




National Pg 3
Pact sealed to boost consumer protection



fts
UMMA THUTHI EDO CIVIL SOCIETY
LESHA USHIRIKIANO

National Pg 4
75 substations to be built countrywide



National Pg 5
TFRA urged to empower cotton farmers on fertiliser use




Dr Joyceline Kaganda (R), chief of party for USAID/Lishe Endelevu Project, pictured with Mpanda district commissioner Jamila Yusuf (to her right) at the ongoing Nane Nane (Farmers' Day) agricultural exhibition in Mbeya city yesterday. They were briefed on the Zero Energy Cooling Chamber Technology which local communities are being advised to deploy alongside other technologies in producing nutritious crops in an effort to eradicate malnutrition in Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe and Njombe regions. The nutrition project is funded by USAID. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tobacco sales: Tanzania now second placed in Africa yield

They are currently imported at high costs, while the Moproco Vegetable Oil Mill and Refinery will also be revived

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

TANZANIA is the second main tobacco producer in Africa after Zimbabwe, a milestone achieved following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's decision to change policies and attract investments while enabling farmers to access inputs.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe made this observation here yesterday in remarks to welcome President Samia to lay the foundation stone for building the 'Serengeti Cigarette Co. (SCC) factory and expansion of the tobacco curing plant belonging to the Mkwawa Leaf Tobacco Co. Ltd.

The stone laying ceremony was part of the president's visit to the region to inspect development projects, where the minister said that upon completion of its

expansion, the factory will become the second largest tobacco processing factory worldwide.

Its increased tobacco intake will increase farmers' income, he said, affirming that the project stems from the president's foreign visits and efforts to make changes that attract investors.

This has been done to enable farmers to access inputs and good working conditions, he said, saying the expansion of the factory and building another will ensure a reliable market for farmers.

By early 2021 tobacco production stood at 65,000 tonnes, referring to purchases of tobacco leftovers where the buyers enter into contracts with farmers, providing seeds and expecting them to produce 1,000 kilograms of that auxil-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Ex-PM hails organic farming at IDP gala

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PUBLIC officials at all levels need to help communities embrace organic farming in the country, as several health problems facing Tanzanians can be solved just by taking properly grown harvests.

Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda made this appeal at a high-level traditional food gala held here on Monday night, organized by Islands of Peace, abbreviated IDP from its French original Iles de Paix, founded by a Nobel-winning Belgian monk in 1966. It is mainly operating from its US branch, as an NGO specialized in supporting local development.

He stated that while there are many stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on ecological agriculture, their efforts are not pooled together as they do not know one another, where they operate and what they do.

The event was anchored on the theme of improving nature through local and traditional food, bringing together participants from government agencies, the private sector, organic farming associa-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Swedish diplomat points at 'political interference' in public procurement

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

POLITICAL interference negatively affects accountability and transparency in procurement processes and unless addressed many countries in Africa will continue to suffer losses in this sector.

Charlotta Ozaki Macias, the head of development cooperation at the Swedish embassy, made this observation at the ongoing International Transparency and Accountability Conference (ITAC) 2024 here yesterday.

She however stated that Tanzania is making significant strides in alleviating that situation, citing an assessment, 'Pub-



...it is important to discuss procurement critically and objectively as it holds the dreams and ambitions of future generations

lic Procurement Trajectories, 2023 Report' showing that the implementation of public procurement laws and regulations improved.

Transparency, accountability and fairness in those undertakings were at a higher level, she said, while Kjetil Sichie, the Norwegian embassy deputy head of mission, said that ordinary citizens have the right to be informed on all issues of public procurement procedures as they directly affect their lives.

Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director set out the World Bank's vision of procurement activity via a consulting

TURN TO PAGE 2

EU delivers 100bn/- multiple sector grant

"The EU's support highlights a shared commitment to Tanzania's development vision and the EU's broader strategic goals"

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) has announced a grant of nearly 100bn/- (euro 33.12m) to enhance the resilience of specific groups in the economy.

A statement issued yesterday by the EU mission in the country said that the disbursement is aimed at fostering socio-economic development, in support of ongoing sectoral reforms.

The funding is allocated across five sectors significant for the country's growth and stability including blue economy,

green and smart cities, gender, digital transition and financial sector growth.

For the blue economy, the grant will be used in developing a climate-resilient environment along the coastal regions, including Zanzibar and Pemba islands, with a focus on seashore resilience, it said.

The funds will similarly support governance reforms, civil service capacity building, enhancing inter-ministerial coordination led by the Treasury and the Environment department in the Vice President's Office (VPO), it said.

Funding for green and smart cities is

focused on promoting sustainable urban development in Mwanza, Tanga and Pemba urban centres, to improve living standards by enhancing environmental sustainability.

It will also create economic opportunities and improve public services, especially those targeting women and youth, it said, pointing at gender funding as dedicated advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls.

It is also designed to address gender-based violence, promote economic empowerment and support women's participation in leadership and decision-making processes, the delegation noted.

In enhancing digital development, the funds will be used to leverage the digital

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

Page 20



Gamondi admits Simba's new signings pose tough challenge ahead of Community Shield clash

Page 19



France beats Egypt 3-1 and will face Spain in the men's soccer final at Paris Olympics



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Swedish diplomat points at 'political interference' in public procurement

FROM PAGE 1

contract, whether it is a bridge, a health center or a wastewater management site.

"If the procurement process is managed in a way that ensures transparency and integrity in how the evaluation process is handled, the chances are that activity will be run more efficiently," he stated.

Contributing, the board chairman of the WAJIBU Institute of Public Accountability, a local think tank, said as procurement related to how upwards of 70 percent of the national budget is used each year, "it is important to discuss procurement critically and objectively as it holds the dreams and ambitions of future generations."

He stretched out a series of social ills that result directly from failures of procurement activities, noting that almost all public goods are acquired through public procurement processes that are guided by laws, policies and practices whose conduct leaves much to be desired.

"Today, our young women and girls experience sexual violence simply because of lack of surveillance cameras in our streets, lack of street lights, poor public facilities,

poor sanitation conditions in public spaces, extreme poverty, lack of hostels for girls and boys, lack of water, poor crop yields due to overpriced fertilizers and pesticides, malnutrition and the list can go on and on," the auditing veteran intoned.

Michael Moshiro, an executive with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) said the conference seeks to address the critical issue of enhancing procurement systems in Africa. With procurement accounting for a significant portion of national budgets across the continent, the need for effective procurement systems has never been more pressing, he stated.

In its 2024 event, ITAC focuses on fostering effective procurement systems for sustainable development in Africa, emphasizing enhanced transparency and accountability throughout the procurement lifecycle, he stated.

"This conference aims to bring together international experts, policymakers, practitioners and scholars to explore challenges, best practices and strategies for improving procurement processes in African countries," he added.

EU delivers 100bn/- multiple sector grant

FROM PAGE 1

shift in medical record keeping and other areas for faster growth and improved public services, it said.

A portion of the grant will be used to expand the government communications network and enhance cybersecurity measures in line with the Personal Data Protection Act, the statement indicated.

The digital shift support component will contribute to the transformative impact digitalisation in public service delivery and economic empowerment, it said, noting that this allocation of budget support will contribute to supporting over 300 ministerial units in terms of government departments, public agencies and local government authorities.

The purpose is to improve connections and use shared resources through the e-Government mechanism, it stated, explaining that the financial growth segment will focus on improving fiscal governance and access to credit in lending institutions.

This involves enhancing domestic resource mobilisation, uplifting credit market layouts and promoting public-private dialogue to enable micro, small and medium enterprises to operate in a better environment, notably, firms operated by women and youth.

Finance for growth is intended to promote better fiscal governance and access to finance to catalyse green, inclusive and sustainable development, improving on effective, efficient and accountable mobilisation and management of gender- and climate-sensitive public finances, it further noted.

The action will focus on enhancing domestic resource mobilisation, public financial management and skills development especially for data-driven and digital transitioning financial institutions, it explained.

There will be a specific focus on MSMEs, women and youth and the market segments of microfinance, capital markets, green finance and fintechs, it elaborated.

The financial assistance being extended is part of the EU's ongoing partnership with the government, aligning with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, bolstering infrastructure and development through public and private sector investments, it affirmed.

"The EU's support highlights a shared commitment to Tanzania's development vision and the EU's broader strategic goals," it specified, reaffirming support for Tanzania's growth and development.

Christine Grau, the EU ambassador, said that these funds are not just an investment in the present but a commitment to the country's future.

"By focusing on areas such as the blue economy, urban development, gender equality, digitalisation and financial growth, we are helping to build a more resilient and prosperous Tanzania," she added.

Ex-PM hails organic farming at IDP gala

FROM PAGE 1

tions and others.

"Leaders have a great role to play in ensuring the promotion of organic farming, improved food production and food security in the country," he said, underlining the need for local government authorities to coordinate concerned agencies to facilitate these efforts.

He expressed disappointment that most government policies on such matters are not implemented at the grassroots level as public officials who are closer to the people do not engage themselves on such issues.

Stakeholders working on improved agriculture techniques like organic farming among others need to work closely with community or religious leaders, who also need to raise the matter in faith meetings, the former premier asserted.

He applauded religious leaders engaged in teaching followers simple and proper ways of making vegetable farms, exclaiming that this is also a religious vocation to save Tanzanians.

Noting that he is engaged in sustainable agriculture in his 70 hectares of land in the region, he insisted that headteachers need to be equipped with the knowledge to transfer it to pupils.

"Through such efforts cases of

malnutrition and stunting among Tanzanian children will be reduced and we succeed in having a healthy population," he emphasised, applauding IDP for convening the event as it helped remind participants of the importance of traditional foods.

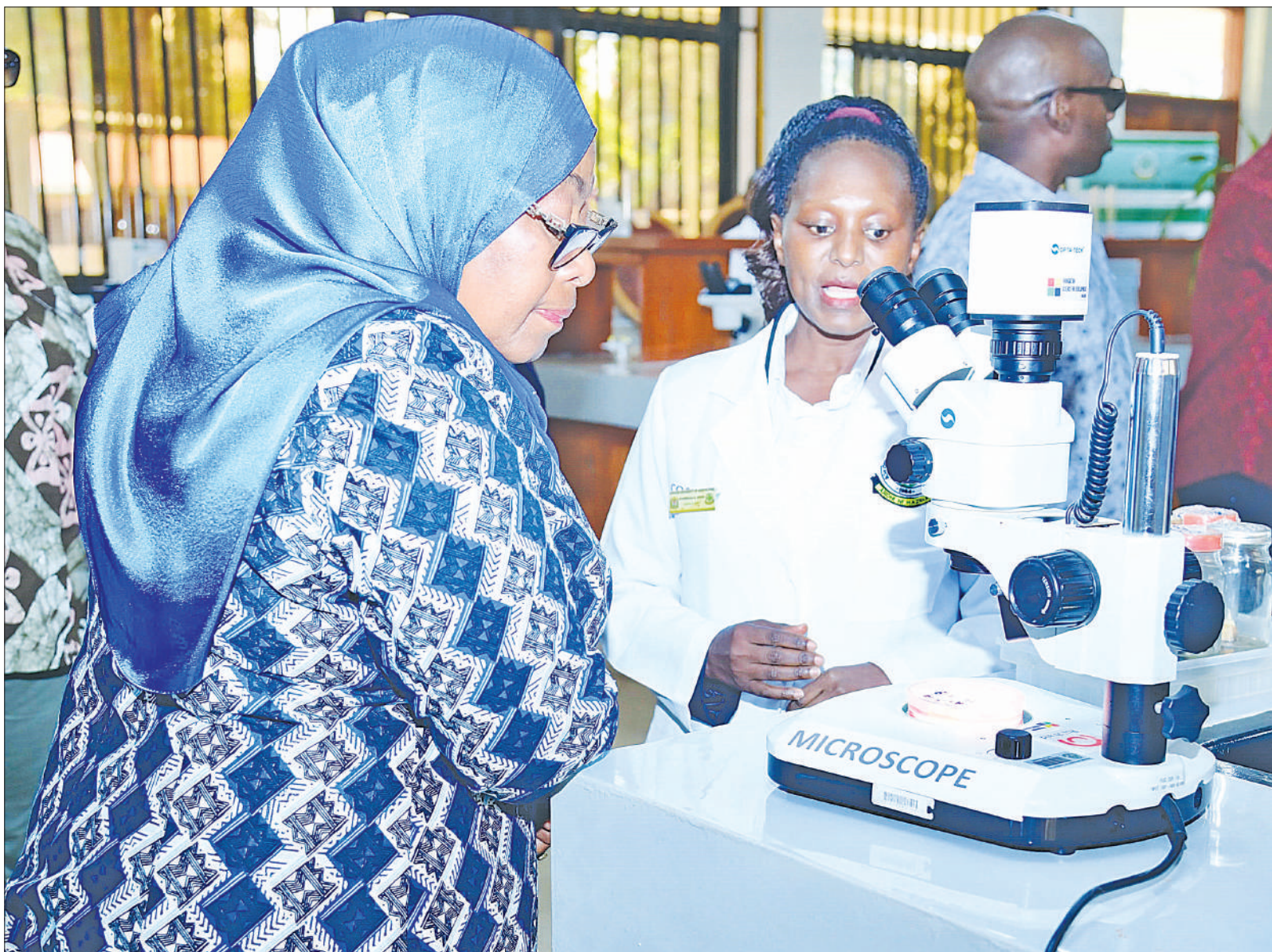
David Silinde, the Agriculture deputy minister, had earlier noted that the government is committed to work with organic farming stakeholders in steering wider public knowledge of such activity.

Funds have been set aside to help promote organic farming, with the provision of subsidies to companies that produce organic farming inputs expected to start soon, he said.

"Agriculture comes third in contribution to GDP after mining and tourism," he stated, underlining that improving agriculture is a vital component of the government agenda.

Ayesiga Buberwa, the IDP country director, said the Belgian non-governmental organisation organized the gala to remind stakeholders on ecological farming as a vital way to enhance the food system.

Emphasizing the significance of continuous learning in addressing food security concerns and improving health, she said that traditional foods are an immediate solution to a range of health problems and also help to promote Tanzanian culture.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is on an ongoing week-long working tour of Morogoro Region, inspects a plant health laboratory during the inauguration of the Cross-Cutting Training Building at the Edward Moringe Sokoine Campus of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) yesterday. Photo: State House

Tobacco sales: Tanzania now second placed in Africa yield

FROM PAGE 1

ary produce, he said.

Tanzania ranks second in tobacco production in Africa after Zimbabwe, he said, noting that over \$400m earned from the export of tobacco per season.

Tanzania had set a goal to produce 170,000 to 200,000 tonnes, but attained 122,000 tonnes, he said, blaming El Niño rains for the shortfall, as otherwise "we would have been the top producer in Africa."

The world price of tobacco has increased from an average of \$1.4 per to \$2.4 per kilo, with 80,000 tonnes already processed. Capacity improvements will enable the processing of 200,000 tonnes in total, he stated.

When Tanzania starts to process 300,000 tonnes per year, the tobacco sector will provide up to 5,000

jobs, with Morogoro Region taking up \$300m investments, likely to create 12,000 jobs from 5,000 jobs before that improvement, he stated.

President Samia pledged to restore Morogoro's status as an industrial hub to compete with Dar es Salaam and Coast Region, starting with plans to revive defunct industries like the Mang'ula Mechanical Tools and the Morogoro Canvas Mills Ltd, where the minister said the canvas mill will start producing tobacco-binding ropes.

They are currently imported at high costs, while the Moproco Vegetable Oil Mill and Refinery will also be restored to operation, he said.

The president also inaugurated a multi-purpose building at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), urging universities in the country

to conduct research that addresses community needs, not just publishing books and journals or competing for awards.

The building, the 'Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan Teaching Complex' accommodates 3,205 students, where in her remarks the president lauded SUA for contributing 2.6bn/- from its internal funds to complete the building.

SUA Chancellor Justice Joseph Warioba, a former prime minister, stated that 92 percent of the university's research funding comes from foreign sources, which prioritize their own interests or desired outcomes.

"Only 8 percent of the funding comes from within the country. We request the government to explore possibilities for enabling various beneficial research to be conducted domestically to expand the

scope of research," he stated.

He further mentioned that the university provides practical agricultural education, with 108 students each receiving a plot of land ranging from 30 to 40 meters in size to conduct practical farming, and what they produce is their own property.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, said that the government awards up to 50m/- to researchers who publish studies related to science, education, medicine, and technology.

Research outcomes need to be visible internationally rather than being confined to the country, with various positive research outcomes registered, including a vaccine for chickenpox and the discovery of drought-resistant bean seeds, he added.



Foundation for Civil Society executive director Justice Rutenge (R) and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Consumer Consultative Council executive secretary Mary Shao Msuya pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday signing a partnership agreement aimed at advancing consumer protection and rights in the country's communication sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foundation to improve lives, support vulnerable communities in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ministry of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia and the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) have signed an agreement to implement a joint project that aims to improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable communities in different parts of the East African country.

The agreement was signed on Monday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, marking their coopera-

tion and dedication to bring about a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

At the event, Ergogie Tesfaye, minister of Women and Social Affairs of Ethiopia, said China and Ethiopia have enjoyed long-standing relations in economic, social, and political aspects, noting that the CFRD has been doing exemplary deeds through offering humanitarian services in Ethiopia, particularly in rural areas.

"The joint project would significantly contribute to Ethiopia's efforts to support vulnerable citizens," said Tesfaye, reaffirming the ministry's commitment to collaborating with the CFRD for the effective implementation of those initiatives.

CFRD Ethiopia Office Country Director Yin Qian said that the foundation would extend the required assistance to support vulnerable communities in different parts of

Ethiopia. It was noted that implementation of the project would commence immediately after the signing of the agreement.

The joint project aims to expand school feeding programs in rural areas, provide educational materials for needy students, install solar-powered renewable energy sources, improve sanitation facilities, empower women economically, and expand access to clean drinking water in rural areas.



India's newly arrived High Commissioner to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey (L), presents copies of his letters of credence to Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FCS, TCRA-CCC agree to advance communications consumer rights

By **Grtrude Mbago**

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Consumer Consultative Council (TCRA-CCC) have signed a three-year memorandum of understanding to enhance consumer protection and rights.

Speaking during the signing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, FCS executive director Justice Rutenge emphasized the importance of safeguarding consumers from unfair trade practices.

He highlighted the role of civil society organizations in revitalising consumer protection mechanisms and advocating for consumer rights. He said consumer protection is a strategic priority for FCS, as evidenced by its recent three-year grant agreement with Trademark Africa.

"This initiative, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Ireland and Norway, supports the development of a strong consumer protection framework. The partnership with TCRA-CCC aligns with this grant, aiming to address and resolve consumer protection issues, raise consumer awareness and empower civil societies and regulatory bodies," he said.

Rutenge stated: "FCS has consistently adopted a citizen-centred approach to development, aiming to empower citizens. Our commitment to consumer protection reflects this principle. As we work within this space, we are focused on creating a robust consumer protection framework through active civil society engagement."

He explained that through the consumer protection programme, FCS will strengthen CSOs to improve the alignment between policy and grassroots action, especially in contexts where stakeholders and consumers have limited awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

He also underscored consumers' rights, including fair settlement of claims, education on products and services and assurance of quality. "By partnering with TCRA-CCC, a key player in communication consumer protection, FCS will utilise its expertise to enhance its capacity in implementing consumer protection initiatives and

mobilizing essential resources," he said.

Mary Msuya, TCRA-CCC executive secretary, said that the council's establishment is dedicated to protecting the rights and interests of consumers in regulated communications sectors like ICT, broadcasting and postal services.

She emphasized the importance of the collaboration, stating that it will improve consumer protection mechanisms and ensure robust safeguards.

"Consumers should have access to a variety of products and services that are safe and of high quality. Our partnership with FCS highlights our commitment to a fair and transparent marketplace," she said. "As Tanzania strides towards fostering a conducive environment for consumer rights, the partnership between FCS and TCRA-CCC stands as a testament to collective efforts in promoting equitable trade practices and empowering consumers with knowledge on their rights and avenues of consumer recourse."

She added that the agreement ensures fair and responsible treatment of customers as it allows customers to make informed and unbiased decisions when purchasing and using products and services.

"Consumer protection contributes to dynamic and effective markets for businesses to grow. Businesses that comply with consumer protection policies and prioritise the wellbeing of their customers not only establish a positive reputation but also gain a competitive advantage, making them highly sought-after in the marketplace, which in turn leads to economic growth," she said.

