



National Pg 3 Crocodile kills pupil in L. Tanganyika



National Pg 4 Amref hands over fingerprint devices



National Pg 6 JKCI chairman Prof Mahalu dies at 79



Ministry readies education policy overhaul format

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has finalised formulation of a draft education policy and if approved it will reduce the length of compulsory education from 11 to 10 years.

Prof James Mdoe (pictured), the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, made this affirmation yesterday at the launch of an electric and solar energy laboratory at the Sisters of Mary Secondary School in Kisarawe District, Coast Region.

The new policy format will make it obligatory for a school beginner to reach Form Four and also create two educational streams from Form One to Four where a student will acquire basic education and a vocational education certificate upon completion.

"The format, if approved, will make students acquire basic employable skills needed in the job market while equipped with substantive academic intuition," he said.

Collecting stakeholders and other views from members of the public has ended, with the ministry set for the policy



The initiative will enhance Sisters of Mary School training capacity

approval process for the document to become operational, replacing the current education policy of 2014, he said.

The government intends to build 26 girls' secondary countrywide chiefly for science subjects to promote science studies among girls, he said, highlighting the stress on an assessment exam at standard six to test pupils' progress.

The government was impressed with the kind of education offered at the school as it instils hope for marginalised girls, he said.

Officials said that even before the launch of a new school curriculum, the school run by the Catholic Church went a step ahead, with training modules combining academic training and vocational skills

The modules range from three months basic training to level three certificate in food production, information and communication technology (ICT), electrical and home building courses, plus on-the-job training, they said.

Now students at the school will be geared for diploma level training in electrical technicians' course following the launch of an electric and solar energy laboratory by Schneider Electric, a French energy

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Tanzania is solid, Samia tells nation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared that Tanzania stands united and solid and nobody is capable of dividing it.

Officiating at an event to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) at the Makumira campus of Tumaini University in Meru District, Arusha Region, she said the government will be addressing various policy challenges while fostering relations with religious institutions.

The president affirmed that no one has the audacity or muscle to auction any part of Tanzania as was being insinuated, noting that the government was working on challenges that arise in carrying out the public-private partnership (PPP) policy.

As the guest of honour at that event, she told the gathering that she was quite aware of ongoing rumours with various shades of opinion showing concerns on port improvement plans.

She said she decided to keep quiet and would remain that way, dispelling fears that the country was being split on the issue.

The president asked religious leaders of all

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) bishops in Arusha city yesterday shortly after delivering an address during the commemoration of the Church's 60th anniversary. Photos: State House



ELCT Presiding Bishop Rt Rev Dr Fredrick Onael Shoo pictured in Arusha city yesterday honouring President Samia Suluhu Hassan with a 60th ELCT anniversary award in recognition of her contribution to Tanzania's development.

Dar-India trade flows peak at \$6.4bn yearly

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TRADE between India and Tanzania has reached \$6.4bn, with Tanzania emerging as a focal point of India's relations with sub-Saharan Africa.

Indian High Commissioner Binaya Srikanta Pardhan made this observation here at the weekend when inaugurating the Hindi Cultural Center.

An online information note by the High Commission said that the Indian Diaspora

in Arusha organised a mega event to celebrate 75 Years of India's Independence on Sunday, 20th August in a vibrant manner.

"The event, organised by Kalakendra and the High Commission of India, was attended by more than 1400 people and also watched by more than 1000 people online," it stated.

Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella officiated at the function along

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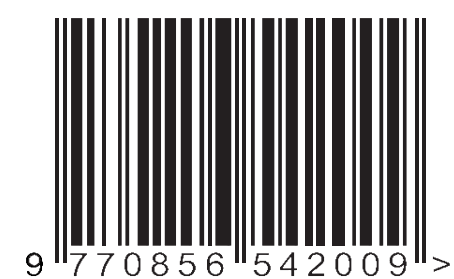
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Tanzania is solid, Samia tells nation

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denominations to maintain prayers so that the country remains peaceful, expressing gratitude at remarks by ELCT Head Rev. Dr Frederick Shoo and the Karawe ELCT head Bishop Dr. Benson Bagonza for advice on an athletes' village to invigorate talent formation.

She reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening good governance and democracy, also referring to issues of climate change as demanding that the country invests heavily in clean energy.

The ELCT presiding bishop meanwhile asked President Samia to address the concerns relating to the port investment threatening to "split" the country, underlining a promise by the president at a previous meeting with leaders of various denominations countrywide.

"The country is divided because there are some politicians, business people and other parties with personal interests who are fuelling the conflict," he said, recalling that the issues were raised in an audience with the president that

religious leaders sought to express their concerns.

The clerics' delegation consisted of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA).

The cleric explained that they all went to see President Samia, asking her to address the issue and she agreed to deal with the situation, praising the president for her patience and expressing confidence that she will sort out the situation amicably.

The church has always been at forefront in serving the community as well as pleading with the international community to clear the country's debts, he further stated

"Only people who don't know history dare downplay the church's role in peace, development, and community services. Some are politicians gearing for cheap popularity," he declared, recalling that former president Benjamin Mkapa gave the church an award in recognition of their patriotic efforts.

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management company.

The company has partnered with the Sisters of Mary School to launch the laboratory, in equipping the lab.

Theo firm will also conduct regular skill building sessions with a training of trainers' program meant to uplift teaching methods and competence of local teachers to enhance their skills levels and capacity, they said.

Carol Koech, the Schneider Electric (EA) zonal president, said the lack of well-trained electricians and engineers in the electrical and energy fields is a major obstacle to sustainable development of a number of regions in emerging economies.

"In keeping with Schneider Electric's vision for access to energy, education and entrepreneurship, we aim to implement solutions that bring together student training and the professional world closer," the CEO affirmed.

The school was established with the primary benefit of providing care and education to pre-primary, secondary and vocational students from underprivileged communities, equipping them with quality education and technical training to break the cycle of poverty.

The school is accredited by the ministry as a secondary school, while the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) has also registered it, officials noted.

Sister Merry Jane, the school manager, asserted that through collaboration with key players in the private sector like Schneider Electric, the country's technical training landscape can be revamped, "and our youth given hope for a decent future of gainful employment."

"The initiative will enhance Sisters of Mary School training capacity," she specified, noting that it will enable the school to produce competitive students easily fitting into the development of Tanzania's economy.

At the same time this will position the school as a preferred destination for young girls hoping to remain competitive in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses in Tanzania," the manager noted.

Through the training centre, the school will focus on training future female artisans and electricians in the field of energy with the total number of female students trained in Basic Electrical Training targeted at 1,200 in the next three years, she added.

Over two million children in Niger need humanitarian aid

NIAMEY

MORE than two million children are "in need of humanitarian aid" in Niger, a country destabilized by a recent coup and undermined by jihadist violence, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Monday in a statement.

"More than two million children have been affected by the crisis and are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance," the organization said.

"Before the recent civil unrest and political instability in Niger", UNICEF already estimated in 2023 "at 1.5 million the number of children under 5 suffering from malnutrition, including at least 430,000 suffering from deadliest form of malnutrition".

According to UNICEF, these figures may increase "if food prices continue to rise and an economic downturn hits families, households and incomes".

In addition, "electricity shortages" - already frequent in Niger and multiplied by the sanctions imposed on the country by the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS), in response to

the coup - affect the cold chain and can compromise the effectiveness of "infant vaccines" stored in health structures.

UNICEF recalls that it "continues to provide humanitarian assistance to children throughout the country". However, it warns that its "vital supplies remain blocked at the various entry points of the country", such as at the border with Benin.

The UN organization "launches an urgent appeal" to the "actors" of the crisis to guarantee access to Niger for humanitarian workers and supplies, and asks "donors to protect humanitarian funds from multilateral or unilateral sanctions".

Niger, destabilized by a coup on July 26, is one of the poorest countries in the world and depends economically and energetically on foreign countries. It has also been undermined for several years by jihadist attacks in the west and south-east.

it warns that its "vital supplies remain blocked at the various entry points of the country"



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Dr Stergomena Tax (L) receives Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who had just jetted into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday for a two-day state visit to Tanzania. It is part of an African tour which began in Kenya and is also scheduled to cover Mozambique and South Africa. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

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with High Commissioner Pradhan, along with Arusha Urban legislator Mrisho Gambo, city director Chitukuro and Prof. Emmanuel Luoga, vice chancellor for the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science & Technology, it said.

A cultural show was organised to show glimpses of India's vivid culture, rich heritage and unity in diversity, where the High Commissioner donated books to some local and international schools for stocking in their libraries, the note affirmed.

"Indian communities in Tanzania are the leading investors in the country," he remarked, noting that there are more business people back home who are interested in setting up enterprises in the country.

Gold processing, unwrought or semi-processed, in powder form is one such investment area, along

Dar-India trade flows peak at \$6.4bn yearly

with dried leguminous vegetables, shelled coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts, wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled timber are among other processing projects, he said, elaborating that processing unwrought lead is also envisaged.

Indian made motorcycles going under the Boxer trademark and manufactured by Bajaj Co. are uniquely popular in Tanzania along with their scooter and three-wheeled variants, he stated.

Tanzania also imports from India petroleum and oil obtained from bituminous minerals, medical drugs, turbo-jets, turbo-propellers and gas turbines, along

with electrical transformers, static converters and inductors plus cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, he elaborated.

Many Indians run enterprises absorbing many residents into employment, the envoy underlined, whereas Doto Biteko, the Minerals minister and guest of honor, used the occasion to invite people from India to invest in the mining sector.

Those who are already in the industry are doing very well, he assured the audience, pointing at the presence of upwards of 50,000 Tanzanians of Indian origin. The country also hosts 20,000 other Indian nationals with Indian

passports living in Tanzania, with an estimated 2000 Indians living, working or doing business in Arusha, he asserted.

Indians in the northern zone have invested in heavy industries like textile mills, he said, pointing at Sunflag and A-to-Z industries, aside from Mount Meru Millers, a grain packaging plant.

The High Commission earlier upgraded the Param Kilimanjaro supercomputer at the Nelson Mandela Institute with 64 solar-powered standby batteries.

High Commissioner Srikanta handed the batteries to the institute's deputy vice chancellor, Prof. Anthony Mshandete.



National Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (NACONGO) chairperson Dr Lilian Badi makes a presentation at a working session on digital systems in Dodoma city yesterday. Right is the Registrar of NGOs in the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups ministry, Vickness Mayao. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Staff Sergeant Michael Msulwa, a Fire and Rescue Force officer in Kilindi District, pictured yesterday taking youths engaged in the sale of petrol, diesel and kerosene in Mvungwe ward through the basics of safe handling of fuel-induced and other fire outbreaks. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Crocodile kills pupil who went swimming in Lake Tanganyika

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

A Standard IV pupil, Mathias Kikoso (10) of Izinga primary school in Wapembe Ward, Nkasi District, Rukwa Region has been attacked by a crocodile as he was swimming in Lake Tanganyika with his friends.

The tragic incident occurred on August 19 at around 2:00pm when a group of children went to the Lake for swimming.

Speaking to this reporter, Izinga village chairman, Edger Mkala said as the children were swimming, suddenly a crocodile emerged near them and grabbed the child and took him away.

The other children returned to the village without informing their parents for fear of being beaten up because they went to the lake to swim, which they were prevented from doing.

Mkala said at around 7:30 in the evening, the parents of Mathias started looking for him and asked his friends who told them that he had been attacked by a crocodile while swimming in the lake.

"After being told so we went to the lake shore and found Mathias' clothes and since it was already night we were unable to search for his body and only today we have started mourning for him without even seeing his body," he said.

According to him, the incident is the sixth at the village whereas in April this year, a Std VI girl also died after being attacked by a crocodile.

Mkala said in the past, four fishermen also died at different times after being attacked by crocodiles, the situation that created great fear among the villagers who are now afraid to conduct their economic activities in Lake Tanganyika.

He said at the moment there has been a huge increase of the saurian and called on the government to start cropping them as they are now an impediment to their business activities.

For his part, Rukwa Region Police Commander, Shadrack Masija confirmed the incident and called on parents to forbid their children to swim in the lake for fear of their lives.



After being told so we went to the lake shore and found Mathias' clothes and since it was already night we were unable to search for his body and only today we have started mourning for him without even seeing his body

Relief as Samia promises on street lighting installation implemented

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NJOMBE Region residents have said the implementation of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's pledge regarding the installation of street lights in the region's three districts will help to curb crime including rape and armed robbery.

Speaking to this paper at the weekend, they thanked the government for implementing the pledge and that in the past they used to have hard times due to lack of street lights when conducting their economic activities during the night.

"These lights are helping us a

lot, we used to be robbed of our money and belongings with women subjected to sexual abuse but now you can see anyone approaching you as you walk along the streets during the night," said Daniel Kihombo, a street vendor.

For his part, Martin Luvanda, resident of Iwawa area in Makete

town called on people whose areas have been installed with street lights to take care of the infrastructure as they are costly.

Eng Lucy Shalua, Njombe Region TANROADS manager said more than 70 lights have been installed in the three districts of Njombe Region - Makete, Njombe and Wanging'ombe.

"We are still continuing to install more lights in many other areas, we have in place procedures for their maintenance at all times, and right now they have a contractor doing the job," he added.

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2. Plan International Tanzania through KAGIS project, has set aside fund to conduct construction and drilling of four (4) bore holes with handpumps in Geita and Kigoma regions, specifically Lukaranga Pr. School (Geita TC), Ludete Pr. School and Katoro Sec.School (Geita DC) and Kahama Pr. School (Kibondo DC). The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
3. Plan International Tanzania now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for the above as follows:

Lot No.	General Description	Quantity
1	Drill one borehole at Lukaranga Pr. School - Geita TC.	Various
2	Drill one borehole at Ludete Pr. School - Geita DC.	Various
3	Drill one borehole at Katoro Sec. School - Geita DC.	Various
4	Drill one borehole at Kahama Pr. School - Kibondo DC,	Various
4. Bidders must submit their bids in a sealed envelope by hand to:

The Country Director,
Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area,
P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam

OR

Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 350, block H, Kagera area, Nyanza street
Geita Office
P O Box 448, Geita

The deadline for submission of the bids is 14:30, Friday 22nd September 2023, the outer cover of the envelope should be clearly marked the above tender number.
5. Late and Electronic Bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

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Amref offers biometric fingerprint devices to enhance HIV/Aids care

By Correspondent Carlos Banda

AMREF Health Africa Tanzania, with support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), has handed over 398 biometric fingerprint devices to Mara, Simiyu and Tanga regions to improve patient identification and data management.

Worth \$38,000 (94m/-), the devices procured under guidelines from the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), will be used in HIV/Aids care and treatment clinics in the regions.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Tarime Council hospital, Mara Region, Country Director for Amref Health Africa, Dr Florence Temu, said the biometric devices will greatly enhance efficiency in HIV/Aids care and treatment clinics.

"The biometric devices will greatly enhance efficiency in HIV/Aids care and treatment clinics, ensuring accurate patient identification and streamlined data management by accurately identifying patients, tracking their treatment progress, and ensuring the continuity of care," Dr Temu said.

She further highlighted that to ensure effective utilization of the devices, the project also equipped Mara Region with 362 healthcare providers with the required skills and knowledge in order to harness the full potential of the innovative equipment and establish robust data management practices.

Mara Region's acting administrative secretary (RAS), Dominicus Lusasi expressed his appreciation to the government, PEPFAR through US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Amref Health Africa Tanzania for their efforts in improving the health sector through various health projects in the country.

He urged healthcare workers and users of the equipment to handle them responsibly and take legal action against anyone causing damage or negligence.

Coordinator of PEPFAR Tanzania, Jessica Greene, highlighted that Amref Tanzania's implementation of comprehensive integrated services to centres and communities is in parallel to the global objectives to combat HIV/Aids.

"The comprehensive

integrated services provided by Amref Tanzania in centers and communities, supported by CDC and PEPFAR funding align with international goals in the fight against HIV/Aids, such as the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets," she said.

Dr Mahesh Swaminathan, the US CDC country director, emphasised the benefits of using biometric fingerprint devices in addressing challenges related to lost follow-ups of clients, further stating that healthcare workers have received training on proper device usage, enabling accurate patient identification and access to medical records, thereby ensuring smooth and reliable healthcare services.

The collaboration between Amref Health Africa Tanzania, PEPFAR, and U.S. CDC underscores their shared mission and commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving patient outcomes to combat HIV/Aids.

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania, in collaboration with local government authorities, implements the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supported Afya Kamilifu project, a five-year project aimed at controlling the HIV epidemic in Tanga, Simiyu, Mara, and Zanzibar.

The project has significantly reduced transmission rates and improved the lives of many beneficiaries in Simiyu Region.



The biometric devices will greatly enhance efficiency in HIV/Aids care and treatment clinics, ensuring accurate patient identification and streamlined data management by accurately identifying patients, tracking their treatment progress, and ensuring the continuity of care

Farmers threaten court action against tobacco-buying firm for payment delays

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

TOBACCO farmers who are members of Mtandae AMCOS in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have threatened to revoke their contract and drag to court Mkwawa Company, the tobacco buying firm in case it will not pay their money from tobacco sales.

The farmers made their threat here at the weekend at a special meeting in which they said they were tired with the firm's frequent empty promises, the issue that delays them to make preparations for the coming farming season.

Zawadi Chance, one of the farmers said the firm collected their tobacco since June this year and promised to pay them in a short time but so far it has not done so.

She said the delay has caused conflicts in the families and as well as those pitting farmers and farm workers they had hired.

Nelson Anderson, another tobacco farmer said the firm's delay in paying them has made them may famers fail to trust leaders in their cooperative societies and believe they are conspiring with the firm to defraud them.

He appealed to AMCOS officials to contact the firm to know about their money as now they are supposed to be making preparations for the new farming season.

For his part, the chairman of Mtandae AMCOS, Richard Mbalamwezi said already they have taken various steps including meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe on the issue.

He said Bashe told him that he had also been informed about the issue, and added that the problem was the scarcity of the US dollar facing the country at the moment and called on the formers to continue exercising patience as their issue was being addressed.

Speaking at the Mtandae AMCOS meeting, Mkwawa Company manager, Goodluck Mnasa admitted about the existence of the issue and said the main problem is the scarcity of the American currency.

She said the delay has caused conflicts in the families and as well as those pitting farmers and farm workers they had hired



Prisca Ngweshemi (standing), director of Himiza Development Organisation of Mkuranga District, makes a briefing to visiting community development stakeholders at the weekend of the agency's performance. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

India has made huge investments in Tanzania, says minister Biteko

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Minister for Minerals, Doto Biteko, has said Tanzania and India have been in diplomatic and economic relations for a very long time and Indian nationals have made huge investments in the country.

He said people from India have invested a lot in trade, industry and the mineral sector of which they trade in minerals, process and increase their value.

Biteko made the remarks at an event to mark India's independence

organised by Tanzanians of Indian origin living in Arusha at the weekend.

He said Tanzania has a sizeable population of people of Indian origin, numbering more than 40,000 out of whom there are 15,000 to 20,000 Indian passport holders.

The minister added that Arusha City alone has more than 2,000 people of Indian origin who have invested in various sectors including industry, minerals and education.

"We commend them for their stay in Tanzania just like other

ordinary Tanzanians, as they have been at the forefront in investing in the country and grabbing various business opportunities.

"We have joined hands with them to celebrate their Independence Day and wish them well, and we in the government will support in their various efforts," he said.

He also said that India has conducted a huge volume of trade in the minerals sector including trading in and adding value to the minerals.

For his part, India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya

Srikanta Pradhan said Tanzania has been a safe haven to live in and conduct business as well as developing their customs and traditions.

Dotto said owing to the diplomatic ties that exist between the two countries India has contributed more than USD 1bn/- (or 2.2trn/-) towards various development projects.

For his part, Arusha Urban Member of Parliament, Mrisho Gambo praised the people of Indian origin while pledging that as their representative he will continue working together with them.

He said these people have been at the forefront in development issues including the provision of jobs especially in factories they own as well as paying taxes.



Police officers escort Salehe Ally Miraji (in handcuffs) to the Muheza District Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the killing of two women at Mkanyageni village. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Youths urged to take part in nation-building

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

US ambassador to Tanzania Dr Michael Battle has challenged the youths in the country to utilise their physical and mental potentials and participate actively in the national economy building.

Ambassador Battle said that youths are the ones who stand at a possible chance to decide over the future of the nation, should they live with purpose and deter from all forms of negative practices.

He was speaking at a special youth

congress and democracy gathering convened in Dodoma city.

"Young people, you should realise that you are responsible for making this nation what it should be, so you should be a big part of building this nation so that it is strong and not otherwise," said Ambassador Battle.

He underscored the need for the local youths to embrace domestic cultures and run their daily activities with patriotism.

The Ambassador insisted that the country has been endowed with numerous economic resources and opportunities, urged the youths to tap the existing economic potentials

for improving their livelihoods, as well as the national economy as a whole.

David Kihenzile, Member of the Parliament urged the youths to turn into being productive through tapping the diverse economic opportunities that are being created by the government across the country.

He insisted that the country has been endowed with numerous potential resources that, if used well by young people, can help them economically and reduce complaints of unemployment in the country.

"Tanzania has numerous mineral resources, livestock and vast arable land for supporting cultivation of different food and economic cash crops, these are some of the potential economic resources that can help the youth to escape from the shackles of poverty should they use the opportunities effectively," he noted.

He added, there is a need for the Prime Minister's Office to ensure that it speeds up the process of formation of the Youth Council (YC) in order to provide a key podium for the largest group in the country to discuss their issues.



Miriam Mrita (L), who is facing murder charges at the High Court in Dar es Salaam, seated in the courtroom yesterday waiting for the hearing of the case. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Five JKCI specialty doctors expected to attend Eighth World Congress in the US

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FIVE specialty doctors from Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) are expected to leave for the United States to participate at the 8th World Congress of paediatric cardiologists slated from August 28 to September 3, this year.

The conference is set to bring together more than 4,500 participants from various countries in the world thus creating a good chance for JKCI to publicise its

works, create partnerships and learn from other experts.

Addressing journalists Dar es Salaam at the weekend, JKCI pediatric cardiologist, Dr Naizihijwa Majani said that the conference is held every four years where the last time was held in 2017 in Barcelona, Spain

"JKCI was able to participate in the 7th conference held in Spain and learn about the International Quality Improvement Collaborative DataBase (IQIC) which helps to look at quality issues in cardiac treatment services for children,"

she said.

