

+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9059 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA SATURDAY 13 JANUARY, 2024



### Fishers in Tanga get boat for deep sea fishing

Page 3



### Call for precaution as cholera cases confirmed in Iramba

Page 4



### Educate farmers on improved seeds, village leaders urged

Page 6



Page 13

# Museveni hails Pan-African advances

## Snaps at demands for Tanzanian rice export barriers in Uganda

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni yesterday castigated appeals in his country for raising barriers against rice imported from Tanzania.

In a loudly applauded address at the new Amaan Complex in Zanzibar at a colourful ceremony to celebrate the 60th year of the Zanzibar Revolution, he said that appeals for protection arise from 'laziness.'

He was affirmative that raising barriers in a tit for tat manner was a 'childish game' he has no intention of taking up, expressing satisfaction with higher integration in East Africa and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as landmark achievements in Pan-Africanism.

A section of Heads of State from the East African Community (EAC) bloc joined Tanzanians in commemorating the anniversary, extolling regional integration, the Revolution and union as Pan-African milestones.

President Museveni was the star guest leader at the colourful well-attended ceremony, praising Sheikh Abeid Karume and Mwalimu Nyerere as African revolutionaries and himself and others as their successors.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi waves to the multitudes assembled at Zanzibar's recently renovated Amaan Stadium yesterday upon arrival at the venue to grace the climax of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. More photos on Page 2. Photo: State House

TURN TO Page 2

## Reform bills: UN praises gender electoral moves

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DESPITE advancements made towards achieving 50/50 representation by gender, the underrepresentation of women in leadership and decision-making roles is still in place, thus needing more coordinated efforts from various actors, the United Nations believes.

Zlatan Milisic, the UN resident coordinator, expressed this view in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening a platform event on the findings and recommendations of the gender analysis of election and political party bills of 2023 organized by UN Women.

Factors that bring about insufficient presence of women as gender gaps in laws and policies, lack of capacity and necessary skills among women due to traditional inequalities, disregard for women in politics and gender stereotypes.

These factors build cultural practices and attitudinal norms that suggest women should not seek roles in public life, he said, noting that this imbalance not only undermines principles of democratic representation but also hinders collective progress.

Despite all these drawbacks, there is no doubt that Tanzania has made significant progress in advancing women's leadership and political participation, showing by example by having a woman as Head of State and similarly having strong women's representation in Parliament, he stated.

He said that the UN system has worked in Tanzania for many years, helping to amplify the voices of women and girls, advocating for women's participation in leadership and decision-making across various sectors, from the grassroots to the national level.

The coordinator noted that the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Tanzania (2022 - 2027) also recognizes that women's political participation is crucial for achieving sustainable development and for addressing issues that disproportionately affect women and girls.

One of the significant aspects of UNSDCF is the emphasis on inclusive and sustainable development, with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment that includes increasing women's political participation and ensuring that women have a stronger voice in decision-making at all levels.

"The UN in Tanzania is actively working with the government, civil society and de

TURN TO Page 2

## SPORTS

Page 20



Matola: Simba SC ought to be disciplined against Mlandege FC

Page 18



TPLB top official breaks ice on VAR installation

The move will increase transparency and improve efficiency, as a system that automates and tracks all aspects of case life cycle from initial filing, disposition and appeal accessible to each individual party for any case.

## Electronic case filing starting at High Court

By Guardian Reporter

AN electronic case management system (e-CMS) has started being used in the High Court, with intent to greatly speed up the delivery of justice.

Mark Mulwambo, the acting deputy solicitor general, said yesterday that the move will increase transparency and improve efficiency, as a system that automates and tracks all aspects of case life cycle from initial filing, disposition and appeal accessible to each individual party for any case.

He was launching a training session for judiciary officers on the new system, on how to integrate and use it together with the usual case information management system supervised by the Solicitor General's Office.

A total of 27 staff from that office as well as the Attorney General's Chambers were enabled to exchange experiences and learn new techniques in operating the electronic system, serving clients both locals and foreigners for better outcomes, he said.

Strengthening information com-

munication technology (ICT) infrastructure and conducting the digitalisation of case management has become essential to effectiveness and integrity of the Judiciary, he declared.

The new system provides a public portal for users to file documents by electronic means, with access to information for all case types across all jurisdictions, he observed, affirming filing case documents electronically by lawyers

TURN TO Page 2

## Songwe moves against fertiliser fraud kingpins

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

FIVE people including leaders of agricultural marketing cooperative society (AMCOS) have been arrested on suspicions of obtaining 8,738 bags of subsidized fertiliser by devious means.

Regional Commissioner Dr Francis Michael said in a statement yesterday that a crackdown by Songwe regional authorities he suspects are said to have been nabbed the five for taking the fertiliser and selling

it to farmers at high prices, sabotaging government plans for subsidised fertiliser.

Arresting the suspects is part of an on-going crackdown involving various bodies some of whose leaders were found registering phantom farms in order to obtain the fertiliser.

Rashid Msyaliha, AMCOS chairman for Kilimi and Masoko in Ilomba, Mbozi District was named as among the suspects who was nabbed with 2,907 bags of fertiliser.

The suspect is alleged to use the union's number to get 624 bags of fertilizer without being authorised by the members. He is also alleged to have registered as a normal farmer of Ilomba village with a 1000 acre farm and thus getting 2096 bags of fertilisers, fraudulently.

"The AMCOS leader also issued false information of another 100-acre farm in Ilomba village and thus getting 187 bags of subsidised

fertilizer, selling it to farmers at high prices," RC Michael elaborated.

Another suspect is Omary Hashim, who along with three traders arrested in previous operations, is alleged to have stolen 7,400 bags of fertilizer and sent to court.

Leaders of Idunda AMCOS in Mbozi District purchased 5,831 of

TURN TO Page 2





## Songwe moves against fertiliser fraud kingpins

FROM PAGE 1

subsidised fertiliser by using the Amcos's number without getting approval from the union's board and members.

They are Yisega Mwazembe, the chairman, Sikuzani Mwashwa, the society's treasurer and Bahati Mwazembe, an official of the Amcos, with the leaders also alleged to have given false information and registered a ghost 1000-acre farmland in order to obtain the fertiliser.

The five suspects are under police custody at Vwawa police station in the district, with investigations in final stages before being hauled to court, the RC noted.

The task force has seized a total of 100,019 bags of subsidised fertilizer since it was formed, the RC noted, vowing that the operation will be sustained, after earlier arresting three servants, bringing to seven those accused of stealing a total of 2,917 bags of fertilizer.

Kaster Ngonyani, the acting regional police commander, said in a telephone interview that the three suspects are Elizabeth Temba, extension officer for Hasamba ward in Mbozi who is suspected to have taken 311 bags of fertilizer and Mwile Mwashuiya, head teacher at Itete primary school, accused of selling the fertilizer at 85,000/- instead of

70,000/-.

Another suspect is Alphonse Nanyanga, a technician found with 680 of the fertiliser, she said, affirming that the operation will continue to ensure that all people who are behind the dirty game are arrested and taken to court.

Earlier in the week, the acting RPC announced the arrest of four servants of Mbozi district council over misappropriating 1,980 of the subsidised fertiliser, naming the suspects as Aloyce Madaraka, an agriculture unit officer who lied that he has a 30-acre farm to get 71 bags of fertiliser.

Another suspect was Anton Buyongera, agriculture officer at Iyula ward who obtained 855 bags, Rehema Mwandulusa, Iloilo ward agriculture officer who took 600 bags, along with James Ngunda who got 400 bags of fertiliser after lying that he has a 200-acres farm.

After the preliminary interrogations with the suspects, all of them admitted that they engaged in benefiting from the fertiliser, with the arrests coming a few days after Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe announced that Songwe Region was leading in sabotaging the fertiliser subsidy policy.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured yesterday mingling – and exchanging greetings – with foreign and Tanzanian dignitaries including former president Jakaya Kikwete during the climax of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Venue: Zanzibar's recently renovated Amaan Stadium. Photo: State House

## Electronic case filing starting at High Court

FROM PAGE 1

reduces the burden of paperwork in the court system.

The system allows paperless case management after a case has been filed, pace up the life cycle of a case to mediation, automatic allocation of case hearing and delivery of judgment, to its execution, closure and finally archiving of a case in the system, he explained.

Using e-CMS enables registering

case identification number that is not repeated in other courts, plus registering the proceedings report at the Court of Appeal.

Judges will be writing updates of proceedings in the system instead of writing in files, with the system enabling arranging the proceedings for each judge fairly, he stated.

Information from the National Identification Authority (NIDA), the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the

Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), the National Prosecution Service is embedded in the system as well as auxiliary information from other institutions, he elaborated.

It also embodies the registration of lawyers and prosecutors by identifying them by unique numbers attached to their identities, he stated, praising the High Court for adopting the change as it will greatly improve delivery of legal services to people and slash-

ing bureaucracy in the provision of justice.

He urged the participants to be attentive and work on the knowledge gathered by adhering to integrity and confidentiality, since the legal registry is a sensitive office in preserving government documents.

Dennice Leonard, acting head of the Legal Registry Unit at the office of the Solicitor General, said the new digital system will enable

citizens to get timely information, monitoring how their proceedings are going in the court, apart from being informed through their mobile phones and emails.

Victoria Kawacha, the law secretary with the Solicitor General, said that switching from a paper-based filing system to a digital format will help clear a large backlog of cases and ease the burden of time-consuming legal processes and procedures.



Foreign and Tanzanian dignitaries including Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Rwandan President Paul Kagame and former president Jakaya Kikwete stand at attention for the national anthem during yesterday's celebrations at Zanzibar's refurbished Amaan Stadium marking the climax of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: State House

## Museveni hails Pan-African advances

FROM PAGE 1

He congratulated the people of Zanzibar for celebrating the special day, underlining that the revolution brought vast changes in Zanzibar and Africa as a whole.

His remarks were echoed by Rwanda President Paul Kagame who said the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar was a symbol that it is possible for Africans to unite and do things together as friends and blood relatives.

"This union is a symbol of collaboration and brotherly co-existence in Africa which shows everything is possible," he asserted, while host President Samia Suluhu Hassan made brief remarks at the ceremony, in like manner as the guest of honour, President Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah was the key speaker at the parade, coloured by an array of national leaders and retired Union and Zanzibar top leaders, including Vice-President Dr Philip Mpango, Zanzibar First Vice-President Othman Masoud Othman, former Union President Jakaya Kikwete, former Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume, apart from Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa and former prime

ministers Mizengo Pinda and Frederick Sumaye.

Thousands of joyous Zanzibaris and numerous guests from the Mainland packed the new Amaan Complex grounds to mark that event, where President Mwinyi inspected a guard of honour and march past from units of the defence forces, youths and commando displays.

Leaders from nearby countries delivered animated addresses where many of them struggled with using Kiswahili, other than President Museveni, who studied at the University of Dar es Salaam in his younger days.

Kenya's Vice President Rigathi Gachagua and Burundian Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca delivered short addresses showing enthusiasm with East African Cooperation at present.

President Mwinyi arrived at the parade ground at around 4:20 pm to orchestrated applause from well-organised groups both on the grounds and on the stands, in a sea of green, yellow, pink and white-coloured hand-flags where the clear sign was the bipartisan presence of national unity government parties, CCM and ACT-Wazalendo.

## Reform bills: UN lauds gender electoral moves

FROM PAGE 1

development partners to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls through various initiatives and partnerships, which are part of a broader effort to address the underrepresentation of women in leadership and decision-making positions in Tanzania," he elaborated.

UN efforts are geared towards creating an enabling environment, eliminating social barriers, supporting institutional change, along with enhancing the capacities, actual and potential

women leaders, he further noted.

"These comprehensive efforts underscore the importance of multi-faceted approaches to promoting women's representation in political issues, recognizing the critical role women play in societal development and governance," he said.

Hodan Addou, the resident representative for UN Women, said that in recent years significant progress has been registered in Tanzania on women's leadership roles and political participation.

This has been achieved through government efforts including instituting temporary special measures via special parliamentary seats provided for in the constitution, she said.

"As a result, the representation of women in parliament is at 37.4 percent, and the cabinet now includes more than 30 percent women, some of whom hold significant and strategic ministerial positions," she said.

There is still ground to cover to reach levels of equal participation, as currently only 10 percent of women MPs are directly elected from

the constituencies, and only 6.5 percent of women councilors are directly elected at the ward level, she stated.

Presentation of the three bills related to election and political parties, namely the National Electoral Commission Bill, The Political Parties Affairs Laws (Amendment) Bill, and the Presidential, Parliamentary and Councillors Elections Bill "provides an excellent opportunity to address some of the barriers that hinder women's effective participation in leadership and decision making," the representative asserted.

"At UN Women, both globally and here in Tanzania, our work focuses on developing and upholding standards and creating an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential.

"One of the key priority areas in our mandate is to ensure women lead, participate and benefit equally from governance systems, which is also well aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSD) for Tanzania," she added.



# Delayed 3bn/- girls' school all set to open next month

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE construction of a 3bn/- government-owned girls' secondary school on Longido District, Arusha Region, is in the final stages and is scheduled to start enrolling students next month.

The school, Samia Girls, is meant to serve as an ultimate solution to early marriages and pregnancies in the region by providing girls access to quality education at a boarding facility.

John Mongella, the Arusha Regional Commissioner, unveiled this yesterday during his visit to inspect the school which has more than 20 modern buildings.

"Arusha Region received 3bn/- through Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP) for building a modern girls' school whose construction is ongoing at a very quick pace and we expected to start enrolling pupils on February 1, this year," he said.

According to Mongella, despite the construction not completing within the agreed time, more time has been added until February 15, 2024 and his office was ready to provide additional support in supervision to achieve the intended goal.

"Many primary and secondary schools are being built in the region which attests to the dream

of President Samia Suluhu Hassan of seeing the education sector evolve," he said.

"As her assistants, we pledge to continue supporting her efforts through proper supervision of all projects to ensure they reach completion on time, including the construction of girls' school here in Longido so that female pupils can get education in a good environment," he said.

Mongella added that as a result of the area's geographical position and a big pastoralist population, women are subjected to practices that hinder their education.

Suppet Mseyi, chairman of the school's construction committee, said all the required equipment to complete the construction were purchased and the task is in progress, adding that at the moment, close supervision of the contractors is required in collaboration with experts from Longido district council so that children can start school next month.

Salome Melubo, a resident living near the school, hailed president Samia's efforts and courage to protect women in various sectors, especially those in pastoralist societies.

"Building boarding schools in pastoral societies like ours can help girls access quality education and remain safe from early marriage," she said.



Arusha Region development stakeholder Nathan Kimaro (2nd-L) pictured in Arusha city on Thursday presenting to Arusha Police Officer Commanding District George Malema a TV set meant to help enhance efficiency in monitoring the state of security on roads across the region. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

# Fishers in Tanga get boat for deep sea fishing

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government has handed over a modern fishing boat worth 121m/- to fishermen in Tanga Region to support their activities and improve income.

Speaking after receiving the boat, secretary for fishermen's association in the region Bahero

Adhio said the boat will help them run their activities efficiently.

According to Adhio, procurement of the fishing boats was part of the government's effort to transform fisheries sector to enable it contribute to the national economic growth.

He said the boat has been bought by the Tanzania Agriculture Devel-

opment Bank (TADB) to which the fishermen's cooperatives will be required to repay the loan without interest.

"In Tanga we have received a boat which is HP 75 which is 14 meter wide. This will increase efficiency in our work," he said.

He added that the boat will enable the fishermen to get rid of tra-

ditional fishing methods, saying now they will go to the deep waters where the big fish are found.

He urged fellow fishermen to avoid using explosives during fishing as this continues to affect fish reproduction and lives of other species in the ocean.

Adhio who is also chairman of the Tanga District Fishermen's Association (CHAWAWATA), said that they

continue to educate fishermen to understand the importance of using appropriate fishing tools.

He said that CHAWAWATA's policies are to unite small-scale fishermen, especially young people, a platform that helps them get support.

Tanzania's Fisheries Sector Master Plan (2021/22-2036/37) is an ambitious blueprint that aims to reshape

and invigorate the country's fisheries landscape by significantly increasing total fish production from the current 479,311 tonnes one million tonnes by 2037. The plan also seeks to amplify the role of aquaculture in the sector, aiming to expand its contribution from the current four percent of total fish production to 20 percent.

# Kikwete commends Samia, Mwinyi for cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi for maintaining good cooperation between the two sides of the union.

He said cooperation between the two leaders enabled the country to uphold national unity, peace and harmony.

Kikwete made the remarks on Thursday while launching a major water project in Dole Township, Zanzibar as part of the commemoration of the 60 years of Zanzibar Revolution.

He said the project which is bigger compared to others in isles is expected to serve more than 150,000 people who will have access to clean and safe water.

"I commend President Samia and Dr Mwinyi for a well-done job of leading the country; our nation is peaceful and safe," he said.

He added that Zanzibar has registered tremendous strides in the past 60 years, noting that following the good leadership of Dr Samia and Dr Mwinyi, various projects have continued to be implemented.

Kikwete further said that revolution objectives have been attained due to the fact that the economy has continued to grow while people access important social services such as water, education, health, roads and electricity.

"In 1964, Zanzibar had a population of 300,000 people but to date it has more than 1.8 million people. The nearly 2 million people get better services than 300,000 people," he said.

Shaibu Kaduara, Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals called upon Zanzibaris to support Dr Mwinyi as he addresses various challenges facing them.

He urged the people to safeguard the projects because the government has incurred huge cost in their execution. The celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution commenced on December 20th last year with various activities, including cleaning various areas of isles, laying foundation stones for projects as well as launching completed ones. The celebrations climaxed yesterday.

From political revolution to socio-economic revolution, Zanzibar is steadily realising the goals of the 1964th revolution which overthrew the Sultan of Zanzibar and his mainly Arab government.



Pupils of Dodoma city's Uhuru Primary School all ready to plant trees at Thursday's launch of a Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission tree planting programme. Photo: Polycarp Machira

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**Strengthening the capacity of journalists and media in efforts to combat Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Ruvuma landscape.**

JET with the support from GIZ, is set to provide training to journalists in Ruvuma landscape. JET will provide training for journalists with the aim to empower journalists with skills and knowledge to effectively report on human wildlife conflict and biodiversity conservation issues in-turn to produce impactful stories for the community.

The program aims at increasing accurate information and awareness on HWC impacts and mitigation efforts contributing to the implementation of the National Human Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy (NHWCMS). The learning will involve visiting wildlife corridors in Namtumbo, Tunduru and Liwale.

**Benefits of participating in the program**

- Gain an exclusive understanding of the latest and most effective wildlife conservation techniques and practices implemented within the wildlife corridors of the Ruvuma landscape.
- Deepen knowledge in the realms of conservation, habitat management, and the proactive measures employed to combat wildlife crimes, specifically tailored to the unique challenges of Human-Wildlife conflicts in the Ruvuma landscape.
- Participants will engage in combination of classroom-style study and field visits to selected project areas.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

- Journalists with a strong interest in HWC and environmental issues.
- Minimum of three years of professional experience as a journalist.
- **Preferred:** Previous field experience including identifying sources, conducting interviews and impactful reporting.

**How to apply**

All applications should be done through (<https://shorturl.at/xBKP4>). The deadline for this application is 16:00 Sunday, 21st January 2024. Women are encouraged to apply.

To download the application form visit: [www.jet.or.tz](http://www.jet.or.tz)

**Application should include the following:**

- Curriculum Vitae (CV) detailing past experience and education.
- Evidence of your previous work: examples of published reports on conservation issues in any available format (online, print, audio, video, radio, TV etc.)
- A letter from your editor confirming the media house's commitment to your participation in the program, including the pursuit and publication of the story throughout the entire period of the training program.

If you have questions about the application, please submit them to [jetassociation@gmail.com](mailto:jetassociation@gmail.com) no later than 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## DIT commended for nurturing innovators at Momba campus

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE government has commended the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) for successfully identifying and supporting young innovators in the country.

Omary Kipanga, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology, gave the compliments during the 17th graduation of DIT Myunga campus located in Momba District, Songwe Region.

He said the good job done by DIT to strengthen science, technology and creativity has made a great contribution to the nation in economic development and social welfare.

"I have been informed about this campus engaging Adam Kinyekile who is one of innovators here in Songwe Region who owns a garage in Tunduma and benefitted from government sponsorship of 99mi to develop his innovation," he said.

Kinyekile said that DIT helped him to be recognized locally and internationally whereby he sells many products he designs to solve agricultural challenges in the region.

"I thank the government for sponsoring me to develop my

innovation and that has greatly helped me to continue with innovation of various products that solve agricultural challenges such as trailers for carrying produce from farm during harvest seasons," he said.

Students who benefit from DIT subsidiary company showed various innovations that they designed to solve various challenges to help the country not import the same.

Vick Mause, a student at DIT Dar es Salaam succeeded to innovate a low-cost machine to help patients with kidney problems which is to be sold for 4m/ unlike the imported machines which are sold for over 20m/.

"I am thankful that the company has enabled me to put my ideas into action because I had the idea of designing this machine," she said.

"Once complete, it will help solve challenges in some of our hospitals that don't have such kind of machines to help kidney patients in dialysis," she said.

Joshua Macha, a first year student in construction engineering has created a machine which is used to produce equipment, including car accessories.



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda addresses a meeting at Etaro village while on an inspection tour of development projects earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Beatrice Philemon

## Indian envoy for stronger cultural exchange

INDIAN High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan has called upon all Indian nationals and Tanzanians who study Hindi at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam to promote the language and cultural exchange between the two friendly countries.

The envoy made the call in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening at SVCC when addressing Indian diaspora community and Tanzanians who gathered at the centre to celebrate Vishwa Hindi Di-

was-2024 (World Hindi Day).

"Today we are celebrating world Hindi Day. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has issued a message on how Hindi has played an important role to bring Indians around the world together," he said.

The ambassador said that in the message, Modi emphasised on adopting Hindi in day-to-day life, especially for Indian people who live abroad.

He commended Tanzanians

who learn Hindi at SVCC. The event was organised by High Commission of India in collaboration with SVCC and Swarnganga Tanzania.

The envoy said Hindi competitions such as essay writing, poetry and drawing were held at various Indian schools in Dar es Salaam as well as at SVCC.

During the event, students from Indian schools in Dar es Salaam and SVCC who participated in various programmes

and competitions received certificates from Dr Suresh Awasti and Sardar Manjit Singh, poets from India who are in Tanzania to celebrate the World Hindi Day.

Devendra Pathak, SwarngangaTanzania founder said that every year on January 10th, World Hindi Day is celebrated to promote Hindi language in Tanzania, adding that in Tanzania the event started in 2012.

He called upon Tanzanians willing to learn Hindi to visit

SVCC for more details.

"We have a weekly class for Tanzanians and the training is offered free of charge; we provide them launch and transport so that they do not discontinue the course," he said.

Every year, Swarnganga Tanzania invites poets from India to come to Tanzania to entertain Indian diaspora and Tanzanians but chiefly to promote Hindi language.

"We promote Hindi because we want the language to be recog-

nized by the United Nations to help it spread in many countries across the world," he said.

To that end, SVCC has introduced a new programme to teach Tanzanians and other people living in the country willing to study the language to do so.

