to his team.

"Simba dominated possession for the first 35 minutes of the match. I felt we were missing a player like Lucas Kikoti, who can control the midfield and dribble through opponents. We lacked that final pass into the box, which is why I brought on Kikoti. His ability to dictate play from central areas is exactly what we needed," Ouma explained.

Coastal Union secured a place in the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup after finishing fourth in the Mainland Premier League last season. While the Community Shield results were disappointing, Ouma sees them as valuable lessons and growth opportunities for his team as they prepare for the new season.

"We had a numerical advantage for the final ten minutes against Simba. Cosmas Lucas, whom I gave significant playing time last season, performed admirably in his one-on-one situation against Simba. While he didn't score, I'm proud of his effort," Ouma said.

He added, "It's important to remember that this is a new team with 65% new players. They're gaining confidence with every match,

and we need to be patient as we develop them. Today, we conceded a preventable goal, which is disappointing. My focus is on continuing to build their confidence, and I believe we can improve."

Coastal Union are now gearing up for their CAF Confederation Cup campaign, where they will face Bravos do Maquis. The first leg is set for August 16 at Estadio De 11 Novembro in Luanda, with the return leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 23.

The winners of this tie will advance to play against FC Lupopo from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Coastal Union will be eager to make a strong start in the competition, building on their domestic success from last season.

This marks Coastal Union's return to international competition since their participation in the 1989 African Cup Winners' Cup, where they were eliminated in the first round. The competition was later merged with the CAF Cup to form the current CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

As Coastal Union also prepare for the NBC Premier League, they face a challenging start with a series of matches lined up. The season will kick off on August 16, with Coastal Union's first five fixtures already set.

On August 29, they will take on KMC FC at the KMC Complex at 4:00 pm. This will be followed by an away match against JKT Tanzania FC on September 25 at Major General Isamuhyo Stadium, with a 2:00 pm kickoff.

On October 21, Coastal Union will face Mashujaa FC at the KMC Complex Stadium at 4:00 pm. The fourth round of the league will see them take on Namungo FC, with the date and time to be announced later. Finally, in the fifth round, Coastal Union will play against Azam FC at the Azam Complex Stadium, with the date and time yet to be confirmed.

Coastal Union's journey this season will be closely watched by fans and analysts alike, as the team aims to build on their recent progress and compete at both the domestic and continental levels. With a mix of experienced players and new talent, Coastal Union is determined to make their mark in Tanzanian football.



SPORTS

Our Olympics debacle a sadly familiar tale

By Lloyd Elipokea

IT is a deeply saddening fact that as a country we have gloomily failed to end our lengthy hoodoo where securing Olympic medals is concerned.

Indeed, ahead of the just-ended, enthralling Paris Olympics, there had been hopes in some quarters on the local scene that we could fantastically claim a few medals at the spectacular games.

Unfortunately though, despite giving it their all, our sportsmen and sportswomen at this year's Paris Olympics exasperatingly failed to notch up even a minuscule single medal, which of course means that our long 44-year wait for an Olympic medal lamentably goes on.

In truth, our preparations for the Paris Olympics were undisputedly far from ideal.

However, there is something far more worrying and disturbing than our shoddy preparations for this year's games.

Indeed, it appears as if we have become tolerant of mediocrity and that we have set the bar low where sporting achievement is concerned.

This can be seen in the fact that a few local officials hailed the displays of our swimmers after they had broken national records in their respective races in the pool at the games.

At this critical juncture, this writer would swiftly like to emphasize that rewriting national records in a sport is doubtlessly a praiseworthy accomplishment.

Having said that, though, all countries sans Tanzania partake in the Olympics to claim medals and set Olympic as well as world records and not just national records alone.

It seems starkly clear then that we will have to adopt a different modus operandi if we are to realize our decades-long dreams of securing an Olympic medal.

First and foremost, we shall have to ditch our costly and disastrous habit of engaging in eleventh hour preparations, which has only brought us misery and ruin.