She added: "After learning we were able to establish the database here at JKCI and so far Tanzania is one of the three countries in Africa that uses the database managed by experts in Boston in the United States."

Dr Naizihijwa, who is also the Head of the JKCI service quality division, said that through the database, the institute sends all information on heart surgery performed, progress of patients and type of performed surgeries.

Dr Naizihijwa said that in the

conference, JKCI experts have also sent nine works of which seven files have been accepted for presentation in the conference.

"It is a unique opportunity for us because for the files to be received and presented in the conference we need to meet required international standards," she said.

Through the conference, JKCI will be able to publicize the Institute, create relationships with experts from various countries in the world as well as open opportunities for studies, research and exchange of experiences.

'TGNP knowledge centres important pillars for attaining gender equality'

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

KNOWLEDGE centres of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) are important pillars for change building especially in regard to the issue of gender equality and development.

The knowledge centres are also a contribution in two areas including instilling awareness to Tanzanians as well as the awareness of gender abuse and to empower women to vie for leadership positions.

Speaking at the seminar for the media on the recognition of the knowledge centres in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, the centres coordinator, Jacqueline Mtesha said TGNP has 72 such centres in 15 regions countrywide and continues to establish more centres.

"These centres have helped to empower the community to access information and participate in various debates regarding human beings and gender equality," he said.

He said through these centres, people have received ample knowledge in reporting issues of gender based violence to state organs, different to what was the case in the past.

"Through these centres, the community has been participating in people's assemblies where they raise various complaints including regarding the education and health sectors to government officials in their areas," she said.

There are many examples, but among them is Sarangi Ward at Kimara, Dar es Salaam with nine areas of which - King'ongo has a woman as chairperson," he said.

The coordinator explained that at this time when TGNP attains

30 years of existence, it has many things to be proud of especially in the issues of gender equality and the fight against gender based violence.

Jacqueline said as they enjoy various achievements there have also been challenges including some of leaders in some knowledge centres being shunned by government officials in their areas.

Tabu Ally, chairman of Majohe Knowledge Centre said during the seminar that he was once arrested by government officials and detained believing that he had the intention to vie for leadership positions.

"But later they came to know the aim of the centre in empowering the people to report on issues of gender based violence in their areas and now we coexist peacefully with them and closely work together," he added.

For her part, Kivule Knowledge Centre chairperson, Zahara Mzee said when they started their work in the past, many government officials had no faith in them thinking they wanted to remove them from their positions.



These centres have helped to empower the community to access information and participate in various debates regarding human beings and gender equality

'Over 10,000 people undergo hydrocele and elephantiasis surgery in Tanzania'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has enabled surgery for over 10,000 people suffering from hydrocele and elephantiasis countrywide including identifying more than 22,000 people suffering from the two diseases through treatment camps established in various areas.

In addition, the treatments camps have been able to eradicate the diseases in 100 districts out of 119 that were largely affected by hydrocele and elephantiasis diseases.

This was revealed by Dr George Kabona, manager for the national plan for the control of diseases

that are not given priority when elaborating on five big diseases not given priority including elephantiasis, hydrocele, bilharzia, stomach worms and trachoma.

Dr Kabona explained that the patients underwent surgery in various wards and added that the government has put in place strategies to identify such patients in order to make sure it strengthen its treatment systems of the diseases including their total eradication.

"These diseases are part of the five diseases that are not given priority and on which the government has put in place robust strategies to fight them," he said.

He said among these strategies

is to make sure they provide treatment to the sufferers, but also provide drugs in various wards and schools.

In regard to trachoma, Dr Kabona said 69 districts were affected from research done from 2004 to 2012 and that already the government has distributed drugs for both cure and prevention and a new research shows that only nine districts still have the disease.

He said the nine districts have big challenges owing to huge prevalence of infection as it is a zone for pastoralists and named some of them as Dodoma, Kongwa, Kiteto, Simanjiro, Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts.



Sergeant Peter Mwankusi, assistant in-charge of Kitunda Police Post in suburban Dar es Salaam, pictured at the weekend contributing to discussions on strategies to combat crime. This was at an open meeting held at the Kipunguni Community Voice Centre grounds. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



World Change Starts with Educated Children

Bi-Annual Fund Report of Room to Read (Non – Governmental Organisation) has been issued pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Non-Governmental Organisation Act

Room to Read Tanzania works in collaboration with local communities, and the government to scale efforts that ensure the best results in primary school literacy education are realised, through transforming the lives of thousands of Tanzanian children by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education and developing literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children. It works to safeguard girls' rights to quality education, supporting them to stay in school, improve their standard of living and contribute to national development.

The statement of sources of funds and uses of funds for bi-annual period from 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

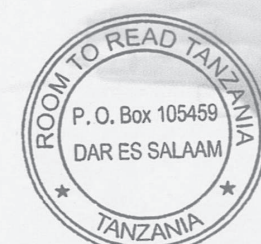
Statement of income and expenditure for six months period from 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023

	01 January to 30 June 23
	TZS '000
INCOME	
Income from donors	4,749,264
Total income	4,749,264
EXPENDITURE	
Staff costs	1,783,501
Program costs	2,411,958
Administrative costs	438,727
Travel costs	72,276
Equipment costs	42,802
Total expenditure	4,749,264

In preparation of the bi-annual statement of income and expenditure, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements of Room To Read Tanzania..

We, the undersigned management team, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements

Juvenalius Kuruletera
Country Director



Joan Msumi
Accounting and Finance
Manager

JKCI chairman Prof Mahalu is dead

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

PROF William Mahalu, Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) Board of Trustees chairman, has died in Dar es Salaam aged 79.

He is being among the first three cardiologists in Tanzania. Others who went abroad for studies in 1970s included Prof. Idrissa Mtulia and Prof. William Makene.

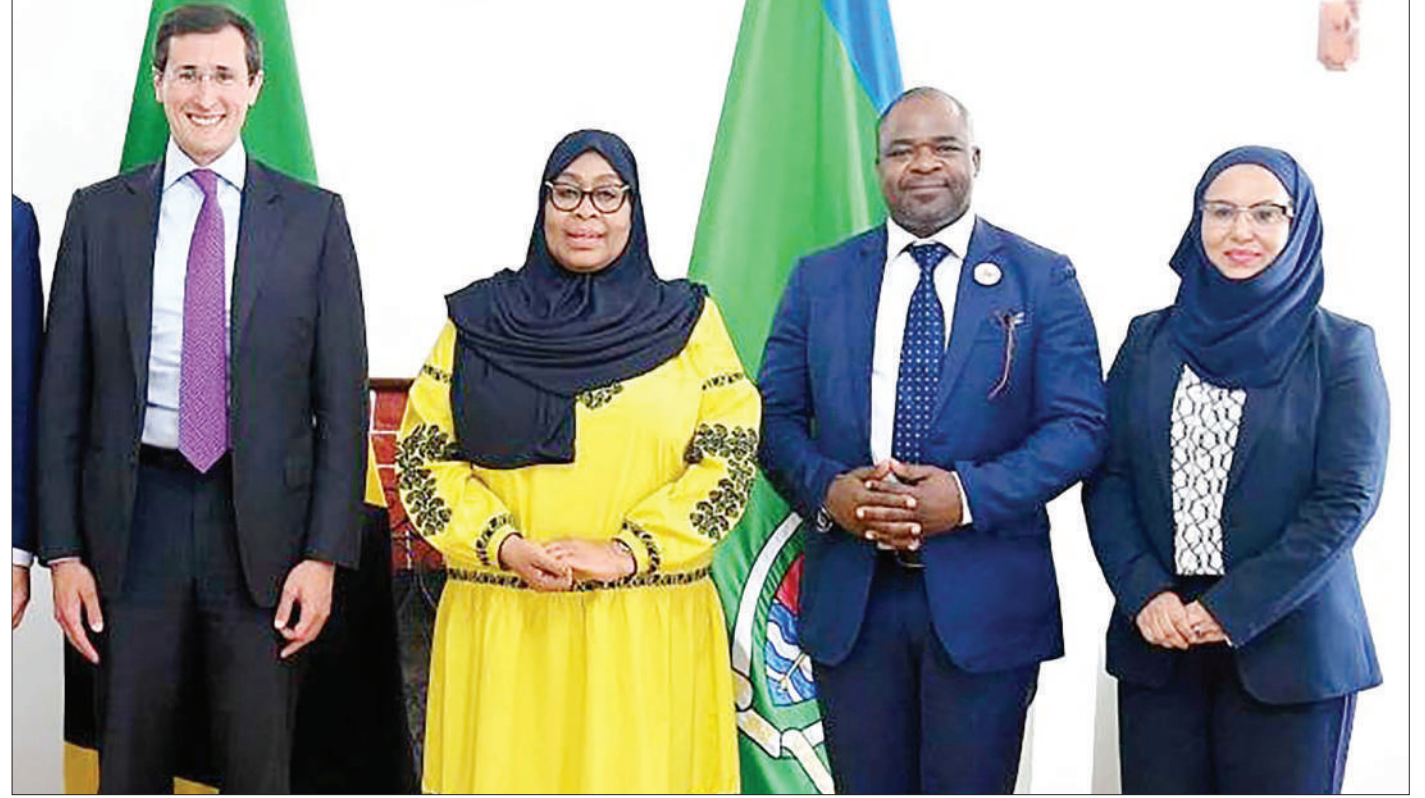
In his statement released to the media, Dr Peter Kisenge, JKCI managing director said Prof. Mahalu died on August 20, this year, at JKCI, where he was receiving treatment.

Prof Mahalu who was a cardiothoracic surgeon, was appointed to the position by

the late President, John Magufuli.

On May 9, this year, Prof Mahalu while at the signing ceremony between JKCI, Zambia and Rwanda to improve professional services in those countries said: "What I am witnessing in the performance of professional and expert treatment is my dream come true. When I was thinking about the establishment of the Heart Institute, everyone saw me as wasting time. I thank God for giving me life and witnessing this today (May 9).

"Because there are those who disappointed me that the heart institution is not a priority, let's try to do things ourselves no matter how small. Let's do the surgery ourselves," said Prof. Mahalu.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan poses for a photo in Arusha city at the weekend with Puma Energy CEO and Trafigura Oil Company co-director Hadi Hallouche (L) shortly after talks, including on trade in carbon and natural gas for domestic use. The others are Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Fatma Abdallah (R) and Treasury Registrar Nehemiah Mchechu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC calls for seizure of all uninsured vehicles

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA regional commissioner Amos Makalla has directed the Police to initiate conduct an inspection and seize all motor vehicles without insurance.

Speaking here yesterday at the commemorations of Lake Zone Insurance Day on behalf of the RC, Misungwi District Commissioner, Paul Chacha said that police have to impound uninsured vehicles and motorcycles or those with insurance challenges without considering the status of the owners.

He said that should be implemented because it is a must and no excuse for those who do not want to buy insurance covers for their vehicles, noting that Mwanza Region has a lot of opportunities but yet people have low understanding of insurance covers.

The RC said that not only operators of vehicles and motorcycles who are required to buy insurance for their vehicles but also owners of business buildings should insure their properties for the benefit of themselves.

Deputy Commissioner for Insurance, Khadja Said, said that the insurance sector is important to protect the economy of the country and therefore it should be adequately used.

According to her, insurance is key to

the country's financial inclusion agenda considering the fact that the bulk of growth of the financial sector in the coming decade is hinged on insurance.

"Owners of vehicles should pay for insurance in accordance with capacity of their vehicles so that they can be able to cover the loss in case of accidents.

Michael Masanja, one of the stakeholders who is also director of Smart Usagara Service Station, said that petrol is highly inflammable and therefore it is important for the dealers to insure their businesses.

He said that insurance is security for any investment, noting that when investment is done with insurance it is like losing the properties as they cannot be recovered in case of motor accidents.

Citing an example, he said that suppose when petrol is being transported and a tanker is involved in an accident if not insured that will be loss, but with insurance the loss will be covered.

Acting manager of Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) in the Lake zone, Richard Toyota said that the day aimed at raising awareness on insurance among stakeholders.

The commemoration went along with different activities including football matches, chicken chasing, running in sacks, tug of war among others.

PCCB in Moro calls upon CSOs to submit their performance reports

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Morogoro Region has said there are Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the region that operate without adhering to government directives and guidelines regarding submission of their performance reports and called on them to do so.

Manyama Tungaraza, Morogoro Region bureau head made the remarks in his performance report for the period of April to June, this year.

He said PCCB conducted an assessment on corruption loopholes in the implementation of construction projects via Force Account System in the region's local councils and identified various shortcomings and issued instructions to those concerned.

He also said the Bureau conducted

an assessment regarding corruption loopholes in CSOs and found out that many of them operate without abiding by government directives and guidelines regarding submission of their performance reports.

He said CSOs operating in Mvomero District Council showed the existence of the shortfalls and the council was advised to make sure all CSOs that established abide by government directives regarding their submission of their performance reports.

In regard to the involvement of stakeholders in finding solutions to complaints through the "TAKUKURU Rafiki Programme" that was launched and started operating since February this year, he said the programme has been able to reach people in more than 36 wards in Morogoro Region.

Tungaraza further said that in the period

April - June this year, the programme has managed to raise public awareness by enabling them to disclose various complaints that if left unaddressed would have spurred corruption to thrive.

He cited another area as boosting good relationships between the PCCB and service providers in various institutions in addressing complaints referred to them.

He said another area is to expand the accountability concept in the public service especially in making sure services are provided with successes.

Divunyagale Juma, member of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) board in Morogoro Region said it was essential for the institutions to start to change and submit their performance reports as the procedure requires.

"These procedures were established by the government and it is essential to abide by them," said Divunyagale.

Summons to appear (O.V.R. 20 (1) (CPC) (Substituted Service)

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE COURT OF DAR ES SALAAM

AT KINONDON

(LAND DIVISION)

AT DAR ES SALAAM

EXTENDED MISCELLANEOUS LAND APPLICATION NO.8 OF 2023

BANK OF AFRICA (T) LTD.....APPELLANT

VERSUS

MARIAM JOSIA IYELE.....1ST RESPONDENT
MOHAMED A. KITONGOLI.....2ND RESPONDENT
L.M MSOLOPA.....3RD RESPONDENT

TO:

1.MARIAM JOSIA
2.MOHAMED A. KITONGOLI
3.L.M MSOLOPA

WHEREAS the above named APPELLANT has/have institute an APPLICATION against you. You are Hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by Advocate or Agent duly authorized on 23rd AUGUST 2023 at 11:00 hours BEFORE: HONC. KISONGO, DR .

TAKE NOTICE that, in default of your appearance on that day, APPLICATION will be head in your absence.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of this Court, this 10TH day of AUGUST, 2023.



Nasika Alan, a member of the Mtande Tobacco Farmers Association in Chunya District, speaks at a meeting held at the weekend. The main agenda item was delays in payments to farmers, with the blame heaped on the firm engaged in the buying of the crop. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Stakeholders call for inclusion of elders in fight against HIV/AIDS

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

HEALTH stakeholders have underscored the need to effectively engage elders in various projects meant to curb HIV/AIDS in the country for best outcomes.

They said failure to involve elders in the fight against the disease may thwart efforts by the government and stakeholders to fight the spread of the virus.

HelpAge International country director, Smart Daniel, said that despite the presence of the elderly people living with HIV in the country, there is still the problem of the key group not being included in various projects to fight against the infections.

He made the remarks when speaking to journalists here, shortly after opening the special stakeholders meeting to deliberate obstacles of the HIV/AIDS in the country.

"If this group is not given priority

in the fight against HIV, we cannot achieve the goal of increasing the number of people who use antiretroviral drugs and reach all HIV patients by 95 per cent by 2030," he observed.

The aim of the meeting was to meet with various stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS fight in the country, the government, as well as the private sector to discuss the challenges that contribute to the inability of elderly people living with the disease to access needed services.

"HelpAge has decided to organise this meeting in collaboration with TACAIDS so as to bring together stakeholders involved in AIDS issues to discuss on how best the elders in the country can stand a better chance to get the HIV/AIDS services," he explained.

"Currently, the message that is being given in various media outlets focuses on the youth and other groups and the elderly have been excluded, thus resulting in failure to get education and knowledge to access AIDS services," he said.

In addition, he added that even most of the HIV related projects that are currently being implemented across the country focus on serving other groups, including the youth and the elderly are not given priority.

"There are many challenges, including the services delivery, the system is still not friendly to the elders. The elders are not given opportunities, but also the stigmatisation of the elderly aged 60 years and above is rampant," he noted.

Senior Director of Community and Private Sector Involvement at the National Council of People Living with AIDS in the country (NACOPHA), Mathew Kawogo, said that national strategy is needed so that elderly people can access better services and care when attending to health facilities.

The meeting attracted officials from the Health Ministry, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government and NACOPHA.

Among others, the general vision of the meeting was to discuss and develop a special strategy to help the elders' access the vital health services.



[Signature]
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE



Pastor Anjelina Kapaya (R) of the Hosana Pentecostal Church at Kambarage in Shinyanga municipality presents school supplies including stationary, uniforms and bags to students living in difficult conditions. The items, donated by the Nancy Foundation, were handed over at the weekend. Second right is the municipality's education officer (Academic), Wingwila Kitila. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

New book highlights importance of resilience and self-discipline

By Beatrice Philemon

A NEW book which highlights the women's ability to overcome their personal challenges and achieve their goals has been launched in Dar es Salaam recently.

Titled: 'Survived and Thriving: One Woman's Journey Through War, Heartbreak and Financial Triumph', also highlights the importance of resilience and self-discipline.

It has been authored by Madiha Tubman, Didi Squard Inc, a prominent Life Mastery Coaching and Consultancy firm, chief executive officer (CEO).

Speaking during the launch over the weekend, Maida Waziri, President and Voice of Women Entrepreneurs in Tanzania said the book inspires self-beliefs, resilience, self-discipline and determination to transform oneself from victims to victorious.

According to her, the book has a powerful story and testimony that offers a reader not only encouragement but also counsels on how to deal with the aftermath of dysfunctional relationships.

"Readers of all stages interested in personal development, in particular young women questioning their ability to overcome their personal challenges and achieve their goals can read this book," she said.

Survived and Thriving book is one Woman's journey through war, heartbreak and financial Triumph," is an empowering story that demonstrates the strength of the human spirit when faced with unimaginable challenges.

"Tubman's work serves as testament to the enduring power of hope, love and community reminding readers that even in the darkness of times, one can find the strength to survive, thrive and triumph," she said.

The book will be available at leading bookstores and online retailers this month for readers who will be ready to get it.

She said that the book takes readers on an emotional rollercoaster as they delve into the remarkable life story of a woman who endured the horrors of

war, faced heartbreak and ultimately triumphed over adversity.

"The author takes readers on her personal journey of growth and overcoming obstacles to help us grow and become our best self," she said.

Also the book shows the indomitable spirit that kept her and her loved ones going during the darkness of time, she shares the incredible bond that formed among six families including her own, who sought solace and strength within the confines of their one-family home.

Their shared experiences and unwavering faith in a higher power became a beacon of hope amidst the perpetual shadow of terror.

Madiha Tubman, the author and her husband decided to embark on a new chapter of their lives by moving to his native country, Liberia.

"Women face a lot of challenges in the community, I recommend women and men in all areas where they read this book to learn from the author of the book because it gives us a good direction in accordance with the challenges you have," she said.

She advises them to see every challenge that women face is an opportunity to become more than they have been before.

Madiha Tubman, the author and her husband decided to embark on a new chapter of their lives by moving to his native country, Liberia.

Their love was a beacon of hope, promising a bright future filled with happiness and dreams come true. However their love took an unexpected turn when civil war shattered their idyllic existence.

According to her, through vivid and harrowing descriptions, Madiha recounts the unimaginable horrors she witnessed during the outbreak of war in Liberia.

The chilling odor of death filled the air and sounds of innocent lives being extinguished haunted her every waking moment. In the midst of this chaos, Madiha and her husband made a solemn vow to protect themselves and their young son from the ravages of conflict.

Swift care for traffic casualties crucial - MOI

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) has urged families and the general public to ensure that casualties are brought to hospital timely to receive lifesaving services.

94 per cent of bone and brain casualties are received at the Institute six hours after the occurrence of an accident which is contrary to the international standards.

International standards require the bone and brain casualties to be brought to the hospitals within one hour after the accident in order to save their lives.

MOI head of research unit, Dr

Joel Bwemelo, said delaying of the injured people to the hospital reduces the possibility of saving their lives.

He said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the strategic meeting between MOI specialties, Dar es Salaam and Coast region hospitals with the aim of improving services for bone, spine and brain casualties.

In the meeting, experts were reminded of the importance of using 'golden hour' which requires the injured person to receive definitive treatment within one hour after the occurrence of the accident.

"There is one golden hour that can save the life of the injured people since the accident happened...here at MOI 94 percent

of the injured people are brought after six hours have passed since the accident, at this time the golden hour to save his life has passed," he said.

Dr Anthony Assay said that among the reasons for the delay for casualties at MOI is the appeal procedure which is taking a lot of time and that the meeting aims to improve the appeal system in order to prompt the patients to arrive.

"The basic thing before giving the injured person a referral, make sure you have taken care of him and he has been stable, let's remember the traffic jam in our roads, queues, all these need to be taken into account to prepare the casualties to be able to withstand the situation so that he does not get other effects," Dr Assay said.

The organiser of the session, Dr Bryson Mcharo said the goal of the meeting was to help address the challenges that prevent the casualties from receiving treatment within one hour after the accident.

Dr Bryson KIWELU from Amana Regional Referral Hospital, praised MOI for establishing a new procedure that will enable various service providers to refer the brain and bone casualties to MOI directly without going through other hospitals.

Acting Executive Director of MOI, Dr Laurent Lemery, said the meeting aimed to implement the Ministry of Health's policy which focuses on improving service delivery and especially for patients who are referred to MOI for further treatment.



