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VP hails Lowassa for 'daring spirit'



Edward Lowassa's widow, Regina Lowassa, leads the Lowassa family in paying their respects to the former prime minister in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango leads mourners in their thousands in bidding former prime minister Edward Ngoyai Lowassa final farewell at Dar es Salaam's Karimjee Hall yesterday. More photos on pages 2 & 4. Photo: VPO

By Carlos Banda

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango yesterday led hundreds of mourners at the Karimjee Grounds in Dar es Salaam to pay their last respects to the deceased former prime

minister Edward Lowassa.

In remarks echoing strident praise for the late ex-premier from top leaders especially in earlier phases of government, he described him as a creative leader who had a capacity for daring, venturing into efforts that pioneered economic de-

velopment.

The late ex-premier is expected to be laid to rest in the vicinity of Monduli township in Arusha Region on Saturday, following his death on Saturday at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI).

"Lowassa was a hardworking

person in the ruling party and in national leadership and also in his personal endeavours," he said, emphasising that he was a leader worthy emulating.

He said that the former premier was a staunch defender of people's welfare and not just in Monduli

constituency, citing his initiatives as Water minister, where he pioneered the project to supply water from Lake Victoria to Shinyanga, Tabora and Singida regions as testimony of his vision of work.

"I call upon Tanzanians particularly the youth to pay tribute to the

late prime minister by utilizing various opportunities to acquire knowledge for the benefit of the nation," the VP said.

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SPORTS

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Sports Minister to grace Kilimanjaro International Marathon 2024

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Haya traditional dance from Kagera Region

Treasury releases 12pc of TARURA's estimates

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

AS of December 31, 2023 the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) had received 82.50bn/- for entire project implementation work, just 12 percent of the total approved budget for fiscal 2023/24.

Dennis Londo (pictured), the chairman of the Local Government Affairs standing committee of the National Assembly, said yesterday that MPs are worried about disgruntled voters facing difficulties in transportation in many districts around the country.

He said the government has to urgently issue funds for construction and rehabilitation of heavily damaged rural roads, a situation that shall weigh in the local government elections in November this year.

MPs contributing to the committee's report for was expressed during their contributions to debate on the report covering February 2023 to January 2024 showed irritation by the sluggish pace of the Treasury in disbursing allocated funds for project implementation at TARURA.

A total of 818.02bn/- was allocated, where 710.31bn/- was to be sourced from the government and 107.71bn/- from the development partners, he said, noting that the disbursed funds had enabled projects implementation by 38.84 percent of the overall target.



Expressing dissatisfaction with the funds disbursement pace, he said the Treasury pledged to remit an additional 350bn/- on top of approved estimates had but released nothing yet.

He said TARURA had requested 1.60trn/- in allocations but it was reduced to a little over half of it, at 818.02bn/-, meanwhile as estimates for district road projects rose to 836.24bn/- in 2021/22, up from 275.03bn/- during fiscal 2020/21, a 204 percent increase.

Elaborating, he said that 69 percent of TARURA projects relate to rehabilitating dust roads to all weather network stretching 41,107.52 kilometers, from 24,405.40 kilometers in 2020/21, along with rehabilitation of district roads covering 144,429.77 kilometers.

Janejelly James (Special Seats) told the House that 15 percent of total votes in local government and general elections come from Dar es Salaam, thus the urgency for TARURA to finish the projects if funds are disbursed on time. "Roads play a major role when it

comes to Dar es Salaam politics," she pleaded, urging the Treasury to make sure that in the nine months remaining before the civic polls most of the work is carried out.

Salome Makamba (Special Seats-Chadema) and committee member pointed at extensive damage in urban and rural roads after excessive rainfall, where TARURA was to be handed 131bn/- emergency funds for 184 district councils but by end of December just 21bn/- had been received.

"We demand serious answers from the government," she said, asserting that road networks are close to being unusable in many rural areas.

Vita Kawawa (Namtumbo) said that the Lusewa to Msimba dust road is badly damaged with ongoing rains and needs rebuilding, urgently, noting that 216m/- was allocated but the funds are yet to be released. No transport link is usable between the two places, he stated.

Ezra Chiwelesha (Biharamulo West) said that in the 350bn/- additional estimates, constituencies were to obtain 500m/- each but nothing has been done so far.

During the current fiscal year TARURA was to rehabilitate roads covering 21,000 km, a tarmac road network of 338 kilometers and gravel roads of 8,546 km, plus replacing 4,372 culverts, he added.

UNIDO, TIB hand bioethanol, stoves dummy cheques

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL sugar factories engaging in producing clean energy are slated to be major beneficiaries of the 2bn/- grant issued by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) relayed to the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB).

Victor Hakimu, the energy and environmental project coordinator at the UNIDO country mission, said yesterday at an event to hand-over dummy cheques to the beneficiaries, that the initiative is meant to stimulate utilisation of molasses generated in sugar factories to produce bio-ethanol.

As a clean fuel for cooking in households, the grants will enable speed in bioenergy initiatives in sugar factories, converting agro-waste into energy and promoting bioethanol as an alternative cooking fuel.

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'Install e-learning systems to address shortage of teachers'

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA District Commissioner Paskasi Muragili has called upon education officers in the district to put in place strategies to install e-learning systems in schools facing shortage of teachers.

He made the call during a meeting to receive a report on the performance of

schools in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching within the district.

Muragili said the number of schools that have started implementation since the issuance of instructions on teaching through ICT last year was not satisfactory, saying each education officer needs to ensure that each council buys ICT equipment for teach-

ing.

"We need to buy the equipment and all earmarked schools should prepare to get their equipment; involve parents through meetings and donations to facilitate access to the equipment," he said.

A total of eight secondary schools and 13 primary schools have started to implement teaching through ICT in Singida Region.

The region have has identified Mathematics, Science and English that have shortage of teachers in primary schools while for secondary schools the specified subjects are Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics and English.

Along with the determination, teams for the coordination of the programme have already been created in parallel with identi-

fying talented teachers in the specified subjects to be able to roll it out.

Elia Diga, Chairman of Singida District Council said the order has been received and is going to be implemented in collaboration with experts, parents and politicians.

"In the 1980s, it was possible for learners to study through radio in a classroom but now ICT is the real deal," he said.

Woman appointed first Liberia defence minister

MONROVIA

LIBERIA'S President Joseph Boakai has appointed a retired female brigadier general, Geraldine George, as the acting minister of defence after protests by the wives of soldiers forced the resignation of her predecessor.

This is the first time a woman is serving in the post, though it is unclear why George has been appointed only in an acting capacity.

She enlisted in the army in 2006 as it was being rebuilt following the end of a civil war and rose to become part of the elite forces. She has served as the deputy chief of staff for the last six years.

After Boakai was sworn in as president on 22 January, he appointed her as the deputy for administration in the defence ministry.

Her promotion comes after Defence Minister Prince Charles Johnson III resigned following protests by the wives of soldiers on Monday.

His appointment was confirmed by Liberia's senate only last week, but the protests forced him to step down.

The women said that as the former chief of staff of the armed forces, he was responsible for low wages and poor living conditions in the military barracks.

The women set up roadblocks near the capital, Monrovia, and elsewhere in the country, forcing Mr Boakai to cancel National Army Day celebrations on Monday.

Boakai took office after narrowly defeating the incumbent, George Weah, in a run-off election last November as neither of them secured an outright majority in the first round of voting. BBC



Former president Jakaya Kikwete and his wife, Salma Kikwete, also bid former PM Edward Lowassa final farewell in Dar es Salaam yesterday.. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pays his respects to former prime minister Edward Lowassa in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

VP hails Lowassa for 'daring spirit'

FROM PAGE 1

The late Lowassa was committed to protecting the environment while serving in the Vice President's Office and subsequently, spearheading many tree planting campaigns and cleanliness of surroundings.

These contributions are a reminder to the public on protecting sources of water to curb the effects of climate change, he said, while Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said that one important way of honouring Lowassa is by carrying forward his vision, patriotism and commitment as a path for building unity.

Ex-premier and first vice president Joseph Warioba, narrated his experiences with Lowassa as a decision maker, a man of faith and a visionary in his service to the public.

A long-time colleague and former premier, Frederick Sumaye, said that Lowassa led a glorious life where he fulfilled every responsibility that was handed to him, leaving his mark in the government, in the party, and in society, and he was always willing to provide advice whenever it was needed.

Fredrick Lowassa, current Monduli MP and son of the late ex-premier, expressed his gratitude for the massive support and encouragement for the family during their time of grief, which he said they took calmly and with dignity as their father had been hospitalised for considerable lengths up to that moment.

"Father was sick for a long time and like everyone said, he fought for his life to the end. In the battle for his life, we cannot forget to sincerely thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan because without her intervention, our father would have not made it to Saturday."

"We are very grateful to her. On the day, when the president was travelling to Italy, she tasked the Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) to attend to us and update her every 30 minutes on proceeding developments. Until our father drew his last breath, the CDF was together with us helping to save his life. We thank President Samia for her comfort, she has been a mother to us, a guardian, and a relative," the family spokesman declared.

He said the grief isn't just that of the family as children and parents whose lives were uplifted due to ward schools, the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the Lake Victoria water supply project are mourning the passing of their beloved Edward Lowassa.

UNIDO, TIB hand bioethanol, stoves dummy cheques

FROM PAGE 1

He commended the factories for prioritising environment, noting that sugar factories in Bagamoyo, Zanzibar and TPC sugar, plus Manyara sugar that convert agro-waste to energy.

Major supporters of the project are the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the European Union (EU), he said, in remarks echoed by Joseph Chilambo, the TIB director for planning and

business.

He said that in collaboration with UNIDO, the bank has issued dummy cheques to various stakeholders engaging in projects with a carbon reduction impact.

This project will also see production of many bio-ethanol cooking stoves that use energy extracted from crop wastes, he said, underlining that it is a good opportunity for entrepreneurs to chip in and establish

industrial units to produce bio-ethanol cooking fuel.

Jaffary Ally, the TPC head of administration, said the sugarcane remains to produce clean power which is added to the national grid. For 17 years, TPC produces 17 megawatts of power where 13 megawatts are for internal use and the rest sold to the state power, he elaborated.

The grant received will be used to enable four plants to raise the production of clean

energy, adding 7.5MW to the national grid, he said, explaining that the firm expects to receive new plants in April, install them and uplift clean power availability. He urged the Energy ministry to ensure a friendly environment as many sugar factories are able to produce clean energy for sale.

Frida Mlingi, executive director of Consumer's Choice Co., said the firm supplies clean energy cooking stoves in Dar es

Salaam, Coast, Morogoro and Mwanza regions.

"We have been authorised to supply 6,000 stoves in Dar es Salaam for 17 months starting August last year and another project which will involve 20,000 stoves distributed in 16 months," she said.

The company will ensure proper utilisation of the funds to ensure that residents are reached with quality clean energy cooking stoves, she added.

Committee opposes TFNC dissolution idea as NCDs burden heaps

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has yesterday heard that the planned dissolution of Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) could end nutritional research and plunge the country to heavier burden of non-communicable diseases.

Instead of dissolving it, the government has been urged to allocate and timely disburse funds to TFNC to enable it effectively execute its functions that include conducting research on nutrition.

Presenting a report for the period covering between

February 2023 and January 2024 in the National Assembly yesterday, Chairman of the Health and HIV/AIDS Committee, Stanslaus Nyongo, said the committee was of the opinion that dissolving TFNC puts public health at risk.

The committee's position comes at a time when the government during the current fiscal year allocated 20.7bn/- through the Ministry of Health for covering non-communicable diseases treatment costs in public and private health facilities.

However, a report by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for 2021/22

shows that it paid 99bn/- for treatment non-communicable diseases from the total payment of 564bn/-.

NHIF said that non-communicable diseases treatment costs are a burden, calling upon the general public to avoid foods that perpetuate health disorders.

"Retaining TFNC would complement the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2021/26. The decision to dissolve it will jeopardize this plan," said Nyongo.

The government had last December declared its inten-

tion to dissolve TFNC on the grounds that its functions will be transferred to another existing public entity with related roles.

Speaking of general activities in the health sector, he said during the current fiscal year, as of December 2023, the Ministry of Health received 187.07bn/- which is equivalent of 25.5 percent of the approved budget allocation amounting to 732.36bn/-

He said the Tanzania Commission for AIDS was approved given 25.62bn/- of which 22.19bn/- was for development projects. As of December last year, the commission had received only

1.71bn/- for development projects.

The Medical Stores Department (MSD) is facing a shortage of working capital to enable it operate efficiently in terms of production, procurement and preservation of medicines and medical equipment and reagents.

MSD had since 2022/23 requested a working capital amounting to 561.5bn/- of which 204bn/- is required for procurement of medicine and medical equipment.

Of the total amount, 66.9bn/- is needed for construction of storage facilities, 100.46bn/- for construction of pharmaceutical indus-

tries and 191bn/- for clearing debts.

"If this amount is made available, MSD will no longer rely on revenues collected from health facilities," he said.

According to the committee, the shortage of pharmaceutical industries has resulted in 80 percent imports of medicines, medical equipment and reagents.

The committee resolved that the government should embrace public private partnership as a way of attracting mega investments in the pharmaceutical industry.

"The committee resolves that the government should

consider the revival of the Arusha-based Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries and assist production at Keko Pharmaceutical Industries where it owns over 70 percent of shares," he said.

He said NHIF lacks a medical report portability coordination system for collecting patient information from dispensaries to regional referral hospitals.

"The absence of polyclinic guidelines has posed difficulties for registration of private polyclinics in the NHIF served customer portal. The committee urges the ministry to urgently work on this matter," said Nyongo.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) bids farewell to International Monetary Fund (IMF) team leader Harris Charalambos Tsangarides in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after talks focused on the evaluation of the implementation of Extended Credit Facility. The thrust was on the availability of credit for stimulating the Tanzanian economy through the production and social services sectors. Left is the IMF Resident Representative in Tanzania, Sebastian Acevedo. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Kenya, Tanzania to do joint verification of motorcycle accessories crossing borders

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AUTHORITIES in Kenya and Tanzania have been directed to undertake a joint verification on motorcycles and their related accessories being transferred between the two countries.

That was among the instructions issued from the Ministerial Session of the EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) held in Arusha.

The Ministers also directed Kenya and Tanzania to ensure that the joint verification on motorcycle accessories transferred from Kenya to Tanzania should be accomplished by June 30, 2024 and an official report to that effect be presented to the Sectoral Council.

Meanwhile the East African Community is outfitting a digital mobile application to help curb the notorious Non-Tariff Barriers to Inter-regional trade.

The Arusha-based Secretariat and EAC Partner States have set a deadline of April 30, 2024 to ensure that the mobile application goes into active operation. Trademark Africa was lauded for supporting the development of the Mobile Application for elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in East Africa.

The Mobile Application which was finalised and piloted during the National Monitoring Committee (NMCs) meetings in March 2023 allows users to report the complaints in one of the three EAC official languages, English, Swahili and French.

The mobile app can be downloaded from the Apple Store, Google's Play Store, and other Android devices, and can be accessed through www.eac-mobile.portal.africa

The EAC Secretariat with support from Trademark Africa will undertake sensitisation and capacity building of relevant public and private stakeholders in Partner States on the EAC Elimination of NTBs Mobile Application.

Non-Tariff barriers have been a major hindrance to the free movement of goods as enshrined in the EAC Customs and Common Market Protocols. These are obstacles to international trade that are not import or export duties.

They usually appear as import quotas, subsidies, customs delays, technical barriers, or other systems preventing or impeding trade.

On the other hand the EAC Secretariat was instructed to prioritize the harmonisation of calibration services for the road tankers in the Region in the financial year 2024/2025.

On the prioritisation of negotiations with the seven countries that have requested for Free Trade Area (FTA) arrangements with the Community, the council approved negotiations of FTA Agreements between the EAC and the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Singapore.

Tanroads CEO calls for enhanced cooperation at workers' council

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Mohamed Besta has called for collaboration among workers of the agency to bring about efficiency.

Besta made the call in Dodoma yesterday when inaugurating the 19th Tanroads workers' council.

"Let us continue to work together as a family and as people with one vision so that we address challenges ahead of us and serve the people," he said.

He commended Tanroads staff for the collaboration they offered him, saying the short time he has spent at the agency has been interesting due to the support he receives from co-workers.

Besta thanked the government for issuing a permit to employ 2,400

employees who are working under contracts with the agency.

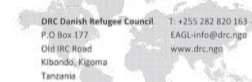
He said when he took over the leadership of the agency, only 755 people were employed permanently and 2,000 others were on contract but several initiatives have been made to engage more on contract.

He said the agency was working on improving welfare of the workers, saying the process will continue depending on the economic status of the country.

The workers' council is taking place for two days in Dodoma, involving 100 members from different regions across

Tanzania.

Let us continue to work together as a family and as people with one vision people



DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) intends to enter into Purchase Agreements (PAs) for the period of 12 months for various goods and services. Therefore, Danish Refugee Council is inviting vendors for their expression of interest to provide various goods and services to DRC.

The expression of interest will base on below categories:

- Design and Supply of Branded Promotional Materials, Banners, Flyers and Related Materials (Visibility items)
- Supply & Delivery of General Office Stationery
- Supply & Delivery of Motor Vehicle, motorbike, tricycles Spares, Tyres, Batteries, Consumables and Related Accessories
- Supply of Bottled Drinking Water for Office
- Supply of Agricultural materials
- Supply of Hardware and Building materials
- Supply of Household Items
- Provision of Hotel Conference Facilities & Accommodation

Tendering for the above purchase agreement, and all interested bidders must abide to the following instructions before applying:

- Do not use correction fluid when you do an error. Use a new sheet.
- Do not convert the EOJ documents to Word or Excel
- Pay attention to where you must sign, stamp, and put the date.
- Do not forget to attach the required documents. After completing all sections in full, sign, stamp, put the date.

The Purchase agreements may result into one DRC purchase Order during the period of twelve months of the Purchase agreement.

Therefore, Danish Refugee Council in Kibondo requests the suppliers to submit their expression of interest for the above services.

The Expression of Interest Documents can be collected at the Danish Refugee Council Office in Kibondo from 14th February 2024 during the working days and hours: 8:00 Am to 16:30 PM at the following address: Old IRC Road Area, Kibondo. You can call on: +255 653 468 638 or by email joram.nshatsi@drc.ngo to receive the soft copy by email.

The closing date for the submission of the bids is 27th February 2024 at 16:30Hrs.

You should return your EOJ form through rfq.tza@drc.ngo OR direct to the DRC office otherwise is void.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002

COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

CNBMI TANZANIA LIMITED

(In Liquidation: Company Number 127673)

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all the interested parties and the general public that a **GENERAL MEETING** of the Company will be held on **11th March 2024** at the registered office of the liquidator, at 10:30 in the morning EAT, at which the liquidator will lay an account of the winding up of the Company and provide any explanation thereof.

Liquidator (s) **LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE**
 Liquidator's address **368 MSASANI ROAD MIKUMI HOUSE OYSTERBAY P.O BOX 9673 DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA**
 Date of appointment **20 September 2023**
 By whom appointed **MEMBERS**

Signed.....
 Date: **9 February 2024**

Name In Block Letters: **LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE**

FARM AFRICA PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as non-governmental organization (NGO) under the NGO Act with a certificate of registration No. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community-based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more, and sell for more: we help farmers not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global strategy for the period 2021-2025 with a mission of *Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture*.

On 9th February 2024, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with the World Food Program (WFP) worth TZS 1,080,047,939 /= to implement a nine (09) month project that will focus on increasing the incomes and resilience of smallholders by providing them access to commercially sustainable value chains and to make markets work better for smallholder farmers (with surplus or surplus potential) by working through partnerships with off-takers, agri-related businesses, service providers and to align activities with relevant Government policies and coordinate with public sector players in specific value chains.

The project will be implemented in Hanang, Babati, Simanjiro, and Kiteto Districts in Manyara region, Singida, Iramba and Mkalama Districts in Singida region, Mvomero, Kilosa and Kilombero Districts in the Morogoro region. This notice is to comply with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmfrica.org

Dar es Salaam bids Edward Lowassa final farewell



Tanzania People's Defence Forces officers carry the casket bearing former prime minister Edward Lowassa's body towards the public viewing venue, Karimjee Hall, ready for the paying of respects to get going. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Government leaders wait for their turns to pay their respects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Former Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein pays his respects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Former Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume pays his respects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Cabinet ministers and other mourners pay their respects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango consoles the late Edward Lowassa's wife, Regina Lowassa, shortly after paying his last respects. Photo: VPO



It's time for more Dar es Salaam residents to pay their respects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman takes his turn to pay his respects.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute medical experts pictured at the Dar es Salaam-based specialised facility yesterday attending to a patient destined for leg-to-heart blood vessel transplant yesterday. This was at the ongoing four-day heart surgery camp JKCI specialists are running in collaboration with their colleagues from the US-based African Doctors Association. Photo courtesy of JKCI

Park to donate desks to schools in good neighbourliness drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

The Burigi-Chato National Park is to donate 605 desks to schools in the reserve's neighbouring villages to improve learning environment for pupils.

The desks donation worth 42m/- is one of the park's good neighbourhood initiatives for five districts surrounding it. Administratively, the Burigi-Chato National Park is located in Kagera Region within Muleba, Ngara, Biharamulo districts and Chato District in Geita Region.

Speaking at Bisibo Secondary School in Bisibo Township, Biharamulo district, which is one of the schools benefiting from the project, Ombeni Hingi, senior officer in charge of good neighbourhood relations unit at the park, said the

selected schools are those in dire need.

"Those desks are in the procurement process in Biharamulo District. We are procuring 242 chairs and tables for five primary and secondary schools," he said.

He said they intend to donate 122 chairs and tables in Ngara District and 241 chairs and tables in Chato District, bringing the total number to 605 for fiscal year 2022/2023.

Namwamini Faresi, Bisibo Secondary School headmistress, said the challenge of lack of desks is a big problem that forces some pupils to sit on the floor during classes.

She thanked the park leadership for the chairs and tables but stated that there is still a gap, appealing to various stakeholders to step forward and help.

Thousands of children lined up for measles jabs in Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

A TOTAL of 544,616 under-five children in Tabora Region are set to benefit from measles-rubella vaccination in a campaign that starts tomorrow and runs until Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting of the region's basic health committee, Igunga District Commissioner Sauda Mtindoo said the campaign was another opportunity of ensuring good immunity for children.

She appealed to leaders to educate parents and the public in general to take their children for vaccination.