Hindi Day is celebrated in India to commemorate 14 September 1949 when a compromise was reached on the languages that were to have official status during the drafting of the Constitution of the Republic of India.

## Call for precaution in Iramba as six cholera cases confirmed

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

RESIDENTS of Iramba District, Singida Region, have been urged to take precaution against the outbreak of cholera after six people reported to have contracted the disease.

Suleiman Mwenda, Iramba District Commissioner made the call yesterday at a public rally at Nselembwe village, Shelui Ward in efforts to educate people on the deadly disease.

He said that all the six patients were hospitalised and received treatment with three of them having already been discharged.

The DC said the first patient to be diagnosed with the disease had relocated to the district recently for farming activities from Mwanza Region.

He urged local food vendors, butchers and fruit sellers to take maximum precautions against the disease, adding that one of the main causes of the disease is consumption of contaminated food or drinks.

The leader added that they have been conducting public rallies in every part of the district to educate people with the aim of reducing the spread of the outbreak.

Mwenda said the district neigh-

bours other regions which have reported to have cholera patients and that's why community members need to take extra care by ensuring they consume boiled drinking water and wash hands using clean water.

Ramadhani Kazyoba, Iramba District Health Officer, said the first patient was identified on January 07, 2024 at Luano Village.

He encouraged people to take precaution during this rainy season as the disease can spread faster through moving rain water carrying waste with cholera pathogens.



**The DC said the first patient to be diagnosed with the disease had relocated to the district recently for farming activities from Mwanza Region**



Iramba district commissioner Suleiman Mwenda addresses a Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign meeting at Nselembwe village in Shelui ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Iran eyes Tanzania for overseas food production

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Agricultural Ministry has set Africa and Tanzania in particular as the first option for extraterritorial cultivation in its ongoing programmes.

As one of the major policies of the current government, the Islamic Republic has been following new strategies to expand cooperation with Africa, and agriculture has been the main focus of such cooperation.

In line with the mentioned

strategies, the first meeting of the Iran-Tanzania Joint Economic Committee is going to be held shortly and to prepare for the mentioned meeting, the Iranian Agriculture Ministry hosted a gathering to discuss possible agreements and memorandums that could be reached between the two sides in the upcoming committee meeting.

Tanzania is considered one of the most important countries in East Africa and Iran is taking new measures to expand economic ties with this

country.

In late November 2022, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held the first exclusive exhibition of Iranian products and services in Tanzania in collaboration with the Iranian Trade Center in the African country to showcase the Islamic Republic's trade and export capacities.

According to Raed Mousavi, the head of the Iranian Trade Center in Tanzania, this exhibition was the most appropriate platform to increase the knowledge of East African countries,

especially Tanzania, about the products, services, and technological advancements of Iranian companies.

According to Mousavi, companies active in various fields including the agricultural sector, mines and industrial machinery, construction, as well as medicine and medical equipment participate in the first exclusive exhibition of the export capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tanzania.

In mid-July 2023, President Ebrahim Raisi also took a visit

to three African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Economic experts believe that the president's visit to Africa provided the basis for increasing Iran's presence in the 60-billion-dollar economy of the African continent and will increase the level of activity of Iranian traders and businessmen in this continent.

Over the past 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never given up on its principled policy towards Africa due to political and cultural com-

monalities, despite the sanctions, pressure and disruptions of the West, and has always maintained itself alongside the people and countries of Africa.

As reported, during the Iranian calendar years 1384 and 1385 (March 2005-March 2007), the relations between Iran and the African continent increased in terms of trade, but since 1386, the economic relations between Iran and Africa have decreased due to the economic crisis and cruel sanctions against Iran.

Surveys show that in the

past years, due to the lack of restoration of economic relations with Africa, the amount of trade with the countries of this continent has remained at the level of \$1.2 billion, but according to Mohammed-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, the director general of the Africa Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), facilitating the trade route with Africa is happening now and it is expected that the trade figure with this continent will reach \$10 billion in the next three years.





**AUCTIONEERS AND COURT BROKERS COMPANY LIMITED**

**Our motto:**  
Quality Services  
With Integrity

Head office Location: Kinondoni Mwanamboka  
Contact: Mobile phone  
0715884162/0754884162/0787884477  
Email: inguku47@gmail.com

P.O. Box 72252  
DAR ES SALAAM

**PUBLIC AUCTION ADVERTISEMENT.**

On behalf of **AZANIA BANK PLC**, we shall sell by public auction **VARIOUS PROPERTIES PLEDGED AS COLLATERALS TO OFFSET THE OUTSTANDING DEBTS.** The auction shall be held on the dates and days as stipulated in the schedule herein below, starting from 10:00 am

**THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF THE PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD THROUGH PUBLIC AUCTION:-**

SN	NAMES OF THE DEFAULTERS	DETAILS OF PROPERTIES TO BE AUCTIONED	LOCATION	DAY AND DATE OF AUCTION
1	GLOBAL OIL LTD	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 17, BLOCK '77', WITH CT NO. 149049. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH AHMED	LOCATED AT KARIAKOO AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	WEDNESDAY , ON 31/01/2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - APARTMENT NO. 203, PLOT NO. 2411/5, CT NO. 186045/76 IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ASMA MOHAMMED ABDULLAH AHMED BENES - HAQ P O BOX 2414	LOCATED AT SEAVIEW AREA UPANGA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SUNDAY , ON 28TH JANUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - APARTMENT NO. B41, SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 567, CT NO. 186170/15/2 IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF ASMA MOHAMMED ABDULLAH AHMED BENES - HAQ P O BOX 2414	LOCATED AT MINDU UPANGA AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SUNDAY , ON 28TH JANUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		APPARTMENT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY APARTMENT NO. 2A, 2ND FLOOR, PLOT NO. 483, CT NO. 186862/67. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF NOUFAL MOHAMED ABDULLAH ES - HAQ	LOCATED AT MINDU UPANGA AREA WITHIN ILALA MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SUNDAY , ON 28TH JANUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		VARIOUS 9 PLOTS , i.e NO. 104 , 155 , 156 , 157 , 158 , 223 , 224 , 225 AND 226. THE PLOTS ARE UNDER THE NAMES OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH, YASSER MOHAMED, YUSRA MOHAMMED , NOUFAL MOHAMMED AND ASMA MOHAMMED <b>ABDALLAH</b>	LOCATED AT MBWENI MPIJI AREA WITHIN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SATURDAY, ON 27TH JANUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PLOT FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE. SITUATED ON PLOT NO. 304, BLOCK '5', CT NO. 70848. IT IS UNDER THE NAME OF NOUFAL MOHAMED	LOCATED AT MBWENI MPIJI AREA WITHIN KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SATURDAY, ON 27TH JANUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
		PLOT NO. 132, BLOCK '9', PLOT NO. 133, BLOCK '9', PLOT NO. 149, BLOCK '9', PLOT NO. 152, BLOCK '9', PLOT NO. 153, BLOCK '9' AND PLOT NO. 155, BLOCK '9'. THE PLOTS ARE UNDER THE NAMES OF MOHAMED ABDULLAH, YASSER MOHAMMED, YUSRA MOHAMMED AND NOUFAL MOHAMMED	WITHIN KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	SATURDAY, ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
2	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	12 BARE LANDS , ON PLOT NO. 759 TO 770 , BLOCK 'E'.	LOCATED AT KIMBIJI AREA KIGAMBONI MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM.	TUESDAY, ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM
3	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	KURASINI TRADE AREA PLOT NO. 3, CT NO. 32829.	KURASINI SERVICE TRADE TEMEKE MUNICIPALITY DAR ES SALAAM	TUESDAY, ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2024 , STARTING AT 10:00 AM

**LIST OF TRUCKS AND TRAILERS TO BE SOLD STARTING AT 10:00 AM**

SN	NAME OF DEFAULTER	DESCRIPTION	DAY AND DATE OF AUCTION
1	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 583 CKH	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
2	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 273 CKH	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
3	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 580 CKH	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
4	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 571 CKH	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
5	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 721 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
6	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 550 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
7	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 693 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
8	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 696 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
9	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 700 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
10	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 704 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
11	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 534 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
12	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 728 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
13	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 530 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
14	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 533 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
15	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 713 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
16	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 709 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
17	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 715 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
18	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 707 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
19	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 726 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
20	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRUCK 2011 - T 724 BZB	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
21	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 432 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
22	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 445 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
23	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 379 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
24	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 384 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
25	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 387 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
26	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 375 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
27	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 645 CKG	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
28	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 381 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
29	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 327 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
30	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 334 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
31	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 427 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
32	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 323 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
33	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 341 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
34	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 371 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
35	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 364 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
36	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 359 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
37	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 439 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

38	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2013 - T 347 CJW	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
39	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 579 DCY	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
40	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 586 DCY	THURSDAY , ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2024
41	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 575 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
42	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 576 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
43	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 578 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
44	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 571 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
45	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 569 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
46	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 587 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
47	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 573 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
48	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 590 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
49	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 570 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
50	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 585 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
51	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 584 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
52	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 591 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
53	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 589 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
54	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 583 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
55	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 588 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
56	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 572 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
57	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 581 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
58	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 577 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
59	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 585 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
60	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 582 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
61	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	HOWO SINO TRACTOR 2014 - T 580 DCY	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
62	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 138 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
63	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 136 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
64	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 135 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
65	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 147 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
66	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 142 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
67	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 150 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
68	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 163 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
69	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 155 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
70	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 160 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
71	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 153 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
72	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 140 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
73	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 152 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
74	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 145 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
75	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 156 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
76	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 157 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
77	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML TRAILER 2011 - T 161 BZC	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
78	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 644 CKG	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
79	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 619 CKG	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
80	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 630 CKG	SATURDAY, ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2024
81	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 616 CKG	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
82	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML-BAF TANKER 2013 - T 650 CKG	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
83	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 754 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
84	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 739 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
85	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 353 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
86	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 349 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
87	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 350 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
88	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 351 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
89	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 352 DCN	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
90	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 311 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
91	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 319 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
92	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 314 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
93	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 322 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
94	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 288 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
95	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 318 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
96	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 320 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
97	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 284 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
98	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 321 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
99	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 304 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
100	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 316 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
101	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 313 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
102	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	SERIN TANKER 2014 - T 315 DCP	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
103	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 586 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
104	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 575 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
105	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 270 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
106	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 584 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
107	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 274 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
108	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 269 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
109	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 268 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
110	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 569 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
111	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 577 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024
112	M/S UNIFREIGHT(T) LTD	BML - BAF - TANKER 2013 - T 588 CKH	TUESDAY , ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2024

**TERMS AND CONDITION OF THE AUCTION:**

- The auction shall be held at the respective location
- The successful bidder must deposit 25% of the auction price immediately after the fall of hammer, the remaining balance to be paid within 14 days from the auction date. Failure by the buyer to pay the remaining balance within the stipulated time will lead to the forfeiture of the amount paid earlier and re-auction the property,
- All expenses related to the inspection especially transport shall be borne by the buyer, (3). Transfer of ownership shall be done by the buyer
- The properties shall be sold 'as is and where it is'.

**YOU ARE ALL WELCOME**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING**

Managing Director  
Mark Auctioneers and Court Brokers Co Ltd  
P O Box 72252  
**DAR ES SALAAM**

OR  
Director of Credit  
Azania Bank PLC  
P O Box 32089  
**DAR ES SALAAM**

TEL 0754 884162/0787 884477

EMAIL: info@azaniabank.co.tz  
Website : www.azaniabank.co.tz  
TEL +255 22 2412025/6/7





Janeth Mawinza (C), director of community-based organisation WAJIKI, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the agency's plans to sensitise the public on sexual corruption this year. She is with public relations officer Samaha Semenga (R) and children's club matron Angellah Mathias. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Deputy minister Ndejemi wants more work on 8bn/- girl's school

By Guardian Reporter

DEOGRATIUS Ndejemi Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has instructed that the construction of girls' secondary school in Iringa Region be executed day and night for it to be completed urgently.

He also ordered an increase in the number of workers at the construction of the school which is located in Kilolo District.

Ndejemi made the instruction on Wednesday when he visited the construction site to inspect its progress.

The deputy minister expressed dissatisfaction with the slow construction pace is attributed to low number of workers at the site and directed Kilolo District Executive Director to supervise the work.

He said that the school was supposed to have been completed this January and started receiving pupils but the construction is taking place at

a snail's pace.

"I want the District Executive Director, project engineer and the procurement officer to supervise this construction by holding accountable the contractor to increase the project pace as per the contract," he said.

"The contract requires the contractor to hire enough workers with each building having eight workers but currently there are only two workers in each building; this is unacceptable." The deputy minister noted that empowering girls is a right move in ensuring equality, given the fact that for many decades, boys have been given priority in many areas, including education. "One of the means to empower girls is to ensure that they are kept in school and get quality education like boys," he said.

Ndejemi said that the government has released 8bn/- for the construction of the school and that the role of the district leaders is to supervise its implementation for it to be completed on time and at required standards.

# Researchers plan strategies to tackle malnutrition

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCHERS participating in the Urban Food Environment for Transitioning Economies (FETE) have come together to plan strategies to strengthen food systems and reduce all forms of malnutrition in Africa.

Prof. Joyce Kinabo, Principal Investigator of the project in Tanzania told reporters in Morogoro recently that the project will be implemented in five countries which are Tanzania, Ghana, South Africa, Malaysia and Germany with the funding from Federal Agency for

Food and Agriculture (BLE), Germany.

"We have serious problem malnutrition. For example, overweight and obesity are becoming a challenge for many people here in Tanzania and this is contributed by inadequate and unbalanced food among others," she said.

"Most of the food that we see in our stores and supermarkets is processed and contain a lot of sugar and fat, meaning people consume more carbohydrates and sugar than the body needs. This in turn causes rapid weight gain which leads to non-communicable dis-

eases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases."

The expert said that FETE research aims to improve the environment of markets and all places where food is sold in order to provide consumers with all types of nutrition such as fruits, vegetables and legumes instead of foods that increase nutritional problems, especially foods that are highly processed with high sugar and fat content.

Prof Kinabo added that the research will provide lessons and solutions for what should be done on the part of stakeholders, policy,

and food traders so that jointly, they can provide consumers with foods that promote healthy diets.

Dr Daniella Weible from Thunen Institute of Market Analysis in Germany who is the Project Coordinator for the five countries said high prevalence of malnutrition and increased incidences of non-communicable diseases, especially those affecting economic growth caused by major changes in dietary habits, are what motivated them to carry out the research project.

"The main goal is to share experiences, challenges and opportunities and bring solutions to create a

better food environment, provide a reference model of how the methods established and the results obtained can be used more widely in the south or emerging economies by targeting people in the lowest income quintiles living in cities," she said.

Opening the workshop, Director of the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research, Technology Transfer and Consultancy at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Prof Eron Karimuribo commended the selection of the research topic, saying it has come at the right time when there is a

big challenge of increase in non-communicable diseases associated with poor nutrition.

"We are witnessing deaths of our people as a result of ignorance of basic things that are related to nutrition," he said.

The research consortium of FETE project includes researchers and students from the SUA in Tanzania, the Thunen Institute of Market Analysis in Germany, the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) in Ghana, the University of Nottingham in Malaysia and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

## Educate farmers on high-quality seeds, village leaders urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

VILLAGE leaders in Singida Region have been urged to sensitize farmers on the importance of using quality sunflower seeds for increased yields.

Moses Machali, acting Singida District Commissioner made the call when addressing councilors, extension officers and other local leaders in the district.

He wanted the leaders to strongly encourage farmers to use the subsidized sunflower seed dubbed 'record' issued by the government to provide relief to farmers during this farming season.

The official wanted extension officers to work closely with the local leaders to woo farmers to register themselves in their local government offices so that they can access the seeds which will be sold to farmers on cash and not loans.

Machali said the meetings will be held in villages, calling upon local leaders to inform farmers on the availability and quality of the seeds.

He called upon leaders in the villages and other local authorities to use the meetings to register farmers and the quantity of seeds each one receives.

Machali said Singida Region has been given 700 tonnes of seeds, adding that the National Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) will be advised to add more if needed.

The acting DC directed that his office should be informed of the number of farmers who have registered and quantity to get a clear picture of the demand.



National Council for Vocational Education and Vocational Training quality assurance officer Frank Kalili (R) briefs a visitor on Thursday on the agency's activities. It was at the NACTVET pavilion at the International Trade Fair under way at Fumba in Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent

# SADC intensifies fight against money laundering

By Special Correspondent, Luanda

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has started the process to operationalize the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Committee, as provided for in the protocol on Finance and Investment of

the bloc.

According to SADC statement, this process aims to intensify regional bloc's efforts to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing.

To this end, SADC is scheduled for the inaugural meeting of the AML/CFT next month with the aim of facilitating the convergence

of member states' policies, laws and regulatory practices within the framework of the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as well as supporting effective and proportionate action against money laundering and terrorist financing in the region.

According to the document, the opera-

tionalization of the SADC AML/CFT Committee follows the decision taken by the ministers of finance and investment at the meeting held in the Democratic Republic of Congo in July 2023.

During the meeting, member states were informed of the recommendations of the two studies commissioned under the Sup-

port Programme for the Improvement of Investment and the Business Environment (SIBE), namely the assessment of the level of risk for the implementation of the FATF recommendations and the assessment of the capacities of national authorities to combat illicit money.



## South Africa recorded 7.6m international arrivals in 2023

JOHANNESBURG

RECENT data released by Statistics South Africa revealed that tourism is picking up, having recorded 7.6 million international arrivals in the country by November 2023.

From January to November 2023, South Africa saw 51.8% increase in international tourist arrivals, compared to the same period in 2022, indicating a steady recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the figures represent a positive sign for the nation's tourism sector, the data still stands 17.6% lower than the same period in 2019.

According to the tourism department, South Africa welcomed 5.8 million visitors from the rest of the continent by November 2023, accounting for 75.5% of all arrivals, compared to the same period in the previous year.

Zimbabwe saw noticeable growth, with a 77.5% increase in tourist arrivals, while Kenya recorded a 94.2% surge for the first 11 months of the year.

Expressing satisfaction with

Africa's travel trajectory, Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille said Kenya's impressive growth was attributed to simplified visa regulations and effective marketing campaigns.

"I am so pleased by these numbers from the rest of the African continent. We view the region as very significant and important.

"Kenya's remarkable performance can be attributed to the strategic decision by government to simplify the visa regime earlier this year as well as targeted and effective insights-driven marketing campaigns," she said.

Tourist arrivals from the Americas showed increased improvement, recording a 44.1% growth from January to November 2023, compared to the same period in 2022. The United States of America dominated with 320 948 arrivals, a 39.5% increase.

"The US remains a top international source market for South Africa and has been recording robust steady growth in arrivals in 2023. Based on our December projections, we anticipate recording our 2019 pre-pandemic arrivals well ahead of the fore-



Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology rector Prof Prekedis Ndomba (R) explains to Education, Science and Technology deputy minister Omary Kipanga (holding packet) on recent innovative work by students. This was at graduation ceremony held at DIT's Myunga campus in Mombasa District, Songwe Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Saudi Arabia signs mining deals with four countries

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SAUDI Arabia has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for mining collaborations with Egypt, Russia, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo at the Future Minerals Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The MoUs involve cooperation in "the field of mineral wealth", while a separate agreement inked with Russia involves geology.

Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar Alkhorayef, expressed his delight as he announced some significant initiatives, starting with the exploration incentive program in collaboration

with the Ministry of Investment, boasting a budget exceeding \$182 million, during the event.

"This program will de-risk investments in our exploration securing to enable new commodities, Greenfield projects, and junior miners. In addition and to drive the existing future of the exploration sector, we are announcing the fifth and sixth rounds of licensing programs offering access to 33 exploration sites this year," he said.

Alkhorayef announced a groundbreaking initiative this year—offering country-sized exploration sites, starting with the 4000 sq. km Jabal Sayid Mineral Belt. He expressed

joy in the discovery of rare earth elements and increased volumes in phosphate, gold, zinc, and copper, as well as their revaluation.

"This is only based on 30 percent of the Arabian shield exploration suggesting more to be discovered and it clearly shows that with more investment in exploration, it is possible to maximize the endowment potential," the minister added.

Abdulaziz Bin Salman, Saudi Minister of Energy mentioned that PIF had initiated a voluntary carbon market a year ago. During MENA week, he added that Saudi Arabia also announced the launch of its greenhouse gas crediting

and offset mechanism.

"It is in a pilot phase, and over the next few years, we will develop it and ensure it is in line with the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) regulations to make sure that it can become a regional market with its own commitments," said the energy minister.

He mentioned that Saudi Arabia is actively transitioning away from fossil fuels, specifically domestically, resulting in the saving of a million barrels.

"The difference is, we will not stop producing that million, but we will export it in a way that will also be used in a proper manner,

so it is a holistic thing."

The Saudi minister indicated a return to their comfort zone of globally tripling renewable energy capacity. "By 2030, we will be doing at least 100 and hopefully 130 If demand is there."

Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment, Khalid Al-Falih highlighted that addressing the historical challenge of accessing critical minerals for the energy transition will be supported by resources and collaborations across countries, geographies, companies, people, technologies, and various sectors.

"The demand for materials (critical minerals) is going to be a

multiple of what it is today. A lot of existing production facilities will either decline because of the depletion of resources, or because it is not acceptable from a sustainability and environmental standpoint," he said.

The minister expressed that the incremental demand, investment, technologies, and efforts to address the inevitable challenge of meeting critical mineral needs are, quite frankly, unprecedented in his lifetime.

Al-Falih noted that the super region spanning from Central Asia through the Middle East to Africa is recognized to possess at least a third of global resources.

## Woman who left US to start goat farming now all smiles

KAMPALA

FOR 13 good years, Sarah Atuhaire Persenaire worked and lived in the US but had only one dream; to invest back home.

The businesswoman would later decide to put up a goat keeping farm after seeing the potential for money in that area.

Her farm, christened AIRE Farms sits about 170 kilometres from the city in Uganda and hosts about 1,000 coats of different breeds, including the African Boer, Kalahari Red Goats, and the Savanna goat breed.

"The good thing about the Boers and the Savanna is that they get on the heat six months after birth, unlike the local breed, which takes two years before they mate for the first time," she said.

"But we don't serve them (Boers and the Savanna) at six months we wait for them for at least eight months to make sure that the first pregnancy doesn't affect them."

Her goat pen is divided into sections where one section hosts female goats, another one male goats and the last one the kids.

She noted that she separates male goats from females so as to plan re-

production when challenges and complications are minimal.

"We want to be able to produce during the dry season because then complications like pneumonia are less," she said.

Separating them also helps us to produce kids in groups which gives you bulk cash when you sell them to breeders, and also makes management easier, she explained.

The male and female goats also graze separately to prevent mingling, given they graze on free range, she said, adding that the venture is very profitable as the goat market is readily available. She sells the goats for both breeding and meat purposes.



**The good thing about the Boers and the Savanna is that they get on the heat six months after birth, unlike the local breed, which takes two years before they mate for the first time**



Prof Godius Kahyarara (R), Permanent Secretary in the Transport ministry, pictured at Fumba in Zanzibar on Thursday making remarks while on a tour of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority pavilion at an exhibition held to mark the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Smallholders derisk maize farming through livestock

HARARE

IN large parts of Africa, including Zimbabwe, maize is the main source of livelihood for smallholder farmers because it is both staple and cash crop.