You might take what you see to the left as written-off motor vehicles long abandoned, but how wrong you would be! The fact is that the vehicles are placed there strategically as roadside "sources" of spare parts. Location: Tandale Shule area along Tandale Road in Kinondoni municipality, Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Photo: Khadija Kategile/TUDARCO

TOSCI stresses use of varieties of cassava resistant to diseases

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

CASSAVA farmers have been challenged to use newly introduced crop's breeds approved by Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) that are resistant to diseases in a bid to boost yields.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cassava Plantation and Agribusiness Foundation (CAPAFO), Salum Ismail made the call yesterday here in an interview with this paper.

Ismail noted that currently the commonly used cassava breeds are not resistant enough to crop's diseases; therefore they should shift to the newly approved ones by TOSCI as they have a big ability to withstand diseases.

He mentioned some of the new breeds as Chereko, Kiroba, Kipusa, Kizimbani, Mkumba, Taricass1 (EYOPE), Taricass2 (F10-30-R2), Taricass3 (ORERA), Taricass (YIZASO), Taricass4 (TZI30) and Mkuranga.

"We solve challenges of cassava wilt disease by advising and encouraging farmers to grow new breeds that are resistant to diseases to improve productivity", he said.

He said that for high yields a farmer is advised to ensure that plant cuttings are 30 cm long, with most part put in the soil and stem facing in the East so that when roots break out can get morning sunlight directly that is vital for good growth of a plant

CAPAFO works in collaboration with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) as well as

agricultural and extension officers across the country, he said.

Jovita Baitu, marketing officer of CAPAFO said the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) educates farmers on the value of cassava by processing it for two or three days by using a chipper machine.

She said that a chipper machine cuts small chips of cassava so that it can dry easily in the sun to avoid poison fungus and package them for later use and are able to stay even for three years without insects feeding on them.

She noted that they educate farmers to wash cassava before they are removed so that materials can be used as animal feeds as well as drying the crop's leaves and preserving it as vegetable for human consumption later.

Indeed, cassava has long chain value as its flour also can be used to bake bread, make doughnuts as well as porridge among other items, she said.

The Guardian Limited

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A quality education must involve more than teaching

THE World Bank has warned of a learning crisis in global education. According to its report, millions of young students from developing countries face the prospect of lost opportunity and lower wages in life because of the quality of education they are getting in primary and secondary schools is poor. The report further warns that schooling without learning is both a wasted development opportunity and a great injustice to young people around the world.

Education is fundamental to development and growth. The human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth.

For countries to reap these benefits fully, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education.

African governments and development partners must affirm the importance of education in development—on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from education for all to learning for all.

The World Bank's Education Strategy emphasises several core ideas: Invest early. Invest smartly. Invest in learning for all.

First, foundational skills acquired early in childhood make possible a

lifetime of learning. The traditional view of education as starting in primary school takes up the challenge too late. The science of brain development shows that learning needs to be encouraged early and often, both inside and outside of the formal schooling system.

Prenatal health and early childhood development programmes that include education and health are consequently important to realize this potential. In the primary years, quality teaching is essential to give students the foundational literacy and numeracy on which lifelong learning depends.

Adolescence is also a period of high potential for learning, but many teenagers leave school at this point, lured by the prospect of a job, or turned away by the cost of schooling. For those who drop out too early, second-chance and nonformal learning opportunities are essential to ensure that all youth can acquire skills for the labor market.

Second, getting results requires smart investments—that is, investments that prioritize and monitor learning, beyond traditional metrics, such as the number of teachers trained or number of students enrolled. Quality needs to be the focus of education investments, with learning gains as the key metric of quality. Resources are too limited and the challenges too big to be designing policies and programs in the dark. We need evidence on what works in order to invest smartly.

Third, learning for all means ensuring that all students, and not just the most privileged or gifted, acquire the knowledge and skills that they need. Major challenges of access remain for disadvantaged populations at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

We must do enough research into high-yield cotton seed varieties

COTTON is a cash crop that generates income and welfare for over 250 million farmers across the globe. In Tanzania, cotton is a strategic crop, as it contributes substantially to export revenues and employment. Shinyanga and Mwanza are the two largest cotton-growing regions in Tanzania. Cotton is grown predominantly by smallholder farmers in Tanzania. Because of the fluctuations of cotton prices, some farmers tend to move in and out of cotton cultivation by planting competing crops such as green peas and sunflower that sell at higher prices at the end of the previous season.

Cotton is one of Tanzania's key crops. Around 2 million of the country's 60 population depend on it for their livelihood. It provides around 13 per cent of the country's foreign exchange—second only to coffee in agricultural exports. Yet the 400,000 smallholder farmers have seen little improvement in their lives.

We have to confront this reality that grassroots people engaged in cotton growing have not been able to reduce poverty levels. While the crop has made a significant contribution to the economy since independence, poverty levels among farmers are still at 42 per cent. The farmers hope had always been that this is the crop to bail out households from poverty. But, like many other programmes, the challenge is how to achieve this.

The deficiencies of the cotton industry are bound up with the poverty of the farmers. With no savings, and paltry and uncertain returns, they cannot afford pesticides and fertilizer to improve the quality of their cotton. The result

is that Tanzanian cotton trades at a discount on the international market due to its lower quality. And since the liberalisation of the cotton industry in the 1990s, productivity has fallen sharply, with yields of around 550kg per hectare—just over a quarter of the world average.

One of the reasons productivity has not improved is that there has not been enough research into high-yield seed varieties, says Colin Poulton, a research fellow at the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy at the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas) in London.

In addition, there has been no system to provide credit to farmers for fertiliser. Without credit, farmers can't afford fertiliser, adds Poulton. In a survey in 2002, they found that 50 per cent of farmers weren't even spraying their crop once. Low productivity and falling global cotton prices over the past 15 years have actually made farmers poorer.

Tanzania's cotton board has announced that from December this year, when farmers start to plant their cotton again, a new type of contract farming will be rolled out. Contract farming, introduced by the UK-based charity the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, establishes direct contracts between farmers and ginners, removing the agent from the process. Farmers' business groups will replace the agents.

Around the villages in Tanzania's western cotton growing area, where 99 per cent of the country's cotton is grown, the term 'agent' has become a byword for cheating. Cheating comes in various forms— at the weighing scales, half payments, delays in payments, price manipulations.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

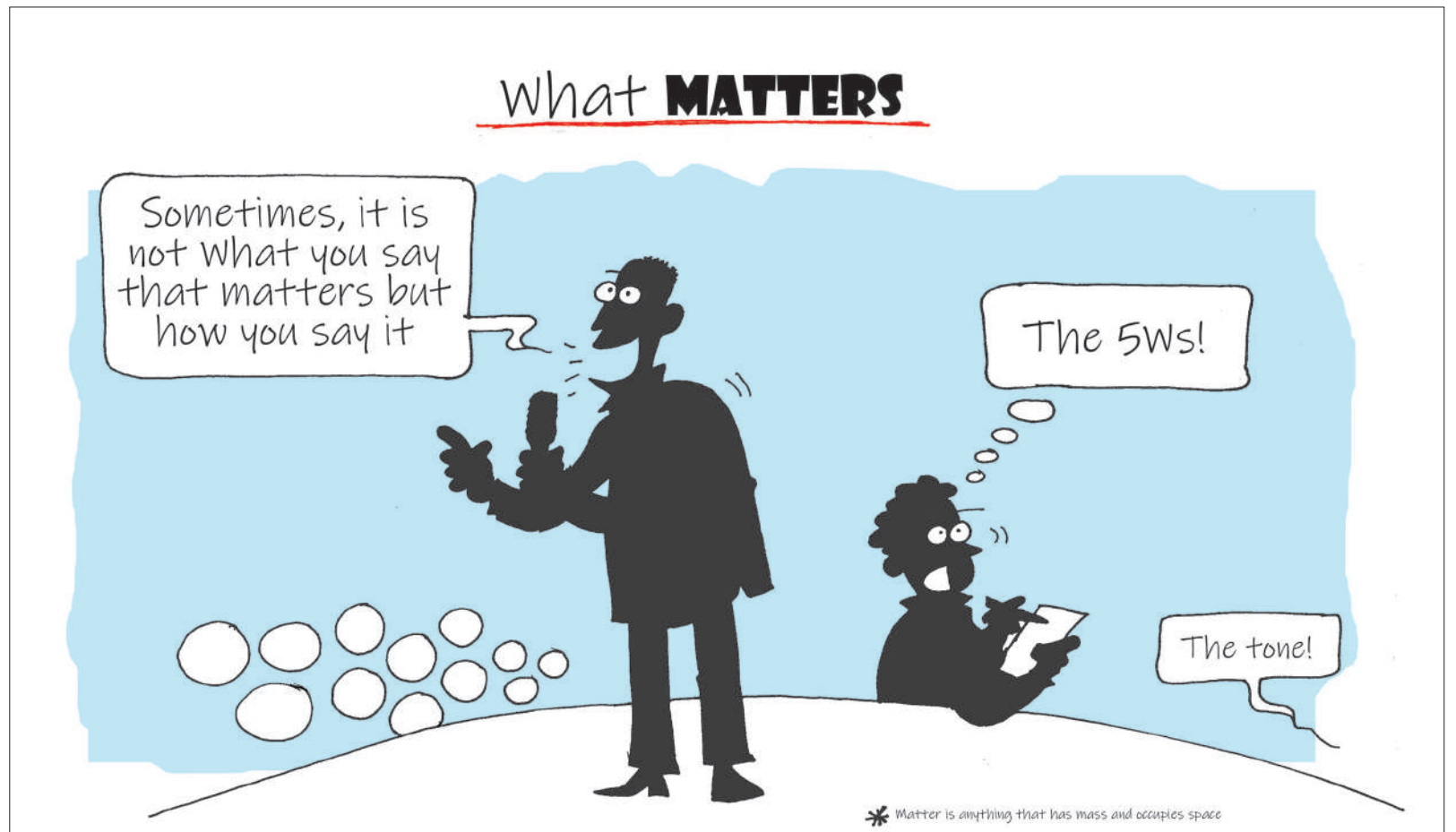
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By Special Correspondent

THE COVID-19 pandemic has had extensive consequences on economies around the world. The contractions suffered by the global economy as countries sought to contain the spread of SARS-Cov-2 - the virus behind the pandemic - have been catastrophic. However, a couple of years after the world arguably put the worst of the pandemic behind it, economies continue to present debilitating side-effects.

Supply chain constrictions associated with pandemic-induced lockdowns continue to drive shortages in the manufacturing sector. Investment in new capacity by businesses compensating for these shortages have, in turn, driven surfeit in sectors where companies now appear more vulnerable to market risks than they did at the height of the pandemic. As spending patterns favour contact-based transactions, the allocation of resources within economies - from manufacturing and remote fulfilment to services - have added new pressures.

While, for still undetermined reasons, Africa came off the pandemic's health scare far better than the initial prognosis, economies here are faring worse than elsewhere. Nowhere is this new economic challenge more evident

By Zimbabwe Election Support

Network

AS Zimbabwe prepares to hold harmonised elections next week, it is essential to highlight the role domestic observers play in emboldening democracy and electoral integrity. Elections across the globe provide the basis for the electorate to express their will about who should govern and how.

They are linked to the dignity of our country and the ability of citizens to improve their lives. Safeguarding the electoral process is an act of patriotism and demonstrates a commitment to democracy not only in Zimbabwe but in many countries that hold elections.

Election management and election observation methodologies are informed by benchmarks; domestic laws such as the Constitution and the Electoral Act, international, continental and regional enshrined in international fundamental obligations such as the right and opportunity to participate in public affairs; right and opportunity to vote and be elected; regular elections; universal and equal suffrage; secret ballot; transparency and the right to information; freedom from discrimination and equality under the law; freedom of association; freedom of assembly and freedom of movement among others

There are commonly two types

West Africa and the cost of living crises

than the cost-of-living crisis besetting large population segments on the continent.

Domestic prices have risen relentlessly across the continent's major economies - Senegal, Sudan, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria - even as elevated unemployment levels, especially among the youth exacerbate the impact of diminished spending capacity among the populace.

It is tempting to implicate the declining productivity across these economies for the rise in living costs. This is especially so as, once again, they appear left behind in the design and implementation of the new technologies undergirding the global energy transition. Nevertheless, they have all been here before. Worsening insecurity may have accelerated rural-urban migration from a drift to a swarm, as indeed continuing energy poverty has upset the growth of industrial capacity. The region has struggled to find answers to these pre-existing comorbidities.

In Nigeria, the misery index - the sum of the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate and annual inflation - is at previously unseen levels. If consumers are not spending because inflation - at 24.08 per cent on an annual basis in July - continues to put holes in their wallets, businesses, no longer able to sell their services

The role of domestic observers in elections

of election observers - Long Term Observers (LTO) and Short Term Observers (STO). LTOs observe all aspects of the election process (electoral cycle) while STOs observe the Election Day processes only.

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) which Zimbabwe ratified in 2022, recognizes the paramount importance of elections in Article 22 which provides that: State Parties shall create a conducive environment for independent and impartial national monitoring or observation mechanisms.

The Charter also calls on State Parties to enhance the election observation missions in the role they play, mainly as they are an important contributory factor to ensuring the regularity, transparency and credibility of elections.

In Zimbabwe, the law provides and recognizes the roles of observers. Under Section 40 G (1) (d) of the Electoral Act; Persons who are accredited by the Commission as observers of an election shall be entitled to do all or any of the following...to provide the Commission with a comprehensive review of the election taking into account all relevant circumstances, including: (i) the degree of impartiality shown by the Commission; and (ii) the degree of freedom of political parties to organise, move, assemble and

and goods, have stopped investing either in maintaining current capacity or in building new ones. Anecdotal evidence suggests that for most companies with a foreign provenance, the options are between retrenching current operations and exiting the economy.

Inevitably, the burden of resolution falls on the government. Across economies - Brazil, Chile, the Eurozone, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, the United Kingdom, the US and South Korea - we have seen central banks raise interest rates aggressively to keep a lid on rising prices. At the same time as the Central Bank of Nigeria was printing money in breach of its own enabling statutes, to feed the Federal Government's addiction to public borrowing. Clearly, the unproductive use to which the resulting debt burden was deployed implicates our abysmal economic management choices in the current cost of living crisis. Therefore, it was only fair that the Tinubu government's first acts in office were designed to address the more obvious distortions to the economy's operations. Alas, these steps seem to have deepened the cost of living crunch.

Yet, as we count the additional costs to the poor and vulnerable segments of our population from higher petrol prices and the rising exchange rate

express their views publicly; and (iii) the opportunity for political parties to have their agents observe all aspects of the electoral process; and (iv) the fairness of access afforded to political parties to the national media and other resources of the State; and (v) the proper conduct of the polling and the counting of the votes at the election; and (vi) any other issue concerning the essential freedom and fairness of the election.

Domestic election observers' role is to appraise the electoral process from the beginning to the end, including voter registration, campaigning, voting, vote counting, and the announcement of results to ensure that elections are free, fair and credible.

They also report on any irregularities or violations of electoral laws and regulations that they observe during the electoral process; promoting transparency by providing public reports on their observations and recommendations for improving the electoral process, and promoting trust and confidence in the electoral process by providing impartial and unbiased reports on the conduct of elections.

Election observation by nonpartisan Zimbabwean observers strengthens sovereignty and upholds credible, inclusive and transparent elections. It also improves civic participation in the electoral process

of the naira, it helps to bear in mind that besides the devastating effects of COVID-19, and our poor economic management choices, the current crisis has been fuelled by inattention to the implications of a ravaging climate crisis, insecurity - particularly in rural areas, the preponderance of fake news and resulting crisis of information, which have all come together to form a cocktail of destabilising factors in the country. This portmanteau of adverse conditions makes rational economic planning and execution challenging. It also represents a massive hurdle for any attempt to improve our social organisation.

If we must go past these hurdles, the tunnel-vision responses that were the hallmark of the eight years of the Buhari administration just will not do. The Tinubu administration will need to engineer an appropriate temperament for democracy across the economy.

This does not preclude the design and implementation of support arrangements that will make both post-harvest storage and pre-processing of agricultural commodities possible and easier. There is also an urgent need for measures to improve access to credit, especially for economic actors lower down the ladder. If the Buhari administration taught any lesson in this regard, it is on how not to proceed down this path.

Domestic election observation by well-trained observers can increase public confidence in the electoral process and promotes transparency. Where election observation identifies shortcomings, they provide an objective basis for making recommendations to ensure improvements in future electoral processes.

More so, they commend the positive attributes of the processes to ensure the preservation and promotion of good electoral practices by stakeholders e.g voters, government, Parliament, Election Management Bodies, Civil Society Organisations, Media, political parties and candidates among others.

Furthermore, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders and on the right to freedom and peaceful assembly and of associations issued a statement on 27 October 2022 explicitly recognizing citizen and international election observers as human rights defenders.

By Shaka Momodu

Tinubu's ascension to the presidency

Fellow Nigerians, let me tell you from the outset and without equivocation that I voted "against" the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the February 25th presidential election. And if the opportunity arises again, I will repeat the same thing, whether in the rain or in the scorching sun. It was a promise I made to myself that I cannot in good conscience vote for a man who represented and still represents all the character attributes that generations of our forebears preached against.

Yes, I couldn't turn a blind eye to all the corruption and vices linked to him and pretend they didn't matter in this new age where we are being force-fed true lies and outright propaganda. A season when Tinubu scorned every attempt to hold himself accountable. His political trajectory tells a grim cautionary tale about a president Nigeria does not need. Voting against him was one of the happiest moments of my life.

Though he was declared president, courtesy of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)'s magic and has since assumed office, the facts remain that he did not win the election. INEC, which had assured Nigerians that they were ready and would conduct the most credible elections in the country's history, betrayed us when it mattered most.

You see, my dilemma really, has been where do I begin to tell the story of what happened on February 25, 2023 for the ben-

efit of posterity? How do I preserve the truth and nothing but the truth of what has befallen this land of our fathers? How do I tell my little children that on a day that would live in infamy for eternity, that the electoral commission deliberately sabotaged the free will of the Nigerian people? That day, this land of our fathers called Nigeria finally lost its soul, as evil menacingly triumphed over good and dared us to talk again.

A day, all those precious values and tutelage under which we were raised and coached to be the persons we are today finally crushed to smithereens and thrown into the dustbin. Decades of righteous morality suddenly meant nothing anymore as a man with no known parents, no siblings, no classmates, no record of primary or secondary schools attended became president! Not because he excelled, nor did he even try to impress the people on the campaign trail. In fact, his campaigning was hogwash, a Richter-scale disaster on every level. His speeches were mediocre or gibberish and delivered in a stutter.

And to those who mock us and call us moralists, I ask: of what use is a society without morality? Any wonder why we are failing as a country? It is because of avarice and wickedness have taken over the land of our fathers.

Tinubu refused to debate with other candidates. He dodged every attempt to interrogate his manifesto. His handlers shielded him all through the campaigns, told and



propagated lies about his imaginary abilities. But in his dodges and prevarications, his parsing and evasion of scrutiny, one could sense his arm's-length relationship with the truth.

Many analysts and his supporters appeared to have been groomed or trained as effective apologists and deniers of his many sins - they became the foot soldiers of his renewed hope mantra that has left a nation disillusioned and impoverished. His style has always been driven by reflexes - act first and think later. Sometimes, I wonder what his supporters and defenders teach their children at home. What they tell them not to do, or do. Do they correct them when they are naughty or do they celebrate them for being naughty? What values do they engrain in their children? I am curious. What manners do they teach their children? I need to know. Do they teach them the difference between good and evil?

Do they raise their children to be like Miss Mmesoma Ejikeme who forged her JAMB score and took the nation on a ride or will they

condemn her for falsifying her JAMB result and boldly going on social media to tell the world she was incapable of what she was accused of and that she was traumatised by JAMB's allegation that she manipulated her score? Someone should answer me.

Now, how do I tell my innocent little children that on February 25, 2023, the electoral umpire, INEC, stole the mandate of Nigerians and handed it to Tinubu, the most flawed character that has ever run for the office of president of Nigeria? The election was stolen by an electoral body we had gradually begun to trust to deliver fair and transparent elections owing to its vigorous campaign that with electronic transmission of results, winners and losers would only be determined by the people.

It boasted that the people didn't even need to wait for it to know the winners, that they could tabulate for themselves scores of each candidate and know in real time who was winning and who was losing. INEC told the whole world that the

safeguards it had put in place were foolproof and that no hacker could gain access to its servers. It succeeded in building confidence and earning the trust of Nigerians. We took its assurances seriously and momentarily lowered our guards, believing it was going to redeem itself of all past failures and malfeasance. I personally believed those assurances, and helped in my own little way by sensitising and winning a few skeptics over to believing INEC's assurances.

On the D-day of election, this same electoral body willfully disconnected the very same election it had campaigned vigorously would be credible. It willfully disconnected the transmission of the presidential election results in real time while transmitting the House of Representatives and Senate elections results held the same time. Oh no! INEC! Why did you do this?

If I may ask, why do we have men of such little worth in critical positions in this country? People so easily susceptible to self-gratification? Why are our public officials so demon-

strably unpatriotic? All the while, many Nigerians did not know that INEC was actually a participant in that election. It had vested interests and a grand scheme to win the election for a particular candidate, and was merely fooling Nigerians with assurances of free and fair polls. It had it all planned - how it would steal the presidential election and claim there were "technical hitches" and glitches as a reason for deliberately disconnecting its server to achieve its nefarious scheme, while claiming it suspected it was being hacked. On such nebulous pretext, INEC refused to transmit the presidential result real time on Election Day.

Such a suspect explanation strains credulity, since it is so far removed from anything even remotely close to the whole unvarnished truth. And that truth is, INEC, with its own hands, compromised an election that should have been a watershed moment in our history. Its officials deliberately made what should have worked to fail. This gave them room to resort to manual coalition of results which was subject to manipulations and alterations as can be seen in the eventual outcome. Even INEC couldn't explain how it was able to read scores in heavily blurred result sheets in court. Who will ever trust INEC again? Yet, it allocated figures to the various candidates and declared winners in those instances. Instances too many to call isolated incidences. Of course, this was the plan all along, to deliberately sabotage the

electronic transmission and blame it on imaginary technical hitches.

Because that was the only way it could manipulate the outcome in favour of Tinubu who had boasted he would win no matter what. Months before the election, even his aides boasted that they had the formula to win the election.