She said the government through the Ministry of Health has been coordinating national campaigns to eradicate diseases and reduce under-five deaths as well as cut costs of medical treatment.

According to the World Health Organization, immunization currently prevents between 3.5 million to 5 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza and measles.

Mtindoo noted that in Tanzania the success of vaccination has been seen by eradication of smallpox,

whooping cough (pertussis) and croup and tetanus which have completely disappeared due to vaccinations given to more than 90 percent of children in the country. "However, we have a challenge of some parents not sending their children for various vaccinations while others do not complete schedules of their children's vaccinations. So, leaders have a role to play to ensure that our children are safe by sending them for vaccinations," she said

"In 2022/2023 there was an outbreak of measles in the country and Tabora Region was affected. We must ensure that the mistake does not repeat," she said.

Dr Honoratha Rutatinisibwa, medical officer in charge of Kitebe referral hospital, said the campaign is aimed at increasing immunity of children by giving them vaccination even if they have already received it.

"We have received an order from the government to supervise the campaign and ensure that as many children as possible are reached," she said.

Some leaders and health stakeholders in the region promised to help send the message to communities for positive results.



Residents of Songe ward in Kilindi District, Tanga Region, pictured yesterday slashing maize planted in an area said to be set aside for the construction of buildings to accommodate Form Five and Six secondary school students. The government is reported to have injected 400m/- into the project. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Start online businesses to create jobs, youth told

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania Misawa Yasushi, has encouraged youth to establish online business startups to create employment opportunities and contribute to the national economy.

Misawa said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a joint reporting session for startups established by students at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Under the theme 'Empowering the new generation of entrepreneurs', the event was organised by Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam.

He named the three startups as Blue Smile, Timu Golan and Halo Sustain developed by students of the University of Dar es Salaam. The envoy said that business startups as new digital platform have a lot to contribute to communities as well as the nation.

Misawa advised Tanzanian youth to establish startups based on the country's norms and customs and later spread them abroad.

"Today is a new step in the development of business and startups in Tanzania. It is our hope that our collaborations will further enhance new businesses," he said.

Prof Nelson Boniface, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Dar es Salaam said that teaching business and innovation was part of the varsity's roles.

He said the Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (DIEN) of the University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with JICA organized the competition with the aim of equipping students with essential knowledge, skills, tools and techniques on innovation and entrepreneurship.

He said others were to introduce participants to the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship, to enable the participants to develop business models, develop potential

commercializable products as well as introduce participants to the aspects of intellectual property.

JICA Chief Representative in Tanzania Hitoshi Ara said that youth leveraging innovation is essential for solving various social and economic challenges and contributing to achievement of the sustainable development goals in Tanzania.

Hitoshi said students are required to develop their ability to effectively solve social problems and launch startups, adding that students must further think about how to contribute to sustainable development.

"I'm very glad that JICA and UDSM provide these kinds of opportunities and youth can continue pursuing their goals," he said.

Ivone Urrio, Co-founder of Hyalosustainer Co.Ltd that emerged overall winner thanked JICA for the support and mentorship. She said that their project titled "Hyaluronic Acid" was very important for environmental conservation.

GARDAWORLD

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS GW/2024-2026/PQ/01

GARDAWORLD TANZANIA LIMITED is the leading security provider in Tanzania, GW has been providing security services to the Private and Commercial sectors in Tanzania since 1999. This has been predominantly in the mining, agricultural, and industrial, commercial, and Residential security market throughout Tanzania.

The company boasts of being the market leader in Tanzania providing a full range of security services, ranging from man guarding security dogs and robust electronic security solutions.

GW now invites suitably qualified and competent bidders to submit sealed prequalification bid for the supply of various goods, services and works for the Financial Year 2024-2026. In one or more of the categories appearing below. The objective of the prequalification is to identify competent individual /firms /companies that will be called upon from time to time to quote / tender for supply of goods, services and works during the financial year 2024/2026

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	
SUPPLY OF GOODS	
GW 2024/01	Supply and delivery of general office stationery and computer consumables
GW 2024/02	Design and printing of promotional, communication and corporate branded materials
GW 2024/03	Supply and delivery of tailored staff uniforms and footwears
GW 2024/04	Supply and delivery of Protective clothing and equipment
GW 2024/05	Supply and delivery of general alarms, CCTV and Access Control devices and biometric equipment
GW 2024/06	Supply and delivery of ICT equipment, computers, Laptops, Tablets Computer bags ,servers and related accessories
GW 2024/07	Supply and servicing of VHF Radios, Batteries, chargers, antennas, repeaters etc.
GW 2024/08	Supply of motor vehicle, spare parts, tyres, tubes, batteries and accessories (majority, Toyota single and double cabs etc)
GW 2024/09	Supply of office furniture, furnishes, assorted fixtures and fittings
GW 2024/10	Supply, servicing, and maintenance of air condition equipment
GW 2024/11	Supply and delivery of dog feeds and dog handling equipment
GW 2024/12	Supply of Fuels and Lubricants
GW 2024/13	Supply, installation and maintenance of generators
GW 2024/14	Supply, delivery, and maintenance of firefighting equipment
GW 2024/15	Supply and delivery hardware, Electricals, and construction materials.
GW 2024/16	Supply of security seals and accessories
GW 2024/17	Supply of office kitchen supplies (sugar, milk, coffee, bottled drinking water, water dispensers, beverages etc.)
GW 2024/18	Supply and delivery of general office toiletries , cleaning detergents ,cleaning accessories and equipments
PROVISION OF SERVICES	
GW 2024/19	Motor vehicle's servicing, maintenance & repairs
GW 2024/20	Motorcycle's servicing, maintenance & repairs
GW 2024/21	Provision of car hire (short and long term) and leasing services
GW 2024/22	Provision of multifunctional printers leasing services
GW 2024/23	Provision of Clearing and Forwarding services
GW 2024/24	Provision of corporate branding services e.g., branding of vehicles, installation of vinyl stickers for walls, window markings, exterior led signage etc
GW 2024/25	Provision of travel and air ticketing services
GW 2024/26	Provision of dog veterinary services, health medicines and supplies (anti-tick, de-wormers etc.)
GW 2024/27	Provision of fumigation services (pest control)
GW 2024/28	Provision of recycling services (recycling of old used Askari uniforms and boots)
GW 2024/29	Provision of motor vehicle valuation services
GW 2024/30	Provision of catering services
PROVISION OF WORKS	
GW 2024/31	Provision of minor construction services including tile works, repainting (interior and exterior) and renovation services

1. The Prequalification document with details can be obtained during working hours from GardaWorld Offices, DAR ES SALAAM, MWANZA, and ARUSHA. A complete set of Prequalification document(s) shall be purchased by interested applicant on submission of a written application letter to the address given under paragraph below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TZS 50,000/- per category applied. Payment should be made at NCBA Bank A/C 103895100026 Kenya Kazi Security (T) Ltd. Please note that if you intend to provide multiple goods / services, a separate prequalification of suppliers document must be submitted for each category.

2. All existing suppliers are advised to participate alongside prospective suppliers in order to be evaluated and considered. Please note that Prequalification is not a guarantee for business opportunity, bidders will be invited to submit their quotations on need basis based on the opportunities available.

3. GW reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant wholly or in part and is not bound to accept the lowest offer. Prospective bidders are hereby notified that canvassing of any kind will lead to automatic disqualification. GW may plan to visit supplier premises to verify information contained in the bid documents and obtain assurance of the vendor's capacity to deliver.

4. Pre-qualification in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked "Pre-qualification of Supplier for FY 2024/2025" and indicating the category number applied for on the envelope should be dropped at GW office (upon signing of register as evidence of submission) and addressed to:

Procurement Committee
GardaWorld Tanzania Ltd
PLT 16, Lucy Lameck Street
P.O. Box 12747
DAR ES SALAAM

Branch Manager
GardaWorld Tanzania Ltd
PLT 40, Nassa Rd, Capri point
P.O. Box 2076
MWANZA

General Manager
GardaWorld Tanzania Ltd
PLT 11 Simeon Rd, Kijenge Area
P.O. Box 10675
ARUSHA

The closing date for the submission of applications for Prequalification of Suppliers is Friday, 1st March, 2024 5.00 PM



Tanzanian professional mountain guide Theophil Karia (L) poses for a souvenir photo with Danish tourists at Mweka yesterday shortly after completing what they described as an "amazing six-day climb right to the roof of Africa - the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro". Photo by Correspondent James Lanka

MSD awards three councils for prompt payment of bills

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MEDICAL Stores Department (MSD) Mbeya zone has given a special award to three district councils in the region for promptly making payments for medicines, medical equipment and reagents supplied in the 2022/2023 financial year.

The councils that have been recognized are Ileje and Tunduma in Songwe Region and Busokelo in Mbeya Region.

The awards were given to council medical officers at the weekend during a meeting of MSD stakeholders to deliberate on the implementation of the institution's activities and how to resolve challenges faced by both parties. Marco Masala, MSD zonal manager, said the department serves all councils in Mbeya, Songwe and Rukwa regions as well as Makete in Njombe Region with the biggest client being Mbeya zonal referral hospital.

He said the awards were given to recognize the councils for looking for other financial sources to pay the bill instead of relying on the government budget, adding that the awards will inspire other councils to emulate the three.

"The awards are part of a motivational token to the regional, district and council medical officers to properly manage revenue sources so that the money collected can be used to

buy medicines and medical equipment for their service centers. We have also issued certificates for all our clients," he said.

Masala said with the increase in health centers in the zone, MSD is planning to boost efficiency by collaborating with stakeholders and customers, adding that the meeting was part of its strategy to improve service delivery.

Enock Mwambalasa, council medical officer at Tunduma Town Council, said the council has been collecting revenue from all its sources by following various government guidelines and principles.

He said they have been collecting money from people paying for public services, through the National Health Insurance fund (NHIF) and through the Improved Community Health Fund (iCHF) to pay for medicines, medical equipment and reagents.

"We have been ordering medicines after every three months and making timely payment for the same," he said.

He said the awards will motivate the recognized councils to boost efforts in utilizing internal revenue sources to purchase medicines and pay debts owed to MSD.

Beno Malisa, Mbeya District Commissioner, wanted MSD stakeholders to implement their responsibilities professionally so as to provide quality services and resolve complaints.

American mountaineer starts 51st Kilimanjaro climb

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TANZANIA'S goodwill ambassador for tourism in the United States Macon Dunnagan has started his 51st climb of Mount Kilimanjaro with a group of other tourists from his country.

Dunnagan led a total of nine other tourists from the US in a special 6-day expedition which began on Monday through Rongai route.

He was accompanied by the re-

nowned American author Nathaniel Smith as well as Julie Zolfo who said she will have a special Mount Kilimanjaro climb next year to commemorate International Women's Day as well as to promote Mount Kilimanjaro base climb for those who cannot make it to the top.

In an interview with this paper before he began the ascent, Dunnagan, who is from Charlotte, North Carolina, said he was excited to embark on the historic six-day Mount Kilimanjaro climb.

"I am a professional mountaineer as I have already climbed Mount Kilimanjaro 50 times and I am thrilled to embark on expedition with my fellow mountaineering enthusiasts," he said.

Dunnagan further said that in his experience, Mount Meru which he climbed in 2021 is more challenging to scale than Kilimanjaro because during summiting he used a special chain to do a technical climb.

"My Meru expedition was more special and more challeng-

ing to me compared to Mount Kilimanjaro climbing and Mount Hanang," he said.

The envoy further explained that he has promoted major tourist destinations in Tanzania in the US, especially at Washington DC and Chicago travel shows. Between March 25 and 26 last year, he also promoted Tanzania's major tourist destinations at Atlanta Travel Show.

The US mountaineer commended the making of Tanzania: The Royal Tour documentary

featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan, saying good results have been seen in promoting Tanzania's tourism destinations worldwide.

He said that President Samia made a wise decision to go for the film as it will help attract more investment that would result in creation of more jobs and revenue.

Before his marriage in the US, Dunnagan engaged his wife Kim Brown at the Serengeti National Park some years back before

celebrating their engagement by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro through the Rongai route.

Dunnagan who regards having climbed Mount Kilimanjaro 50 times an achievement has written many travel books with some detailing Tanzania's tourist destinations, including his famous one 'Sons of Kilimanjaro'.

Dunnagan was selected as ambassador by Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) due to his efforts to promote the country's tourism destinations across the world.

Brela mulls review of company legislation to further investment

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) is set to review the Company Act, 2002 to repeal some sections so as to create conducive environment for investment.

Godfrey Nyaisa, chief executive officer of Brela said this during a seminar with Parliamentary Committee on Industries, Trade, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries which received the agency's performance report.

He said the review of the law was part of reforms meant to improve the environment for doing business.

"We have told the committee that we are going to review the law by removing sections that hinder investment so that businesses grow," he said.

He said in 2018, Brela launched systems that allow people to register their businesses online.

Deo Mwanyika, the committee chairman, said that they were satisfied with the performance of the agency and added that it is important for MPs to have the understanding of the institution since the government has made major reforms at Brela.

"This good business environment is for domestic and foreign investors; this institution is the lifeblood of business because the first window that the investor opens is Brela," he said.

Mwanyika said that the planned will make Tanzania a country with good investment environment and advised Brela to sensitize traders on business registration through business officers based in each council.

Exaud Kigahe, Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, said the government will continue to create an enabling environment for businesses and investment in the country.



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongela (C, foreground) cuts the ribbon in Arusha city at the weekend to launch a tourist restaurant. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Project resolves long-running land conflicts in Songwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) has resolved several border conflicts in Songwe District, allowing people to engage in economic activities peacefully.

Cecilia Kavishe, Songwe District Executive Director made the remarks here at the weekend when addressing residents.

Kavishe said LTIP project has helped re-

solve border disputes between Songwe District in Songwe Region and Chunya District in Mbeya Region which lasted for eight years since the founding of Songwe Region in 2016 which distracted activities of farmers, pastoralists and miners.

"People expressed optimism when the project was introduced to stakeholders for the first time and that turned out to be true," she said. Kavishe said residents of Ileya Village in Songwe District were happy that the

disputes have been resolved and that there was not a single dispute that had not been addressed.

She said that there was good cooperation between the district's leadership and the team of experts implementing the project, adding that they were to distribute 55 out of 75 customary title deeds to the people.

Remi Lipiki, supervisor of LTIP project in Songwe Region, said by that time they had successfully resolved disputes between

Songwe District in Songwe Region and Chunya District in Mbeya Region.

The resolved disputes were between Ileya Village and Lupa Sokoni Village in Chunya District, Mbeya Region; Ifwenkenya Village in Songwe Region against Ipwizi Village in Mbeya Region; Ifwenkenya Village in Songwe against Mjele Village in Mbeya; Ilasilo Village in Songwe against Chang'ombe Village in Mbeya; Patamela Village in Songwe against Mwaoga Village in Mbeya and Itindi

village in Songwe against Iyanga Village in Mbeya. Abraham Sambila, Chairman of Songwe District Council, said the project brought relief to people of Songwe who now own and have title deeds, adding that land survey was conducted free.

He said that when people have their title deeds, they can apply for loans from various financial institutions and invest in economic activities to improve their livelihoods.

Incorporate conservation in your activities, traders urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MEMBERS of Village Community Bank (VICOPA) groups in Burunge Wildlife Management Area (Burunge WMA) in Manyara Region have been urged to be good ambassadors of environmental conservation in for sustainable businesses.

Faraja Ngerageza, assistant regional administrative secretary in Manyara Region made the call here yesterday while opening a training session for leaders of the groups, saying it was important for them to incorporate conservation initiatives in their business projects.

She noted that the groups recently received a capital boost of 10m/- from Chemchem Association- a non-profit organisation lo-

cated within the Burunge WMA that works in partnership with key stakeholders to conserve Tarangire and Manyara ecosystems while simultaneously empowering local communities.

"You have received the training which is very important for you to improve supervision in the groups as per new government guidelines but also how to chip in and extend efforts in the protection of nature," she said.

She wanted the groups to utilise the funds received and ensure that part of the money goes to environmental protection initiatives.

Earlier, Chemchem Association protect manager Napendaeli Wazoeli said that the organisation

has been helping the groups to boost their capitals through loans to improve their businesses.

"We saw it better to bring the leaders and equip them with the new changes in the government policy and guidelines about VICOPA; this is very important as it helps them run their groups well as per the country's laws," she said.

She said apart from the training, the groups have been also equipped with saving skills as well as wildlife and environmental conservation.

Fadhila Nyambulapi, community development officer in Babati District said the training will also help the leaders to be able to resolve various lending challenges within the groups.



Children cared for at House of Hope of Ursuline orphanage at Miyuji in Dodoma Urban District pose for a photo with Hombolo Local Government Training Institute students and Church of The Lord Jesus for All Nations worshippers shortly after the two groups gifted the centre an assortment of items. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Councillor agitated after market turned golf course

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WARD councillors in Mbeya city have expressed disappointment with the city's leaders for not including renovation of Uhindini market in the next financial year budget.

The market was destroyed by fire 13 years ago but planning experts in the city council have not put it as priority in several budgets.

Instead, the Uhindini market area is abandoned and elite members of the society utilize it to play golf in the evenings and on weekends, generating no revenue for the council.

Speaking at a meeting here, Josephine Qamunga, Sisimba Ward councillor, said the market space has remained open and is being utilized by some individuals to play golf, which is not its planned purpose.

She said since the market fell down, people have been told that it will be rebuilt and modernized without any implementation, and they were hoping to be completed in the next fiscal year budget.

"I have reviewed all of the articles, including our priorities. I have not seen any budget for building our Uhindini market; if it is impossible, let us build a school in that area since it demonstrates that the market is unachievable," she said.

Mbeya City Director John Nchimbi said the market is one of the city's major projects that will be completed in collaboration with other partners, adding that if they try to implement it alone, it will take a long time to complete.

He said they are still in negotiations with various stakeholders, including the TIB Bank, and that they are prepared to implement the project which he described as one of the city's beautification projects.

He said they had initially discussed it with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and were prepared to implement it, but the plans changed after senior management changed.

"I personally spoke with the director of the bank, and on February 28 this year, our mayor and the economist were invited to Dar es Salaam for further negotiations," he said.

Dr Mohamed Issa, Mayor of Mbeya City, urged councillors to be patient while they seek out investors in the area who will invest effectively and benefit the council.

He said in addition to finding a capable investor, the area must be modernized in order to attract visitors to Mbeya Region.

"This area is in the centre of our city; we need it to be attractive to our visitors when it is modernized. We ask councillors to be patient while the efforts of getting the right person to invest continue," he said.

Mbeya authorities asked to build toilets at key meeting premises

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TRADITIONAL leaders in Mbeya Region have asked Mbeya City Council to construct toilets at Kagera Primary School football ground in order to enhance hygiene.

According to the leaders, the area has always been accommodating public meetings thus making it important to have enough and clean toilets.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Rocket Mwashinga, chairman of Mbeya traditional chiefs, said that people who have been conducting meetings at the ground use the school toilets which are overwhelmed.

He said some people have been defecating and urinating on the stadium's perimeter wall and lawns, causing environmental contamination.

Mwashinga said if the government constructs restrooms in the area, it will reduce environmental contamination and prevent adults from using school restrooms.

"Almost every week a meetings takes place here and the gatherings usually draw large crowds. The meetings range from religious crusades to political rallies and for such crowds to use school restrooms is utterly wrong," Mwashinga said.

He said for adults to use school toilets in large gatherings could transfer certain diseases to pupils.

Responding to the request, Beno Malisa, Mbeya district commissioner, acknowledged that it is true the area hosts events attended by huge crowds and promised that said they will work on the matter.

Teachers drilled in ICT in line with new curriculum

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of 639 primary school teachers in Singida Region have been trained on innovative teaching and learning techniques which includes effective use of information and communication technology (ICT).

The training was offered by the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) in collaboration with President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) through the Shule Bora project.

Project coordinator Winifrida Chilumba said the aim of the training is to equip teachers, especially those teaching lower classes with necessary ICT skills to match with the new curriculum changes.

"In the training we have emphasized the key areas of teaching English which we want pupils to read, write and count and ICT use," he said.

Chilumba said the government expects teachers who receive the training to be able to acquire skills so that they can adapt well to the new curriculum.



www.camfed.org
tanzania@camfed.org
+255 22 276 1065 / 1066
Ursino Estate South, Plot No 44, Uporoto Street,
(PO Box 33835), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS SKILLS OFFICER (1) AND DISTRICT PROGRAM COORDINATORS (VARIOUS DISTRICTS)

CAMFED Overview

CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists, and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit District Program Coordinators based in various districts.

Job Title: Business Skills Officer.
Reporting to: Program Manager Enterprise Development.

Job Purpose:

As Program Officer guided by CAMFED's organizational policies and procedures, you are responsible for building capacity of the CAMFED stakeholders in the operationalization of the CAMFED strategic plan. Specifically the third imperative on enterprise development. This will include Program design, adaptations, coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of all enterprise programs in the partner districts which are anchored towards our core mission: to multiply educational opportunities for marginalised children (especially girls) and to develop the CAMA Association network as a vehicle for young women's empowerment.

Key Accountabilities:

- Oversee the implementation and management of the CAMFED Loan Program, this includes the design of loan products, management of repayments and delinquencies, Maintain an up to date records of clients loans and ensure there is adequate support system and structure for the delivery of the program at national and district level.
- Take lead in the establishment and development of CAMA business enterprises. Ensure the business acquire legal status. Support the business acquire market and cease business opportunities national and international.
- Support young women to develop robust business and marketing plan this includes the establishment of CAMA value chains to cease in house market in the network, expand their market base and boost their production for sustainable and durable businesses.
- Build and develop effective relationships with stakeholders - CDC, District CAMA Chairperson, other CAMA Guides and CAMFED District Coordinators to create a better business environment for Business Guides and CAMA entrepreneurs.
- Creatively introduce and/or apply technology to bring innovative solutions to the challenges faced by marginalized young women in the enterprise sector, Collaboratively work with partners and leaders of CAMA network to bring these solutions to young women in a practical and friendly approach that address the needs of the young woman
- Liaise with District Business Committees to develop and deliver needs-based training to CAMA entrepreneurs. And support young women to cease financial capital resources within the district and outside from public and private partners.
- Proactively research and understand the options available for market/supply chain linkages in the districts and identify the best fit for CAMA entrepreneurs. Work with CAMA members in other districts and CAMFED countries to identify and share such opportunities.
- Build capacity and provide the technical support to the District Business Committees to understand the business finance options available, identify the best fit for CAMA entrepreneurs, and assist young women to access these affordable business loans.
- Manage donor work plan, budget, and provide prompt quality donor reports supported with robust evidence of the achieved work.
- Explore partnership with other existing private sector supporting organizations and identify opportunities that fit the needs of CAMA entrepreneurs.
- Custodian of enterprise related Case studies and building team capacity to document best practice
- Coordinate the implementation of the of Business Guides Program. Document best practices and lessons for wider sharing. Ensure the salesforce has up to date guides and entrepreneurs' data to supporting organization programming adaptations.
- Build the capacity of the business guides to form and grow a mentorship program within CAMA to facilitate business peer learning with in the network and outside the network via internship and apprenticeship from established partners
- Build and manage relationships with partners and stakeholders from private and public sectors and institutions to support the implementation of the organization strategic plan.
- Create awareness and sensitize young women on the country business relations, Policies and procedure, ensure there is enough information to inform young women to make informed business decisions, keep the department up to date with government policy or relation changes which impact country business context specifically the targeted young women group.
- Build capacity of CAMA leaders and district staff in the establishment and supervision of district CAMA centers and ensure resources are available for the use of CAMA members, proper documentation is kept on the usage of the centers.
- Carry out any other duties as assigned by your supervisor.

