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Contractor urged to expedite BRT project



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Ministry lauded for BBT execution



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UK MP to pay college fees for lady porter



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VP talks of new drought-resistant coffee varieties

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to release drought-resistant coffee varieties in the coming few years after assessment trials in the field are completed.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) aired his expectation in Kampala at the second G25 Africa coffee high level meeting, themed: "transforming the African coffee sector through value addition."

His statement released in Dar es Salaam yesterday affirmed that the government has taken steps to mitigate effects of persistent drought by developing drought resistant coffee varieties.

"We hope that these varieties will be released in the next year or two after assessment trials in the field are completed," he told the delegates, hinting at scaling up extension services through local governments and cooperative unions.

Introduction of a one-year certificate course in coffee quality and trade at the Moshi Cooperative University would help to address the shortage of extension

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TCRA avails clues on online safety at farmers' exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has provided crucial public education on online safety and tips on effective, responsible usage of such facilities, during the just-ended Farmers' Agricultural Exhibition (Nanene).

Asajile John, the Southern Highlands zone manager made this observation yesterday at the climax of the event at the John Mwakangale grounds, noting that TCRA also instructed people on streamlining licensing procedures.

Employees were available to show participants and exhibition stakeholders how to go about issues like online fraud, or avoiding clicking into a malicious link, also known as phishing links, he said.

Users need to take a central role in combating phone-related frauds, he said, specifying that farmers can play a significant role in ensuring online safety.

"If you receive fraudulent SMS messages, don't delete them. Instead, report the numbers of the fraudsters to number 15040," he said, promising that the police will take action on the matter.

He urged phone users to always be cautious when receiving forwarded

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Samia: Exporters should obtain maize from NFRA

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya



Maregesi Shaaban (back to camera), head of CRDB Bank's Agro-business department, pictured in Mbeya yesterday briefing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the bank's pavilion at the Nanene (Farmers' Day) Exhibition, this year held at national level in the southern highlands city. Yesterday was the climax of the week-long annual event. Left is Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, followed by CRDB chief financial officer Frederick Nshakanabo. Photo: State House

TRADERS from outside the country will now have to buy maize and other food crops from the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed yesterday.

Officiating at the climax of the Farmers' Day Exhibition held here at national level, she said that the agency will purchase crops from farmers and thus traders from outside should instead purchase crops from the agency.

"I want NFRA to be the one to sell the crops to the traders who want to export the produce. Farmers should not sell the produce directly to traders for export, but sell them to NFRA so as to get better prices," she said.

She directed that the ministries of Finance and Agriculture should work with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to formulate helpful modalities in the purchasing and export of food crops.

She emphasizes that the government hasn't closed borders for food crops having a ready market outside the country, but an accountable format is needed before transporting the produce.

With the current system, traders from other countries are coming freely and going directly to villages to purchase crops, hiring vehicles to ferry the crops across borders," she said, rejecting this way of doing things as unacceptable.

"We need to control this for our farmers to benefit as some of the traders have been buying the crops at low prices," she said, noting that the government has been issuing large amounts of cash for NFRA to purchase grain from farmers.



We are planning to drill over 60,000 water wells across the country to facilitate irrigation farming where each well will be used by 16 farmers on average

The Livestock and Fisheries ministry has to utilize a plot of 1.5 acres in Chunya District in the region to build friendly infrastructure, chiefly water dips for livestock.

Families evacuated from the Ruaha National Park in Mbarali District will be compensated, as 26bn/- has been allocated for the purpose, she said.

Visiting various pavilions, including Yara (T) Ltd, a global fertilizer firm, she said needs to supply subsidized inputs on time, as the government will settle all the bills.

When public agencies fail to send fertilizer to farmers at the required time, the firm ought to fill the gap as the government will pay, she stated, with Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe affirming that the government has set aside 320bn/-for NFRA to purchase food produce.

The agency will cater for needs during scarcity and stem dangers of acute grain shortages, he said, noting that the large cash allocation will assure farmers a reliable market for their produce.

They will sell the crop at a good price compared to prices paid by regular traders, he stated, also referring to funds allocated for improvement of irrigation farming, for new dams and revamped irrigation schemes.

"We are planning to drill over 60,000

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Port investments: MPs meet on bill next week

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the parliamentary committee on Governance, Constitution

and Legal Affairs will next week meet to examine the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill setting out changes in various laws to facilitate investments in

ports improvement.

The August 16 meeting will receive views from stakeholders and the public

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Brenda Msangi (2nd-R), CEO of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, pictured yesterday encouraging Sameer Stefano to walk on. The seven-year-old was recently fitted with a prosthetic leg. It was during a visit to the facility by Wama Foundation chairperson Salma Kikwete (in yellow-and-green). The former first lady led a delegation comprising Suzan Green (L), wife of one-time US Ambassador to Tanzania Mark Green (2007- 2009) and Dr Kevin Schwartz from US-based Wilson Centre. Right is CCBRT Chief of Medical Services Dr Cyprian Ntomoka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Richard Kayombo (R), the Tanzania Revenue Authority's Taxpayer Services and Education director, briefs Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigaha in Mbeya yesterday on how the use of the electronic stamp verification system on drinks helps in safeguarding consumers' health and boosting revenue collections. It was at the TRA pavilion at the just-climaxed annual Nanenane (Farmers' Day) Exhibition this year held in the southern highlands city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia: Exporters should obtain maize from NFRA

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water wells across the country to facilitate irrigation farming where each well will be used by 16 farmers on average," he said.

Youths enlisted for the Building a Better Tomorrow- Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) will start being handed their plots as they are being installed with irrigation infrastructure, he said.