However, with the imminent threat of an El Nino-induced drought, the dependence on cereal crops such as maize as the main source of livelihoods for smallholder farmers is threatening food security and livelihoods as production is directly linked

to the availability of rain.

Through the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), a programme called Ukama Ustawi initiative is empowering smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe to intensify, diversify and de-risk maize-mixed farming through rotation and or intercropping maize with forage legumes that are used to formulate livestock feeds.

"We are introducing ways of feeding livestock using forage legumes, maize grain and stover produced

from the maize-based farming system. The goal is for the farmer to either sustain his livestock through the dry season thus creating resilience to the drought or even for sale to generate income", ILRI forage scientist Godfrey Manyawu said.

These technologies empower farmers to add value to maize seed by using it as a stockfeed ingredient, instead of selling it for smaller profits.

In this system, residues from

the legumes such as Velvet bean, groundnut hulms and lablab are used to form rations incorporating maize grain and fed to livestock during the dry season which normally extends from June up to December.

This intensification of maize-based mixed-farming systems and subsequent feed formulation has proved a reliable climate change risk mitigation strategy for farmers like William Nyamusanduka from Madziva, Mashonaland Central province who breeds Boer goats.

"I started rearing goats in 2022, but due to lack of adequate feed, my goats were not increasing in numbers," Nyamusanduka said.

"However, when I joined the Ukama Ustawi initiative, I was equipped with knowledge on growing forage legumes and how to mix them with maize to produce livestock feed.

"I now find goat rearing less difficult because of the knowledge I have on good animal husbandry practices."

Eronika Chikuruwo from Mure-

hwa, Mashonaland East province, who recently sold her steer following a weight gain of 32 kilogrammes in one month after feeding with maize and forage legumes, said she now understands the importance of value addition in maize-based mixed farming systems.

She added that before joining the Ukama Ustawi Initiative, she would sell all her maize harvest and, later in the dry season livestock as a mitigatory measure against poverty deaths.



SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024

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

## An investment revolution is on the horizon, with appropriate reforms

THE Planning and Investment 'wing' of the President's Office and the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) are understood to be busy working on an investment drive with a difference. One explicit target is for the centre, as an operating agency, to register projects reaching up to US\$15bn (35trn/-) by 2025.

That compares with 504 projects registered last year and valued at US\$5.6bn, the idea now being to generate over 230,000 jobs if implementation is fully successful - the job creation dimension being key to the initiative. This is widely expected to make noticeable positive difference in the country, including if it so happens that those with idle savings decide to invest them.

Many people often have the impression that banks will always issue loans to anyone implementing or contemplating executing a bankable project. However, but financial institutions can't loan to the extent of prejudicing the need for cash by their clients or depositors but can only do so to virtually no-risk investments.

It is an individual as a private investor, not a bank, which is free to take risks, as the latter must remain safe. We are saying this with regard to a recent visit to the TIC offices by the minister of state overseeing the "wing", in the wake of which the minister briefed journalists on an envisaged January to September national investment campaign meant to sensitise and motivate local investments. The core tenet of the campaign is plausible as a concept though hardly enough as a campaign fulcrum, namely, the need to do something to abolish the belief that investments are essentially meant for foreign financiers. Both the "wing" and TIC believe that when this impression is dispelled, it is possible for much bigger amounts of currently "idle" money belonging to Tanzanian financiers to be

directed into investments. There is no doubt whatsoever, as the minister declared, that reforming investment-related policies and laws had resulted in success in motivating, attracting and enabling more investments. That said, it still remains uncertain how far the extent of reform can pull up local investors to the scale the minister was projecting.

An auxiliary issue is how far decisions like investing actually need campaigns by public agencies, for people invest so that savings grow and generate wealth and not just generating interest as in banks.

After all, when people are sure that their money would grow thanks to some saving, they would seldom need expert advice to oblige.

The minister quipped that 2024 is the national year to encourage investment across the country, primarily by Tanzanians. But, obviously, it remains hard to think of matching circumstances in public life likely to convince people into placing their money in risky engagements.

Risks are taken in life as a rule but only when the risk taker senses that the chances of success outweigh the likelihood of failure, as at that point the risk taken becomes a rational decision not induced or precipitated by excitement. Needless to say, what the campaign can at most achieve is that sort of excitement. And, in that context, its results will be limited as reality checks will come to mind before particular risk takers put their money on the table.

Plenty of excitement will be generated at the media stage of the campaign, followed by seminars and conferences at the regional and district level, with a national investment conference as a sealing event.

The government would still do a lot better if it decides to "visit" the stock exchange, with major investors taking up majority shares to fortify listings of major public agencies and open their activities to private

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA

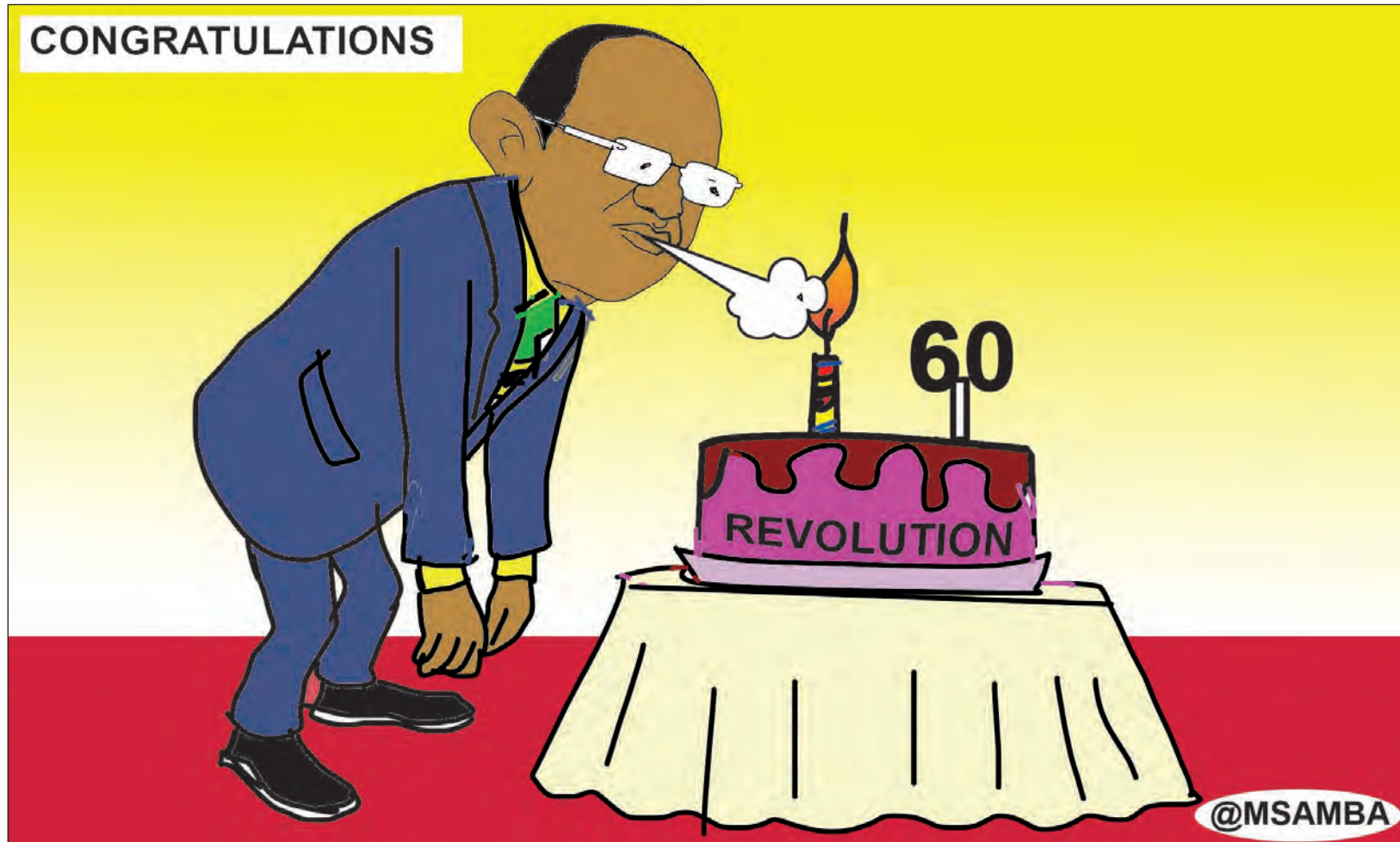
### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## CONGRATULATIONS



## How Kiswahili grew into Africa's most spoken language, building bridges across the continent

By John M. Mugane

ONCE just an obscure island dialect of an African Bantu tongue, Kiswahili has evolved into Africa's most internationally recognized language. It is peer to the few languages of the world that boast over 200 million users.

Over the two millennia of Kiswahili's growth and adaptation, the moulders of this story - immigrants from inland Africa, traders from Asia, Arab and European occupiers, European and Indian settlers, colonial rulers, and individuals from various post-colonial nations - have used the language and adapted it to their own purposes. They have taken it wherever they have gone to the West.

Africa's Kiswahili-speaking zone now extends across a full third of the continent from south to north and touches on the opposite coast, encompassing the heart of Africa.

### The origins

The historical lands of the Swahili are on East Africa's Indian Ocean littoral - a 2,500-kilometre chain of coastal towns from Mogadishu in Somalia to Sofala in Mozambique as well as offshore islands as far away as the Comoros and Seychelles.

This coastal region has long served as an international crossroads of trade and human movement. People from all walks of life and from regions as scattered as Indonesia, Persia, the African Great Lakes, the US and Europe all encountered one another. Hunter-gatherers, pastoralists and farmers mingled with traders and city dwellers.

Africans devoted to ancestors and the spirits of their lands met Muslims, Hindus, Portuguese Catholics, and British Anglicans. Workers (among them slaves, porters, and labourers), soldiers, rulers and diplomats were mixed together from ancient days. Anyone who went to the East African littoral could choose to become Swahili - and many did.

### African Unity

The roll of Kiswahili enthusiasts and advocates includes notable intellectuals, freedom fighters, civil rights activists, political leaders, scholarly professional societies, entertainers and healthcare workers. This is not to mention the usual professional writers, poets and artists.

Foremost has been Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. The Nigerian writer, poet and playwright has since the 1960s repeatedly called for use of Kiswahili as the transcontinental language for Africa. The African Union (AU), the "united states of Africa", nurtured the same sentiment of continental unity in July 2004 and adopted Kiswahili as its official language.

As Joaquim Chissano (then the president of Mozambique) put this motion on the table, he addressed the AU in the

flawless Kiswahili he had learned in Tanzania, where he was educated while in exile from the former Portuguese colony.

The AU did not adopt Kiswahili as Africa's international language by happenstance. Kiswahili has a much longer history of building bridges among peoples across the continent of Africa and into the diaspora.

The feeling of unity, the insistence that all of Africa is one, just will not disappear. Languages are elemental to everyone's sense of belonging - of expressing what's in one's heart.

The AU's decision was particularly striking given that the populations of its member states speak an estimated 2,000 languages (roughly one-third of all human languages), several dozen of them with more than a million speakers.

But just how did Kiswahili come to hold so prominent a position among so many groups of people with their own diverse linguistic histories and traditions?

### A liberation language

During the decades leading up to the independence of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in the early 1960s, Kiswahili functioned as an international means of political collaboration. It enabled freedom fighters throughout the region to communicate their common aspirations even though their native languages varied widely.

The rise of Kiswahili, for some Africans, was a mark of true cultural and personal independence from the colonising Europeans and their languages of control and command.

Uniquely among Africa's independent nations, the Tanzanian government uses Kiswahili in all official business and, most impressively, in basic education. Indeed, the Kiswahili word *uhuru* (freedom), which emerged from this independence struggle, has long become part of the global lexicon of political empowerment.

The highest political offices in East Africa began using and promoting Kiswahili soon after independence. Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania (1962 - 1985) and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya (1964 - 1978) promoted the language as integral to the region's political and economic interests, security and liberation.

The political power of language was demonstrated, less happily, by Ugandan dictator Idi Amin (1971 - 1979), who used Kiswahili in his army and secret police operations during his reign of terror.

Under Nyerere, Tanzania became one of only two African nations ever

to declare a native African language as the country's official mode of communication. The other is Ethiopia - with Amharic.

Nyerere personally translated two of William Shakespeare's plays into Kiswahili to demonstrate the language's capacity to bear the expressive weight of great literary works.

In 1966, activist and author Maulana Ron Karenga associated the black freedom movement with Kiswahili, choosing it as its official language and creating the Kwanzaa celebration.

The term "Kwanzaa" is derived from the Kiswahili word *ku-anza*, meaning "to begin" - or "first." The holiday was intended to celebrate the *matunda ya kwanza*, "first fruits". According to Karenga, Kwanzaa symbolises the festivities of ancient African harvests.

Celebrants were encouraged to adopt Swahili names and to address one another by Swahili titles of respect. Based on Nyerere's principle of *ujamaa* (unity in mutual contributions), Kwanzaa celebrates seven principles or pillars: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, shared purpose, individual creativity and faith.

Nyerere also became the icon of "community brotherhood and sisterhood" under the slogan of the Kiswahili word *ujamaa*.

That word has gained such strong appeal that it has been used as far afield as among Australian Aborigines and African Americans - and across the globe from London to Papua New Guinea. This is not to mention its ongoing celebration on many US college campuses in the form of dormitories named "ujamaa" houses.

### Today

Today, Kiswahili is the African language most widely recognised outside the continent. Its global presence in radio broadcasting and on the internet has no equal among sub-Saharan African languages.

Kiswahili is broadcast regularly in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland and Tanzania.

On the international scene, no other African language can be heard as often or as extensively from world news stations.

At least as far back as Trader Horn (1931), Kiswahili words and speech have been heard in hundreds of movies and television series. Ready examples include *Star Trek*, *Out of Africa*, Disney's *The Lion King* and *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

The *Lion King* featured several Kiswahili words, the most familiar being the names of characters, including Simba (lion), Rafiki (friend) and Pumbaa (be dazed). Kiswahili phrases included *ahsante sana* (thank you very much) and, of course, that no-problem philosophy known as "hakuna matata" repeated throughout the movie.

Kiswahili admittedly lacks the numbers of speakers, the wealth, and the political power associated with global languages such as Mandarin, English, or Spanish. Still, it appears to be the only language boasting more than 200 million speakers that has more second-language speakers than native ones.

By immersing themselves in the affairs of a maritime culture at a key commercial gateway, the people who were eventually designated *Waswahili* (Swahili people) created a niche for themselves.

They were important enough in the trade to make newcomers have little choice but to speak Kiswahili as the language of trade and diplomacy. And the Swahili population became more entrenched as successive generations of second-language speakers lost their ancestral languages and became *bona fide* Swahili.

The key to understanding this story is to look deeply at the Swahili people's response to challenges, including at the ways in which they made their fortunes and dealt with misfortunes.

Most importantly, it is to look at how they honed their skills in balancing confrontation and resistance with adaptation and innovation as they interacted with arrivals from other language backgrounds.

**\* This is an edited extract of the first chapter of *The Story of Swahili* from Ohio University Press. The piece is republished from *The Conversation*, an independent nonprofit news organisation dedicated to sharing the ideas and knowledge of academic experts. For the record: John M. Mugane is a professor of the Practice of African Languages and Cultures and the director of the African Language programme in the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University in the US. He does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any firm or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.**

## Connecting more places with affordable clean energy calls for cheaper producers

THAT the government is working day and night to connect all villages with reliable supply of electricity is well known to the public.

This is owing to the frequency with which that objective has been stated in the legislature, this punctuated by periodic reminders of what remains to be done.

A briefing after a parliamentary recess late last year was to the effect that just over one thousand villages remained to be so connected, while the depth of connection or actual reach was a different matter, as considerable gaps remain.

Still, after power has reached a particular location, the rest can be organised at the family or community level, making entire neighbourhoods benefit - with set terms and conditions applying.

Deputy Prime Minister Doto Biteko, who is also in charge of the Energy ministerial docket, was quoted only days ago as having said that the government was supervising policies and strategies to ensure that more households, industries and commercial facilities are connected with affordable and clean energy. Admittedly, that is fairly straightforward as it only implies that the government is on the way to ensuring less use of diesel generators, while converting power plants running on heavy fuels to using natural gas - a resource we have in abundance.

Considering natural gas to be clean fuel despite its being a fossil fuel, as critics insist, would mean our gradual shifting to clean energy. Uncertainty surfaces when it comes to affordability as such, as neither water-generated power or natural gas will be sufficiently af-

fordable to common users.

Electricity is largely affordable for lighting and appliances like ironing, fan, fridges, music systems, television, etc, but not for cooking.

Natural gas is a better option when it comes to cooking and, thus, the government ought to do the math and see how to cover the gap for gas pricing to actually replace firewood or charcoal.

Running promotional campaigns that "co-opt" the free distribution of cooking gas cylinders and stoves to special groups will surely help. However, they may be hard to sustain - this despite the inclusion of public sensitisation on safety measures. There is a cooperation agreement for natural gas projects involving the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Ndovu Gas Drilling Co., the latter apparently a drilling firm working for the well-established parastatal. Having TPDC outsource expertise and equipment under such conditions instead of doing the work itself doubtless raises costs. TPDC overheads of TPDC will obviously be calculated into the costing, as the government insists on respectable levels of taxation upon that overall cost, suggesting undue costs for consumers to cover.

This would likely prove more expensive than if Ndovu Gas Co. were to be working alone, for instance. Not all joint venture methods are truly appropriate. What one gets in following up the ongoing promotional campaigns on investments in the natural gas sphere, apart from the already visible impact of slashing fuel dependency, is cleaner and more affordable fuel.



By Telesphor Magobe

# It pays huge dividends to know issues with legal consequences

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at the duty of persons in charge of dangerous things, which include grazing a fierce bull on pastures near a public road, keeping dogs or any other dangerous things which can harm other people without taking reasonable precautions.

Section 210 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) provides for the duty of persons in charge of dangerous things.

The section states that "it is the duty of every person to use reasonable care and take reasonable precautions to avoid danger if he or she has in his or her charge or under his [or her] control anything that adversely affects the life or health of any person by reason of any omission to perform that duty."

If a person omits to take precautions against any probable danger from any animal in his or her possession 'is guilty of an offence' and 'is liable to imprisonment for six months' (Section 234).

Therefore, it is necessary to take reasonable precautions least one becomes liable for being negligent over dangerous things or animals one keeps. So, take care!

Today, I invite you as we come to the end of this year 2023 to reflect on how this column has helped you to know legal issues or court proceedings that you wouldn't have known had you not read it. As a reminder, this column is meant to help laypersons to know what the law says on issues they are familiar with in life, but which may have legal consequences they are ignorant of.

In this way, it enlightens laypersons on various issues that have legal implications through which little by little they become familiar with some legal issues and court proceedings that will be helpful to them or to their close relatives, friends or to neighbours they could offer advice if they happen to face legal problems.

The column also highly recommends seeking legal aid before seeking court relief or even when a person is summoned to go to court to testify or answer court charges.

Ignorance of the law in Tanzania is not an excuse for legal liability and a person may also lose legal rights where he or she could have claimed them. Section 8 of the Penal Code is clear about this: "Ignorance of the law does not afford any excuse for any act or omission which would otherwise constitute an offence unless knowledge of the law by the offender is expressly declared to be an element of the offence."

Sometimes it happens that a person witnesses a commission of an offence and the person may be summoned to testify in court because he or she was present when the offence was committed, but because the person is unfamiliar with court proceedings he or she may spoil the evidence and make the guilty party look innocent to the detriment of the innocent party, while if the person testified to the required standard the guilty party would have been found guilty of the offence he or she committed and be sentenced in accordance with the law.

Other times you may be travelling by a commuter bus and a young man may start using obscene or abusive language in public. But because passengers may not know that using obscene or abusive language is a criminal offence, they may just keep quiet in front of the young man and

let him boast the way he likes because he knows nobody can take legal action against him.

This happens from time to time, while fellow passengers who hear the young man speak like that do not know what to do in the circumstances.

Sometimes it happens on the streets, bus-stops or business centres where people go to buy or sell goods. After insulting others, some young men may boast that nobody can do anything to them because their relative is a police officer, a soldier, a lawyer or a senior government official.

Yet, Section 89(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) states that: "Any person who - (a) uses obscene, abusive or insulting language to any other person in such a manner as is likely to cause a breach of the peace; or (b) brawls or, in any other manner, creates a disturbance in such a manner as is likely to cause a breach of the peace, is guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for one year."

Black's Law Dictionary defines a breach of the peace as "A violation or disturbance of the public tranquillity and order

[which] includes all violations of public peace or order and acts tending to a disturbance thereof..." Law Dictionary [Second Edition (P.H. Collins)] defines the breach of the peace simply as "creating a disturbance which is likely to annoy or frighten people."

The law is there to protect you whenever your rights or the rights of another person are threatened or violated.

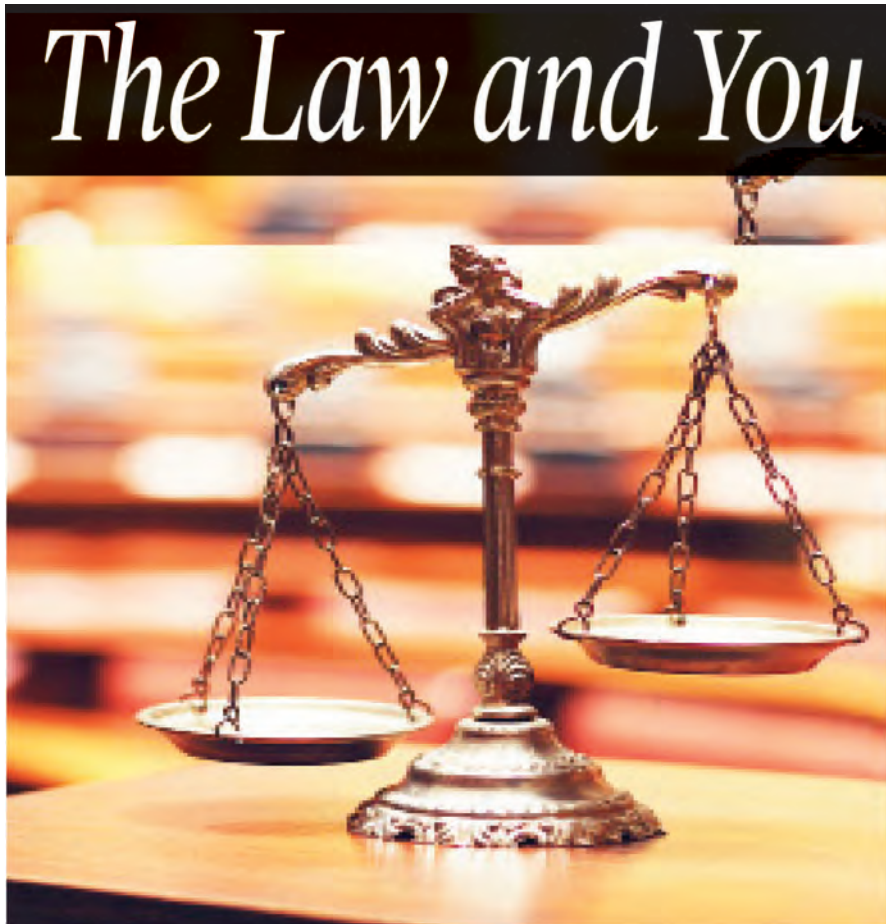
So, there are many things this column may have enlightened you that can help you get an idea of what the law says or how to go about court proceedings and the columnist believes you might have gained something of relevance to you in the course of time.