Person Specifications

Essential:

A relevant degree or professional qualification in Community development, Business administration, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, agriculture economics and agribusiness and any other relevant.

Desired Skills and Experience

- Project management, including planning, working to deadlines, budgeting, collaborating, and risk management.
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills, including qualitative data collection skills through interviews, site visits, etc.
- Training facilitation skills.
- Strong research and analytical skills.
- Very strong writing skills and the ability to match writing style to audience.
- Experience of inter-agency/ inter-disciplinary work.
- Knowledge of Tanzania's women- led rural enterprise (including key stakeholders and familiarity with related initiatives)
- Knowledge of climate change and climate education.
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Full working proficiency in both Swahili and English.
- Ability to periodically travel domestically and internationally.
- Excellent negotiating, networking, and presentation skills.
- Ability to work within a multi-cultural team with diverse experience including government.

Job Title: District Program Coordinators
Location: Various Districts in Tanzania.
Accountable to: Regional Program Officer

Job Purpose:

As District Programs Coordinator, guided by CAMFED's organizational policies and procedures, you are responsible for supporting the CDC's operationalization of the CAMFED strategic plan in the designated district. This will include co design and jointly implementation of programs in alignment with the government priorities and CAMFED mission. Among others you will also be responsible to work with government in monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of all CAMFED Operations in the district towards our core mission: to multiply educational opportunities for marginalised children (especially girls) and to develop the CAMA network as a vehicle for young women's empowerment.

Specific Accountabilities:

A comprehensive support system targeted at the most marginalised girls.

- Identify, recruit, and support the marginalised girls to learn and thrive in school. Implementation of education program
- Mobilize communities and build their capacity to support more children and respond to challenges faced by students in and out of school; you will work closely with government and private institutions to bring solutions and support to Community led interventions to support the implementation of education program.
- Creatively bring solutions and lessons from the CAMA fund & Community and school support to girls' education socially and financially, ensure there is adequate evidence of support for reporting purposes.
- Prepare and provide capacity building programs to key CAMFED stakeholders, supporting teaching and learning at school and district level such CDC, TM, HoS and Parents to ensure 100% attendance, retention and performance of the girls supported through CAMFED education programs.
- Facilitate preparation and submission to National Office work plans, budgets, activity reports, expenditures and financial statements on CAMFED operations in the district e.g. for education program, community outreach and capacity building meetings and training and young women post school programs.
- Promotion, implementation, observance, and adherence with the CAMFED and government Child Protection Policy in all district operations.
- Promotion, implementation, observance, and adherence with CAMFED Procurement Policy, and other policies as guided by the organization.

Young women transition to secure livelihoods and join a powerful peer network of leaders.

- Work with CAMFED Association leaders to recruit new young women to join the network after completing secondary education. Ensure the recruitment is adhering to CAMA constitution.
- Recruit, Organize, coordinate and facilitate trainings of guide programs in the district including maintaining up to date database of guides, write reports, case studies and lessons emerging from guides and ensuring guides have access to the available incentive packages in the district e.g. Learner guides, Transition guides, Business guides, Agriculture guides, BTEC, CAMFED and government loans.
- Follow up and ensure My better world sessions are in school timetable. Guides are attending their sessions regularly and monthly reports from guides are collected and submitted in the system on monthly basis working and other available facilities in the schools' district.
- Follow up and monitor the delivery of the enterprise program outreach sessions with entrepreneurs, this includes timely recruitment of entrepreneurs, timely reporting and keeping an up-to-date database of the enterprise data in the district.
- Support CDC on the formation and implementation of district business committee, provide secretariat support to the committee and ensure there is timely and active provision of technical support to business guides and entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate the provision and repayment of both CAMFED and government loans and grants to guides and other CAMA members which includes providing data base information.
- Build CAMA leaders capacity to be able to identify skills, talents and interest in the network and maintain active membership in at village, ward and district levels.
- Technically support CAMA leaders to secure space for the establishment of CAMA centres as village to district level, Ensure the centres have adequate information and appropriate management system to render services to CAMA members regularly.

Adoption of best practices in national education systems at scale

- Work with the government at the district, ward, and community to co-designing the implementation of programs.
- Document lessons learned, best practices and case studies to influence policy change to reach more marginalised girls and young women with support.
- Share the approved information with the district, ward, schools, and villages administration to inform the implementation of programs.
- Forge partnerships with public and private organizations/institutions to leverage on the existing programs and resources to support the sustainability and growth of guide programs and young women incentives through availability of technical trainings, financing capital, access to market.
- Facilitate CAMA to CAMA business collaboration, trade, and marketing strategy; for example, by connecting new CAMA entrepreneurs to more experienced mentors/partners and supporting CAMA entrepreneurs in complementary sectors to work together.
- Stay up to date with Government policies and opportunities within the district regarding education, youth and enterprise opportunities and share insights with the wider CAMFED team to ensure alignment.

Other duties

- Logistical arrangements/support for all district operations in the district
 - E.g. Invitations, accommodation, and transport arrangements for workshop participants
 - Conduct routine meetings, monitoring, and verification exercises.
 - Scheduling appointments, meetings, and personal appearances by the CDC/ any such persons as requested by organisation.
 - Coordinating donor, government, and external visits in the district: evaluators etc
- Participate as CAMFED staff member in provincial, national, regional and international engagements as requested.
- Management of all CAMFED assets at the district office and Cama Centres
- Other duties as assigned from time to time.

Person Specifications

Essential:

- Any bachelor's degree.

Desired Skills and Experience

- Practical business experience and understanding of core business skills including financial record-keeping.
- Ideally first-hand experience of launching / growing your own business and/or of mentoring other businesses.
- Previous experience in supporting your community is an added advantage.
- Must have skills in using Microsoft office package.
- Strong training skills and the ability to build a positive, supportive training environment.
- Must have a proactive and problem-solving approach.
- Robust planning, management, and reporting skills; experience of line management a bonus.
- Excellent communication skills to liaise effectively with CAMFED Enterprise Development teams and external partners.
- Must have strong relationship management skills and the ability to connect with different people at all levels in society - particularly deepening partnerships within government entrepreneurship structures, private institutions, and successful individual entrepreneurs for the benefit of CAMA.
- Able to work under pressure and as part of a team.

Application Details

Do you feel you meet the criteria for this exciting job opportunities? If so, please send your CV, academic certificates and covering letter to hrtanzania@camfed.org on or before 21st February 2024

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Planting trees can be generated via global environment mainstreaming

THERE are always reports on environmental activities around the country, one such item surfacing lately being to the effect that that Mzumbe University has started implementing a project aligned with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's orientations.

It follows a directive to plant more than 20,000 trees around the higher learning institution on the outskirts of Morogoro municipality, thus sort of "winning back" the area's biodiversity of old.

It is true that Mzumbe may have an especially amicable environment for tree planting, but no place is too prohibitive for vegetation restoration to work. One surprising feature about plant adaptation and lessons for restoration of green environments is resilience, which is best conveyed by a time-tested expression that even if the earth is desolate, a scent of water brings seeds to germinate.

The singular example is to look at some city drainage canals with a meter and half depth of concrete walls and wide floor, which are periodically mowed as plenty of resilient grass grows in the places, occasionally filled with water.

There are scientific reasons for the plants to be so resilient, but it is clear they aren't the sugary type that animals wish to consume.

There was an event at the weekend in the form of the launch of a campaign where 3,000 trees were planted around the campus. It was at a place known as Changarawe village, with the university's authorities very much at the centre of the activities. They said the purpose of their effort was to make the area green again, but it was unclear how much the campus had spent for the purpose and how sustainable the drive would likely be, going forward.

Were it that such an initiative needed nothing aside from time, using weekends as in urban clean-

up operations could be safely replicated elsewhere - but hardly if it involved financing.

What is however discernible is that there is more of the will to go green at the campus than in other areas, one reason being that what happened there did not involve much talk of funding.

There was more talk of greening most of the area that falls under campus 'territory', and within limits this is something that can be done by most public institutions.

Clearly, though, there is no escaping some strategic innovation and financial preconditions in seeking to turn vast dry patches or deforested areas green. The concrete trenches example shows that all that is needed is seeds and a whiff of water, not irrigation as such as it is more relevant to plant crops that are weak and lack the sort of resilience that is visible with shrubs or weeds.

Yet the country may target a certain level of usefulness of those plants and figure out what sort of seeds and water outlays are involved - or, we may say in sum, drone outlays.

These little plans that can be devised and executed by the thousand with a matter of a few million shillings in start-up capital can make vast changes.

This is possible because they can carry bundles of seeds across wide swathes of farmland while the same drones, which can be varying in size depending on needs like carriage loads, can be used to 'drop' water in specific areas where seeds would then be dropped.

Most seeds would not necessarily germinate with that sort of 'irrigation' effort but a good stretch of bush or weeds could easily grow.

That would conceivably attract some rain, hence making room for less resilient species to grow - and, eventually, all these areas would graduate into heavy forest cover.

UNIDO, TIB link-up for bioenergy initiatives apt

THERE will have been many sighs of relief following reports of a new initiative under which the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Tanzania Development Bank (TIB) are teaming up to create synergies for bioenergy sub-sector uplift.

It is reported that upwards of US\$899,000 (2.2bn/-) in grants is forthcoming, meant primarily to support entrepreneurial initiatives in that direction.

It is further said, very correctly, that the support could make a difference if put to proper use. Of course, judging from experience, it is hard to say that this will indeed be the case.

One reason for the grains of pessimism is that some specialised financial institutions time and again find themselves falling short of even merely breaking even, extending credit to those who will not repay while meanwhile still officially being treated as facilities to issue precisely such loans.

The focus of this initiative is the launch of a stakeholder capacity building effort in relation to bioenergy and bioethanol.

It would be interesting to know how much of the money will go into facilitating the holding of a workshop expected to attract some 70 participants, among them government officials, private sector leaders, "development partners" and prospective beneficiaries.

How much the prospective beneficiaries will obtain from what remains and the speed at which they will repay whatever they will end

up with for others to be loaned is meanwhile still unclear.

It is entirely within grasp, as a preliminary statement indicated, that this grant marks the commencement of a comprehensive programme aimed at fostering a sustainable bioenergy market in our country.

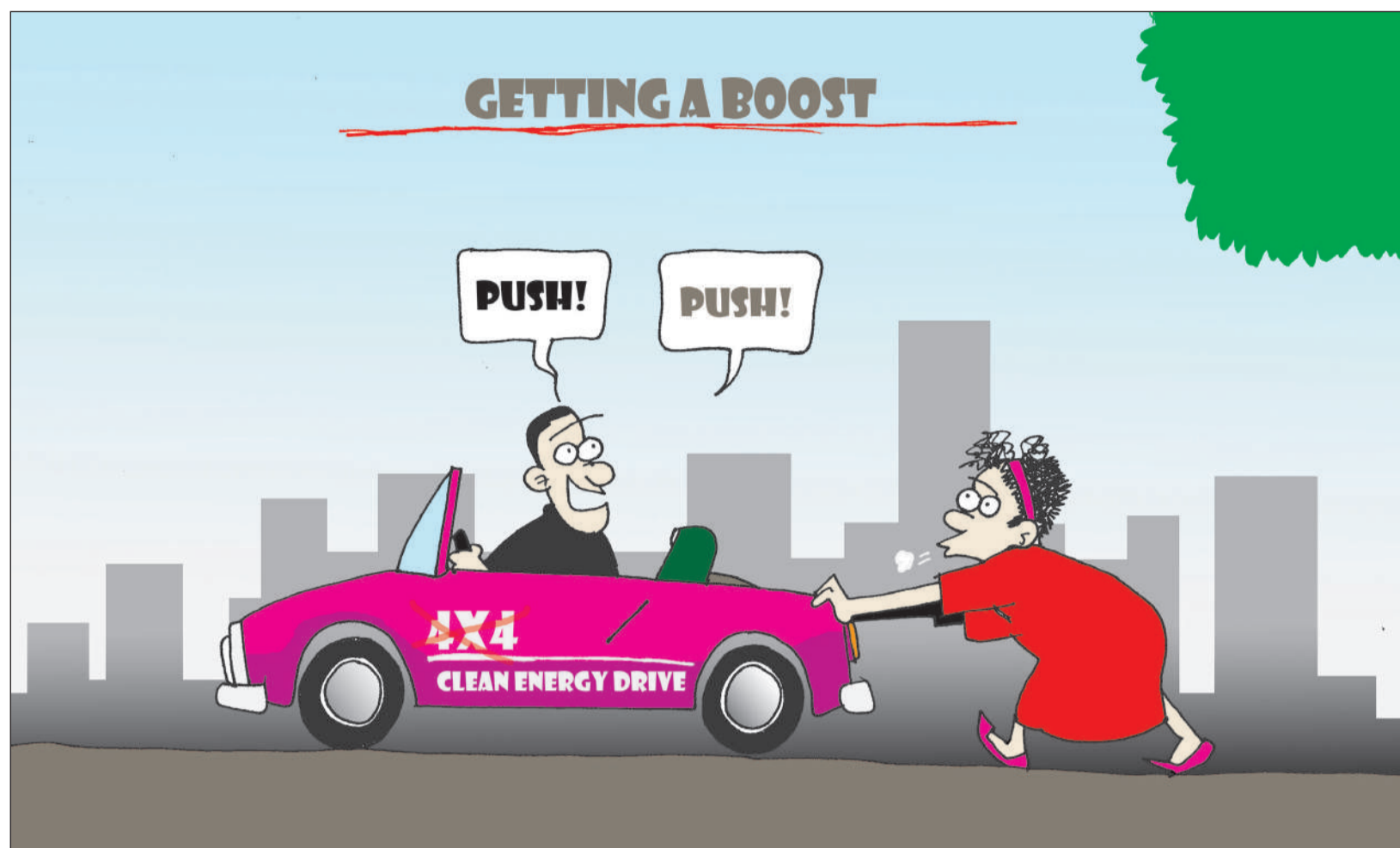
It is aligned with the country's intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) in reducing fossil fuels.

Now, the initiative is expected to involve the likes of the Energy ministry, the Environment 'wing' of the Vice President's Office, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. All well and good, one would dare say, wishing the consortium the very best, assuming all the parties concerned will live up to expectations.

Techniques to make a bioenergy plant of any size can be downloaded from the internet, while capital for outlays can be quickly obtained when one presents a pre-purchase agreement from one or two institutions willing to buy the power generated.

It could be that simple, what is required even more so being the freeing institutions from factors that could needlessly pull the well-intended drives down.

One reason this initiative look positive the way it is comes from the fact that a whole stretch of administrative and service agencies see their role in providing education, say on bioenergy or raising awareness on how easy it is to use gas.



Death, exhaustion and suspicion: Journalists on horrors of Gaza (2)

By Special Correspondent

THE fear of being targeted is all the stronger because journalists have been accused of sometimes being complicit with Hamas.

Some have gone so far as to claim that reporters were tipped off in advance of the October 7 attack, allegations the management of the French news agency AFP has rejected as disgraceful and defamatory.

AFP journalists in Gaza find the claims all the more outrageous given how they have worked closely with Israeli colleagues in the Jerusalem bureau for years.

Adel Zaanoun, who has been an AFP journalist in Gaza for 30 years, said some people "have accused us of being partial. But we remain professional. We remain journalists, even as our neighbours, our friends and our families are being bombed".

Since last October 7, the group Reporters Without Borders has made two war crimes complaints against the Israeli army over the deaths of Palestinian journalists.

And the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) - in a report published before the deaths of two Al Jazeera journalists in an Israeli strike on January 7 - deplored "an apparent pattern of targeting of journalists and their families by the Israeli military".

Last week five independent experts working for the United Nations in Geneva denounced the "attacks" on the media in Gaza.

They said that it "would seem to indicate that the killings, injury and detention are a deliberate strategy by Israeli forces to obstruct the media and silence critical reporting".

In a telling example of how this translates on the ground, most property owners in Gaza refuse to rent apartments to journalists. To put a roof over their families' heads, sometimes journalists have to pay five times the going rent.

Covering both sides

Allegations of journalists being Hamas sympathisers seem to come from the simple fact that Gazan reporters are in regular contact with Hamas officials, as they are supposed to be in order to do their jobs correctly.

Contact is inevitable, said Zaanoun. Every day the Israeli government and Hamas - which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007 - announce new operations and the latest death tolls and threaten each other. AFP has to systematically ask for reactions from both camps to produce balanced and impartial news.

"There are not many journalists in Gaza and not that many (political) leaders either. So it is a small world and we



Al-Jazeera journalist Wael Al Dahdouh (C) attends the January 7, 2024, funeral of his son, Palestinian journalist Hamza Al Dahdouh. Photo: Reuters

end up getting to know each other," said Zaanoun, who began his career in Gaza when the territory was controlled by Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

However, there is no direct contact with Hamas's armed wing. "They communicate only by statement," he said.

The same rules apply in Gaza as elsewhere for AFP journalists. They must be in contact with the authorities in the areas they cover while at the same time keeping the required distance for the independent and impartial journalism enshrined in the statutes of the agency.

'We have run out of tears'

Like for all Gazans, the living conditions of AFP staff have become increasingly difficult. After having to leave their homes in October, some have spent weeks sleeping in cars or in tents outside the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.

Now all AFP's journalists and their families are in Rafah. When not working, they spend hours looking for food and drinking water, or washing the dust by hand from the few clothes they have been able to take with them.

"I am never safe, I don't sleep anymore, I don't eat enough, I can't wash when I want to," said Mai Yaghi, adding: "You have to content yourself with one ice-cold shower a week, even though it is so cold outside. Even just to go to the toilet, you have to organise yourself."

"My biggest dream is to have an

hour to myself, where I don't hear anyone, no bombardments, no drones. Just an hour with a cigarette and a coffee," she further noted.

Yaghi said she has lost neighbours, friends and loved ones, "but right now I don't feel any emotion. I have the sense that my sadness is frozen. I can't let myself succumb to that sadness, because then I would collapse completely, and I can't."

"I have responsibilities, I have to stay strong. I have to keep up appearances and make out that everything is OK to reassure those locked up in Gaza with us, or those who love us on the outside."

"We have literally run out of tears," said photographer Abed.

He elaborated: "I work like a robot now. I go out, I press the button and I see nothing after so much shock, tears and grief... And when I sit or lie down on a mattress, the film of the day plays in front of my eyes. We are all on edge because on top of all this we don't have much to eat and we drink bad water."

"All the journalists have PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)," said Hassouna, adding: "In Gaza, if someone tells you they are OK, you can be sure they are lying. Everything that we have seen, that we have filmed, will stay with us forever. We will never forget."

Being separated from their loved ones is particularly difficult. Zaanoun can't stop thinking about his mother and his brothers who were not able to leave Gaza City. For Yaghi it's her children. Her daughter

left Gaza to go and study in Britain just before the war. Then after weeks of fighting, "the hardest thing" was to let her 11-year-old son Jad leave on his own.

On the road to the Egyptian border with him, "I only thought of one thing: he has to get out and we will be reunited later. I repeated to him: 'You are strong, you will be safe with the diplomats who will evacuate you, and your father and your aunt are waiting for you in Cairo.'"

Zaanoun narrated further: "At first, he refused to leave without me. I kept telling him that I would be fine. But he didn't believe me. He hugged me tight like it was the last time. He made me swear that I would be OK and that we would be together again. That was two months ago. And now, I only want one thing: to hold my children in my arms again."

***This is the second and last part of a dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). The Guardian ran the first part in yesterday's issue. The World Editors Forum, an integral part of WAN-IFRA, is the leading global community of editors. It stands up for a free press, quality journalism and newsroom transformation, and has been doing so for over 25 years. It works alongside with editors to shape their newsrooms for the future. It does so by identifying innovation and trends, tools and best practices. To be continued.**

Mwanza: That beautiful lakeside city and tourist destination worth visiting

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

VISITING new places is a great fun where one can learn many things, among them are different cultures, surrounding natural features and many others, thus return home with a richer experience and gained knowledge.

Likewise, travelling to a distant place can not only give the experience of how beautiful life is, but it teaches the importance of adapting to any situation and how to overcome obstacles.

Every destination has something unique to teach visitors and provide best learning experience and finally improve people's creativity.

A typical example of places worth visiting is Mwanza city. Being the second largest city in Tanzania after Dar es Salaam, Mwanza is located in the southern shore of Lake Victoria and is a place that can make someone learn why it was called a 'Rock City'.

More than half of the city space is surrounded by green hills which are adorned with typical granite rocks dotted with gigantic boulders that have given it the nickname of 'Rock City'.

Statistics by Mwanza City Council shows that about 70 percent of locally constructed houses have been built over these small mountains surrounding the city.

This distinctive feature sets Mwanza apart, thus creating characteristics landscape found nowhere else. The existence of these features are intricately linked to its geography as most suburbs are not flat thus underscoring its pivotal role in the city's outlook.

Just like most of the rocks in the world, geologists describe their formations as made from granite that was formed in the earth's crust millions of years ago and lat-

er on pushed to the surface by tectonic forces and folding of the crust.

The city area is particularly well-known and a popular destination for tourists, which contributes to making it look fascinating and real without forgetting entertainment areas linked by all means of transport made available including speed boats that carry passengers across the lake to various destination points along the shore.

While travelling by boat, one can have a glimpse of an attractive small rocky mountains as commonly referred to which are conspicuously seen at a close range with individual houses constructed in wonderful pattern covering all over in the spaces provided.