Fellow Nigerians, it is clear that what they had was a magic formula, a rigging formula. For the first time in our chequered history with elections, a man was able to buy the presidency of Nigeria which even some corrupt politicians of the past had said was not for sale to the highest bidder.

There is no gainsaying that how Tinubu won the presidential election left much to be desired.

I have been reflecting on the future of Nigeria in the hands of the president - it is almost a hopeless situation we find ourselves in. The ironies and contradictions about this man are too self-evident. They make you want to cry and laugh at the same time. Cry for what we have become, laugh to remain sane in our new nightmare reality.

Imagine Tinubu saying he will fight corruption! How does that even sound in his mouth? Or imagine him preaching to young school children not to cheat, lie under oath, manipulate their age or engage in forgery. How will all that sound in his mouth? Who will listen and take him seriously? Will he use the presidential pulpit to preach moral rectitude to the country when the story of his life as we know it tramples on all the core and sacred values that underpin the moral fabric of society?

Artificial intelligence faces charges of left-wing political bias

UNITED NATIONS

The artificial intelligence (AI) platform ChatGPT, whose negative consequences include misinformation, is facing new charges of political bias.

According to a study by the University of East Anglia (UEA), released August 17, AI ChatGPT shows "a significant and systemic left-wing bias".

Published in the journal *Public Choice*, the findings show that ChatGPT's responses favour the Democrats in the US, the Labour Party in the UK, and President Lula da Silva's Workers' Party in Brazil.

Concerns of an inbuilt political bias in ChatGPT have been raised previously but this is the first large-scale study using a consistent, evidenced-based analysis, say a team of researchers in the UK and Brazil, who developed a rigorous new method to check for political bias.

Lead author Dr Fabio Motoki, of Norwich Business School at the University of East Anglia, said: "With the growing use by the public of AI-powered systems to find out facts and create new content, it is important that the output of popular platforms such as ChatGPT is as impartial as possible".

"The presence of political bias can influence user views and has potential implications for political and electoral processes."

"Our findings reinforce concerns that AI systems could replicate, or even amplify, existing challenges posed by the Internet and social media."

Asked if it was possible to avoid or circumvent the political bias in ChatGPT, Dr Motoki told IPS: "Our study does not directly address this issue. What you ask is a re-



cent and active area of research. What we do create is a method to systematically measure bias by leveraging the ability of these more advanced models of answering questions in a human-like fashion, while statistically overcoming some issues around their randomness."

The main contribution of the study, he pointed out, is addressing several standing issues in the AI bias literature with a simple procedure.

"We posit that our tool is a way of democratizing the oversight of these

models, acting as a guide to measure their biases and hold their creators accountable".

"I can't go into details because of a non-disclosure agreement, but an entity (I cannot say whether a government agency or a private company) has asked me to produce a technical report using this method. Therefore, we expect it to have a real-world impact, helping address your concern of avoiding bias," he said.

According to the study, the researchers developed an innovative new

method to test for ChatGPT's political neutrality.

The platform was asked to impersonate individuals from across the political spectrum while answering a series of more than 60 ideological questions.

The responses were then compared with the platform's default answers to the same set of questions - allowing the researchers to measure the degree to which ChatGPT's responses were associated with a particular political stance.

To overcome difficulties

caused by the inherent randomness of 'large language models' that power AI platforms such as ChatGPT, each question was asked 100 times and the different responses collected.

These multiple responses were then put through a 1000-repetition 'bootstrap' (a method of re-sampling the original data) to further increase the reliability of the inferences drawn from the generated text, according to the study.

"We created this procedure because conducting a single round of testing is not enough," said co-author Victor Rodrigues. "Due to the model's randomness, even when impersonating a Democrat, sometimes ChatGPT answers would lean towards the right of the political spectrum."

A number of further tests were undertaken to ensure the method was as rigorous as possible. In a 'dose-response test' ChatGPT was asked to impersonate radical political positions.

In a 'placebo test,' it was asked politically-neutral questions. And in a 'profession-politics alignment test' it was asked to impersonate different types of professionals.

"We hope that our method will aid scrutiny and regulation of these rapidly developing technologies," said co-author Dr Pinho Neto. "By ena-

bling the detection and correction of LLM biases, we aim to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in this technology," he added.

The unique new analysis tool created by the project would be freely available and relatively simple for members of the public to use, thereby "democratising oversight," said Dr Motoki.

As well as checking for political bias, the tool can be used to measure other types of biases in ChatGPT's responses.

According to the UEA study, while the research project did not set out to determine the reasons for the political bias, the findings did point towards two potential sources.

The first was the training dataset - which may have biases within it, or added to it by the human developers, which the developers' 'cleaning' procedure had failed to remove.

The second potential source was the algorithm itself, which may be amplifying existing biases in the training data.

Besides Dr Motoki, other researchers included Dr Valdemar Pinho Neto (EPGE Brazilian School of Economics and Finance - FGV EPGE), and Center for Empirical Studies in Economics - FGV CESE), and Victor Rodrigues (Nova Educaçao).

Meanwhile, citing a report from the Center for AI Safety, the *New York Times* reported May 31

that a group of over 350 AI industry leaders warned that artificial intelligence poses a growing new danger to humanity - and should be considered a "societal risk on a par with pandemics and nuclear wars".

"We must take those warnings seriously," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last June. "Our proposed Global Digital Compact, New Agenda for Peace, and Accord on the global governance of AI, will offer multilateral solutions based on human rights," Guterres said.

"But the advent of generative AI must not distract us from the damage digital technology is already doing to our world. The proliferation of hate and lies in the digital space is causing grave global harm - now. It is fueling conflict, death and destruction - now. It is threatening democracy and human rights - now. It is undermining public health and climate action - now," he warned.

Guterres also said the UN is developing "a Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms" - ahead of the UN Summit of the Future scheduled to take place in September 2024.

"The Code of Conduct will be a set of principles that we hope governments, digital platforms and other stakeholders will implement voluntarily," he told reporters.

Air pollution is the greatest environmental threat to human health and is responsible for about 7 million deaths each year globally and 1 million in Africa alone. As Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, air pollution and climate change must be tackled together and are often interlinked.

As of today, 99 per cent of the world's population breathes air that exceeds WHO air quality limits. Many vulnerable groups in Africa, such as women, children, the elderly, and the poor, are most at risk from the combined negative health impacts of air pollution and climate change. However, the new integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change for sustainable development in Africa launched at COP27 brings hope for the future by identifying five key areas that are crucial for African leaders to address in order to fight climate change, prevent air pollution, and protect human health.

The assessment, made by the African Union commission, the climate and clean air coalition and the UN Environment Programme, developed by African scientists in a process led by SEI, is the first of its kind integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change for the continent and provides a robust scientific basis for action towards clean air in Africa. It shows how African leaders can and should act urgently on the following key areas: transport, residential, energy, agriculture, and waste, to reduce air pollution and benefit through premature death prevention, a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, improved food security and significantly contribute to the global efforts to keep global warming below 1.5°C and limiting the negative effects of regional climate change.

By 2063, Africa's population, as well as its economy, is predicted to have proliferated, with Africa's population increasing by 32% by 2030 and 137% by 2063. The substantial population growth will be accompanied by a massive demand for transport and food, two key areas identified in the assessment and of importance for African governments to address, to lower GHG emissions and air pollution. With such a giant increase in transport and food production, it is imperative that air pollution and emissions from these industries must be clean and sustainable, as ensuring zero hunger by 2063 will require almost three times more food than today.

SEI Africa Centre Director Philip Osano is optimistic about Africa's ability to tackle climate change and reduce air pollution.

"We have provided data for all the African countries on air quality and climate and if they act on these five key areas, Africa will be able to achieve objectives of the Africa Union Agenda 2063."

– SEI Africa Centre Director Philip Osano

Most of the solutions in the assessment have already been successfully implemented in different parts of Africa. Regional agreements have introduced clean fuel and vehicle emissions standards, and electric vehicle imports are on the rise. Many cities are working to increase public transport and non-motorized transport options.

Clean cooking options are increasing across Africa, many African countries have committed to reducing oil and gas methane emissions, pledging to eliminate 45 per cent by 2025 and 60-70 per cent by 2030, and more than 25 countries on the continent have joined the global methane pledge, which will cut human-caused methane emissions at least 30 per cent by 2030. Additionally, Africa has massive solar energy potential and countries have begun setting ambitious targets for renewable energy expansion under their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The agriculture and waste sector are also becoming more sustainable with innovative public-private partnerships.

"Breathing clean air is a universal human right because this is what sup-

Air pollution, climate change form a deadly duo for Africa



ports peoples' wellbeing and economic productivity. The 37 measures identified through the Integrated Assessment on Air Pollution and Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa should be implemented concertedly across the continent to contribute to the African Union Commission's Agenda 2063 and the 'Africa We Want'."

– Dr Alice Akinyi Kaudia, Former Kenyan environment secretary and coordinating co-chair of the assessment

The assessment's recommendations are closely aligned with the key priorities of Agenda 2063 and with the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Nearly all the recommendations can be found in at least one African NDC and are currently identified as contributing to achieving national climate change mitigation goals.

Despite the disturbingly high death rates linked to air pollution on the continent, Africa is responsible for merely a small fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions but bears an outsized burden of adverse climate impacts. Hence, the African continent needs help in tackling air pollution. All countries outside of Africa must drastically reduce their emissions to help limit warming to 1.5°C to help Africa avoid the worst impacts of climate change and reduce the cost of adaptation.

The continent produces 13 per cent of methane emissions, making methane reductions a critically important area of investment. Science, business, finance, non-state actors, governments, develop-

ment organisations, etc. must join hands to pool resources and implement the Assessment's measures to achieve significant, impactful change. Countries must partner with and support African state and non-state actors to ensure the success of initiatives like the Clean Air Programme.

Without action, economic growth compounded by population growth, unplanned urbanisation, and unsustainable lifestyles will exacerbate pressures on resources, the environment, and human health, and could increase inequalities and limit Africa's ability to achieve sustainable development. Forecasts show that without changes in policy, greenhouse gas emissions risk tripling by 2063 and household air pollution will continue to cause about 170 000 premature deaths per year in 2030 and 150 000 by 2063.

Plastics have been part of our lives. Global statistics indicate that plastic production in the last 60 years has grown from 1.5 million tonnes in the 1950s to a staggering 335 million tonnes by 2016. This figure is expected to double (if not already doubled) in the next 20 years.

While the debate on the advantages of plastics continues to have firm ground, with pros such as providing packaging alternatives that are very efficient and affordable, we must look deeply at the negatives that these products are having on the industry, health and eco systems.

Much of this impact, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, land degradation, and resource depletion, for

instance, is inherent in fossil resource extraction, and therefore unavoidable if we continue to depend on virgin, fossil-based materials.

Furthermore, acute events like oil spills can damage both ecosystems and economies. But the problems do not stop with the sourcing of plastic.

Take the Water tourism sector, for example. This sector has been devastated by the proliferation of plastic litter. Apart from the fact that declining, dirty beaches dissuade tourists from making return visits, the potential health impact associated with poor waste management (e.g., open dumping) is well established.

The specific effects of unmanaged plastics and microplastics on human and animal health are not yet fully understood. It is suspected that inhaled or ingested microplastic may create an even higher risk of respiratory issues and epigenetic consequences than is currently understood.

It is also known that microplastics are present in 12 of the 25 most important species and genera that comprise fresh water fisheries, and animals are adversely affected by larger pieces of plastic and suffer from body toxicity, suffocation, and digestion issues. The aggregate effect of these occurrences is still being determined. Environmental damage to fresh water ecosystems, meanwhile, is estimated to be USD 13 billion per year.

According to the National Environment Management Authority, Uganda has produced over 12,330 metric tons of PET plastics since 2018. In Kampala Metropolitan Area,

135,804 tons of plastic waste are generated per year. Of this, 42 per cent is uncollected, 15 per cent collected through the value chain approach and 43 per cent collected by the service providers.

About 21,728T of plastics is burned and 47,457T is land-filled/dumped, 27,160T is retained on land and 13,580T finds its way into water systems.

NEMA also affirms that as a consequence, of plastic pollution, the country is seeing increased unexplained cancers, floods, poor water quality, poor air quality, decreased soil fertility, siltation of water bodies, death of livestock, fish and wildlife through ingestion and entanglement and above all, enhanced greenhouse gas emissions.

The current scenario points to the fact that inadequate waste management systems are a major cause of plastics pollution Both the Uganda and global Recycling and leakage statistics paint a stark picture of our progress in terms of plastic pollution.

Globally, only 14 per cent of plastic packaging is collected for recycling, and as much as 32 per cent of all plastic packaging does not end up within a collection system, let alone recycled, this, according to a study by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

While ocean-based occurrences of plastic pollution have received a lot of attention, much less attention has been paid to the fact that 80 per cent of plastic pollution in the ocean stems from land-based and fresh water sources. Leaked uncollected waste is

mainly the result of inadequate waste management.

This problem is twofold. First, adequate infrastructure that enables collection is often not provided. For instance, while most high-income countries have a collection rate close to 100 per cent for general waste, low-income countries such as Uganda achieve only 39 per cent or even less on average. This leaves citizens without the means to correctly dispose of their waste.

Citing an example of our growing cities and city divisions, we shall all agree that the city authorities try their best to ensure that the solid waste is collected. Unfortunately, the odds of it finding its way back to nature are still quite high, since as much as 60 per cent of it is mismanaged and deposited in open dumps.

In non-sanitary and poorly managed landfills, waste – especially plastic items, which tend to be light – can be blown or washed away. Meanwhile, a growing number of the world's largest cities are already running out of landfill capacity, and rapid urbanization rates are creating similar challenges for many smaller cities like Kampala.

While eliminating single-use plastics may seem like the obvious answer to this challenge, removing this one component of the global system of materials management may transfer environmental costs to another part of the system.

Indiscriminate substitution of single-use plastics with paper products, for example, would overlook the crucial role plastic plays in preservation and food safety, with detrimental results for our natural resources. The plastics issue is not the only environmental crisis we face, and we therefore cannot seek solutions to plastic waste that exacerbate the adverse impact on our climate, forests, and food waste.

At WWF in Uganda, we are calling for an integrated approach, which accounts for the interconnectedness of both technical and natural systems, a "one planet perspective."

This is an approach that resonates particularly closely with the current strategy of WWF, No Plastic in Nature, and focuses additionally on outlining better choices for managing, using, and sharing the natural resources within our planet's limits – to ensure food, water, and energy security for all.

No Plastic in Nature aims to stop the flow of plastic pollution into our ecosystems by 2030. To successfully alleviate the harm inflicted by plastic, aligned and committed action by all stakeholders at every stage of the plastic life cycle is needed.

No one solution is, however, capable of defusing this crisis, and each region will therefore have to tailor its approach appropriately.

Business has an important role to play in solving the plastic waste crisis. While it is not the sole responsibility of companies to solve this problem, their engagement and meaningful action is essential to catalyzing the actions of other important stakeholders and achieving practical solutions.

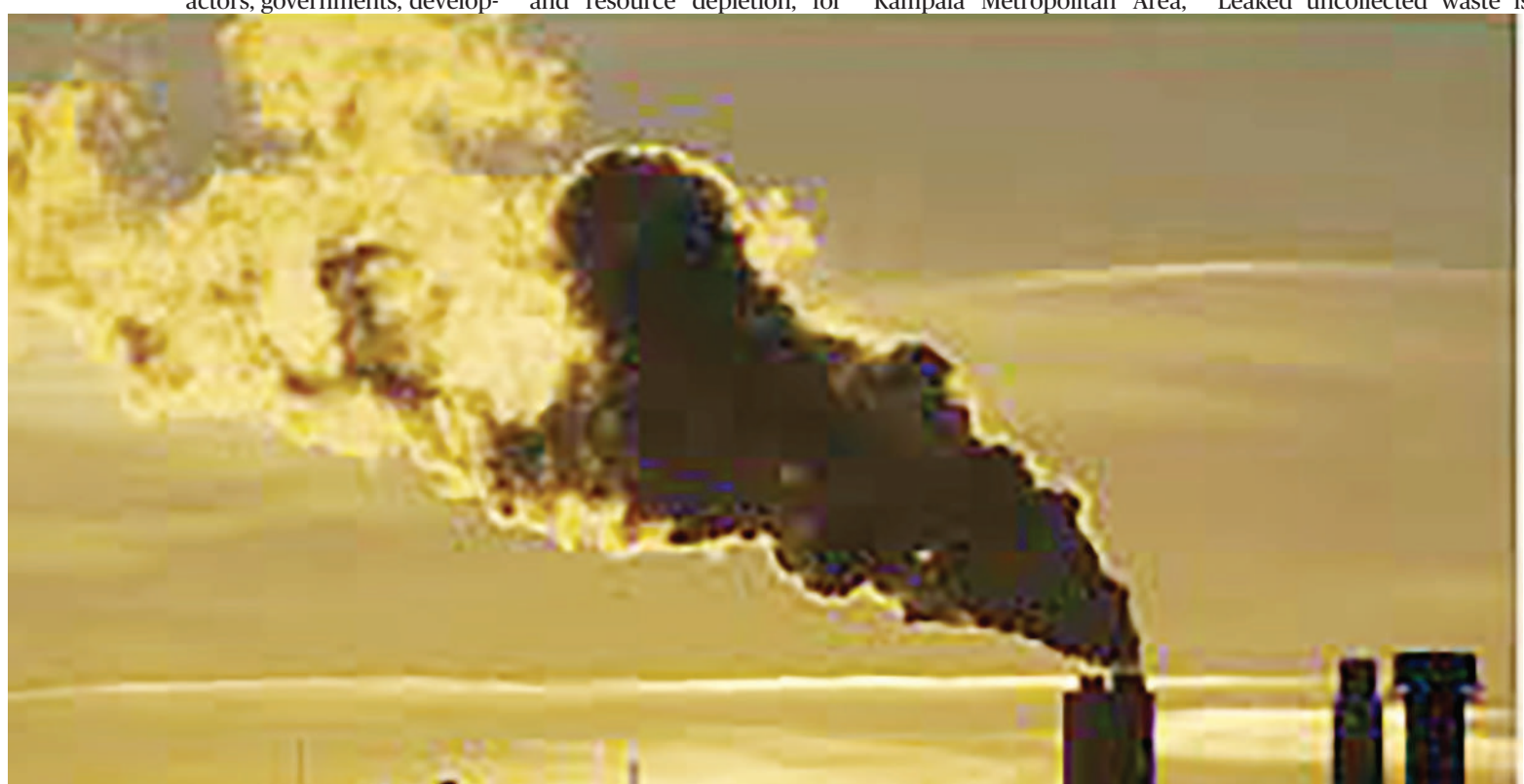
Businesses control the design (and associated environmental impact) of their products and packaging, have enormous influence over their supply chains and the public's interaction with their products, and maintain the ability to make industry-wide changes through collective action.

In addition, businesses could provide important support for policy changes that will make circular material systems more realistic.

Importantly, businesses also have a strong rationale for taking action, ranging from improving employee satisfaction and customer experiences to building the next social contract based on sustainability and tapping into new market segments.

While companies have already started to engage in several different ways, the issue is complex, and solutions will need to be carefully tailored to specific regions or products.

The author is the WWF Country Director



Contract farming playing key role in uplifting farmers' income

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AMID Tanzania's renowned natural beauty and rich biodiversity, the agriculture sector's rise is finally on the horizon. Arable land in the country is estimated to be around 13,502,500 hectares by 2020 according to the World Bank.

With the correct infrastructure in place, the fortunes of many farmers and the sector can change and contribute to more than the current 27 percent of the National gross domestic product (GDP).

A distinct form of change is unfolding as smallholder farmers are optimistic about the ongoing reshaping of agriculture. At the heart of it, is Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) championing the charge to redefine the agricultural sector through its inventive agri-business endeavors.

During this year's annual agriculture exhibition (Nanane), a notable event commemorating the nation's farmers' efforts, SBL's contract farming approach was recommended by many.

Hailing from the scenic Kilimanjaro area, Bora Masaki, a small-scale farmer lauds the prominent brewery for enabling community farmers to serve as providers of good raw materials.

Through its forward-thinking strategy, SBL has not just changed the fortunes of individuals like Masaki but has also reshaped the entire agricultural terrain.

"We were rescued by SBL and their groundbreaking approach to contract farming. They thoroughly evaluated the excellence of our barley and acknowledged its promise. Ever since, SBL has



stood by our side as a dependable collaborator, offering a steady marketplace for our agricultural yield," Masaki stated with a sense of pride.

According to Masaki, the era of grappling with unstable markets and insufficient rates is a thing of the past. With SBL's engagement, farmers now experience consistent payments and the assurance to seek financial assistance from institutions to reinvest in their agricultural ventures.

Hailing from Kilimanjaro, Thomas Ve-

nance stands as living proof of the profound impact of SBL's contract farming approach.

Over a span of merely seven years partnering with the brewery, Thomas has expanded his farming land from a humble 50 acres to a remarkable 100 acres per growing season.

The horizon holds even more potential, as SBL equips the farmers with superior seeds for the current season, projecting a 20 percent surge in the upcoming harvest output.

Constansia Mghamba, a determined mother of four and wife of Moshi, has also enjoyed the advantages of SBL's contract farming strategy. This revolutionary program offers farmers like Mghamba essential agricultural resources such as premium seeds, fertilizers, expert guidance, and training, all without any cost. Going beyond, SBL has taken the initiative to build wells that facilitate irrigation, assuring a reliable water supply for the farmers. By ensuring a market for their crops, SBL has emerged as a reliable

partner, empowering farmers to establish a stable and prosperous future.

The path has been marked by its own set of challenges. The farmers who joined forces with SBL comprehend the obstacles they encounter, and they have gained resilience in the face of difficulties.

Mwinyi Makame, a dedicated farmer from Manyara, expressed deep appreciation for the priceless insights gained during this collaborative journey.

"Collaborating with SBL has been an exceptional voyage marked by determination, steadfastness, and tenacity," Mwinyi contemplated.

He added: "Each planting season introduces us to distinctive challenges, yet with SBL's resolute backing, we have acquired the ability to traverse this domain with renewed assurance. Through extensive training sessions and workshops, we have embraced eco-friendly methods, like opting for well-based irrigation instead of depleting our vital water reserves. While these teachings may be demanding, they are essential for the advancement of farming in the times ahead."