Moreover, we shall have to undertake timely and meticulous preparations for the Olympics and not drag our feet,



United States' Stephen Curry (4) celebrates in the men's gold medal basketball game against France at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024 in Paris, France. (AP Photo)

which have decidedly not worked out for us, to put it mildly.

However, beyond the aforementioned points, it would be perhaps appropriate if we could engage in some soul-searching about what our goals at huge showpiece sports events should be.

It is an unquestionable fact that we are a nation blessed with a wealth of talented sportsmen and sportswomen.

Nevertheless, we need to address the lackadaisical attitude and seemingly carefree indifference that we have regarding our below-par performances at the Olympic Games.

Speaking of the Olympics, it is without question that the Paris Games have served up some terrific sporting displays that have left an indelible impression on a sea of unbridled sports devotees.

One team that has helped to render the Paris Olympic Games a magical and truly memorable experience is unarguably the American men's basketball side, which fittingly claimed the gold medal last Saturday

following a riveting final against the hosts, France, that was one for the ages.

Indeed, in what was an epic battle, Team USA finally pulled away from their opponents in a decisive fourth quarter that saw some spell-binding three-point shooting from the guard Stephen Curry that ultimately tipped the scales in America's favor.

However, apart from Curry's otherworldly shooting ability, it is the sheer excellence of a team made up of African-American basketball greats that will live long in the memory of all avid basketball fans.

It is hoped then that this especially gifted USA men's basketball side can inspire countless Tanzanians and Africans for years to come.

Simba now set to land Cameroonian striker Leonel Ateba from USM Alger

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA are reportedly on the brink of securing the services of Cameroonian forward Leonel Ateba from USM Alger as they look to strengthen their attacking options for the upcoming 2024/2025 season.

Ateba (pictured), who has garnered interest from several European and West African clubs, is said to be eager to join the Tanzanian giants. The Cameroonian international has an impressive resume, having played for top clubs in his home country such as Coton Sport, PWD Bamenda, and Dynamo Douala. He was also a member of the Cameroon squad for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

Since joining USMA in January, Ateba has made 12 appearances in the Algerian Ligue 1, scoring once and providing two assists. In the CAF Confederation Cup, he featured in seven matches, scoring three goals. Additionally, in the Coupe d'Algerie, he netted two goals and contributed two assists in four games.

Simba are actively seeking to revamp their attacking lineup following a worrying goal drought in recent matches, including scoreless outings against APR and Young Africans. This lack of firepower has raised concerns about the team's ability to compete effectively in the forthcoming season.

The club's head coach, Fadlu Davids, has been vocal about the need for additional attacking options. The acquisition of Ateba is seen as a strategic move to enhance Simba's attacking capabilities and boost their chances of reclaiming dominance in both domestic and continental competitions.

Simba currently have three key strikers: Steven Mukwala, Freddy Kouablan, and young talent Valentine Mashaka. However, Ateba's arrival could spell the end for Kouablan, whose recent performances have not met expectations.

The club is also managing squad limitations imposed by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), which allows a maximum of 12 foreign players. With the expected departures of Kouablan and



another foreign player, Ayoub Lakred, the signing of Ateba will bring the foreign player count to the permissible limit.

Reports suggest that Davids is dissatisfied with Kouablan's contribution during pre-season and the Community Shield tournament, prompting the need for a new striker. Despite this, Kouablan remains part of Simba's squad for the CAF Champions League, with his goal-scoring ability still a potential asset. Last season, Kouablan scored 12 goals across all competitions, including six in the Premier League.

Kouablan's previous success in the Zambian Premier League, where he became the top scorer with 14 goals in just half a season, highlights his potential impact if he regains form. However, the anticipated arrival of Ateba indicates Simba's intent to bolster their attack ahead of the new season.

Simba supporters are eagerly awaiting official confirmation of Ateba's transfer as the club continues its preparations to challenge for titles on both domestic and continental fronts.