“Consumers should have access to a variety of products and services that are safe and of high quality. Our partnership with FCS highlights our commitment to a fair and transparent marketplace”

Dr Mwinyi unveils vehicle inspection centre in Z'bar

By **Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar**

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday launched a new vehicle inspection and registration one-stop centre in the isles, ending the trouble of visiting multiple agencies for isles residents.

The inauguration took place at Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) offices in Unguja.

Speaking at the event, Dr Mwinyi said that his government was committed to overseeing the quality of products by ensuring that relevant institutions such as ZBS are equipped with modern laboratories and skilled experts for product testing and inspection across the isles.

He said that the initiative is meant to help protect national health and safety, conserve the environment, create fair competition and foster a conducive business environment to enable local industries to produce

high-quality products. Dr Mwinyi said that to achieve this, the government was taking steps to enhance the quality infrastructure of ZBS, including establishing the vehicle inspection centre.

"This is indeed a significant and important step towards strengthening this institution to perform its duties more efficiently," he said.

He further added that standards and quality control are no longer new concepts in Zanzibar, adding that the government continues to oversee this to ensure that Zanzibar is not turned into a dumpsite for substandard products, including vehicles.

Dr Mwinyi emphasized the importance of ensuring that vehicles are inspected and their quality certified for road use.

He explained that substandard vehicles can lead to various issues, including environmental

pollution from exhaust emissions and frequent accidents which contribute to the loss of the nation's workforce. The government also spends a significant amount of money on health services for accident victims.

He added that the new center will enhance the capacity and efficiency of vehicle inspections, leading to safer and more suitable vehicles for use.

Dr Mwinyi urged ZBS officials to maintain the equipment at the center to ensure continued effective operations and for employees to work diligently to provide excellent service to the public.

Commerce and Industry Minister Omar Said Shaaban said that statistics show a significant increase in the number of vehicles entering the isles compared to previous years.

He called on the authorities involved in vehicle certification to

continue cooperating with ZBS to achieve the main goals of safety, quality and standards.

He also urged ZBS to maintain the center to achieve the government's intended objectives and highlighted that the presence of the center will increase government revenue.

ZBS Director General Yusuph Majid Nassor said the purpose of the new center is to address the inconvenience faced by residents who previously had to go to various public institutions for vehicle registration.

He said that they decided to consolidate all vehicle certification authorities in one place to complete vehicle registration processes efficiently and without any challenges.

The new vehicle inspection center is equipped with two machines capable of inspecting 300 vehicles per day and will operate for 24 hours.



Dr Juma Mfinanga (L, gesturing), Muhimbili National Hospital's Head of Emergency Medicine and Diseases, has a word of welcome at the referral medical facility in Dar es Salaam yesterday with a visiting delegation of members of the Social Welfare Committee of the Zanzibar House of Representatives led by committee chairperson Sabiha Filfil Thani (2nd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Traders appeal to investors to fund Dar-Arusha SGR line

By **Guardian Reporter, Arusha**

TOUR operators and other traders in Arusha Region have urged investors, including financial institutions, to enter into a partnership with the government to invest in the Dar es Salaam-Tanga-Moshi-Arusha Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to unlock economic opportunities in the northern zone.

They made the call when speaking yesterday in Arusha at a meeting of tourism stakeholders and businesses dealing with various financial institutions.

Currently, Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) is working to ensure the completion of all sections of the SGR by 2028 so that investors can take advantage of this opportunity and make a significant contribution to the country's economic growth.

Peter Msumari, TRC consultant who is involved in the search for SGR investors, stated that if banks invest, it will help expand the transportation sector and boost economic growth not only in the northern zone but the country as a whole.

"I have been tasked by the government to look for investors. This is a huge project with the

potential to lift many Tanzanians out of poverty. When talking about the transport sector, it is the heart of the economy. It is a sector you cannot avoid; if you harvest produce from the farm, you need transportation to take it to the market. In a report submitted to the World Bank, we have also mentioned other potential investors for SGR.

"I have advised banks here that if they can invest in the SGR, they should get involved quickly because it has international appeal. The government cannot do it alone as the railway extending from the Coast Region to Tanga, Moshi and Arusha as well as further to Kigoma, Mwanza and Musoma is a multi-trillion shillings project," he said.

Edwin Mushumbusi, a tour operator, said they have advised banks to explore ways to economically uplift small tourism operators by providing them with vehicles to transport tourists to avoid the high cost of renting such vehicles.

"As tourism stakeholders, we have advised how banks' involvement can help us to grow our businesses," he said. "The vehicles will help us transport our guests to various tourism attractions such as national parks."

By **Henry Mwangonde, Kigoma**

CCM Secretary General Dr Emanuel Nchimbi has appealed to the Minister for Works Innocent Bashungwa to release 1.4bn/- in compensation to residents to pave the way for the continuation of the stalled Kibondo-Malamba Road.

Speaking at a public rally in Kibondo District, Kigoma Region yesterday, Dr Nchimbi emphasized the road's significance for regional development.

Dr Florence Samizi (MP) noted that while the contractor was on-site, work could not proceed

Stalled project: Dr Nchimbi appeals for release of compensation money

because residents had not yet been compensated.

Dr Nchimbi reported that approximately 11.4 trillion/- had been allocated to Kigoma over the past three years for development projects, including port expansion on Lake Tanganyika.

Addressing concerns about low cassava prices, CCM Secretary for Political and International Relations Rabia Abdallah Himid

assured residents that the government was working to secure markets for farmers.

Residents said that despite a bumper cassava harvest, poor infrastructure hindered market access.

Himid explained that the government was constructing railways to enhance transportation and facilitate trade with neighboring Burundi and the

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Earlier, Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Zainab Katimba announced that efforts were underway to complete Kakonko bus terminal.

Dr Nchimbi directed that funds allocated for this project be utilized promptly to ensure its completion on time.

ATO set to implement 15 projects to revolutionise agriculture sector

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO) is set to implement at least 15 projects designed to revolutionise the agriculture sector across the country.

The envisaged initiatives will be implemented by the office and agriculture stakeholders under the project titled, 'Driving Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania'.

Speaking in an interview recently, ATO Director General Elizabeth Misokia said that implementation of the projects is part of concerted efforts to address critical bottlenecks across the agricultural value chain while ensuring equal access to opportunities for all members of society.

She said the projects include expansion of agricultural irrigation areas to 1.2 million hectares, quintupling seed production, improving soil health, scaling up market linkages and capacity building of red meat and dairy farmers.

"Among other projects want to accomplish include those based on development of traditional cash crops and food crops through expert-led initiatives and improvement of agricultural business profitability," she said.

Misokia said other initiatives incorporate acceleration of commercial activities for priority commodities, increasing processing and storage capacities and heightening regional and international exports to the tune of USD 6 billion.

"We also want to implement projects on digital registration for farmers and stakeholders, expanding the coverage of extension services across the country as well as providing access to financing for 1.7 million beneficiaries and 30,000 SMEs," she said.

She said there will be execution of projects meant to unlock 1.5

million hectares for commercial agriculture and 1.2 million hectares for smallholder farmers as well as a special project for enhancing overall food security in the country.

"At the core of our mission is the Agriculture Master Plan. This plan serves as a guiding roadmap that draws on previous sectoral experiences, laying out a vision for our food systems by 2050, with actionable plans leading up to 2030," she said.

The foundation of ATO was laid at the summit of heads of state and government of 34 African countries held in Dakar, Senegal in 2023 through which leaders emphasized the need for a cohesive approach to food security and agriculture development.

As a result, some of the countries' agricultural authorities agreed to establish the Presidential Food and Agriculture Delivery Council which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the agriculture delivery compact endorsed at the Dakar 2 Summit.



We also want to implement projects on digital registration for farmers and stakeholders, expanding the coverage of extension services across the country as well as providing access to financing for 1.7 million beneficiaries and 30,000 SMEs



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo Leader Dorothy Semu signs a condolence book yesterday in connection with the recent death of Theresia Mdee, Special Seats legislator Halima Mdee's mother. This was at the deceased's residence at Uchira in Moshi Rural District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'New 75 power substations to boost electricity countrywide'

By Correspondent Idda Mushi,

Kilombero

DEPUTY Minister for Energy Judith Kapinga has said that the government has approved a major initiative for the Ministry of Energy to construct 75 new substations which is implemented in phases at a cost of 4.4trn/-.

The substations, according to her, are intended to enhance infrastructure for receiving, cooling and distributing electricity across the country.

Kapinga said this following

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Ifakara substation in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region.

She said the initiative which will be implemented by the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) will further ensure reliable electricity access for Tanzanians.

She expressed gratitude for the government's approval of the additional 75 substations as before 2021; the country had only 61 substations for receiving and cooling electricity.

The deputy minister reported

that eight substations have already been completed and are operational.

Kapinga highlighted the significance of the Ifakara substation, noting that it has not only improved electricity reliability for local residents but also facilitated connection of a total of 54 new factories to the power grid.

Regarding regional projects, Kapinga noted that President Samia has been instrumental in advancing Tanzania's integration with East and Southern Africa, particularly through initiatives

such as construction of electricity infrastructure between Tanzania and Zambia (TAZA).

Hassan Saïdy, director general of the Rural Energy Agency (REA), explained that the Ifakara substation was developed to meet the high demand for electricity in Ifakara, Malinyi and Ulanga in Morogoro Region, driven by extensive agricultural and mining activities.

Saïdy added that before the construction, electricity in Ifakara used to be interrupted 18 times a month, but now interruptions occur only once.

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Air Tanzania
Training Centre



AB INITIO CABIN CREW COURSE.

ATCL Training Centre is happy to announce another Intake of Cabin Crew Course which is scheduled to Commence on 01st October, 2024. Course duration is three (3) months. Applicants are advised to submit their application to the Principal's Office, ATCL Administration Building, Julius Nyerere International Airport, Terminal One, adjacent to Airport Police Station. Submit your application before 26th August, 2024.

Applicants Qualifications:

- Age; 18 years – 25 years
- No visible Tattoo or Marks
- He or She should be physically fit, sane mind and of height 5'4ft (162 cm) and above
- Has passed at least four subjects on Ordinary Level Education of which English and Geography is a Must.
- Has ability to speak Kiswahili and English Language fluently; Applicants who speaks Arabic, French and Chinese will have an added advantage.
- He or She should be a Tanzanian National.

NB: Foreign Nationals are also welcome to apply after obtaining Immigration Visa to Live and Study in the country. Must also verify your Education Certificate at National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Application Letter must be attached with;

- A copy of form four certificate and other Academic Certificates.
- A copy of birth Certificate
- Two passport size pictures with blue background and One full picture, size 6x8
- Curriculum Vitae –CV

Send your Application to:

Principal
ATCL Training Center
Box no 543
Dar Es Salaam
Email , training@airtanzania.co.tz

For more information, Please Contact these numbers ONLY:
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Contractors rehabilitating the road linking Zanzibar's Mnazi Mmoja suburb to the former Zanzibar House of Representatives complex at Kikwajuni are forced to repair a clean and safe water pipe first yesterday before proceeding with their work. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Z'bar legislators learn about how health insurance works at MNH

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Social Welfare Committee of the Zanzibar House of Representatives has been impressed by the health insurance services at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

Sabiha Filfil Thani, the committee chairperson, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when she led the committee that visited the hospital to learn about various initiatives, including implementation of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

"We're very satisfied with the services provided at Muhimbili National Hospital, including specialised treatments. We take this message as a lesson and we're going to advise the isle's government on how to improve services," she said, noting that it has been one year since Zanzibar government passed the health insurance law.

"This visit at MNH is beneficial as we learn and will advise the government on health insurance matters in the islands," she said.

"The idea here is to see how Zanzibar's Ministry of Health can enable residents to get quality services by having specialist doctors and insurance."

She said that Zanzibar government has 10 district hospitals and the visit was meant to help the committee properly advise the government with the view to improving services in its hospitals.

"The services at MNH are good; we have learned a lot from them. We wish to emulate their example and reduce the wave of patients from the islands coming to the mainland or travelling abroad for specialized treatment," she said.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, MNH executive director, said that the hospital has been receiving many patients from Zanzibar who need specialized treatments such as kidney transplants, bone marrow transplants, and hearing impairment, thus reducing the costs of sending patients abroad.

He said that MNH is the right place to learn about insurance issues because it has approximately 12 years of experience in treating patients using health insurance hence high levels of understanding.

"MNH receives large number of patients using insurance, with 4,000 patients served daily and 2,000 admitted at both Upanga and Mloganzila. This number shows how insurance works and its benefits," he said.

He urged Tanzanians to develop the habit of buying health insurance coverage while healthy and not just after being diagnosed with diseases, as some diseases such as kidney failure are very expensive to treat, citing an example of dialysis.

"Treatment is expensive; health insurance covers 90 percent of treatment costs, especially specialised treatments. It is better to get insurance while healthy so that when you fall ill, you do not face difficulties in accessing treatment."



The idea here is to see how Zanzibar's Ministry of Health can enable residents to get quality services by having specialist doctors and insurance

Empower cotton farmers on fertiliser usage, TFRA told

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

TANZANIA Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has been directed to focus fertiliser use on cotton and other crops to enhance agriculture productivity.

TFRA board chairman Dr Anthony Diallo issued the directive yesterday during his visit at the ongoing Lake Zone level Farmers' Exhibitions taking place in Mwanza Region.

Dr Diallo said that many farmers lag behind in fertilizer use, so education is needed to increase the yields of cotton, stressing that it is a cash crop that

generates income for many farmers in the country and thus robust strategies should be implemented, including ensuring availability of adequate subsidized fertilizer.

The board chairman noted that farmers in Lake Zone use cotton as their main cash crop, apart from growing other food crops.

"I commend the education you are providing, but please make further efforts in fertiliser use for cash crops," he said.

He added that the government has invested in agriculture, so there should be a vigorous effort to educate

farmers to encourage them to use subsidized fertilizer in their daily farming activities.

He emphasized that agriculture is the backbone of the economy, and efforts should be made to reach farmers in every corner to ensure they receive proper fertiliser application for various crops.

Michael Sanga, TFRA Lake Zone Manager, said that the authority continues to provide education while emphasizing that they will adhere to the instructions given by the TFRA board chairman.

Sanga said that their primary

focus was to ensure that farmers use fertilizers and move away from traditional farming practices that result in low yields.

Nyanda Zuberi, one of the farmers who visited TFRA pavilion, suggested that the government should increase efforts in encouraging fertilizer use to ensure every farmer gets subsidized fertilizer after registering to access subsidized fertilizer easily rather than purchasing it at high prices.

Nyanda praised TFRA for its sensitization efforts at the exhibitions which help farmers understand the importance of fertilizer use.



Regina Ndege (2nd-R), Special Seats legislator for Manyara Region, presents foodstuffs, sanitary pads and various other items to Light In Africa Children's Centre at Mirerani in Simanjiro District on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Somali police seize hundreds of veils amid security fears

MOGADISHU

SECURITY forces in Somalia's southern city of Kismayo have seized hundreds of face veils from female residents, the city's police chief has said.

Warsame Ahmed Gelle told state TV that authorities had been conducting operations to "fight" the veils, also known as niqabs.

The crackdown was sparked by concerns that jihadists could conceal their identity and carry out attacks, Warsame said.

Large parts of southern and central

Somalia are controlled by al-Shabab, which is affiliated to al-Qaeda and has waged a brutal insurgency for nearly 20 years against the UN-backed government in Somalia.

On Friday, dozens were killed in an attack at a popular beachfront location in Mogadishu, the capital.

Officers in Kismayo have been confiscating the veils by stopping women in the streets and forcing them to remove the garment.

The operation began last Wednesday, Warsame said.

Women caught wearing the niqab,

which covers the whole face expect for the eyes, also face jail or a fine.

Because al-Shabab controls much of southern Somalia, Kismayo and its surrounding areas are the only places in the state of Jubaland where authorities can enforce the ban.

The state initially introduced the niqab ban in 2013, citing security risks, but it was rarely enforced.

Niqabs are seen as a sign of modesty in Islam - a religion which, according to government statistics, is practised by 99% of Somalia's population.

Many women there wear the niqab and

Wasame said the garment had increased in popularity recently.

However most Somali women still opt for the hijab, which covers a woman's hair but not her face.

The police said at least 37 people were killed during Friday's beachfront attack and several more were wounded.

Al-Shabab, who claimed responsibility for the attack, said the death toll and injuries are much higher than figures released by the police.

The Somali military recently killed dozens of jihadist fighters in Jubaland so reprisal attacks are a possibility.

Deluge kills over 30, injures 107 in Sudan

KHARTOUM

AT least 32 people were killed and 107 others wounded due to the recent torrential rains and floods that hit several Sudanese states, Sudan's Health ministry has announced.

"Seven states were affected by the rains and floods, and 5,575 homes were damaged," Al-Fadil Mohamed Mahmoud, director of general directorate of health emergencies at the ministry, said in a statement yesterday.

He said that the heavy rains and floods led to a number of diarrhoea cases, with 102 cases reported in Kassala state, four in Khartoum state, and 16 in Gezira state.

The health conditions in other states were stable, he said, noting that the ministry is concerned with adopting necessary measures to combat rainy season epidemics.

In an earlier report, the Sudanese Meteorological Authority had expected a rise in the water levels of the Gash River, which flows through Kassala city, the capital of Kassala state. Citizens were urged to be alert and stay away from the banks of the seasonal river.

Flooding is a yearly occurrence in Sudan, typically happening between June and October. Over the past three years, heavy rains have claimed hundreds of lives and destroyed vast swathes of agricultural land.

This year's rainy season has further compounded the hardships faced by those affected by the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Sudan has been witnessing a deadly conflict between the SAF and the RSF since April 15, 2023, resulting in the loss of at least 16,650 lives. An estimated 10.7 million people are now internally displaced in Sudan, with approximately 2.2 million others seeking refuge in neighboring countries, according to the UN data released on Monday.

AGRA to create 1.5m jobs for young farmers in Africa

By Special Correspondent

ALLIANCE for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has launched an ambitious programme aimed at creating 1.5 million jobs for young farmers in Africa.

The initiative, launched in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, seeks to empower young people to take up agriculture as a viable business opportunity.

According to Dr Jeremiah Rogito, an expert on climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture, by providing young people with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to succeed, Africa can unlock a new era of innovation and productivity in agriculture.

The programme, known as Youth Entrepreneurship for the Future of Agriculture (YEFFA), has already gained momentum in Ghana and Rwanda and is currently underway in Uganda.

“The future of food and agriculture in Uganda depends on our ability to empower young people to take up agriculture as a viable business opportunity. We must work together to create an enabling environment that supports youth entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture,” Dr Rogito said.

He said that the programme will soon be extended to Kenya and Ethiopia, with the goal of amplifying the voices of young people on climate action in Africa and using their input to inform global engagement and policy change.

“In our five-year transformative journey with the Mastercard Foundation, we aim to create 1.5 million dignified jobs in Africa. This can be achieved by engaging young people in various agricultural value chain activities. We look forward to reaching out to over 10 million youth in Africa,” he said during a meeting with youth in agriculture held in Kampala on Monday.

“All these voices will be consolidated into regional voices

and brought together at the Africa Food System Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, from September 2nd to 6th. We aim to amplify the voices of youth, highlighting what they need to see happen in terms of climate action on the continent. We will use these voices to inform global engagement, such as COP29, to drive policy changes that favour youth in agriculture.”

In her submission, Dr Sharon Mbabazi Tusiime, Programmes Officer for AGRA Africa, highlighted the importance of engaging youth in modern technological means to improve farming practices.

“As young Ugandans, consider transitioning from inherited land ownership to private ownership, which offers more freedom in your farming activities. Compile your agricultural activities in the digital space to create a reference point for future generations,” she said.



The future of food and agriculture in Uganda depends on our ability to empower young people to take up agriculture as a viable business opportunity. We must work together to create an enabling environment that supports youth entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture



Dar es Salaam resident Bharat Nathwani (R) and his wife, Sangita Nathwani (L), pictured yesterday heading to the city's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in the city for the hearing of their case. They are charged with inflicting injuries on a neighbour of theirs. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

\$60m loan to support governance in Benin

By Special Correspondent

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Fund, the African Development Bank Group's concessional window, on Thursday approved a loan of \$60 million to the Republic of Benin to finance the second phase of the country's Economic Governance and Private Sector Development Support Programme.

The funding brings the total amount granted to Benin to over \$100 million through programmatic budget support covering 2023 and 2024 fiscal years.

The programme is meant to boost the private sector's contribution to the national economy by improving the overall business environment, supporting the agri-food sector

and strengthening climate action.