SBL's contract farming approach seamlessly aligns with the government's unyielding initiatives to guarantee farmers' access to thriving markets, equitable pricing, and the mitigation of post-harvest losses.

Contract farming has become an integral facet of Tanzania's agricultural panorama, furnishing pragmatic remedies to a multitude of obstacles encountered by farmers. Whether it pertains to ensuring the presence of crucial farming resources or simplifying entry to financial institutions to amplify output, SBL's innovative model has paved the way toward enduring prosperity for rural societies.

Through the establishment of prospects, the empowerment of farmers, and the cultivation of sustainable agricultural methodologies, SBL is laying the foundation for a more promising tomorrow for small-scale farmers in Tanzania.

Govt urged to develop law for strong supervision of re-entry policy

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and girls' rights stakeholders have urged the government to develop and enact a special law which will supervise implementation of the 'Re-Entry Policy' to facilitate smooth reinstatement of children to school.

A survey conducted recently by the Msichana Initiative in two regions of Dodoma and Tabora has been unveiled.

Findings of the survey showed that absence of a law that specifically deals with the re-entry issues to ensure the enforcement of the existing guideline is one of the major challenges leading to the 'unpleasing' implementation of the guideline.

Speaking on the released findings, Lucy Gidamis, senior advocacy officer at Msichana Initiative noted that girls who have the intention to return to school face economic challenges and struggle to retain in school and have a range of other health, safety, and delinquency factors.

The survey showed that 6 per cent equivalent to seven students have already returned back to school in Kongwa District unlike the 120 students at Nzega which is equivalent to 97 per cent of those reinstated by the period of the survey in June 2023

The survey depicts that Nzega has reached 60 per cent of the plan while Kongwa has reached 11 percent of the mobilization campaign to reinstate their children to school. This means much still needs to be done to persuade a bigger number of students to return back to school in Kongwa district.

At Nzega district the survey shows that the current environment for girls to get back to school is somehow conducive as there are still some challenges that need to be worked on in order to further improve such an environment.

The girls mentioned the absence of hostel facilities for those working long distances to and from school. A guarantee of meal services in school for the exams' classes and assurance of teachers who can provide psychological support to those returning back to school.

The survey calls on education officers and heads of schools to develop programmes to provide psycho-social support and counselling to students reinstated back to school.

Alphonse Charles, who is a field of-



Some of the girls reinstated at Karitu Secondary School in Nzega District during the interview with surveyors

icer, said the study recommends the government under the Ministry of Education to set aside the financial budget for the girls who want to return to school to ensure a suitable environment for girls to continue with education without any problem.

"There should be facilitation for the girls' spaces for instance building suitable centres for instance breastfeeding mothers centres near the school areas as well as capacitation of other actors on the re-entry guideline like community leaders and political leaders to mobilize girls to return and stay in school, establishment of economic empowerment opportunities for girls," he noted.

He also said there is also a need to establish sexual reproductive health educational programmes in primary and secondary schools for girls to tackle or address various related issues.

"Provision of emotional support, counselling programmes as well as mentorship programs for the girls

who return to school to reduce stigmatization from fellow girl students," Charles said.

The survey however revealed that due to door-to-door sensitization about re-entry 85 percent equivalent to 8 out of 10 pregnant girls in the two districts are willing to get back to school although 15 percent are requesting for an extra effort from their government to improve their learning environment particularly those dropped out due to teen pregnancy.

Lack of or poor support from various actors to champions of re-entry guideline implementation at local level which may in one way or another pull back efforts of some individuals.

Steven Kiboko, who is also a field officer noted that increasing community awareness on the re-entry guideline through various effective platforms like mass media, existing community structures like Vicoba, training, public meetings, community dialogues and the likes.

"Building capacity of other actors

on the re-entry guideline like community leaders and political leaders, the re-entry programme implementation should also consider the engagement of other actors whose inputs might supplement the efforts of those actors stipulated in the guideline," he said.

According to the survey, a good number of respondents have suggested that the incentives from stakeholders that are geared to keep those girls who get back to school from dropping out should be given directly to the target beneficiaries to avoid any chance of these incentives to be misused by non-targeted beneficiaries.

Investing in girls' education has numerous benefits, not only for the individuals themselves but also for their families, communities, and the overall development of Tanzania.

In November, 2021 the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology announced the 'Education Circular No. 2 of 2021' that allows re-entry of school dropouts due to various reasons including

pregnancy back to a formal system of education.

The announcement changed the whole situation that was previously described as Tanzania's position in regards to the education destiny of school girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy.

Again, in February 2022, the government issued a 'Guideline to reinstate students who dropped out of primary and secondary education for various reasons' which reflects the provisions of the 'Education Circular No. 02 of 2021'.

The decision has been backed by many stakeholders but some of them recommended more issues that need to be addressed so as to ensure that the girls go back to school and continue with their studies smoothly.

Adoption of Re-entry Policy and Guidelines in Tanzania implies that all school dropouts including young mothers are given a second chance to education and an opportunity to shape their bright futures.



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Tanzania exports to SADC rise

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania's total value exports to Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regained to 2.3trn/- last from 2.96trn/- recorded in 2021, according to provisional data by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations.

The increase resulted from the growth of the value of exports to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Africa and Zambia, as well as more than doubled exports earnings from Madagascar and Mozambique.

However, the value of exports earning during 2022 was lower than 3.32trn/- recorded in 2020.

Data show that the major Tanzania's exports destination within SADC is South Africa, where earnings increased to 2.1trn/- last year, compared to 2.09trn/- recorded in 2021, but lower than 2.6trn/- recorded

in 2020.

Tanzania's major exports to South Africa include coffee, tea, gold, tobacco, cotton, cocoa, cashew nuts and beans. Gold account for the largest share of the value of Tanzania's exports South Africa, the second largest economy in the continent.

TRA and BoT data show the largest growth of Tanzania's exports to SADC members was recorded in DRC, after hitting 642.5bn/- last year, compared with 473.7bn/- in 2021.

The great lakes region, which also shares the East African Community (EAC) membership with Tanzania, has continued to become strategic Tanzania's goods exports destination of different commodities including manufacturing and agriculture.

According to Trading Economics, Tanzania exports to DRC during last year included iron and steel, fertilizers, milling products, malts, starches, inlin, wheat gluten, mineral



Heads of State of SADC member countries

fuels, oils, distillation products, beverages, glass and glassware, edible fruits, textile articles, plastics, soaps, lubricants, salt, sulphur, earth stone, limestone and cement.

However, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade, Tanzania Exports to Congo was US\$280.54 Million during 2022.

Another SADC member which recorded string growth of Tanzania exports earning was

Mozambique, which amounted to 80.6bn/- last year compared to 35.5bn/- in 2021.

Major Tanzania's goods exports to Mozambique include essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, iron and steel, plastic, coffee, tea, mates, spices, ceramic, tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes, plastic, soaps, electrical, electronic equipment, mineral fuel, oils, distillation products textile articles, sets and worn clothing.

Madagascar also recorded strong growth of

imports from Tanzania as provisional data show that the value more than doubled to 12.8bn/- last year compared to 5.2bn/- in 2020.

However the amount was lower than 2018, when Tanzania exported goods valued to 15bn/- and 2019 (13.1bn/-).

Major Tanzania's goods exports to Madagascar include oil seeds, oleag fruits, grains, seeds, furniture, lighting signs, prefabricated building, live animals, dairy products, eggs, honey and edible products.

The report shows, for Zambia, the third largest Tanzania's exports destination, the value of goods exports earning reached to 183.6bn/- last year, compared to 156bn/- recorded in 2020, while exports earnings from Zimbabwe, also slightly increased to 35.4bn/- compared to 33.8bn/- respectively.

The value of exports to Mauritius also recorded a strong growth, after reaching

10bn/- last year from 401mn/- in 2021 and 2.3bn/- in 2020, while in Seychelles, the value of exports earning jumped to 1.2bn/- compared to 765mn/- respectively.

Exports to Swaziland increased to 576mn/- last year compared to 334mn/- in 2021, while the value of Tanzania's exports to Botswana went up to 1.7bn/- compared to 1.1bn/- respectively.

However, the TRA/BoT provisional data show exports earnings from other SADC member countries including Angola, Lesotho and Namibia decreased during the reported years.

The value of exports to Angola fell to 6.6bn/- last year, compared to 9.4bn/- in 2021, while the value of exports to Namibia declined to 1.6bn/- compared to 4.8bn/- respectively. The value of exports earning from Lesotho went down to 0.8mn/- last year, compared to 68.6mn/- in 2021.

Unctad shows Africa's potential as a global supply chain player

NAIROBI

African economies can become major participants in global supply chains by harnessing vast resources of materials needed by high-technology sectors and their own growing consumer markets, trade and development body the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said in its 'Economic Development in Africa Report 2023', launched recently in Nairobi.

Supply chains encompass the systems and resources needed to develop, produce and transport goods and services from suppliers to customers.

"This is Africa's moment to bolster its position in global supply chains as diversification efforts continue. It's also an opportunity for the continent to strengthen its emerging industries, foster economic growth and create jobs for millions of its people," says Unctad secretary-general Rebeca Grynspan.

According to the report, Africa's abundance of critical minerals and

metals, including aluminium, cobalt, copper, lithium and manganese - vital components in technology-intensive industries - positions the continent as an attractive destination for manufacturing, as recent upheavals caused by trade turbulence, geopolitical events and economic uncertainty compel manufacturers to diversify their production locations.

Africa also offers advantages such as shorter and simpler access to primary inputs; a younger, technology-aware and adaptable labour force; and a burgeoning middle class, known for its growing demand for more sophisticated goods and services, the report outlines.

The report highlights that creating an environment conducive to technology-intensive industries would help raise wages on the continent, currently set at a minimum of \$220 a month, compared with an average of \$668 a month in the Americas.

Deeper integration into global supply chains would also diversify African economies, boosting their resilience to future shocks, the report posits.



According to the report, expanding energy supply chains into Africa is also an opportunity to accelerate climate action. The continent's vast renewable energy potential, particularly in solar power, could help reduce production costs and decrease reliance on fossil fuel-based energy sources.

The report emphasises that Africa needs more investment in renewable energy to help bridge the significant investment gap and tackle other obstacles to the manufacturing of solar panels on the continent.

Currently, only about 2% of global investments in renewable energy go to Africa. The growth of investment in

renewable energy, as shown by Unctad, could promote the manufacturing of solar panels on the continent, the report points out.

A further example is that of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which, in 2022, was the largest producer of copper in Africa, at 1.8-million metric tons, with the industry failing to go beyond exploration and extraction. The country is also a potential destination for refining metal products for the electric vehicles industry.

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

Africa needs significant investment in infrastructure to

bolster its position as a supply chain destination, the report says.

Seventeen African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Ghana and South Africa, have already implemented local content regulations to support the growth of local supply chains, foster technology transfer, create jobs and add value within their borders.

Additionally, African countries should also secure better mining contracts and exploration licences for metals used in high-tech products and supply chains. This would strengthen domestic industries, enabling local firms to design, procure, manufacture and supply the necessary components, the report outlines.

The adoption of innovative digital

technologies is also highlighted as critical to optimising supply chain processes. Countries such as Kenya are said to have made notable progress in this realm, with rising rates of digital skills adoption in Africa.

Unctad has urged governments to create sound policies, foster an enabling regulatory environment and scale up programmes to promote the widespread adoption of these technologies.

The body also reiterated its call for better financing solutions to offer African countries and businesses affordable capital and liquidity to invest in strengthening their supply chains.

FINANCE

The report says African small and medium-sized enterprises need more supply chain finance, which bridges the payment time gap between buyers and sellers, improves access to working capital and reduces financial strain.

According to the report, the value of the African supply chain finance market rose by 40% between 2021 and 2022, reaching \$4-billion. However, the report says this is insufficient.

The continent can mobilise more funds by removing barriers to supply chain finance, including regulatory challenges, high-risk perception and insufficient credit information, it shows.



China cuts loan rate to stimulate economy

BEIJING

China has cut a benchmark lending rate but defied market expectations by leaving another unchanged, as policymakers sought to shield banking sector profits while grappling with slowing economic momentum, a property sector cash crunch and a weakening currency.

The decision to cut just one loan prime rate (LPR) prompted economists at Citigroup to downgrade their annual growth forecast to 4.7 per cent, joining the growing ranks of Wall Street investment banks that project China's full-year economic growth will fail to hit Beijing's official target of "about 5 per cent".

The one-year loan prime rate, a reference for bank lending, was cut 0.10 percentage points to 3.45 per cent, the People's Bank of China announced on Monday. The equivalent five-year rate,

which is closely watched because of its relationship to mortgage lending, was kept steady at 4.2 per cent.

Economists polled by Bloomberg had unanimously projected 0.15 percentage point cuts to both the one-year and five-year rates. The outcome was "quite surprising and frankly it's a bit puzzling," said Hui Shan, chief China economist at Goldman Sachs.

Five international investment banks, including Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan, have lowered their China growth forecasts in recent weeks in response to signs of slowing economic momentum in China. Despite Beijing lifting pandemic restrictions this year, growth has been hampered by a property cash crunch, declining exports and soaring youth unemployment. Last week the government announced it would stop publishing reports about the unemployment figures.

On Wall Street, only Bank of America

and Goldman Sachs project growth of more than 5 per cent for 2023.

The increasingly pessimistic outlook on China's economy reflects a widening gap between expectations of more forceful policy support and the government's reluctance to deliver stimulus at a scale needed to reinvigorate growth. Citi analysts in a note attributed their forecast downgrade to "policy disappointment".

Beijing has come under pressure to reduce interest rates and spur consumer demand. The PBoC last week unexpectedly cut the one-year medium-term lending facility, which affects loans to financial institutions, by 0.15 percentage points.

But Monday's policy decision showed Beijing remained intent on insulating bank earnings, analysts said. The one-year LPR is partly set by China's biggest banks, which are set to release second-quarter results this month.

"This looks like policymakers are putting a lot of weight on the banking system's ability to run smoothly. They may want to protect banks' net interest margins, which cutting the LPR can pull down," said Shan at Goldman Sachs.

"At the end of the day, you need a healthy banking system to help absorb economic shocks and continue to deleverage [the property sector], which has been paralysed for two years by a liquidity crisis.

Monday's decision also weighed on Chinese equities, with the Hang Seng China Enterprises index dropping almost 2 per cent despite a host of reforms announced on Friday intended to bolster investor confidence. The benchmark CSI 300 index of Shanghai and Shenzhen-listed stocks fell 1.4 per cent, while the renminbi fell as much as 0.4 per cent to Rmb7.3155 against the dollar.

DIGITAL MARKETING: Understanding 'X.com'

By Alley Mtatya

If you read my previous article it covered on the rebranding of Twitter to "X". Which also summaries on the background or origin of Elon Musk's fetish for the letter X. This article deep dives into X.com and how it resonates with formerly Twitter (now X).

X.com was an online bank that was co-founded by Elon Musk, Harris Fricker, Christopher Payne, and Ed Ho in 1999. Since the early to late 1990s, Elon Musk envisioned creating a full-service online bank that provided checking and savings accounts, brokerages, and insurance services. Musk's interview in 1999 with CBS, he explained, "I think we're at the third stage now where people are ready to use the Internet as their main financial repository."

In January 1999, while planning to start-up the online bank while also in the process of selling his company Zip2. Maybe in the next article we can also go further into understanding what Zip2 was, but back to X.com. A month after Zip2 was purchased by Compaq, Musk invested an estimated \$12 million into co-founding X.com. With X.com customers were not charged fees or overdraft penalties. New member referrals were rewarded with a \$20 cash card and a \$10 card for each new customer. These features were unique in the 90's. Another service included for example, a customer could send money to another person by entering their email address into X.com. Additionally, customers could open an account strictly with online registration without a need to mail a check.

X.com officially launched around December 1999. Within 2 months, X.com attracted over 200,000 customers. In the year 2000, X.com merged with Confin-



ity, its competitor. The new company still under the name X.com. Musk was the biggest shareholder and its CEO. One of Confinity's popular product was PayPal, and PayPal enabled its customers with PalmPilots (hand held mobile devices) to send money to each other through its infrared ports. PayPal was able to allow its users to send money using email and the web.

In 2000, X.com board voted for a change of CEO from Musk to Peter Thiel who then was the co-founder of Confinity. In 2001, X.com was renamed PayPal. Around October the same year eBay purchased PayPal. Come 2015, PayPal became an independent publicly traded company.

In 2017, Musk bought back the domain name X.com from PayPal. He explained that the reason he bought back was because "it had great sentimental value". Later that year around July, X.com was launched again under Musk's ownership.

In 2022, Musk explained that his acquisition of Twitter was "an accelerant to creating X, the everything app", that would be linked to X.com. In another conversation a month later, Musk said that, "he would execute the X product plan "with some improvements" which would make Twitter "the most valuable financial institution in the world."

July 2023, Musk rebranded Twitter to "X" and unveiled a new social media platform, X.com. However, if you try to navigate to X.com it automatically redirects users to Twitter.com. Try it!

Talk of never-ending dreams or ambitions this is it. It is clear that there is so much in store for "X" (Previously Twitter) which will bring competition to so many competitors in the financial, online retail and communications sectors.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam

Sesame, soya beans, pigeon peas attract interest of Indian buyers

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Smallholder and medium scale's sesame, soya beans and pigeon farmers in Tanzania need to increase production, after Indian firms showed interests to massively procure the crops.

The finance controller of Indian based company-Supersonic distribution and Services Pvt. Ltd Kapil Budhdev announced this good news recently during the Afro world agri-food expo held Dar es Salaam.

He therefore called on farmers and exporters in Tanzania and other African countries to utilize this opportunity because of the crops immense demands in India.

The Afro World Agri Food 2023 International conference, exhibition and awards took place at the Diamond Jubilee involving potential buyers, economists, experts and investors from Asia, Africa, USA and Europe continents.

"We are ready to visit farmers in areas where they are or visit the farmers groups (MVIWATA) to see how we can collaborate with them to secure these crops," he said.

Currently, he said the company has presence in India, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Ghana, Dubai and Kenya.

He said the company will help to facilitate logistics for exporters willing to export the crops.

"For the start, we need at least 50 container and above," he said.

He said so far they don't have office in Tanzania, but farmers and even exporters can contact them via sanjay.mengshetti@supersonicindia.com

"We have decided to participate in

both conference and exhibition that took place in Tanzania to experience business first, show Tanzanians what we need in Indian market, connect with farmers, growers, dealers, traders and exporters from Tanzania and buy Agri products from Tanzania," he said

While in Tanzania, Sanjay Mengshetti, the purchase head, and Kapil Budhdev, the finance controller got a chance to demonstrate agri products demands potentials in India and how the company can assist businesses from Tanzania to connect with the market.

Supersonic established in 1995 and is equipped and geared to meet the needs of all prospective customers worldwide.

The company is also exporting goods from India to Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

The turnover of company in 2017-2018 was nearly US\$5 million which has grown to nearly US\$20 million in 2022-23.

So far the company has started importing various Agri products in India.

Elaborating on how they can help Tanzanian farmers to tap agri-products potential in India, he said "With our overall experience of nearly a century and expertise across various geographies, we can facilitate smooth trading transaction," he said.

Also their vast connect with logistics vendors and bankers across the globe, the company can assist to get best freight rates and avail various financial facilities, he said.

Farmers willing to export soya beans, Non-GMO soya has huge market in India.

Elaborating on India overview, he said India was earlier the 10th largest economy in the world with the GDP of US\$2 trillion, but since September 2022,

it jumped to the 5th largest economy in the world with the GDP of US\$3 trillion.

The forecast by experts was to achieve the milestone in 2027, but it has done it ahead of time.

Experts also estimate that by 2030, India may become the 3rd largest economy.

India ranked 63 among 190 economies in the ease of doing business, according to the World Bank annual ratings.

The rank of India improved rank by 37 positions from 100 in 2017. And in terms of credit rating, India is ranked 25th among 190 economies.

In 2023, India is among the youngest countries in the world. The median age of Indian population is 28.2 years.

This means that half of its population is of less than 28.2 years of age. Therefore, India is likely to grow significantly in the near term.

Elaborating on Agri Products Potential in India, he said "We at Supersonic export and import agro-commodities like NON-GMO soya beans, sesame seeds, dry ginger, black stone flowers, yellow maize, pigeon peas, cassia Tora seed and Arabic gum.

Supersonic Distribution and Services Private Limited, incorporated in 1995 is part of Assudamal Group.

Assudamal Group is a large conglomerate, incorporated its first company in Hong Kong in the year 1929.

The group deals into variety of products like Paper Products, White Goods, Fisheries, Power Products, Industrial Cables, Building Materials, Agri Products and Foods Products.

The group also has presence in Ghana, Kenya and Dubai. The overall turnover of Assudamal Group is nearly US\$250 million.

For his part, Akash Kokadwar, Nexus Industries (Kenya Group) regional head, finance, investment and operation said that the exhibition was nice because the ministry of industry and commerce from India, Air Tanzania provided best services since they arrived in Tanzania.

He said the hospitality in Tanzania was very fantastic, during the exhibition they noticed that Tanzania is endowed with a lot of crops that can be exported in India and other foreign countries across.

Exports of certified seeds hit 1,172 tonnes

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

TANZANIA has successfully managed to increase tonnage in exportation and marketing of the country's produced seeds into various countries, from 1,094 tons to 1,172 tons between 2021/22 and 2022/23 period.

Statistics at the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) depict that during the period, 2021/22-2022/23, a total of 65 licenses of exportation of seeds outside the country were issued to traders.

Presenting the encouraging report over development of the sub-sector in the country recently in Dodoma Capital City, TOSCI's Director General (DG), Dr. Patrick Ngwediagi however unveiled that during the period, a total of 59,255 tons of seed was imported in the country to help bridge some existing gaps in the sector within the country.

"During the two years, 2021/22 to 2022/23, TOSCI issued a total of 4188 seed importation permits," he informed.

Going into further details pertaining to the general improvement of the seed sub-sector in Tanzania, he communicated that during the past two years, TOSCI had successfully managed to inspect and officially registered a total of 2,782 new seed farms across the country, covering at least 122,290 hectares.

"In order to assure the seeds are being preserved in accordance to the recommended manner and quality, TOSCI had also conducted a professional inspection of at least 330 seeds warehouses," he said.