Liverpool and Arsenal win and Chelsea and Palace draw

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot's first game at Anfield ended with a comprehensive 4-1 victory against Sevilla.

Slot has taken over the Reds following the departure of Jurgen Klopp and his side went into the game against the La Liga team on the back of wins against Real Betis, Arsenal and Manchester United during a pre-season trip in the United States.

Diogo Jota gave Liverpool the lead when he struck a first-time left-foot volley from Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass.

Alexander-Arnold, Alisson Becker, Luis Diaz, Virgil van Dijk and Alexis Mac Allister all started for the Reds in their first pre-season outings.

Diaz scored two more for the home side before half-time after being set up by Jota and Dominik Szoboszlai.

Peque Fernandez pulled one back for Sevilla after the break before 17-year-old Liverpool substitute Trey Nyoni added his side's fourth with a smart finish.

Liverpool then played Las Palmas at Anfield in a behind-closed-doors friendly, with Darwin Nunez making his first pre-season outing since returning from Copa America duty with Uruguay.

Scotland left-back Andy Robertson, who also started against Las Palmas as he returned from injury, came closest to scoring when his shot hit the post in a goalless draw.

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca was also taking charge of his first match at Stamford Bridge as the

Blues earned a 1-1 draw with Italian champions Inter Milan.

Maresca replaced Mauricio Pochettino at the helm of the London side in the summer and he had forward Cole Palmer and defender Marc Cucurella available after their return from Euro 2024.

Both played a part in a game in which Marcus Thuram gave Inter the lead before Lesley Ugochukwu equalised in the final moments.

Chelsea also introduced new signing Pedro Neto to their fans at half-time, with the Portuguese forward joining for an initial £51.3m and a possible further £2.6m in add-ons.

Arsenal, who have finished second to Manchester City in the past two seasons, rounded off their pre-season campaign with a 2-0 win against Lyon.

William Saliba and fellow defender Gabriel both scored with headers from Declan Rice corners in the first half.

Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori has joined the Gunners from Bologna this summer and he made his first appearance for the club when he replaced Oleksandr Zinchenko in the second half.

Crystal Palace defender Marc Guehi has been linked with a move to Newcastle United, while team-mate and fellow centre-back Joachim Andersen has been the subject of a £20m bid from Fulham.

However, both started for the Eagles as they drew 1-1 with Nantes. Jean-Charles Castelletto put the French side in front before Daichi Kamada equalised.

BBC

Rooney issues warning to players after heavy loss

LONDON

PLYMOUTH Argyle head coach Wayne Rooney says his players will not play again if they repeat their performance in their heavy opening day loss.

The Pilgrims were thrashed 4-0 at Sheffield Wednesday - and the Owls could have scored more - as Argyle failed to create a decent effort on target.

The loss came as the former England captain took charge of the club for the first time in his third role in charge of a second tier side.

"I've told them after the game if I see a performance like that again from any player - whether they've been at the club for a long time or whether they've just come into the club as a new player - they will not play," Rooney told BBC Radio Devon.

"From my point of view you can lose football games, that happens, but you have to do the basics and you have to make sure you run and you tackle and you're getting to the ball and that wasn't there.

"The players know, they understand they have to be at it every game."

Having been sacked as Birmingham City manager in early January after just two wins in 15 games the pressure was on Rooney to show he can repeat the career he had as a player as a coach.

His side struggled to defend against a Sheffield Wednesday side that seemed to be able to attack at will.

Having already signed six players this season Rooney says he is open to adding to his squad but will not panic after their opening day drubbing.

"It's the first game of the season and of course we're disappointed," Rooney said.

"But I don't think it's time to panic, I've seen the work we've done throughout the pre-season which gives me encouragement.

"If players become available who we feel can improve the team then of course we'll look at that, but I don't think we can start panic buying after one game."

Rooney started Conor Hazard in goal with continued speculation linking popular homegrown goalkeeper Michael Cooper with a move away from the club.

The 24-year-old in in the final year of his contract and has rejected the offer of a new deal at Home Park.