Of course, there are many laws and are amended from time to time so it is difficult for a layperson to know all the laws and the amendments made. But this is not an excuse to be ignorant of the law the layperson is subject to.

So, keep familiarising yourself with the law you are subject to and with court proceedings little by little because it is good for you and you may also help other people who have legal problems and may not know what to do in the circumstances.

**Today's legal maxim: "The practice of the court is the law of the court."**

**The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com**



## Educational development: A way of validating Zanzibar Revolution

By Thomas Lyimo

**W**HEN we talk of revolution in the current era, individuals have different perceptions due to socio-economic advancement that the world has undergone.

Revolution is developmental as development itself is multi-dimensional. In 1964 Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume helped Zanzibar to become independent and hence being able to do things on her own.

The first President of Zanzibar who is the epicenter of the Zanzibar revolution valued mental liberation because he knew that independence cannot be safeguarded without education.

Therefore he declared free education on the first year of revolution. This is a direct message that we cannot separate Zanzibar revolution from educational development.

From five secondary schools before revolution up to 318 secondary schools the people of Zanzibar have a right to celebrate the 60th revolution anniversary with much energy and joy. Educational progress in Zanzibar has not only led to presence of secondary schools but also universities.

Taking into account the geographical size of Zanzibar and the presence of three universities it is a clear indication that the Islands have gone far when it comes to education.

The good thing which adds flavor to the celebrations of Zanzibar revolution is that it was not the government that was first in establishing the university but private individuals. This is a signal that people of Zanzibar understood the meaning of introduction of free education in Zanzibar in 1964 by Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume.

Provision of education is a massive activity which demands hands of the government and private individuals. As the people of Zanzibar and Tanzanians in general commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution, the value of education in the socio-economic advancement should be highlighted. Without educational development the value of revolution is decreased.

The government of Zanzibar should extend allocations for education sector to make it more efficient in transforming the lives of people.

Due to increased interactions between the people of Zanzibar and other people of the world there are opportunities which emerge and can only be utilized by educated people.

The primary role during the struggle for

independence in Africa Zanzibar been inclusive was to know how to read and write but due to advancement of the world in various aspects of life the basic education should entail acquisition of skills which can make an individual face life challenges successfully.

As the people of Zanzibar commemorated the 60th revolution anniversary the significance of education can be seen in the following considerations.

First is lesson from the Zanzibar's education system. In the education system of Zanzibar there is a special feature which depicts seriousness in the learning process.

This is the presence of orientation secondary class. The aim of this was to consolidate language and mathematical abilities of learners. Knowing the importance of English language and mathematics in the learning process the government of Zanzibar saw that it was important to introduce the orientation secondary class.

For countries where English is the second or third language it is worthy devising some strategies to boost understanding of the language as it is indubitable that the language of instruction counts in the course of learning of learners. When commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution, the people of Zanzibar can be proud that they know the importance of mastery of the language of instruction.

Tanzania mainland can learn from the people of Zanzibar when she intends to improve her education system by considering ways of enhancing understanding of English and Mathematics subjects which have been disturbing learners causing little success in the education system. We learn from others.

Second is provision of free education in Zanzibar as a way of honouring Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume. We have been told that the best way to honour someone is by holding what he or she held firmly. Since the late Karume's government prioritized education for the community, he placed education as a tool for emancipation of the people.

Karume opened the way in the education arena. It is the duty of the current generation to move ahead in pursuing educational excellence so as to embrace socio-economic development.

Third, education is a weapon for defending independence. According to development theorists, development enables safeguarding of independence. Development in the current era cannot be thought of without placing education at the centre. Sheikh Abeid Amani Karum knew beyond



any doubt that his people cannot retain the independence he had gained for them without making them knowledgeable through provision of free education.

Fourth, education boosts the tourism sector. Tourism contributes 27 percent of Zanzibar's GDP and 80 percent of its

foreign exchange earnings. For tourism which is the pillar of Zanzibar's economy, advancing education must be given first priority.

The government of Zanzibar needs educated individuals to provide services to tourists. People like tour guides must be

conversant in international languages which must be taught in school. This shows that it is impossible to put aside the role of education when talking of development and safeguarding the value of Zanzibar revolution.

In the past, revolution demanded physical confrontation using

guns but currently, it hugely depend on mental abilities to utilize resources surrounding human beings. Revolution is education.

**The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com**



# Investing in artificial intelligence can help cut real estate's carbon emissions

GENEVA

THE adoption of technology to help solve climate issues is now a given. The majority (85 percent) of commercial real estate leaders expect that their business will increase their real estate technology budget over the next three years, according to JLL's recent survey.

Investments in artificial intelligence (AI) and sustainability solutions are expected to have the biggest impact.

AI has the potential to help significantly reduce real estate carbon emissions, which is responsible for roughly 60 percent of global emissions in major cities.

But while AI's potential to transform the global economy has captured the world's imagination, less talked about is how the adoption of AI will help tackle carbon emissions in real estate, which is responsible for roughly 60 percent of global emissions in major cities.

The new technologies can enable public and private organizations to create effective sustainability strategies for single buildings and entire portfolios.

A major area where we will see this unfold, and one that is underestimated, will come amid efforts to retrofit buildings. This is no small task. Globally, over 1 billion square metres of office space require retrofitting by the middle of this century.

That means retrofitting rates must rise significantly from around 1 percent of stock per year today to at least 3% of stock per year to meet the target.

Achieving this will take more than just installing new heating and air conditioning control systems or putting solar panels on rooftops. The solutions needed are far more complex.

They involve systematically examining the current state of buildings, their structures, materials, energy and utility systems and operations. Essentially, it's about absorbing and analyzing vast amounts of data at scale and speed, making AI perfect for the job.

### AI at work

To effectively retrofit buildings, large amounts of information must be scrutinized. And, as no two buildings are the same, each property needs its own approach.



This is where the speed of AI and large language models (LLMs) comes into play. For instance, going through construction documents and maintenance records can help limit the need for new equipment and materials, thereby reducing waste.

Examining engineering systems can help identify easy solutions, such as whether a simple sensor add-on could solve the problem instead of a more extensive overhaul.

This work, when done manually, is complex and time-consuming. But AI

can do it faster and more efficiently by digesting the documents, extracting the necessary information and quickly organizing it into a standard format that's ready to use.

Take, for instance, plans to retrofit the World Trade Centre in Brussels, which, when completed, is set to be the most energy-efficient building in the European Union's capital.

During its construction, almost 95 percent of all the materials and existing equipment will be recovered, re-used or recycled, with 65 percent of

the existing buildings maintained. About 30,000 tonnes of concrete from selective demolition will be reused on-site.

Another 1,000 tonnes of products and materials, including wood panelling, carpets and insulation, will be reused on-site or in other locations. A project of this scale would benefit hugely from using AI to help streamline efforts allowing valuable human resources to be deployed elsewhere.

### Monitoring in real-time

Project planning and real-time monitoring of construction sites are also areas

where AI can add tremendous value. AI can use photos to generate 3D models of sites and layer them into a construction plan, helping developers build faster and with less risk by tracking project progress and optimizing construction schedules.

Combining existing site data and images with generative AI capabilities can also be particularly helpful for visualizing how new structures will fit into existing surroundings.

Then, there's supply chain tracking. Real estate must consider supply chain carbon emissions, which are notoriously hard to track. This is where AI can help assess the pros and cons of different retrofitting options, rapidly analyzing the entire supply chain impact and total carbon involved while standardizing reporting and documentation.

### What is the World Economic Forum doing on infrastructure?

To be sure, there are still major challenges ahead. Retrofitting processes are complicated and AI can't solve it overnight. In many cases, we're also talking about old buildings, where less data may be readily available to feed into AI models, thereby requiring more human investigation and effort before AI can be of actual use.

Yet, while AI doesn't necessarily simplify the entire process, it can undoubtedly help complete each task more efficiently, delivering better outcomes in the process. We have a long way to go to reach net zero carbon in real estate, but with more emerging tools, we now have solutions available to get us started.

By Dorcas Wangira

A sub-Saharan African nation has been declared malaria-free for the first time in 50 years.

Cape Verde was given the status by the World Health Organization (WHO) as it has not reported a single case of local transmission in three years.

Experts have described this as a major achievement. Malaria is a huge killer on the continent. In 2022, 580,000 people in Africa died from the disease, amounting to 95% of fatalities worldwide.

The disease is caused by a complex parasite which is spread by mosquito bites.

Vaccines are now being used in some places but monitoring the disease and avoiding mosquito bites are the most effective ways to prevent malaria.

Cape Verde, a small island nation off the coast of West Africa, has taken years to reach this point by strengthening its health systems and increasing access to diagnosis and treatment of all cases.

Surveillance officers have been detecting cases early, as well as controlling mosquitoes.

Cape Verde's plan for malaria control has also ensured free care and diagnostic services for international travellers and migrants, with the aim of stemming the tide of cases imported from mainland Africa.

"This success reflects the hard work and dedication of countless health professionals, collaborators, communities and international partners. It is a testimony to what can be achieved through collective commitment to improving public health," Cape Verde's Health Minister Dr Filomena Gonçalves told the BBC.

Dr Dorothy Achu Fosah, from the WHO Africa office, added that her organisation was "excited and pleased" with the results and the fact that malaria was "kicked out" from the country.

Health experts say Cape Verde's achievement sets a big example for other small countries on the continent, showing that containment and elimination

# Cape Verde reaches malaria-free milestone



policies can work. Malaria was once detected on all of Cape Verde's nine inhabited islands, but in recent years could only be found on one, São Tiago - where the final efforts were concentrated.

The WHO's Dr Achu said the fact that the country is an archipelago is also an important factor in its success.

On an island, it is easier to map out the areas most affected by the disease and see how it is being transferred from one island to another, compared to a continuous land mass.

In badly affected countries such as Nigeria, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, there is a highly mobile population regularly crossing borders, making it difficult for one country to eradicate the disease on its own.

Cape Verde's success "gives us hope that with existing tools, as well as new ones including vaccines, we can dare to dream of a malaria-free world", WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The last country in sub-Saharan Africa to be declared malaria-free was the island nation of Mauritius in 1973. Algeria, in North Africa, achieved this status in 2019. **BBC**

## CAPITAL RADIO

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Fund all out in protection of Africa's smallholder farmers vulnerable to climate disaster

By John Njiraini

CYCLONE Freddy's destruction in Malawi last year was a stark reminder that Africa's smallholder farmers are a vulnerable lot.

The tropical cyclone's impacts were devastating for farmers in a country that ranks among the poorest in the world. More than 2 million farmers lost their crops after Freddy destroyed 440,000 acres of land; over 1.4 million livestock were drowned, starved or lost, according to the Malawi government's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment.

"This proves that we need to rethink climate resilience for smallholder farmers in Africa," Annie Wakanyi, director of global government partnerships at One Acre Fund, tells AgFunderNews.

A social enterprise that addresses problems in agriculture, One Acre Fund recently announced a reinsurance fund to protect smallholder farmers facing the impacts of extreme weather events.

The One Acre Fund Re launched in December 2023 in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the African Risk Capacity (ARC) group.

The fund is intended to be a "resilience shield" addressing a huge gap that exists in Africa's agricultural sector, where 97% of smallholder farmers lack insurance coverage for their farms, leading to absolute losses when disasters strike.

At launch, One Acre Fund did a trial in Malawi, where Cyclone Freddy-inflicted losses have awakened farmers to the reality that insurance is no longer a necessary evil.

"People want to buy insurance when something bad happens. That is not the best way to do things,"

notes Johannes Borchert, global head of risk and resilience at One Acre Fund.

The reality is that smallholder farmers cannot wait for disasters because they are already witnessing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis on their crops, harvests, diets and families.

### 'Their only insurance is to pray'

Predictive models foresee rising temperatures (0.5 to 2.5°C) and erratic rainfall across the sub-Saharan Africa region in coming years. This means higher likelihood of droughts, floods and soil erosion.

Under a vigorous warming scenario, there could be a global decline in crop yields of 3-12% by 2050 and 11-25% by 2100; up to 90 percent of soils could become degraded by 2050. Experts also expect the proportion of category four and five tropical cyclones to increase by 10% at 1.5 degrees of heating and 20% at four degrees of heating.

For the more than 50 million smallholder farmers in Africa depending mainly on rain-fed agriculture to produce food, lack of buffers to absorb losses caused by climate shocks means that a majority can only "pray."

"Their only insurance is to pray... when they plant that it will rain. Pray when they harvest that there will not be rains or pest devastation and pray when they market their crops that prices will not collapse," Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank (AfDB) president noted at the COP28 summit in Dubai.

### Closing the subsidization gap

Granted, farmers in Africa are not entirely to blame for failure to protect themselves. Currently, affordable agri-insurance is only available in four out of 54 countries. For this reason, only 3% of farmers have in-



surance coverage for their farms, according to the One Acre Fund.

Unlike in the western world, these limited insurance products are also expensive. This is largely due to failure by governments and other partners to subsidize insurance coverage, thus making it impossible for private sector companies to offer affordable premiums. Smallholder farmers in Africa are forced to pay market rates, the impact of which puts products out of reach.

The reality in Africa compares badly with the United States, for instance, where the Farm Bill subsidizes most of the cost of agricultural insurance.

"It makes sense to subsidize," notes Borchert, adding that de-risking of insurance enables providers to design products that address specific farmer's needs and shields them the providers from risky exposures.

Rwanda is among the few governments in Africa currently prioritizing subsidized agricultural insurance. Through the National Agricultural

Insurance Scheme (NAIS), the government subsidizes 40% of the insurance costs, with farmers catering for 60%. The government has invested \$1.2 million in the scheme since it launched in 2019, benefiting over 500,000 farmers so far.

Inability by most governments to intervene has prompted financial institutions like ARC and AfDB to close the subsidization gap.

During the COP28 summit, AfDB launched the Africa Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation that aims to mobilize \$1 billion for protecting more than 40 million smallholder farmers in the continent.

"These kinds of facilities are crucial in affordability and in helping reach more vulnerable farmers," says Borchert.

Replicating the One Acre model across Africa One Acre Fund, which already works with 4 million farmers across nine African countries, reckons that collaborations will be critical greater insurance adoption rates amongst smallholders.

Starting with a premium volume of \$1.5 million, which it intends to increase to \$4 million in a couple of years, One Acre Fund will offer insurance to 1 million smallholder farmers this year at premiums up to 30% lower.

The fund has started out with Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria and Malawi; initiatives in Tanzania, Burundi and Zambia are planned for later in the year.

One Acre Fund's ultimate target is to offer a safety net to all 4 million farmers under its wing by 2030, and encourage other underwriters to replicate the fund to increase agriculture insurance coverage across Africa.

"Insurance will be part of a package of services that we offer farmers across these markets," notes Wakanyi, adding that One Acre Fund offers a wide range of solutions from quality inputs, financing, training on climate-smart farming, among others. It also runs a tree-planting initiative, a farmer-led movement with the goal of planting 1 billion trees over the next 15 years.

## Google's billions make job cuts 'needless' - union

By Tom Gerken

IT is "needless" for Google to cut hundreds of jobs when the tech giant earns billions, a union has claimed.

Jobs are going on teams working on health tracker Fitbit, the voice-controlled Google Assistant and hardware such as augmented reality.

The exact number of job losses is unclear, although Google confirmed to the Verge it had closed "a few hundred" roles across several of its teams.

Google said it was "responsibly investing" in its biggest priorities.

But in a post on X, formerly Twitter, the Alphabet Workers Union said the job cuts were not necessary, and it would fight them.

"Our members and teammates work hard every day to build great products for our users, and the company cannot continue to fire our co-workers while making billions every quarter," it wrote.

However, Google has defended the

latest round of redundancies.

"Throughout the second half of 2023, a number of our teams made changes to become more efficient and work better, and to align their resources to their biggest product priorities," the tech giant told the BBC in a statement.

"Some teams are continuing to make these kinds of organizational changes, which include some role

eliminations globally. We're continuing to support any impacted employees as they look for new roles here at Google and beyond."

The firm made \$76.3bn (£59.9bn) in revenue in the third quarter of 2023, according to its most recent figures, with a net income of \$19.7bn.

Google purchased Fitbit for \$2.1bn in 2019 at a time when many tech businesses were expanding into oth-

er areas. But now it has slashed jobs in the team - with Fitbit co-founders James Park and Eric Friedman among those leaving the firm, according to multiple reports.

Other major job cuts have come in the team working on Google Assistant, a voice-controlled technology similar to Amazon's Alexa.

These job losses are again understood to be measured in the hundreds.

It comes a few months after Google announced in a blog post that its artificial intelligence tool Bard would be powering future forms of Assistant.

## Zimbabwe to restrict potato imports from South Africa

LUSAKA

THE government in Zimbabwe has moved to restrict the importation of potatoes and potato seeds from South Africa due to an outbreak of pepper ringspot virus, a senior Government official has said. Pepper ringspot virus (PepRSV) can affect potatoes negatively, causing spraing of tubers and affecting its marketability.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Professor Obert Jiri said the restrictions are meant to protect the local potato industry.

"We will restrict from now on the importation of potatoes so that we protect our farmers from the ringspot virus. It is important that all importers of potatoes comply with this directive during this period as we do further assessments," said Prof. Jiri.

He added: "We are therefore on the watch because that might also affect our potatoes and potato farmers. We are sending our teams to South Africa to have a closer look at the situation and we will continue to monitor the situation as a country and as a region to ensure that our farmers are protected and the pest is restricted to where it started."



The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) issued a notification in late December 2023 on "the detection of Pepper ringspot virus (PepRSV) in the Republic of South Africa". It says, "The pest was detected in October 2022 in a commercial potato planting in Polokwane, Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo Province".

The IPPC further says that the pest was detected in the various Provinces of South Africa, but is not known to occur in the Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and Western Cape Provinces. Surveys in other parts of the country are conducted and all other phytosanitary measures are implemented.

Potential spread or establishment of PepRSV from infected areas through host material to other provinces may negatively affect domestic and international trade and export potential of relevant host commodities, according to the IPPC.

ProMED-mail, a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, also noted the detection of the pest on January 9, 2024, saying that Pepper ringspot virus (PepRSV) is considered to be a counterpart of South American origin of Tobacco rattle virus (TRV). In potato, both viruses can cause spraing disease of potato in different areas.

According to the ProMED-mail note, symptoms may include brown lines, rings and flecks in tubers which normally remain internal but occasionally may extend to the surface; some infected tubers may not show any symptoms. Spraing increases in cool temperatures and with storage.

Leaf and stem symptoms generally only appear if infected tubers are planted. Tuber yield may or may not be reduced, but economic losses are due to quality being severely affected.

## Copper could skyrocket over 75pc to record highs by 2025 – brace for deficits, analysts say

By Lee Ying Shan

COPPER prices are set to soar more than 75 percent over the next two years amid mining supply disruptions and higher demand for the metal, fueled by the push for renewable energy.

Rising demand driven by the green energy transition and a likely decline in the U.S. dollar in the second half of 2024 will push copper prices higher, according to a report by BMI, a Fitch Solutions research unit.

Markets are banking on the US Federal Reserve to cut rates this year which will weaken

the dollar and in turn make the greenback-priced copper more attractive to foreign buyers.

"The positive view for copper is more on macro factors," Bank of America Securities' head of Asia-Pacific basic materials, said Matty Zhao, citing likely Fed rate cuts and a weaker US dollar. Additionally, at the recent COP28 climate change conference, more than 60 countries backed a plan to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, a move that Citibank says "would be extremely bullish for copper."

In a December report, the

investment bank forecast that the higher renewable energy targets would boost copper demand by extra 4.2 million tons by 2030.

This would potentially push copper prices to \$15,000 a ton in 2025, the report added, way higher than the record peak of \$10,730 per ton scaled in March last year.

"This assumes a very soft landing in the U.S. and Europe, an earlier global growth recovery, significant China easing," Citi analysts said, while also emphasizing on continued investments in the energy transi-

tion sector. A growing economy tends to boost demand for copper, which is used in electrical equipment and industrial machinery. The metal's demand is considered a proxy for economic health.

Copper on the London Metal Exchange was last trading at \$8,559 a tonne. The base metal is a linchpin in the energy transition ecosystem, and is integral to manufacturing electric vehicles, power grids and wind turbines. Other analysts see a bullish run for copper due to mining disruptions, with Gold-

man Sachs expecting a deficit of

over half a million tons in 2024.

Last November, First Quantum Minerals halted production at the Cobre Panamá, one of the world's largest copper mines, following a Supreme Court ruling and nationwide protests over environmental concerns. Anglo American, a major producer, said it would cut copper output in 2024 and 2025 as it seeks to cut costs.

"The supply cuts reinforce our view that the copper market is entering a period of much clearer tightening," wrote Goldman's analysts, who see copper prices hitting \$10,000 per ton

within the year, and much higher in 2025.

The winners of the copper rush will be mainly Chile and Peru, BMI estimates. Both countries have large reserves of green transition minerals such as lithium and copper that are poised to benefit from increased investment and higher export demand. Chile holds around 21% of global copper reserves. "Our confidence that copper substantially re-rates into 2025 [of \$15,000 per ton average] is now substantially higher," Goldman said.

Lower supply also means

that new copper smelters coming online will have a shortage of concentrates to work with, said S&P Global's Senior Copper Analyst Wang Ruilin.

Copper ores are extracted from the earth and then converted into copper concentrates. From there they are sent to smelters to be purified into refined copper, which sets the benchmark LME price.

"Copper smelters will see a supply shortage of concentrate starting in 2024, and the forecast deficits in the concentrate market is expected to deepen in 2025-27," she said via email.



By Omer Javed and Dan Beeton

# Advanced economies must let the IMF play a more productive role on climate

THE world faces the existential threat of a climate change crisis, and it is becoming increasingly clear that the outcome of the latest UN climate summit, COP28 – hosted as it was by the CEO of one of the world's largest oil companies, and filled with a record number of fossil fuel lobbyists – is not going to do much to change that.

Even calls to “phase-out” fossil fuels were met with foot-dragging from the COP28 president and Saudi Arabian delegates. Meanwhile, highlighting the gravity of the challenge at hand, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) pointed out that the last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record. Along with the COVID pandemic, this likely contributed to an increase in absolute poverty over the same period.

A key question that COP28 was supposed to tackle is how low- and middle-income countries will be able to pay for climate crisis response and adaptation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been thrust into a key role in this regard, but it should not escape criticism for its own climate hypocrisy.

For the Fund to truly begin to join the fight against the climate crisis, it must first end its pointless, unfair, and damaging surcharge policy. The Biden administration could ensure that the Fund instead plays a crucial role in responding to climate challenges by supporting a major new issuance of IMF reserve assets.

Currently, the IMF's solution is to offer more debt to already severely debt-burdened countries. An October paper from the United Nations Development Programme Global Policy Network noted: “At least 54 developing economies are suffering from severe debt problems,” of which 28 are among “the world's top-50 most climate vulnerable countries.”