Not only that, but the TOSCI chief boss said the vital exercise also involved inspection of at least 8,710 seed shops, to ensure if the dealers are marketing the certified seeds.

"TOSCI will continue standing stable to assure the farmers across the country are equipped with the certified seeds so

that they can stand a chance to increase their crop production and productivity," he assured.

In the same vein, he said the state-owned seeds watch-dog was continuing to build capacity of its staff, saying a total of 70 of TOSCI's seed pundits were received different relevant trainings during the past two years.

He added also, during 2021/22 to 2023/23 fiscal year, the Institute issued a total of 21436039 labels to different seed products that were inspected and certified for official use.

So far, he communicated that during the past two years the institute has managed to train a total of 3134 seed dealers on how to perform their business in reflection to the set regulations.

According to him, the past two years saw TOSCI registered a total of 1811 seed dealers in the country.

"The other achievements that we succeeded to register in a period of two years elapsed include establishing and installation of the TOSCI Online Application, the vital cloud-connected system to help easy dispensation of our services," Dr. Ngwediagi bragged.

He also added that there had been also construction of Genetic Reference Library at TOSCI's headquarters in Morogoro region, the vital facility for the professional checkup of the seeds that are being used by the farmers in Tanzania. The Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) was established under the Seed Act No. 18 of 2003 as a successor to Tanzania Official Seed Certification Agency (TOSCA), which is a government entity under the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives.

TOSCI's Head Quarter is in Morogoro with branches in Mwanza, Arusha and Njombe. TOSCI is responsible for verification of new crop varieties for official release and certification of seeds produced for sale in the country.



Dr. Patrick Ngwediagi, the Director General (DG) of the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI).

Euro zone yields mixed as investors looking at higher for longer rates

LONDON

Euro area government bond yields were mixed on Monday as investors balanced expectations for a higher for longer rates scenario against further signs of weakness from German data and some appetite for safe-haven assets due to concerns about China.

Bond prices move inversely with yields.

German producer prices fell more than expected in July, with the decline due primarily to lower energy prices.

Stocks were higher in Europe after stumbling in Asia as China delivered a smaller cut to lending rates than markets had counted on, continuing Beijing's run of disappointingly frugal stimulus steps.

"The narrative of economic resilience pushing up rates emanates from the U.S., where real rates have led the drive higher," ING analysts said in a note to clients.

"There will be little to further that story, given the very few data releases lined up for this week."

Germany's 10-year government bond yield, the euro area benchmark, rose 0.5 basis points (bps) to 2.63 percent.

US Treasuries were sold in the Asian session and early London trade, led by the long end as investors grew wary that the U.S. Federal Reserve's Jackson

Hole summit could lay the foundations for rates to settle higher for longer.

Germany's 2-year government bond yield, the most sensitive to changes in policy rates, was flat at 3.04 percent.

The German yield curve narrowed its inversion, with the gap between 2-year and 10-year yields at -42 bps.

An inverted curve, usually a reliable indicator of a future recession, means markets are pricing events that would trigger central banks' rate cuts.

European Central Bank Chief Economist Philip Lane said on Friday the euro zone economy would keep growing and is unlikely to experience a deep or sustained recession.

Such a view on the economy, coupled with data showing sticky services inflation supported the idea that policy rates will stay at high levels for an extended period.

Some analysts argued that expectations of accelerating quantitative tightening measures - with the European Central Bank reducing its balance sheet by selling government bonds and increasing outstanding supply - should lead to a fall in long-dated bond prices.

Italy's 10-year yield, the benchmark for the euro area periphery, rose one bp to 4.33 percent, with the spread between Italian and German 10-year yields roughly unchanged at 168.5 bps.



Sanjay Mengshetti, Supersonic distribution and Services Pvt, purchase head and Kapil Budhdev, -Supersonic -finance controller standing inside the pavilion at Diamond Jubilee to showcase what they need from Tanzania to Indian people at the just-ended Afro World Agri Food 2023 International conference, exhibition and awards that took place at Diamond Jubilee from 10th to August 12th this year.

Top 5 things to watch in markets in the week ahead

WASHINGTON

Federal Reserve officials gather for the central bank's annual get-together at Jackson Hole, Wyoming with a speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell the main highlight. The deepening crisis in China's property sector will remain to the fore, while PMI data out of the Eurozone and the UK will likely add to the gloom. Here's what you need to know to start your week.

Jackson Hole

Investors will be looking to a speech by Fed Chair Jerome Powell for clarity on the economic outlook and the future path of interest rates.

Powell's speech, set for 10:05 am ET on Friday, comes after last week's minutes of the central bank's July meeting showed that most policymakers are still concerned about upside risks to inflation, indicating that further rate hikes cannot be ruled out.

Investors will be focusing on whether the Fed head believes more policy tightening will be needed to bring down inflation, or if enough progress has been made to keep rates on hold. Market watchers will also be on the lookout for any clues on whether the Fed is weighing the prospect of rate cuts in 2024.

Traders see an 89 percent chance of the Fed holding rates at current levels at its September meeting, according to Investing.com's fed rate monitor tool.

Equity markets

With no major catalysts driving markets, investors will be focusing on Powell's speech on Friday for clues on the interest rate outlook as well as earnings from chip designer

Nvidia (NASDAQ:NVDA), which is due to report on Wednesday.

Nvidia has had a stunning rally on expected growth in artificial intelligence, nearly tripling in value year-to-date.

Wall Street's three main indices ended lower last week after a spate of strong economic data caused investors to dial back expectations of rate cuts and drove up government bond yields.

Anxiety over China's worsening property crisis and its impact on the country's weakening economy also weighed on market sentiment after embattled developer China Evergrande Group (HK:3333) filed for US bankruptcy protection on Thursday.

China woes

Expectations are mounting that China could make a cut to the loan prime rate - meaning lower mortgage rates - as soon as Monday, amid fears that the unprecedented debt crisis in the country's property sector, which accounts for roughly a quarter of the economy, is starting to spill over into its financial system.

China unexpectedly lowered several key interest rates last week, but analysts say moves so far have been too little, too late, with much more forceful measures needed to stem the economy's downward spiral.

The deepening crisis in the property sector along with worries about contagion risks could have a destabilizing impact on the world's second largest economy, which has already weakened amid tepid domestic and foreign demand, faltering factory activity and rising unemployment.

PMI data

The Eurozone and the UK are to release PMI data on Wednesday, which could provide insights into whether the European Central Bank



will hike interest rates again in September and if the Bank of England opts for a big rate increase.

Eurozone and UK PMIs have been sliding in recent months, amid stagnation in the service sector coupled with a contraction in the manufacturing activity.

ECB President Christine Lagarde is to speak at Jackson Hole on Friday with investors looking for clues on the central bank's next move in September.

In July, Lagarde said the ECB would keep an "open mind" when it came to future rate decisions, adding that policymakers were "moving to a stage where we are going to be data dependent".

Oil prices

Oil prices posted their first weekly loss since June last week as growing concerns over the global demand outlook offset expectations of tightening supply on the back of output cuts by OPEC+ linchpins Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Oil edges up on tightened supplies, heating oil prices

LONDON

Oil prices edged higher on Monday as tighter supply reflected in fewer exports from Saudi Arabia and Russia and high heating oil prices outweighed concerns about global demand growth amid high interest rates.

Brent crude climbed 76 cents to \$85.56 a barrel by 1047 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$82.1 a barrel, up 85 cents.

The September WTI contract expires on Tuesday and the more active October contract gained 78 cents to \$81.44 a barrel.

Both front-month benchmark prices snapped a 7-week winning streak last week to post a weekly loss of 2 percent on concerns that China's sluggish economic growth will adversely impact oil demand and the possibility that the US interest rate hike cycle is not over yet.

"We still see a tight oil balance for the remainder of the year, which suggests that prices still have some room to run higher," said Warren Patterson, ING's head of commodities research.



As well, "the dollar seems to be taking somewhat of a breather, which would be providing some support," he said.

A weaker dollar makes oil purchases less expensive for holders of other currencies, sparking demand.

Also supporting crude

is the buoyant price of heating oil, which is in focus as the northern hemisphere approaches darker months, said John Evans of oil broker PVM.

However, what is like trying to hit a "flying insect with a bazooka" is determining whether the current bullish nature of

heating oil and the like is enough to rally the oil complex or just hold it in the face of broader macroeconomic concerns, he said.

Despite its economic woes, China is drawing on record inventories amassed earlier this year as refiners scale back purchases after supply cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, drove global prices above \$80 a barrel.

Still, in July, Saudi Arabia's shipments to China fell 31 percent from June while Russia, with its discounted crude, remained the Asian giant's largest supplier, Chinese customs data showed.

"Unless there is a recession and demand slows or drops, OPEC+ is in control," said Stefano Grasso, a senior portfolio manager at 8VantEdge in Singapore.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

REA to facilitate building of minor fuel stations units in some rural areas

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

RURAL Energy Agency (REA) has embarked on the implementation of the 12bn/- worth project to facilitate the establishment of small-scale fuel (petrol and diesel) stations in rural areas of the country.

In the implementation of the key project, REA is rolling out capital loans, ranging from 50m/- to 75m/- towards potential and eligible investors who wish to take part in the project which focuses to extend fuel services in the remote areas of the country.

Speaking here during a press conference, the Director General (DG) of the Rural Energy Agency (REA), Eng. Hassan Saidy said the doors were still open for the eligible local investors to dispatch their application at the Agency for the construction of the fuel stations.

"Deadline for the submission of the applications has been set for this Friday, August 25th, 2023, thus those who wish to take part in the project should work to beat the deadline," he expressed.

And, he unveiled that the applicants will pass through professional screening in order to find the proper ones who will implement the projects at the desired standards and by reflecting the value for money.

"The money to be borrowed to the eligible applicants will be refunded with a patriotic interest of only five percent," he communicated.

Eng. Saidy informed that the Agency has decided to venture into the project due to an array of reasons, but chiefly to help contain a spate of poor availability and handling of the potential fuels, Petrol and Diesel, in most rural areas across the country.

"In most of the rural areas diesel and petrol are available at high prices compared to the indicative prices, and above

that, the high chemicals-fuel are poorly preserved in gallons, the situation which damages environment and soil," he added.

Implementation of the project, according to him, will go in sync with a series of other projects that the state-owned Agency has planned to execute in the current fiscal year.

The initiative entails the project for the promotion of use of natural gas and other alternative power across the country in order to discourage vast consumption of charcoal.

He said a total of 18.5bn/- has been set aside to support a great initiative to disseminate natural gas services in the country's rural areas.

"In implementing the envisaged project, we're partnering with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), and the project will benefit the citizens dwelling in some coastal areas, including Mtwara and Dar es Salaam regions," he unveiled.

Together with that, he expressed that the other project will major into national-wide provision of Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG or LP) cylinder, whereby each region will freely be distributed with at least 2700 cylinder tanks.

"This project, which in its second phase will see provision of a total of 500,000 gas-tanks, among others, targets to heighten use of the environmentally-friendly source of power in the country," he informed.

Rural Energy Agency (REA) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals of the United Republic of Tanzania. Its main role is to promote and facilitate improved access to modern energy services in rural areas of Mainland Tanzania. REA became operational in October 2007.

Turkey backs away from foreign currency protected savings accounts

ANKARA

Turkey has taken the first steps towards unwinding a \$125bn scheme that protects savers against falls in the lira, the latest sign that President Recep Tayyip Erdo an is backing away from the unconventional economic policies that damaged the country's economy.

In a series of announcements on Sunday, the government and central bank said they would begin discouraging savers and businesses from stashing funds in foreign currency protected savings accounts.

It marks the latest move by the new team appointed by Erdo an after his re-election in May to dismantle the unorthodox economic programme initiated five years ago that stoked a prolonged and painful inflation crisis

and prompted foreign investors to flee Turkey's markets.

New central bank governor Hafize Gaye Erkan has already more than doubled interest rates since her appointment in June, while the government has raised taxes and sought to reduce imports as part of a plan to restore "rational" economic policymaking.

Foreign exchange protected savings accounts, which were launched in late 2021, were one of the pillars of Erdo an's previous economic policy. The accounts helped slow a rush among local savers and businesses into foreign currencies by compensating holders at the government's expense when the lira fell against the dollar and euro.

Turkish banks now hold \$125bn

in the protected deposit accounts, amounting to about a quarter of total deposits, according to data from Turkey's Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency. Economists and investors have long viewed these accounts as a big risk since they create a tight link between the country's government finances and the lira.

The accounts have cost the government and central bank TL550bn (\$20bn) this year alone as the lira has tumbled 31 per cent against the US dollar, according to an estimate by Hakan Kara, a former central bank chief economist.

The central bank said on Sunday it would end a rule that punished banks if they did not convert a sufficient amount of foreign currency deposits into forex protected accounts. At the

same time, the amount of reserves banks must hold against short-term foreign currency deposits will be increased, according to an announcement in Turkey's official gazette.

Policymakers hope these rule changes will cause the use of protected forex accounts to decline, while at the same time, encouraging depositors to shift into lira accounts, according to the central bank. "The objective is to contribute to strengthening macro financial stability," the central bank added.

Kara said he expected that unwinding the use of forex protected savings accounts would be a "gradual process". He added that it would depend in part on the interest rates savers can earn on lira-based deposits, which are currently running well below the rate of inflation.



WORLD

1.2m children suffer acute malnutrition in Ethiopia, says UN

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations said it is providing aid for vulnerable people across Ethiopia as 1.2 million children suffer from acute malnutrition.

The UN, in a statement issued late Friday attributed to Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, said it is working in collaboration with partners in responding to disease outbreaks and an ongoing food insecurity crisis across the East Af-

rican country, which has left 1.2 million children suffering severe acute malnutrition.

The country was deeply impacted by a brutal conflict, which began in 2020 across the north between federal government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), although a peace deal between the sides was brokered by the African Union (AU), ending the fighting last November.

Dujarric said humanitarians were



A woman holds a malnourished child at the nutrition unit of the Gode General Hospital, in the city of Gode, Ethiopia, on January 11, 2023. AFP

providing medical supplies, logistics support and boosting communications efforts in response to a cholera outbreak in Oromia, Sidama and Somali regions.

Dujarric cited Ethiopian government figures, which indicated that more than 16,800 cases of cholera have been reported in the country, including 212 related deaths as of Aug 2.

"We are also providing medical supplies for the response to malaria which, as of July 30, has impacted over 1.7 million people and claimed 200 lives," the statement quoted Dujarric

as saying.

He said more than 30 UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations are working hard to combat the effects of malnutrition, which remains a concern in several regions including Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, South West and Tigray regions.

"Our humanitarian colleagues noted that timely food assistance, prepositioning of emergency drugs, and medical supplies for impacted people are necessary," Dujarric said.

Agencies

6th BRICS Media Forum calls for strengthening voices of developing nations

JOHANNESBURG

THE Sixth BRICS Media Forum kicked off on Saturday here in South Africa, calling for strengthening the voices of developing countries.

About 200 deputies from around 100 media outlets, think tanks and international organizations from about 30 countries held discussions under the theme of "BRICS and Africa: Strengthening Media Dialogue for a Shared and Unbiased Future."

"Media outlets of BRICS countries bear significant responsibilities in this era and enjoy vast room for cooperation, said Fu Hua, president of Xinhua News Agency, at the opening ceremony of the forum.

To advance the high-quality development of cooperation among BRICS media, Fu, also executive chairman of the BRICS Media Forum, proposed promoting the shared values of humanity, jointly advancing the building a more just and equitable international order, better narrating BRICS stories in the new era, and jointly promoting cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Dakota Legoete, member of



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua, also executive chairman of the BRICS Media Forum, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Sixth BRICS Media Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday. Xinhua

the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, spoke at the opening of the forum.

"Since its establishment in 2015, the BRICS Media Forum has become an important platform to enhance the voice of BRICS countries," he said.

While some countries attempt to monopolize the international discourse and weaponize the media to attack other sovereign states, the BRICS media have demonstrated that the media should be committed to promoting world development, rather than becoming a tool to provoke

wars, Legoete said.

Andrey Kondrashov, director-general of Russia's TASS news agency, said that over the past decade, the forum has become a distinctive and iconic platform for discussing media cooperation among member states.

He called on the BRICS media to collaborate in countering disinformation and safeguarding the interests of developing countries.

The Western media depict Africa as something horrible where war, hunger and disease are rampant, said Elizaveta Brodskaya, first deputy editor-in-chief

of Russia Today, adding that stories released by media outlets other than the Western ones are labelled as "disinformation" once they diverge from the Western narrative.

Jose Juan Sanchez, chief of Brazil's financial and agricultural information provider CMA Group, stressed the importance of credible and impartial news information.

"Communication among BRICS media is crucial, and the member countries should seek sustainable development in economic, environmental and social areas," he said.

The BRICS Media Forum has made significant contributions in amplifying the international voice of member states and promoting globalization, with peace and cooperation remaining its main goals, said Helio Doyle, president of the Brazil Communication Company.

The diverse cultures of the BRICS nations enrich the global conversations, and the BRICS media advocate for an inclusive, cooperative and just new world order, said Iqbal Surve, executive chairman of Independent Media of South Africa.

The forum sheds light on the challenges faced by developing nations, providing them with a platform to express their perspectives and aspirations, Surve noted.

The BRICS Media Forum was proposed by Xinhua News Agency in 2015 and jointly initiated with mainstream media outlets from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

The sixth forum, co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and the China Energy Investment Corporation (China Energy) as well as organizations from South Africa, aims to promote practical cooperation among BRICS media outlets.

Xinhua

India announces schedule of Moon mission's soft landing

NEW DELHI

THE lander module of India's ongoing Moon Mission-3, or Chandrayaan-3, is scheduled to land on the lunar surface on Aug 23 at around 6:04 pm Indian Standard Time, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) officially announced on Sunday.

The space agency said in a statement that the moment will be telecast live on its website, besides the state-run TV channel Doordarshan, and various social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

India's Moon Mission-3 was launched on July 14, and the lander module got separated from the spacecraft on Thursday.

All schools and educational institutions across the South Asian country are invited to actively publicize the Chandrayaan-3 soft landing among students and organize its live-streaming within their premises, the ISRO noted in the statement.

ANI



The rocket "GSLV-Mk-III" carrying Moon Mission-2, or Chandrayaan-2, lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, July 22, 2019. XINHUA

Study gives new insight into antibiotic resistance in bacteria

ATLANTA

BACTERIA use a variety of methods to fight off the medications designed to destroy them. Ribosome-modifying enzymes are one of these weapons that are most common. These enzymes are becoming more widespread, turning up in clinical samples from bacteria with various drug resistances all over the world.

Now, researchers have seen one significant family of these enzymes in operation for the first time. Images demonstrate how the enzymes attach to a specific location on the bacterial ribo-

some and squeeze it like a pair of tweezers in order to remove and modify an RNA nucleotide. The research, conducted by academics at Emory University, was published in the PNAS journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The advanced technique of cryoelectron microscopy made the ultra-high-resolution, three-dimensional snapshots possible.

"Seeing is believing," said Christine Dunham, Emory professor of chemistry and co-corresponding author of the paper. "The minute you see biological structures interacting in real life at the atom-

ic level it's like solving a jigsaw puzzle. You see how everything fits together and you get a clearer idea of how things work."

The insights may lead to the design of new antibiotic therapies to inhibit the drug-resistance activities of RNA methyltransferase enzymes. These enzymes transfer a small hydrocarbon known as a methyl group from one molecule to another, a process known as methylation.

"Methylation is one of the smallest chemical modifications in biology," says Graeme Conn, professor of biochemistry in Emory's School of Medicine and

co-corresponding author of the paper. "But this tiny modification can fundamentally change biology. In this case, it confers resistance that allows bacteria to evade an entire class of antibiotics."

Both Conn and Dunham are also members of the Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center.

First author of the paper is Pooja Srinivas, who did the work as a PhD candidate in Emory's graduate program in molecular and systems pharmacology. She has since graduated and is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington.

Dunham is a leading expert on the ribosome – an elaborate structure that operates like a factory within a cell to manufacture proteins. Proteins are the machines that make cells run while nucleic acids such as DNA and RNA store the blueprints for life. The ribosome is made mostly of RNA, which does not just store information but can also act as an enzyme, catalyzing chemical reactions.

One goal of Dunham's lab is to find ways to manipulate bacterial ribosomes to make them more susceptible to antimicrobials. If an antimicrobial successfully

inactivates bacterial ribosomes, that shuts down the manufacturing of proteins essential for bacterial growth and survival.

The idea is to exploit differences in human cellular ribosomes and bacterial ribosomes, so that only the bacteria is targeted by an antimicrobial drug.

Antimicrobials, however, need to get past bacterial defenses. "It's like a molecular arms race," Dunham explains. Bacteria keep evolving new weapons as a defense against drugs, while scientists evolve new strategies to disarm bacteria.

ANI

Long covid symptoms may occur months after infection - Research

CALIFORNIA

ACCORDING to the most detailed research of how symptoms develop over a year, long covid-19 can remain at least a year after the acute sickness has ended.

The multicenter study, a collaboration between UC San Francisco, the Centers for Disease Control, and seven other sites, advances understanding of post-covid-19 conditions by describing trends in greater detail than prior research and highlighting the significant effects the epidemic has had on the American health care system.

The study appeared in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), a publication of the CDC.

For about 16 per cent of the covid-positive people in the study, symptoms lasted for at least a year; but for others, they came and went. The study assessed symptoms every three months, enabling researchers to differentiate between symptoms that improve and those that emerge months after the initial infection.

"It was common for symptoms to resolve then re-emerge months later," said lead author Juan Carlos Montoy, MD, PhD, associate professor at UCSF's Department of Emergency Medicine. "A lot of prior research has focused on symptoms at one or two points in time, but we were able to describe symptom trajectory with greater clarity and nuance. It suggests that measurements at a single point in time could underestimate or mischaracterizes the true burden of disease."

Fluctuating Nature of Disease:

Long Covid involves a range of symptoms that persist or develop about a month after initial infection. These symptoms are associated with significant morbidity or reduced quality of life.

The study involved 1,741 participants - two-thirds of them female - who sought covid-19 testing at eight major healthcare systems across the country. Three-quarters tested positive for Covid-19, but those who tested negative may also have had an infection of some type, since they were experiencing symptoms. These included fatigue, runny nose, headache, sore throat, shortness of breath, chest pain, diarrhoea, forgetfulness and difficulty thinking or concentrating.