The location of the city is on the fringes of Lake Victoria with commercial ships used for Nile perch catch that are imported to overseas notably in European countries, and sardines that are sold in abundance all over Tanzania and in neighbouring East African Community (EAC) partner states.

Apart from mountains, there are other attracting natural features that are also famous such as the 'Bismarck Rock' known as a balancing rock being the most iconic and symbol of Mwanza city as it offers a suggestive panoramic view of Lake Victoria.

This is a most fantastic physical feature in the lake with tall boulder balancing over a jumble of rocks and can be visited at the Kamanga Ferry Terminal. It sits above water and on a set of larger rocks in a collective formation that rises more than ten meters above the lake water surface.

The rock stands in the middle of the water, some 50 meters away facing the ferry gateway on the shores of the lake. One can easily get close to it but not reach the actual base to enjoy the stunning view of the scenery around.



A tourist staring at a human statue made of plastic bottles at Kamanga ferry. Photos: by Emmanuel Onyango.

Sylvester Malima, is one of the tour guides, he told The Guardian that the place cannot be reached easily unless by boats that ferry people and goods across the lake.

The surrounding zone is quite attractive, with a few restaurants nearby a well maintained small public park with green lawn used as a picnic spot and a ferry harbour to the other side of Mwanza gulf. One can also view a fantastic human statue made of plastic bottles.

Narrating, Malima said the rock was named after the German chancellor Otto von Bismarck who visited the area in 1890 in the colonial period of German East Africa.

It is on this rock where the statue of the late Chancellor was erected, thus taking his unique name from which is derived. Since then, the rock has become a famous icon of the city and a tourist point featuring photos for both locals and tourists visiting the area.

The statue was later on pulled down into the water nearby when the British gov-



The Bismarck Rock as viewed from the shore of Lake Victoria at Kamanga Ferry in Mwanza city.

ernment took over control of the colony from the German administration after end of World War One in 1918. But the name remained.

To the far distance, behind this inspiring balancing rock, one can see the presence of a small mountain called 'Kishiri' which has been covered with houses on its

top. On its background is a suburb called 'Kigoto' facing the Lake waters whereby the biggest Mwaloni International fish market is located.

A brief stop at the famous Mwaloni fish market is a strategic point where you can also find produce brought in from neighboring villages close to the lake.

It is also from this market one can have pretty views of Lake Victoria which extends to Mwanza South.

The operations at Mwaloni market are massive, busy and loud. Traders at the market are proud of small sardine like fishes which are packed in large sacks and piled up for sale to Great

Lakes regions, thus ushering its international status.

Mwanza serves as a commercial hub for up to seven regions being at the center geographically connecting four EAC countries of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). That has been simplifying Mwanza's prospects leading to its developments.

Walking in downtown through the city's streets, one cannot miss a single glimpse of a Tilapia fish statue that is built at a most attracting spot at a roundabout between Station Road and Kenyatta Avenue.

The presence of the 12 feet statue symbolizes the main economic activity of the majority Mwanza residents and its surrounding suburban. It also signifies that, the city is a fishing zone due to its location in Lake Victoria that borders Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi.

Despite Mwanza's strategic positioning of substantial portion of its population who struggles with poverty due to unemployment, the greatest population is exemplified by some individuals compelled to engage in precarious non-jobs such as motorbike riding to make a living.

Mwanza city is also an attractive spot for visitors at Saanane National Park which is located west of the city in a small island named after Mzee Saanane Chawandi who was then the owner of the island.

It was established as the first Zoo in Tanzania in 1964 with different species of wild animals that were ferried to the Island. These included Buffalo, Bushbuck, Dik-Dik, Elephant, Impala, Black Rhino, Warthog, Wildebeest, Zebra, Monkeys, Giraffe, Porcupine and crocodiles.

Dangerous herbivorous animals such as Rhinos and Buffalo were caged while others were left to roam without restrictions. The Island was given the status of a Game Reserve in 1991.

It is in this thriving and interesting national park where President Samia Suluhu Hassan visited last when recording a tourism video of a long adventure of the Royal Tour that was accomplished in July 2022.

Roads of peril: Potholes and neglect are paving the way for road carnage in Tanzania

By Adonis Byemelwa

In a concerning revelation, the perilous state of roads in Tanzania is coming to the forefront as authorities continue to neglect the urgent need for maintenance, putting lives at risk.

The hazardous conditions have been underscored by recent incidents, raising questions about the commitment of relevant authorities to ensuring road safety.

The Dar es Salaam-Dodoma highway, notorious for its numerous potholes, has become a hotbed for accidents, with commuters experiencing firsthand the dire consequences of substandard road conditions.

A recent incident saw a near-fatal accident when a columnist's car veered off the road due to a burst tire caused by a deep pothole. Shockingly, little assistance was offered by fellow motorists, highlighting the apathy prevalent among drivers towards the perils of the road.

Further investigations along the highway unveiled a shocking reality - approximately 100 potholes, some as large as 80cm in diameter,

have been identified along the 450km stretch.

Reports indicate that some of these hazardous road conditions have persisted for months, despite existing policies mandating immediate repairs.

The deteriorating road conditions are not limited to a single region, with drivers revealing that numerous towns, including Bahi, Igunga, Nzega, and Tinde, are grappling with the menace of potholes.

Despite heavy rains in recent months, authorities seem to have made little progress in addressing the crisis.

Former President John Magufuli's strong stance on road repairs appears to have waned since his demise, leaving commuters vulnerable to the dangers posed by neglected road infrastructure. Promises made by current Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa regarding repairs seem to be unfulfilled, contributing to the rising concerns over road safety.

Tanzania's National Roads Agency (TANROADS) is under scrutiny, accused by drivers of inadequate inspection

and maintenance practices along critical highways.

Commuters complain that potholes, some as deep as 24cm, remain unattended for months, posing significant risks to motorists. Former TANROADS Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Mfugale acknowledged the challenges but pointed to the enormity and cost of overhauling the entire road network.

The dire situation along the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma highway has sparked debates on the correlation between poor road conditions and the alarming increase in accidents.

The lack of proactive measures, coupled with the failure to enforce speed limits in high-risk areas, has led to numerous casualties.

A recent report suggests that nearly 14 percent of accidents in Tanzania can be attributed to inadequate road conditions, with an additional 12 percent linked to vehicle mechanical issues.

As the road safety crisis in Tanzania continues to escalate, urgent reforms and a comprehensive strategy are imperative to address the root causes of the increasing



number of accidents.

Studies reveal that factors contributing to accidents in the country are predominantly human-related, with misjudgment, speeding, overtaking errors, negligent behavior, alcohol and drug consumption, reckless driving, overloading, parking errors, and driver fatigue being prominent sub-factors within the human element.

Additionally, external factors such as poor road conditions, inadequate engineering and alignment, lack of road signs and markings, and erratic traffic signals due to power cuts play a significant role in contributing to the perilous state of the

roads. Regrettably, the human errors identified are not limited to drivers, as passengers and pedestrians also contribute to accidents.

Deregulation of the public transport system, increased competition among buses for passengers, and the influence of passengers encouraging speeding exacerbate the risks on both urban and long-distance routes.

Furthermore, poor road infrastructure, narrow and ill-maintained roads, insufficient bus stands, and a lack of road signs compound the challenges.

To address this crisis and mitigate the fatality of road

carnage in Tanzania, there is an urgent need for collaborative efforts from government authorities, transport agencies, and the public.

Prioritizing road maintenance, enhancing road design and engineering, and investing in comprehensive road safety education programs are critical steps forward.

Adequate provision of road signs, improved traffic signal reliability, and addressing power cuts are essential measures to enhance road infrastructure.

Potholes, pervasive and unchecked along Tanzanian roads, emerge as one of the chief contributors to the

alarming rate of road accidents. These craters, often concealed by rainwater or poorly lit conditions, pose a significant threat to drivers who may encounter sudden and unexpected obstacles.

Drivers navigating around potholes are forced into erratic maneuvers, increasing the likelihood of collisions with oncoming traffic or nearby obstacles. The abrupt swerving and sudden braking necessary to avoid potholes not only jeopardize the safety of the vehicle occupants but also create a cascading effect, potentially leading to a chain reaction of accidents involving multiple vehicles.

By Lucy Williamson

PEOPLE living in the isolated north of Gaza have said that children are going without food for days, as aid convoys are increasingly denied permits to enter.

Some residents have resorted to grinding animal feed into flour to survive, but even stocks of those grains are now dwindling, they say.

People have also described digging down into the soil to access water pipes, for drinking and washing.

The UN has warned that acute malnutrition among young children in the north has risen sharply, and is now above the critical threshold of 15 percent.

The UN's humanitarian coordination agency, Ocha, says more than half the aid missions to the north of Gaza were denied access last month, and that there is increasing interference from Israeli forces in how and where aid is delivered.

It says 300,000 people estimated to be living in northern areas are largely cut off from assistance, and face a growing risk of famine.

A spokesman for the Israeli military agency tasked with coordinating aid access in Gaza said in a briefing last month that there was "no starvation in Gaza. Period." The agency, Cogat, has repeatedly said it does not limit the amount of humanitarian aid sent to Gaza.

Mahmoud Shalabi, a local medical aid worker in Beit Lahia, said people had been grinding grains used for animal feed into flour, but that even that was now running out.

"People are not finding it in the market," he said. "It's unavailable nowadays in the north of Gaza, and Gaza City."

He also said stocks of tinned food were disappearing.

"What we had was actually



Digging for water by hand in Gaza

Residents of Gaza survive off animal feed and rice as food supply dwindles

from the six or seven days of truce in November, and whatever aid was allowed into the north of Gaza has actually been consumed by now. What people are eating right now is basically rice, and only rice."

The World Food Programme (WFP) said this week that four out of the last five aid convoys into the north had been stopped by Israeli forces, meaning a gap of two weeks between deliveries to Gaza City.

"Serious risk of famine" "We know there is a very serious risk of famine in Gaza if we don't provide very significant volumes of food assistance on a regular basis," said the WFP regional chief, Matt Hollingworth.

The UN Office for the Co-

ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha) said there had been a sharp increase in the number of aid missions denied access to northern Gaza: with 56 percent of deliveries denied access in January, up from 14 percent in October to December.

It also said the Israeli military "at times required justifications" for quantities of fuel destined for health facilities, and "imposed reductions on the volume of assistance, such as the quantity of food".

Duha al-Khalidi, a mother of four in Beit Lahia, said recently that she walked six miles (9.5km) to her sister's house in Gaza City, in a desperate search for food, after her children had not eaten for three days.

"I don't have any money, and even if I did, there's nothing in the town's main market," she said. "My sister and her family are also suffering. She shared with me the last amount of pasta in her house."

"We feel that death has become inevitable," her sister, Waad, said. "We lost the top floor of our house, but we are still living here despite the fear of collapse. For two weeks, we can't find anything in the market; and if some products are available, they are 10 times their normal price."

A famine risk assessment, carried out by several UN agencies, estimated that almost a third of residents in northern areas could now be facing a "catastrophic" lack

of food, though restrictions on accessing the area make real-time measurements very difficult.

Families in northern areas are also struggling to find reliable water supplies.

"Many of us are now drinking unpotable water. There are no pipes; we have to dig for water," explained Mahmoud Salah in Beit Lahia.

Video filmed in the Jabalia neighbourhood north of Gaza City shows residents sitting among the rubble of bombed out streets, digging down into the earth to tap large underground water pipes.

"We get water here once every 15 days," Yusuf al-Ayoti said. "The water is dirty. Our children are inflamed and

their teeth are eroded from the dirty water. There is sand in it, and it's very salty."

After four months of war, the makeshift solutions for bridging the hunger gaps are wearing thin. And there are few ways to restock Gaza's larder.

The territory was reliant on food aid before the war; now much of its agricultural industry has been ruined or abandoned.

The destruction is vast

New figures from the UN suggest that more than half the agricultural land in the central region of Deir al-Balah has been damaged. This includes an olive press and farmland belonging to Bassem Younis Abu Zayed.

"It looks like the aftermath

of an earthquake," he said. "The destruction is vast, covering neighbouring buildings and farm animals. Even if we manage to restore the mill, 80-90% of the olives have gone. It's not just a loss for this year, it's a loss for the next several years."

Further south, in the border town of Rafah, more than a million people displaced by the fighting elsewhere now jostle for space with the town's 300,000 residents.

Israel's army regularly publishes what it says is recent footage of busy markets and restaurants in Gaza's southern centres. A majority of the 114 aid missions to southern areas of Gaza managed to get through last month, but residents and aid agencies say many people are still going hungry, and a public health crisis is looming with a lack of shelter, sanitation and medical care.

Aid can be blocked by fighting, bureaucracy or rubble. Earlier this week, a food convoy waiting to head north in Gaza was hit by naval gunfire.

On Saturday the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees accused Israel of using financial restrictions to block a month's worth of food for more than a million Gazans. UNRWA said more than 1,000 shipping containers from Turkey were being held up in a port, telling the AP news agency that a local contractor was ordered by customs authorities not to process any UNRWA goods.

Israel has not responded but on Thursday, far-right finance minister Belazel Smotrich ordered the cancellation of customs and other tax relief for UNRWA, saying Israel "will not give tax benefits to terrorist aides". Israel has accused UNRWA staff of participating in the 7 October attacks.

But deliveries are also complicated by the growing desperation of Gaza's people, says Matt Hollingworth.

Challenges mount for Joe Biden administration as election nears

By A Special Correspondent

AS the November Presidential elections draw near, US President Joe Biden's administration grapples with escalating challenges on both the domestic and international fronts.

The crisis in Texas, stemming from issues of unauthorized immigration and border security, significantly undermines his stance in domestic politics.

Concurrently, assaults on American forces in Iraq and Syria have complicated the US posture in the region, leading to severe criticism from Republican quarters. All these challenges raise questions about the ability of the incumbent administration to prevail in the upcoming elections.

Texas issue and border security

After Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced plans to erect new barbed wire fences along the border despite the recent decision of the Supreme Court, he immediately garnered backing from 25 Republican states and former US President Donald Trump.

According to the US Customs and Border Protection report, in the 2023 Fiscal Year, a total of 2,475,669 individuals entered the US from Mexico through unauthorized means. This figure represents an increase of over 40 percent compared to the 2021 Fiscal Year and 4



percent more than the 2022 Fiscal Year.

Following the harsh criticisms and humanitarian scandals surrounding the unauthorized immigration policy of the Trump administration, Biden declared himself a candidate who would restore the honor and respect of the presiden-

cy by partially constructing a fair and humane immigration system.

However, since Biden took office, his immigration and border security policy has led to an additional 7.5 million unauthorized entries nationwide, in addition to the known 1.7 million crossings. Along the south-

west border, this policy has resulted in 6.2 million unauthorized entries.

Especially along the Ciudad Juarez - El Paso route, one of the most preferred routes used by immigrants, unauthorized migration to the state of Texas has brought about inflation, a housing crisis, and security

concerns. Additionally, it has imposed extra responsibilities on the border, making conservative Republicans more apprehensive about illegal immigrants and border security.

According to a June 2023 report by the Pew Research Center, nearly 47 percent of Americans consider illegal immigration a significant issue in the country. The likelihood of Republicans considering illegal immigration a very big national problem is much higher, at 70 percent, compared to Democrats, at 25 percent.

This places the Biden administration at a perceived disadvantage on immigration matters as the election approaches, threatening the federal-state constitutional relationship and potentially solidifying the Republican base. The impact of this issue has already raised red flags amongst the tenets of the Democratic Party, and Biden seems more amenable to compromise, stating that he is ready to close the border if Congress passes a bipartisan bill granting him such authority.

US challenges in Middle East

Since October 7th, more than 150 attacks have been launched on US soldiers in the Middle East. The latest incident involved a drone attack on a military base in Jordan, resulting in the loss of 3 soldiers and injuries to 34 others. Biden attributed the attack to Iran-backed militias saying, "We will respond at a time and place of our choosing." This statement indicates that a limited retaliation will take place but the general modus vivendi with Iran is not under

threat.

Despite initial efforts to focus on adversaries like Russia and China, Israel's war on Gaza has reengaged the US in Middle Eastern politics. Initially, the Biden administration had focused on containing its potential adversary Russia in the conflict in Ukraine and was pursuing a similar strategy to contain China. Such policies allowed the US to maintain its global supremacy without actively engaging in warfare.

The US re-engagement in the Middle East provides a guarantee for Israel. For Russia, it means diverting the attention and interest of the US public away from the conflict in Ukraine. Other players have different standpoints often at the opposite end of the spectrum than Washington's.

Republican criticism of Biden's response to attacks on US forces portrays him as weak, contrasting with the Trump administration's decisive actions, such as the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. This narrative could contribute to a perception of failure in the Middle East, particularly if Trump reenters the political arena with an isolationist stance, potentially allowing adversaries more freedom of action.

The tensions in the Middle East are likely to persist to the election, denting the chances of the Biden administration, which is often depicted as weak and meek by Republican quarters.

Is Taylor Swift key to winning youth vote?

Harvard Crimson Alumni in Professional Sports (CAPS)-Harris Poll shored

Trump leading Biden by 7 points in a one-on-one match-up 48 percent to 41 percent, respectively. The value of each vote is crucial in the election.

Amidst significant challenges in both domestic and foreign policy, Biden's campaign efforts to appeal to younger voters, including seeking endorsements from pop culture figures like Taylor Swift, underscore the importance of the youth vote.

Surveys suggest Swift's influence could sway younger voters. According to a survey conducted by the research firm Redfield & Wilton Strategies for Newsweek, one in five respondents stated that they would vote for a presidential candidate supported by the 34-year-old Swift, indicating a potential influence on young voters.

However, Biden's support of Israel in the ongoing case at the International Court of Justice poses a dilemma, with many young people disapproving of his handling of the situation in Gaza. According to a New York Times Siena College poll, about three-quarters of individuals aged 18 to 29 express their disapproval of Biden's handling of Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

The Biden administration navigates a complex landscape of domestic immigration issues and foreign policy challenges in the Middle East, with the upcoming election casting a spotlight on these critical areas. The administration's strategies, particularly in engaging younger voters and managing geopolitical tensions, will be crucial in shaping its electoral prospects and policy direction.

State of Migratory Species report has 'alarming' threats, global action urged

By Alison Kentish, Dominica

A Ground-breaking State of the World's Migratory Species report is calling for accelerated global conservation measures to counter the threat of extinction faced by 1 in 5 of all migratory species.

The report was launched at the opening press conference of the 14th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Feb. 12.

It is the first comprehensive assessment of migratory animals—species that travel to different parts of the world every year. They include ocean species like sharks and sea turtles, terrestrial animals such as elephants, as well as those undertaking airborne journeys like birds and butterflies. The report's authors say migratory species' remarkable journeys not only connect the world; they offer a unique angle to research and understand the magnitude of planetary changes.

The report has concluded that the conservation status of migratory species overall is deteriorating. Its results have been described as "startling" by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Amy Fraenkel.

"Overexploitation emerges as the greatest threat for many migratory species, surpassing habitat loss and fragmentation," she stated in the report. "This includes the taking of species from the wild through intentional removal, such as through hunting and fishing, as well as the incidental capture of non-target species. Bycatch of non-target species in fisheries is a leading cause of mortality of many CMS-listed marine species."

Some of the troubling findings include population declines for almost half of CMS migratory species, extinction threats for almost all (97%) of CMS-listed fish, and a growing extinction risk for migratory species globally, including those not listed under the CMS.

"Migratory species are of ecological, economic, and cultural importance. Within ecosystems, they perform a variety of crucial functions, ranging from the large-scale transfer of nutrients between environments to the positive impacts of grazing animals on grassland biodiversity," the report states.

It adds that these species' habitats and movements are at risk, with half experiencing unsustainable levels of human-induced pressure.

"The urgency for action to protect and conserve these species becomes even greater when we consider the integral but undervalued role they play in maintaining the complex ecosystems that support a healthy planet—by, for example, transferring nutrients between environments, performing migratory grazing that supports the maintenance of carbon-storing habitats, and pollination and seed dispersal services," said Inger Andersen, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Environment Programme.

The present reality for migratory species and the cost of inaction or inadequate action are concerning, but the report is heavy on both hope and concrete recommendations for global action.

It contains a section dedicated to proposed policy actions. Among the most crucial are the need to address the unsustainable and illegal harvesting of migratory species at the national level, measures to reduce bycatch and other incidental captures, and the identification and recognition of all significant sites for migratory species.

The recommendations are to "protect, connect, and restore" habitats, tackle overexploitation, reduce the damaging impacts of environmental pollution, address the root causes and cross-cutting impacts of climate change, and ensure the CMS Appendices protect all migratory species in need of further conservation action. They also call for 'follow-through' on global commitments to ecosystem restoration.

"This includes those linked to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to ensure that at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration by 2030. To support these efforts, develop and implement national restoration plans focused on restoring and maintaining important habitats for migratory species," it states.

UNEP's Inger Andersen says the report is an important milestone in the establishment of a roadmap for the conservation of migratory species.

"Given the precarious situation of many of these animals and their critical role for healthy and well-functioning ecosystems, we must not miss this chance to act—starting now by urgently implementing the recommendations set out in this report," she stated.

For the CMS' Amy Fraenkel, conservation of migratory species is a shared responsibility among the world's nations.

"Migratory species are a shared natural treasure. This landmark report will help underpin much-needed policy actions to ensure that they continue to traverse the world's skies, lands, oceans, lakes, and rivers."



Technology experts meet to promote smart cities in Africa



David Maina Kamore patrols at the construction site of the Konza transformer substation in Machakos County, Kenya.

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

TECHNOLOGY experts have met in Nairobi, Kenya to promote the development of smart cities in Africa.

The conference on Data-Driven Cities was attended by more than 100 stake-

holders, composed of senior government officials, the private sector, and academia from Africa, to foster innovation and cooperation in the development of smart cities on the continent that deliver efficient services to their residents.

Edward Kisiang'ani, the principal secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Infor-

mation, Communications and The Digital Economy, said in his opening remarks that Kenya is currently at the forefront of pioneering initiatives with the development of Konza Technopolis, a technology city located about 70 km south of Nairobi that embodies the principles of sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity.

"The first phase of Konza City is nearing completion, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to building smarter, more resilient cities," Kisiang'ani noted.

He observed that Africa can develop smart cities through the use of data to contribute to evidence-based decision-making to

deliver urban centers that are responsive to the needs of urban dwellers.

Delyno du Toit, the manager of data science at the city of Cape Town in South Africa, said smart cities have the potential to enhance the quality of life for residents, thereby promoting economic growth, and fostering environmental sustainability.