And more than 70 percent of climate finance for these countries has been in the form of loans, as a recent letter

from 141 civil society groups points out.

Moreover, a Development Finance International-led report notes the lopsided spending priorities being forced on developing countries, many of which are highly vulnerable to climate change. Among these, “debt service is 12.5 times higher than the amount spent on climate adaptation,” a number projected to “rise to 13.2 times” in the next year.

Contributions to the “loss and damage” climate fund have also been far from satisfactory. Reports note that the US, the EU, and other rich countries have failed to meet their pledges to provide \$100 billion per year.

Meanwhile, high-level UN officials estimate that these countries will actually need to spend about \$1 trillion per year on climate response by 2025, and about \$2.4 trillion per year by 2030.

These countries face debt distress partly because the IMF demands they follow overly broad austerity policies as conditions to receive the loans. This is an avoidable problem, considering that the IMF possesses a ready and appropriate alternative: Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a reserve asset intended to be issued during times of crisis.

The Fund last allocated \$650 billion worth of SDRs in August 2021, in response to the COVID pandemic. But now even countries battered by the climate crisis, such as Pakistan, a third of which was flooded in 2022, are being pushed to take on more debt while the US Treasury Department refuses to green-light a new major SDRs issuance.

This points to the root of the problem: the governance structures of the IMF and World Bank. The US by itself has a veto over decisions, and in practice can control most of what the IMF



does, because other high-income countries – mostly in Europe – almost always line up with the United States, giving high-income countries 60 percent of voting power, thereby leaving most of the world without a voice at the IMF.

Critics point out that most of the 2021 SDRs went to rich countries, since they provided the most to the IMF's resources (their membership quotas); while efforts to rechannel those SDRs have also been want-

ing both in terms of speed and quantity.

Worse, the IMF's rechanneling mechanisms turn the SDRs – an international reserve asset that countries receive without any debt or conditions attached – into loans, with conditions attached.

The IMF is contributing to the global debt crisis in other ways. It continues to levy surcharges, essentially, “junk fees” added onto its non-concessional lending. Writing for Eurodad, Dan-

iel Munevar highlighted how climate crisis-ravaged Pakistan faced surcharges of \$122 million in 2023, and another \$69 million in 2024.

A country that faced catastrophic flooding in 2022, that is one of the most vulnerable to climate change, and that was simultaneously facing possible default, should not be forced to pay surcharges. Moreover, many countries in similar circumstances, such as Armenia, Jordan, and even

Barbados's “Bridgetown Initiative.” These steps would at least show that the Fund is addressing the climate crisis with the leadership and seriousness required.

war-torn Ukraine, also face surcharges.

A recent CEPR report noted, “The IMF will charge over \$2 billion per year in surcharges through 2025,” which is unnecessary and counterproductive, given the already constrained fiscal space of developing countries.

Time is quickly running out. The IMF must be brought into the twenty-first century if it is to play a constructive role in ending the climate crisis. The IMF should end its punitive, unnecessary, and counterproductive surcharge policy. And there must be a new major allocation of SDRs to enable developing countries to better deal with debt distress and meet their goals for climate-resilient spending.

This will require leadership by President Biden, since the US is the largest contributor to IMF resources and has the greatest say in IMF decisions. The COP meetings could even be used for timing a yearly release of climate-related SDR allocations to highly climate-vulnerable countries, as suggested under Barbados's “Bridgetown Initiative.”

These steps would at least show that the Fund is addressing the climate crisis with the leadership and seriousness required.

## How the global election year might shape world politics

BEIJING

THE year 2024 might be the biggest election year in human history, with more than 50 countries and regions globally holding elections, including major countries like the United States and Russia.

The elections, which will involve nearly half of the world population, bear significance for the domestic politics of these countries and regions, and might also shape the global political landscape.

**U.S.: TRUMP FACES CHALLENGES**

The U.S. presidential election is scheduled for November. Currently, U.S. President Joe Biden is running for reelection, while former President Donald Trump is leading significantly in polls over other Republican presidential candidates.

However, due to his alleged involvement in the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump's eligibility for election is being challenged in several states, including Colorado.

On Dec. 19, 2023, the Supreme Court of Colorado ruled that Trump be removed from the state's 2024 Republican presidential primary ballot. A few days later, the state of Maine announced a similar decision.

Last week, Trump appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has agreed to take up whether the former president should be disqualified from appearing on Colorado's primary ballot. The decision of the Supreme Court will have a significant impact on this year's presidential election.

Trump has also been plagued by multiple criminal charges related to the Capitol riot and several other cases, which, TIME magazine has said in a recent article, “will shape 2024 campaigns and test the justice and political systems unlike anything the country has ever seen.”

Greg Cusack, a former member of the Iowa House of Representatives, told Xinhua that the Capitol riot will continue to fuel U.S. political turmoil three years later, and he is concerned about more violence in this country.

“It has already begun,” Cusack said, noting that some statehouses were falsely alerted to bomb or other threats recently.

**RUSSIA: PUTIN WIDELY BELIEVED TO WIN**

Russia will hold its presidential election on March 15-17. Nikolai Bulayev, deputy chairman of Russia's Central Election Commission (CEC), told the media earlier that there are 11 names on the list of possible presidential candidates.

While attending a celebration of the Heroes of the Fatherland Day at the Kremlin on Dec. 8, 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced his plan to run for re-election in 2024.

Later, Putin submitted the registration documents to the CEC to run for president, and his campaign website was launched. In Russia, there is a widespread belief that Putin is likely to win.

The level of public trust in Putin among Russians has reached 80 percent, a public opinion poll conducted in December 2023 by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center showed.

**EUROPE: RISING FAR-RIGHT FORCES**

The 2024 European Parliament election is scheduled to be held on June 6-9. It will be the first European Parliament election after Brexit, and is considered a barometer



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa delivers his 2023 State of the Nation Address in Cape Town, South Africa, Feb. 9, 2023. File photo

of European politics.

The European Parliament election is held every five years. More than 400 million voters from the 27 member countries of the European Union (EU) will cast their votes to elect about 700 Members of the European Parliament.

The European Parliament serves as the legislative, supervisory, budgetary, and consultative body of the EU. The nomination of the new president of the European Commission, who

wields significant influence over the EU's internal and external decision-making, must be approved by the parliament.

As last year witnessed a rise of far-right forces in European politics, experts have expressed concerns that the emergence of far-right parties in multiple countries may impact this year's European Parliament election.

The election in Britain is also noteworthy. Although the opposition Labour Party and the

Liberal Democrats urge for a general election in May, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has recently said that his assumption is to hold the election in the second half of the year.

There are various issues to address, including managing the economy, reducing taxes, and tackling illegal immigration, said the prime minister.

His Conservative Party is trailing the Labour Party by an average of 18 points in the polls, said a report by the Financial Times. It is being assumed that the prime minister would wait until the autumn to allow more time for the economy to improve.

**MEXICO: FIRST POSSIBLE FEMALE PRESIDENT**

Mexico will hold general elections on June 2, and the new president will take office in October. Two female candidates are leading in several polls, with Claudia Sheinbaum, the candidate of the ruling Morena party, having a support rate of over 48 percent and Xochitl Galvez, the candidate of the opposition coalition, having a support rate of about 30 percent.

Sheinbaum, 61, was a climate scientist and is considered by the media as a protégé of the current president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. In 2018, she became the mayor of Mexico City, committed to building environmentally friendly infrastructure and fighting crime.

Galvez, 60, comes from a humble background and became an entrepreneur. After entering politics, she served in various positions such as mayor of a borough of Mexico City and federal senator. She has opposed the current government's policies in traditional energy and other areas.

Over the past six years, the approval rating of the current president, Lopez Obrador, has remained at 60 percent or higher. Analysts argue that with general elections approaching, Lopez Obrador's stance and policies will influence the election's outcome. The country is likely to have its first female president.

**INDONESIA: SOCIAL MEDIA PLAY A ROLE**

With Indonesia's presidential election a month away, the competition among the three pairs of presidential

candidates has intensified.

The most prominent pair of candidates are Prabowo Subianto, the current defense minister and chairman of the Gerindra Party, and Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the eldest son of Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

In the 2014 and 2019 elections, Subianto lost to Widodo. This year, the pairing of the 72-year-old defense minister and the 36-year-old Gibran aims to attract Widodo's staunch supporters and the younger generation.

Another pair of candidates are Ganjar Pranowo, former governor of Central Java, and Muhammad Mahfud, the coordinating minister for political, legal, and security affairs of Indonesia. The third pair consists of Anies Baswedan, former governor of Jakarta, and Muhaimin Iskandar, chairman of the National Awakening Party.

Social media platforms such as TikTok have become a battlefield for the candidates to attract young voters. Pranowo's official TikTok account has 7.3 million followers, and the short videos posted have garnered millions of views.

**SOUTH AFRICA: RULING PARTY UNDER PRESSURE**

South Africa, a member of the BRICS, will hold elections in 2024. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa has announced that the presidential and local elections will take place between May and mid-August.

Specific details regarding the election procedures, timing, and the candidates for the 2024 elections in South Africa have not been disclosed.

The IEC officially launched the process of presidential and provincial elections on Oct. 24, 2023. Voter registration is still ongoing, with the final round scheduled for February.

Observers are interested in whether the African National Congress (ANC), the ruling party in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994, can secure victory in the upcoming elections. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledged that the 2024 elections will be unprecedentedly intense, and the ANC will face significant pressure and challenges.

Xinhua



Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed his plans to run for reelection in 2024, said the Kremlin on Dec. 8, 2023. File photo



# Foreign investors record 2.4bn/- weekly equities sell-off on DSE

By Guardian Reporter

**F**oreign investors recorded 2.48bn/- shares sell-off this week, through block trades, which were all bought by local investors.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) market report shows during Monday, foreign investors sold shares valued 126mn/-, which involved the float of one million shares on TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL) counter.

On Tuesday, the market report shows foreign investors also sold shares valued 554mn/-, which involved a block trade of 39,062 shares on Tanzania Cigarette Com-



pany (TCC) counter, which was equivalent to 81.02 percent of total value of shares sold on that day.

The market report, the foreign investors sell-off also continued on Wednesday, after recording the transaction of

shares on CRDB Bank Plc counter valued 1.25bn/-, of which were all bought by local investors.

During the last trading day of the week, the report shows that foreign investors sold shares valued 559mn/-, which

was 26.10 percent of total value of shares sold.

According to the market report, during the current quarter, foreign investors have so far sold shares valued 2.49bn/-, which is 32.33 percent of the value of shares sold.

However, the reports show that during the current quarter, foreign investors have bought shares valued 126.27mn/-, which is equivalent to 1.63 percent of the value of shares bought.

The report indicates that local investors have continued to dominate the market, after recording 98.37 percent of the value of shares bought and 67.67 percent of the value of shares sold.

A total turnover of 7.7bn/- has so far been recorded on DSE since the start of this quarter, which is nearly a third of total turnover recorded during the first quarter of last year.

During the last quarter ended in December, a total turnover of 145.5bn/- was recorded, of which foreign investors bought shares valued 107.67bn/- which involved the changing hands of Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) shares.

During the deal, Scancem International DA bought 43,504,403 Tanga Cement shares, equivalent to roughly 68.33 per cent of all issued shares, which were previously owned by Afrisam Mauritius Investment Holdings Limited.



People's Bank of China

## China cuts rate, offers more cash in supporting economy

BEIJING

China's central bank is likely to cut a key policy rate and pump more cash into the financial system on Monday as it tries to counter deflationary pressures and boost lending to support the economic recovery.

The People's Bank of China is expected to lower the rate on its one-year policy loans – called the medium-term lending facility – by 10 basis points to 2.4 percent, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 15 economists. That would be the first trim to the rate since a surprise 15-basis-point reduction last August.

The PBOC is also seen injecting a net 121 billion yuan (\$16.9 billion) through the MLF to boost liquidity and meet demand for funding.

"China's economy has yet to stabilize," said Woei Chen Ho, an economist at United Overseas Bank Ltd., adding that expectations for policy support have increased.

She expects measures are "likely to be front-loaded in January" as Chinese leaders spend the next several weeks gearing up for the National People's Congress – the annual legislative session in March where the government's official growth target for 2024 will be announced.

Investors are betting on looser monetary policy as the economy struggles to shake off some of the most persistent challenges to growth, from weak confidence to a property slump that has entered its fourth year. The International Monetary Fund sees gross domestic product growing 4.6 percent in 2024, slower than pre-pandemic levels.

A rate cut "may not have a notable impact on reviving demand, but will ease debt financing pressure," said Michelle Lam, Greater China economist at Societe Generale SA.

Cutting the MLF rate and boosting liquidity are just a couple of options on the table for the PBOC, which recently consulted with several prominent economists about making its monetary policies more effective.

Separately, the head of the central bank's monetary policy department hinted in an interview with state media this week that it's considered trims to the amount of cash banks must keep in reserve to boost lending capacity and bolster credit.

Some economists don't necessarily think the remarks from Zou Lan – who highlighted "reserve requirements" as one option to provide "strong support" for a reasonable growth in credit – mean a cut to the reserve requirement ratio for banks will come before a policy rate reduction.

But the comments did underscore how much room is growing for further easing.

Chinese government bond yields have fallen to the lowest level since April 2020, and major commercial banks cut their deposit rates last month – creating room for them to lower lending rates without further squeezing their profit margins. Official data Friday showed consumer prices declined for a third straight month in December.

The Federal Reserve's expected pivot to monetary easing, meanwhile, helped the yuan strengthen last quarter. As expectations for monetary easing grow, the PBOC on Thursday pushed back against recent weakness in the currency by setting yuan fixing at strongest bias versus estimates since November.

"The need to dispel deflation expectations may outweigh the risk of a weaker yuan for the moment," said Ding Shuang, chief economist for Greater China and North Asia at Standard Chartered Plc.

## Russian rouble climbs to multi-week high vs dollar

MOSCOW

The Russian rouble climbed to a more than seven-week high against the dollar on Friday, boosted by the state's new foreign currency interventions plan and higher oil prices after Western strikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen.

Russia's finance ministry will switch to foreign currency sales from purchases in the coming weeks, it said on Thursday, after December oil and gas revenue was lower than expected. The move is widely expected to buttress the currency.

The rouble gained 0.6 percent against the dollar to reach 88.09 by 0727 GMT for its strongest since Nov. 23.

It firmed by 0.5 percent to 99.67 versus the euro and was up 0.6 percent against the yuan at 12.25.

Taking all state foreign exchange in-

terventions into account, Russia is set to sell the equivalent of 16.7 billion roubles (\$189.5 million) a day during the second half of January.

Exporters have been selling accumulated foreign currency revenue since Russian markets reopened fully on Jan. 9 after the New Year holidays.

Brent crude oil, a global benchmark for Russia's main export, was up 1.9 percent at \$78.91 a barrel.

Oil prices were rising after the United States and Britain said they launched strikes from air and sea against Houthi military targets in Yemen in response to the group's attacks on ships in the Red Sea – a dramatic regional widening of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Russian stock indexes were mixed.

The dollar-denominated RTS index was up 0.4 percent at 1,136.7 points, its strongest since late November. The rouble-based MOEX Russian index was 0.1 percent down at 3,178.2 points.



Pump attendant filling CNG into a vehicle in Dar es Salaam

## The expanding role of CNG in Dar's transport sector

By Guardian Reporter

In November last year, TAQA Dalbit Tanzania Limited inaugurated a new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling station on Julius K. Nyerere Road, opposite the Julius Nyerere international airport in Dar es Salaam.

This development highlights the increasing demand for a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective fuel alternative for motorists in Tanzania.

The recently launched CNG station, supplied with Natural Gas from the Songo Songo gas field operated by PanAfrican Energy Tanzania (PAET), is capable of servicing up to 800 vehicles each day.

This new station is essential in offering this vital service to customers, presenting a cost-efficient substitute during times of escalating living costs. The city had only two other CNG stations before, so the addition of a third one is beneficial.

All three stations use Songo Songo Natural Gas supplied by PanAfrican Energy Tanzania. There is no other gas producer in the country that offers the

public the direct advantages of Tanzania's abundant natural resources in such a way.

The use of CNG as a fuel for vehicles is gaining popularity among individuals and businesses in Tanzania, seeking to lessen their environmental footprint and reduce operational costs. Commercial taxi operators in Dar es Salaam have seen substantial benefits from this transition.

Currently, over 3,000 vehicles are currently using CNG.

Speaking of the benefits of CNG, Said Nsubuga, an Uber driver in the city said, "The cost of running my car on CNG is far lower than using petrol."

For example, the cost of 3 kilos of CNG is equivalent to the cost of 1 litre of petrol and a kilo of gas will get me 25km while a litre of petrol only gets me 12 kilometres." A quick calculation indicates the cost of conventional fuels compared to CNG needed in this scenario to travel the same distance, is around 440 percent or over four times more expensive for drivers.

In addition to the economic advantages, CNG offers notable benefits for engine mainte-

nance and wear and tear.

The cleaner combustion of CNG results in reduced carbon deposits and contaminants in the engine, leading to lower maintenance costs and longer engine life. Tanzanian drivers embracing CNG not only experience financial benefits but also enjoy the peace of mind that comes with decreased wear and tear on their vehicles.

This was clear to Said Nsubuga who also spoke about the longer-term benefits of CNG, stating "When I was using petrol, I had to service my car every 3,000 kilometres, but now that I have switched to CNG I drive more than that between service requirements."

Of course, there is a cost to being able to utilise CNG, but it is not as much as people may think, with the cost of engine conversion being around 1.8mn/-. Depending on how far users will drive each month however, these costs are quickly set-off against the fuel savings.

For example, using Said's example, if an average driver drives 1,000km per month, they might use around 83 litres of petrol, costing around

273,000/-. To achieve the same distances using CNG, Said would spend around 62,000/-. Each month he would save around 210,000/-, meaning the cost of converting his vehicle might be regained within 8 - 10 months.

Speaking about his experience converting his vehicle to use CNG, one driver said, "The conversion process takes two days and costs between 1.8mn/- and 2mn/-, which you can pay in installments."

There is a conversion centre at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, but the staff at the PAET's CNG station are also willing to direct drivers to other centres, so it is not a problem finding places to do the conversion if anyone is considering it." Currently the number of conversion centres is growing with several offering flexible financing options.

While both petrol and diesel vehicles can technically be converted to run on CNG, in Tanzania, currently only conversion centres for petrol engine vehicles are available.

If the economics of using CNG are hard to believe, the facts on the ground speak for

themselves. The first CNG station in Dar es Salaam operated by PAET was established as a pilot program in 2009, and today delivers over 8,000 Kg of CNG to approximately 900 cars each day. Over the past three years alone, PAET has seen delivery increase from just over 30,000 Kg per month to over 250,000 Kg per month.

As the demand for CNG continues to grow, it is encouraging to observe a positive trend in consumer behaviour towards greener alternatives.

The inauguration of a third CNG station signifies that Dar es Salaam is on the right track towards creating a sustainable and eco-friendly transportation system. This shows a strong indication of the government's commitment to cleaner energy and the positive collaboration between the Government, private sector, and stakeholders.

Looking ahead, it is essential that we continue to back and invest in initiatives that promote sustainable practices. CNG stands as an excellent example of how innovation in the energy sector can be beneficial for Tanzania and its people.



# Kenya lost Sh4.2bn to Telegram shutdown in 2023

NAIROBI

Kenya is estimated to have lost more than \$27.02 million (Sh4.2 billion) due to the Telegram downtime experienced in November last year during the last week of the secondary school national examinations.

Calculations by NetBlocks, a London-based internet rights organisation shows that the 8-day shutdown of the popular messaging platform in Kenya significantly inconvenienced businesses relying on it, making them incur billions in losses.

For each day that Telegram was down, the businesses and the country are estimated to have lost a total of Sh537 million in foregone sales, wages, and economic benefits that are estimated to trickle down from use of the application in Kenya.

NetBlocks calculates the economic cost of social media shutdowns from World Bank and International Telecommunications Union (ITU)



indicators, which estimate, in monetary terms, the economic benefits generated in a country from uninterrupted internet and social media use.

Telegram, an instant messaging platform mostly used for sharing large multimedia files, is one of the most popular social media platforms in Ken-

ya and globally, with an estimated 800 million daily active users, according to data firm Statista.

The outage experienced for more than a week last year, was never formally announced or acknowledged by the Communications Authority of Kenya, but its coincidence with the Kenya

Certificate of Secondary Education examinations may have been an indication that the shutdown was a measure to curtail cheating in the college-entry tests.

Analysis by TopIOVPN, an internet privacy and security organisation in the UK, shows that Kenya's loss was

the sixteenth largest out of all the 25 jurisdictions that shutdown the internet or different social media platforms last year.

Jointly, the 25 countries, which include Tanzania, Sudan, and Ethiopia, lost \$9 billion (Sh1.4 trillion) to the internet disruptions, which generally lasted for 79,238 hours, an 18 percent increase from 2022.

"This kind of deliberate disruption is internet censorship in its most extreme form. Not only do these internet outages infringe on citizens' digital rights but they are also acts of national economic self-harm," remarked TopIOVPN's digital rights lead Samuel Woodhams and their head of research, Simon Migliano, in a joint statement.

Last year was the first time a social media outage was reported in Kenya. Internet has generally been uninterrupted in the country, even in 2022 when elections were held. Elections is one of the common reasons for internet censorship globally.

# Turkey tells investors tightening cycle is near end

ANKARA

Turkey's central bank told investors at a meeting in New York that interest rates are close to the levels required for establishing a disinflation course and that its tightening cycle will be completed as soon as possible, according to a person with direct knowledge of the discussions.

The central bank said on Thursday it has observed a significant improvement in inflation expectations and a decline in underlying trends as of September, the person said, asking not to be named because the meetings were closed to the press.

Central Bank Governor Hafize Gaye Erkan told investors that the policies were working but "our job will not be over" until price stability is achieved, according to the person. She also discussed the bank's efforts to accumulate reserves and increase the share of lira deposits in the banking system.



Turkey's central bank

The central bank declined to comment. The statements come

from an investor meeting at JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s headquarters in New York

as Turkey's most senior economic officials seek to persuade investors to re-

turn to Turkish assets following a policy overhaul by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after his reelection in May. Governor Erkan and Deputy Governor Cevdet Akcay addressed investors in person, while Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek spoke via an on-line session.

Investors have cited concerns including high costs of hedging currency risk and whether the economic team's policies would be sustained as factors preventing further allocation to Turkish assets. JPMorgan on Thursday said in a report that investors should either wait for Turkish yields to rise or for inflation to fall before considering investing in lira bonds.

Erkan, the governor, has previously argued that investors should buy local bonds on grounds that both inflation and monetary policy will likely be more "moderate" toward the end

of this year.

Inflation accelerated to 65 percent in annual terms last month and the central bank sees it climbing further in the months ahead. The bank's projection is for deceleration to begin in the second half of 2024.

Turkey has the highest local-currency yields among major developing nations, according to the Bloomberg Emerging Markets Local Currency Government Index, which tracks 18 countries including China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. The central bank under Erkan has lifted its benchmark interest rate to 42.5 percent from 8.5 percent since she was appointed last year.