Covid positive participants were more likely to have symptoms in each of the symptom categories at baseline, but by the end of the year, there was no difference between those who were Covid-positive and negative.

"We were surprised to see how similar the patterns were between the Covid positive and Covid negative groups," said Montoy. "It shows that the burden after Covid may be high, but it might also be high for other non-Covid illnesses. We have a lot to learn about post-illness processes for Covid and other conditions."

ANI

Clashes between Sudan's rival factions continue in western state

KHARTOUM

THE deadly clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) persisted on Saturday in Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur State in western Sudan, as the conflict in the city has lasted for around a week.

No official statistics have been issued on the number of victims caused by the ongoing clashes. "The city is experiencing catastrophic humanitarian conditions beyond all expectations," the Nyala Emergency Room Initiative (NERI), a humanitarian group in the city, said in a recent statement.

The clashes resulted in numerous civilian casualties and severe humanitarian violations, with all the hospitals in the state breaking down due to a large number of injuries and a complete lack of health materials, according to the statement.

It added that the interruption in communication services has hindered first aid volunteers from arriving at the city to provide life-saving assistance.

The statement noted that almost all the citizens in the central and southern parts of the city were displaced, with thousands of children and women fleeing to the northern and western areas but finding themselves in a dire situation without shelter, water, and food.

The NERI said it had started a plan to provide citizens with necessities such as life-saving medicines and medical equipment while highlighting the acute shortage of food, clean water, tents, protective gear, necessary provisions, and operational materials for hospital generators and ambulances.

Meanwhile, Minni Arko Minnawi, the governor of the Darfur region, took to X, previously known as Twitter, on Saturday to voice his concern, stating that "the situation in Nyala is a real tragedy. The war has left dozens dead and hundreds injured."

"The capacity of hospitals is not enough, given the number of injuries, amid critical living conditions," he said, calling for humanitarian aid to Nyala residents.

Xinhua

Trump says will skip presidential debates on August 23

NEW YORK

FORMER US President Donald Trump confirmed that he won't be doing the Republican Party debate on Wednesday, according to the politician's post on his Truth Social.

"New CBS poll, just out, has me leading the field by 'legendary' numbers. Trump 62% <...>. The public knows who I am and what a successful presidency I had, with energy Independence, strong borders and military, biggest ever tax and regulation cuts, no inflation, strongest economy in history, and much more," Trump wrote. "I will therefore not be doing the debates!" he concluded.

The latest poll by CBS and YouGov showed that the ex-president now holds his largest lead over his rivals amid his recent indictments: 62% of the respondents said they would vote for Trump as a presidential candidate. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis comes second with 16%.

Earlier, The New York Times reported, citing people close to Trump, that he was planning to skip his party's first debate on August 23 and that a taped interview with Tucker Carlson may be posted online instead.

The next presidential election will be held in the United States in November 2024. Incumbent President Joe Biden announced his re-election bid in April.



Deep brain stimulation encouraging for stroke patients

OHIO

CLEVELAND Clinic researchers used deep brain stimulation (DBS) to target the dentate nucleus, which regulates fine control of voluntary movements, cognition, language, and sensory functions in the brain, in the first-in-human trial for post-stroke rehabilitation patients.

According to the EDEN experiment (Electrical Stimulation of the Dentate Nucleus for Upper Extremity Hemiparesis Due to Ischemic Stroke), the majority of participants (nine out of 12) improved in both motor impairment and function.

Importantly, the study discovered that participants with at least minimal distal motor function at the time of enrolment demonstrated gains that nearly tripled their original scores.

Published in Nature Medicine, these findings build on more than a decade of preclinical work led by principal investigators Andre Machado, MD, PhD, and Kenneth Baker, PhD, at Cleveland Clinic.

"These are reassuring for patients as the participants in the study had been disabled for more than a year and, in some cases, three years after stroke. This gives us a potential opportunity for much-needed improvements in rehabilitation in the chronic phases of stroke recovery," said Dr Machado, chair of Cleveland Clinic's Neurological Institute.

"The quality-of-life implications for study participants who responded to therapy have been significant."

Dr Machado patented the DBS method in stroke recovery. Boston Scientific owns a license to those patents and provided the Vercise DBS systems used in the trial. In 2010, Cleveland Clinic Innovations established Enspire DBS Therapy, Inc, a Cleveland Clinic portfolio company and is commercializing technology developed at Cleveland Clinic to commercialize the method and it co-funded the study. Dr Machado holds stock options and equity ownership rights with Enspire and serves as the chief scientific officer.

"We saw patients in the study regain levels of function and independence they did not have before enrolling in the research," Dr Machado said. "This was a smaller study and we look forward to expanding as we have begun the next phase."

The completed EDEN trial enrolled 12 individuals with chronic, moderate-to-severe hemiparesis of the upper extremity as a result of a unilateral middle cerebral artery stroke 12-to-36 months prior. There were no major complications throughout the study. Nine of the 12 participants improved to a degree that is considered meaningful in stroke rehabilitation.

Each participant underwent DBS surgery, which involved the surgical implantation of electrodes into a part of the brain called the cerebellum. Once connected to a pacemaker-like device, the electrodes were used to deliver small electric pulses to help people recover control of their movements.

Following discharge and recovery from the surgery, participants completed months of physical therapy, first with the DBS device turned off for several weeks and then turned on for four-to-eight months. It was after turning the device on that the most significant improvements were observed.

"The safety and feasibility data from this early study combined with the potential symptom improvements certainly support the need for additional, larger trials to see if cerebellar DBS is indeed a potential treatment for post-stroke motor impairment," said Brooks Gross, PhD, program director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Stroke is the leading cause of long-term disabilities. Approximately 800,000 people in the United States alone suffer strokes every year. While the majority of patients will survive the acute phase, persistent neurological issues likely will jeopardize the quality of life and productivity, with approximately 50 per cent of survivors still exhibiting disability severities that require assistance with daily activities.

"There are currently no effective methods to improve the outcomes of physical rehabilitation for the hundreds of thousands of stroke survivors," said Dr Baker, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute.

"The results of the study found that deep brain stimulation, paired with physical therapy, improved movement in patients who were more than a year out from their stroke and whose motor improvements had largely plateaued. This tells us the research warrants further investigation in larger patient samples."

ANI

20 burnt to death, 15 injured as bus catches fire in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

AT least 20 people were burnt to death and 15 others injured on Sunday after a passenger bus hit a vehicle and caught fire in Hafizabad district of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, the rescue and health officials reported.

The rescue service said that the accident took place early morning on the freeway at Faisalabad Toll Plaza when the bus collided with a pickup van carrying fuel drums in it, resulting in the eruption of fire.

Upon receiving the information, the rescue workers immediately reached the site and shifted the victims to a local hospital, said the rescue service.

Some of the injured had suffered the burning while three of them were in critical condition, it added. Around 40 passengers were present on the bus, according to the rescue service. Reportedly, the ill-fated bus was going from the country's southern port city of Karachi to the federal capital Islamabad.

ICRC's psychological support soothes hearts in troubled Cameroon's Far North region

YAOUNDE

ABOUT eight years ago, Falta Modou was in love. "It was love at first sight. He gave me everything I needed. Everything was just okay," said the 30-year-old of a man she fell in love with in Amchide, a locality in Cameroon's Far North region.

On a certain Saturday evening, gunmen invaded the locality and abducted her three brothers and husband. Modou was depressed and barely slept and ate.

"Life became senseless," said the mother of six. Such stories have become ordinary in the region where violence by Boko Haram, an Islamist terrorist group, has flared up.

Raids by the terror group have not only brought destruction and death to the region but also inflicted an indelible trauma on the survivors, especially women and children.

Official statistics are unavailable but local NGOs estimate that more than 1 in 10 persons in conflict-affected communities are living with mental health conditions, ranging from mild depression to more intense symptoms such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

A mental and psychological support program by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is now helping rebuild lives of people struggling to cope with the mental scars.

As the sun shone from a cloudless sky in Kerawa, a locality in the region that shares a porous border with Nigeria, a group of women, men and children gathered in an open space to share their stories and greet



Staff members presents donations to displaced people in Kerawa, Far North region, Cameroon, Aug. 7, 2023. TO GO WITH "Feature: ICRC's psychological support soothes hearts in troubled Cameroon's Far North region" (Photo by Kepseu/Xinhua)

each other.

They talked about their traumatizing experiences and strategies that have helped them to cope. The support group sessions were developed as a response to the humanitarian consequences of the armed conflict, said Emerance Vanessa Mbia, a clinical psychologist with ICRC.

"They do not know if their family members are alive or not. The goal is to get them to live with the disappearance of their loved ones without ever forgetting them... and try to smile again as before, try to start life again," said Mbia, adding that such sessions held eight times in two months have had "tremendous" impact on the victims.

In the majority of cases, we see change, no matter the level of psychological stress," added Mbia who leads a team of mental health workers and facilitators in the region. She said, as part of the program, the survivors share gifts with community members to bind relationships and eject discrimination and stigmatization.

"When they see changes in their

own lives, they go back to their communities and families and share what they have learnt to help others," said Mbia.

Modou shared the bittersweet memories of her time in Amchide with Xinhua in Gance locality where she fled to live with her children.

Thanks to the ICRC program, she has recovered psychologically and now runs a small restaurant business. "I found solace in the support group sessions. I am doing well now," she said. "At first I could not step out of the house.

Today, I go out, cook food at home, attend ceremonies. They were many things I could not do before, but today, I tried to do them. I pay courtesy visits that I did not do before. I feel very comfortable."

In Kerawa, a 55-year-old found herself seeking refuge with displaced persons crowded into a handful of huts. She told Xinhua that she lost four members of her family when Boko Haram raided her village in neighboring Nigeria.

"I had to escape to this place," said

the woman who asked not to be named. She was part of the support group session and received gifts from ICRC. "Thanks to the psychological program by ICRC, my kids are releasing their stress and energy here with other kids. They stopped thinking about the attack, so this is a positive," said the mother of 14.

While the programme has increased the confidence and self-esteem of many displaced by the conflict in the region, they hope to return home anytime soon and work hard to make their dreams take flight.

As the world commemorates World Humanitarian Day on Aug. 19, Modou and thousand more like her are relying on humanitarian workers to help find her missing brothers and husband.

Hurricane Hilary heads for Baja California, southwest US

MEXICO CITY

HURRICANE Hilary hurtled towards Mexico's Baja California peninsula on Saturday, a US government agency said, blanketing the region with heavy rain amid warnings of catastrophic and life-threatening flooding on the peninsula and the US Southwest.

One man died in the Baja California Sur state when a family of five was swept away into the sea while crossing a stream, according to a Mexican official, who also shared images of flooded roads that were swept away in the area.

In the United States, the hurricane was disrupting flights and sports games.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) said the hurricane was weakening on its path to the west-central coast of the peninsula on Saturday evening. It predicted it would lose more strength and turn into a tropical storm as it heads towards southern California on Sunday.

But dangerous rains and coastal storm surges remain a major concern, the NHC said, with up to 10 inches (25 cm) of rainfall expected in some regions of Baja California and California.

"Flash and urban flooding, locally catastrophic, is expected, especially in the northern portions of the peninsula," the Miami-based agency said in its latest advisory.

Rainfall of 3 to 6 inches, with isolated amounts of 10 inches, was expected across portions of southern California and southern Nevada as well, the NHC added.

"Dangerous to catastrophic flooding is expected," the NHC said.

US President Joe Biden received a briefing from senior staff on preparations for the hurricane and his team's work with state and local agencies ahead of the storm, the White House said.

In the Baja California peninsula, some school and other non-essential activities were canceled through Monday, and authorities in Mexico's second-largest city, Ti-



Tourists cool off near a fan as they queue to enter Rome's Colosseum, in Italy, July 18, 2023. AP

juana, urged people in high-risk zones to move to temporary shelters.

Images shared on social media showed flash floods in the coastal town of Santa Rosalia, on the eastern side of the Baja California peninsula, with water gushing down what used to be a road, sweeping away a tree.

Some 30 miles (48 km) south, in the town of Mulege, where the one person died when crossing a stream, Municipal President Edith Aguilar Villavicencio said on her Facebook account that Mexico's Navy and local firefighters were rescuing people.

As of 0600 GMT, Hilary was about 450 miles south-southeast of San Diego, the NHC said. The storm was moving north-northwest at nearly 20 miles

per hour (32 kph), packing maximum sustained winds of nearly 85 mph.

US authorities have warned citizens and businesses to take precautions.

Nearly 200 flights scheduled for Sunday at the San Diego International Airport have been canceled and another 184 on Monday, according to the Flight-Aware website.

In California, Major League Baseball's Los Angeles-based Dodgers and Angels brought their Sunday games forward to Saturday to turn them into split doubleheaders.

The city's soccer teams, Los Angeles FC and LA Galaxy, both postponed their Sunday matches due to threat of heavy rains and flooding.

US unwillingness to end Ukraine conflict behind talk of Zelensky's 'formula' – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE United States is unwilling to end the Ukrainian conflict, which is why it keeps talking about resolving it based on Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's "formula," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the International Affairs magazine.

When asked about the viability of a position taken by a number of politicians that it's up to Russia and the US to agree on a way to end the conflict in Ukraine, Russia's top diplomat pointed out that "such logic implies that Ukraine is an American puppet and all issues should be resolved with the Americans."

"The problem, however, is that



the US has no intention of ending the conflict. As I have already said, its officially declared goal is to inflict 'a strategic defeat' on Russia, and weaken us as much as possible in military, economic and political terms.

This is why Washington keeps saying that talks on resolving the issue should be held only on the Ukrainians' terms, that is, based

on Vladimir Zelensky's notorious 'peace formula,' the foreign minister stressed.

Lavrov noted that it was "a point-less categorical position." "We can't be expected to agree that our core security interests will be infringed on and Russian and Russian-speaking people in our new territories and areas controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces will continue to face arbitrariness," Lavrov went on to say.

"Another thing the West needs to realize is that Russia will defend its people and its vital interests by all means.

It's best if our opponents realize as soon as possible that a confrontation with Russia will lead to nothing, and move to adopt more

civilized, political and diplomatic methods to ensure a balance of interests," he added.

The Russian foreign minister also emphasized that in December 2021, Moscow had made "a very serious effort" to convey its concerns to Western capitals, sending them two draft agreements concerning security guarantees with the US and measures to ensure security with NATO member states.

"However, our initiative was arrogantly rejected right away. Instead of engaging in talks, they focused their efforts on increasing the production of weapons and ammunition to be provided to Ukraine, triggering a further escalation of regional tensions," Lavrov concluded.



Former Yanga fullback Djuma Shabani.

Djuma Shabani free agent after leaving Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has finally parted ways with its right-back Djuma Shabani after handing him the release letter to leave as a free agent having spent two years at the club.

Last week there were talks between the Congolese fullback and the NBC Premier League defending champion on finding ways to end their working relationship.

Shabani's agent, Yasmin Razak, refuted rumours circulating about her client's departure to DR Congo's TP-Mazembe as talks for contract termination were still in progress.

Several contacts have been made with Mainland Tanzania Premier League sides to acquire his services but there was nothing concrete as top clubs have already completed their foreign footballers' signings.

Last year Shabani signed a contract extension with Yanga set to run up to 2024 following his stellar displays upon joining the outfit.

Before joining Yanga in 2021, The former AS Vita Club captain helped the latter win the 2017/18 Linafoot League title as well as sail through to the 2018 CAF Confederation Cup final, which concluded with the outfit losing 4-3 on aggregate to Morocco's Raja Casablanca.

Shabani was on the radar of Azam FC per inside reports but failure to terminate his contract with Yanga in time led to failure to secure the move.

The Congolese right back entered into contractual disputes with Yanga as was the case with his compatriot, Yannick Bangala, who has moved to

Azam FC.

The duo was told not to continue with the team this season after failure to reach agreements on contract extensions.

Yanga opted out of registering the two players for the season as the outfit went in search of a new right back and had already secured a midfielder to replace Bangala.

The Jangwani Street outfit recruited Ivorian fullback, Kouassi Attohoul Yao (aged 26) and the outfit moreover received an offer for Bangala from Azam FC, this is why the Congolese footballers were not introduced during Yanga's Mwananchi Day festival.

At the moment Shabani is a free agent after talks between the two sides on details to finalize the contract termination went successfully.

Shabani was an integral part of Yanga's domestic treble success last season after winning Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) title, NBC Premier League, and Community Shield with the club.

Shabani's last goal for Yanga came in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup in Algiers during the rematch of the continental showpiece's final between Yanga and USM Alger.

Yanga garnered a 1-0 victory over USM Alger in the rematch but lost via away-goal rule, having been locked to 2-2 aggregate results following a 2-1 loss to the Algerian side in the first leg in Dar es Salaam.

Shabani made Yanga make their presence felt after he converted a penalty seven minutes after stepping up and finishing calmly.

her reins to former Yanga winger, Fred Mbuna.

The tactician joins Biashara United with former Taifa Stars, Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC goalkeeper Ivo Mapunda who will operate as a goalkeeping coach.

The newly hired coaches will be under head coach, Amani Josiah, to lead Biashara United in this season's Championship League- seeing to it that it returns to NBC Premier League next season.

A member of the Biashara United board, Augustine Mgendi, revealed they

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a bid to sensitize participation in exercises among CRDB Bank's staff, the institution has inaugurated its third edition of sports showdowns bringing together teams formed by the employees.

The football and netball leagues are held at the University of Dar es Salaam grounds, involving employees from the bank's branches found across the country.

Speaking during the leagues' inauguration, Ubungo District Commissioner Hashim Komba said it was good to see the bank's management offers its staff an opportunity to participate in exercises.

"What CRDB Bank is doing should be emulated by others. Good health is important to each employee, I congratulate you," he said.

The CRDB Bank Chief Finance Officer Fredrick Nshakanabo earlier said that sustainable achievement is not only financial but also involves the prosperity of each one in the bank's family.

"By promoting an environment in which employees prioritize their health and happiness, we increase the spirit of innovation and cooperation, thus strengthening the performance of the bank as a whole," Nshakanabo pointed out.

"In today's world, it is easy to forget the importance of self-care and maintaining a balance between work life and private life, so we get opportunities like this and make the most of it," the official revealed.

The leagues, Nsekela said,



Ubungo District Commissioner, Hashim Abdallah Komba (2nd R), is accompanied by CRDB Bank's Chief Financial Officer, Fredrick Nshakanabo (L), CRDB Bank Eastern Region's Manager, Badru Idd (R), and CRDB Bank's Employee Relations Unit's Head, Timothy Fasha, when the DC arrived at the University of Dar es Salaam grounds last weekend to grace the opening of the third edition of the CRDB Bank Super Cup held alongside health testing and blood donation. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

are a continuation of CRDB Bank's plan to strengthen the health of its employees and he believes that every employee will participate in the championship in one way or another.

Along with the launch of the leagues, the bank has brought its program, dubbed 'Wellness, Health, and Fun', to a close.

The program has been held in all of the institution's seven zones in the country for employees to exercise and test their health, seeking to avoid non-communicable diseases.

The program had a slogan termed 'live well, work well' which aims to encourage the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all CRDB Bank employees.

Nshakanabo noted: "This wellness, health, and fun program shows that a healthy workforce has productivity and growth, and we are proud of the success we have achieved

in other regions where we implemented this program."

"As I explained earlier, this day we call 'Wellness Health & Fun Day' aims to encourage well-being, health fulfillment, and a better lifestyle for our employees," he said.

In those fields, some experts performed various health tests including prostate, BMI, and blood pressure, while teaching how to deal with stress, exercise, and safe eating.

The CRDB Bank Chief Finance Officer stated: "We have placed great emphasis on mental health, the main goal is to increase the understanding of each employee."

"We would like to see that every employee of CRDB Bank has the knowledge to identify the early signs of stress and the steps to take to save the ship from sinking, whether it is for him/her, his/her family member, or even the whole community,"

Nshakanabo emphasized.

Despite the tests and professional advice given, the employees participated in different exercises to improve their health while continuing to get to know each other and develop relationships between them.

Nshakanabo said that by investing in personal well-being and health, not only does a person improve his life, but he also motivates those around him to do the same, something that gives rise to success for the bank.

Despite setting aside a day for doing exercise and health tests for its employees, and encouraging them to participate in sports, CRDB Bank has a modern gym at its headquarters.

The institution's Director appealed to all employees to use the facility as each one has a license for accessing it to exercise and stay healthy.

SportPesa, Tigo Pesa introduce new campaign

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, has partnered with Tigo Pesa to launch a new campaign, dubbed 'Maokoto, Deilee'.

The campaign comes into the market to acknowledge and reward customers who opt to use Tigo Pesa for their betting deposits.

The 'Maokoto, Deilee', the two firms' officials noted, offers SportPesa and Tigo Pesa customers a chance to win cash prizes on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Participants will moreover have the opportunity to earn other enticing rewards, such as smartphones, when they deposit funds into their SportPesa accounts through Tigo Pesa.

Sabrina Msuya, SportPesa Tanzania's Head of Corporate Communications, revealed: "During this campaign, the chance to win amazing prizes is open to everyone, regardless of the outcome of their bets."

By simply depositing into their SportPesa account



Representatives of SportPesa Tanzania, Tigo Pesa, and the Gaming Board of Tanzania pose for a picture during the launch of a promotion, termed 'Maokoto, Deilee', in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The program is coordinated by the two firms. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

through Tigo Pesa, Sabrina noted, participants automatically enter a weekly draw.

They also have an opportunity to win daily cash prizes of 20,000/-, weekly cash prizes of 1m/-, and a grand prize of 15m/-.

The SportPesa Tanzania official disclosed: "The participants will also stand a chance to win other exciting re-

wards, which include two smartphones for two lucky weekly winners".

Expressing his excitement about the partnership, Kenneth Ndulute, Tigo Pesa's Commercial Manager, pointed out: "The campaign is an opportunity for Tigo Pesa customers to enjoy the perks offered by their network of choice."

He further expressed

his pleasure in providing customers with additional opportunities to indulge in the rewards offered through Tigo Pesa services.