"There's a lot of speculation. I'm sure he's aware of what's happening and the bids we're receiving and so I need players who are fully motivated and committed to play," Rooney said.

When asked if Cooper will still be at Argyle after the transfer window he said: "I've no idea.

"I think as a football club we do need to make a decision and obviously the bids we've received are not the valuation.

"I think it's really important for me to say I really want Michael to stay, I think he's a fantastic goalkeeper.

"But I think sometimes it gets taken out of the manager's hands as well in terms of what conversations have been had with Michael and the club."

BBC



Paris closes the Olympics, and Los Angeles turns to Tom Cruise for its 2028 mission

SAINT-DENIS, France

SETTING out to prove that topping Paris isn't mission impossible, Los Angeles rolled out a skydiving Tom Cruise, Grammy winner Billie Eilish and other stars on Sunday as it took over Olympic hosting duties from the French capital, which closed out its 2024 Games just as they started - with joy and panache.

Capping two and a half extraordinary weeks of Olympic sports and emotion, Paris' boisterous, star-studded closing ceremony in France's national stadium mixed unbridled celebration with a somber call for peace from International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.

Following in Paris' footsteps in 2028 promises to be a challenge: It made spectacular use of its cityscape for its first Games in 100 years, with the Eiffel Tower and other iconic monuments becoming Olympic stars in their own right as they served as backdrops and venues for medal-winning feats.

But the City of Angels, like the City of Light, showed that it, too, holds some aces.

Cruise - in his Ethan Hunt persona - wowed by descending from the top of the stadium to electric guitar "Mission: Impossible" riffs. Once his feet were back on the ground - and after shaking hands with enthralled athletes - he took the Olympic flag from star gymnast Simone Biles, fixed it to the back of a motorcycle and roared out of the arena.

The appetite-whetting message was clear: Los Angeles 2028 promises to be an eye-opener, too.

Still, this was largely Paris' night - its opportunity for one final party. And what a party it was. Thousands of athletes danced and sang the night away - reveling in the artistic show that celebrated Olympic themes and its firework flourishes.

Even Bach got the party bug,

Ederson's unique ability confirms why he should remain Man City's first-choice goalkeeper

By Richard Jolly

MANCHESTER City have amassed a squad brimming with technique and talent. They have players who caress a ball as much as strike one. They have those who are defined by the precision of their passing. They have a man who may prove the greatest goalscorer of his generation.

And so their outstanding spot-kick taker is... the goalkeeper? "He is our best penalty taker," said Pep Guardiola. "Along with Erling Haaland and Kevin de Bruyne." Manuel Akanji narrowed it down further: "Ederson is probably the best penalty taker in our team, Erling as well," the defender said. "When Ederson takes the penalty, I know it is a goal." Oscar Bobb felt he was in the top one. "I think so," said the winger. "I haven't seen Ederson miss so probably, yeah."

The Community Shield amounted to a triumph of a reluctant remainder. Ederson could have been found in Riyadh or Jeddah rather than Wembley now. Playing for City pays well; playing in Saudi Arabia is still more lucrative. A bid from Al-Nassr was rejected. Al-Hilal were interested and Ederson too, in swapping the Mancunian rain for the desert of the Middle East, but neither club met City's asking price and both of his Saudi suitors have since signed other goalkeepers. Now the assumption is that Ederson stays. The start of a new season could have marked City's first game after the Brazilian; instead, it may be another trophy that Guardiola attributes to his footballing goalkeeper.

Not the most celebrated: that is the Champions League where Ederson's late saves from Robin Gosens and Romelu Lukaku can be overlooked amid the impressions of inevitability about City's triumph. Not by Guardiola. There are times when it seems that being City's goalkeeper is the most lucrative of part-time jobs, given that they can spend much of a match as a spectator. Guardiola may disagree with that: his emphasis on a passing goalkeeper means Ederson, a left-back at points in his youth, doubles up as the 11th outfield player.