Through this programme, Benin will increase private investment to 30.2 percent of GDP, up from 29.9 percent in 2022 and reduce the time government takes to settle debts due to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from 200 days to 60.

“The African Development Fund is pleased to support the government's ambitious reforms,

placing Benin at the forefront of climate action and the creation of a favourable environment for the private sector,” said Robert Masumbuko, the Bank's Country Manager for Benin.

“The Bank also stands by Benin in continuing to support the remarkable financial innovations that have enabled the Beninese government to raise substantial resources on all financial markets.”



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP Title: Provision of various Consultancy Services

RFP Number: 2024-TCP/08/01

Date of Solicitation: August 7, 2024

Closing Date and Time: August 16, 2024, 11:00 am EAT (Arusha, Tanzania)

Questions and Clarifications: Due by August 12, 2024

Introduction to TAHA and Tuhifadhi Chakula Project

TAHA is an apex member based private sector organization that advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticulture industry in Tanzania. Since its inception in 2004, TAHA has been an effective voicing platform for producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products mainly; flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds, and spices. The Association safeguards the interests of industry stakeholders and ensures industry issues are well represented within national and international agendas. Visit us at <https://www.taha.or.tz/taha/about>

USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula Project (USAID - TCP) is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by TAHA. The overarching objective of the Project is to reduce food loss and waste and resultant climate effects for improved food security and livelihoods.

The project has been co-created to improve food handling, storage, and value addition, facilitate market access, inform and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste, and strengthen local organizations' capacity to lead in post-harvest management. Overall, the project will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses from 30-40% for horticulture to 15% and from 13% to 7% for cereals by the end of the project.

TAHA through USAID TCP has set aside a budget to solicit and engage eligible and qualified consultants to provide the following consultancy services:

LOT 1: Plan for development of horticultural post-harvest management training manuals for 12 horticultural value chains.

LOT 2: Plan for situational analysis and capacity building on value addition among selected processors in Morogoro and Arusha.

LOT 3: Assessment of the Packaging Materials for Horticulture Crops and the Value-Added Products in Tanzania.

A. Scope of work of consultancy assignments

LOT 1: Plan for development of horticultural post-harvest management training manuals for 12 horticultural value chains

The consultant for this consultancy shall develop detailed, practical and user-friendly horticulture post-harvest manuals in both English and Swahili. These manuals will provide guidelines on the best practices in post-harvest management of horticultural produce to minimize losses and maximize quality and marketability.

LOT 2: Plan for situational analysis and capacity building on value addition among selected processors in Morogoro and Arusha.

The USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula Project primary goal is to reduce post-harvest loss for horticultural produce from 30% to 40%. To achieve this several interventions are of paramount importance. Post harvest losses are caused by a number of variables, which can broadly be divided into about three categories; pre-harvest, harvesting and post-harvest losses itself. This consultancy is set to concentrate on harvest and post-harvest variables that lower post-harvest factors. The variables to be covered are value addition in processing, packaging materials and technologies, microbial contamination, market access and infrastructure, temperature and humidity management and ethylene exposure. The project has highly prioritized twelve selected horticultural value chains namely Avocado, banana, black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, mango, onions, oranges, pineapple, potatoes and tomatoes. The eligible consultant for this assignment shall collaborate with local institutions with experience in postharvest technology of horticultural value chain to identify the current situation practices in postharvest losses, the consultant shall also put priority in capacity building on food processing and value addition to manage the postharvest losses of the selected horticulture value chains.

LOT 3: Assessment of the Packaging Materials for Horticulture Crops and the Value-Added Products in Tanzania

Packaging is the very crucial component in reducing food losses at various stages of food supply chain. In most cases packaging is attributed by poor handling, distribution, storage, and consumption behaviors. It is with no doubts that proper packaging can hugely help in utilizing resources efficiently and minimize environmental impacts, thereby contributing to a more sustainable food supply system. An eligible consultant for this assignment is called to carefully conduct assessment of the packaging materials for Horticulture crops and the value-added products in Tanzania.

B. Submission Instructions

Interested consultants or firms should download the detailed terms of references through the link: <https://shorturl.at/h6Z5q>

C. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFP shall be made in English.
- Each consultancy opportunity should be responded to separately.
- Should there be any uncertainty, the Bidder shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: procurement@taha.or.tz while copying benesta.masau@taha.or.tz and erick.massawe@taha.or.tz
- Any clarification sought by the bidder in respect to the RFP shall be titled **CLARIFICATION - (Insert Consultancy Name)**.
- TAHA will only respond to requests for clarification received no later than **Monday August 12, 2024**.



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation, founded in 2010 with the mission to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to lower cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers. TMA has expanded in recent years to cover 14 countries across East and the Horn of Africa, to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by 12 institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty. For more information, please visit www.trademarkafrica.com

TMA would like to invite interested and **qualified firms, and qualified individuals** depending on the tender requirements to participate in the following tender opportunity:

- Request for Proposals for Consultancy for The Development Of A Regional Logistics Platform To Support Efficient Logistics And Trade In East Africa [RFP Number: PRQ20240168]**- Submission date 26th August 2024 4PM EAT
- Request for Proposals for Consultancy on Business Environment Reforms [PRQ20240160; PRQ20240152; PRQ20240159]**- Submission date 2nd September 2024 10AM EAT
- Request for Proposals for Consultancy Services to Conduct Baseline Study for TMA DRC FCD0 Programme [PRQ20240170]**- Submission date 28th August 2024 4PM EAT
- Expression of Interest for The Supply and Customization Of An Inventory Management System For The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) [PRQ20240163]** - Submission date 23rd August 10AM EAT

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com. The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.



Janeth Kwilasa (R), head of Airtel Money's Business Unit, and the mobile phone service provider's PR & corporate communications manager, Jackson Mmbando, present a prize motorcycle in Dar es Salaam on Monday to Shabani Ramadhani (L) for winning an Airtel Tanzania promotion campaign raffle. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Gabon seeks to end food imports, looks to Uganda

LIBREVILLE

GABON'S Transitional President, Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, has expressed his country's desire to reduce reliance on food imports and hoped to benefit from Uganda's experience in agricultural development, particularly in wealth creation.

He conveyed this during a meeting with President Yoweri Museveni late last week at State

House Entebbe. Nguema was in Uganda for a two-day official visit at the invitation of President Museveni.

"We will continue collaborating at regional, continental and international levels," President Museveni stated following the meeting.

According to Museveni, the two leaders discussed and agreed on efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation between their

countries. "We are committed to boosting and broadening cooperation and collaboration in various sectors," he added.

Nguema updated Museveni on the progress of Gabon's transition timetable, including the upcoming referendum.

Museveni commended Nguema for the steps taken by the transitional government towards restoring constitutional democracy in Gabon, saying: "I thank him for

the steps taken by the transitional government towards Gabon's return to constitutional democracy."

The discussions also covered the political situation in Gabon, with Nguema emphasising the progress of the transition timetable, including the forthcoming referendum.

Both leaders expressed a mutual desire to intensify collaboration for the benefit of their people, sharing a commitment to expanding cooperation in various sectors.

Mozambique rolls out malaria jab initiative in Zambezia Province

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE has carried out the administration of malaria vaccine in its central province of Zambezia as part of the government's ongoing efforts to eliminate one of the leading causes of hospitalization and mortality in the country.

The vaccine is administered intramuscularly and targets children between six and 11 months of age, said Armando Tiago, minister of health, during the launch ceremony in Quelimane, the provincial capital of Zambezia on Monday.

For children who begin vaccination after six months, the second and third doses will be given four weeks apart, while the fourth and final doses will be administered six months later, Tiago said.

Tiago stated that for the acquisition and distribution of the vaccine, the country has invested 211 million meticals (\$3.3million).

The country has 800,000 doses of the vaccine available, which will be administered in all health units in Zambezia province, he said.

"The focus on Zambezia province also stems from the limited availability of the vaccine globally. If the vaccine were not in short supply, we would introduce it nationwide simultaneously," said the official, adding that the vaccine rollout is likely to cover all regions across the country next year.

A total of 196 people out of 6 million diagnosed cases in Mozambique have lost their lives due to malaria this year, said the minister.

"Similar to what happens with injected vaccines, some adverse effects may occur, such as fever, pain, or swelling at the injection spot, but this is a normal reaction to the vaccine and should be considered a minor concern. Therefore, we appeal for the collaboration of all sectors of society for this effort," he said.

As the country's second most populated province after Nampula, Zambezia was chosen as the pioneer province due to the high number of malaria cases and deaths reported among children under five years of age, according to the Ministry of Health.

The vaccine is safe and effective and provides additional protection against malaria. Many countries have already introduced it with satisfactory results, including Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi, said the ministry.



American nationals (L & R) pose for a photo at the weekend at Mount Kilimanjaro's Gilman's Point during a special expedition they said was meant to underscore the need for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

AfDB calls for increased private sector's bond in climate finance

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank has underscored the urgent need for increased private sector involvement in climate finance at a key meeting of African finance ministers.

Speaking at the 'Sustainable Horizons: Climate Action Strategies for Ministries of Finance in Sub-Saharan Africa' conference in Kampala organised by Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA), Prof. Anthony Nyong, the Bank's Director for Climate Change and Green Growth Department, stressed that the private sector financed less than 3 percent of adaptation activities in Africa between 2019 and 2022.

"We need to mobilise \$213.4 billion annually from the private sector to close Africa's climate financing gap by 2030," he said. He identified perceived high investment risks and poor credit ratings as significant barriers to private sector participation.

Nyong joined a panel titled 'Unique Opportunities and Challenges for African Ministers of Finance' moderated by Uganda's Minister of State Planning Amos Lugolobi. Panelists were Bock Kalokh, Minister of Finance, Sierra Leone and Joseph Ng'ang'a, CEO of the Africa Climate Summit and interim CEO at the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

Minister Kalokh emphasised the urgent need for increased financial resources to implement mitigation and adaptation strategies by 2030. He stressed the importance of strategic investments for resilient economies, noting that a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions stem from the agriculture sector.

"Do we need further evidence before action? Do we wait to be on life support before we act? It is time to act, and we need to act now," Kalokh stressed. He called upon ministries of finance to prioritise funding for climate action

and disaster mitigation, citing the escalating climate crisis and unclear climate finance architecture as significant challenges.

Ng'ang'a spoke about Africa's pivotal role in the global climate narrative, emphasising the continent's potential to offer solutions rather than just being a victim of climate change. "We have resources; if we accessed global financing, we could deliver solutions on climate," he stated. He urged the audience to view climate action as an opportunity to drive economic development, create jobs, and mitigate climate impacts within Africa.

In response to these challenges, Prof. Nyong highlighted the African Development Bank's initiative, the African Financial Alliance on Climate Change (AFAC), which aims to accelerate capital allocation for Africa's climate resilience.

The event concluded with a collective emphasis on the need for immediate and strategic action to address climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa. The insights provided a clear call to action for ministries of finance to prioritise and fund climate resilience initiatives, with the Bank Group positioning itself as a key facilitator in mobilising necessary resources and engaging the private sector.

The convening was supported by Enabel, NDC Partnership, UNEP, UNDP, Coalition for Capacity on Climate Action (C3A) and the World Bank.



We need to mobilise \$213.4 billion annually from the private sector to close Africa's climate financing gap by 2030

African campaigners renew call for reform of global financial structure

By Special Correspondent

THE international economic and financial regime should be reformed urgently to address imbalances that work against socioeconomic needs of African countries, campaigners have said.

The global financial system in its current form has disadvantaged African nations grappling with shrinking fiscal space, the climate crisis and high youth unemployment, the campaigners noted.

Jane Nalungu, the executive director of the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)-Uganda, said that by reforming the international financial architecture that was established more than 70 years ago, African states will have better leverage in domestic revenue mobilization, green transition and poverty alleviation.

"The ongoing debate about reforming the global economic and trading system comes at the opportune moment for Africa as we explore ways to address chronic stagnation that has impaired (the) provision of critical services like education and health," she said.

According to Nalungu, even globalization has not unleashed the desired socioeconomic benefits in Africa as the continent finds itself trading more with cheaper raw agricultural commodities.

In addition, Nalungu said that over-dependence on commodities has locked out African countries from a global trading system that favours trade in technology, services and value-added goods.

By reforming the international financial and trade treaties, it will be possible to address the cycle of indebtedness, trade deficit and balance of payment challenges weighing heavily on African states, Nalungu observed.

Chenai Mukumba, the executive director of Tax Justice Network Africa, said the ongoing push for democratization of the global financial and tax regime will benefit

the continent in terms of boosting domestic resource mobilization, taming public debts, enhancing access to basic services like water, education, sanitation and health.

Mukumba believed that Africa could leverage its vast mineral wealth, domestic reforms and improved accountability to spur economic growth, limit borrowing and ease political tensions.

She added that tightening oversight is key to sealing legal loopholes that have escalated capital flight and tax evasion by multinational firms that have invested in the continent, denying governments revenue to support the provision of critical services like clean water, electricity, education and health.

Jason Braganza, the executive director of the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, said the urgency to reform the global financial architecture is informed by the need to hasten a green, just and resilient transition in a continent already dealing with climate emergencies, sluggish growth, threat of pandemics and social tensions linked to poverty.



The ongoing debate about reforming the global economic and trading system comes at the opportune moment for Africa as we explore ways to address chronic stagnation that has impaired (the) provision of critical services like education and health

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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

'Stagflation' of school vacancies, teachers' unemployment calls for structural changes

TOP government officials are promising fair play as the government lines up advertisements for recruiting 37,616 teachers, health practitioners and employees in various other public service spheres.

The Public Service Management and Good Governance wing of the President's Office issued this assurance only days ago.

It hinted that job vacancies in the education (teaching), health, accounting, supply and other sectors are being advertised.

Making eligible individuals apply for the jobs will add a competition element in how the vacancies are filled, to which the ministry asserts that the process will be characterised by fair play at all levels right to the very end.

There is little point dwelling on issues like how far a level playing ground can be assured for applicants, that no favouritism will be applied to get the 'chosen few'.

In any case, no outline has been issued on any such formula except the solemn word that those concerned would see to it that transparency would be observed.

In that all governance levels must be staffed with people who have their urges and preferences, just like everyone else, the issue is the overall problem of vacancies - or unemployment.

There is a shift in the way employment is being arranged and it is a plausible proposition that it can go a notch further down in line with the changing trends.

The point is that teaching vacancies already announced by the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat at the regional level are being tied to the needs of each region in proportion to the number of placements the government is ready to fund.

As the standing need for teachers stood at 166,000 roundabout two years ago, and there are fewer than 20,000 vacancies for teaching in the current scenario, it is clear that the change will be slight. Still, it will doubtless ease the difficulties.

Activists could push for private sector growth anchorage, less anxiety on graft

ONE reason political parties are formed is to provide alternative governance perspectives which, by definition, provide a marked difference from ruling party priorities or governance methods.

When opposition parties are anchored on clear ideological platforms, they demonstrate principled contentions with those in power.

That way, they cultivate a different idea of how to go about pushing for agricultural modernisation, industry or exports.

When political parties pursue systemic demands like constitution or disruptive campaigns like the undeniable presence of corruption in how government agencies work, faults arise.

Taking the case of what ails many development projects, it is clear that decision makers in public agencies do not always make decisions that include fair dealing and contracting with private firms to boost capital input in particular sectors.

This is a major factor hindering development, as large amounts of funds lie idle in banks and political leaders repeatedly ask bankers to lend even technically non-loanable groups substantial amounts of money, while not ready to provide guarantees against bad loans on their balance sheets.

So, when one sees those

The more vital statistic was the seeming despair at the ministerial level on how to handle the placements. This is because there are far fewer teaching job vacancies compared to the number of primary and secondary school teachers graduating from various colleges.

There are over 100,000 teachers currently unemployed, at least going by a deputy minister's recent remarks, as that round figure is unlikely to have been attained over the past financial year.

Thus, there is a rough comparison between vacancies in public schools and the number of unemployed graduates along with diploma or certificate holders.

The government has moved to advertising to promote competition in recruitment, thus presumably ensuring that all those qualified can land jobs in their local area without having to travel to Dodoma or Dar es Salaam for interviews.

There is marginal relief in reducing the bureaucratic chicanery, but not on the side of likely placements, or indeed who shall win, as life is more about luck and blessings than it is about merit, even as these aspects matter a lot as well.

What is now envisaged is a localised selection of those to be employed, with everyone employed by the government fitting into a specific minimum wage structure and benefits associated with the respective status and the vast majority remaining unemployed.

Accordingly, it is in a sense appropriate to try a minimum of self-reliance, where schools are handed over to private sector players who will hopefully sink in hefty amounts of money.

There would be provisions for extensive subsidies where, for instance, girls would be exempted from fees. Teachers can be paid user wages; all wages would come down, to ensure places are filled.

But this is more conjecture than reality, though it is not an impossible situation. To plan is to choose.

entrusted with leading important political organisations failing to come up with ideas for systemic re-organisation and instead raise public antipathy with routine charges of corruption, things get especially tough.

Activists, like other members of society, agree with this situation, and offer anti-corruption pinpricks as criticism, to inflame hearts...

It is evident, and indeed only to be expected, that cuts in corruption don't follow government orders. Graft will be reduced or largely eliminated when most decision makers expect to work on a commercial basis with the other party.

It implies that public firms have a substantial private sector stake for inward controls and thus can be subjected to proper audits in what is done on a daily basis.

When this is missing, and the most activists can do is to swear to end graft if elected, the monster that corruption indeed gets increasingly hard to end - even merely combat.

As Guatemala human rights activist, feminist and 1992 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchú once put it: "Without strong watchdog institutions, impunity becomes the very foundation upon which systems of corruption are built. And if impunity is not demolished, all efforts to bring an end to corruption are in vain."



A balanced approach to gender equality

By Kettie Chipeta

IN a stunning turn of events that has set hearts racing across Tanzania, the latest Form Six examination results have shattered expectations and ignited a national celebration.

For the very first time, all the top ten students are girls, marking a historic achievement that is nothing short of extraordinary.

This unprecedented success has not only captured the nation's imagination but also highlights a transformative shift in the country's education landscape.

This monumental milestone is more than just a triumph for the young women of Tanzania; it is a powerful statement of the incredible potential that lies within them.

It highlights the profound impact of targeted government initiatives designed to enhance opportunities for girls and proves that, with the right support, boundaries can be pushed and ceilings can be shattered.

However, as we bask in the glow of this groundbreaking accomplishment, it is crucial to view the development through a wider lens.

While this success is cause for exuberant celebration, it also serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing journey towards genuine gender equality.

The empowerment of girls must be accompanied by a holistic approach that supports the development of both genders.

Empowering girls is about more than just academic achievements. It involves providing the tools and opportunities needed to drive transformative change.

Educated girls are more likely to pursue higher education, break the cycle of poverty and contribute significantly to economic growth. They are vital to sustainable development, and their empowerment is both a moral and an economic imperative.

Initiatives like Tanzania's "Keeping Girls in School" programme have had a profound impact, dramatically increasing female enrolment rates from 5 per cent in 2003 to 36 per cent in 2019. This is according to UNICEF.

This leap in enrolment is not just a statistic; it reflects thousands of lives transformed and communities uplifted. Each girl who stays in school represents progress in the fight against inequality and a step towards a brighter future for the nation.

The benefits of educating girls extend well beyond the classroom. Educated girls tend to marry later and have fewer children, which leads to better family health and economic stability.

The World Bank's research is compelling: each additional year of schooling reduces the likelihood of

child marriage by 6 per cent.

This is not just about postponing marriage; it is about giving girls the time and space to grow, learn and unlock their full potential. It is about recognising girls as leaders, innovators and trailblazers - rather than just future brides.

The economic benefits of girls' education are nothing short of astounding. A McKinsey report projects that advancing women's equality could add an impressive US\$12 trillion to global GDP by 2025.

In Tanzania, gender equality initiatives are already yielding tangible economic rewards. The World Bank's 2022 report reveals that female labour-force participation soared from 67 per cent in 2000 to an impressive 80 per cent in 2019 - far surpassing the sub-Saharan Africa average of 63 per cent.

Tanzanian women are not merely participating; they are leading, with a notable rise in salaried positions. The ratio of women to men in wage-paying jobs climbed from 0.35 in 2000 to 0.64 in 2019.

However, the influence of girls' education doesn't stop with economic growth. The health benefits are equally significant.

Educated girls are empowered to make informed health decisions, leading to lower maternal and infant mortality rates.

In Tanzania, the "Wazazi Nipendeni" campaign (literally, an impassioned appeal to parents to love their children) has been pivotal in enhancing maternal health education.