"From leveraging data analytics and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to optimize urban infrastructure and services, to harnessing the power of digital innovation to address pressing urban challenges, the journey toward building smarter cities is both promising and imperative," he said.

He added that smart cities in Africa will ensure that the continent combats climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.

Judith Quarshie, head of library and documentation at the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development, said African cities can leverage digital tools to become climate resilient.

She noted that African urban centers need to invest in renewable energy, artificial intelligence, robotics as well as smart public transport systems.

By Tanka Dhakal, Kathmandu

NAJBOON Khatun looks up at the sky every day, searching for the possibility of rain. Clouds come and go without a drop of water.

"Winter crops like wheat and vegetables need water, but like last year, there has been no rainfall yet," says 65-year-old Khatun, expressing her anguish.

In her village in Dhanusha, one of the agricultural hubs in the southern plains of Nepal, farmers mostly depend on rain as a source of irrigation. However, they are facing yet another year of drought, affecting winter crops, including wheat, mustard, lentils, and vegetables.

They are currently facing another year of a protracted winter drought, particularly in the Terai region, where a lengthy drought during the monsoon season severely affected the production of the main food crop, rice. Khatun was waiting for rain in the third week of July to plant a paddy. "We are suffering from drought," she said at that time while pointing to her dry agricultural field.

Farmers like her are facing the consequences of prolonged drought in both the monsoon and winter.

The winter drought is harsh not only in Terai but also for farmers in the mid-hills and mountainous areas. Kul Bahadur Pulami Magar (68) from Jwalamukhi-1, Dhading, is not able to grow wheat because of the drought.

"It's the second year in a row that we are not able to grow wheat and other winter crops."

Farmers in the mid-hills like Dhading mainly depend on rainfall for irrigation, but in recent years, they have been experiencing a change in the rainfall pattern in the monsoon and drought in the winter.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DHM), in



Najboon Khatun at her house in Dhanusha district in the third week of July 2023; she was worried then, and she is worried now because of the drought.

Nepal farmers face another year of 'agricultural drought', threatening food security

11 of the last 17 winters (December to February), there has been less than the minimum rainfall, and seven winters experienced drought affecting agricultural activities. Even though seasonal forecasts said otherwise, this year's winter rainfall didn't happen when farmers needed it the most. According to the DHM data from December onwards, there is nearly no rainfall; only 7.5 millimetres of rainfall were received (until February 11), while the average for the winter season is 60.1 millimetres.

"A prolonged winter drought will definitely have an impact on crops, ultimately altering food security," said Bibhuti Pokhrel, head of the Climate Change Department at the DHM. "The last few winters are becoming drier, and we can

see climate change factors too."

Agricultural Drought

Frustration is growing among farmers like Khatun and Pulami Magar due to changes in rainfall patterns and their impact on crop yield, a concern shared by experts. Dr Hemu Kafle says, "Farmers are trapped in situations where they don't get enough rain when they need it."

In recent years, there has been a trend of prolonged winters without precipitation, impacting production.

Kafle, whose research focuses on drought and desertification, notes that farmers are experiencing "Agricultural Drought" more frequently, especially in winter. She explains, "There is historically low snowfall in the high mountains, and rainfall is not

near happening in the mid-hills and Terai, directly affecting the socio-economic aspect of our society."

Usually, March to May is the dry season in Nepal, making winter precipitation important to maintain moisture. "Because there is no rain for a long time in winter, it is going to make our soil drier, and the vulnerability of farmers will increase."

According to the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), mountain peaks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, which includes 8 countries, including Nepal, are experiencing a very unusual winter with little or no snowfall throughout the region. In a recent statement, ICIMOD mentions, "Farmers are understandably concerned, as low snowfall has a direct

and severe impact on agriculture. This is particularly acute for the HKH region, which is heavily dependent on agriculture."

Researchers like Kafle fear it could be an indication of a "famine" down the line, stating, "We are observing a dry spell for a long time during farming, which is causing agricultural drought and may alter our food cycle."

Data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock also suggests that the productivity of wheat is lower in drought years.

Dr Tika Bahadur Karki, Senior Scientist at the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), says it is evident that the winter rainfall pattern is not in favour of farmers.

"It is becoming routine that farmers are more likely to not get enough precipitation when their crops need it," crop scientist Dr Karki said.

"Winter rainfall is pushed towards the end of the season, all at once. But farmers need at least three rainfalls in winter."

At NARC, a team of scientists is trying to determine crop planting times that will coincide with changing rain patterns and develop low-water-intensive crop varieties.

"In our experimental farming, where we don't dig soil that much, yield is high because we are able to keep soil moisture," Karki explained. "If this system is extended to the farmers, production may not be affected much even in drought."

But the problem is not having a dedicated strategy to channel weather and scientific knowledge to the farmers. "We are trying to analyze recent years' weather patterns and what it means for agriculture," Sabnam Shiwakoti Aryal, Joint Secretary and Spokesperson at the Ministry, said.

"We also recognize that scientific knowledge needs to be accessible to farmers."

Climate change is amplifying families' food insecurity and putting more pressure on women's mental health



By Marty Logan

STUDIES have long shown that some women's lower status in Nepali households could mean that they eat last and less and as a result lack nutrition. Experts are now looking into how this could affect their mental health, and if the growing impacts of climate change might amplify the process.

"When women eat last (as a mark of respect or due to low status in the household), they often get the last bits of food left over, and

they may be compromising the amount of food, which could also be adversely impacting their mental health," says researcher Lakshmi Gopalakrishnan, in an online interview.

Gopalakrishnan's research is based on interviews with about 200 newly married women, ages 18-25, in Nawalparasi District in Nepal's southern Madhesh region, bordering northern India. As is customary, the women moved into their new husband's homes, living with in-laws in an extended family. They also ate after everyone else had finished their meals, another custom.

The study, titled *The relationship between the gendered norm of eating last and mental health of newly married women in Nepal*, found that women who always ate last in the household had four times greater chance of having "probable depression."

The reason? Eating last is symbolic of women's ranking in the household, explains Gopalakrishnan. In the newly married context, women "don't have the autonomy to make their own decisions; they don't have

the freedom to move outside the house," she adds.

Food insecurity is key

More recent research concluded that household food insecurity is the main factor in determining women's eating patterns. Although changes such as a woman becoming pregnant or getting a paying job could improve her household status, and therefore her order of eating – at least temporarily – there would be no changes if the household remained food insecure.

Climate change is already destroying croplands, caus-

ing farmers to seek seasonal work and migration to escape food insecurity. This leaves their wives victimized in the community, leading to stress and mental illness in these women

"Across the board, women in food insecure households are more likely to eat last always or most of the time," says the 2022 article, *Do changes in women's household status in Nepal improve access to food and nutrition?* published in the journal *Maternal & Child Nutrition*.

It adds, "a recent analysis of data from India found

that women who eat last have worse mental health, suggesting that there could be additional health impacts of this practice."

Gopalakrishnan did not find the same link between diminishing household food insecurity and eating less. Her study suggests that's because "women are treated as lower-status individuals regardless of food security levels in the households."

The researcher is quick to point out that her work did not find that the women had four times as many episodes of depression, but that they were four times more likely to have "probable depression". She also suggests, but did not measure, that as women are eating last they might not be eating enough or getting adequate nutrition, creating a "biological pathway" to depression.

Chanda Gurung, a consultant in gender equality and social inclusion, agrees that a possible biological link needs further inquiry. "Sometimes there is food, but what kind of food?" she asks in an online interview. "We really need health professionals (who can say) what kind of food is required to affect mental health, such as stress levels, or what women think? The physical impacts we know."

Gurung formerly worked as a senior gender expert with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which focuses on eight countries in the Hindu Kush Himalaya mountain region. She is confident that climate change is affecting food security, but adds that there are many more factors that take a toll on rural women's lives.

"With more men migrating... women's workload has grown to the point that they shoulder most of the activities now – whether it's on the farm, meet-

ing government officials, going to health centres; women are doing all that," Goodyear says.

Mental and physical health affected

"In some ways it has made women more empowered, more confident because now they can interact more easily. In a way that's a blessing... but the work burden is extremely high, which takes a toll on both their physical and mental health."

The heavier workload, added to societal demands – "She's alone. Is she getting harassed in the family? Facing a lack of income?" – puts more stresses on women, she adds.

A 2021 assessment found that "mental health issues are likely to increase in Nepal due to climate change... For example, climate change is already destroying croplands, causing farmers to seek seasonal work and migration to escape food insecurity. This leaves their wives victimized in the community, leading to stress and mental illness in these women."

"Poor, rural, female-headed families will face higher vulnerabilities as the climate continues to change," concluded the report, by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Gopalakrishnan says studies have shown that there are ways to influence the gender norms that translate into how women are treated in their households.

For example, in one "interventional study", girls and boys at school were taught about gender equality for two years. "And that actually led to increased support for women and girls opportunities and changed their attitudes towards gender. So these are some examples where we see that yes, it's possible to change people's gender attitudes."

By Guardian Correspondent

CAMPAIGNS in Africa to stop polio and other diseases have a more stable, better-motivated workforce thanks to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s collaboration with countries and partners to pay frontline health workers through their mobile phones instead of in cash.

"Over 80 percent of workers are saying they prefer the digital payments," said Ahmed Hamani Djibo, head of WHO's Digital Finance Team.

WHO has been leading among international organizations in moving away from the unwieldy, less-secure practice of disbursing salaries in cash.

Over the past few years, the Organization launched its Digital Finance Team and joined the Better Than Cash Alliance, an 80-member United Nations partnership with a mandate to develop the digitization of payments and expand financial inclusion – activities that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Since it was established in 2020, WHO's Digital Finance Team has designed and implemented digital payment solutions in 24 countries in Africa, including, last year, in Benin, Botswana, Madagascar, Rwanda, Togo and Zimbabwe.

"WHO has successfully digitized payments for more than two million health workers across Africa," said Tidhar Wald, Managing Director, at the Better Than Cash Alliance, adding: "With these inspiring results, WHO is taking a clear leadership role in accelerating the digital transformation in the provision of health outcomes globally."

A really big difference in speed Workers surveyed in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Tanzania said they appreciated the security of not carrying cash, the convenience of no longer having to travel to a disbursement site to



An immunisation worker gets set up to receive her wages on her mobile wallet in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: WHO

Digital payments to frontline health workers see boost in retention, motivation and impact

receive their wages, and above all, the speed of payment – as short as half an hour after finishing work compared to waits of weeks or even months.

The surveys, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, linked timely compensation to

better morale and worker retention.

"There is really a big difference in speed," said Jean-Luc, a health worker interviewed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the end of a polio immunization campaign. "We finished the

campaign mop-up yesterday and received a text notification the next evening. I'm going to pay my child's school fees. Now we can relax."

Digital payments also save time and money for health campaign organizers, including the bur-

den and expense of transporting large sums of cash and completing documentation.

"When you have 300 to 500 volunteers to pay, doing accounts and signing receipts takes a lot of time," said Saïdi, a polio team leader in DRC.

WHO first used the new digital payments in polio immunization campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire. Although outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio were on the rise, vaccination campaigns were having trouble getting off the ground.

In the first quarter of 2020, almost half the polio campaigns in WHO's African Region were postponed, saw workers drop out, or suffered other detrimental effects stemming from delays in cash disbursements.

As WHO and partners worked to develop the nuts-and-bolts aspects of a digital payment ecosystem (registering workers into a database, verifying their profiles with the mobile network operator and more) the benefits of a cashless approach became more apparent.

"There is substantial evidence that digitizing payments can support people, especially women, to gain access to financial services and increase control over their earnings," said Maria May, Senior Program Officer, Inclusive

"Over the past four years, the World Health Organization has utilized the growing presence of mobile money across Africa to ensure that the courageous frontline vaccinators in polio outbreak campaigns are paid completely, quickly, and securely."

Alain Labrique, Director of WHO's Department of Digital Health and Innovation said: "digital payments are one of the key pillars of Digital Health Public Infrastructure currently strongly encouraged within WHO's guidance to member-states on Digital Transformation WHO views digital payments as a foundation for many more digital development activities, together with Data Exchange and Digital ID Infrastructure."

He added "we are delighted to work with partners in the digital space and add our voice to this celebration of WHO's joining the Better Than Cash Alliance".

BUSINESS

Oil steadies ahead of OPEC market outlook

SINGAPORE

OIL was steady ahead of a market outlook from OPEC, and as traders also monitored developments in the Israel-Hamas war.

Brent traded above \$82 a barrel after ending slightly lower on Monday, while West Texas Intermediate was near \$77 after capping its longest run of daily gains since September.

The monthly report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will shed light on global balances as the cartel and allies curb production. Morgan Stanley recently raised price targets, citing factors including OPEC's better-than-expected compliance with cuts.

In the Middle East, tensions remain elevated. Israel launched strikes on Rafah in the Gaza Strip in its war against Hamas, even as US President Joe Biden made the case for a six-week pause in the fighting. Tehran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen continue to harass vessels in the Red Sea, disrupting shipping.

The European Union, mean-

while, has proposed new trade restrictions on about two dozen firms, including three China-based ones, accused of supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine.

While the companies mostly deal in technology and electronics, the plan follows Western nations taking a stronger line to enforce their price cap on Russian crude.

Oil has been trading in a \$10 a barrel band this year, with nervousness over the conflict in the Middle East and OPEC supply cuts offset by ample output from outside the group and an uncertain demand outlook.

China, the biggest importer, has been beset by pervasive deflationary pressures, while Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has highlighted risks to consumption.

The OPEC+ alliance plan to decide early next month whether to extend oil output cuts into the second quarter. Ahead of that, Iraq has said its supply is now in line with the group's earlier accord, while the UAE said it's committed to working with the alliance to ensure market stability.



Bitcoin hits \$50,000 for the first time since 2021

LONDON

BITCOIN hovered around \$50,000 after scaling the closely watched level for the first time in over two years, a remarkable comeback from the crypto scandals and wipeouts that had cast doubt on the industry's viability.

The largest digital asset was trading at \$50,100 as of 6:16 a.m. Tuesday in London having earlier risen as high as \$50,379. The token has tripled in value since the start of last year following a 64% plunge in 2022. Bitcoin remains roughly \$19,000 below the all-time high achieved in November 2021.

The wild price fluctuations seen since the introduction of Bitcoin more than a decade ago have long been one of the main attractions to speculators. While originally promoted as an alternative to the traditional financial system, the latest rally has been driven by optimism that last month's US approval of spot Bitcoin exchange-traded funds is leading to greater mainstream acceptance.

"There is a lot of talk about inflow of money into this asset," said Matt Maley, chief market strategist at Miller Tabak & Co. "I'd also note that the momentum players are getting excited as well."

The resurgence in crypto prices comes as expectations of looser monetary policy burnish the allure of riskier assets. "The appetite for risk has trickled over into digital assets as well," said Chris Newhouse, a DeFi analyst at Cumberland Labs.

Shares of crypto-related companies also gained Monday with Bitcoin proxy MicroStrategy Inc. rising 11 percent, trading platform Coinbase Global Inc. increasing 3.8 percent and miner Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. jumping 14.2 percent.

The positive sentiment spread to Asian stocks related to digital assets, including advances in companies such as Japan's Monex Group and Woori Technology Investment Co. in South Korea.

Bitcoin has recovered all its losses since the May 2022 implosion of stablecoin TerraUSD, which set in motion a wave of failures that ultimately helped bring down Sam Bankman-Fried's FTX exchange in November 2022.

By the time FTX went down, the crypto market was already months into a rout that also claimed hedge fund Three Arrows Capital and lender Celsius Network. But the fall of FTX, once one of the top crypto exchanges by trading volume, was even more damaging, with token prices stagnating as liquidity dried up.



Dar stock market starts the week with no gainer, loser



DSE brokers participate an online trading. File photo

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) share indices started the week flat, after share prices for all locally listed and cross listed remained unchanged.

The Monday's daily market report shows a total turnover of 1.2bn/- was recorded following the transactions of 357,818 shares traded in 112 deals.

According to the report, the market was dominated by local investors, as they accounted for 100 percent of the values of both buying and selling side.

Since the start of the

quarter, a total turnover has been recorded, of which local investors bought 95.7 percent of total value of shares sold, as the selling side still dominated by foreign investors.

Top mover was NMB Bank Pls, which its counter transacted 210,000 shares valued 946.69mn/- at a weighted average price of 4,660/- per share in 15 deals, of which 200,000 were traded through block trade pre-arranged market board.

CRDB was the second mover, after its counter transacted 89,229 valued 44.6mn/- shares in normal trade, at a weighted average price of 500/- per share in 46

deals.

The report shows, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), the largest listed company on DSE, recorded the transactions of 39,386 shares valued 216mn/-traded through block trade pre-arranged board at a weighted price of 10,900/- per share in 28 deals.

Other active counters included NICO, TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL), Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC), DSE and DCB Commercial Bank.

Brokers say at the onset of the year, there's typically a surge in market activity due to the release of financial

statements of listed companies.

"The release of positive financial results often leads to an increase in demand for the company's stock, driving up its price," says Exodus Advisory in its monthly market report published on Monday.

"This increased demand often sets off a chain reaction, prompting other market players to reposition their portfolios. As a result, many companies are anticipated to experience price increases as investors respond to favorable financials."

On fixed income market, exodus report says the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) shift from using

quantity of money to interest rate in conducting monetary policy will allow better control of the money supply and improvement in fixed income.

Consequently, the broking firm says, ongoing treasury auctions are anticipated to witness sustained demand increases attributable to discounted prices, heightened investor interest, and the diversification of the economy.

In forthcoming auctions, both 15-year and 20-year treasury bonds are poised to be offered at discounted rates, potentially resulting in oversubscription.

"The decision to set the CBR at 5.5 percent suggests that the Bank of Tanzania is likely aiming for a balanced approach, seeking to support economic growth while keeping inflationary pressures in check," the broking firm highlights.

However, the firm noted that the effectiveness of this policy will depend on various factors, including the response of financial institutions and the overall health of the economy.

Overall, the move to implement monetary policy through interest rates reflects the BoT's commitment to using flexible and market-based mechanisms to achieve its economic objectives, such as promoting price stability and fostering sustainable growth.



Rwanda to scrap subsidies in public transport

KIGALI

PASSENGERS who use public transport will soon encounter adjustments in transport costs due to a new plan by the government to remove subsidies in the sector, according to Jimmy Gasore, the Minister of Infrastructure.

Gasore told the national broadcaster on Sunday, February 11 that in the forthcoming weeks, individuals would be required to pay the full transport fees, signifying the conclusion of three years of subsidized fares.

"It commenced in October 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic when the government opted to subsidize one-

third of the fare for passengers. For instance, if a person had to pay Rwf 3000 from Kigali to Musanze, they only paid Rwf 2000 while the government covered the remaining Rwf 1000," he elaborated.

Gasore stressed that since October 2020, the government has disbursed Rwf 87.5 billion on public transport, with over Rwf 6 billion spent solely in January.

He further highlighted the government's intervention in fuel prices in 2021 to curb hikes, expending over Rwf 25 billion in subsidies over the years.

"After meticulous assessment, the government concluded that these subsidies had be-

come burdensome, notably considering their impact on other sectors pivotal for the country's development," Gasore added.

He cited sectors such as fertilizers, education, and infrastructure as examples of areas affected by the subsidies, hampering their progress.

Looking forward, Gasore revealed that the government has initiated new bus projects and reduced bus fares through subsidies. "It's now imperative for the government to prioritize securing an adequate number of buses and mitigating the burden on passengers," he added.

Meanwhile, last

month, 100 new buses commenced operations in the City of Kigali to enhance public transport, with 40 buses arriving in Rwanda in November 2023 and the remaining 60 in December.

The minister highlighted that another batch of 100 buses is anticipated to arrive in March.

Gasore explained that the decision was made thoughtfully, considering potential impacts on passengers, who may face slight fare increases.

The government intends to implement a pay-per-trip system instead of charging for the entire journey to alleviate the burden.

"We are finalizing the process to enable passengers to pay per trip. For instance, if someone is heading to Kinamba bus stop and boards the Remera line bus, the new system will only charge them for the Kinamba journey," he elucidated.

Regarding the timeline, Gasore affirmed that the changes would be rolled out in a few weeks, commencing in Kigali and eventually extending to other regions.

Commenting on passenger readiness, Jean Claude Musabyimana, the Minister of Local Government, underscored that all changes are made in the citizens' interest.

The stock market is looking a lot like it did before the dot-com and 2008 crashes, top economist says



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange October 13, 2008. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Washington

THE stock market is flashing the same warning signs of “speculative mania” that preceded the crashes of 2008 and 2000, according to economist David Rosenberg.

The Rosenberg Research president – who called the 2008 recession and who’s been a vocal bear on Wall Street amid the latest market rally – pointed to the “raging bull market” that’s taken off in stocks, with the S&P 500 surpassing the 5,000 mark for the first time ever last week.

The benchmark index has soared around 22% from its low in October

last year, clearing the official threshold for a bull market. The index has also gained for the last five weeks and has been up for 14 of the last 15 weeks – a winning streak that hasn’t been seen since the early 1970s.

But the stellar gains are a double-edged sword for investors, as the market looks dangerously similar to the environment prior to the dot-com and 2008 crashes, Rosenberg wrote in a note on Monday.

“With each passing day, this has the feel of being a cross between 1999 and 2007. It is a gigantic speculative price bubble across most risk assets, and while AI is real, so was the Internet, and so were the high-flying stocks that

populated the Nifty Fifty era,” he said, referring to the group of 50 large-cap stocks that dominated the stock market in the 60s and 70s, before falling by around 60 percent.

Other Wall Street strategists have warned of the parallels between today’s market and similar stock booms in the past. The hype for artificial intelligence pushed the Magnificent Seven stocks to dominate most of the S&P 500’s gains last year, and a major price correction is on the way as valuations soar to unsustainable levels, Richard Bernstein Advisors said in an October 2023 note.

“This is the problem when a group of mega cap ‘concept’ stocks trade

at double the multiple of the rest of the market. The lesson is that (i) the higher they are, the harder they fall, and (ii) there are dangers when too much growth gets priced in,” Rosenberg said.

“Being real in an economic sense does not mean we have not entered a realm of excessive exuberance when it comes to the financial markets,” he added, referring to the hype surrounding AI.

The outlook for stocks is also shadowed by an uncertain economic picture. Geopolitical risks, recession risk, and the risk that the Fed will disappoint investors hoping for rate cuts aren’t being priced into markets at the moment, Rosenberg added.