It rendered him a trailblazer in



Yseult performs during the 2024 Summer Olympics closing ceremony at the Stade de France, Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France. (AP Photo)

nix as they played, before security and volunteers cleared the stage.

Multiple French athletes crowd-surfed. U.S. team members jumped up and down in their Ralph Lauren jackets.

On the stadium's giant screens,

Eilish, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, rapper Snoop Dogg - wearing pants with the Olympic rings after being a popular feature of the Paris Games - and Dr. Dre kept the party going in a prerecorded show from a California beach.

Each is a California native, including H.E.R., who sang the U.S. national anthem live at the Stade de France, crammed with more than 70,000 people.

The stadium crowd roared as French swimmer Léon Marchand, dressed in a suit and tie instead of the swim trunks he wore to win four golds, first collected the Olympic flame from the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

Reappearing later in the stadium to spectators' chants of "Léon, Léon," Marchand then blew out the flame. The Summer Games were over.

Their next stop: LA in 2028.

The national stadium, France's largest, was one of the targets of Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers who killed 130 people in and around Paris on Nov. 13,

2015. The joy and celebrations that swept Paris during the Games as Marchand and other French athletes racked up 64 medals - 16 of them gold - marked a major watershed in the city's recovery from that night of terror.

"Paris became a party again and France found itself," said Tony Estanguet, head of the Paris Games organizing committee.

The closing ceremony also saw the awarding of the last medals - each embedded with a chunk of the Eiffel Tower. Fittingly for the first Olympics that aimed for gender parity, they all went to women - the gold, silver and bronze medalists from the women's marathon earlier Sunday.

The women's marathon took the spot of the men's race that traditionally closed out previous Games. The switch was part of efforts in Paris to make the Olympic spotlight shine more brightly on the sporting feats of women. Paris was also where women first made their Olympic debut, at the Games of 1900. The U.S. team again topped the medal table, with 126 in all and 40 of them gold.

As a delicate pink sunset gave way to night, athletes marched into the stadium waving the flags of their 205 countries and territories - a display of global unity in a world gripped by global tensions and conflicts. The stadium screens carried the words, "Together, united for peace."

A golden-shrouded figure dropped spider-like from the skies into a darkened world of smoke and swirling stars. Olympic symbols were celebrated, including the flag of Greece, birthplace of the ancient Games, and the five interlaced Olympic rings, lit up in white in the arena where tens of thousands of lights glittered like fireflies. Now, the lights are out. But the memories of Paris' special summer won't dim anytime soon.

AP



Ederson saved and scored a penalty against United to help Man City win the Community Shield. Agencies

the Premier League, a catalyst in the shift of style under Guardiola. "You cannot understand this process that we have lived for many years without Ederson: his charisma, his consistency," the Catalan said on Friday.

An element has been added: his calm spot kicks. At Wembley, for the second time in four months, Guardiola put Ederson on the pressure penalty: the fifth. He scored against Real Madrid, even though City exited the Champions League anyway. He scored against Manchester United, though it took a further three penalties apiece for Akanji to ensure victory after Jonny Evans had ballooned his effort.

The turning point, however, belonged to more typical skills for a

goalkeeper: a raised right arm tipping Jadon Sancho's penalty on to the post when Bernardo Silva's early miss had afforded United the initiative. Penalties - the goalkeeping part of them, anyway - has not always been Ederson's field of expertise. In matches, he has saved six and conceded 51. In the Real Madrid shootout, however, he saved from Luka Modric. If he only stopped one of seven on target from United, they missed two of eight in total. That proved enough.

And, Ederson may note, for the second time in two trips to Wembley, a City goalkeeper had a decisive impact in deciding the destination of a trophy. Stefan Ortega was partly culpable - though Josko Gvardiol more at fault - for Alejandro Garnacho's goal in the FA Cup final.