This initiative has not only raised awareness but has also resulted in tangible health improvements. The 2022 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) reports a dramatic drop in the maternal mortality rate, from 556 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015/2016 to just 104 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022.

Educated girls are also important in fostering inclusive and progressive societies. They are more likely to challenge harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.

In Tanzania, additionally, organisations like the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) have been at the forefront of this battle, empowering girls to become change-makers. Their tireless efforts have led to a significant decline in the incidence of FGM, especially in regions where this harmful tradition was once deeply entrenched.

Still, while we revel in these achievements, it is essential to recognise that the road to true gender equality is ongoing. As we champion the empowerment of girls, we must also address the challenges faced by boys in educational systems and settings worldwide.

Gender equality should never be a

zero-sum game; the advancement of one gender should not come at the expense of the other. Globally, well-intentioned programmes aimed at uplifting girls have occasionally led to unintended consequences for boys.

In parts of India, for instance, targeted programmes have led to a 5 to 10 per cent increase in boys dropping out of school and a 7 per cent decline in male enrolment in primary education. This is according to the World Bank and Pratham Education Foundation.

Similar trends have emerged in Europe. By 2016, fewer men than women aged between 30 and 34 held tertiary degrees (34 per cent vs. 43 per cent), and more men were leaving school early (12 per cent vs. 10 per cent).

Tanzania is not immune to these global trends. In resource-constrained areas, prioritising girls' education has sometimes led to the unintended neglect of boys. The World Bank reported in 2018 a 4 per cent increase in dropout rates among boys in these regions.

Additionally, the Tanzania Institute of Education found in 2019 that boys in these areas were increasingly engaging in risky behaviours, possibly owing to perceived neglect.

To achieve genuine gender equality, a comprehensive approach is essential. Initiatives focused on empowering girls must be balanced with efforts to address the challenges faced by boys, such as higher suicide rates, lower educational attainment and reduced involvement in caregiving roles.

Including men in the conversation about gender equality is critical. Men have a pivotal role in fostering a more equitable society, and their active involvement can help break down entrenched barriers.

By engaging men in discussions about gender equality, we ensure that the dialogue is inclusive and that progress benefits everyone. Integrating gender equality into educational systems and broader policies is also key.

By adopting gender-sensitive curricula and practices, as seen in countries that have implemented these approaches with demonstrable success, we can create a more balanced society.

This comprehensive approach ensures that both boys and girls receive the support they need, creating an environment where true gender equality can flourish.

Finland's educational system is a compelling example. By promoting gender equality from an early age and teaching respect and equity, Finland has built a society that values individuals regardless of gender.

This early emphasis on gender equality lays a foundation for respectful interactions throughout life.

Sweden offers another noteworthy model.

With policies like parental leave for both parents and equal pay legislation, the country creates a supportive environment that benefits all children. This approach is not just about policy; it is about building a society where every individual is valued and supported.

On a more localised level, Tanzania's "Champions of Change" initiative demonstrates how targeted programmes can effectively engage both boys and girls in the pursuit of equality.

By addressing the needs of both genders, such initiatives help create environments where all children can thrive. This programme's success underscores the importance of involving both boys in gender equality efforts, ensuring that they are also part of the solution.

These examples show that gender equality is about creating systems that support and uplift everyone. In Tanzania and beyond, adopting similar approaches can ensure that efforts to empower girls do not disadvantage boys but rather promote a balanced educational experience for all.

This balanced approach is crucial for achieving true gender equality and fostering a supportive environment for every child.

Empowering both girls and boys translates into every facet of daily life from education and career opportunities to health and community participation. It requires a balanced approach that recognises the needs and potential of both genders.

Society must strive to create equal opportunities for all children, encouraging them to pursue their dreams and contribute to their communities.

Individuals can play a key role by challenging stereotypes, supporting gender equality initiatives, and advocating policies that promote balanced empowerment.

Fostering a culture of mutual respect and collaboration is vital for building a brighter future for all children.

By ensuring that both girls and boys have the opportunity to achieve their dreams and make meaningful contributions to society, we can work towards a more just and equitable world.

This collective effort will pave the way for a future where all children, regardless of gender, can reach their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

Kettie Lomaquala Chipeta is a freelance writer specialising in business analysis and strategic management. She is also an avid reader of The Guardian newspaper. kettieloma@gmail.com. +255 692 108 677.

Some prescribed narcotic drugs are harmful in spite of being used for medical treatment

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango



It is clear that narcotic drugs are harmful and can lead to mental disorders if taken in excess, an aspect that is both abusive and detrimental to users. Youths are at a higher risk than any other age groups in local communities.

Most governments worldwide have imposed punitive rules and severe punishments for those found guilty of illegal possession of these drugs, which are prescribed by doctors for medical use.

These drugs contain chemicals that relax the body and can relieve pain. They include Codeine, Heroin, Demerol, Hydrocodone, Morphine, Methadone, and Oxycodone. They are analgesic agents often used to treat moderate to severe pain while some are used to treat coughing and diarrhea.

However, psychiatrists specializing in mental health have discovered that increased doses of these drugs can lead to serious risks, including respiratory depression or stopping breathing, also known as overdose, which can result in death.

Drug addiction is defined as an out-of-control compulsion to use a medicine or drug continuously, despite its harmful effects. Opioids are highly addictive because they trigger powerful reward centers in the human brain.

Just like narcotic drugs, the use of illicit substances, mainly natural products such as cannabis plants or opium and its derivatives, are a major cause of mental disorders, an aspect that is both abusive and detrimental to users.

Improper use of these drugs contributes to many major social problems, such as careless driving, gender violence, stress, and child abuse. Affected individuals may feel anger, frustration, anxiety, fear, worry, depression, shame, guilt or embarrassment.

Like many countries, China has strict drug laws than most nations worldwide, and several foreign nationals have been sentenced to death over the last two decades since such laws were intro-

duced to suppress traffickers in possession of these drugs.

The bold steps undertaken by governments are significant because 'illegal use of these substances weakens national development plans, considering that a large number of users, predominantly youths, are the most active age group in societies'.

In Tanzania, a convict of drug trafficking is charged under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Drug Control and Enforcement Act. Any person found guilty by a court of law can be sentenced to a maximum of 20 to 30 years in jail.

Tanzania's national drug policy only covers drug regulatory control, registration, procurement, and quality assurance. It does not effectively utilize the flexibilities to guarantee increased local production of essential drugs.

The government is vigorously fighting against the emotional effects of abuse and neglect, such as isolation, fear, and an inability to trust, as these can translate into

lifelong consequences, including behavioral health outcomes and an increased risk of substance use disorder.

The major cause of drug abuse in Tanzania is the easy availability of drug kits found in various regions of the country. Accessibility of illicit drugs is facilitated by a few individuals who consider it a lucrative trade, exacerbated by poverty and inequalities.

The most common illegal drugs are cannabis, which remains widely used, followed by heroin and marijuana. Cannabis is commonly grown in regions such as Arusha, Tanga, and Mara.

The government, through the police force, has been actively working to control its cultivation. Arrested individuals are brought to court, their plantations are destroyed, and legal measures are imposed on those engaged in the illegal activities.

The Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) have been raising public awareness, urging

citizens to desist from such harmful practices. This initiative aligns with the ongoing anti-narcotics sensitization campaigns nationwide.

Statistics show that thousands of bags of illicit drugs have been seized by DCEA officials in continuous operations across the country. These efforts have significantly reduced the high rate of drug use.

According to the DCEA's Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo, recent months have seen the seizure of thousands of bags of marijuana, 3,878 pellets of heroin, 531.5 grams of methamphetamine, 138 pellets of cocaine, and 200.5 grams of heroin.

In a special crackdown conducted between March and June this year, 978 bags of marijuana were netted, leading to the arrest of 109 suspects, including three foreigners. Law enforcers also managed to destroy about 1,093 acres of farmland where marijuana was planted.

This success was achieved through collaboration with investigators from the international

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

In another development, DCEA has finalized creation of a comprehensive database containing names of prominent drug dealers operating in and out of the country for tracking purposes.

The authority's Commissioner General announced recently that many of these dealers operate within national borders, while others conduct their activities from abroad. However, he did not disclose their names for security reasons, as investigations are still ongoing.

DCEA managed to arrest a resident of Manzese in Dar es Salaam city who was suspected of manufacturing heroin by combining medicinal drugs with expired hazardous chemicals, posing severe health risks to consumers.

Since January 2024, about 1,341 kilos of narcotic drugs have been destroyed in Zanzibar by the Anti-Narcotic Drug Authority. The Commissioner General of the Zanzibar Commission for National Coordination and Drug Control, Col Burhan Hassan Zuber Nasser, reported recently that the destroyed drugs included 21 kilos of heroin, 1,265 kilos of opium, 30 kilos of marijuana, and 25 kilos of valium.

Commenting on the health implications of illegal drugs made from expired chemicals, the Executive Director of Muhimbili National Hos-

pital (MNH), Prof Mohamed Janabi, noted that MNH conducts daily diagnoses for 150 patients related to illicit drug use, highlighting that the misuse of medicinal drugs to produce counterfeit illegal drugs significantly contributes to these health conditions.

Every year, Tanzania joins other nations in commemorating the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26th to raise awareness of the major problems caused by illicit drugs in local communities.

The previous national event was held at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza, with Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa launching the National Narcotics Policy to guide the country in its fight against drug abuse and trafficking, aiming to ensure that drug use declines or ends entirely.

An analysis of the country's 2022 Population and Household Census shows that 34.5 percent of Tanzanians fall between the ages of 15 and 35, a demographic significantly exposed to illicit drug use. The Premier emphasized that if not properly guided, youth could become a burden to the society.

He affirmed that the government's goal is to nurture honest, responsible, hardworking, and patriotic youth who contribute to their own development and the wider society.

Under Paul Kagame's leadership, Rwanda has witnessed tremendous economic growth, dramatic poverty reduction

By Adonis Byemelwa

Paul Kagame has achieved a resounding victory in Rwanda's presidential election, securing an extraordinary 99 percent of the vote in the July 15th poll. This landslide result, as confirmed by the National Electoral Commission, not only solidifies Kagame's dominance in Rwandan politics but also highlights the unyielding grip he holds on power.

With voter turnout soaring to 98 percent, Kagame's near-unanimous support underlined the level of political consolidation and public endorsement he commands. As Kagame embarks on his fourth term, the political landscape in Rwanda stands as a testament to his enduring influence and the complex interplay between his leadership and the nation's evolving aspirations.

The preliminary results showed Kagame, representing the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), with an unprecedented margin, while his challengers—Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party and independent Philippe Mpayimana—collectively garnered less than 1 percent of the vote.

Voter turnout was notably high at 98 percent, with around 9.5 million eligible voters participating. Final results are anticipated by July 27.

Kagame's path to power has been shaped by Rwanda's tumultuous history and his personal experiences. Born a Tutsi refugee in Uganda, Kagame's early life was marked by displacement due to the 1959-1962 revolution in Rwanda that led to the Tutsi minority being expelled by the Hutu majority.

His formative years in Uganda were influenced by his exposure to political and military dynamics, eventually leading him to join President Yoweri Museveni's rebel forces. Kagame's role as a key intelligence officer in Museveni's army was instrumental in the 1986 victory that brought Museveni to power.

Kagame's ascent in Rwanda's political sphere began amid the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, a catastrophic event that resulted in the death of around one million individuals.

As leader of the Rwandan Patriotic



Paul Kagame secured fourth term with 99 percent of vote, reflecting dominant hold in Rwandan politics

Army (RPA), Kagame was pivotal in halting the genocide and stabilizing the country. Following the genocide, Kagame's RPF took control of Rwanda, and he initially served as vice president and defense minister before becoming president in 2000.

His presidency has been marked by significant economic growth and infrastructural development, positioning Rwanda as one of Africa's fastest-growing economies with a growth rate averaging 7.2 percent from 2012 to 2022. The country aims to attain middle-income status by 2035, a vision Kagame is committed to achieving.

Under Kagame's leadership, Rwanda has seen impressive advancements, including infrastructural projects like the planned \$2 billion international airport south of Kigali. Thierry Kevin Gatete, a Rwandan political commentator, anticipates that Kagame will focus on completing such major projects

and potentially initiating high-tech medical research and treatment programs in his new term.

Kagame's commitment to continued socio-economic development was echoed in his pre-election statements, where he emphasized the need for ongoing investment and progress in security, stability, and economic development.

However, Kagame's presidency has also been marked by criticism regarding his authoritarian style of governance. Critics argue that his administration has stifled political opposition, curtailed media freedom, and restricted civil society.

The 2015 constitutional amendment that allowed Kagame to extend his tenure through additional terms has been a point of contention, raising questions about the democratic process in Rwanda.

This amendment enabled Kagame to seek re-election and potentially remain in power until 2035,

sparking debates about the concentration of power and political repression in the country.

The election occurred against a backdrop of regional tensions with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Rwanda has faced accusations of supporting the M23 rebels fighting in the DRC's eastern region—allegations Kigali denies.

As Kagame embarks on his new term, addressing these diplomatic tensions and fostering reconciliation with the DRC is expected to be a priority. Thierry Kevin Gatete suggests that Kagame's next term will involve efforts to ease these conflicts and seek a peaceful resolution to the strained relationship between Rwanda and its neighbor.

On the international stage, Rwanda's involvement in a controversial asylum seeker deportation plan with the United Kingdom has also been a notable issue. The previous British government's initiative to

deport asylum seekers to Rwanda was scrapped by the Labour administration under Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The plan, which aimed to address illegal immigration by sending asylum seekers to Rwanda, had faced significant legal and ethical challenges. The UK Supreme Court deemed the plan illegal, citing concerns about Rwanda's safety for asylum seekers.

The scrapped plan, which had already cost British taxpayers £700 million, was criticized by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper for its wastefulness.

Despite his authoritarian reputation, Kagame's leadership is also characterized by a strong sense of idealism and pragmatism. His efforts to rebuild Rwanda from the ruins of the genocide reflect his vision for a stable and prosperous nation.

Kagame's approach has been described as a blend of idealism and realism, where his idealistic goals of development and stability are pursued through pragmatic and sometimes controversial methods.

His focus on modernization and economic progress, while significant, has been accompanied by a careful management of Rwanda's internal dynamics and regional relationships.

Kagame's policies have had a profound impact

on Rwanda's development trajectory, but they have also sparked debate about the nature of his rule. While Rwanda's economic achievements are noteworthy, there are concerns about the social and political implications of Kagame's governance.

Critics argue that the focus on economic growth has not been equally beneficial for all Rwandans and that ethnic favoritism persists despite legal prohibitions. The official renaming of the 1994 genocide as the "Genocide Against the Tutsi" has been criticized for emphasizing the suffering of Tutsis while potentially marginalizing the experiences of Hutu victims.

As Kagame begins his fourth term, his leadership will be closely scrutinized both domestically and internationally. His administration's ability to balance continued economic development with political reform, regional diplomacy, and social cohesion will be critical in shaping Rwanda's future.

Kagame's vision for Rwanda—a secure and thriving nation—remains central to his political agenda, even as his methods and motivations continue to be a subject of intense debate. His legacy will be defined by how effectively he navigates these challenges while striving to fulfill his long-term goals for the country.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed: Bangladesh's pro-democracy icon who became an autocrat

By Anbarasan Ethirajan and Tessa Wong

BANGLADESH'S Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed has resigned and left the country after weeks of student-led protests spiralled into deadly, nationwide unrest.

The 76-year-old fled in a helicopter on Monday to India, reports said, as thousands of protesters stormed her official residence in the capital city Dhaka.

This brings an unexpected end to the reign of Bangladesh's longest-serving PM, who has ruled the country for more than 20 years in total.

Credited for overseeing the South Asian country's economic progress, Hasina began her political career as a pro-democracy icon.

However, in recent years she has been accused of turning autocratic and clamping down on any opposition to her rule.

In January she won an unprecedented fourth term as PM in a January election widely decried by critics as being a sham.

How did Sheikh Hasina come to power?

Born to a Muslim family in East Bengal in 1947, Hasina had politics in her blood.

Her father was the nationalist leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's "Father of the Nation" who led the country's independence from Pakistan in 1971 and became its first president.

At that time, Hasina had already established a reputation as a student leader at Dhaka University.

Her father was assassinated with most of his family members in a military coup in 1975. Only Hasina and her younger sister survived as they were travelling abroad at the time.

After living in exile in India, Hasina returned to Bangladesh in 1981 and became the leader of the political party her father belonged to, the Awami League.

She joined hands with other political parties to hold pro-democracy street protests during the military rule of General Hussain Muhammed Ershad. Propelled by the popular uprising, Hasina quickly became a national icon.

She was first elected to power in 1996. She earned credit for signing a water-sharing deal with India and a peace deal with tribal insurgents in the south-east of the country.

But at the same time, her government was criticised for numerous allegedly corrupt business deals and for being too subservient to India.

She later lost to her former ally turned nemesis, Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), in 2001.

As heirs to political dynasties, both women have dominated Bangladesh politics for more than three decades and are known as the "battling Begums". Begum refers to a Muslim woman of high rank.



Hasina has overseen Bangladesh's economic progress but critics say she has also turned autocratic

Observers say their bitter rivalry has resulted in bus bombs, disappearances and extrajudicial killings becoming regular occurrences.

Hasina eventually came back to power in 2009 in polls held under a caretaker government.

A true political survivor, she endured numerous arrests while in opposition as well as several assassination attempts,

including one in 2004 that damaged her hearing. She has also survived efforts to force her into exile and numerous court cases in which she has been accused of corruption.

What has she achieved?

Bangladesh under Hasina presents a contrasting picture. The Muslim-majority nation, once one of the world's poorest, has achieved credible economic suc-

cess under her leadership since 2009.

It's now one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, even surpassing its giant neighbour India.

Its per capita income has tripled in the last decade and the World Bank estimates that more than 25 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 20 years.

Much of this growth has been fuelled by the garment industry, which accounts for the vast majority of total exports from Bangladesh and has expanded rapidly in recent decades, supplying markets in Europe, North America and Asia.

Using the country's own funds, loans and development assistance, Ms Hasina's government has undertaken huge infrastructure projects, including the flagship \$2.9bn Padma bridge across the Ganges.

What is the controversy surrounding her?

The latest protests were the most serious challenge Hasina faced since taking office, and follows a highly controversial election where her party was re-elected for the fourth straight parliamentary term.

Amid increasing calls for her to resign, she had remained defiant. She condemned the agitators as "terrorists" and appealed for support to "suppress these terrorists with a firm hand".

The latest unrest in Dhaka and elsewhere began with a demand to abolish quotas in civil service jobs but turned into a wider anti-government movement.

In the wake of the pandemic, Bangladesh has been struggling with the escalating cost of living. Inflation has skyrocketed, its foreign exchange reserves have dropped precipitously, and its foreign debt has doubled since 2016.

Critics have blamed this on Hasina's government's mismanagement, and say that Bangladesh's previous economic success only helped those close to Hasina's Awami League due to endemic corruption.

They also say the country's progress has come at the cost of democracy and human rights, and allege that Ms Hasina's rule has been marked by repressive authoritarian measures against her political opponents, detractors and the media.

The government and Hasina have denied such allegations.

But in recent months, many senior leaders from the BNP were arrested, along with thousands of supporters following anti-government protests - a remarkable turnaround for a leader who once fought for multi-party democracy.

Rights groups have also expressed concern about hundreds of cases of alleged enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings by security forces since 2009.

Hasina's government flatly denies claims that it's behind such abuses - but it also severely restricts visits to foreign journalists who want to investigate such allegations.



Propelled by the pro-democracy movement in the 1980s and early 1990s, Hasina became a national icon

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

Samia's clean energy initiative comes true in Handeni District

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

RESIDENTS of Msomera and Mkababu villages in Handeni District, Tanga Region have expressed satisfaction with the effectiveness of the campaign to replace the long-standing reliance on firewood and charcoal by President Samia Suluhu Hassan following a significant increase in the use of cooking gas among them.

According to the citizens, since the start of the campaign three months ago, the residents, particularly women, have focused more on using gas, citing several challenges, including environmental and health issues, stemming from their use of charcoal and firewood as energy sources for cooking.

Speaking during a visit by leaders from Handeni District who were assessing the use of clean energy in the district, the women commended the efforts of President Samia in launching the campaign, saying that despite its newness, it has already shown a considerable degree of success due to the positive response from the citizens.

"For example, this is the third month since I started using gas, and I have asked myself many questions and blamed myself for why I delayed starting to use gas. Truly, I have gained a lot of benefits," said Teresia Simon, one of the residents of Msomera Village and a member of the Maasai community.