Ndulute further encouraged customers to seize the chance and participate in the 'Maokoto, Deilee' campaign for them to win exciting prizes.

The official noted Tigo Pesa customers, who do

not have a SportPesa account, can easily create one by either visiting the website www.sportpesa.co.tz or by downloading the SportPesa application on their smartphones. Once the account is set up, funds can be deposited into their SportPesa accounts using Tigo Pesa.

According to him, to deposit on Tigo Pesa, customers can dial *150*87#, select option 4, enter the desired deposit amount, and complete the transaction by entering their Tigo Pesa PIN. It is important to note that bets can be placed with any amount starting from 500/-.

Ndulute disclosed to maximize their chances of winning the daily, weekly, and monthly prizes offered in the 'Maokoto, Deilee' campaign, customers are strongly encouraged to place bets with SportPesa through Tigo Pesa as frequently as possible.

Edna Lema unveiled as Biashara United's assistant coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Yanga Princess head coach, Edna Lema, has signed a one-year agreement with Biashara United to become the team's assistant coach ahead of the 2023/24 Championship League campaign set to kick off on September 2.

Edna has joined the Musoma-based team after nine months without coaching a club. The coach left Yanga Princess on December 8, 2022, when the club terminated her contract and handed over

her reins to former Yanga winger, Fred Mbuna.

The tactician joins Biashara United with former Taifa Stars, Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC goalkeeper Ivo Mapunda who will operate as a goalkeeping coach.

The newly hired coaches will be under head coach, Amani Josiah, to lead Biashara United in this season's Championship League- seeing to it that it returns to NBC Premier League next season.

A member of the Biashara United board, Augustine Mgendi, revealed they

have reached an agreement with Edna to serve as an assistant coach for one year.

The official noted his outfit was more interested in her experience in coaching and having what it takes to lead the team to success.

Mgendi pointed out that due to the coach's experience, they believe she will add value to their team's system in collaboration with the entire technical bench that the management has trusted to help restore the Premier League presence.

"We have appointed her due to the

quality of her resume in football, she is a good coach that will add value to the technical bench, we will continue to improve every area, and we will reach our goals," Mgendi noted.

The major changes made in Biashara United's technical bench are a continuation of the operational changes managed by the club's president, Revocatus Rugumila which include signing nine new players.

They are Ugandan midfielder Boban Zirintusa, goalkeeper David Kissu, Babilas

Chitembe, Caleb John, Thomas Malulu, Herbert Lukindo, Paul Ngalema, Salim Sheshe, and Godfrey Mapunda.

Speaking about the club's plans and strategies for the new season, Rugumila noted: "The main goal of the club is to ensure that the team returns to the Premier League in the 2024/25 season."

"To achieve that, we are registering experienced players according to the wishes of the coach and improving our technical bench so that we are strong in every department," the official noted.

Spanish soccer chief Luis Rubiales faces criticism after giving World Cup winner Jennifer Hermoso a surprise kiss on the lips after she receives gold medal

SYDNEY

ROYAL Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) President Luis Rubiales is facing criticism for giving Spain midfielder Jennifer Hermoso a surprise kiss on the lips after the 33-year-old received her gold medal following the team's Women's World Cup final victory over England on Sunday.

Rubiales was on stage for FIFA's awards ceremony following the final, along with other dignitaries, including soccer's world governing body president Gianni Infantino, Spain's Queen Letizia and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Video shows Rubiales embracing Hermoso, then putting both hands on her head before kissing her. He then pats her on the back as she walks away.

"Hey, I didn't like it, eh," says Hermoso as she apparently answers questions about the incident in an Instagram live video - a clip of which was shared by Spanish journalist Irati Vida on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

Later in the Instagram live video - taken in Spain's locker room - Hermoso fields a question from another woman: "But what were you doing, sis?" The 33-year-old replies: "But what am I supposed to do?"

On the radio program 'El Tiempo de Juego' on Cadena COPE, Hermoso spoke of the kiss on Sunday, saying "she didn't expect it" but that "it was because of the emotion of the moment, there's nothing more there. It's just going to be an anecdote [of the time]. I'm absolutely sure it won't be blown up more."

Asked by Radio Marca about the incident with Hermoso, Rubiales replied: "The kiss with Jenni? There are idiots all over. When two people have a moment of affection without any importance, we can't listen to idiocy. We're champions and I stay with that."

However, Alberto Ortega of the Spanish newspaper El Confidencial posted on X that, "Rubiales taking the trophy from the players to give it to Queen Leticia and kissing Jennifer Hermoso on the mouth is simply disgusting."

"A new demonstration of the need to suck the camera [be the center of attention] and be the protagonist when it is not his turn," added Ortega.

Daily Mirror journalist Colin Millar, who writes about European soccer for the British newspaper, described Rubiales' behavior as "not ok."

"This the highlight of a footballer's career and they are highly emotionally charged," posted Millar on X.

Hermoso wasn't the only Spanish player kissed by Rubiales in the post-match celebrations.

After other members of Spain's squad received their medals, video shows Rubiales kissing them on the cheeks as well as holding some of them in his arms.

Another video clip shows Rubiales interrupting a group of Spanish players celebrating, before kissing Olga Carmona, who scored Spain's winning goal in the 1-0 victory over England, on the cheek.

In footage posted by Spain star Salma Paralluelo in an Instagram Live, Rubiales is pictured entering the dressing room and telling the Spanish players that the RFEF will pay for a trip to Ibiza for them, and that is where he will marry Hermoso.

CNN has reached out to Hermoso's agent about the incident and also the RFEF's press officer in Australia for comment, but hadn't heard back at the time of publication.

CNN

Spain World Cup hero Carmona pays tribute to father who died before final

SYDNEY

SPAIN'S Women's World Cup hero Olga Carmona paid tribute to her father on Monday for giving her the strength "to achieve something unique" after learning of his death following the nation's 1-0 win over England.

The 23-year-old defender drilled home the only goal of the final in Sydney on Sunday to help La Roja win the World Cup for the first time in their history.

"And without knowing it, I had my Star before the game started," she posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"I know that you have given me the strength to achieve something unique. I know that you have been watching me tonight and that you are proud of me.

"Rest in peace, dad."

AFP

Spain World Cup win reality check for Wiegman and triumph for Vilda

SYDNEY

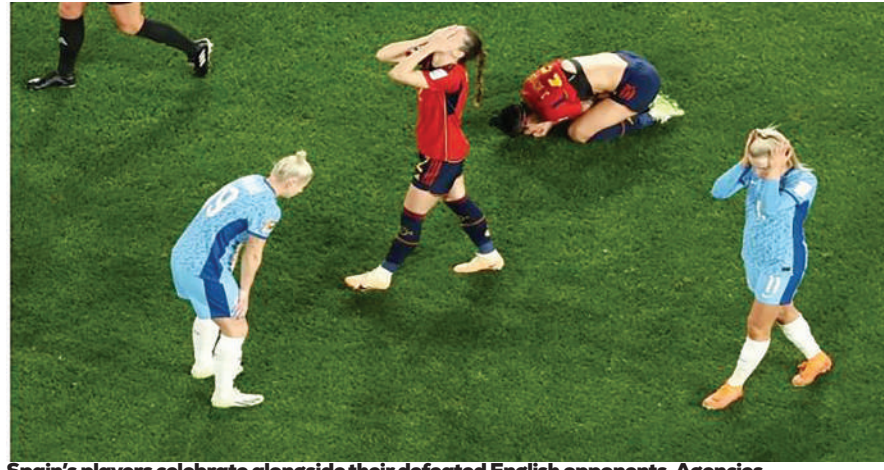
ENGLAND went into the Women's World Cup final dreaming of global domination but their 1-0 loss to Spain - and the nature of it - was a reality check that will haunt them and Sarina Wiegman.

England's Dutch coach admitted Spain were the better team in front of nearly 76,000 in Sydney to lift the World Cup for the first time in their history on Sunday.

Spain's deserved triumph over the European champions came even with them missing several top players because of a mutiny in the camp that broke out 11 months ago.

Fifteen players said in September last year that they no longer wished to represent their country because of numerous objections, chief among them to coach Jorge Vilda.

Three returned for the World Cup but the rebel-



Spain's players celebrate alongside their defeated English opponents. Agencies

lion meant that Patri Gujardo, who struck twice in the final for Barcelona as they won the Champions League, and club team-mates Mapi Leon and Sandra Panos were all missing.

Vilda's critics would say that Spain won the title in Australia and New Zealand in spite of him, not because of him.

Whatever the truth, Spain were full value for their victory, having taken the lead in the 29th minute through skipper Olga Carmona and they also hit the outside of the post in the first

half.

They then had Jennifer Hermoso's penalty saved by goalkeeper Mary Earps in the second half and overall carved out 14 attempts at goal to England's seven.

Spain also had more of the ball, more completed passes and more corners.

England did threaten at times, including hitting the bar in the first half, and can also point to missing captain Leah Williamson and star striker Beth Mead. Both missed the World Cup with knee injuries.

But if anything, as England chased the goal they needed to keep alive their own dreams of a first World Cup title, it was their opponents who looked more likely to score again.

Wiegman, the outstanding woman coach in the game, has now suffered two defeats in the final in a row, having been in charge when her native Netherlands lost 2-0 to the United States four years ago.

"I think against a team like this, when you let them get that sort of momentum, it's extremely

difficult," said England's stand-in skipper Millie Bright.

"They love to possess the ball so as soon as they get that momentum it is really hard to get out of that," added the defender, saying that England had not been at their best on the evening.

- Spain 'turning point' - Spain felt, with some justification, that they were also the better side when England squeezed through 2-1 in extra time in the quarter-finals of last year's European Championship.

Their World Cup win also came with their best player, the reigning two-times Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, failing to fire at the tournament following a serious knee injury.

Vilda underlined the depth of the quality at his disposal by dropping Putellas for the final and replacing her with her 19-year-old Barcelona team-mate Salma Paralluelo.

The former athlete

proved to be a major threat all night to England and was duly named the tournament's best young player, with Spain's Aitana Bonmati awarded for best player at the competition.

For the 42-year-old Vilda, who has been accused of being too strict with his players and not up to the job, this was a personal triumph.

His credentials have long been questioned but Vilda, in charge of Spain since 2015, rotated his squad smartly through the tournament to keep them fresh and the opposition guessing.

Vilda, who afterwards refused to say if he would stay on as coach, said that a 4-0 thumping at the hands of Japan in the group phase had been "a turning point".

"It made us react, the team changed, the players improved their performance, their mentality was stronger," he said. "And it was one of the reasons that led us to the final and to win it."

AFP

How not to win a World Cup: Spain, Jorge Vilda and the story of a complicated victory

By MIGUEL DELANY

AS Olga Carmona ran back to the Spanish celebrations, having just declared that the federation's support was "marvellous" with a World Cup medal around her neck, she and manager Jorge Vilda high-fived then shared a huge hug.

It was an image that went against the more proliferated images of other players refusing to even look at their coach in the moment of glory.

This is not to try and say it was all much rosier in the Spanish camp than had been reported. It is quite the opposite. It points to how multi-layered the many issues in the squad were, going way beyond a mutiny against the manager.

The tragic news of Carmona's father passing away before the final put all of this into its correct context, but the issues were real.

The Spanish federation's social media account did put out a post with a picture of the coach and the Women's World Cup trophy declaring "Vilda in". The manager, having eventually appeared for his press conference after almost three hours of celebrating, was asked about this - and those who doubted him. In other words, the players at the core of the mutiny, who did not come back.

Vilda's answer was perhaps the most direct reference he's made to the controversy throughout this World Cup, but was still oblique.

"I'm happy for everyone we made happy, and that wanted our squad to win. That's it."

It was just another layer to a situation that has seen a core of players mutiny against the coach and the federation, some come back, with rebels



Vilda maintained the support of the Spanish FA throughout the player mutiny. Agencies

then standing alongside replacements for other rebels. It is understood there is then a growing Real Madrid-Barcelona issue, to go alongside a more complicated split between those who are in the squad and have little time for Vilda and those who are completely indebted to him.

Madrid's Carmona, whose influence in the squad grew after the mutiny, is very much one of the latter.

There is a lot that can be said about all this, but all pale next to the most relevant statement of all. Spain are world champions. Jenni Hermoso had an unintentionally pointed comment on that. "It is easier to say you are world champions than to achieve it."

That has rarely been so true. The most fascinating part of it all is that nobody has ever won any major tournament in a manner even close to this. It is a victory completely without precedent in the history of the sport.

There's an obvious reason for that. Squads faced with such strife usually fall apart. The centre doesn't hold.

It is in many ways how not to win a World Cup.

entire England squad, Sarina Wiegman and her staff gathering the players together for a consoling message of pride. It was the team with much more unity that had, in many ways, been taken apart.

The question isn't quite how, though.

There are obvious explanations. Just as a very specific set of circumstances fostered this crisis, a very specific set of circumstances have also made Spain the best team in the world.

All of these players have come through a superb coaching infrastructure, immersed in a highly specific identity, that just isn't yet visible anywhere else in a developing women's game. It has given them a supreme advantage that allows them to overcome an unprecedented number of problems.

You only have to look at the instinctive way of their players get out of the tightest of spaces, to initiate an intricate passing triangle. Any conscious issues are inevitably overcome when it just comes that naturally. Carmona's goal was the perfect example of this. It was executed at such speed and with such flow it was as if they didn't even need to

think about it. They just knew what to do. It was ingrained.

It used to be like this for the Spanish men, goalkeeper Coll even making a point of mentioning of how she was inspired by Andres Iniesta and Iker Casillas in 2010. It was just that other countries caught up, and began to develop plans that worked very well to counter it.

Wiegman gave as good an attempt as anyone, other than Japan. This is another historic anomaly with this Spanish team. No one outside West Germany 1954 has ever won either a men or women's World Cup having lost a game by more than two goals. Wiegman and her staff had of course pored over footage of Spain's 4-0 defeat to Japan.

They thought they had something figured out, but found Vilda's side had stepped up a level. The Japan match actually allowed insight into potential solutions for other tactical problems.

Wiegman almost seemed blown away by how good Spain were, in a very gracious press conference. She naturally admitted they deserved it, and then elaborated on the almost impossible balance she

tried to strike between pressing Spain but not leaving space in behind. It's immensely difficult for a player like Aitana Bonmati can just escape in the way she does.

That's again the other side of this issue.

If Spain's preparation is how not to win a World Cup, their idea of the game is just how to play football. There are so many moments you watch one of those moves and think every single footballer should have this as a fundamental of their game.

There may be fair questions over whether Vilda is any good at a coach at all but he did get one big call right on Sunday: it was clearly correct to go with Salma Paralluelo over Alexia Putellas, and became more pronounced given Wiegman's reluctance to play Lauren James from the start.

One stuck. One twisted.

It is one of many turns in the story of this campaign, that has never been as neat or as binary as portrayed.

It still isn't how you'd want to prepare for a World Cup, though. That is by far the most remarkable aspect of this fully deserved win.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Spain World Cup win reality check for Wiegman and triumph for Vilda **PAGE 19**

5 EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Koli Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 5SPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Koli Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Japan readies to bring youth footballers for 2023 East Africa Chipkiz Cup tourney

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE 14th edition of the East Africa Youth Soccer Tournament, which takes place in Arusha, will this time feature players from Tokyo, Japan as the hosts prepare the showdown, scheduled for December 2023.

A Non-Government Organization from Japan is the entity now preparing to bring young football players from Tokyo to participate in the forthcoming tournament, termed 'Chipkiz Cup', to be held in Arusha next December.

Chihiro Tanaka, Chairperson of the organization known as 'Talk Our Future from Africa', or simply TOFA, is currently in Arusha for initial arrangements. She explained that they feel it is high time the youths from Japan get the experience of playing sports in Africa and learn about Tanzania.

Organized by the Future Stars Academy, the East Africa Youth Soccer Tournament takes place in Arusha for the 14th time now.

"Football especially happens to be the best platform to bring the children from various countries together," she stated.

According to the TOFA Chairperson, since the East Africa Youth Soccer Tournament takes place in December, many of the children in Japan will still be in school so it will be difficult to bring an entire team all of a sudden.

"Instead individual players will come, we shall be happy to bring some Japanese children to join their Tanzanian counterparts for various events in Arusha next December," she added.

After the December event, the 'Talk Our Future from Africa', will go back to Japan and outfit a proper team for the other East African Soccer Tournament to be held from 2024 onwards.

Speaking on behalf of the Future Stars, a representative from the academy, Peter Tito, said they expect massive participation in the 'Chipkiz Cup' because, during the previous soccer tournament that was held in 2022, a total of 300 teams took part in the showdown.

Arusha Regional Football Association (ARFA)'s Chairman, Zakayo Mjema, said the young Japanese players are essentially also coming to learn from Tanzania through the East African Youth Soccer Tournament.

"In Japan, there are several football academies and youth soccer centers, therefore, this will create new opportunities for future cooperation in sports between Japan and Tanzania," Mjema stated.

The ARFA official noted that the 'Chipkiz Cup 2023' is yet another opportunity for the country to receive more tourists.

According to the ARFA Chairman, nowadays best international footballers come from Africa and almost all European Leagues consist of players from the continent.

Gamondi demands improvement from Yanga despite victory over ASAS Djibouti



Yanga's Congolese left-back, Lomalisa Mutambala (R), challenges Djibouti's ASAS Djibouti Télécom defender when the teams took on each other in the first leg of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League First Preliminary round that took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Yanga defeated ASAS Djibouti Télécom 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA'S Yanga head coach Miguel Gamondi wants to see further improvement in his club despite commanding a comfortable victory over ASAS Djibouti Télécom in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League First Preliminary round's first leg.

The Mainland Tanzani champions got their CAF Champions League campaign off to a flying start with an emphatic 2-0 victory over ASAS Djibouti Télécom at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday afternoon.

A first-half strike by Burkina Faso international Stephane Aziz Ki in the 22nd minute along with another sublime hit by Zambian forward, Kennedy Musonda secured the victory for the Tanzanian envoys who were playing as

visitors.

The last season's CAF Confederation Cup runners-up will go into the second leg with a healthy advantage in a game that will also be played at Azam Complex Stadium on Saturday.

The aggregate winner will meet the overall winner of the other First Preliminary round encounters between

AS Othoh of Congo Brazzaville and El Merreikh of Sudan to compete for the Group Stage ticket.

Speaking afterward, however, Gamondi acknowledged there is a need for his club's footballers to up their game in the finishing department, despite professing his satisfaction with the way they controlled the

game and created chances.

The Argentine disclosed: "Winning 2-0 is not enough, it is still open. Two goals in football is not a big difference even if we play away the game is still open, we need to play for another 90 minutes."

"I am not happy because we missed many chances, we should have killed this

tie today but we didn't and we need to wait for seven days," the coach stated.

"If we can be realistic, we could have scored 10 goals today. I wasn't happy in the first half. I can say the players took time to adapt to playing on an artificial pitch but that is not an excuse, we worked all week and hoped to change but we did not do much," the tactician noted.

"We keep on working hard. The most important thing is that we created chances and controlled the full game, I hope we improve in the coming games and finish our chances," the gaffer added.

The Argentinian coach also singled out Yanga's midfielder Mudathir Yahya for his performance, saying: "I don't like to say this but I think Mudathir was great today. For me, Mudathir was the man of the match."

"He worked very well in defense, midfield, and in attacking almost all the action was Mudathir... I think Zouzoua was good as well," Gamondi pointed out.

"We can say the level was ok. For players like Aziz Ki and Zouzoua regaining fitness, they need to play 90 minutes," he noted.

Yanga will shift focus back to the NBC Premier League tomorrow when they resume their title defense against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at Azam Complex Stadium.

Robertinho happy with Simba SC new signings' improvement

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC head coach Roberto Oliveira 'Robertinho' is delighted with the adaptation and improvement of the club's new signings.

The club has been quite busy in the transfer market having brought in 10 new players to strengthen the team for the 2023-2024 campaign, which will see the side compete in five competitions.

They have strengthened their squad with the signings of Ivorian Aubin Kramo, Cameroonian Willy Onana and Che Malone Fondoh, Congolese Fabrice Ngoma, and Mozambican Luis Miquissone.

Domestic footballers David Kameta 'Duchu', Hussein Kazi, Shaaban Idd Chilunda, and Hamis Abdallah, as well as Moroccan goalkeeper Ayub Lakred, are also newly signed footballers at the outfit.

After falling short last season, Simba SC's aim for 2023-2024 is simple, go one better and secure the NBC Premier League silverware.

They have already won the Community Shield and, on Sunday, continued their perfect start in the league with



Simba SC's Congolese attacker, Jean Baleke (2nd R), races past a Dodoma Jiji FC defender in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League match which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Simba SC commanded a 2-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

a 2-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji FC to go top of the standings with six points from two games played. Speaking to the press after the victory at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Robertinho was

pleased to see the hard work coming together, as the club, also nicknamed 'Msimbazi

Reds', put on a dominant display, whereby new signings Willy Onana, Ngoma and Che Malone started before Luis Miquissone came on as a second-half substitute.

Robertinho revealed: "Congratulations to my players, it is not easy to travel, play in the final, and after the start of

the league we need to win every time. We need to recover, it is not easy. We played very well today but I think we lost too many opportunities inside the box."

"I want to win 7-0 but you need to understand football is not an exact science, 1-0 is the same as 5-0 because our

objective is three points. It is nice to win every time and play well too, football is not a fight, it is art and talent," the Brazilian noted.

The tactician said: "Simba SC has two groups, the first one started in Turkey and the second came later. I cannot use the same starting eleven in both halves, it is about the physical condition so that is normal. We need time for good balance."

"For example, I started using Luis Miquissone for 25 minutes in Turkey, then 30 minutes, and now I can use him for 40 minutes."

The coach pointed out: "It is not easy for me but I am happy because Luis is a nice talent. I can use this guy many times, maybe after fifteen days I can start him."

"Onana is a nice player too, I know him, he played for Rayon Sports and now he is here but I repeat we have two groups of players, I need time."

The gaffer noted: "I can't use Onana for 90 minutes, I can't use Luis for 90 minutes, I can't use Moses Phiri for 90 minutes, it is step by step."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I CAN HEAL YOU IF YOU ARE READY TO GIVE UP THINGS THAT MAKE YOU SICK AT THE FIRST PLACE



THINGS I CAN DO WITHOUT?