Prior to news from the meeting on Thursday, investors surveyed by Bloomberg expected the central bank to deliver another interest-rate hike this month and to reach a terminal rate of 45 percent.

# India aims for instant stocks settlement in effort to attracting more investors

NEW DELHI

India's regulator wants stock trades to be settled instantly, racing far ahead of other major markets in pushing reforms meant to attract more investors.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is proposing to start same-day settlement from March, before moving to a real-time process in 2025. The shorter cycles will be optional for investors and run alongside the existing system where trades are settled in one day, or T+1 in industry parlance.

Global appetite for quicker resolution has grown after a spike in prices of 'meme stocks' in 2021 left brokers like Robinhood Markets Inc. struggling to post collateral for those trades during the two days it took to settle them. For the Sebi, faster settlement is also a magnet to lure retail investors who are shunning direct bets on stocks in favor of equity derivatives.

"If India's market has to go from \$4 trillion to \$40 trillion, we need to constantly keep evolving and using new-age technology and next practices to strengthen our market," said Sunil Sanghai, founder of NovaaOne Capital and a senior former banker at Indian units of HSBC Holdings Plc and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. "Our market has embraced many changes in the past, no matter how big."

India's \$4.3 trillion market moved to what's known as T+2 back in 2003 – 14 years before the US – and became the second country after China last year to adopt T+1 approach, a regime the US will roll out this May.

"In today's age, reliability, low cost and high speed of transactions are key features that attract investors," Sebi



Securities and exchange Board of India

said in the consultation paper while inviting comments on its plan until Jan. 12. "Reducing settlement time and increasing operational efficien-

cy of dealing can further draw and retain investors."

The number of active individual investors – defined as those who

trade at least once a year on the National Stock Exchange's cash market – rose just 1% to 27 million in 2023 from a year earlier. The retail count

in futures and options jumped 33% to over eight million, data from India's biggest exchange show.

For all the anticipated benefits, the initiative has left overseas investors concerned about the operational risks of trading on parallel systems. The new mechanism may lead to the same security trading at different prices on the two cycles.

Sebi has said that any price and liquidity gaps created by the two systems running simultaneously can be bridged by arbitrageurs. The regulator is working with market participants to iron out wrinkles, according to Chairwoman Madhabi Puri Buch.

Despite those reassurances, "our concerns about market fragmentation remain when a market has two settlement cycles," Eugenie Shen, managing director and head of the asset management group at the Asia Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, said by email.

To be sure, Sebi's plan in 2021 to adopt T+1 settlement had also received a pushback from global funds, with ASIFMA citing concern over timezone differences and foreign currency-related issues at the time.

The regulator rolled out the regime with the bottom 100 stocks by market value, a segment global funds don't trade in. That gave investors time to adapt to the shift.

"Sebi will ensure issues raised by foreign investors are addressed before the new system is rolled out," said Deven Choksey, a strategist with KRChoksey Finserv in Mumbai. "Foreigners will comply, like in the past."

# Traded coffee volumes, prices rebound newly harvested crop

NAIROBI

Traded volumes and prices at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) have improved, buoyed by inflows of higher-quality fresh crop and deliveries of old stocks by co-operative societies from the Mount Kenya region.

Data from the NCE show volumes offered for sale at the exchange improved from 3,773 bags on August 15 which represented the 30th auction of the 2022/23 season to 20,199 bags on December 13.

Traders linked the improvement to bigger deliveries from Kirinyaga and Nyeri growing zones and inflows of batches of fresh crops from the October-December main coffee crop season in Kenya.

"There is quality fresh crop entering the auction as part of the main season which has helped improve prices. Then we are also witnessing a bump in volumes because of releases of old stocks that had been held by co-operatives in Kirinyaga and Nyeri," a trader said.

"The groups in Nyeri and Kirinyaga have released big volumes of crop for the third consecutive auction."

Over the same period, the NCE has registered an improvement in volumes of coffee beans sold from 40 percent of bags offered for sale to 84 percent. There was mixed performance in the prices of the various grades of the beverage in the review period.

The average price of premium coffee beans, AA grade, declined to Sh38, 377.58 (\$240.10) from Sh39, 952 (\$249.95 per 50-kilogramme bag.

That of AB grade meanwhile rose from Sh29, 818.15 (\$186.55) to Sh30, 281.68 for similar quantity.

The NCE now has an average of 18 buyers at each auction and 10 sellers compared to 17 buyers and only four sellers as at August 15.

The exchange has credited the improvement in activity to the return of confidence among market participants, along with improving global coffee prices.

"By now, the market has gained confidence in the new way of doing things and we are seeing stability in participation. We have seen about 40 buyers being boarded onto the exchange and about half of them have made successful bids," NCE acting chief executive officer Lisper Ndung'u told this publication yesterday.

"Global prices are also rising, meaning that even offer prices on the floor of the NCE have also gone up."

The return of activity at the coffee exchange is in stark contrast with the months of August and September when volumes and prices fell sharply as traders and buyers kept off the market amid confusion over the issuance of trade permits. Auction volumes in August for instance fell by 95.62 percent to 192 tonnes from 4,380 tonnes a year prior.

Volumes brought to auction tanked as contracted millers struggled to secure licenses issued by county governments which affected the flow of coffee volumes to the exchange.

The low volumes had seen international buyers staying off the market which in turn reduced the demand for Kenyan coffee.

Coffee millers were considering laying off workers to minimize their costs as some of their trading permits were frozen.

The turnaround from the market turmoil which saw trading on the NCE partially halted in early August seemingly points to early successes of coffee sector reforms which were steered by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Among the reforms carried out in the Capital Markets (Coffee) Exchange Regulations 2020 was the introduction of the direct settlement system which allowed for expedited and transparent payment of coffee sales proceeds.

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya won the direct settlement system contract-DSS but initially faced resistance from some players.

More reforms for the sector have been lined up including the transitioning of regulatory and commercial roles held by the Agriculture and Food Authority and the Coffee Board of Kenya.



**By now, the market has gained confidence in the new way of doing things and we are seeing stability in participation. We have seen about 40 buyers being boarded onto the exchange and about half of them have made successful bids**



# SA to create conducive environment for business

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa remains open for business and dedicated to creating a conducive environment for it to thrive, says Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana.

The Minister made the remarks on Thursday during an engagement with members of the media ahead of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

"We remain steadfast in carrying out structural reforms to support and accelerate economic recovery. As government, we remain resolved to deal with the energy and logistics challenges that are adversely impacting our economy," he told the media.

This year's meeting, which will take place from 15 to 19 January 2024, will focus on rebuilding trust.

"It is quite apt, considering the complexity associated with the domestic and transnational headwinds we are facing."

He explained that the theme will link four interconnected thematic priorities.

These include achieving security and cooperation in a fractured world; creating growth and jobs for a new era; artificial intelligence; and a long-term strategy for climate, nature and energy.

According to Godongwana, South Africa remains the gateway to Africa and has called on interna-



Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana

tional investors to invest in Africa and South Africa.

Meanwhile, he is of the view that the African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA) provides further opportunities for South African businesses to expand and grow their business and for international busi-

nesses to partner with local companies to increase their presence in Africa.

"Many of you have been attend-

ing the annual meeting for many years now, and I'm sure you will agree with me that these issues are ones that current and potential in-

vestors in our country and continent are interested in."

The Minister also took the opportunity to thank the private sector for being a willing partner of government, in addressing the challenges the country faces towards unlocking economic growth.

In addition, he said marketing the country during WEF Davos is another great opportunity for collaboration.

Meanwhile, Godongwana said fiscal consolidation is needed to tackle soaring debt levels, while monetary policy should stay the course to bring inflation to target.

"Structural reforms remain crucial to revive medium-term growth prospects amid constrained policy space. The green transition, increasing resilience to climate shocks, and improving food security for millions of people require strengthened multilateral frameworks and adherence to rules-based platforms for international cooperation."

He is also of the view that access to competitive international development finance, for developing countries, is imperative to ensure a successful green transition.

In addition, he said government will also be tabling

matching competitive financing for green transitions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in international financial institutions and key global economic platforms such as the Group of 20 (G20).

"Today provides a platform for a frank discussion to enable government and business to align their message for Davos."

"As government, we value this engagement. This is a testament to the presence of my colleagues. We are encouraged that business holds the same view given the level of representation. We might not agree on all the policy issues. However, it is important that we find common ground and that we speak as one voice in Davos."

He told the media that Treasury, various government departments and Brand SA, have prepared key messages that the State and business can use as a guide for the country's engagement at WEF.

"I would just like to highlight the following. The common message we are taking to the annual meeting is that South Africa remains open for business and is committed to creating a conducive environment."

## Japan's Nikkei posts 34-year high

TOKYO

Japan's Nikkei share average scaled a 34-year peak on Friday, recording its best week since March 2022, underpinned by receding bets on an early exit from the Bank of Japan (BOJ) stimulus and sheer momentum as foreign investors returned.

The Nikkei closed Friday's trading 1.06 percent higher at 35,422.95, after rising as much as 2.25 percent to 35,839.65 for the first time since February 1990. The index rallied nearly 7 percent and marked a multi-decade high every trading day this week.

Technical indicators were flashing warning signs, however, with one such measure – the relative strength index, or RSI – climbing to 74.55 for the Nikkei. Readings above 70 indicate an overheated market.

Nikkei volatility has spiked over the past two days to reach the highest level since Oct. 31, when the BOJ unexpectedly tweaked policy to allow bond yields to rise further.

"It wouldn't be unusual to see a retracement at any moment of the steepest part of this rally," Nomura Securities strategist Maki Sawada said, adding that she had expected the Nikkei to decline at Friday's open.

The rally was supported by receding bets for an end to the BOJ's negative rate policy at its Jan. 22-23 meeting, following the New Year's

Day earthquake on the Noto peninsula, northwest of Tokyo.

A fisherman stands at a port in Wajima in the Noto peninsula facing the Sea of Japan, northwest of Tokyo, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024. Monday's temblor decimated houses, twisted and scarred roads and scattered boats like toys in the waters, and prompted tsunami warnings. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

Wages data this week has given further incentive for the central bank to hold fire on any hawkish shift.

At the same time, finance ministry data on Friday showed that foreign investors bought a net 296.2 billion yen (\$2.04 billion) of Japanese equities in the week ended Jan. 6, following two weeks as net sellers.

So far this year, the Nikkei has climbed 6.3 percent, the only major global stock index to post gains other than the U.S. S&P 500, which is up 0.21 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 is up nearly 2 percent, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng tumbled 4.43 percent.

"Foreign investors think the Japanese market is relatively better than other markets: it is not as extended as the US markets, and the economy is better than Europe or China," said Shinji Abe, an equity strategist at Daiwa Securities.

"Given the current strong momentum, the Nikkei can reach above 36,000 or even get close to 37,000 in the near term."

## Dollar steady as investors mull inflation

LONDON/TOKYO

The dollar held steady on Friday as traders weighed an ambiguous US inflation report and tensions in the Middle East, where the United States and Britain launched air and sea strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen.

The US dollar index, which tracks the currency against six major peers, was flat at 102.24 on Friday. It has risen around 0.9 percent this month as US data has come in stronger than expected, after falling 2 percent in 2023.

US consumer prices increased in December as rents continued to rise, edging 0.3 percent higher for the month and up an annual 3.4 percent, versus economists' forecast for a 0.2 percent and 3.2 percent rise respectively. The dollar climbed after the data but ended Thursday roughly flat.

The euro was little changed at \$1.0974 on Friday. It has fallen around 0.6 percent so far in 2024 after rising 3 percent last year.

In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin last stood mostly unchanged at \$45,855, having surged to a two-year high overnight after the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday gave the green light to offer ETFs linked to bitcoin.

Traders are pricing in a 68 percent chance for the Fed's first 25 basis-point cut to come in March, according to the CME Group's FedWatch Tool, up from 65 percent on Thursday despite the stronger inflation figures.

"There are conflicting drivers at the moment," said Carl Hammer, head of asset allocation at SEB Asset Management. "On the one hand we as a house expect risk appetite to do fairly OK... ultimately we think that the dollar will weaken."



### ITV PGM SCHEDULE

Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program
9:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	23:00	Habari	15:00	Meza huru	08:00	Ajazeera
9:55	Habari za saa	23:30	Music: The Base	16:10	Igizo Slay Queen	09:10	In good shape
10:00	Watoto wetu	00:30	Al Jazeera	17:00	The Base	10:00	Capchat rpt
10:00	ITV Top Ten			18:00	Jiji Letu	11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:55	Habari za saa			18:15	Mapezi	09:00	Kumekucha Michozo rpt
12:00	Al Jazeera			19:00	Jungu kuu	10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
12:30	Igizo: Filmbi			19:30	Shika Bamba	11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
12:55	Habari za saa			20:00	Habari	12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
13:00	Mjuzi Zaidi			21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen	12:30	Our Earth
13:40	Art and Lifestyle			21:40	Art and Lifestyle	13:00	Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides of Ana
13:55	Habari za saa			22:10	ITV Top 10	14:00	Capchat
14:00	Art and Lifestyle			22:50	Music: The Base	15:00	Out & About rpt
14:15	Soap rpt: Slay Queen			00:30	Al Jazeera	16:45	Mizengwe rpt
14:55	Habari za saa					17:00	The Decor rpt
15:00	Meza huru					17:30	Meza huru
16:30	Art and Lifestyle					18:00	Business Edition Rpt
16:30	Watoto Wetu					18:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Music: The Base					19:00	Innovation rpt
18:00	Jiji Letu					19:30	Meza Huru
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe					19:30	Sports Gazette
18:30	DW: Airmax					19:30	Chetu ni chetu
19:00	Afya ya Jamii					20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon					20:45	Telenovela: The Three Sides of Ana
20:00	Habari					21:30	Capital Prime News
21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen					22:00	Dakika 45
21:40	Art and Lifestyle					22:15	The Decor
22:10	ITV Top 10					23:15	Al Jazeera
22:50	Hawawumi lakini wamo						
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt						
00:30	Al Jazeera						



## WORLD



In this file photo dated June 23, 2022, an employee of Rama Cereal, a local cereal processing plant, processes millet grain to make millet porridge in Abobo, a popular district in Abidjan. AFP

## Russia to continue humanitarian supplies of grain, fertilizers to Africa

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will continue to provide humanitarian supplies of grain and fertilizers to Africa, Deputy Prime Minister Viktoria Abramchenko was quoted by local media as saying yesterday.

"Russia remains a global breadbasket and a reliable supplier. The first batches of humanitarian aid in terms of grain and fertilizers have already been sent to African countries, and they will continue in the future," Abramchenko said in an interview with Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization recently admit-

ted that sanctions imposed by Western countries on food, mineral fertilizers, logistics, and payments have worsened the problem of world hunger, said the Russian deputy prime minister, adding that this trend would only increase in the world.

At the Russia-Africa Summit in July last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would send grain as humanitarian aid to six African countries on the World Food Program's list.

According to the country's agricultural authorities, the first two ships, each carrying 25,000 tons of wheat for Somalia and Burkina Faso, departed from Russia in mid-November. *Xinhua*

## China urges US not to interfere in elections in Taiwan region

THE Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thursday warned the United States to refrain from any form of interference in elections in the Taiwan region to avoid causing severe damage to the China-US relationship and cross-strait peace and stability.

"China firmly opposes the US having any form of official contact with the Taiwan region," ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said in Beijing, after Washington said it plans to send an unofficial delegation comprising former senior officials to the region shortly after the Taiwan regional leader election this weekend.

A senior official with President Joe Biden's administration confirmed the plan on Wednesday and said the US opposes any outside interference or influence in Taiwan's upcoming elections.

"The election in the Taiwan region is purely China's internal affair that brooks no foreign interference," Mao said, noting that the Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests and the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations.

The spokeswoman said China strongly deplores and firmly opposes Washington's unwarranted remarks on the elections in the Taiwan region.

"We urge the US side to earnestly abide by the one-China principle and stipulations of the three China-

US joint communiques, honor the US leader's commitments with concrete actions, stop interfering in elections in the Taiwan region in any form and stop sending wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces," she said.

### Strong measures

China will take resolute and strong measures to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, Mao added.

Also at the news briefing, Mao said Argentina has clarified to the Chinese side that media reports regarding a meeting between Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino and Taipei's economic and cultural representative in the Latin American country last month "are not true".

The Argentine side has reiterated that its new government attaches high importance to its relationship with China and firmly adheres to the one-China principle, Mao said.

"Over the past 50 years, previous Argentine governments have followed the one-China principle," she said. "China is willing to work with Argentina and constantly deepen our political mutual trust to push for the steady development of China-Argentina comprehensive strategic partnership."

Agencies

## Putin tells Russian prosecutors to keep an eye on upcoming presidential vote

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN prosecutors should closely follow events related to the upcoming presidential election in Russia and make sure that no Russian laws are violated in the process, Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"I would also like to highlight certain areas of your work such as supervision of the implementation of national projects and social programs and compliance with the law during the upcoming

presidential election," he said, addressing Russian prosecutors on the occasion of their professional holiday. The Russian leader went on to say that the society and the state set a high value on their work and expect them to continue to fulfill their duties properly and to serve the people honestly and scrupulously.

"I would like to wish you, the manage-



ment and current and former staff of the prosecutor's office, wellbeing, health and success in your activities," Putin concluded. The upper house of the Russian Parliament, the Federation Council, formally designated March 17, 2024 as the date of the presidential election. In turn, the Russian Central Election Commission decided that citizens would be able to cast their ballots during a three-day voting period on March 15-17, making this Russia's first three-day presidential election.

Agencies

## 5 killed as US, UK launch strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen

SANAA/WASHINGTON/CAIRO/CANBERRA/MOSCOW/TEHRAN

YEMEN'S Houthi group said yesterday that five of its fighters were killed and six others injured as the United States and its allies conducted targeted strikes against a number of targets in Yemen used by the group.

Confirming the airstrikes, US President Joe Biden said in a statement that the strikes were launched together with Britain and with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands. They were "in direct response to unprecedented Houthi attacks against international maritime vessels in the Red Sea", he added.

The airstrikes hit 73 targets across the areas the rebel group controls, according to the Houthi group.

Houthi-controlled Saba news agency and residents reported several airstrikes on Houthi military sites around the Yemeni capital Sanaa before dawn yesterday.

"The American-Israeli-British aggression launches several raids on the capital Sanaa, and the governorates of Hodeidah, Saada, and Dhamar", the news agency reported.

The strikes "targeted Al-Dailami air base in Sanaa, areas in Zabid District of Hodeidah province, the vicinity of the airport of Hodeidah port city, Kahlan Camp in the east of northern Saada city, and the airport of Abs district in the north-western government of Hajjah", reads the report.

At least four powerful airstrikes hit the mountains around Sanaa, shaking the windows of the houses and cutting off lights in many areas, residents said, adding the Houthis have evacuated many camps adjoining the residents' neighborhoods at the center of Sanaa.

"Today's defensive action follows



In this image provided on Jan 12, 2024 by the UK Ministry of Defence, a Royal Air Force (RAF) Typhoon aircraft returns to base at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, after striking targets in Yemen. AP

this extensive diplomatic campaign and Houthi rebels' escalating attacks against commercial vessels," Biden said.

Citing a US official, CNN reported earlier that the US military used fighter jets and Tomahawk missiles to hit more than a dozen Houthi targets, including radar systems, drone storage, ballistic missile storage, cruise missile storage and their launch sites.

The US repeatedly warned the Houthi against the militant group's continued attacks on commercial vessels sailing in the Red Sea.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a press availability in Cairo, Egypt, on Thursday that the US wanted to "avoid escalation", but if the Houthis don't stop their attacks, "there'll have to be consequences".

Meanwhile, Britain's defense ministry said in a statement that "early indications are that the Houthis' ability to threaten merchant shipping has taken a blow."

The Australian government has confirmed the country's involvement in airstrikes on Houthi military sites in Yemen. Australian personnel were present in operational headquarters during the strikes, Richard Marles, deputy prime minister and minister

for defense, said at a press conference on Friday without elaborating on the nature of their involvement.

"On Jan 4, Australia was part of 14 countries which issued a statement warning the Houthi rebels that if they continue to attack maritime activity in the Red Sea, there would be consequences," he said. "They have continued their attacks on maritime and naval assets. As a result the attacks today have occurred."

In December, Australia rejected a request from the US to send a Royal Australian Navy warship to the Red Sea to "help secure international shipping lanes". The government instead committed to deploying additional Australian Defence Force officers to the 39-nation Combined Maritime Forces command in Bahrain.

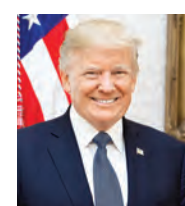
A Houthi official confirmed "raids" in the capital Sanaa along with the cities of Saada and Dhamar, calling them "American-Zionist-British aggression".

The Houthi, who control most of Yemen, defied a UN and other international calls to halt their missile and drone attacks on Red Sea shipping routes and warnings from the United States of consequences if they failed to do so.

Agencies

## 'Political witch hunt'

WASHINGTON



FORMER US President Donald Trump addressed the defence table during the hearing of the USD 370 million civil fraud trial, saying that the case was 'politically motivated'.

The Republican leader and the billionaire tycoon, who is bidding for the country's highest office in the Presidential elections later this year, added that he should receive damages over the case, CNN reported on Thursday.

Taking a swipe at Judge Arthur Engoron, who is presiding over the hearings in the case, Trump said, "The facts are (that) the financial statements are perfect, that there are no witnesses against us. The banks got all their money paid back. There were great loans."

"This was a political witch hunt," Trump added, claiming that "we should receive damages," the former President added.

"We have a situation where I'm an innocent man I've been persecuted by somebody running for office and I think you have to go outside the bounds," the Republican leader said, adding, "What's happened here sir is a fraud on me. They want to make sure that I don't win again and this is partially election interference."

Earlier, during the hearing, Trump's attorney Chris Kise, in his closing submission, urged the judge to reject the claims against the Republican leader, saying that the case goes 'beyond Trump'.

"What you do, judge, impacts every corporation in New York," Kise argued.

He charged that the attorney general "wants limitless power to intervene in commercial real estate transactions."

CNN quoted Kise as telling the judge at the hearing, "You just cannot allow the attorney general to pursue a victimless crime and impose a corporate death penalty."

His subject of reference was the attorney general, who is seeking to bar Trump from doing business in the state.

"You buy into this, it's opening the floodgates for attacks on corporations in the state," Kise argued.

"They're trying to get you to buy into their theory to allow them to weaponize the law against Trump's business", Kise said, adding, "Don't do it."

When Kise finished his roughly two-hour presentation, Judge Engoron noted it was "quite the feat of endurance".

ANI

## Denmark's Queen Margrethe set to step down from throne

COPENHAGEN

DURING her 52-year reign Denmark's Queen Margrethe II has become a unifying figure for Danes, inspiring broad support for the monarchy at a time when royals across Europe sometimes struggle to stay relevant in modern society.

The queen, 83, who became the longest-serving monarch in Europe after Britain's Queen Elizabeth died in 2022, will pass the throne to her son, Frederik, on Sunday.

Nearly 80 percent of Danes support the monarchy, recent opinion polls show, compared with less than half when Margrethe took the throne in 1972.

Support for the queen has been most visible during the tours she made each summer around the country of 5.9 million people, when she spoke to ordinary people at length.