His understudy had acquired the reputation as the best second choice in the business: one with aspirations to be more than that. Meanwhile, the criticism is that Ederson saves too few shots: his save percentage dipped to 62 in the 2022-23 Premier League, the fifth lowest among 23 regular goalkeepers. But while it was up at 70 last year, when Stefan Ortega made the potentially title-winning stop from Heung-Min Son at Tottenham in the penultimate match, there was a temptation to wonder if Ederson would have proved their rescuer in such a fashion. City themselves know Ortega is their best goalkeeper in one-on-one situations. When the German signed a new contract in the summer, it added to the impression that Ederson may leave.

When Ederson looked shaky in pre-season, it may have created more competition. Guardiola invariably gives the reserve goalkeeper the FA Cup - damagingly when Zack Steffen was Ederson's deputy - and Ortega had been granted last season's Community Shield, too. Indeed, Ederson had only played in one previous Community Shield in seven seasons at City.

But there was a decisive answer from Guardiola on Friday when asked who would start: Ederson. And while the City manager ascribes less importance to the Community Shield than any other trophy - it helps when you have won so many more prestigious prizes - it had the feel of a statement, a vote of confidence. **THE INDEPENDENT**

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Paris closes the Olympics, and Los Angeles turns to Tom Cruise for its 2028 mission

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dauids optimistic after Simba's narrow win against Coastal Union



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IN a match that served as both a morale booster and a tactical test, Simba clinched third place in the Community Shield by defeating Coastal Union 1-0, thanks to an 11th-minute strike by attacking midfielder Saleh Karabaka.

The victory was a much-needed respite for Simba, who had previously lost to arch-rivals Young Africans in the semi-finals.

Simba's coach, Fadlu Dauids (pictured), made significant changes to the lineup that faced Young Africans, resting four key players and giving opportunities to younger talents.

The tactical shift paid off early when Karabaka found the back of the net. The goal came from a well-orchestrated move, with Steven Mukwala delivering a cross that was cleverly flicked on by Joshua Mutale.

Karabaka was in the right place at the right time, calmly slotting the ball past Coastal Union's goalkeeper, Chuma Ramadhani.

Despite controlling much of the game and creating several scoring chances, Simba struggled to extend their lead. Coastal Union, though on the back foot for most of the first half, mounted a spirited comeback after the break, launching several attacks on Simba's goal.

However, Simba's defense, bolstered by the introduction of new players like Che Malone and Abdulrazak Hamza, held firm.

Following the match, Dauids expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, particularly in how they started the game.

"This was our final preparation before the Premier League, and the game went well. We started strongly, which gave us control early on and created several scoring opportunities. We aimed for more shots on goal, and we succeeded in that. However, we didn't capitalize on those chances. By halftime, it should have been 3-0 or even 5-0," said Dauids.

The match also highlighted the team's depth, as Dauids rotated his squad to give playing time to several new signings.

"It's important to note that we had eight new players in the starting lineup, including Mohamed Hussein 'Tshabalala,' Che Malone, and Saleh Karabaka, who wasn't a regular starter last season. Despite Karabaka's inexperience, he played well in the first half, but fatigue set in later on. This is understandable given the intensity of the game and the short turnaround time of just two days," Dauids added.

Simba's coach also praised his team's resilience, especially after midfielder Fabrice Ngoma received a second yellow card and was sent off in the second half.

Ngoma will now miss the opening match of the Mainland Premier League against Tabora United due to suspension.

"The match tested our ability to manage the game with ten men, revealing the players' mentality," Dauids noted.

The win against Coastal Union, though not by a wide margin, provided a valuable lesson for the Simba squad as they prepare for the start of the league. The team's focus, according to Dauids, is on building a strong squad capable of competing on multiple fronts.

"This match served as the perfect preparation for the season, highlighting areas where we need to tweak and refine our strategy. We're focused on building a strong team for the start of the league, but our pre-season doesn't end here. It's an ongoing process to get the players to a fitness level where they can maintain our playing style for a full 90 minutes," Dauids said.

The South African tactician also emphasized the importance of improving the team's finishing.