These women are among 1,500 residents who benefited from gas cylinders from the Taifa Gas Company, in a collaboration programme between the company and the government through the Ministry of Energy. Through the distribution of 10,000 gas cylinders, the initiative has reached over 1,500 residents, providing them with a viable and sustainable alternative to traditional fuel sources.

Mariam Khatib from Chang'ombe Ward said that contrary to her expecta-



Maria Lekipa Laitayok, a resident of Mkababu Village in Handeni District, Tanga Region, prepares food using gas energy as part of the response to the campaign to relieve women of the burden of firewood-carrying initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, introduced in the village three months ago. According to the residents of the village, the introduction of the campaign has led to a significant increase in the use of cooking gas instead of charcoal and firewood as it was before.

tions, the gas energy has given her a new lease on life, as she can now cook her food quickly, especially when preparing food for her children to go to school.

"I no longer have the problem of continuing to struggle with firewood when I have to prepare food for my children to eat and go to school. This kind of energy has given me a lot of relief. Also, I have made sure that when it runs out, I refill it immediately because I have discovered that it is an energy that saves time and

many things at home and allows me to do other work," said Mariam Khatib.

The distribution of gas cylinders, which took place in May this year, was aimed at reaching out to villagers who had not yet embraced using gas. The Taifa Gas Company, in realizing this, was able to open gas filling stations in the villages of Msomera and Mkababu, as well as a main store in Handeni town, to facilitate the availability of gas for those in need.

The programme manager who also heads the Public Relations Department at the gas firm Angellah Bhoke said that the opportunities to open shops and gas filling stations in this programme were offered to some of the residents of these villages so that they too could benefit from the business opportunities through this programme.

"Whenever we distribute cylinders to the public, we must also open shops or filling stations to make it easier for citizens when

they need to refill. Therefore, we also provide business opportunities for residents to own gas distribution shops or stations as their own businesses. This also helps to uplift the lives of Tanzanians," said Bhoke.

Since the launch of the campaign to replace the firewood-carrying burden among women in the country led by President Samia many clean energy stakeholders have stepped up to support this campaign. For example, Taifa Gas has contributed over 30,000 cylinders, equivalent to 2bn/-, in support of the campaign.

"We continue to work with various leaders in the country, including ministers, members of parliament, regional and district commissioners, and different institutions, to popularize this campaign. We are pleased that in supporting this campaign, we have been able to reach every region of our country," said Bhoke.

Leaders in Handeni District have commended this campaign by President Samia and said they will continue to advocate for it until all the district's residents use clean energy.

"We are confident that the arrival of gas energy in Handeni is a good start for us, and we will not go back. I have ordered the reduction of permits for cutting wood used to make charcoal because now our main goal is to reduce the use of firewood and charcoal in our district. I commend Taifa Gas for this partnership that has favored us, the residents of Handeni," said the Handeni District Commissioner, Albert Msando.

According to national statistics, approximately 33,000 Tanzanians lose their lives each year due to the effects of using firewood and charcoal. Additionally, the country loses about 400,000 hectares of forests annually due to charcoal and firewood use. The statistics are the reason behind the nationwide campaign for the use of clean energy launched by the government.

CHANGSHA

FOR Taiwan-based China Communications Media Group, a crucial step in their venture into Africa starts a little closer to home, in Hunan, a central province on the Chinese mainland.

Aspiring to expand its sales network of electric vehicles into Africa, the company will first set up a subsidiary inside the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha, leveraging the many preferential policies and constellation of Chinese and African companies at the site.

"We've long wished to explore the African market, but our journey had been circuitous," said the company's chairman Liu Yao-yuan. "Now many like-minded companies gather here. I believe our exchanges and cooperation can lead to common prosperity."

Opened on June 13, the building is the latest Sino-African landmark in Hunan, one of the most active Chinese provinces in economic ties with Africa and a trailblazer in China-Africa cooperation.

Spanning over 100,000 square meters, the building is designed to host Chinese and African firms engaging in bilateral trade and investment, and provide them with subsidies and a range of services from policy consultation to financial support.

Since its launch, more than 30 companies and associations in the fields of engineering, technology and research, telecommunication and others have settled in the building, whose trade with Africa is projected to reach 30 billion yuan (\$4.2 bil-

China builds new platform for Sino-African entrepreneurship



An inauguration ceremony for the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building is held in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province.

lion) over the next three years.

The Mali Business Center, among the building's first occupants, was set up with an aim of serving Mali companies in China and helping Chinese firms make investment in the West African country.

"We hope to become a home for the numerous Mali companies operating in China and help them explore the Chinese market," said the centre's director Khalifa A. Says Diop.

Guangdong-based Africa-China Association for Cooperation,

Development and Investment (ACACDI) also plans to register a company at the Changsha headquarters, which promises rent exemption, subsidies and other support.

"Hunan is famous for leading China's cooperation with Africa," said Abdualla Elfrid, vice chairman of ACACDI. "And we believe the building will become a bridge for deepening exchanges, enhancing understanding, and expanding cooperation between China and Africa."

China has remained Africa's

largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching a record \$282.1 billion in 2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While Chinese investments in Africa are often represented by large state-owned enterprises building railways, ports and power stations in Africa, smaller private companies are increasingly credited with boosting trade, creating jobs and channelling technology and investments into diverse sectors.

With heavy participation of

private companies, China-Africa cooperation has diversified from infrastructure, mining and agriculture to logistics, digital economy, clean energy, finance and others, said Xu Xiangping, head of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Promotion Council.

"These companies are bringing technologies and knowhow into Africa, especially in renewable energy, agriculture and digitalization, which is beneficial to Africa's modernization," Xu said.

In recent years, China has put various mechanisms in place to

spur private cooperation with Africa, including China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone. Hunan often hosts such pioneering policies with its strength in agricultural technology, equipment manufacturing and infrastructure construction.

Shen Yumou, who heads Hunan's department of commerce, said the building would encourage more small and medium-sized Chinese companies to invest in Africa by pooling together resources and by providing channels and localization services.

"Micro, small and medium-sized companies are more concerned about the costs and risks involved in their journey to Africa, so our goal is to create a safer and more efficient ecosystem for them," he said.

Meanwhile, the building is expected to guide more African companies into China to tap into the sprawling market of the world's second-largest economy.

Thanks to expeditious government handling of Africa-related services and its proximity to the manufacturing powerhouse of Guangdong, Hunan has become an ideal springboard for African companies hoping to enter China, said Luo Qin, general manager of Changsha Starlink Foreign Enterprise Comprehensive Services Co., Ltd.

"Many African companies have set their sights on Hunan and the new headquarters," said Luo, whose company offers foreign trade services to other companies. "We expect the building to become a leading platform for China-Africa trade in the near future."

BUSINESS

Tanzanian contractors benefit from 1 trillion/- in bank funds

By Guardian Reporter

Local contractors in Tanzania have over the last two years benefited from 1.1trn/- local bank's financing, fostering the growth of the construction industry and economic growth.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Filbert Mponzi, the NMB bank's chief of retail banking during the announcement of future financing improvement.

Mponzi noted that since 2022, the financing benefited 600 contractors who face working capital challenges in executing projects and competing effectively for construction tenders.

"To ensure we expand the scope of our services in addressing the financial challenges faced by local contractors during the undertaking of projects, the financing improvements include an increase in the value of bid bond guarantees as well as performance and advanced payment guarantees," he said.

The lender has increased its bid bond guarantee for local contractors to 5bn/- without collateral, up from the previous level of 2.5bn/-. Additionally, unsecured performance and advance payment guarantees have been raised to 3bn/-, from the previous



Works deputy minister, Godfrey Kasekenya (C) receives a safety helmet from NMB Bank's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (2nd L), during the launch of financing services for contractors in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Manager of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) Dar es Salaam Region, Eng. Geoffrey Mkinga (R), Manager of the Eastern Zone Contractors Registration Board, Eng. Ally Mwita (2nd R), and Bank's Dar es Salaam Zone Manager, Seka Urjo (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

limit of 1.5bn/-.

Mponzi explained that the guarantees will not only be timely but also come with lenient conditions.

He emphasized that these financial service improvements are specifically targeting contractors engaged in projects with government and public institutions in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

According to him, these novel enhancements are the direct result of the bank's research into the financing challenges facing local contractors, particularly their struggle to keep pace with the rapidly

growing construction sector driven by a strong national economy.

He said that the new funding initiative will significantly enhance the financial capacity of local contractors, bolstering their capital bases and enabling them to compete effectively in bidding for major project tenders.

"We strongly believe these new solutions are a major milestone for our local contractors and reaffirm our commitment to supporting the government's efforts in advancing the construction industry and boosting its contribution to the national econ-

omy," Mponzi told Works Deputy Minister, Godfrey Kasekenya, who officiated the debut of the enhanced financial solutions.

He explained that, in addition to providing loans, the bank also collaborates closely with contractors in various economic and social spheres through their professional associations and regulatory bodies, including CRB, TUCASA, and TWCA.

Commending the bank for supporting the construction industry, Eng. Kasekenya said the endeavor aligns with the aspirations and directives of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to financially

empower local contractors, enabling them to grow, compete effectively, and contribute meaningfully to national building efforts.

He noted that the scope of works locals can bid on has now been expanded from 10bn/- to 50bn/-, highlighting that funding and working capital are among the major challenges contractors face.

Additionally, he pointed out the lack of technologically advanced heavy equipment required for modern and mega projects, as well as the need for professional management of these undertakings.

"The construction industry is a key pillar of the national economy and a major employer, currently beleaguered by myriad challenges such as lack of adequate financing and limited capital sources. NMB's improved funding solutions are set to address these issues," he noted in a speech he read on behalf of Works Minister Innocent Bashungwa.

Eng. Ally Mwita, Zonal Manager of the Contractors Registration Board (CRB), urged local contractors to fully exploit the NMB financing solutions, which he described as a win-win opportunity for the two strategic national development stakeholders.



Eco Bank Tanzania managing director Dr Charles Asiedu addresses tourism stakeholders during a meeting held recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholder urges Ecobank to support smaller tourism firms

By Godfrey Mushi, Arusha

The managing director of Arusha based Kibeta Tours & Safaris Edwin Mushumbusi has urged Eco Bank Tanzania to think of financing small tour operators to purchase their own vehicles, to avoid high costs they incur in hiring them.

Mshumbusi made the remarks recently during the meeting between the bank's management, tourism stakeholders and regional business community.

"As one of tourism stakeholders, I advise the bank to think of helping us as small tour operators on how we can grow our businesses. We have agreed with Eco Bank that it is preparing a special plan for vehicles financing," he said. "These vehicles will enable us to transport tourists in different tourist attractions including Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and Geopark."

He said small tour operators have opted to hire vehicles and sometimes they pay a lot of money to owners, but if they will have their own vehicles, it will be a relief to their businesses.

Responding to the request, the Eco Bank Tanzania managing director Dr Charles Asiedu said they are determined to offer the support to the development of tourism sector, considering that Eco-Bank is pan-African group operating in 33 markets in Africa.

"We have supported the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) through partnered financing with our partners. Arusha is important city to Eco Bank; that is why we have a branch here to serve the market. This is important for Tanzania's

tourism sector," he said.

Other attendants of the meeting have praised the bank, calling it to partner with the government to invest on SGR from Dar es Salaam to Arusha, via Tanga and Moshi, in order to open up economic opportunities in northern regions of Tanzania, specifically tourism.

Currently, the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) is implementing the SGR project for the central line, which is expected complete in 2028.

On his side, the TRC's lead advisor, who is responsible for mobilizing investors for SGR Peter Msumari said they will work to enhance transportation sector as seven companies have shown interests to collaborate with the government to operate the new railway.

"I have been used by the government to seek investors because this is huge project which will help to stimulate the economy because transportation sector is the heart of the economy," he said.

Ecobank Tanzania Limited, a Subsidiary of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) began its operations in Tanzania on the 19th January 2010 which enables the bank to commence provision of fully commercial banking services to the public.

The bank is strategically locates its retail outlets in the fastest growing towns and cities in Tanzania, leveraging on its footprint to gain competitive advantage and delivering its products and services.

According to data obtained on its official website, the bank's total assets at the end of December 2023 stood at 406.7bn/-, with total deposits amounting to 274.6bn/-.

To help improve the farmer's performance, TaCRI's Farm Manager, Melchior Tesha expressed that they're disseminating the coffee growers to adopt good farming practices.

"Among the farming good farming practices, include intercropping, for instance, coffee banana intercropping, shade trees, soil and water conservation, and intergraded soil fertility management (ISFM), as well as intergraded pest management (IPM)," he said.

Together with that, the program also imparts the farmers with crop managed skills, such as pruning, canopy management and spacing.

"As per the professional coffee cultivation, he unveiled that coffee plant supposed to produce a total of 38 primary branches,

By Guardian Reporter

Azania Bank posted a cumulative profit after income tax of 15bn/- during the first half of this year, an increase of 25 percent compared to 12bn/- recorded during similar period of last year, driven by the substantial growth of both funded and non-funded incomes.

The bank's unaudited financial statements shows that out of the cumulative net profit for the half-year, 7.7bn/- was recorded during the second quarter, which pushed both basic and diluted earnings per share to 167/- during the reported second quarter from 113/- recorded in Q2, 2023.

The statements show cumulative net interest income grew to 50.3bn/- during the first half of this year from 39.6bn/- during similar period of last year, while non-interest income amounted to 18.8bn/- from 16bn/- respectively.

The increase of funded



and non-funded incomes resulted into an increase of operating income of 20.5bn/- at the end of June this year from 14.4bn/- recorded during the first half of last year.

On quarterly basis, operating income increased by 30 percent to 10.7bn/- from 7.2bn/- recorded in Q2, 2024.

During the reported quarter, the bank managed to expand its branches network to 27 countrywide from 25, which resulted into an increase of number of employees to 648 from 596.

The bank, which is categorized as largest in Tanzania banking industry, managed to expand its as-

set based to 2.3trn/- at the end of June, compared to 2.2trn/- during the end of the third quarter, driven by loans, advanced and overdraft, cheques and items for clearance, investment in government debt instruments and balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

On quarterly basis, total gross loans grew by nearly 50 percent to 1.8trn/- during the second quarter of this year from 1.2trn/- recorded during the second quarter of last year.

During the reported quarter, the bank managed to sharply scale down the rate of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) by 40 percent to 6.83 percent at the end of June, close to regulatory benchmark from double digits of 10.75 percent at the end of June last year.

Balance with Bank of Tanzania (BoT) increased to 110.6bn/- at the end of June, compared to 86.3bn/- at the end of March this year, while in-

vestment in government debt instruments grew to 237.7bn/- compared to 225.2bn/- respectively.

Total deposits grew by 60 percent to 1.6trn/- at the end of June, compared to 1.0 trn/- at the end of June last year, while the bank's capital slightly grew to 307bn/- in Q2, 2024 from 305bn/- in Q1, 2024, making it as one of the banks with the largest capital base in Tanzania.

Return on average shareholders' funds increased to 10.15 percent at the end of the second quarter, from 7.47 percent during similar quarter of last year.

The growth of the bank's capital base resulted from more than doubled profit account, amid slowdown of retained earnings.

Profit account amounted to 15bn/- during the second quarter, compared to 7.3bn/- recorded during the first quarter with flat paid-up share capital amounting to 185.8bn/-.

Coffee farmers to be equipped with commercial farming skills

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) is running special programme to empower the farmers in the sector to embrace recommended agronomic practices for producing coffee commercially.

Through the robust initiative which has started to fetch fruitful results many coffee growers, the agricultural pundits at TaCRI are disseminating to the farmers with diverse practices to help boosting production, productivity and quality.

Rolling out of the training surfaced following research to establish that, more than 40 percent of Tanzania's are still using traditional varieties which are prone to coffee disease,

whereby plant population must be at least between 500 and 1000 per acre," he observed.

He detailed, for robusta variety, the recommended planting space is 3 times 3 meters, whereby for arabica the needed space is 3 times 2 meters, and 3 times 2.5 meters (for tall variety), and 2 times 2 meters, and 2 times 1.5 meters for compact variety.

He named the trees as the Albizias, and Cordia Africa, saying the trees are useful in providing comfortable shelters to coffee plants, but also in helping covering the soil for the purpose of retaining moisture.

"The trees has multiple benefits, because apart from assisting smooth growing of the coffee plants, economically wise, they're enabling the farmers to get animal feed as well

and the environment.

"The intercropping creates favourable microclimate for supporting coffee production and other biodiversity," he said.

He added that through adhering to the disseminated good farming agronomic practices, the farmers' stands a chance to heighten their production and economic gains from the cultivation of the crop.

"In the program, TaCRI also imparts the farmers to grow varieties of legumes in their coffee plantations," he briefed.

On his side, Leonard Kiwelu, the economist at TaCRI said the program also majors in training the farmers to apply effective use of integrated pest management (IPM), the best recommend process of solving pest problems while minimizing risks to people

and the environment.

"Most coffee farmers used to experience great loss due to poor management of post-harvest loss, through the program we are empowering them to adopt proper practices to curtail the coffee beans loss while harvesting, drying, processing and storing their end-produce," he informed.

Together with that, the expert detailed that relevant research established that coffee farmers in Tanzania were losing between 10 and 20 percent of coffee beans during numerous staged of post-harvest.

"The ongoing strategy emphasises on research and dissemination of climate smart agricultural practices, quality improvement to meet consumers test and preference," according to him.

SPECIAL REPORT

Cooperative unions improve lives of people with disabilities - 8

By Francis Kajubi

Cooperative unions have to comply with the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 9 of 2010 that requires the public and private sector institutions to effectively engage people living with disabilities in their economic development empowerment programmes and employment plans so as they are uplifted from the life of poverty.

Section 62 (i) of the Act prohibits members of the community from denying the participation of persons with disabilities in social, economic and political activities.

Cooperative unions, among the economic development drivers at the grassroots levels of the societies, are obligated to abide by the cited Section in their daily activities.

The call for uplifting the disabled has been cemented by a number of governing leaders within cooperative unions who recently spoke to this journalist in separate interviews.

The social leaders were of the common view that cooperative unions should initiate special programmes intended at providing humanitarian aids.

However, they argued that cooperatives ought to extend financial services such as affordable loans of low interest rates for the disabled as they are being left behind in cooperative unions' economic activities.

Dr Cyril Komba, Senior Lecturer and Dean Faculty of Cooperative and Community Development, Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) said that cooperative unions are a ray of sunshine to all Tanzanians who want to live by realizing the United Nations sustainable development goals vision and therefore the disabled should not be left behind in the unions' development strategies.

He recommended that people with disabilities often face not only poor health but also persistent inequality, with less access to health care, housing, employment and financial security.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs pledge to leave no one

behind and recognize disability as an issue that cuts across all SDGs.

"People living with disabilities need special treatment when it comes to enabling them to benefit from the activities of cooperative unions whether socially or economically," said Dr. Komba.

Dr Komba's recommendations on economic empowerment by people living with disabilities aligns with Section 54 (l) (c) which states that a person with disability shall, without discrimination on the basis of his disability be entitled to social protection and have access to available grants and credit services for income-generating activities and to public housing programmes, if resources allow.

The Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) report for 2020 states that 4.2 million Tanzanians live with various kinds of disabilities.

The report clarifies the kinds of disabilities such as mental health, physical organs disability, Albinism, the blind, the deaf and the dumb.

On the other hand, the 2022 Population and Housing Census results as released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) do not specify the number of people currently living with disabilities in Tanzania.

Emmanuel Masaga, ELCT Northern Diocese SACCOS, Head of ICT Department, said that the SACCOS have more than 16,000 members including people living with disabilities and has been engaging them in economic activities since its inception in 1994.

He said ELCT has been at the forefront in collaborating with



local government leaders in identifying the disabled, people with special needs and providing financial aid and services according to their needs.

Respius John, Chairperson Tanzania Cooperative Stakeholders (TCS) said that engaging people with disabilities in economic activities managed by cooperative unions put emphasis on the agenda of not leaving anyone behind by 2030.

"Engaging people living with disabilities in cooperative unions economic activities cements the concept of integrated development that reflects the equality of all people;

My office has been running a special campaign to not leave people with disabilities behind in various AMCOS and SACCOS economic activities and there have been positive results of their participation," said John.

Willibald Ngambeki, Chairperson Regional Cooperative Development Forum (RCDF) said that

his office has been emphasizing the implementation of Employment and Labor Relations Act Cap.366 which obligates employers to ensure that people with disabilities are among the employees of all public and private institutions.