“I don’t find speculative manias a turn-on and in my personal finances, I avoid them like the plague. Not everyone likes to hear that, especially since I missed so much of this rally but that’s how I roll,” he said. Rosenberg has warned investors to tread carefully before, given the slew of risks he sees ahead for markets. Previously, he said that the S&P 500 looked “eerily similar” to 2022, the year the index plunged 20 percent. That’s partly because a recession that “few see and few are positioned for” is coming for the economy, he wrote in a post on LinkedIn last month.

Business Insider

Insurance sector had solid performance in 2023

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzanian insurance industry has experienced significant growth in 2023, with written premiums (GWP) increasing by 10 percent to reach 1,251bn/- from 1,138bn/- in 2022, naming three growth drivers.

These includes economic growth, population growth, and infrastructure development, making it a promising market for investors in the insurance sector.

A just-released report on

the sectors’ performance dubbed “Tanzania Insurance Sector Market Report 2024” acknowledged the growth as stated by the Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI).

For instance, the report indicated that the projection of the real GDP growth of 5.9 percent, and 6.1 percent in 2024 and 2025 respectively, correlates with increased economic activity and wealth among individuals and businesses.

The move has led to the heightened demand for insurance products as peo-

ple and businesses seek to safeguard their investments.

With population growth, the report has that the trend has instigated the working class transitioning to medium-level income earners, thus leading to higher disposable income for services like insurance.

On the other hand, the report sees infrastructure development with major construction projects in oil, gas, energy, mining, and transportation sectors as a call for increased investment in the insurance

industry to enhance risk mitigation.

“The emergence of oil and gas projects in the country has led to the establishment of the Tanzania Energy Coinsure Consortium, allowing insurers to jointly underwrite large and specialized risks in the oil and gas sector,” the report reads in part.

It adds: “This indicates a growing opportunity for the insurance sector to provide coverage for these expanding and high-value projects, contributing to

the overall growth of the industry.”

Apart from GWP progression, the report indicated that even for the general insurance policies, has also recorded a noteworthy rise, reaching 981bn/- in 2023 from 895bn/- recorded in 2022, reflecting a growth of almost 10 percent.

With the life insurance segment, it has also showed strong growth, with its premiums reaching to 269bn/- from 242bn/- in 2022, indicating an impressive increase of 11 percent.

When your car reaches THIS mileage it suffers the most significant drop in value in its lifetime...

LONDON

Want to know when is the sweet spot to sell your car? Before it reaches 60,000 miles, according to experts.

A new study by Carwow has found that cars on average lose around 27 per cent of their value when the odometer reaches 60k.

The sharp decline is likely linked to the industry standard car warranty that lasts for three years, or until the car reaches 60,000 miles.

Carwow’s study says the first major drop in the value of a car occurs when it reaches the 30,000-mile marker. However, it is cars that go beyond 60,000 miles that see the biggest declines.

The biggest chunk of price is lost when cars surpass 60,000 miles, dropping by an average of 27 per cent compared to their value at 50,000 miles. The data shows that cars that have clocked over six figures will then see a further drop of 24 per cent – an average loss of £945 when hitting 110,000 miles.

Owners of well-used models showing between 100,000 and 150,000 miles on the clock are sold for an average of £3,259, yet owners run the risk of achieving a significantly lower price if they let the odometer tick over 150,001.

“The loss in value per mileage bracket shows that a timely sale could save car owners from a sizable drop in valuation prices, showing the importance of keeping a close eye on mileage,” the company said.

Paul Barker, managing editor at the car buying and selling website, added: “Our data highlights just how crucial it is for car owners to act quickly.

“Waiting around to sell could result in a substantial drop in valuation price, and

owners selling at the right time becomes key to get the best valuation for their car.

“Of course, there are many factors that can affect the value of a car, such as the model and any modifications that have been made.

“However, mileage is one of the key factors that affect a car’s value and understanding just how much will help car owners in their decision making.”

This comes after figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Trade (SMMT) show the UK’s used car market is thriving, growing by 5.1 per cent in 2023, thanks to levelling prices and re-energised supply, as well as a record year for electric vehicle sales.

The most popular used car models of 2023 were also unveiled, with the Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall Corsa and Volkswagen Golf rounding out the top three models that changed hands the most last year.

Recent analysis by Honk-Honk revealed private sellers shouldn’t hold out for the best offer when selling a used car and instead are wise to accept the first offer they get.

Rising costs due to overheads and preparation expenses are eating into dealer profits to a point where they are happy just to break even on a second-hand sale.

And motorists selling their cars are taking the hit, rejecting the first offer they get as ‘too low’ only to find a better offer doesn’t materialise, and their car’s lost even more value.

With this in mind, Carwow reiterates to owners to weigh their options and consider making the most of the current used car market ‘before further depreciation takes its toll’.

Daily Mail



Carwow data shows a car declines in value by 27 percent when it reaches a certain mileage, which is the most significant financial loss it will endure in its lifetime. The car buying and selling site says there are three mileage markers owners need to watch out for when selling

Tesla unveils latest move to offset demand slump as stock extends slide

Washington

TESLA shares edged lower Monday after the carmaker unveiled a fresh round of U.S. price cuts, raising further questions about the health of EV demand heading into the early months of the year.

Tesla shares have shed more than \$200 billion in value over the past six months and are by far the worst-performing stock of the so-called Magnificent 7 tech giants as investors continue to reprice the group in the face of a pullback in demand, slumping profit margins and headline risks tied to CEO Elon Musk.

The group itself in fact hinted at pending U.S. layoffs last week amid reports that perfor-

mance reviews for some employees have been canceled and managers have been asked to make a “binary” assessment of roles across the company.

Tesla recorded deliveries of 485,000 over the final three months of last year, but fading demand, a series of price cuts, and costs linked to artificial-intelligence projects and the delayed Cybertruck took big chunks out of its bottom line.

Tesla’s profit margins, probably the metric most closely tracked by Wall Street analysts, narrowed to 17.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023. That compares with a 23.8 percent margin over the same period in 2022 and analysts’ estimates

of around 18.3 percent.

The group also warned that 2024 vehicle-delivery growth rates would be “notably lower” than 2023 levels.

Reports Monday, meanwhile, suggest Tesla is issuing a temporary price cut of some of its Model Y cars in the U.S., echoing similar moves in China ahead of that country’s Lunar New Year holiday.

On the other hand, Tesla lowered the price of its rear-wheel and long-range Model Y by \$1,000, to \$42,990 and \$47,990 respectively, with the new prices valid until the end of this month.

Musk said the cuts are an attempt to address “the essential quandary of manufacturing: Factories need continuous



Elon Musk has watched the value of Tesla fall more than \$200 billion over the past six months. Antonio Masiello/Getty Images

production for efficiency, but consumer demand is seasonal.”

Adding to the list of potential distractions for Tesla investors is

the fact that Musk, who runs at least four major enterprises beyond the carmaker, is facing a ruling from U.S. Magistrate Judge Laurel

Beeler, who ordered the billionaire to testify in person to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission probe into his \$44 billion purchase of Twitter.

Musk, who closed the Twitter deal in late 2022 before renaming the microblogging platform X, has thus far refused to cooperate with the SEC’s investigation into whether he followed securities rules in announcing his intention to buy the social media network in the spring of that year.

Musk has also made no secret of his longer-term vision for Tesla and its ability to leverage AI technologies.

Musk, who currently owns around 13 percent of Tesla following a series of major share sales

to fund his Twitter purchase in 2022, said last month that he would need to build his AI and robotics vision outside the Tesla structure unless he could acquire at least a 25 percent voting stake.

Wedbush analyst Dan Ives, however, who carries an outperform rating with a \$315 price target on Tesla, remains firm in his long-term conviction for the stock.

“We could not disagree more with the ultra-negative Tesla narrative building and forming a black cloud over the stock,” he said.

“While the next few months are clearly a bit cloudy for the Tesla story and overall EV demand, longer term our view is that by the end of the decade 20 per-

cent of autos will be EV with autonomous and (Full-Self-Driving) a reality and not a dream/aspiration.” Full-Self-Driving is Tesla’s premium driver-assistance system.

“We believe despite not committing to it on the (fourth quarter earnings conference call in late January), the vast majority of price cuts are now done with gradual price increases/margin expansion likely over the next six months,” Ives added.

Tesla shares were marked 0.3 percent lower in premarket trading to indicate an opening bell price of \$193.00 each, a move that would leave the stock down more than 22 percent so far this year.

Agencies

Pilots extend planned 3-day strike to 6 days

QANTAS Airways' chartered flights unit said on Tuesday its pilots will now be on strike for six days starting this Wednesday, instead of the planned three days, as they continue their demand for higher pay.

The pilots at Network Aviation, which conducts charter flights from Western Australia to other parts of the country, were already planning to strike from Wednesday to Friday and will now strike over the weekend through Monday.

Qantas, the country's flag

carrier, is embroiled in a pay-related dispute with its pilots at Network Aviation who have rejected a new enterprise deal three times.

The strikes will mainly impact Western Australians travelling to towns across the region and no other Qantas Group services are affected, Network Aviation said.

It plans to use three Qantas Boeing 737 aircraft and charter aircraft from other airlines over the next six days and said it is developing contingency plans for future strikes.

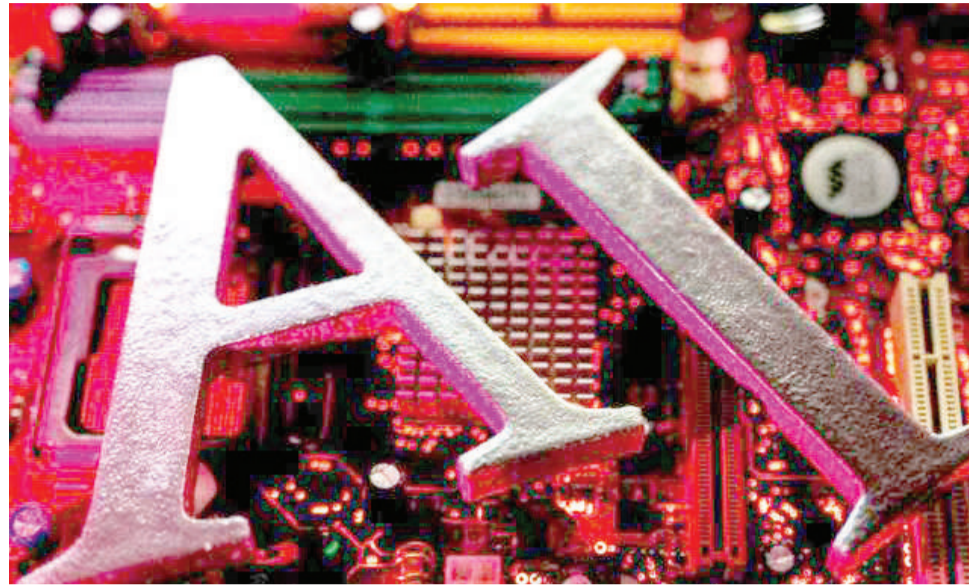
Quilter raises \$10 million for AI-powered circuit board design, led by Benchmark

SAN FRANCISCO

CIRCUIT board design startup Quilter announced on Tuesday it raised \$10 million, saying it would use artificial intelligence to reduce the time to design components that power electronics in rockets, computers, smartphones and other devices.

The \$10 million Series A round was led by one of Silicon Valley's most storied venture capital firms, Benchmark, which made early bets on eBay, Uber, Snap and Meta Platforms' Instagram. The company did not disclose the valuation.

The Los Angeles-based company's software uses a form of artificial intelligence similar to what Google employed to defeat a Chinese grand master at the ancient game of Go. Quilter's technology be-



FILE PHOTO: Illustration shows AI (Artificial Intelligence) letters and computer motherboard

comes better at building circuit boards over time and the company plans to completely automate the process.

"Just because (software) got to 90 percent completion doesn't mean it did 90 percent of the work," Quil-

ter CEO Sergiy Nesterenko said in an interview with Reuters. "That remaining 10 percent of the work that is left is really, really difficult."

Fully automating circuit board design will speed up the process from months

to weeks or days, Nesterenko said. There are also ways to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of boards.

The market for printed circuit board design is roughly \$40 billion to \$50 billion and will continue to

grow substantially, Nesterenko said. Labor costs now account for the majority of that spending.

Founded in 2019, Quilter has 12 employees, who work remotely.

Chip software tool maker Cadence Design Systems has a circuit board business, as do others such as Altium and Autodesk. While they use software for some steps in circuit board design, much of it remains manual, Nesterenko said.

The Benchmark general partner who led the investment, Eric Vishria, took a board seat at Quilter, as is typical with the firm's investments.

The Menlo Park, California venture firm became interested in Quilter because the number of electronics in the world is rapidly increasing, and AI has developed the potential to fully automate the circuit board design process, Vishria said.

Bigger heat pumps, phone box-size car chargers on the way

LONDON

THE installation of bigger heat pumps and electric car chargers the size of phone boxes will be allowed without planning permission under government plans.

The Government is proposing to abolish a size limit on heat pumps to allow bigger units to be installed in a bid to cut down on noise pollution.

A consultation on changes to "permitted development" rules launched by Michael Gove's Levelling Up Department said current regulations limiting the volume size of a heat pump's outdoor compressor unit to 0.6 cubic metres were "preventing the development of quieter models".

Scrapping the size limit would enable the pump to run at a lower speed and minimise noise levels after concerns were raised by acoustic scientists that smaller models were "too noisy" for millions of homes, the department said.

At the same time, the Government is proposing to ease the rules governing where electric car chargers can be placed within the off-street parking areas of sites such as offices, supermarkets and blocks of flats.

Restrictions preventing chargers being located within two metres of a highway, or facing on to a highway, have been scrapped, while the maximum height has been increased from 2.4 metres to 2.7 metres - about the height of one of London's red telephone boxes.

Taller heights will help to accommodate bigger power supplies, providing for more powerful chargers, the Government said. The announcement comes as part of a wider review into various permitted development rights, which propose allowing homeowners and businesses to more easily extend their homes, and install heat pumps and electric vehicle charge points without applying for planning permission.

Currently, a homeowner can install a heat pump without planning permission if it meets

the requirements of the Micro-generation Certification Scheme (MCS), which includes a minimum level of noise disturbance to neighbours. Heat pump installations must also comply with MCS standards to qualify for a £7,500 government grant.

Other proposals outlined in the consultation include allowing two air source heat pumps to be fitted at the same property, to allow for businesses and large houses to install "cascade systems", which rely on multiple units.

The Government is also considering allowing more than one heat pump to be installed in the ground of a block of flats, subject to local authority approval.

Last year the Telegraph revealed that heat pumps were too loud to be installed in millions of homes under current noise guidelines.

Air source heat pumps, positioned outside a home, can produce a low constant hum of between 40 and 60 decibels, similar to the level of noise made by a fridge or dishwasher. They will typically run continuously throughout winter.

Research submitted by acoustic consultancies to the Government said terraces, flats and tenement buildings would struggle to install a heat pump under current noise guidelines outlined by the MCS.

Bean Bealand, of the industry lobby group the Heat Pump Federation, said current size restrictions made it difficult for manufacturers to include more sound-proofing measures in models.

A report published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero last year warned that local authorities would buckle under the increase in planning applications and "noise complaints that would arise under current planning requirements" as the rollout expands to built-up areas.

Last year Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced plans to scrap an "arbitrary" rule that heat pumps must be installed at least one metre away from neighbouring property.

UZALO

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

ITV WEDNESDAY 14 FEB

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Laws of love
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Igizo: Filimbiri rpt
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Bundesliga na DW rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40	Mapishi rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30	Jarida la wanawake
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Aibu Yako
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
21:20	Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:50	Ripoti maalum:
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Jiji letu
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 15 FEB

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Shamba lulu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Ripoti maalum

11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT
13:30	Art and Lifestyle
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Shamsham za pwani rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Jagina
19:00	Usafiri wako
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Malumbano ya hoja
23:00	Jiji letu
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 16 FEB

5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha kishindo
9:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Usafiri wako
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing
11:20	Jagina rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:30	DW: Afrimaxx rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru:
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base (DJ Show)
17:30	Kiislam
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Top ten
19:00	Shamba lulu
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari

21:05	Kipima Joto
23:00	Jiji letu
23:30	The Base
00:30	Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 17 FEB

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:05	Shika Bamba 5
10:35	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50	Art and lifestyle
13:20	Shamba lulu
13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45	Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10	Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00	Jungu kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40	Art and Lifestyle
22:10	ITV Top 10
22:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 18 FEB

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:
12:45	Mjue zaidi
13:30	Usafiri wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00	Habari
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10	Igizo: Mizengwe
21:25	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Jackpot
21:40	Mjue Zaidi
22:20	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera

CAPITAL TV WED 14 FEB

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00	Dw News Africa rpt
12:30	Our Earth
13:00	Telenovela: I Plead Guilty rpt
14:00	Capchat
15:00	Out & About rpt
15:30	Eco@Africa
16:00	Bussines Edition Rpt
16:30	Culinary delight rpt
17:00	Innovation rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Sports Gazette
19:30	Chetu ni chetu
20:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00	Dakika 45:
22:45	The Décor

THURS 15 FEB

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Spots gazette
12:00	Innovation
12:30	Culinary
13:00	Telenovela rpt: I Plead Guilty rpt
14:00	Our Earth rpt
14:30	DW news Africa rpt
15:00	Jagina rpt
15:30	Mizengwe rpt
16:00	Tomorrow Today
16:30	Business edition rpt
17:00	In good shape
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Out & About Rpt
19:30	Eco@Africa
20:00	Our Earth Rpt
20:45	Telenovela: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00	Capchat rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera

FRID 16 FEB

06:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Kumekucha Michezo rpt
10:00	Meza Huru Rpt
11:30	Capchat
12:30	Decor
13:00	Telenovela I Plead Guilty rpt
14:00	Culinary rpt
14:30	Ripoti Maalum
15:00	Dk 45 rpt

16:00	Dw News Africa rpt
16:30	The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Rev rpt
19:00	Out & About Rpt
20:00	Aibu Yako
20:15	Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45	Telenovela: I Plead Guilty 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00	Malumbano ya hoja
00:00	Al Jazeera

SAT 17 FEB

08:00	Al Jazeera
09:00	Rev rpt
09:30	Jagina rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30	Our Earth rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Aljazeera
14:30	Telenovela I Plead Guilty rpt
17:15	Eco@Africa
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Ripoti Maalum
20:30	Tomorrow Today
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Capchat Rpt
23:00	Al Jazeera
01:00	Al Jazeera

SUN 18 FEB

08:00	Aljazeera
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Dw
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off
13:00	In good shape rpt
13:30	Dw
15:15	Aibu yako
15:30	Rev rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Eco@Africa
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00	Jagina
20:30	Out & About rpt
21:00	Dw News Africa
21:30	Capchat live
22:15	Telenovela rpt: I Plead Guilty rpt
00:00	Al Jazeera



Proposals include allowing two air source heat pumps to be fitted at the same property - SolStock/E+

Joe Biden says Israel must protect vulnerable in Rafah



Trump seeks Supreme Court pause in 2020 election case

WASHINGTON

Ex-US President Donald Trump has asked the Supreme Court to suspend a lower court ruling that he does not have presidential immunity from prosecution.

He had claimed in his election interference case he could not be tried for acts carried out as president.

Three lower court judges disagreed, ruling that he can be prosecuted like any other citizen.

But Trump's lawyers said he should not be tried during an election campaign.

"Conducting a months-long criminal trial of President Trump at the height of election season will radically disrupt President Trump's ability to campaign against President Biden," Trump's attorneys wrote in the filing.

The Supreme Court will now decide if it will put the ruling on hold to allow Trump to appeal.

The conservative-majority top court granting the request would lead to a long delay in the landmark criminal case alleging that Mr Trump plotted to illegally overturn the 2020 election, possibly until after the November election.

However, if the Supreme Court declines to put the ruling on hold while the federal trial overseen by Judge Tanya Chutkan will be scheduled, likely for spring.

As Trump vies for the White House, he faces three other criminal trials in addition to this one.

He faces charges in Georgia for an alleged attempt to overturn the 2020 election results in the state and a seven-count indictment in Florida over his handling of classified documents after he left the White House.

The third, based in New York, is related to the alleged concealment of a payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels. He has pleaded not guilty against the charges in all the cases.

Trump's legal team has also made repeated attempts to delay his criminal trials until after the 2024 election.

In the federal election interference trial, Trump has been charged with four counts: conspiracy to defraud the US, conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, obstruction of an official proceeding, and conspiracy against the rights of citizens.

He has repeatedly denied wrongdoing, and his lawyers have argued that presidents are immune from prosecution for possible crimes committed while they are in office, even after they leave the White House.

Last week, this argument was rejected by a three-judge panel from the DC Circuit court, made up of one Republican appointee and two Democratic ones, who ruled that "any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution".

Now, Trump's lawyers are asking the Supreme Court to weigh in by putting the lower court's ruling on hold to allow time for all active judges on the DC Circuit court to review the case.

In their filing, they warned that denying the former president immunity would set a precedent where "such prosecutions will recur and become increasingly common".

"Without immunity from criminal prosecution, the Presidency as we know it will cease to exist," Trump's lawyers argued.

If the lower circuit court declines a review, Trump has asked that the ruling remain on hold while he files a formal appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court could respond to Trump's request in a few ways.

It could deny his ask to put the ruling on hold, which would resume the federal trial. It could deny Trump's request for a review, which would effectively shut down his immunity argument.

The court could also decide to hear Trump's appeal immediately, bypassing a review from the lower court. It could do so on a fast track, similar to a separate case it is currently weighing on whether Trump is eligible to be on the ballot in the 2024 election.

It could also decide to hear it on the court's usual schedule, which could likely delay a trial in the case well past November's election date.

The Supreme Court previously denied a request late last year by Special Counsel Jack Smith, the lead prosecutor on the case, to issue an expedited ruling on Mr Trump's immunity argument.

It is unclear when the Supreme Court might rule on Trump's request.

Agencies

GAZA/JERUSALEM

US President Joe Biden has said civilians who are "packed" into Rafah in the Gaza Strip are "exposed and vulnerable" and must be protected.

Israel must make "credible" efforts to protect the more than one million Palestinians sheltering in the southern Gazan city, he said.

Rafah has come under heavy Israeli air strikes in recent days, with a number of casualties reported.

A Palestinian doctor told the BBC people in Rafah were living in fear.

Last week, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he had ordered troops to prepare to expand its ground operation to Rafah. He vowed to defeat Hamas gunmen hiding in the city.