"I think the queen's popularity comes down to her ability to grasp her surroundings when she visits all the small towns, and also her immense knowledge of history and the country in general," said Annemette Nordkild, 55, a teacher.

Tore Leifer, editor at the Museum of National History in Denmark, said that Margrethe had been a shy and insecure teenager, who often seemed uncomfortable with her role as heir to the throne.

"She gradually grew into a very confident and strong person, a woman

who really is grounded in herself, who knows what she's doing and has created this role as a unifying symbol for the whole nation," he said.

Margrethe stunned the nation with her surprise announcement on New Year's Eve that she had decided to abdicate. In the past, she had said several times she would stay in the role for life. In an interview in 2022, she said: "There are things that don't have to change. Governments change, they should, they must, but the sovereign is there. Everything doesn't have to be different all of the time. You belong to your country. You belong to a whole nation."

The queen is often pictured in bright, flowery outfits, many of which she designed herself, including a long raincoat made out of a waxed tablecloth, with a yellow collar and a matching hat. This appeals in a design-conscious nation that also has

one of the oldest monarchies in the world.

"She isn't smart and modern in terms of being trendy; she has her own style with the red raincoats and floral raincoats, and I think that's extremely cool," said Lone Percy-Smith, 60, a professor.

Bucking modern trends, Margrethe was a long-time smoker and was often portrayed with a cigarette in hand in Danish pop culture. She had to quit ahead of back surgery in February 2023 - an operation that she said made her think about the need to pass the baton to the next generation.

The queen started drawing and painting at an early age, and has since worked on church textiles, graphics, book illustrations, decoupages, scenography and embroidery, many of which have been exhibited in Denmark and abroad.

Agencies

## China will take resolute and strong measures to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity

In recent years, with the rapid development of new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), 5G, and big data, autonomous driving has been increasingly applied in the transportation sector in China. From being tested in closed test fields and on designated roads, it is now being piloted and employed in commercial trial operations.

China's Ministry of Transport recently issued a trial safety guideline on the use of driverless vehicles in the public transportation sector. It marked the first time for China to state in a national policy that intelligent

## China hits fast-forward button for commercialisation of autonomous driving

connected vehicles can be used for commercial transportation, and is believed to accelerate the commercialization of self-driving technology across the country.

In recent years, the autonomous driving industry in China has experienced rapid growth, along with an expanding market. Currently, there are 17 national-level autonomous driving demonstration zones and 7 national-level pilot zones for intelligent connected vehicles across the country. These zones

have opened up over 22,000 kilometers of roads for testing, accumulating a total test mileage of over 70 million kilometers.

Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and some other cities have introduced policies allowing autonomous vehicles to engage in commercial trial operations in specific areas and during specific time periods, including urban public transportation, taxi services, and logistics delivery. The scale of application continues to expand in these cities.

It is reported that in Shunyi district of Beijing, the autonomous delivery vehicles of Meituan, a Chinese shopping platform for locally found consumer products and retail services, are delivering thousands of orders per day.

With an Apollo Go mobile application, passengers in Wuhan Economic and Technological Development Zone, central China's Hubei province, can hail a fully autonomous vehicle after a few taps on their phones to set their pick-up and drop-off loca-

tions in the app.

Once a destination is confirmed, the vehicle will drive according to the predetermined route. Equipped with fisheye cameras and laser sensors, the vehicle can accurately avoid obstacles and automatically adjust its speed based on traffic conditions.

Wuhan has launched 300 unmanned vehicles since it initiated the fully driverless robotaxi service in August 2022, which serves a population of over 4 million people.

Currently, there are over 200 autonomous city buses, more than 1,500 autonomous taxis, and approximately 1,000 autonomous trucks operating nationwide. Apollo autonomous driving, developed by Chinese tech giant Baidu, has accumulated a test mileage of over 78 million kilometers, providing transportation services in over 10 cities.

Continuously enhancing safety capabilities is the primary goal of transportation services and a fundamental requirement for the widespread application

of autonomous vehicles in the transportation sector. The concept of safety is consistently emphasized in the measures proposed by the guideline.

Overall, the guideline has established a safety assurance system from six aspects: safety production system, transportation safety protection, operational status information management, vehicle dynamic monitoring, safety notification, and emergency response. This provides regulatory compliance for autonomous vehicles to engage in road transportation operations safely. *People's Daily*



## 'We are fighting terrorists, and we are fighting lies'

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed South Africa over its genocide case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague during its war against Hamas in Gaza on Thursday.

"We are fighting terrorists, and we are fighting lies. Today, again, we saw an upside-down world in which the State of Israel is accused of genocide at a time when it is fighting genocide," Netanyahu said in a statement.

He said that Israel is fighting against "terrorists," as he referenced Hamas, and added that the group has committed horrific crimes against humanity since the October 7 assault.

Netanyahu said, "Israel is fighting against murderous terrorists who committed horrific crimes against humanity: they slaughtered, they raped, they burned, they dismembered, they beheaded—children, women, the elderly, young men and young women."

"A terrorist organisation carried out the worst crime against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, and now someone comes to defend it in the name of the Holocaust. What brazen gall! The world is upside down," he added, as he lambasted South Africa over its ICJ case.

The Israeli Prime Minister further questioned South Africa of its case when millions of people were being murdered and uprooted from their homes in Syria and Yemen.

In his statement, according to the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, delivers a political statement in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in Jerusalem, Israel, 30 May 2021. File photo

Israeli Prime Minister's office, Netanyahu said, "And the IDF, the most moral army in the world, which does everything to avoid harming non-combatants, stands accused - by the representatives of these monsters - of genocide. South Africa's hypocrisy screams to the high heavens."

"Where was South Africa when millions of people were being murdered and uprooted from their homes in Syria and Yemen, by whom? By Hamas's partners. The world is upside down. Where were you?" he questioned.

Netanyahu said that Israel "will continue to fight the terrorists" and also continue to refute the lies.

"We know where we are. We will continue to fight the terrorists. We will continue to refute the lies. We will continue to uphold our just right to defend ourselves and

to ensure our future - until total victory," Netanyahu said.

Proceedings began on Thursday in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, where Israel is being accused of committing "genocidal" acts during its war against Hamas in Gaza, The Times of Israel reported.

South Africa has lodged an urgent appeal to the ICJ to force Israel to "immediately suspend" its military operations in the Strip.

South Africa has based its accusation both on actions taken by Israel throughout the war and controversial comments made by Israeli officials regarding Palestinians in Gaza and how they should be treated.

At the ICJ, South Africa's Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said that Palestinians have suffered at the hands of Israel since 1948.

"The violence and the destruction in Palestine did not begin on October 7, they have experienced violence for the last 76 years," Lamola said, as per The Times of Israel.

"In the Gaza Strip since 2004 Israel exercises control over land crossings, civilian infrastructure. Entry and exit to Gaza is strictly prohibited, with Israel operating the only entry points," he said.

"Gaza is still considered to be under occupation by international law," he said.

He further said: "South Africa unilaterally condemned the targeting of civilians by Hamas and taking of hostages on October 7, 2023. That said, no attack, however serious, can justify breaches to the convention whether as a matter of law or morality."

"Israel has crossed this line, and breached the [genocide] convention," he said. "This is why South Africa has filed this case."

The Israel-Hamas war began following the October 7 Hamas terror onslaught in which some 1,200 people in Israel were killed and approximately 240 kidnapped and held hostage in Gaza, mainly civilians.

An attorney for South Africa puts forward the accusation that Israel is committing "acts of genocide" during its war against the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip.

"South Africa contends that Israel has transgressed Article II of the convention, by actions which show a systematic pattern of conduct from which genocide can be inferred," said Adila Hassim, as per The Times of Israel. **ANI**

## Israel, Germany continue cooperation on new energy development

TEL AVIV

GERMANY'S Vice Chancellor and Minister of Economy and Climate Protection Robert Habeck and Israel's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Eli Cohen met on Thursday at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in Jerusalem.

During the meeting, the two agreed on the continuation of the joint work plan between the two countries on developing new sources of energy, which, among other things, emphasizes Israel's needs that arose during the war, such as protection of energy infrastructures, energy efficiency, expansion of existing infrastructures, and more.

In addition, they agreed on joint projects in the field of hydrogen and the promotion of renewable energy projects in Israel in cooperation with German companies. This is a continuation of the agreement signed last year.

The two ministers also discussed the warm relations between their countries and joint projects within the framework of the joint work plan, which was adjusted in recent months to meet Israel's needs that arose in the wake of the war in Gaza and the reconstruction to come of the Takuma area (surrounding Gaza).

The cooperation between Israel and Germany was signed for the first time as part of the UN's global climate conference, the COP27 summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2022.

As part of the program, the countries pledged to cooperate with the aim of promoting reliable and sustainable energy, while promoting projects to reduce emissions Greenhouse gases and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

ANI

## Russia strongly condemns US, UK strikes on facilities in Yemen – diplomat

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S position on the Red Sea in the UN Security Council was only a pretext for escalation in the region, Russia condemns the US and UK strikes on facilities in Yemen, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing.



"We are concerned that the US position in the UN Security Council on the Red Sea is just a pretext for further escalation of tensions in the region. We strongly condemn these irresponsible actions of the US and its allies," the diplomat said.

According to Zakharova (pictured), a large-scale military escalation in the Red Sea region could reverse the positive trends that have recently emerged in the Yemeni settlement process, as well as "provoke destabilization of the situation in the entire Middle East region."

### Dangerous adventures

"As we warned, in order to justify their aggression, the Anglo-Saxons are trying to use the UN Security Council Resolution 2722, adopted the day before, under the pretext of ensuring the safety of navigation in the Red Sea. The Americans have been using such absolutely unscrupulous and illegal methods for a long time," the spokeswoman said. "We call on the international community to strongly condemn the attack on Yemen by a group of countries without a United Nations mandate," she emphasized.

According to the diplomat, the Russian side shares the concerns expressed by its regional partners, in particular Saudi Arabia, and calls for "intensification of international efforts to prevent further escalation of the situation."

"We assume that this adventure of the illegal coalition forces poses a direct threat to global peace and security. Guided by this understanding, we have demanded the urgent convening of a meeting of the UN Security Council, where we will voice our principled assessments of these illegal actions," Zakharova concluded.

### On the US and UK strikes

In the early morning hours of Friday, UK and US forces attacked Houthi targets in a number of Yemeni cities, including Dhamar, Saada, Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeidah, using aircraft, ships and submarines.

US President Joe Biden said that the strike on Yemen was ordered in response to "unprecedented Houthi attacks" in the Red Sea and that the strikes targeting Houthi munitions depots, launching systems, production facilities, and air defense radar systems were delivered "in self-defense." US officials said that the strikes targeted rebel missile, drone and radar sites. **Agencies**

## WHO sees 'incredibly low' flu, COVID shot rates as cases surge

LONDON/CHICAGO

LOW vaccination rates against the latest versions of COVID-19 and influenza are putting pressure on health-care systems this winter, leading public health officials told Reuters.

In the United States, several European countries, and other parts of the world, there have been reports of rising hospitalizations linked to respiratory infections in recent weeks. Death rates have also ticked up among older adults in some regions, but far below the COVID pandemic peak.

Spain's government has reinstated mask-wearing requirements at healthcare facilities, as have some US hospital networks.

"Too many people are in need of serious medical care for flu, for COVID, when we can prevent it," said Maria Van Kerkhove, the World Health Organization's interim director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness.

She cited "incredibly low" vaccination rates against flu and COVID in many countries this season, as the world tries to move past the pandemic and its restrictions.

Governments have struggled to communicate the risks still posed by COVID and the benefits of vaccination since a glob-

al public health emergency was declared over in May 2023, infectious disease experts and health officials said.

Only 19.4 percent of US adults have received this season's COVID vaccine based on the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's National Immunization Survey, despite a recommendation that all adults get an updated shot to protect against serious illness.

That compares roughly with 17 percent of adults who got the bivalent booster in the 2022-2023 season, based on actual vaccine data reported to the CDC by states.

Nearly half of US adults over 18 got a flu shot this season (44.9 percent), roughly the same as last year (44 percent), according to the CDC.

"We don't think enough people have gotten the updated COVID vaccine," CDC director Mandy Cohen said in an interview. "Folks still aren't understanding that COVID is still a more severe disease than flu."

### Vaccine fatigue

Flu represented 5.2 percent of US emergency visits compared with 3 percent for COVID in the week ended Dec 30. Yet COVID accounted for 10.5 out of 100,000 hospitalizations in that time, compared with 6.1 per 100,000 for flu.



A health worker injects a man with a shot of the Inavac vaccine for COVID-19 at the Jakarta provincial health office on Dec 19, 2023, during a vaccination campaign. AFP

Most of the updated shots being used in the US and European Union are made by Pfizer with German partner BioNTech, or Moderna.

In Europe, flu is circulating at a higher rate than COVID, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said. In total, 24 percent of a representative sample of tests came back positive in the last week of 2023, up from 19 percent a fortnight earlier.

The rates are in line with previous flu seasons, said ECDC's respiratory virus expert Edoardo Colzani. But "now we have COVID-19 as a new, unwanted guest," he said.

The ECDC did not have vac-

cination rates for the continent for flu or COVID, but Colzani said early data showed COVID vaccine uptake well below pandemic levels.

In Europe, the new COVID shots are recommended for high-risk groups only, such as seniors and the immunocompromised. Among these groups, the WHO says there should be 100 percent coverage. COVID rates are also rising in the southern hemisphere during their summer, the WHO said, because it is not yet a seasonal virus.

Last month, 850,000 new COVID cases and 118,000 new hospitalizations were reported globally, a rise from Novem-

ber of 52 percent and 23 percent, respectively, according to WHO, which added that actual figures were likely higher.

The vaccines are still very effective at preventing serious illness, even if they do not block infection, experts said.

A recent study in the Lancet Infectious Diseases journal from the Karolinska Institutet and Danderyd Hospital in Sweden found the updated vaccine, which targets the XBB.1.5 coronavirus variant, reduced the risk of COVID hospitalization by 76.1 percent in people affected by more recent variants, based on public health records from adults over 65 years old.

This year's flu shots, made by a range of manufacturers, are estimated to reduce hospitalization risk by 52 percent.

But "fatigue for COVID vaccination" is hampering uptake, Colzani said. In Italy, for example, 8.6 percent of the eligible population have had their third COVID booster after the initial vaccination series, Ministry of Health data from Jan 7 showed.

The data for flu is not yet available, but a study by Federfarma, the association of Italian pharmacies, said 15 percent of Italians had been vaccinated against flu this autumn, compared to just over 20 percent last season.

Agencies

## RCEP creates new opportunities for regional economic development

RECENTLY, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) celebrated the second anniversary of its entry into force. As a milestone achievement in the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region, the RCEP serves as a vivid example of regional countries sharing development opportunities.

Over the past two years, regional trade costs have significantly decreased, and the industrial and supply chains have become more closely linked, benefiting an expanding range of people.

The RCEP has continued to drive the deepening of regional economic and trade cooperation, injecting strong momentum into the region's economic integration and development.

The RCEP encompasses various aspects of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, with a key focus on tariff reduction and elimination. Over 90 percent of goods traded within the region will gradually enjoy zero tariffs.

PT Sany Perkasa is a joint venture between China's leading heavy-equipment manufacturer Sany Heavy Industry and an Indonesian company. It sells large machinery such as excavators and wheel loaders in Indonesia.

Zhang Zhaoqiang, general manager

of PT Sany Perkasa, noted that after the implementation of the RCEP, the tariffs on wide-body trucks and dump trucks from China were reduced from 10 percent to zero.

"With the decrease in costs, our products have gained more competitiveness, allowing us to provide greater benefits to our customers," Zhang told People's Daily.

The total population, sum of gross domestic product and trade in goods of RCEP member countries all account for about 30 percent of the global share.

Chinese Ambassador to ASEAN Hou Yanqi noted that through unified tariff commitments, rules of origin, trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and other trade rules, the RCEP has maximized the integration of the 27 trade arrangements and 44 investment agreements of its regional members. This effectively promotes the development of the multilateral trading system and brings tangible benefits to the participating parties, Hou added.

According to a report issued by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in September, 2023, the RCEP has played a significant role in promoting regional trade cooperation.



A Thai merchant sells products at the third RCEP (Shandong) Import Expo in Linyi, east China's Shandong province, Aug. 18, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Sun Lei)

As of June 2023, the issuance volume of certificates of origin under the RCEP framework registered in China increased by over 25 percent year-on-year, significantly higher than the growth rate of international trade in the same period.

According to a report by Thai newspaper The Universal Daily News, the trade volume between Thailand and other RCEP members reached \$327.28 billion in 2022, accounting for 55.45 percent of Thailand's total foreign trade.

Cambodia has also released encouraging data. From January to November 2023, Cambodia's trade volume with other RCEP members exceeded \$26.5 billion, representing 61 percent of the country's total trade. The value of goods exported from Cambodia to other RCEP members increased by 27.29 percent from a year ago.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said that facing uncertainties in global development, the RCEP holds significant importance in boosting countries' confidence in the multilateral trading system, promoting economic recovery, and

achieving mutual benefits and win-win outcomes.

China was the first to complete the ratification process and submit its RCEP ratification document. It has implemented RCEP rules with high quality, fully delivered on its opening commitments and obligations under the agreement, and continuously pushed for tariff reductions and exemptions.

Upholding the vision of open development, China has promoted the high-quality implementation of RCEP.

"As the largest economy in the RCEP, China has benefited from its entry into force, and has also been an important contributor to RCEP cooperation," said Yuan Bo, director of the Institute of Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce.

"China has played a positive role in promoting regional trade, investment and economic growth," she noted.

Since the implementation of the RCEP two years ago, China's trade in intermediate goods with other RCEP member countries has remained at a high level of 8 trillion yuan (\$1.2 trillion).

Statistics show that in 2022, China's

imports and exports with other RCEP member countries increased by 7.5 percent year-on-year. In the first 11 months of 2023, China's trade in intermediate goods with Cambodia and Laos reached 65.78 billion yuan and 29.55 billion yuan, respectively, up 2.4 percent and 35.8 percent from a year ago.

Immanuel Lingga, a senior official with Indonesia's Ministry of Trade, believed that China's implementation of the RCEP will enhance the resilience of regional and global value chains, given China's crucial position in the global value chain. The official said this will contribute to the steady progress of the regional economy.

Thanks to the customs clearance facilitation brought by the RCEP, in the first 11 months of 2023, China's imports of fresh durians from RCEP member countries such as Thailand and Vietnam totaled 46.61 billion yuan, which was 1.7 times that of the whole-year figure of 2021 before the agreement took effect. The continuous growth of China's trade in agricultural products with ASEAN is a reflection of the positive effects of tariff reduction and trade facilitation measures covered by the RCEP.

People's Daily





Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Almasi Kasongo.

## TPLB top official breaks ice on VAR installation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Almasi Kasongo has confirmed that there will be the installation of a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in Dar es Salaam this year.

The board aims to improve refereeing in the country's leagues, as referees are lately entirely dependent on their eyes to make decisions during matches.

There have been various incidents that have prompted fans to complain about referees' decisions due to lack of the VAR and goal-line technology.

Kasongo disclosed: "To be honest, letting the referee interpret football laws within six seconds using his eyes - giving him/her no chance to have a second chance of looking at the controversial scenario before making the final decision - is very difficult."

The TPLB official stated: "Our colleagues in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world are no longer fully dependent on referees' eyes and, instead, they use VAR which intervenes whenever a decision made requires to be re-checked."

"The good news for us is that will not end this year without having a VAR installed at Benjamin Mkapa

Stadium in Dar es Salaam, courtesy of support we have received from the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF)," he said.

The 60,000-capacity arena is currently the biggest stadium in the country and is among the venues picked to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals to be jointly staged by Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

The stadium is undergoing refurbishment hence the reason it has been exempted from hosting NBC Premier League matches, a decision which was declared recently by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports.

The first phase of the stadium's renovation was done in readiness for the Africa Football League (AFL) inaugural ceremony and the show-down's opening match involving Simba SC (Tanzania) against Al Ahly (Egypt) played on October 20 last year.

Meanwhile, the government already announced the construction of two new stadiums in Dodoma and Arusha respectively.

Completion of the two venues will positively transform the country's football infrastructure landscape thereby enabling the country to stand a good chance of hosting high profile tournaments.

## Simba SC confirm four departures, two new signings

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has confirmed that it will introduce two players before the mini-transfer window closes whilst parting ways with the outfit's four other players this month.

The Msimbazi Street outfit has already completed the signing of midfielder Babacar Sarr as a free agent after he left US Monastir.

The Senegalese midfielder has been brought in alongside midfielder Ladack Chasambi from Mtibwa Sugar and Salehe Karabaka from JKU SC of Zanzibar as Simba SC prepares its squad for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage and 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

Media and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, disclosed the players that Simba SC has offloaded and have already left the squad's camp in Zanzibar, as it prepares for the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final, are Mohamed Mussa, Ahmed Feruzi, Shaban Chilunda, and Jimson Mwanuke.

Midfielder Nassor Kapama left Simba SC whilst serving the suspension he was slapped with by the club's leadership because of misconduct.

Ally pointed out Simba SC is negotiating with the players on how to mutually part ways as they have already arrived in Dar es Salaam to terminate their contracts.

The official noted: "It is true that Simba SC has parted with four players - Feruzi, Mwanuke, Chilunda, and Mussa - as a continuation of squad improvement as well as looking at the

prospects of the players mentioned to protect their standards by giving them chance to play elsewhere."

"We are also looking to announce the last two players in this window to strengthen our squad, we have had a difficult time in the Premier League and the Champions League, and we want to make sure we go to the quarter-finals with the best squad but first is winning by have major preparations," Media and Communication Manager revealed.

Simba SC Board of Directors Chairman Salim Abdallah, alias "Try Again", confirmed Ally's statement is correct, insisting it is the continuation of providing the head coach with his needs.

He noted: "We will continue to strengthen our squad during the mini-transfer window by continuing to improve some areas that the coach has suggested we should improve."

"We will thus continue to register new players who will come to improve our squad during the mini-transfer window after receiving the head coach's registration report," the official said.

"Let me assure Simba SC's fans that all players we will sign are bound to be a threat to opposing clubs and they are coming to make Simba SC strong," Salim noted.

Simba SC will on Saturday take on Mlandege FC in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final slated to take place at New Amana Complex as the former is in search of the club's fifth silverware.

## CRDB Bank's customers leave for Ivory Coast to watch 2023 AFCON

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR customers of the CRDB Bank, including the South Morogoro MP Hamisi Shaban Taletale, have left for Ivory Coast to watch the 2023 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals which kick off today.

The four had won two of three draws of the institution's 'Tisha na Tembocard Tukakiwashe AFCON' campaign, slated to be held until the end of this month.

The campaign that encourages the use of cards in making payments is implemented by CRDB Bank in collaboration with the Visa Company.

Apart from the MP, other customers who flew to the Ivory Coast are Evelyne Gasper Rwebugisa, Josephine William Marealle, and Dickson Christian Kabaka from Dar es Salaam.

Farid Seif, CRDB Bank's Head of Card Business, said that for many years the largest financial institution in the country has been leading in providing solutions to the challenges in banking services by designing a way to reach people and meet their needs in time.