"Cooperative unions are part of employers in the private sector. My office has been working closely with the unions to ensure that AMCOS and SACCOS are well managed in implementing the requirement to engage people with disabilities in their economic activities," said Ngambeki.

Suzanne Ndomba-Doran Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) said that cooperative unions had so far registered millions of members and therefore they are key platforms of economically equipping people living with disabilities.

"Employers in the private sector need to set a good example when it comes to empowering

people living with disability," said Doran.

She asserted that ATE, as a member of the National Advisory Council for People with Disabilities in the country, has continued to cooperate with the government under the PMO's Office-Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities in ensuring that the interests of employees with disabilities are considered at the workplace.

Dr. Elizabeth Mshote, Dar es Salaam Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary in charge of Economy and Productivity said that her office is keen at ensuring that programmes that target economically empowering people living with disability are well-organized and implemented.

This journalist has established that cooperative unions are part of financial institutions as per the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) obligated with the role of fast tracking financial inclusion in the country.

Not only cooperative unions but commercial banks as key stakeholder of the unions are on the frontline of extending loans to the unions so that their members including the disabled benefit.

In a bid to economically empower people living with disabilities, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania is implementing the Ready Inclusive Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship (RISE/E) programme under its FutureMakers portfolio.

Jerry Agyeman-Boateng, the bank's head of consumer and investment, said that the 2.25bn/-

programme targets at empowering 270 young people living with disabilities with 50 percent women beneficiaries to access employability skills development, in alignment with the labour market demands among other aspirations.

He asserted that the programme further targets 108 young people with disabilities to gain sustainable employment skills. The programme also targets 90 microbusinesses, providing expert business development advice and supporting microbusinesses to grow and create 144 job opportunities.

The programme targets at organizational strengthening and job creation amongst micro-businesses led by young people.

According to him, people living with disabilities have the potential to positively impact local communities through the creation of economic opportunities.

Boateng was of the view that the disabled people face barriers ranging from limited access to capital, access to market information, poorly designed technical assistance, and lack of support.

According to him, young entrepreneurs with disabilities and women face additional hurdles that further impede their entrepreneurial aspirations and the potential for impact and upwards mobility.

"This programme will make a real difference for the young entrepreneurs with and without disabilities to grow their businesses as well as strengthen small businesses," he said.

Boateng asserted that phase one of the programme started in 2019 to tackle inequality and promote greater economic inclusion. It focuses on education, employability and entrepreneurship and based on the success that the bank registered.

To be continued.

IN today's world, organisations must contend with constantly changing cybersecurity threats that could have detrimental effects on their risk of reputation, customer trust, business and economic losses. Cybersecurity is currently one of the organisation's most essential issues. Much of what we do to deploy security in an organisation is pointless and inefficient if we don't have a solid cybersecurity strategy in place. When we discuss about cybersecurity strategy, we mean an action plan that describes how an organisation will protect itself from cyber threats. Governance, Technology, and Operations are the three organisational components that serve as the foundation for developing a cybersecurity strategy. These elements support organisations in understanding how to reduce cybersecurity threats.

A well-planned and appropriately implemented cyber security strategy will assist your organisation to lowers the chance of your information assets to becoming a victim to cyber attack. An effective cybersecurity strategy are based on principles of cyber security and focus on emphasize best practices for handling security incidents and determining how to respond. The organisation's most important assets as well as potential threats and weaknesses will be identified

Importance of organisations' internal cyber-security strategy

with the help of the cybersecurity risk assessment.

Given the ongoing advancement of cyber threats, an annual risk assessment can assist in identifying risks and vulnerabilities of the information assets from both internal and external stakeholders, which is necessary for an organisation's security strategy to succeed. This process will help detect and assess hazards to information security and determine their probability and impact. The outcomes of the risk assessment will identify the assets that require protection first and determine the extent to which the organisation should use cyber security.

Determining your current cybersecurity capability can aid in the definition of security goals.

By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.



By examining your organisation's current security architecture and past security incidents, you can ascertain your current maturity level and make progress toward your cybersecurity strategy. The ability to assess security risks and develop suitable countermeasures is known as security risk ap-

petite. It also helps organisations establish realistic and achievable security objectives by serving as a standard by which to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigations. When creating a security strategy, achievable and realistic security goals are crucial considerations while developing a security

plan.

Nearly every day, technology is evolving. To ensure that an organization's technology is up to date with current best practices, cybersecurity strategies are helpful. The bulk of the organisation depends on technology to raise output and improve service delivery, given the rise in cyber-crime and malicious hackers. It is crucial to have an efficient cyber security strategy that is derived from your surroundings in order to attain cyber security that is suitable for your organisation.

Last but not least, the entire organisation is liable for the cybersecurity strategy, thus it's critical that each employee understands their role in accomplishing security goals and is held responsible for their actions. Frequent train-

ing programs must be implemented in order to ensure that employees understand information security risks, security procedures that must be followed, and the consequences for the organisation when security policies are broken. This is the only way to ensure that your organisation will successfully implement your cyber security strategy.

With the correct guidance, you can create a strong cyber security strategy that will safeguard the information assets of your organisation. Building a successful cybersecurity strategy for an organisation requires a strong cybersecurity team made up of skilled cybersecurity professionals with exposure to the cyber field both inside and outside the organisation. This is due to the fact that there is a global lack of cybersecurity experts, and as cybersecurity strategies seek to maximize organisational security, it is critical to assemble a team of experts who can exchange security information.

Ibrahim Sultan is Cyber Security experts. He can be reached through email address: sultibra@gmail.com

Miner reports significant gold findings from Mpanda project

By Guardian Correspondent

Am maiden reverse circulation (RC) drilling programme has been successfully completed at the Mpanda gold/copper project, in Tanzania, with significant intercepts returned from the Kabungu prospect, ASX-listed Resource Mining Corporation (RMC) has said.

Assay results were obtained from eight drill holes, with significant intercepts highlighted in hole MPRCO007 from the Kabungu prospect of 4 m at 2.5 g/t gold and 0.5 percent copper from 39 m and 2 m at 0.74 g/t gold from 47 m.

"The maiden drilling programme has provided a very positive start to the exploration works within this

greenfield copper/gold area where no drilling has been recorded in the past. Anomalous copper/gold values are present in all prospects and work will continue to define the epithermal source from which they are derived," RMC executive chairperson Asimwe Kabunga said on August 5.

Kabungu, a Tanzanian-born Australian entrepreneur who was instrumental in establishing the Tanzania Community of Western Australia Inc. and served as its first President.

The intercepts are part of a 2 km geochemical anomaly that remains untested along strike.

Numerous anomalous copper values were recorded from drilling at the Mpanda

Ndogo and Stalike prospects, with 19 non-magmatic copper values ranging from 0.1 percent copper to 0.94 percent copper.

The sample assay results from five drill holes, from MPRCO009 to MPRCO013, from the Mpanda Ndogo and Vikonge prospects are pending, the company said.

So far, 13 RC holes for a total of 723 m have been completed in the Mpanda project.

The initial drilling has been completed at four prospects including four holes at Mpanda Ndogo, three holes at Stalike, three holes at Kabungu and three holes at Vikonge.

A ground magnetic survey programme is planned at Kabungu to clearly define the

structure hosting the mineralisation.

RMC is currently exploring for critical minerals namely Copper and Nickel in Tanzania and Lithium in Finland.

In Tanzania, RMC has two projects exploring for Copper-Gold and four projects focused on Nickel occurrences in sulphides within known and prolific mafic and ultramafic intrusions.

The Mpanda Copper-Gold project is considered highly prospective given its geological setting within the Ubendian Orogenic Belt.

Tanzania Gold Production was reported at 60,000,000 kg in Dec 2023.

This records an increase from the previous figure of 56,943,000 kg for Dec 2022.

Tanzania Gold Production



data is updated yearly, averaging 40,421,500 kg from Dec 1990 to 2023, with 34 observations.

Leading producers of gold in Tanzania are AngloGold Ashanti and Barrick Gold.

Tanzania is the 4th

largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali and is the world's sole producer of the precious stone Tanzanite.

Top export destinations of "Gold (including gold plated with

platinum) unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form" from Tanzania in 2023: South Africa with a share of 35 percent (1.07 billion US\$) India with a share of 33 percent (1.01 bil-

lion US\$) United Arab Emirates with a share of 17.7 percent (543 million US\$).

Over the five years to 2022, gold production from Tanzania decreased by a CAGR of 0.5 percent.

WORLD

Kamala Harris becomes Democratic presidential nominee to challenge Donald Trump in November election

WASHINGTON

KAMALA Harris, the U.S. vice president and the daughter of immigrants, has officially clinched the Democratic nomination for the presidency, becoming the first woman of color to lead a major party ticket in the country.

Harris, previously unsuccessful in her presidential bid, has now secured the Democratic nomination, a significant moment for the party.

This follows President Joe Biden's underwhelming debate performance in June, sparking internal conflicts within the party. The lead-up to Harris' nomination has been marked by intense discussions and turbulence among Democrats regarding their party's future and Biden's chances of reelection.

Following a five-day online balloting process by delegates of the Democratic National Convention, Harris's nomination was officially confirmed on Monday night.

The Democratic Party announced that 99 percent of the delegates had voted in favor of Harris in a statement released just before midnight.

The party will now proceed to formally certify the vote and will hold a celebratory roll call during the upcoming party convention in Chicago later this month.

Harris has indicated that she intends to stay aligned with the key themes and policies that defined Biden's campaign, including democracy, gun violence prevention, and abortion rights.

However, her approach may be more impassioned, especially when she draws upon her prosecutorial experience to criticize



US Vice-President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks to reporters before departing George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, on Aug 1, 2024, as she returns to Washington, DC. AFP

Donald Trump and highlight his 34 felony convictions related to falsifying business records as part of a hush money scheme. Harris was born on Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, California.

Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was a breast cancer scientist from India, and her father, Donald Harris, was a Jamaican-born professor at Stanford University. Harris worked as a prosecutor in the Bay Area before becoming California's attorney general in 2010 and later a U.S. senator in 2016. During her time in the Senate, she emerged as a vocal critic of Trump and gained attention for her role on the Judiciary Committee, particularly during the confirmation hearings of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Although Harris initially ran for president in 2020 with high expectations, she faced challenges with campaign organization and message consistency, leading to her withdrawal before the Iowa caucuses.

However, she remained a top contender for

the vice presidential nomination, given her close relationship with Biden and her experience as a prosecutor. After securing the nomination, Biden chose Harris as his running mate.

As vice president, Harris faced criticism for her role in addressing migration issues at the U.S.-Mexico border and her tie-breaking votes in the Senate.

She also became a prominent advocate for abortion rights following the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe v. Wade.

After Biden endorsed Harris following the end of his candidacy on July 21, her 2024 presidential bid saw a surge in enthusiasm among the Democratic base. Donations poured in, volunteers showed up at field offices, and supporters grew in numbers, leading to venue swaps for events. *Xinhua*

Russian MFA advises US special services to 'patch up security holes'

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has advised Washington to shift the attention of US secret service agents from Russian diplomats to real threats.

"Maybe the US secret services should retarget a couple of hundred agents who are shadowing Russian diplomats everywhere in vain attempts to persuade them to cooperate? This might help patch real security holes. At least, better protect the top personalities on the US political arena," Zakharova wrote on her Telegram channel, commenting on The New York Times investigation into the attempted assassination attempt against US presidential candidate Donald Trump.

She said US special services "did not care" about the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, who before the rally where the attempt on Trump's life took place, was measuring distances with the help of an optical rangefinder. Zakharova also recalled that the secret services excluded from the protected perimeter the warehouse's roof from where the shots were fired.

"The secret service also rejected a request for a meeting with the local police, who had developed suspicion about Crooks on the eve of the attack," Zakharova pointed out.

"They meddle everywhere, they interfere in everything, they proclaim themselves exceptional and the best, but in reality - it's a soap bubble with only falsehoods and lies inside," she stated.

Agencies

Pentagon chief was surprised by plea deal for three Sept 11 suspects

WASHINGTON

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was caught by surprise by a defense official's decision to agree to plea deals with the man accused of masterminding the Sept 11 attacks, along with two of his accomplices, the Pentagon said on Monday, a move the Pentagon chief revoked last week.

On Friday, Austin revoked the plea deals for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and two others, and relieved Susan Escallier, who oversees the Pentagon's Guantanamo war court, of her authority to enter into pre-trial agreements in the case and took on the

responsibility himself. Austin's move means that the three could eventually face a death penalty trial.

"The secretary was certainly surprised, as we all were," Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said. Singh said that throughout the entire process, the secretary was not consulted because it is an independent process.

She added that Austin found out about the deal when it was made public on July 31 when he was flying back from a trip to the Philippines.

Many Republican lawmakers, including House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Minority



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a press briefing at the Pentagon on Thursday, July 25, 2024 in Washington. AP

Leader Mitch McConnell, had strongly criticized the plea deals.

Mohammed is the most well known inmate at the detention facility in Guantanamo

Bay, which was set up in 2002 by then-US President George W. Bush to house foreign militant suspects following the Sept 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Mohammed is accused of masterminding the plot to fly hijacked commercial passenger aircraft into the World Trade Center in New York City and into the Pentagon. The 9/11 attacks, as they're known, killed nearly 3,000 people and plunged the United States into what would become a two-decade-long war in Afghanistan.

A US judge ruled on Monday that Google violated antitrust law, spending billions of dollars to create an illegal

As India emerges strongly on global stage, we stand ready to partner with Fiji, says President Murmu

SUVA

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu expressed India's readiness to partner with Fiji to build a stronger, resilient and prosperous nation. She stressed that India and Fiji must work together to unlock the full potential in partnership for the mutual benefit of the people of the two nations.

Addressing the leaders in the Fijian Parliament, President Murmu said, "As India emerges strongly on the global stage, we stand ready to partner with Fiji according to your priorities to build a stronger, resilient and more prosperous nation. Let us come together to unlock the full potential in our partnership for the mutual benefit of people of both our beloved countries."

President Murmu stated that the cooperation between the two nations in various sectors, including health care, manufacturing, research and renewable energy continues to grow. She noted that India and Fiji share a close bond.

Highlighting the bilateral ties President Murmu said, "Our cooperation in agriculture, capacity building, climate change, clean energy, digital partnership, education, health care, manufacturing, research, renewable energy and the SMEs sector continues to grow from strength to strength."

"Despite the physical distance between us, we have always had a close bond. No wonder in times of need we have been among the first to respond. I am glad to note that the COVID-19 vaccines provided by India in 2021 under the vaccine Maitri initiative played a key role in Fiji's successful national vaccination program," President Murmu said.

She expressed happiness in witnessing growth in high-level engagements and people-centric activities between the two nations. She expressed confidence that the newly announced projects, including the super speciality Cardiology hospital to be established in Suva would help to meet the priority needs of the people of Fiji.

President Murmu said, "As we celebrate 75 years of India's diplomatic presence in Fiji, I am pleased to see the strong growth in our high-level engagements, development projects and our people-centric activities. I am told that in the last 18 months 15 ministerial-level visits have taken place on both sides. The historic meeting of both our prime ministers in May 2023 during the FIPIC-3 Summit has given new energy and direction to our bilateral ties. I am confident that the newly announced projects including the super speciality Cardiology hospital to be established in Suva would help to meet the priority needs of the people of Fiji and the wider Pacific region."

President Murmu said that she is "honoured" by the conferment of 'Companion of the Order of Fiji' and described the honour as the reflection of the "deep ties of friendship between two nations. She recalled PM Narendra Modi's address at the Fiji Parliament.

ANI

Russian envoy leaves door open for more Washington-Moscow prisoner swaps

WASHINGTON

THE issue of prisoner swaps between Russia and the US remains open, but it is unclear whether any more deals will get done during US President Joe Biden's remaining term in office, Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov told TASS.

"We have not closed the book on the matter. Work on releasing Russians from American jails continues. I can say unequivocally that, given the instructions, aspirations and intentions of our president, it is simply not possible to state the opposite," the diplomat stressed.

The envoy emphasized that the recent prisoner swap between Moscow and Washington was a "rare positive event in Russian-US relations," calling it a breakthrough.

"The lesson is that even in the most difficult times it is possible to find some common ground to help resolve these most sensitive and pressing issues in bilateral relations," the Russian ambassador underscored.

Recent swap

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) reported earlier that eight Rus-



sian nationals, detained or convicted in several NATO countries, as well as two minors, had returned home following a prisoner swap conducted at Ankara's airport. One of those swapped was Russian citizen Vadim Krasikov, who

had been serving a life sentence in Germany. T

he Russians were exchanged for a group of individuals who acted in the interests of other countries.

According to US President Joe Biden,

Russia released 16 people as part of the prisoner swap, including former US Marine Paul Whelan and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, convicted of espionage in Russia.

Agencies

Chinese shooters uphold Olympic tradition over 40 years

PARIS

34-year-old Li Yuehong claimed China's fifth shooting gold at Paris 2024 after his victory in 25m rapid fire pistol here on Monday, while Armand Duplantis of Sweden cleared a world record 6.25m to triumph in the men's pole vault, breaking his own previous mark of 6.24m.

China now stands atop the medal tally with 21 gold medals, closely followed by the United States with 20 golds.

Chinese shooter Li, who earned bronze medals at both the Rio and Tokyo Games, finally clinched his maiden gold at his third Olympics.

The veteran made 32 hits in the final, seven more than silver medalist Cho Yeong-jae of South Korea, while China's Wang Xinjie took bronze.

"This has been an incredible experience for me. All my hard work has paid off. I am extremely happy. This is a victory for not just myself but the whole team," said Li, the reigning world champion and world record holder.

"In China, we say, 'To be a better shooter, you must be a better man.' Your accuracy is a reflection of your integrity," Li noted. "We shouldn't obsess over beating others; instead, we should focus on overcoming ourselves. Shooting

has also taught me to stay humble and calm when facing problems or difficulties."

With five gold, two silver and three bronze medals, China top the medal table in shooting and have achieved their best record at an Olympics, surpassing that of Beijing 2008, where Chinese shooters collected five gold, two silver and one bronze medals on home soil.

At the Stade de France, two-time world champion Duplantis successfully defended his pole vault Olympic title, as he cleared 6.25m with his third and final attempt to eclipse his previous world record set in April. The 24-year-old has broken the world record nine

times and become the first man since American Bob Richards to win back-to-back Olympic pole vault titles in the 1950s.

"I felt very confident and really prepared going into today. I just broke world record at the Olympics, the biggest possible stage for a pole vaulter, which is my biggest dream since a kid," Duplantis said after the competition.

He added, "I haven't processed how fantastic that moment was. It's one of those things that don't really feel real. I think I can do it again, but I don't really care right now. I'm going to enjoy this victory."

Valarie Allman of the United

States retained the women's discus Olympic title with a best throw of 69.50 meters to finish ahead of silver medalist Feng Bin of China with 67.51, while Croatia's Sandra Elkasevic took the bronze.

Britain's Keely Hodgkinson lived up to her pre-race billing to take gold in the women's 800m, while Tsige Duguma of Ethiopia and Kenya's Mary Moraa seized silver and bronze medals, respectively. In the women's 5,000m, Kenya's Beatrice Chebet crossed the line first in 14:28.56.

On an incredible evening of cycling, Britain set a new world record in each of their three runs of the women's team sprint. Team

GB's trio of Katy Marchant, Sophie Capewell and Emma Finucane eventually took the gold in a world record of 45.186 seconds.

"I just wanted to enjoy racing on my bike. I smiled every second on that track. A gold medal to start off is amazing," said 21-year-old Finucane. "It has been a crazy journey. Standing on the top of the podium and singing the national anthem were such 'pinch-me' moments. We knew we could do it, but we had to execute it perfectly."

The opening day of sport climbing saw Poland's Aleksandra Miroslaw break her own world record twice, setting in 6.06 seconds.

Xinhua

Israel braces for Iranian retaliation after killings of Hezbollah, Hamas leaders

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and its allies were preparing on Monday for an expected retaliatory attack from Iran and its allies after the killing of senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shokor in Beirut and the assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Israel has claimed responsibility for the killing of Shokor, but has not commented on the assassination of Haniyeh, which Hamas and Iran have attributed to Israel. Iran has rejected calls for negotiation regarding its planned response and has vowed to punish Israel.

"Iran seeks to establish stability in the region, but this will only come with punishing the aggressor and creating deterrence against the adventurism of the Zionist regime (Israel)," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Monday, adding that an Iranian reaction was inevitable.