"As for our final touch and scoring, that's something we'll continue to work on in training. We're still refining the movements and runs, which is normal at this stage. In fact, we're ahead of schedule in building this new team. We've gathered valuable insights from these two games, and we'll use that information to develop a strategy that ensures consistency throughout the league season," he added.

Simba will kick off their Premier League campaign on August 18 against Tabora United FC at the newly selected KMC Complex Stadium. This match is highly anticipated, as Simba look to make a strong start and reclaim the league title after finishing third last season.

Vital'O coach Sahabo cautions ahead of showdown with Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

VITAL'O head coach Parris Sahabo has issued a cautionary note ahead of his team's upcoming CAF Champions League preliminary stage match against Tanzania's Young Africans.

Sahabo expressed his respect for Young Africans, particularly after witnessing their dominant performances in the recent Community Shield mini-tournament.

Young Africans secured the Community Shield title by defeating Simba SC 1-0 in the semifinal and delivering a commanding 4-1 victory against Azam FC in the final. These displays have highlighted their strength and made Sahabo wary of the challenge his team faces.

In contrast, Vital'O concluded their pre-season preparations with a 1-1 draw against Pamba Jiji FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium on Saturday. Despite the result, Sahabo recognized the limitations of the match as a measure of his team's readiness for the upcoming clash.

Vital'O had a strong domestic season, finishing with 72 points from 30 matches, narrowly edging out Flambeau du Centre, who finished second with 69 points. The Burundian champions have a storied history, having won the Burundi Primus Premier League title 21 times, with their last triumph in the 2015/2016 season.

Reflecting on his observations of Young Africans, Sahabo said, "I watched Young Africans play against Azam and Simba. We observed how they played, especially when attacking the opponent's goal. They have great speed, so we will try hard to play against them and snatch a win in the first and second-leg matches, although it won't be easy."

He also acknowledged the advantages Young Africans hold, having played high-caliber fixtures in both their pre-season and Community Shield matches.

"I am aware Young Africans is a very tough team as it stands, and they have an advantage against us. They have played Champions League-caliber fixtures from their pre-season to Community Shield games," Sahabo added.

While he admitted that the match against Pamba Jiji was not the ideal preparation for facing Young Africans, he noted that it was still beneficial for his team's physical condition and competitive readiness.

"The Pamba match wasn't the toughest test, but we took them seriously. It was a valuable game for us because they have a strong team and made good signings. We've played other matches back home, but we needed more international experience, so facing Pamba was beneficial," he said.

Vital'O will play both legs of their CAF Champions League preliminary tie in Dar es Salaam. The first leg against Young Africans is scheduled for August 17 at Azam Complex, with the return leg on August 24 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Young Africans, who aim to qualify for the CAF Champions League group stage for the second consecutive season, will be the home team in the second leg.

The aggregate winner between the two teams will advance to the final play-off round, where they will face either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopian club Commercial Bank for a spot in the group stage.

This year, Young Africans are joined by Azam FC in representing Tanzania in the CAF Champions League. Azam FC will face APR of Rwanda in the preliminary round, with the winners potentially facing JKU of Zanzibar or Pyramids FC of Egypt for a place in the group stage.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, Simba SC will enter the competition in the second preliminary round, awaiting the winners of the match between Uhamiaji FC of Zanzibar and the Federation Cup champions from Libya.

Coastal Union will begin their campaign with an away fixture against AS Bravo of Angola, followed by a home match. The overall winner will face FC Lupopo of DR Congo for a chance to advance to the group stage.

"I watched Young Africans play against Azam and Simba. We observed how they played, especially when attacking the opponent's goal. They have great speed, so we will try hard to play against them and snatch a win in the first and second-leg matches, although it won't be easy"

Gamondi: Yanga's Community Shield win reflects team's growth and determination



Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi holds the Community Shield trophy accompanied by members of his technical bench and the club's president Engineer Hersi Said (4th R) after their final match against Azam FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Young Africans won 4-1. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans Sports Club kicked off their 2024/25 season in spectacular fashion by securing the Community Shield title with a commanding 4-1 victory over Azam FC.