Seif revealed: "Today we're saying goodbye to four customers, so we are left with four more positions for customers who will use their cards to make many transactions - starting from paying for either services or products they buy online, supermarkets, gas stations or any other way."

"CRDB Bank has seen the need to give its customers a chance to join the big football family in Africa," he said.

He said that football is one of the most popular sports in the country and the world at large and AFCON is the biggest championship in Africa, so CRDB Bank thought it would be



CRDB Bank's Head of the Private Customer Department Stephen Adili (L) is pictured handing over a sample of a ticket for a trip to Ivory Coast to some of the winners of the 'Tisha na Tembocard Tukakiwashe AFCON' campaign at a farewell ceremony held at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Looking on is the bank's Senior Manager of Card Business, Karington Chaha (R). PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

good to offer its customers a few opportunities to witness some of the matches between countries that have qualified for the showdown.

"We've different types of partners, local and foreign, that's why it is easy for us to share international affairs," he noted.

"Millions of customers we serve every day deserve the best there is in the financial sector, they will get it from CRDB Bank," Seif added.

Taletale praised CRDB Bank for offering its customers the opportunity and advised the information ought to reach more Tanzanians so that everyone can try his/her luck.

"I am very happy to get this opportunity and I would like to see more Tanzanians benefit from it,"

Taletale disclosed. In the first draw played at the beginning of December 2023, which secured the winner of the ticket for a trip to watch the 2023 AFCON, Fatima Mwatime Nundu from Tanga won furniture including a sofa set and tables worth 8m/-. Marion Albert Casari laid his hands on a set of electronic devices including a TV, a fridge, and a sound bar in the second draw.

In the third draw, the bank expects to announce four winners, who will go to Ivory Coast to watch the 2023 AFCON finals, one winner for indoor furniture and another for electronic equipment.

CRDB Bank is transporting the winners a day after presenting 102.2m/- to empower Taifa Stars in a

fundraising campaign held in Dar es Salaam. The fundraising campaign was led by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

The occasion saw Fredrick Nshakanabo, CRDB Bank's Acting Executive Director, promise to donate 100m/- to fund the country's national teams of football, netball, and other sports so that they effectively participate in international showdowns.

He moreover promised to hand over 2.2m/- to buy a jersey used by Taifa Stars that qualified for the AFCON showdown that took place in Nigeria in 1980. The bank bought the jersey bearing the name of the former Taifa Stars midfielder, Juma Mkambi.



India's High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan (C), Athletics Tanzania (AT) vice president William Kalaghe (L), and famous Indian athlete Milind Soman are pictured holding special jerseys used in this year's Tanzania-India Friendly Marathon that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Nafasi Art Space hosts Human Rights exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM's contemporary art center, Nafasi Art Space, has opened the 2024 season with the Human Rights exhibition by Tanzanian visual artist, Annah Nkyalu.

The center revealed in a recent statement that one of Anna's artworks is 'I Am Okay (Not)', the 59.4 x 89 cm piece. She has used ballpoint pen and fabric on paper to create the artwork.

The center revealed in the statement: "The Human Rights exhibition continues to reverberate through our halls to the exciting revelation of new emerging artists waiting to unfold at our Academy 2024."

Anna's work, it said, serves as a compelling voice for social change. Through her figurative approach us-

ing ink, acrylic paints, charcoal, and pastels, she unveils the strengths and weaknesses of society.

The statement noted: "As a member of Nafasi Art Space and the Vijana Vipaji Foundation, her art has reached international platforms with exhibitions in Tanzania, Uganda, and Germany."

Drawing attention from media outlets, including UN News, Anna's art has earned her recognition as the best young upcoming artist in Tanzania, winning two prestigious awards.

Her ultimate dream is to provoke minds and catalyze change through her art, aiming to make a tangible difference in people's lives by sparking conversations and awakening societal consciousness.

Meanwhile, the center congratu-

lates and highlights the outstanding accomplishments of the 2023 Feel Free grantees, Ndoto ya Kalista, and Rebuilding Futures projects.

These initiatives, the center said, have achieved significant milestones by December 2023, reflecting the commitment and dedication poured into their projects.

The Ndoto Ya Kalista project marked its second phase with a culmination of workshops and a final event in Tanga.

Led by Scholastica, the unique showcase harnesses the artistry of cake decoration to spark meaningful conversations about the realities and aspirations of single mothers.

It is a creative platform that beautifully captures and shares their stories.

Furthermore, Refix TZ presented

its culminating works as part of the Rebuilding Futures program.

This program was designed to empower incarcerated individuals through skill development and training the workshop took place with participants from the Luanda Prison Mbeya.

The showcased projects exemplify the profound impact of art in instilling hope and reconstructing lives.

It noted: "We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of these impactful endeavours."

Nafasi Art Space pointed out: "Together, let us anticipate and support more innovative and transformative projects on the horizon as we continue championing and empowering creatives in the year ahead."





MOHAMED SALAH

## Five forwards to follow at the Africa Cup of Nations

ABIDJAN

THE 2024 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast starts on Saturday and runs until February 11. Some of the biggest names in world football will feature at the tournament, and AFP Sport picks out five goal-scorers to follow:

### MOHAMED SALAH (Egypt)

The 31-year-old Liverpool forward is a superstar of the English Premier League and a sporting icon across the Arab world. He is the joint top scorer in the Premier League this season with 14 goals, helping take Liverpool to the top of the table. The danger for Jürgen Klopp's team is that their title challenge could be blown off course as they would lose Salah for four league games if he goes all the way at the AFCON with Egypt.

That though is the aim for Salah, who made his international debut in 2011, a year after Egypt won the last of their record seven Cup of Nations crowns. He played in the teams that lost the AFCON finals in 2017, to Cameroon, and in 2022 to Senegal, and will be hoping this year to take the extra step.

"I am so happy to play in this wonderful African football tournament and my teammates and I are desperate to succeed," Salah, who has scored twice at each of his three previous AFCON tournaments, said recently.

### VICTOR OSIMHEN (Nigeria)

Osimhen leads Nigeria into the AFCON fresh from being named the African player of the year off the back of his brilliant form in Napoli's run to the Serie A title.

He scored 26 goals for Napoli last season but has struggled in comparison in this campaign, netting only eight times. However, he has just signed a new contract at his club and will be eager to make up for lost time at the Cup of Nations.

Osimhen hardly featured as Nigeria finished third at the 2019 tournament and sat out the last edition two years ago due to a combination of a facial injury and an untimely bout of Covid.

However, there will be no Victor Boniface to take on the attacking burden off Osimhen after the Bayer Leverkusen striker withdrew injured this week.

### SADIO MANE (Senegal)

Mane was the hero as Senegal shook off years of underachievement to win the Cup of Nations for the first time in 2022, scoring the winning penalty in the shoot-out against Egypt in Yaounde.

The two-time former African footballer of the year was the runner-up for the Ballon d'Or in 2022 but there might be concerns his career has gone backwards to some extent since then.

Injury ruled him out of the World Cup in Qatar, and he then left Bayern Munich after just one season to join Al Nassr in the Saudi Pro League. Does that mean that, now aged 31, he might have lost some of his edge since leaving Europe? Senegal fans will hope not. He is still averaging almost a goal every second game for his club, where he plays alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, and is key to his country's chances of retaining their continental crown.

### SERHOU GUIRASSY (Guinea)

Guinea are ranked only 15th in Africa, have made little impact on the latter stages of recent AFCON tournaments, and face a fight just to get out of a group containing Senegal, Cameroon and Gambia. Yet they do boast a player who has been a sensation in the German Bundesliga this season in Guirassy, the 27-year-old French-born striker.

The former France Under-20 international had averaged a very respectable 10 league goals a season over the last three years at Rennes and then VfB Stuttgart but his form with the latter in this campaign has been remarkable.

Guirassy has 19 goals in 16 games in all competitions for his club, including two hat-tricks, to help Stuttgart up to third in the table. Only Harry Kane of Bayern Munich has scored more Bundesliga goals. Now it remains to be seen if he can transfer his club form to the international stage, where his record so far with Guinea is modest.

### YOUSSEF EN-NESYRI (Morocco)

Morocco are one of the big favourites off the back of their run to the semi-finals of the 2022 World Cup, the best-ever performance by an African nation. Their star player is a full-back, Achraf Hakimi of Paris Saint-Germain, but they need a striker to deliver the goods too and that is where En-Nesyri comes in.

The 26-year-old Sevilla centre-forward has nine goals for his struggling club this season and was a hero for the Atlas Lions at the World Cup in Qatar, netting two goals including the winner against Portugal in the quarter-finals. He warmed up for the AFCON by bagging a brace in a friendly against Sierra Leone this week, which augurs well for the tournament.

AFP

# Mane's Senegal defend title as Ivory Coast hosts Cup of Nations

ABIDJAN

THE Africa Cup of Nations kicks off today in Ivory Coast with the host nation and Mohamed Salah's Egypt among the leading contenders to succeed the Senegal of Sadio Mane as continental champions.

The 24-team tournament, which concludes with the final on February 11, is the first in the West African country in four decades, since just eight nations featured in the 1984 edition won by Roger Milla's Cameroon.

Senegal are defending the title they won in Cameroon in 2022, but a strong field also features Morocco and a Nigeria side spearheaded by African footballer of the year Victor Osimhen.

The tournament opens with the Group A meeting of the hosts and Guinea-Bissau at the Alassane Ouattara Stadium at Ebimpe, on the outskirts of the economic capital Abidjan.

The 60,000-seat stadium was built for a tournament initially supposed to be played in June and July last year to avoid a clash with the middle of the season in Europe, where so many top African players are based.

However, fears over staging it during the rainy season led to it being pushed back to its more traditional January and February slot.

Matches will be staged in six stadiums, with two venues in Abidjan, including at Ebimpe, which will host the final.

Games will also be played in the capital Yamoussoukro and neighbouring Bouake, as well as in San Pedro on the coast and in



The Africa Cup of Nations official mascot appears on a bus stop in Abidjan. Agencies

Korhogo, in the north near the frontiers with Mali and Burkina Faso.

It is the first AFCON in West Africa since Ghana in 2008, and \$1.5 billion has been invested by the Ivorian government.

"Let's all mobilise to make this AFCON a great celebration of youth, Ivorian hospitality and African brotherhood," said President Ouattara in his New Year's speech.

Authorities will be hoping to avoid anything like the event that overshadowed the last AFCON in Cameroon, where eight

people were killed in a crush and stampede outside Yaounde's Olembe Stadium.

Locals are also hoping that their team, the Elephants, can go all the way and claim a third title.

- Salah leads Egypt -

The most recognisable face in their squad is Borussia Dortmund striker Sebastien Haller, who appears regularly on billboards lining Abidjan's traffic-choked streets.

As they aim to retain their crown despite stiff competition, Senegal will again lean heavily

on Mane, the former Liverpool forward now playing in Saudi Arabia for Al Nassr.

"I cannot recall a stronger field. All the giants are going to be in Ivory Coast and all of them will be plotting to dethrone us," Mane, now 31, said recently.

Senegal are in Group C with Cameroon, Gambia and the Guinea of Serhou Guirassy, prolific in the German Bundesliga with Stuttgart and reportedly fine after an injury scare this week.

Egypt boast the biggest star of all in Salah as they target a

record-extending eighth title to banish the memory of defeats in the 2017 and 2022 finals.

That is what Egyptians are dreaming of, although fans of his club, Liverpool, will hope he returns early as they chase the English Premier League title.

Egypt should have few serious problems getting out of a group also featuring Ghana, Cape Verde and Mozambique.

- Can Morocco live up to billing? - Morocco are hoping to live up to their billing after becoming the first African nation ever to reach the semi-finals at a World Cup, just over a year ago in Qatar.

"I want to at least get to the semi-finals," coach Walid Regragui told local television channel Arryadia, as Morocco aim to win a second AFCON and first since 1976.

They are in Group F with DR Congo, Zambia and a Tanzania side who have never won a game at the tournament.

Morocco's biggest star is Achraf Hakimi, the Paris Saint-Germain right-back who was runner-up to Osimhen for the 2023 African footballer of the year.

The presence of Napoli striker Osimhen gives Nigerians hope their team can go far but they have been dealt a blow with the loss of Bayer Leverkusen forward Victor Boniface to injury.

The Super Eagles will play the hosts as well as Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau in Group A.

Winners in 2019, Algeria are in Group D with Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Angola.

South Africa are back after missing the last edition, and their team leans heavily on the country's leading club side, Mamelodi Sundowns.

They meet Tunisia, Mali and Namibia in Group E.

AFP

## Africa Cup of Nations: Things to know before 2024 kick-off

ABIDJAN

THINGS to know about the Africa Cup of Nations before the 2024 tournament kicks off today with a Group A clash between hosts Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau:

Ivory Coast are staging the biggest African sport event a second time with Cameroon winning there in 1984. Nigeria finished second and Algeria third.

... The 1984 edition comprised eight countries and lasted 15 days -- 40 years later the number of participants has trebled to 24.

... Ivory Coast flopped when they first hosted the tournament with a victory over Togo followed by losses to Egypt and Cameroon and elimination after the group stage.

... The 2024 tournament will comprise 52 matches over 30 days -- 36 across six groups and 16 in the knockout phase.

... Commercial capital Abidjan will host 20 matches in two stadiums, Bouake nine, San Pedro and Yamoussoukro eight each and Korhogo seven.

... The opening match between Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau and the February 11 final are among 10 fixtures set for the new 60,000-seat Alassane Ouattara stadium in Abidjan.

... Stadiums with 20,000 capacities were built in Korhogo, San Pedro and the capital, Yamoussoukro, for the Cup of Nations.

...



Hosts Ivory Coast are among the favourites to win the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations. Agencies

The 40,000-seat ground in Bouake and the second in Abidjan, the 30,000-capacity Felix Houphouët-Boigny stadium, were renovated for the biennial tournament.

... Should teams finish level on points in a mini-league, head-to-head records will be the first tie-breaker, followed by goal difference then goals scored in all group matches.

... If teams are still inseparable, lots will be drawn to determine final placings. This last occurred in 2015 with Guinea advancing to the quarter-finals at the expense of Mali.

... VAR will be used in all 52

matches with 12 officials selected to monitor matches. There will also be 26 referees and 30 assistant referees at the tournament.

... In the knockout phase, drawn matches will go to extra time, then a penalty shoot-out if necessary to determine winners.

Matches decided by penalties are officially classified as draws.

... The first knockout stage -- the round of 16 -- will consist of the six group winners, six group runners-up and the four highest ranked third-placed teams.

... The following tie-breakers will be used to choose the best four third-placed teams: match points, goal difference then goals scored in all group matches, drawing of lots.

... Qualifiers were permitted squads of up to 27 players. However, only 23 -- 11 starters and 12 substitutes -- can be chosen for matches.

... A record seven million dollars (6.4 mn euros) goes to the winners -- a 40 per cent increase from the last tournament won by Senegal in 2022. The runners-up pocket four million dollars.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Simba SC aims for fifth Mapinduzi Cup tournament top honour



Simba SC winger Willy Onana (C) dribbles past Singida Fountain Gate FC's right-back Kelvin Kijili (L) and midfielder Yusuph Kagoma when the two outfits locked horns in a 2024 Mapinduzi Cup last-four tie that took place in Zanzibar on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE stage is set for a thrilling encounter as Mlandege FC of Zanzibar and the giant Simba SC lock horns in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar today.

Zanzibar President, Hussein Mwinyi, is expected to grace the occasion as the official guest, with the clash scheduled to kick off at 8:15 pm.

Both teams reached the final through dramatic penalty shootouts. Defending champion Mlandege FC edged out Rwanda's APR FC 4-2 after a goalless draw in the semi-final.

Simba SC overcame Singida Fountain Gate FC 3-2 on penalties following a 1-1 stalemate in the semi-final.

However, controversy surrounds the semi-final decisions. APR FC was denied a seemingly legitimate goal, while Simba SC benefited from a dubious call,

having been awarded a corner kick during the added-on time. These incidents add a layer of intrigue to the final.

As for Mlandege FC, this is the squad's second consecutive final appearance, a record for both the club and Zanzibar teams in the Mapinduzi Cup.

The Isles outfit is aiming to defend the silverware and cement the squad's place in the competition's history.

Meanwhile, Simba SC seeks its fifth Mapinduzi Cup title to catch up with Azam FC, the current record holder with five trophies.

Simba SC's journey to the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final in-

cluded eight previous appearances, four of which resulted in victories.

Azam FC has won the Mapinduzi Cup a record five times, while Simba SC has lifted it four times, Mtibwa Sugar and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, twice.

Zanzibar's Mlandege FC, Jamhuri, MKKM SC, Zanzibar Police, Mafunzo FC, Miembeni FC, and Malindi SC each lifted the title once while Uganda's sides KCCA FC, and URA FC have also lifted the trophy once.

Records show that Simba SC played the outfit's first final in 2008, in the second season of the competition,

when the squad met Mtibwa Sugar and beat them 1-0 to win the title left open by their rivals Yanga, who had won it in the first season, having also defeated Mtibwa 2-1.

Yanga's goals were scored by central defender Salum Swedi 'Kussi' in the 18th minute and forward Gulla Joshua who scored in the 60th minute, while winger Abubakar Mkwangwa scored a consolation goal for Mtibwa Sugar in the 72nd minute.

The second final for Simba SC in 2011 was against their traditional rivals, Yanga, and they won 2-1 before reaching another six in a row, losing 1-0 to KCCA FC of Uganda in 2014

before beating the latter.

From 2019 to 2021, they lost three finals they entered, losing again to Azam FC (2-1), then 1-0 to Mtibwa Sugar (2020), and losing on penalties in 2021 when they faced Yanga.

In 2022, Simba SC bounced back by beating Azam FC 1-0 from a penalty kick scored by Meddie Kagere, and today they meet Mlandege for the first time in a match of its kind due to the record between the two teams when they met in the Mapinduzi Cup.

Simba SC has never lost to Mlandege FC in the Mapinduzi Cup, and the two clubs' last meeting in the showpiece ended in a 1-1 draw.

However, Mlandege FC is known for the outfit's unpredictability, having shocked everyone by winning the title having overcome Singida Big Stars FC last year.

Beyond the team rivalry, the final also features individual battles for awards. Kenyan striker Elvis Rupia of Singida Fountain Gate FC, despite his team's elimination, has a chance to snatch the Top Goal Scorer award with his impressive five goals.

The Best Player award is another hotly contested category. Only three players have won the Player of the Match prize twice throughout the tournament - Alassane Diaw of Azam FC, Fabrice Ngoma of Simba SC, and KVZ FC keeper Salum Abdallah Salum.

With so much at stake, expect a fiery encounter as Mlandege FC and Simba SC fight for glory in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final.



Simba SC's assistant coach Selemani Matola.

## Matola: Simba SC ought to settle for disciplined pattern versus Mlandege FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's assistant coach Selemani Matola has called for discipline among his coaches ahead of today's 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final against Mlandege FC at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

The Msimbazi Street side advanced to the final after a late comeback against Singida Fountain Gate FC to force a 1-1 draw in 90 minutes of the semi-final hence taking the clash to a penalty shootout - which culminated in a 3-2 victory for Simba SC.

Matola said they have to be cautious against Mlandege FC, which also sailed to the final through penalty shootouts after being held with APR FC to a 1-1 draw after the completion of 90 minutes. In the penalty shootout, Mlandege FC won 4-2.

Matola pointed out: "It will be a difficult match, our players have to be disciplined for them for us to win this match."

"Mlandege FC has shown that they are tram to beat in the competition and that is something that we have to stay focused on," the former Simba SC midfielder revealed.

The tactician noted: "All players understand the magnitude of this game, we want to be champions of Mapinduzi Cup and that has to be done with collectiveness in attack and defending and staying focused for all night minutes."

Asked about Mlandege FC's journey to the final and how effective the squad is in a penalty shootout, Matola said: "We want to compete in 90 minutes and get good results because in finals it's only one game that determines everything, we said we are tactically ready to achieve this triumph."

Simba SC shot-stopper Ally Salim also said they are ready to compete and complete the mission in the tournament that they began on January 1.

The shot-stopper said: "We are all set and ready to achieve by winning this cup, we have worked hard and we showed why we deserve to be here."

"Tomorrow (today) is a different game, different approach, and mentally because it's a final, but we want to finish this feat in 90 minutes," the goalie noted.

Asked if he would like to face penalties in the final, Salim pointed out: "We know our prowess, our ability and we will do anything to win this match and any phase of the game."

Albeit goalkeeper's rotation in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, Salim is expected to return in the goal after Moroccan goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred picked an injury during training.

This year's winner of the Mapinduzi Cup will take home 100m/- and the runners-up will earn 70m/- to climax the commemoration of the 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution anniversary.

## ZFF Referees Committee defends 2024 Mapinduzi Cup semis' referee

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) Referees Committee Chairman Waziri Shekha has defended referee Nasri Salum after the match official issued a controversial call during the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup last-four encounter pitting Simba SC against Singida Fountain Gate FC.

The referee awarded Simba SC a controversial corner kick during the semi-final clash held in Zanzibar last Wednesday which ended with Simba SC cruising to a 3-2 victory over Singida Fountain Gate FC in penalty shootout.

Simba SC's midfielder Saidi Ntibazonkiza attempted to whip in a cross whilst under pressure from Singida Fountain Gate FC defender, Kelvin Kijili, and the ball went out of play.

Salum, to the dismay of some Singida Fountain Gate FC players, made a call for a corner kick to Simba SC that led to an equalizer registered by midfielder Fabrice Ngoma.

The two NBC Premier League clubs settled for a 1-1 draw and the clash had to be settled by penalty shootout.

Shekha said after the committee's emergency



Zanzibar's soccer referee, Nasri Salum.

meeting, the members realized that Salum and one of his assistants erred in awarding Simba SC a corner kick from a ball that did not deflect either by Kijili or any Singida Fountain Gate FC player.

According to Shekha, the committee members, though, realized it was the only mistake made by the referee throughout the entire game, calling it a

human error happening during the added-on time. "After our referee committee meeting, we had various video reviews from various angles on the incident and we realized that Salum unknowingly awarded Simba SC a corner kick in 90+6 minutes that led to an equalizer, and it was not a corner kick," Shekha pointed out.

"After Saidi Ntibazonka's

cross, no Singida Fountain Gate FC player deflected the ball, and their goalkeeper picked the ball outside the pitch, hence, that wasn't a corner kick although we are pleased with Salum because that was the only mistake in the entire 90 minutes," the retired referee revealed.

The ZFF Referees Committee disclosed it will not ban Salum,

adding it will only file a warning for the mistake the referee made.

Shekha said Salum has been an extraordinary referee throughout the tournament, with one match remaining - the final pitting Simba SC vs Mlandege FC.

Salum officiated Simba SC's first match against Singida Fountain Gate FC in the group stage as the former won 2-0 and later the semi-finals between the two clubs, which ended with Simba SC cruising to the final.

Shekha said they gave Salum the same fixture after he proved to be able to handle pressure in big games.

"He has a FIFA badge, a good referee to handle a match of its kind and we saw that there was no other option than to handle the match for him," the ZFF Referees Committee Chairman stressed.

"We are pleased with his officiating throughout the tournament and we hope for better improvements in the coming days," he said.

Simba SC will lock horns with Mlandege FC in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final at the New Amaan Complex in the Isles today.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