"As far as the violation of our territorial integrity is concerned, we will not make any compromises," he stated. Israeli leaders have indicated that the country is prepared for an Iranian-led attack, including potential actions from Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthi forces in Yemen, and Iraqi militias.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said the Israeli forces were preparing for "a swift transition to offense." During a visit to an Air Force command center, he conducted a situation assessment with top aerial commanders.

His office said in a statement that "in light of recent developments, the minister was briefed on air defense readiness and on potential offensive capabilities that may be employed in each arena." The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) stated that Chief of the General Staff Herzl Halevi had approved "operational plans for various scenarios."

"Our future offensive plans are ready, and we are prepared, across all units, including me down to the last soldier," said Ori Gordin, IDF's Commanding Officer of the Northern Command, during a meeting with local authorities in northern Is-

rael. "We are determined to change the situation here in the north and bring our residents back home."

More American forces were moving to the region to bolster defenses in and around Israel.

The United States was deploying additional warships, including a guided missile cruiser and missile destroyer, as well as another squadron of fighter jets, Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported.

Britain is also expected to help protect Israel in case of an attack, Kan reported. In April, the United States, Britain, and Jordan helped Israel intercept an Iranian-led retaliatory strike of over 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.

The attack was a response to an earlier Israeli bombing of the Iranian consulate in Syria, which killed two Iranian generals. As part of the effort to build a similar coalition, Commander of U.S. Central Command Michael Erik Kurilla arrived in Israel for consultations. He met with Gallant and Halevi. A photo released by the IDF showed top commanders from both forces at the Kyria military base in Tel Aviv.

The IDF said in a statement that they held "a joint situational assessment on security and strategic issues, as well as joint preparations in the region, as part of the response to threats in the Middle East."

"Israel's Ynet news website reported on Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told G7 ministers on Sunday that the counterattack is expected to begin within the next 24-48 hours. Gallant also spoke with his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto. On the social media platform X, Gallant noted that he updated Crosetto on "security developments and threats posed by Iran and its proxies," and discussed IDF readiness and cooperation with allies.

Gallant urged allied countries to "stand with Israel at this time." Meanwhile, a growing number of airlines, including Ryanair, Wizz Air, and Lufthansa, have suspended flights to Israel due to concerns over instability.

Iran's president says boosting ties with Russia among foreign policy priorities

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that expanding relations with Russia was among Iran's foreign policy priorities, according to Iran's official news agency IRNA.

He made the remarks at a meeting with Secretary of Russia's Security Council Sergei Shoigu in the Iranian capital Tehran, describing Russia as Iran's strategic partner.

Pezeshkian said Russia was among the countries that had stood by Iran during tough days, highlighting the necessity to accelerate the implementation of the previously signed bilateral agreements.

"We maintain that the era of unilateralism by certain powers, including the United States, in the world has ended and the alignment of positions and cooperation between Iran and Russia in line with promoting a multilateral world will definitely lead to the improvement of global security and peace," Pezeshkian said, underscoring the importance of regional and international cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

The Iranian president noted Israel's "horrifying crimes" in Gaza and its actions aimed at "warmongering" in the region, saying Israel's "criminal actions against the oppressed and defenseless people of Gaza and its assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran are flagrant instances of violating all international rules and regulations."

During the conversation, the Iranian president said that Iran in no way sought to widen the scopes of the conflict and crisis in the West Asia region, but Israel would definitely receive the response to its "crime and insolent" move.

The Hamas chief, who had been invited to attend Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday, was killed along with his bodyguard early Wednesday when their residence in Tehran was hit.

Shoigu, for his part, described Iran as one of Russia's "key and strategic allies" in the region, expressing satisfaction with the two countries' joint efforts to create a multilateral world and ensure regional security. He said bilateral relations were improving in all sectors, pointing to the "favorable" future for the promotion of interactions between the two countries.

Agencie

Think tank report underlines China's experience for pursuit of modernisation

BEIJING

CHINA is striving to create new opportunities for global development through its modernization achievements and offer new choices for humanity's pursuit of modernization, according to a think tank report released on Tuesday.

The report, titled "Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization: Major Achievements and Global Contributions," was jointly released by think tanks under the Institute of Party History and Literature of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Xinhua News Agency.

China has explored a feasible path for late-developing countries to catch up, providing new options for many developing nations to achieve modernization, according to the report.

As China undergoes its historical

transition from a traditional society to a modernized one, its vast scale is expected to have a profound impact on the world. The report noted that Chinese modernization is characterized by a large population, common prosperity for all, advancements in material and cultural-ethical realms, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development.

These aspects underscore the unique features and advantages of Chinese modernization and offer a new vision for global modernization, the report stated, noting that Chinese modernization provides a model for developing countries to pursue their own path to modernization independently.

The report stressed that there is no single path to modernization or achieving a high level of civilization, as each country can develop its own unique form of civilization. *Xinhua*

China plays important role in mediating peace, providing aid for Gaza, says UNRWA official

RAMALLAH

CHINA has played a "very important role" in peace efforts and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of the Gaza Strip, a United Nations (UN) official has said.

"I would like to thank China for its strong support to UNRWA and to the humanitarian sector in the Middle East," said Antonia Marie De Meo, deputy commissioner-general for Operational Support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), during a recent interview with Xinhua in Ramallah.

Last week, China donated 3 million U.S. dollars to UNRWA to support its emergency humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

De Meo said China's new donation will provide financial support to UNRWA, and it will go to the people of Gaza.

"It will go to the staff and to the healthcare sector in order to be able to provide lifesaving medicines and assistance to the people of Gaza. So the financial support from China is very important," she said.

With the outbreak of the war in Gaza last October, some 154 UNRWA facilities including schools, training centers, warehouses and health centers were transformed into emergency shelters for displaced people, UNRWA said in a press release in August.

Thousands of UNRWA staff, who themselves have been displaced multiple times, and over 200 of whom have been killed, continue to deliver critical services at the agency's health centers that remain operational, it added.

Apart from financial support, De Meo added, political support from China is also very important.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attends the closing ceremony of a reconciliation dialogue among Palestinian factions and witnesses the signing of a declaration on ending division and strengthening unity by 14 Palestinian factions, in Beijing, capital of China, July 23, 2024. (Xinhua/Zhai Jianlan)

"China has consistently called for a ceasefire, and this is very important. China has also supported the agency, has made a note of the fact that there has been misinformation and disinformation against the agency, which we really appreciate, because the agency has been called out and attacked for quite some time," she said.

In late July, Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, said in remarks at a UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East that UNRWA is the mainstay of humanitarian assistance in Gaza. China is firmly opposed to attempts to attack and discredit UNRWA and hamper the work of UNRWA's mandate implementation, he said.

During the interview, De Meo told Xinhua

that she would like to commend China for the role it has played in the Beijing Declaration and being able to bring Palestinian factions together to discuss a potential ceasefire.

At the invitation of the Chinese side, high-level representatives of 14 Palestinian factions held a reconciliation dialogue in Beijing from July 21 to 23 and inked the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity, which many consider would create precious hope for peace and stability in the Middle East.

"This part of China's political leadership role in calling for a cease-fire and actually making that a reality by hosting the Beijing Declaration" is important, De Meo said.

Guterres closely following developments in Bangladesh, deplores loss of lives in protests

NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres continues to follow developments in Bangladesh closely and deplores the loss of lives in the country during the protests.

He urged calm and restraint by all sides and emphasised the importance of a peaceful, orderly and democratic transition.

"The Secretary-General deplores the further loss of life during protests in Bangladesh over the weekend. He continues to closely follow developments in the country, including the Chief



of Army Staff's announcement regarding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and plans for the formation of an Interim Government," a statement from his office said.

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (pictured). "The Secretary-General stands in full solidarity with the people of Bangladesh and calls for the full respect of their human rights," the statement read, adding that he continues to underscore the need for a full, independent, impartial and transparent investigation into all acts of violence.

Meanwhile, people from all walks of life marched towards Chittagong, distributing sweets in celebration. After reports surfaced that Sheikh Hasina had departed from Bangladesh, people took to the streets to celebrate,

Dhaka Tribune reported.

A joyous procession began at 3 pm on Monday, spreading through Muradpur, Agrabad, Dewanhat, Chowkbazar, GEC, Sholshahar, Kazir Dewri, Jamalkhan, Bahaddarhat, and every part of the city, the report said.

Bangladesh is facing a fluid political situation with the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning from her post in the wake of mounting protests. The protests, majorly by students demanding an end to a quota system for government jobs, took the shape of anti-government protests. *ANI*

China builds new platform for Sino-African entrepreneurship

CHANGSHA

FOR Taiwan-based China Communications Media Group, a crucial step in their venture into Africa starts a little closer to home, in Hunan, a central province on the Chinese mainland.

Aspiring to expand its sales network of electric vehicles into Africa, the company will first set up a subsidiary inside the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha, leveraging the many preferential policies and constellation of Chinese and African companies at the site.

"We've long wished to explore the African market, but our journey had been circuitous," said the company's chairman Liu Yao-yuan. "Now many like-minded companies gather here. I believe our exchanges and cooperation can lead to common prosperity."

Opened on June 13, the building is the latest Sino-African landmark in Hunan, one of the most active Chinese provinces in economic ties with Africa and a trailblazer in China-Africa cooperation.

Spanning over 100,000 square meters, the building is designed to host Chinese and African firms engaging in bilateral trade and investment, and provide them with subsidies and a range of services from policy consultation to financial support.

Since its launch, more than 30 companies and as-

sociations in the fields of engineering, technology and research, telecommunication and others have settled in the building, whose trade with Africa is projected to reach 30 billion yuan (4.2 billion U.S. dollars) over the next three years.

The Mali Business Center, among the building's first occupants, was set up with an aim of serving Mali companies in China and helping Chinese firms make investment in the West African country.

"We hope to become a home for the numerous Mali companies operating in China and help them explore the Chinese market," said the center's director Khalifa A. Sy Diop.

Guangdong-based Africa-China Association for Cooperation, Development and Investment (ACACDI) also plans to register a company at the Changsha headquarters, which promises rent exemption, subsidies and other support.

"Hunan is famous for leading China's cooperation with Africa," said Abdulla Elfrid, vice chairman of ACACDI. "And we believe the building will become a bridge for deepening exchanges, enhancing understanding, and expanding cooperation between China and Africa."

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching a record 282.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2023, according to



Local commodities are displayed at the China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters Building in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, July 22, 2024. Xinhua

the Ministry of Commerce.

While Chinese investments in Africa are often represented by large state-owned enterprises building railways, ports and power stations in Africa, smaller private companies are increasingly credited with boosting trade, creating jobs and channeling technology and investments into diverse sectors.

With heavy participation of private companies, China-Africa cooperation has diversified from infrastructure, mining and agriculture to logistics, digital economy, clean energy, finance and others, said Xu Xiangping, head of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Promotion Council.

"These companies are bringing technologies and knowhow into Africa, especially in renewable energy, agriculture and digitalization, which is beneficial to Africa's modernization," Xu said.

In recent years, China has put various mechanisms in place to spur private cooperation with Africa, including China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone. Hunan often hosts such pioneering policies with its strength in agricultural technology, equipment manufacturing and infrastructure construction.

Shen Yumou, who heads Hunan's department of commerce, said the building would encourage more small and medium-sized Chinese companies to invest in Africa by pooling together resources and by providing channels and localization services.

"Micro, small and medium-sized companies are more concerned about the costs and risks involved in their journey to Africa, so our goal is to create a safer and more efficient ecosys-

tem for them," he said.

Meanwhile, the building is expected to guide more African companies into China to tap into the sprawling market of the world's second-largest economy.

Thanks to expeditious government handling of Africa-related services and its proximity to the manufacturing powerhouse of Guangdong, Hunan has become an ideal springboard for African companies hoping to enter China, said Luo Qin, general manager of Changsha Starlink Foreign Enterprise Comprehensive Services Co., Ltd.

"Many African companies have set their sights on Hunan and the new headquarters," said Luo, whose company offers foreign trade services to other companies. "We expect the building to become a leading platform for China-Africa trade in the near future." *Xinhua*

Singida Black Stars to face Burundi's Aigle Noir in international friendly

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SINGIDA Black Stars will step up their preparations on Saturday when they play one-time Burundi Premier League champions Aigle Noir Makamba FC.

The international friendly, marking Singida Black Stars Day celebrations, will be played at Liti Stadium in Singida.

The day will serve as a platform for unveiling the full squad for the 2024/25 season and announcing sponsors and partners, further building excitement among the fans.

Singida Black Stars will use the game against the Burundi side to test their new players and get back into regular playing rhythm ahead of the 2024/25 football season.

The club's new signings include Ayub Lyanga and Edward Manyama from Azam, the Ivorian trio of Anthony Urbain Tra Bi Tra, Josaphat Arthur Bada, and Joseph Guede, the Ghanaian duo of Emmanuel Keyekhe and Ibrahim Imoro, Sierra Leone goalkeeper Mohamed Kamara, and Jimson Mwanuke.

Other arrivals are Edmund John from Geita, Habib Kyomba from Fountain Gate, Zawadi Mauya from Young Africans, Kennedy Juma from Simba, and Najim Mussa from Tabora United.

According to the club, having acquired the services of experienced coach Patrick Aussems, a top-four finish would be a realistic target for the 2024/2025 season.

Aussems won the NBC Premier League title with Simba in 2018/2019. He also led Simba to the CAF Champions League quarter-finals before leaving for spells in Sudan, Kenya, and South Africa.

The club acquired the status of the Mbeya-based Ihefu side and moved their headquarters to Singida in the 2023/24 season. They changed their name from Ihefu to Singida Black Stars in April.

They finished the league in seventh position after collecting 36 points in 30 outings under head coach Mecky Mexime.

Mexime left immediately after the end of the season to join another NBC Premier League side, Dodoma Jiji.

Coach Ouma determined to conquer Azam in Community Shield semi-final

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union head coach David Ouma has expressed satisfaction with his team's pre-season preparations, asserting that he has finalized his starting eleven and tactical strategy ahead of their Community Shield semi-final clash against Azam FC tomorrow.

Ouma (pictured) has emphasized that the Community Shield tournament serves as a crucial stepping stone for the team to showcase their growth and determination.

This statement comes a few weeks after Coastal Union failed to advance to the semifinals in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament, although they gained valuable experience with a win, a draw, and a close loss.

The Tanga-based team started strong with a 1-0 victory over Dekedaha of Somalia. They then faced a tough challenge against Zanzibar's JKU, resulting in a 2-0 defeat. Coastal Union displayed resilience in their final group match, securing a 1-1 draw against Hay Al Wadi of Sudan.

However, Ouma is buoyed by his team's recent pre-season



performance in Pemba, having secured a 2-0 victory over Zanzibar Premier League side Uhamiaji FC. The match served as a valuable test for the team as they build towards the new season.

Coastal Union's confidence is further bolstered by impressive friendly wins over Chipukizi FC (4-0) and Tekeleza FC (1-0) during their ongoing pre-season camp in Zanzibar.

"The match against Uhamiaji FC was a crucial test for us as we prepare to face Azam FC in the Community Shield. Given their upcoming Confederations Cup qualifiers, they provided us with a strong challenge to help

us build momentum for the new season," gaffer Ouma said.

"Tactically, the players delivered as expected. I divided the team into different groups to evaluate their ability to adapt to various tactical formations. The goal was to refine our attacking and defensive strategies to increase our chances of winning."

"I'm confident my players will give Azam a hard time in the semi-finals. I've already selected the starting lineup, and we'll finalize our preparations with some final training sessions before the game."

Coastal Union will aim to secure a final spot on Sunday to boost their continental mo-

mentum after qualifying for the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup following their fourth-place finish in the NBC Premier League last season.

Young Africans claimed the Premier League title, with Azam FC as runners-up and Simba SC in third place. As a result, Young Africans and Azam FC will represent the country in the CAF Champions League.

Looking ahead, Ouma remains focused and has set his sights on reaching the Community Shield final as part of their preparation to face F.C. Bravos do Maquis of Angola in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary stage.

Coastal Union will begin their campaign with an away match at Estadio De 11 Novembro in Luanda on August 16 before returning home to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 23.

This marks Coastal Union's return to international competition since their participation in the 1989 African Cup Winners' Cup, where they were eliminated in the first round. The competition was later merged with the CAF Cup to form the current CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

Rotary Club to raise 400m/- for education initiatives through Goat Races

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Rotary Club of Tanzania Oysterbay has announced plans to mobilize funds worth 400 million/- to support education initiatives in the country, particularly for underprivileged students.

This announcement was made by the Club's president, Himanshu Bhattbhatt, in Dar es Salaam, as he revealed details of the upcoming charity event, the 'Goat Races,' scheduled for September 7 at The Green Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam from 12 noon to 8 pm.

Bhattbhatt stated that this year's charity race aims to attract more than 400 participants from various parts of the country, bringing together people of all ages. He emphasized that the 'festival' aligns with Rotary's mission of uniting people and serving the community.

"The festival is a call for stakeholders to come together and celebrate the collaborations and successes achieved in supporting the community," he said. "Once again, we are aiming for a fun-filled day in support of a good cause, and call on the community to join us."

Paul Muhato, the project manager for this year's event, expressed his delight at the continued support from Vodacom Tanzania and other

sponsors.

"We are thankful for the trust from all our sponsors, most of whom are joining us for yet another year of partnership. We are confident that the Goat Races 2024 will be a brilliant celebration of the power of collaborations in supporting education access in Tanzania."

Annette Kanora, Head of Media Relations at Vodacom, highlighted the company's commitment to supporting socio-economic activities in Tanzanian communities, inspired by the impact of the 2023 Goat Races.

She stated that Vodacom is encouraged to sponsor the charity event for the second consecutive year.

"Driven by our mission of connecting for good, Vodacom's commitment to empowering people transcends our own internal efforts to partnering with like-minded organizations in order to reach more people," she said. "Education continues to be a priority area for us, and by supporting the Rotary Club of Oysterbay, together we will be able to improve learning environments and support underprivileged students."

The Rotary Club of Tanzania Oysterbay's initiative aims to foster community engagement and drive significant contributions toward enhancing educational opportunities for those in need.



Maginja FC player Haji Abeid (L) fights for the ball with Videte Centre player Alfam Hamis during their friendly match held at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Centre grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Red Arrows coach impressed despite loss to Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RED Arrows coach Chisi Mbeve has hailed his team's performance despite a 2-1 defeat to Young Africans in the Wiki ya Mwananchi finale on Sunday.

The Zambian side stunned the home crowd with an early lead through Ricky Banda, but Young Africans eventually turned the game around. Mbeve, however, was pleased with his team's overall display, seeing it as a valuable test ahead of their CAF

Champions League campaign.

Arrows were reduced to ten men late in the game after Nickson Mubili's red card, making the task even tougher. Despite the numerical disadvantage, Mbeve believes the match provided crucial experience for his squad.

With the crowd of nearly 60,000 roaring them on, Young Africans finally found a way through in the 63rd minute thanks to a superb strike from Mudathir Yahya. A controversial

injury-time penalty, converted by Stephane Aziz Ki, sealed the victory for the Tanzanian champions.

Mbeve admitted his side struggled to cope with the pressure after being reduced to ten men in their loss to Young Africans. However, he expressed satisfaction with his team's overall performance and ability to execute their planned plays.

"I'm not disappointed with the result. I'm happy with how the team played. We, unfortunately,

couldn't hold onto the lead due to two mistakes, but overall, the performance was good.

"Today's atmosphere was incredible. This is exactly what we want as a coach and players as we prepare for the Champions League. We can't thank the Young Africans supporters enough for coming out in such numbers. It is what I need my players to experience before they play in the Champions League away venues," he said.

KMC coach Moalin optimistic after pre-season as 2024/25 campaign approaches

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KMC head coach Abdihamid Moalin feels they are on the right track after finalizing their pre-season ahead of the 2024/25 campaign.

The Kinondoni tax collectors have played several friendlies, and Moalin was left impressed with their performance.

They played Mashujaa and last

weekend drew with Tanzania Prisons at the KMC Complex.

"We are glad our preparations are going well. We have less than ten days before the start of the new season, so we are very happy. Players have been training very well. The new players are adapting well to our style of play."

"Everything is going okay. It has been a good pre-season in Dar es Salaam. We have maybe three

more games to play before the kick-off of the Premier League. We know it will be a tough campaign; all clubs have recruited well, and there are new coaches, but we are ready for the challenge," he said.

Moalin, who is entering his second year with KMC, revealed that they're targeting a top-four finish in the new campaign, having ended fifth last season.

"It won't be easy. Last season,

we finished in fifth spot. Our target for this campaign is to go a little bit higher. We are aware it will not be easy because every team will be battling with us for those top spots. We will be ready when the first game comes around," he added.