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said any assault would be "terrifying" and many civilians "will likely be killed".

More than half of the Gaza Strip's population of 2.3 million is now crammed into the city on the border with Egypt, which was home to only 250,000 people before the war between Israel and Hamas erupted in October.

Many of the displaced people are living in makeshift shelters or tents in squalid conditions, with scarce access to safe drinking water or food.

On Sunday, Israel's military said two male Israeli-Argentine hostages had been rescued during a raid in Rafah.

President Biden again appealed for the protection of Rafah civilians after his meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah in Washington on Monday.



US President Joe Biden

He said any major military operation in the city "should not proceed without a credible plan for ensuring the safety" of those living there.

"Many people there have been displaced, displaced multiple times, fleeing the violence to the north and now they're packed into Rafah, exposed and vulnerable.

"They need to be protected. And we've also been clear from the start, we oppose any forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza."

Last week, the White House said it would not support major Israeli operations in Rafah without due consideration for the refugees there.

Many people have fled Israel's ground operation in the rest of the Gaza Strip - a Palestinian enclave run by Hamas.

A number of countries and international organisations have warned Israel against launching its planned offensive.

UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron on Monday said Israel should "stop and think seriously" before taking further action in Rafah.

EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged allies of Israel to stop send-

ing weapons, as "too many people" were being killed in Gaza.

Last week, Saudi Arabia warned of "very serious repercussions" if Rafah was stormed.

Meanwhile, Gaza's Hamas rulers said there could be "tens of thousands" of casualties, warning that any operation would also undermine talks about a possible release of Israeli hostages held in the territory.

Rafah - on the border with Egypt - is the only open point of entry for humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Israel's military launched its operations in the Gaza Strip after at least 1,200 people were killed in southern Israel on 7 October by Hamas-led gunmen, who also took 253 people hostage.

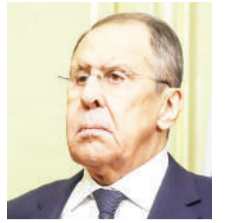
A number of those hostages were later released but Israel says 134 are still unaccounted for.

On Monday, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza said 164 people had been killed and 200 injured in Gaza over the last day. The ministry says 28,340 Palestinians have been killed and nearly 68,000 wounded in the Strip since 7 October.

Agencies

Lavrov, Valdai Club experts to discuss ways to resolve Middle East issue

MOSCOW



RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend the 13th Middle East Conference of the Valdai Discussion Club, which will bring together about 50 experts from Russia and other countries and is scheduled for February 13-14.

According to the organizers, the conference "is taking place in circumstances of increased attention to the region: the Middle East problems in general and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in particular have come to the forefront of the international agenda."

The event is expected to be attended by guests from 16 countries, including Algeria, Egypt, India, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Turkey. Sergey Lavrov, who will be the guest of honor at the conference, will meet with the Valdai Club's experts on February 13.

The top Russian diplomat earlier pointed out that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was another example of a regional tragedy created by US policies. Lavrov noted that Washington's years-long attempts "to monopolize mediation efforts in the Middle East settlement process have led to a sharp escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip."

According to Lavrov, "given the situation that we are witnessing, there is a real risk of instability in a much larger area in this important region of the world."

According to the Valdai Club, "the purpose of the conference is to analyze regional trends and replenish the collection of ideas and proposals that can be used for stabilization, a comprehensive settlement and the creation of conditions for progressive development in the Middle East."

Experts will particularly discuss paths to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the legacy of colonial policy and its echoes in the Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the diversity of players in the Middle East, a Middle East without nuclear weapons and economic cooperation in the region.

Africa needs to build manufacturing capacities to invest its natural resources, achieve independence

DUBAI

PRESIDENT of Rwanda Paul Kagame said failure of African countries to direct efforts towards building manufacturing capacities kept them under foreign domination.

Despite huge natural resources capable of pushing Africa to global forefront and achieving independence, the continent is still a target of the world's major power interventions, said Kagame (pictured) during a plenary session on the first day of the World Governments Summit 2024.

He urged African countries to act as one to realize joint interests and take their place among world leaders.

According to Kagame, Africa's problem stems from the fact that major world powers do not consider it as an independent center of power, in terms of human capital and econ-

omy, capable of making a difference in all aspects of joint global interests.

Answering a question about political and security instabilities in some African countries, Kagame said: "These are manifestations of two main issues that need to be addressed at the root level: the lack of qualified and specialized leaderships, and the inefficiency of government processes and mechanisms."

The President of Rwanda said the world is not learning from the past, when conflicts and civil wars killed the innocent and depleted nations' resources, stressing that even international community organizations and major world powers refuse to apply lessons learned from the atrocities of the past.

Asked about expectations of the upcoming presidential elections in Rwanda this year, Kagame said only votes can decide who gets to rule Rwanda for the next term.

ANI



ABU DHABI

THE Emirates News Agency (WAM) organised a roundtable entitled "Shaping Economic Narratives: The Role of News Agencies" as part of Day 1 of the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2024, which kicked off today.

The event was attended by a number of officials and directors of news agencies from the Arab region, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The roundtable highlight-

ed the role of news agencies in supporting future economies, promoting innovative business concepts, and their readiness to deal with emerging economic sectors.

It also emphasised the role of media professionals in future business journalism, as well as the importance of media partnerships in boosting experience exchange and upskilling young media professionals.

Mohamed Jalal Alrayssi, Director-General of WAM, stressed the key role of news agencies in promoting future

WAM organises roundtable on future of business media

business concepts and conveying them to the public effectively.

He noted that the media sector is seeing remarkable advancements in keeping with global technological developments, with the emergence of new technologies in media work utilising artificial intelligence (AI) and data, which will shape the future of business media.

In a statement, Alrayssi said that the roundtable highlighted four key issues,

including the importance of engaging with new economic sectors, the challenges and opportunities arising from these sectors, ways to improve business journalism, and the importance of strengthening strategic partnerships between news agencies and various media outlets.

Highlighting the roundtable's outcomes, Alrayssi explained that the meeting culminated in several recommendations, including the need to train and up-

skill workers in news agencies and media outlets by concluding partnerships with government and private institutions concerned with business affairs to train journalists on how to deal with data and information related to contemporary economic concepts, including the green economy, digital currencies and AI.

For his part, Mohammed Abd Rabbo Al Yami, Director-General of the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA), stressed the leading role of

news agencies in spotlighting new economic models despite challenges.

He underscored the need to keep pace with the shifts seen across the contemporary media sector and adapt to new technological developments.

Farid Ayar, Secretary-General of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), said that news agencies play a leading role in shaping public opinion on economic trends and the public's understanding of it.

He noted that most of the world's news agencies have specialised economic departments tasked with preparing economic news and reports.

Gregoire Ndjaka, Chief Executive Officer of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB), stressed the need to ensure the current capabilities of news agencies and their readiness to cover and interact with emerging economic sectors such as green energy, cryptocurrencies and industries based on AI.

ANI

Civilians in DR Congo's Sake suffer from rebel M23 offensive

SAKE

FOR several weeks, residents of Sake, a city in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), have been living under the intensive exchange of heavy weapons fire as fighting flared up between government troops and March 23 Movement (M23) rebels, Xinhua correspondents observed on the ground.

Located about 20 km from Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, much of which is occupied by the M23, Sake City is considered to be the last barrier for Goma, which was taken by M23 rebels in late 2012.

The DRC army and military partners such as the Southern African Development Community Force have deployed heavy artillery pieces to stop the advance of the M23, which now controls several places on the mountains overlooking Sake.

As residents who had fled the recent fighting started to gradually return to their homes in Sake, many still shudder at the thought of bombs falling in the city.

On Friday, at least six M23 bombs hit the city, some destroying civilians' houses. On Sunday, another bomb fell in a field on the hill above the Sake shopping center, injuring at least six people.

Since the previous week, part of Goma has been hit by bombs, particularly in the peripheral district of Mugunga, where a school and a market came under attack, causing injuries.

"The M23 rebels, who have had the sole objective of terrorizing the population for several months, are now re-



Soldiers are seen on a vehicle in Sake, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Feb. 11, 2024. For several weeks, residents of Sake, a city in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), have been living under the intensive exchange of heavy weapons fire as fighting flared up between government troops and March 23 Movement (M23) rebels, Xinhua correspondents observed on the ground. Xinhua

sponsible for these despicable acts against our people," said Ndjike Kaiko Guillaume, spokesperson for the Congolese army in the region. He was in Sake alongside military governor Peter Chirimwami who was visiting the city Sunday.

"As these rebels suffer daily fire from our force on the battlefield, this is why they choose to attack the vulnerable," Guillaume said.

Holding in his hands the remnants of an explosive device that detonated a few minutes before, the army spokesperson said those injured, who were immediately transferred to Goma, were receiving treatment there.

Last Wednesday, government troops,

supported by elements of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, known as MONUSCO, repelled a major assault by M23, who launched its attack on Sake from several positions.

According to a report from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Goma, at least 58 people, including 31 civilians, were injured in that exchange.

They were transferred to CBCA Ndosh Hospital in Goma, further burdening the city's already fragile healthcare system.

The ICRC report said civilians and healthcare facilities are increasingly exposed to violent fighting.

"The injured continued to arrive, some transported by motorbikes, others by bus-

es," said Laurent Cresci, head nurse of the ICRC surgical team in Goma, adding that including patients already there before Feb. 7, the team treated 120 injured people, at a facility with an initial capacity of only 64 beds.

"The lack of space to accommodate so many patients is our main challenge," he said. Sake residents, apprehensive of more attacks, have to spend their days amid almost constant heavy artillery fire from the DRC military.

About 20 rounds of artillery shells are fired daily from the Mubambiro military base, located at the entrance to Sake, targeting rebel positions in the mountains.

"It is more and more difficult for us to live through this situation with the children. The bombing starts early in the morning and continues throughout the day with loud detonations, sometimes unbearable," Denis Muhima, who once lived in Shasha but later fled to Sake.

Several other families interviewed also complained of trauma to children, who cannot sleep because of the gunfire coming from all sides.

As a result of ongoing conflicts, Sake now hosts more than 80,000 people displaced from different villages in Masisi territory, much of which were also taken by M23 rebels.

The recent attacks on Sake have forced many of those displaced people to flee again to sites around Goma.

The United Nations and several other multinational organizations have spoken of a serious humanitarian crisis in North Kivu and called on the warring parties to stop hostilities immediately and try to find a peaceful solution. The Kinshasa government, though, said it would not have any form of negotiation with the M23.

Xinhua

Russia to open diplomatic missions in more African countries, diplomat says

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is working to open diplomatic missions in several more African countries, Vsevolod Tkachenko, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa Department, said in an interview with TASS.

"Our embassy in Burkina Faso opened just before the new year, and Russia's diplomatic mission in Equatorial Guinea will begin operations very soon. Several more missions are on the way; we will announce where they will be set up as soon as the work is done," the diplomat said.

Moscow is in talks with African countries to launch flights to new destinations, added Tkachenko.

"The goal stems from the decisions made at the Russia-Africa summits and work is underway, which is certainly taking into account economic and logistics difficulties," the diplomat said, when asked about the prospects for expanding flights between Russia and Africa.

Tkachenko noted that until recently, Russian airlines had not operated regular flights to sub-Saharan African countries. He specified that Russia's national air carrier Aeroflot had resumed flights to the Seychelles in September 2022 and to Mauritius in December 2023. "Talks are underway on more destinations," Tkachenko added.

Oleg Ozerov, the Russian Foreign Ministry's ambassador-at-large and head of the Secretariat of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum, told TASS last September that Russian tourists would be able to take direct flights to several African countries in the near future.

According to him, the Russian leadership handed down instructions to enhance Moscow's diplomatic presence on the African continent after the Russia-Africa Summit that took place in St. Petersburg last summer.

UK announces new sanctions against Israeli settlers over 'human rights abuses' on Palestinians

LONDON

THE United Kingdom on Monday announced new sanctions on the four extremist Israeli settlers, who committed alleged human rights abuses against Palestinian communities in the West Bank, UK foreign secretary said in an official statement.

According to the statement, the decision was taken after an unprecedented increase in violence by extremist settlers in the West Bank over the past year.

"There have been unprecedented levels of violence by extremist settlers in the West Bank over the past year. Some residents of illegal Israeli settlements and outposts have used harassment, intimidation and violence to put pressure on Palestinian communities to leave their land," read the statement.

"Two of the individuals designated today - Moshe Sharvit and Yinon Levy - have in recent months used physical aggression, threatened families at gunpoint, and destroyed property as part of a targeted and calculated effort to displace Palestinian communities. One illegal outpost, set up by Zvi Bar Yosef, has been described by local Palestinian residents as a "source of systematic intimidation and violence," it added.

ANI

Zambian artist inspires younger women to overcome stereotypes

KAPIRI MPOSHI

ELIZABETH Banda, 53, from Kapiri Mposhi, central Zambia, is making waves because of her artworks.

Banda's artist journey began during her elementary school years over three decades ago. She vividly recalls the first time she laid her hands on clay, shaping it into various objects under the guidance of her teacher.

"I enjoyed making things from clay. As a young teenager, I spent a lot of time perfecting my skills and looked forward to producing great pieces of art," she said.

However, life's responsibilities took precedence, forcing her to set aside her artistic pursuits to prioritize being a homemaker. Banda married young and went on to have eight children, seven of whom have since died.

Nonetheless, fate had a different plan in store for her. An en-

counter with women involved in making clay pots and simple ornaments about a decade ago rekindled her passion.

Armed with her innate talent, Banda began her artistic journey anew. She turned part of her home into a makeshift art studio, where she spends much of her time making intricate objects from clay or cement mixed with sand.

"I realized that if I could create something out of earth, I could bring joy into people's lives and support my family at the same time," Banda said while working on a figure depicting a learner reading a book.

The piece was commissioned by a school in the town of Kapiri Mposhi. Her artworks, which cost 100-1,000 Zambian kwacha (about 3.7-37 U.S. dollars) apiece, range from figurines to intricate vessels, she said.

Banda's craftsmanship has



Artist Elizabeth Banda works on a life-size figure in Kapiri Mposhi, central Zambia, Jan. 26, 2024. Xinhua

caught the attention of many in Kapiri Mposhi, and her fame as a talented artist is inspiring young women and girls to consider venturing into the traditionally male-dominated art scene, including sculpting.

"Until now, I had never come across a woman who makes sculptures," said 16-year-old Cecilia Mwewa.

"This has encouraged me to occupy spaces dominated by men.

Xinhua

JUBA

VIOLENT clashes that erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan have forced 542,000 individuals into South Sudan since mid-April 2023, the UN humanitarian agency said on Monday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said 80 percent of the returnees are South Sudanese and 19 percent Sudanese, indi-

Sudan's clashes uproot over 540,000 people into South Sudan: UN

cating that there are still a lot of people fleeing Sudan, with higher numbers of Sudanese on an average daily basis. OCHA said some 107,802 refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in South Sudan since the beginning of the response, with 94 percent or 101,097 people processed and biometrically registered.

"The arrival of refugees in-

creased following an escalation of fighting in Sudan in mid-December and continued during the reporting period," OCHA said in its latest report released in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. Deadly clashes have been going on between the SAF and the paramilitary forces since mid-April last year.

The conflict has killed more than 9,000 people, displacing

over 6 million others within and outside Sudan and leaving 25 million in need of aid, according to the UN. OCHA also decried the security situation in the Abyei Administrative Area which it said has deteriorated significantly following a wave of attacks across the region, including an attack on the UN Security Force for Abyei (UN-ISFA) base in Agok that resulted

in casualties and suspended all humanitarian movement until further notice.

"This has subsequently hindered plans to resume the relocation of new arrivals from Abyei to Aweil and the delivery of core relief items and food/cash assistance to the Abyei TC, where about 100 Sudanese refugee arrivals are sheltering and awaiting relocation,"

OCHA said.

According to Save the Children, a global charity, at least 75 people, including three children, have been killed and 2,200 displaced in two weeks of brutal violence between communities in the Abyei Special Administrative Area.

The charity said the actual number of those killed in the fighting between armed youth of the Twic community of neighboring Warrap state and Ngok Dinka of Abyei could be much higher.

Xinhua

LONG Fei, a migrant worker that works in south China's Guangdong province, returns to his home in Guizhou every Chinese New Year.

Many years ago, Long and other fellow migrant workers working in the Pearl River Delta region often rode motorcycles back home due to China's limited transportation capacity and short supply of train tickets during the Spring Festival travel rush.

Thanks to the continuous development of transportation networks in recent years, they can return home for the Chinese New Year taking high-speed trains or airplanes today. Long has bought a car and now drives home with his wife and daughter for the Chinese New Year.

The declining number of migrant workers riding motorcycles back home for the Chinese

Spring Festival travel rush mirrors bright future of China

New Year exactly reflects the changes and progress in China's Spring Festival travel rush.

According to estimates by China's Ministry of Transport, approximately 9 billion passenger trips will take place during this year's Spring Festival travel rush.

The traditional transportation sectors - railways, highways, aviation, and shipping - will all be operating at full capacity. Newer forms of travel such as road trips, ride-sharing, and car rentals will also provide diverse options.

Huge numbers of trips are being made for family visits and tourism, and by students and migrant workers returning home. The mobility mirrors China's continuous economic recovery and social vitality.

The changes in the Spring Festival travel rush not only affect people's choices of transportation but also impact consumer demands.

This year, it is estimated that 7.2 billion trips will be made by car, accounting for 80 percent of the total. Nowadays, people can enjoy family gatherings and reunion dinners without being confined to their homes, as their mobility has been significantly facilitated by vehicles. They can go for trips whenever they want.

In addition, various transportation means such as high-speed trains, airplanes, and rental cars are working in close collaboration, allowing people to go to different destinations.

The diversification of travel choices not only facilitates

people's travels but also fuels a more vibrant Spring Festival consumer market.

The tense Spring Festival travel rush has brought pressure to related service sectors, but it has also presented opportunities for development. Train stations opened up exclusive channels for passengers with special needs; airports upgraded services for first-time travelers, ride-hailing platforms increased capacity allocation, and highway service areas have provided catering, repair, and medical services to drivers. These thoughtful services have turned travel from a matter of "just getting from A to B" into a pleasant experience people can truly enjoy.

Relieving the pain points of Spring Festival travelers can

uncover new opportunities for the development of the transportation industry.

Factories are working overtime to increase production; logistics companies are working to ensure stable supply chains, and retail, hospitality and tourism businesses are fully prepared to meet customer demand. This coordinated effort across the production, logistics and service sectors to provide uninterrupted offerings is fulfilling people's travel needs during the Chinese New Year, tapping into the potential of the Spring Festival market, and demonstrating the resilience of the Chinese economy.

In recent years, China has built the world's largest high-speed rail network, highway system, and world-class sea

ports. This extensive transportation infrastructure has stimulated investment, boosted development, and met the travel needs of the people.

In the past, Chinese people would take long journeys before reuniting with family during the Chinese New Year, and today, they are spending the festival wherever they want. People used to carry large bags filled with gifts when visiting their parents, now thanks to online shopping, the goods can be delivered home directly. People's increasing demand for a better life provides impetus for advancement across many industries, including transportation.

The continuous growth in passenger flow unleashes stronger consumer drive,

greater economic vitality, and larger development potential, reflecting the essence of "Spring Festival travel rush economy" where supply and demand mutually promote each other and drive the formation of a higher level dynamic equilibrium.

The development of the Spring Festival travel rush is a history of population mobility. In the 1980s, with the opening of the urban-rural migration, there was a surge in migrant workers going out to work, which contributed to the rise of the "world's factory" and created the phenomenon of the Spring Festival travel rush. Nowadays, more people are going to other places for education and business opportunities, and then returning to contribute to the development of their hometowns.

People's Daily

Kagera grand tour to transform the country's tourism landscape



Haya traditional dance from Kagera Region. (Agencies)

By Correspondent
Straton Ruhinda

In a groundbreaking move, Sepenga Entertainment, led by Miss Goodhope Ntimba, is set to introduce the eagerly awaited Kagera Grand Tour from February 26 to March 3.

The initiative is poised to redefine Tanzania's tourism industry, bringing attention to the often-overlooked Kagera region and turning its challenges into opportunities for cultural celebration and economic growth.

Did you know the Kagera region is a treasure trove of rich cultural heritage, boasting diverse ethnic groups with an ancient history of occupation?

Their cultural practices, steeped in vibrant dances, elaborate ceremonies, and traditional craftsmanship, mirror a profound connection to their history and land.

Notwithstanding occasional stereotypes, the people of Kagera, including the Haya community, are renowned for their

warmth, hospitality, and resilience in the face of challenges.

Adding to its allure, Kagera is home to some of Africa's most breathtaking natural scenery, including the picturesque shoreline of Lake Victoria.

Supported by the region's fertile soils, agriculture plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security.

Explore the abundance of natural attractions, from the verdant Burigi-Chato National Park and Rumanyika Ibanda to the awe-inspiring Rusumo Falls on the Rwandan border.

Remarkably, Kagera was one of the traditional iron smelters, predating much of Europe - a historical nugget detailed in a report by Peter Schedtz and Bertram Mapunda, combining anthropological and archaeological research (JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY 16, 73-102, 1997, article number AA970305).

Despite facing challenges, including the HIV/AIDS outbreak in the 1980s and

a devastating earthquake in September 2016, Kagera remains resilient. The community rallied together to rebuild homes, communities, and livelihoods in the aftermath of the earthquake.

While tragedies like the MV Bukoba disaster have left lasting marks on Kagera's history, they don't define its identity. Instead, it's the resilience, cultural richness, and natural beauty that paint a more comprehensive picture of this diverse and vibrant region.

As we reflect on Kagera's past and present, let's envision a future where it thrives, empowered by its people and their collective spirit of resilience and hope. These adversities should not serve as excuses but rather as motivations to continue striving for improvement and progress.

In the face of hardship, Kagera has the chance to realize its latent potential and turn misfortune into a driving force for success. This region possesses the fortitude and resources to

forge a better future despite obstacles that have clouded its prospects.

Taking inspiration from the success of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan's Royal Tour, the Kagera Grand Tour goes beyond a typical travel experience.

It represents a strategic effort to promote sustainable tourism development.

Through collaboration with national artists, government bodies, and the local community, Sepenga Entertainment has crafted a diverse itinerary, offering experiences ranging from thrilling eco-adventures in Kagera National Park to deep cultural engagements in traditional Haya villages.

Using compelling documentaries, virtual tours, and impactful social media campaigns, the Kagera Grand Tour aims to captivate global audiences, unveiling the hidden treasures of Kagera and sparking international interest.