The match, held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium last Saturday, marked the beginning of what Young Africans hope will be another triumphant season filled with silverware.

The final, played at a blistering pace, saw a total of five goals scored, each by a different player, underscoring the match's competitive spirit. Azam FC struck first, with Feisal Salum finding the back of the net in the 13th minute, putting Young Africans on the back foot early.

However, Young Africans, known for their resilience, quickly responded. Prince Dube, the team's newly signed striker from Azam FC, equalized just five minutes later in the 18th minute, setting the stage for what would be a remarkable comeback.

From that point on, Young Africans took control of the match. Chadrack Boka added another goal in the 27th minute, followed by a strike from Aziz Ki in the 30th minute, giving the Jangwani-based side a 3-1 lead before halftime. The final nail in Azam's coffin came in the 90th minute when Mzize Clement scored, sealing a comprehensive victory for Young Africans.

ricans.

Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi expressed his immense pride and satisfaction with his team's performance.

"To start the new season with a trophy feels incredible," Gamondi said. "We are hungry to win trophies, and it's our job to do just that. The match performance was unbelievable. This team has improved with every game, and I think we played a fantastic match. Even when we conceded an early goal, we stayed calm and composed, eventually scoring three goals. In the second half, we managed the game well, which is proof of our maturity. I believe we fully deserved to win this cup."

Gamondi's emphasis on maintaining composure, even after conceding an early goal, was evident in the way Young Africans responded on the pitch.

"This is where maturity comes into play. It's a professional thing. We know we're a team that can concede a goal, but we need to stay calm and focus on what we need to do. Football is like that; you can't let your emotions take over. The players showed a very professional attitude tonight," he added.

For Dube, the victory was particularly sweet. Scoring the equalizer against his former club, he was elated with the result and the team's performance.

"It was a great pleasure to score, and it was a good job from Mudathir Yahya, who we played together with at Azam FC. It's a continuation of what we were doing, and I like to see it happen like this," Dube said, expressing his joy at being part of the winning side in his debut match for Young Africans.

With the Community Shield now in their trophy cabinet, Young Africans' fo-

cus shifts to the upcoming Tanzanian Premier League season, where they will be aiming to defend their title.

Young Africans, who have won the league for three consecutive seasons, will begin their title defense on August 29 with an away match against Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium. The reigning champions will undoubtedly be under pressure to maintain their winning streak, but their strong start suggests they are well-prepared for the challenge.

Young Africans' fixture list includes some key matchups that could prove decisive in their quest for another league title. After their opening match against Kagera Sugar, Young Africans will face Ken Gold at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya in what promises to be a tightly contested encounter. They will then take on JKT Tanzania at Azam Complex Stadium on October 22.

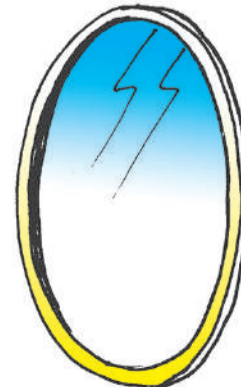
Further into the season, Young Africans will play against Mashujaa FC in a yet-to-be-confirmed fourth-round match at Azam Complex Stadium. Following that, they will face Singida Big Stars in the fifth round. These fixtures will be crucial in determining Young Africans' position in the league standings as the season progresses.

As they embark on the 2024/25 season, the team's confidence is soaring. The Community Shield victory is not just a trophy; it's a statement of intent. With a squad brimming with talent and a coach who demands the highest standards, Young Africans are setting the stage for what could be another historic season.

The pressure is on, but if their opening performance is any indication, Young Africans are ready to rise to the occasion and continue their dominance in Tanzanian football.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL. WHO IS THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?



THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

Simba will kick off their Premier League campaign on August 18 against Tabora United FC at the newly selected KMC Complex Stadium. This match is highly anticipated, as Simba look to make a strong start and reclaim the league title after finishing third last season.