Last season, KMC struggled in the second half of the campaign and were eventually beaten to the coveted fourth spot by Coast-

al Union due to a lack of squad depth.

So far, they have confirmed seven new signings. Right full-back Nickson Mosha has arrived from relegated Mtibwa Sugar, and center-back Athuman has joined from Zanzibari side KV.

Other new additions to the team are Oscar Paul, who has signed from Kenya's Kakamega Home Boyz, goalkeepers Fabian

Mutombora and Ismail Mpank, Cameroonian striker Austin Ajoh, and Burundian midfielder Jean Nyezimana.

KMC have lost midfielder Awesu Awesu to Simba and club top scorer Waziri Junior to Dodoma, while the likes of Abdallah Masoud and Sadalah Lipangile have been released following the expiration of their contracts.

Conor Gallagher was Chelsea's identity crisis in human form

By Richard Jolly

THERE was a huge flag at Stamford Bridge last season. It featured a picture of Conor Gallagher and three words: "Chelsea since birth". All of which explains why Chelsea have sold him. The surprise lies only in the destination, not the departure.

The midfielder's imminent move, to Atletico Madrid, has felt inevitable since Clearlake Capital discovered that academy products bring pure profit when it comes to PSR. It made Gallagher simultaneously Chelsea's most valuable player and their most dispensable.

The various realities of the 2024 Chelsea can jar when they collide. Monday saw Gallagher flying to Madrid and brought a Conference League draw, pairing Chelsea with Braga or Servette. It shows a slide in status. They were Fifa Club World Cup winners two years ago: now they have qualified for Europe (in the third-tier competition) for the first time in the Todd Boehly era.

Regression has been dressed up as progress, sales required to offset silly spending. The £33m recouped for Gallagher won't cancel out the punts on various random young midfielders - Omari Kellyman, Lesley Ogochukwu, Carney Chukwuemeka, Cesare Casadei and Andrey Santos come to almost £100m between them - or pay for the fee of Romeo Lavia (who played 32 minutes in his debut season) but in accounting terms, it became invaluable when some £1.2bn was committed in fees and managerial pay-offs.

All of which rendered Gallagher a potent symbol: of a Chelsea that was lost, of the unintended consequences of the financial fair play regulations, of Clearlake's ability to focus on the balance sheet when selling, even if some of their signings suggest they know the value of nothing. He is their identity crisis in human form.

Gallagher felt like the heart of Chelsea or, given his running power, the lungs anyway. He cared, and if it is too easy an accusation to say others don't, many a recent recruit could be forgiven for wondering what the club means. If Gallagher was a link to the past, he was also a link between the disparate parts of Chelsea's otherwise expensive midfield. There were times when the £100m men, Moises Caicedo and Enzo Fernandez, looked incompatible, when they needed Gallagher's energy alongside them to enable either to perform. Instead, they will have the very different qualities of Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall as the third member of a trio.

Gallagher could leave another void. He spent much of last season with a captain's armband that meant a lot to a fan who joined the club at the age of eight. Now the senior professional, Thiago Silva, has gone; vice-captain Ben Chilwell could be jettisoned if new manager Enzo Maresca wants an inverted left-back; actual captain Reece James is prone to injuries and suspensions. Chelsea have, including caretakers, their fifth manager in two years but risk a lack of leadership on the pitch. Certainly, the formula with which Mauricio Pochettino ended last season with five straight wins seems binned.

It will be intriguing instead to see Gallagher line up for another Argentine manager. If Diego Simeone has offered an antidote to tiki-taka in Spain, so too will the Englishman - more equipped to press incessantly than pass accurately. That Simeone's two English recruits in more than a decade at Atletico have been Kieran Trippier and Gallagher is instructive: each has a warrior spirit. That Trippier became a better defender under Simeone prompts questions of whether Gallagher can improve when managed by an outstanding midfielder of an earlier generation.

Because, for now, he has been an emblematic figure: an effervescent runner but not an elite player in possession. Almost by default, Gallagher emerged as the successor to Jordan Henderson and Kalvin Phillips as England's midfield workhorse but without exhibiting the solidity they showed at their best. Rewind to Thomas Tuchel's Champions League-winning Chelsea and they exhibited control in the centre of the pitch, courtesy of the passers Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic and the inimitable N'Golo Kante.

Gallagher has been a downgrade on each. There is a footballing argument that if Chelsea are to realise their ambitions, they require someone classier. His two seasons in the side were two of their least successful over the past three decades, though the fault for that lies with the owners rather than him. There is a case for saying his finest form came in a Crystal Palace shirt: certainly his eight-goal campaign at Selhurst Park in 2021-22 showed more of a clinical touch than he has displayed since.

His time at Chelsea came in the context of the sell-off of his counterparts, the hometown Mason Mount and Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Ethan Ampadu and Callum Hudson-Odoi and Ian Maatsen and Lewis Hall. He will presumably be followed out of the door by Trevoh Chalobah, another of their own.

Chelsea may deny Gallagher was forced out but it felt that way; a short contract offer, from a club happy to give others eight-year deals, seemed to suggest they might sell him next summer instead.

THE INDEPENDENT

France beats Egypt 3-1 and will face Spain in the men's soccer final at Paris Olympics

LYON, France

THIERRY Henry stood with his arms outstretched, facing the jubilant crowd and soaking up the atmosphere.

The final of the men's soccer tournament at the Paris Olympics was in sight after France had been pushed to the limit by Egypt in Monday's semifinal at Stade de Lyon.

Jean-Philippe Mateta, meanwhile, was being mobbed by his teammates after scoring his second goal in a 3-1 win that sets up a final against Spain at Parc des Princes on Friday.

"It was like, I don't know how to say - it was incredible," Mateta said.

France vs. Spain means there will be a European gold medalist at the Olympics for the first time in 32 years.

The host nation's place in the final looked in serious doubt as Egypt was closing in on an upset after leading through Mahmoud Saber's 62nd-minute goal.

France had hit the frame of the goal on three occasions before Mateta equalized in the 83rd and sent the game



Spain's Fermin Lopez celebrates his side's first goal during a men's semifinal soccer match between Morocco and Spain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, at Marseille Stadium in Marseille, France. (AP Photo)

into extra time.

His second came in the 99th and Michael Olise added France's third in the 108th.

"It's not easy, right? We knew that. But at the end of the day, we kept on coming. We kept on trying. We kept on creating from the wing and trying to play and we got our reward," France coach Henry said.

While this ensures gold for a European team for the first time since Spain's victory at Barcelona 1992, it also ends the dominance of

Latin American nations after the last five editions of the tournament saw victories for Brazil and Argentina - two each - and Mexico.

It also gives Henry the chance to added to his storied career, having won the World Cup and European Championship with France as a player.

This would be his first major honor in a coaching career that is still early in its development.

"I'm not there yet. We have the medal, that's for sure. Let's not talk

about the gold," he said.

France's only Olympic gold came at Los Angeles 1984 and it also took silver when the Games were held in Paris in 1900. One of the pre-tournament favorites, Henry's team had gone into the semifinal with a perfect winning record, having taken maximum points in the group phase and beaten Argentina in the quarterfinals.

But Egypt had already proved capable of upsetting the odds by beating Spain to top its group. And it came so close to

another surprise win when Saber flashed a shot past France goalkeeper Guillaume Restes.

By that point, Loic Bade had already headed against the foot of the post in the first half.

Egypt's goal sparked a reaction from the French fans, who roared loudly to try to lift their team.

Egypt keeper Alaa Hamza denied Alexandre Lacazette from point blank range. France hit the frame of the goal twice more in the space of seconds when Lacazette headed against the foot of the post and Bade hit the bar with a follow up header.

The equalizer finally came when Olise strode through the middle of the field and slipped a pass into the run of Mateta.

With Hamza advancing to cut down the angle, Mateta got to the ball first and swept home.

France thought it had won a penalty deep into stoppage time when VAR reviewed a handball by Omar Fayed.

Referee Said Martinez spent agonizingly long reviewing the sideline monitor before eventu-

ally determining there had been a foul in the buildup.

While that was a reprieve for Egypt and sent the game to extra time, Fayed was sent off in the 92nd, having been booked during heated scenes when the potential penalty was being reviewed.

France took advantage of the extra man and went ahead through Mateta's second goal of the match.

Once again Olise was at the heart of it - swinging a ball into the box for Kiliann Sildillia head across goal. Mateta rose and headed past Alaa.

Olise then got on the score sheet himself firing low with a first time left-footed shot from inside the box.

"We showed the team that we have character, and we showed the fans and everyone that we have character," Mateta said. "We can believe we can score, and we do."

Egypt, which has finished fourth on two previous occasions - Amsterdam 1928 and Tokyo 1964 - will play Morocco in an all-African bronze medal match in Nantes on Thursday.

AP

Football might be on the verge of a new transfer market era - one where the richest doesn't take all

By Miguel Delaney

ALREADY this summer, a lot of clubs have received calls about Victor Osimhen, but few have been that interested. It's quite a change from a situation just a year ago, when Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis was setting a starting price of €200m - around £170m - simply to come to the table for the Nigerian.

Now, he's desperate to get Osimhen off the books, because the Italian club can't afford the wages that were agreed with the forward as part of a new deal to try and ensure a higher sale price. The problem is that almost no one can go that high. Chelsea have been among the few considering it, although that is only because they themselves have the potential opening from the high wages of Romelu Lukaku, who Napoli's Antonio Conte wants.

If the deal happens, it would really be a compromise out of necessities, rather than any display of ambition.

This window hasn't been about that so far. If anything, it's been a window of austerity, and the wonder in the game is if it might represent the start of a wider era. Might the bubble be finally shrinking? Is football about to enter, in the words of one club chief executive, "an austerity era"?

That is of course a relative term in a sport that remains flooded with state and billionaire money, where wages are so high, where Real Madrid have just agreed to pay Kylian Mbappe (pictured) half a million a week gross



and where the Premier League has still spent almost a billion before sales.

All of that nevertheless represents an unexpected plateauing of a trend that had previously been expected to accelerate, with that recent flatlining coming from some necessary financial pragmatism. Madrid were only able to pay Mbappe so much after half a decade of younger signings, while the Premier League is tracking to be way down on last year's gross spend of almost £2bn.

The commonly repeated phrases from chief executives, sporting directors and agents has been that "there is very little money around", "low liquidity" and, ultimately, "it's very quiet".

There certainly hasn't been any real blockbuster deal, outside Mbappe, which was a long-mooted Bosman anyway. As it stands, there doesn't look like there's going to be one, either. There's no Harry Kane-style saga in the way there was last season.

Arsenal's interest in Alexander Isak might have developed into that, but the market determined otherwise. It didn't escalate to the degree that the London club would have been willing to pay the £200m

couldn't quite afford to spread the payment over the shorter period. Most transfer fees are being spread over the same timescale. There has barely been a deal across Europe yet that has been paid up front or simply over the first year of the deal. Even the spending of Manchester United and Chelsea is offset by the corresponding modern trend of high fees for younger players, but lower wages.

Others are just being more calculated, and picky. Much has been made about how Liverpool haven't spent anything yet. It is why some in the game believe the market could finally quicken in the last few weeks of the window, as necessity overtakes restraint.

Aston Villa are so far among the few to go big, because of the sudden influx of Champions League money, and need to have quality at that level.

That illustrates how some of this is circumstantial, but a lot of it is down to a crunch that has been a long time coming. In England, the

relative lack of expenditure is a direct consequence of clubs spending so much for so long. Wages have been so high that budgets have been pushed right up to the limits of the Profit and Sustainability Rules.

For all the criticism that the regulations have generated the root rationale shouldn't be forgotten: It is about ensuring clubs do not spend beyond their means, or what they can self-generate.

Many clubs outside England are suddenly finding they can't generate anything near what is required to be competitive in the market.

Wider socioeconomic forces are at work there. Football certainly isn't immune from such effects. Commercial and broadcasting income has started to decline in a lot of countries, with Ligue 1's difficulty in securing a media contract serving as the canary in the coal mine. The constant escalation in wages couldn't be widely sustained. The Premier League was able to spend much more than anyone else, so naturally attracted

far bigger broadcasting contracts than everyone else, in one of football's classic "virtuous cycles".

The Bundesliga and Serie A have admittedly seen recent upturns but nowhere to the Premier League's level. That's the other self-perpetuating aspect of economic downturns, too. They generally see "flights to quality", in the words of another senior football executive, since people save their money for what they know is good.

And this is where a potential age of austerity has deeper consequences for the wider game.

In general, it's obviously true that football needs to be weaned off its constant will to spend. Transfers appear to be the primary solution to literally any problem. That isn't always for the best, as scores of young players coming through have repeatedly proved. An inability to spend also forces managers to innovate, which returns the game to pure coaching and can often bring the most interesting tactical advances.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

France beats Egypt 3-1 and will face Spain in the men's soccer final at Paris Olympics

PAGE 19

Gamondi admits Simba's new signings pose tough challenge ahead of Community Shield clash



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi has openly recognized the strength of his team's biggest rivals, Simba Sports Club, highlighting their new signings and overall improvements for the 2024-2025 season.

Following Simba's impressive 2-0 victory over Rwanda's APR at the Simba Day Festival, Gamondi (pictured) admitted that his team faces a significant challenge.

Simba's triumph last Saturday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam set the stage for an exciting season. The next day, Young Africans secured their own victory with a 2-1 win against Zambia's Red Arrows during the peak of Wiki ya Mwanan-

chi, also held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The two giants are now set to clash tomorrow in the Community Shield semi-final, marking the opening of the new season.

"Now we are starting new calculations for the derby game," Gamondi stated. "I tried to look at Simba, and I have seen that they have made good signings and, in general, they have a good team. I want to remind our players to abandon the image of our opponents as it was last season."

Gamondi, who led Young Africans to a dominant 7-2 aggregate victory over Simba in their two Premier League

encounters last season, emphasized the importance of the upcoming match.

"This game will be difficult and will give a real picture of how we are coming this season. We are going to meet a team that did not manage to win against us last season; they must come in a different way," he noted.

Reflecting on the previous season, Gamondi recalled the disappointment of losing to Simba in the Community Shield final.

"Last season, we were beaten by Simba in the Community Shield final and failed to defend our title. This time, we want to turn the tables," he asserted.

To ensure his team is ready for the challenge, Gamondi stressed the need for thorough preparation and selecting players based on their performance in training rather than their reputations.

"Our team will be organized according to the ability the player shows in our preparations, not by names. We need players who will be ready to show their abilities and achieve our goals," he added.

As Young Africans gear up for the Community Shield semi-final against Simba, football fans are eagerly anticipating the showdown. The match, scheduled to kick off at 7:00 pm, promises to be a thrilling encounter.

On the same day, Coastal Union will face Azam FC at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar in the other semi-final.

Simba, the defending champions of the Community Shield, secured their title last season by defeating Young Africans 3-1 in a penalty shootout at the Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, after a goalless draw in regulation time. This history adds another layer of intensity to the forthcoming clash.

Gamondi's comments re-

fect a blend of respect for Simba's improvements and a firm belief in his own squad's potential.

"We need to enter the field with the aim of changing the result. We don't want to repeat what happened," he said.

His focus now is on meticulous preparation and ensuring that his players are mentally and physically ready for the battle ahead.

As the 2024-2025 season approaches, the rivalry between Young Africans and Simba continues to captivate fans and pundits alike. Both teams have shown their mettle in pre-season matches, setting the stage for a competitive and exciting campaign. The upcoming Community Shield semi-final will not only serve as a curtain-raiser for the new season but also as a barometer for both teams' readiness and ambitions.

Gamondi's acknowledgment of Simba's strengthened squad underscores the unpredictability and excitement that lie ahead in Tanzanian football. The stage is set, the players are prepared, and the fans are ready for what promises to be an enthralling season.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 MJADALA (I)
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
14:00 Mpera Mpera
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid week Movie
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 Mid Week Movie
23:00 KURASA
23:05 EATV SAA 1

UJENZI provides information and ideas on residential construction, interior decor and residential appliance markets values. The show aims to enhance residential construction. It provides free expert advice, news and commentary.

eastafrika RADIO 88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Azam FC cautious ahead of Coastal Union showdown

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC are cautious against underestimating Coastal Union as the two teams prepare to face off in the semi-finals of the Community Shield mini-tournament at New Amaan complex in Zanzibar tomorrow.

Both clubs enter the competition on the back of successful pre-season campaigns. Azam secured a 1-0 victory over Rayon Sports in Rwanda, while Coastal Union defeated Zanzibar's Uhamiaji 2-0.

Azam used the match as a crucial test ahead of their CAF Champions League preliminary round clash against APR FC. Playing in Kigali against Rayon not only provided valuable match practice but also helped the Tanzanian club acclimatize to the local conditions.

Azam finished second place in the NBC Premier League last season with 66 points, level with Simba SC but with a better goal-scoring record, pushing the Msimbazi Street-based side to third place, while Coastal Union finished fourth.

The Ice Cream Makers' spokesman, Hashim Ibwe, has dismissed claims that Azam will have an easy match, as the majority of the fans see them as favourites to win after their recent pre-season showing in Benslimane, Morocco.

"Many people believe Azam have already secured a spot in the Community Shield final based on our squad's quality. However, we must respect the Coastal Union's achievement in reaching this stage. They are formidable opponents, and we approach this match with the utmost respect to reach the final.

"We have Tuesday evening and Wednesday to finalize our training sessions. Coach Youssouph Dabo will focus on tactical and physical preparations, implementing our game plan to counter Coastal Union," said Ibwe.

Dabo is set to use the mini-tournament as preparation for their CAF Champions League preliminary stage against APR on August 16 at home and later on August 23 away in Kigali at Amahoro National Stadium.

The Senegalese tactician believes the match provided valuable insights into his team's readiness for the continental competition, particularly the upcoming clash against APR in the preliminary stage.

Under Dabo, Azam are poised for a challenging season as they aim to improve from last year's second-place finish, trailing champions Young Africans by eleven points.

With Azam's new season set to kick off with the Community Shield semi-final match against Coastal Union tomorrow at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar, another match will involve Simba versus Young Africans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on the same day.

The match will set the tone for their competitive journey, as they aim to achieve both national and continental success in the 2024/25 season.

Simba gear up for Derby with surprise tactics and new strategies

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

As anticipation builds for the highly-anticipated Dar es Salaam Derby, Simba SC's head coach, Fadlu Davids, is implementing surprise tactics and new strategies ahead of their clash with long-time rivals Young Africans SC tomorrow at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Following a decisive 2-0 victory over APR in the Simba Day match, Davids opted to give his squad a brief respite. He encouraged players to closely observe Young Africans' recent match against Red Arrows, which took place on Sunday, also at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, as part of the Wiki ya Mwananchi festivities.

Davids emphasized the importance of this upcoming derby, as Simba are set to face Young Africans in the semi-final of the Community Shield.

"Coach urged us to watch the Young Africans match to understand their strategies better. Some players watched the game together in the hotel while others viewed it from home. We needed to study our opponents closely," one Simba player shared.

The player's statement reflects the competitive environment within the squad, where every position remains contested. "Until the final decision is made, no player can be certain of their place in the starting eleven. The coach's approach to team selection is thorough and rigorous, making it challenging to predict the lineup," the player added.

Meanwhile, Davids and his technical staff also analyzed the Young Africans match with a focus on tactical adjustments. This collaborative effort underscores the meticulous preparation that Simba is undertaking ahead of their critical fixture.

Simba SC's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, expressed confidence in the team's readiness.

"We are pleased with our new recruits and feel well-prepared for the upcoming challenges. Our squad is young and dynamic, and we are geared up for fierce competition," Ahmed stated.

Ally further noted that the full strength of the squad will be revealed tomorrow. "The match against Young Africans will showcase the capabilities of our modern team. We are eager to demonstrate our progress and readiness for the new season," he added.

Simba resumed training on Monday and will continue their preparations at the Mo Simba Arena in Bunju, Dar es Salaam.

All emphasized that the entire squad is poised for the season ahead.

"The Simba SC fanbase has endured a three-season drought without a major league title. Last season, we missed out on the CAF Champions League, but we are determined to make a strong comeback," he said.

Significant improvements have been made to the squad during this registration window, with the aim of restoring Simba's prominence.

Ally highlighted the significance of the upcoming Community Shield match as a pivotal start to the season.

"Our performance in the Simba Day match against APR was encouraging, and we are ready to continue our momentum against Young Africans. This season, we are committed to achieving our goals and making a strong statement from the outset," he concluded.

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Players of the basketball team of people with disabilities are pictured during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Center in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