Fostering collaboration within the tourism industry, the project provides training and capacity-

building opportunities for local guides, entrepreneurs, and hospitality professionals.

This ensures a top-notch experience for visitors and contributes to the region's economic development.

The tour serves as a platform for cultural exchange, putting Kagera's rich heritage on display through traditional arts, music, and cuisine. This not only celebrates diversity but also empowers local artisans and entrepreneurs.

As the Kagera Grand Tour gains momentum, it promises to be a game-changer, not only for the region but on a national scale.

Miss Goodhope Ntimba and the Sepenga Entertainment team are poised to make Kagera shine as a beacon of sustainable tourism, offering travelers an unforgettable journey through its captivating landscapes and vibrant cultural tapestry.

Get ready to witness Tanzania's hidden gem like never before!

Thompson scores 26, Curry has five 3s in the 4th as Warriors beat Jazz 129-107 without Kerr

SALT LAKE CITY

KLAY Thompson scored 26 points, Stephen Curry made five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and had 25 and the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 129-107 on Monday night without coach Steve Kerr.

Kerr was in Serbia for the funeral service for Golden State assistant coach Dejan Milojevic, who had a heart attack at a team dinner in Salt Lake City on Jan. 16 and died the next day. Kerr, assistant coaches Chris DeMarco and Ron Adams, general manager Mike Dunleavy, team liaison Zaza Pachulia, and team vice president Rick Celebrini were among the mourners.

"We knew this trip was going to be tough all the way around, just the emotions coming back to a place where it happened, but it was definitely weird without Steve," Curry said. "It helped us to acknowledge and celebrate what they were doing and where they were at, and where they should have been. And then our ability to go out and allow the game to honor (Milojevic) was good."

Assistant coach Kenny Atkinson led the Warriors (26-25) in their fifth straight victory, moving them above .500.

"It was strange. Steve's our leader. He leads the staff. He did a phenomenal job, leading us through a really tough time ... and we've grown closer through it," Atkinson said.

Curry made a 33-footer that capped a 14-5 run and made it 114-96. He finished with seven 3-pointers, his third straight game with seven or more.

"The flow of the game tells you a little bit of what's necessary," said Curry, who had 10 assists. "They know if I hit a couple shots, they know I'm probably going to keep shooting."

Thompson scored his most points since having 30 against Chicago on Jan. 12.

"When I get cuts to the rim and stay patient from the 3-point line ... when I get early looks at the rim, and I got a couple of mid-range jumpers, everything opens up and I think that's what allowed me to have an efficient night from the field," Thompson said.

Andrew Wiggins added 17 points and Jonathan Kuminga had 14 - his 31st straight game in double figures - for the Warriors.

Jordan Clarkson had 22, but just two in the second half. Collin Sexton also scored 22 and Lauri Markkanen added 19 for Utah.

"We brought a good level of physicality to the game and kind of set the tone for the whole team," said Draymond Green, who had 12 points, nine rebounds and eight assists while leading the Warriors' defensive effort.

Seven Warriors made 3-pointers in the first quarter, including Curry's pull-up 3 that gave them a 28-17 lead. Utah scored baskets on seven straight possessions to move in front, but the Warriors took a 63-55

lead at halftime on Green's 41-foot heave just before the buzzer.

The new Jazz starting lineup was ineffective after they traded away mainstays Simone Fontecchio, Kelly Olynyk and Ochai Agbaji last week, primarily for draft assets.

"We obviously have a lot of work to do in terms of cleaning up some of the guys' roles and trying to help them understand how they can help each other," Utah coach Will Hardy said. "Our first group was the one that ultimately didn't play great tonight."

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 24 points, Anthony Edwards added 23 and the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled away in the second half for a 121-100 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night in a matchup of two of the top teams in the Western Conference.

Rudy Gobert had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds as the Timberwolves (37-16) remained atop the Western Conference with their third win in the last four games. It is the 10th time the Timberwolves have won this season when trailing at halftime, which is second in the NBA.

"I didn't think we brought enough force or physicality to the game in the first half. I thought we played good basketball but there was a bunch of plays where they just were way more physical than we were," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. "All credit to the guys. They recognize that and set the tone at the start of the second half."

The Timberwolves trailed 53-49 at halftime, but seized control in the third quarter, outscoring the Clippers 40-19.

"We're doing a good job of being focused. We listen to coach and do a good job in the third quarter of adjusting after seeing it and not committing the same sentence," Towns said.

Minnesota started the second half with eight straight points, but it wasn't until midway through the third quarter that it was able to pull away. Minnesota trailed 64-62 midway through the quarter before it went on a 27-8 run to close the third.

The Timberwolves had a 12-2 spurt to close the quarter as Towns scored eight straight points and Edwards had a reverse layup to give them an 89-72 advantage going into the fourth quarter.

Minnesota was 12 of 19 from the field in the quarter. Edwards and Towns were both 6 of 6 at the line as the Timberwolves made all 13 of their foul shots in the period.

Meanwhile, the Clippers were 7 of 20 from the field and committed five turnovers that resulted in six Minnesota points.

"We were playing very good in the first half. We were just missing the little extra effort and giving them rebounds. Once we cleaned that up, we had great defensive possessions and were able to run on them," Gobert said.

Shakhtar Donetsk heats up with Novatus Dismas ready for Europa League clash



By Correspondent Seth
Mapoli

UKRAINIAN giants Shakhtar Donetsk are in preparation mode, and Tanzanian midfielder Novatus Dismas is a key part of their squad as they gear up for a challenging encounter against French club Marseille in the Europa League knockout stage.

Dismas will be aiming to make his mark on the continental stage once again, following his impressive performance in the UEFA Champions League group stage.

Shakhtar secured their place in the Europa League after finishing third in their Champions League Group H. Despite not making the top two positions, the Ukrainians remain a formidable force.

Dismas himself played a crucial role in the group stage, becoming only the second Tanzanian player (after Mbwana Samatta) to feature in Europe's premier club com-

petition.

He played one game for Shakhtar in the Champions League, adding his name to the growing list of Tanzanian talent making waves on the international scene.

Now, Shakhtar's focus shifts to the Europa League, where they face a stern test against a Marseille side under the guidance of legendary Italian coach Gennaro Gattuso this week. Dismas missed Shakhtar's last two games while representing Tanzania in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

However, he recently featured in a friendly match against Velez Mostar, playing the full 90 minutes to regain his match fitness.

His experience and international exposure will be invaluable to Shakhtar as they strive to navigate a crucial Europa League campaign.

Dismas' journey represents a significant moment for Tanzanian football. He follows in the footsteps of trailblazer Samatta.

While Samatta holds the

distinction of being the only Tanzanian player to appear in all major European club competitions, Dismas is quickly carving his own path on the continental stage.

His success with Shakhtar can further inspire young Tanzanian footballers to dream big and pursue their goals in Europe's top leagues.

This crucial Europa League match against Marseille holds significant importance for both Shakhtar and Dismas.

It's an opportunity for Dismas to showcase his talent on a wider platform and solidify his place as a rising star in European football.

It's also a chance for Shakhtar to demonstrate their competitiveness against a strong opponent and continue their quest for continental glory.

The eyes of Tanzanian football fans will be firmly fixed on Dismas as he takes center stage in this exciting Europa League encounter.



Fans reach for Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) following an NBA game against the Utah Jazz on Monday in Salt Lake City. AP

Under-fire Bayern turn focus to Lazio after Leverkusen humbling

BERLIN

STUNG by a 3-0 humiliation at the hands of Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern Munich head to Lazio today knowing only a deep run in Europe will salvage their season.

Thomas Tuchel's side were humbled by an outstanding Leverkusen on Saturday and are now five clear in the league and remain unbeaten after 31 games in all competitions.

Bayern managers are judged primarily on the team's Champions League showings, particularly in recent years when the side's financial might made domestic dominance a formality. Despite winning the double, Niko Kovac never recovered from a last 16 elimination at the hands of Liverpool in 2019.

Tuchel's predecessor Julian Nagelsmann's days were numbered after his Bayern were dumped out by Villarreal at the quarter final stage in 2022.

A poor showing against Lazio, who sit eighth in the Serie A table, could push Tuchel closer to an unthinkable exit, less than a year after joining the German champions.

With 13 games remaining, Bayern could still bridge the five-point gap -- particularly given Leverkusen's reputation for second-place finishes -- but it was the manner of the defeat which was most troubling.

Bayern only had one shot on target compared to Leverkusen's eight and no clear chances at goal.

Xabi Alonso's side showed they are clearly the best in Germany, despite a budget dwarfed by that of the six-time Champions League winners Bayern.

Despite Tuchel's previous success, the highlight of which was winning the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021, he has failed to put his stamp on a Bayern side too often reliant on individuals.

Bayern CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen told reporters on Saturday that "nothing had changed regarding the question of the coach's future."

But the fact that Tuchel has failed to put his stamp on the club despite taking over just six months after Alonso took over at Leverkusen will worry the Bayern hierarchy.

Tuchel has an acute appreciation of Bayern's unyielding thirst for success.

He got the job after his predecessor, Julian Nagelsmann, was sacked with the side just one point behind in the league.

Unlike this season, Nagelsmann's Bayern were still in the German Cup and had won six from six in a Champions League group which included a La Liga-title bound Barcelona and eventual finalists Inter Milan.

AFP

Ivory Coast parade through Abidjan, champions of Africa



Ivory Coast on their AFCON victory parade. Agencies

ABIDJAN

TENS of thousands of jubilant fans crammed the streets of Abidjan on Monday for the Ivory Coast's victory parade after the hosts' remarkable Africa Cup of Nations triumph the night before.

Just as in 2015 for their last AFCON triumph, the Elephants roamed the streets of the country's economic capital.

Sebastien Haller, who scored the decisive goal in Sunday's 2-1 final win over Nigeria, and the rest of the squad were

perched on a truck fitted out for the occasion with a three star sign to mark the Ivorians' third title.

With Monday declared a special holiday fans massed on bridges and avenues, many ignoring the oppressive heat to run alongside the victors' mechanical chariot.

After a festive four hour parade the team, under heavy police escort, arrived at the Felix Houphouët-Boigny stadium.

Wearing 'African champions' t-shirts the 2024 AFCON champions did a lap of honour to stands packed with

fans - all decked out in orange - the national colour.

Some players were clearly moved by the welcome accorded them.

"The overwhelming feeling is one of pride," said Junior Djedjess, one of the fans on hand to soak in the national team's astonishing run after a terrible group stage.

"With three stars we have now joined the great African nations," he added with only Egypt (seven titles), Cameroon (5) and Ghana (4) boasting better records in the continental showpiece.

After their lap of honour the players stepped on to the pitch, one by one, with Max-Alain Gradel, the only survivor along with Serge Aurier from the last Ivorian team to win the title in 2015, presenting the trophy to the crowd.

"Ivory Coast, here is your African cup. May God bless the Ivory Coast" the 36-year-old captain said before handing the trophy to the Prime Minister Robert Beugre Mambe.

Three weeks ago no one not even the most ardent Elephants supporter could have dreamt of this day.

They should have re-

ally been knocked out in the group stage after losing 4-0 to Equatorial Guinea on January 22, their heaviest ever home defeat.

Their group-stage showing led to the departure of veteran French coach Jean-Louis Gasset, who had been in charge since May 2022.

He was replaced by Emese Fae, a former Ivorian international who had never coached before.

Yet Fae oversaw an incredible turnaround in the team's fortunes, as the Ivorians came from behind to beat holders Senegal in the last

16 and overcame a 1-0 deficit with 10 men to beat Mali in the quarter-finals.

After beating the Democratic Republic of Congo 1-0 in the last four they duly completed their fairytale run on Sunday night against Nigeria.

"After that 4-0 defeat I was downhearted but we were still in it and a new team was born," reflected Junior Djedjess.

The celebrations were to continue for the team later yesterday when they were to be received by the country's president Alassane Ouattara.

AFP

Ivory Coast's Afcon win shows there's no blueprint for tournament success

Jonathan Wilson

IT was the biggest defeat a tournament host of the Africa Cup of Nations had ever suffered. Ivory Coast fell apart utterly in the second half of their final group game against Equatorial Guinea. If they'd retained a sense of perspective, they'd have realised that even a one- or two-goal defeat was likely to be enough to see them through, but their heads were gone and Emilio Nsue kept scoring the same goal. It finished 4-0, the largest defeat for any major tournament host since Brazil's 7-1 capitulation against Germany in the 2014 World Cup semi-final, and that made progress improbable.

The past three weeks have been the story of what followed. There was some low-key rioting, with cars and shops burned out. Ivory Coast's 70-year-old French coach Jean-Louis Gasset was sacked. On his 40th birthday, the former Reading midfielder Emese Fae was appointed, having never been a head coach before. He had no idea whether he'd have any matches to take charge of. But Ghana conceded twice in injury-time against Mozambique, Zambia lost to Morocco and Ivory

Coast made it to the last 16 not so much through the back door, as up the tree and through the bathroom window.

With the country joking about their team of revenants, those who have returned from the dead, Faé then oversaw a series of improbable comebacks, culminating in Sunday's 2-1 win over Nigeria, when the winner was scored by Sébastien Haller, who 18 months ago was diagnosed with testicular cancer. How much narrative does a tournament need? I was in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon for Zambia's emotion-drenched triumph in 2012 (see On This Day) and nothing will ever be greater than that, but this, in its preposterousness, came close as the hosts went from embarrassment to disbelief to euphoria.

But there is a broader point here which is that if tournaments can be won amid such chaos - are, let's be honest, more fun for being won amid such chaos - what is the point in preparation? As England head to Germany in the summer looking to end 58 years of hurt, they do so under a technocratic manager in Gareth Southgate who believes, more than anything else, in diligent research.

On the Ivorian prin-



Ivory Coast have won the Africa Cup of Nations three times. Composite: Guardian design

ple, they'd be better off binning Southgate after the groups, handing the job to a former player with no frontline experience (Darren Bent has just turned 40), changing the formation and four or five players, choosing a self-mocking but somehow self-fulfilling nickname, and hoping some weird alchemy carries them home.

But that's just the nature of football: one of the glories of its low-scoring nature is that chance plays a part - which was what confounded Pep Guardiola so regularly in the Champions League; for a long time the great

underlying narrative of the competition was his ongoing wrestle with the fates, his attempt to impose order on the chaos that is football's natural state. In league seasons, over 38 games, the best team usually wins; over the seven-game span of a tournament, with four knockout rounds and the possibility of penalties, luck, confidence, form and momentum have a huge role to play.

Which is why those claims before tournaments that "anything less than the semi-finals" would be failure are so nonsensical. A team could play brilliantly in

the group and lose un- luckily to a top side in the last 16 in a game in which they played well but were undone by a

goalkeeper in unbeatable form/poor refereeing/a freakish bounce/another good side playing well and have a far better

tournament than a team who ground their way to the semis. England had a much better World Cup in 1998, when they went out in the last 16, than in 2006 when they went out in the quarters.

But that's not to say that countries shouldn't prepare. England introduced the Elite Player Performance Plan in 2011 and, three years later, the England DNA blueprint. Southgate, as the Under-21 coach at the time, was a key figure in that. It's been an obvious success: England's record in youth football has improved dramatically and Southgate now has a fleet of technically gifted young attacking players to call on.

The result is that England, having spent years talking themselves up because of the abilities

of one or two good players, history and a self-diagnosed innate fighting spirit, now habitually go into tournaments as one of the genuine half-dozen favourites. It's likely only France will go to the Euros with a better squad. The better your squad, the better you prepare, the better your chances.

But you still need a spark from somewhere, something that gives a team a sense of its own destiny. And sometimes, as the example of Ivory Coast proves, football is illogical enough that the spark can be a 4-0 defeat. Sometimes, mad stuff just happens.

**This is an extract from Soccer with Jonathan Wilson, a weekly look from the Guardian US at the game in Europe and beyond.*

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Thompson scores 26, Curry has five 3s in the 4th as Warriors beat Jazz 129-107 without Kerr

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By Guardian Correspondent

THE Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, is expected to grace this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon slated for Sunday, February 25.

According to the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon, the minister has confirmed participation and he will be accompanied by other national and regional leaders.

"He is expected to flag off the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km, Tigo Kili International Half Marathon and later participate in the Gee Soseji 5km Fun Run," said the organizers.

According to the organizers, all is set as the Kili Expo, which is happening for the third year now bringing together sponsors of the marathon and other businesses to showcase their products and services, kicks off on Thursday, February 22, for four days consecutively.

The organizers said that the four-day expo is happening alongside the collection of running numbers and kits at the Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) Stadium

Sports Minister to grace Kilimanjaro Marathon 2024



The Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbaro. Agencies

from Thursday, February 22 (12noon to 5pm), Friday, February 23 (10am to 6pm), and Saturday, February 24 (from 9am to 5pm). The organizers called on the participants to observe the announced times to avoid inconveniences and also called on those collecting numbers for their friends or relatives to en-

sure they have copies of their identity cards or consent letters allowing the representatives to collect on their behalf.

"It is our hope that the participants will turn up in numbers at this collection point as no numbers will be issued on the race day," said the organizers, adding that those who did not collect their numbers in Dar es Salaam and Arusha can still do so in Moshi on the mentioned dates.

They have also warned against those running with fake numbers, which include previous years' numbers, saying they will be removed from the route and arrested.

The same applies to those running on other people's numbers, they will be disqualified from the marathon.

"We also warn those who are illegally selling numbers online. We will take legal action against them," said the organizers.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor) and Tigo -21km Half Marathon, Gee Soseji - 5 km Fun Run, water table sponsors Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, CRDB Bank, Simba Cement and TPC Sugar.

Official partners are Garda World, CMC Automobiles, Salinero Hotel and suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organised by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Tiger Woods draws opinions from fashion world after unveiling of his Sun Day Red apparel line

LOS ANGELES

TIGER Woods might still be donning his familiar red polo shirt, but the iconic golfer has taken a bold leap forward with a new logo and clothing line partnering alongside a different company that could elevate his fashion identity.

Woods introduced his lifestyle brand Sun Day Red on Monday evening the day after the Super Bowl and during the middle of Hollywood's awards season. He's transitioning to the next phase of his career with TaylorMade Golf after he parted ways with Nike after 27 years.

Some in the fashion community believe Woods can survive without sporting Nike's popular swoosh on chest. He'll now have logo of a tiger with 15 stripes, signifying his 15 championship titles, along with apparel that includes cashmere hoodies, sleek sweaters and footwear with his brand's name etched on them.

"I thought it was very refreshing to see him kick off this new chapter," said Allen Onyia, co-founder of UpscaleHype, a social media account that chronicles stylish celebrity wardrobes. "The brand has a lot of potential, with Tiger being the face of it, and the machine pushing it. I have nothing but positive thoughts."

Onyia said Woods made a good move by branching out into a market beyond the golfing realm – especially after the golfer made his own imprint in the sport over the years with his signature cap, sleek red polo and trousers.

"The key thing that they're trying to do is separate it from just becoming a performance brand," he said. "They're tapping into the lifestyle market, adopting different fabrics, textures and showing how it can still be functional. They're tapping into premium quality, but not losing the performance aspect as well. I'm excited to see the marriage of the two."

Woods, 48, felt now is the right time to make the transition during the twilight stage of his career because he's no longer a "kid anymore." He's worn red on Sundays throughout his career after his Thai-born mother, Kultida, suggested that the color instilled power in him.

"Releasing his new collection two days after the Chinese Lunar New Year speaks volumes to me about how Tiger and his team are embracing this new move positively post Nike," said Angela Watts, the founder of Atlanta Fashion Week. Woods' mother once referred to her ancestry as Thai, Chinese and Dutch.

Watts said the premium materials reflect a commitment to both style and functionality, catering to the demands of modern athletes and fashion enthusiasts.

"His collection showcases thoughtful details such as subtle logo placement," she said. "The bold hue exudes confidence and power, while the impeccable tailoring ensures a sharp, polished look."

TaylorMade plans to first launch online the apparel line for men on May 1 in the United States and Canada. The website has already gone live with the hopes of expanding into other markets across the globe. The company wants to add lines for women and children.

Woods already had a deal with TaylorMade for clubs and with Bridgestone for the golf ball.

"The biggest challenge we have is being able to build enough of this incredible product to service the amount of demand we anticipate with this," said TaylorMade CEO David Abeles. "But we're going to do that. And like anything we've done historically, we'll continue to ensure quality is priority No. 1, design is cutting edge and ultimately this meets the playing needs of Tiger and the lifestyle needs of everybody that wears the brand."

Watts said Woods timing is nearly perfect. His announcement comes a few days before he takes his 2024 debut in the Genesis Invitational at Riviera, a signature event on the PGA Tour. It also came between the Masters and the PGA Championship.

AP

Diarra's return set to solve Yanga's goalkeeping woes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi is optimistic Djigui Diarra will solve their goalkeeping woes when he return after his staller performance in the African Cup of Nations that ended on Sunday.

Diarra played all the AFCON 2023 matches for his country Mali until they were eliminated in the quarter-finals against Ivory Coast in the final minutes of extra time.

The Malian shot-stopper kept two clean sheets in five fixtures while maintaining calmness for his side especially while building from the back.

Metacha Mnata has played the last three games of four games

while Aboutwalib Mshery played in one match. Metacha was shown a straight red card in their match against Tanzania Prisons on Sunday.

Young Africans have conceded in the last two games as coach Gamondi expects Diarra's return could add calmness at the back while he hailed his AFCON performance.

"Within my team, Diarra is a hero for the stage he has reached with his Mali national team. I believe the fans will receive him with respect.

"AFCON is over and players are now returning to their club. They should forget about the results of the tournament and instead focus on their coming matches. I expect his return will solve many issues because of his awareness of the game," said Gamondi.

Diarra played 450 minutes in the tournament. In those matches, he allowed a total of four goals while their team scored a total of six goals in five games.

With Diarra's unwavering commitment to the team, Gamondi is confident that they are in safe hands for the upcoming games.

"I made several changes in the goalkeeper's department with Diarra's absence, but as we expect his return on Thursday, we are delighted because he is our number one and he has proved to be the shield we need in goal," said Gamondi.

Diarra is more likely to start against KMC on Saturday before playing CR Belouizdad next week in the CAF Champions League at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The two-time NBC Premier League Golden Gloves winner, his outstanding performances and leadership qualities have cemented his position as a vital asset for Young Africans.

Diarra, the number one goalkeeper of Young Africans, did a great job last season and played a big part in bringing the team to the final of the African Confederation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