Farmers will this year purchase fertilizer at subsidized prices of 60,000/- and 70,000 per 50kg bag,

with a total of 200bn/- set aside for the subsidy programme, he said.

Ruvuma Region leads in producing grain crops followed by Rukwa and Mbeya, while Kagera Region leads for non-grain crops, followed by Kigoma and Mbeya, he told the gathering.

Abdallah Ulega, the Livestock and Fisheries minister, said the government is seeking ways to improve the genetic stock, promoting smart livestock keeping to increase productivity.

Working with regional administrations and other stakeholders, the government was evacuating pastoralists who invaded the Kilombero Basin, to redirect their migration to other areas allocated for the purpose, he said.

The Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO) is also being revived to improve deep sea fishing resource use, by purchasing four fishing ships, he said, noting that Japan was helping the government

to obtain one ship, and build a cold room to store fish consignments.

Makongoro Nyerere, the Rukwa regional commissioner who spoke for Southern Highlands RCs urged that distributing subsidized fertilizer reach farmers in isolated villages.

The government needs to ensure that fertilizer is sold at different packages starting from 5kg to 50kg, to enable farmers to freely choose the package they need, not just 50kg sacks.

TCRA avails clues on online safety at farmers' exhibition

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messages to see if they have suspicious links. In case of any doubts they should ignore, report and delete such messages to protect themselves from potential attacks and malicious software.

Rolf Kibaja, acting head of communication and public relations, explained how to simplify licensing procedures and reduce clearance obstacles for prospective investors in the communication sector.

TCRA has introduced the Tanzanite Portal, an improved online licensing application where clients can access the service wherever they are, he said.

Applying or updating operational licenses can now be done conveniently through the portal, by visiting the TCRA website and lodging the relevant application, he stated.

TCRA was engaged in efforts to promptly address farmers' concerns, by collaborating with mobile network operators for on the spot complaint resolution, he further noted.

"At the pavilion, all complaints received were registered, and operators actively worked to find resolutions in cooperation with supervisors," he said, affirming that the four leading mobile network service providers were present at the TCRA pavilion.

He similarly urged registering farming businesses with the national domain name, Digital Opportunity Trust Tanzania (DOT TZ) as of utmost importance as this step establishes credibility, promoting a safe online environment for clients.

Those who wish to register business websites with national domain name attached may visit kaributz website and follow instructions for successful registration, he said.

Alinanuswe Mwakanyamale, a banana farmer in Nditu, Rungwe District in the region visited the pavilion and appreciated information about online commen-

especially when harvesting time arrives.

"We thank TCRA for coming to our event and providing us with this useful awareness education," he stated.

Godfrey Kasekenya, the Works and Transport deputy minister, expressed satisfaction with how TCRA spreads awareness on safety when using communication devices.

TCRA pavilions in Mbeya and Zanzibar exhibitions had an influx of people from all walks of life and service providers actively engaging on the shared information, contributing to a safer and more efficient communication landscape in Tanzania.

In Zanzibar, TCRA participated in the event at Dole Grounds, where Isles residents and farmers visited the authority's pavilion receiving comprehensive education.

Semu Mwakanyamale, the principal communication officer, expressed delight at the turnout of Zanzibar residents at the pavilion, noting that visitors were provided with awareness information on various issues.

They were provided with valuable insights on TCRA's role and responsibilities, the demarcations of duties between TCRA and other government institutions for instance regarding theft of communication gadgets, he stated.

The police play a significant role in thefts, while farmers who visited the national agriculture fairgrounds were happy with awareness provided on online safety.



We thank TCRA for coming to our event and providing us with this useful awareness education



Azania Bank Limited managing director Esther Mang'anya pictured in Mbeya city yesterday presenting a gift to President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the bank's pavilion during the climax of this year's edition of the Nanenane Exhibition. The bank was the event's main sponsor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Port investments: MPs meet on bill next week

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on various areas that need to be improved, with laws to be amended listed as the Natural Wealth and Resources (Permanent Sovereignty) Act, Cap. 449, the Natural Wealth and Resources (Review and Re-Negotiation of Unconscionable Terms) Act, Cap. 450.

This is meant to ensure that observance of the laws does not affect efforts to enhance the performance of sea, dry and lake ports countrywide, the parliamentary secretariat said in a

statement on Monday.

Envisaged amendments are intended to enable the country's ports to operate at international standards and thus attract more ships and larger cargo volumes to be served at the country's ports, it said.

The A Communications and International Relations office of the legislature said that the committee urged stakeholders to attend the meeting to air their views, with others sending views by email or registered mail.

The bill was submitted for first

reading during the Budget session in June, also envisaging amending the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization Act, Cap. 159 to make better provisions for the conduct of its purposes.

TIRDO functions are being revised to stem conflicting mandates with other institutions, while section 7 is to be amended to allow the organisation to establish auxiliary units as it may deem fit.

The Atomic Energy Act, Cap. 188 is lined up for amendment to enhance the safety and protection of workers, the public and environment from

exposure resulting from radioactive minerals, as the country moves into exploitation of rare earth metals.

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs) are targeted in the amendments, to ensure compliance with globally accepted safety standards, the statement indicated.

Section II of the Act is proposed to be amended to prohibit handling radioactive minerals unless the bearer has a license or until upon being registered for the purpose to ensure safe and secure handling of radiation sources, it added.

VP talks of new drought-resistant coffee varieties

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officers, he said.

The government had also initiated zonal coffee auctions, with agricultural marketing cooperative societies (AMCOS) no longer sole buyers but competing with traders. Prices are benchmarked to reflect prevailing world prices, he explained.

Nearly half of African countries grow coffee and for some countries it constitutes a major source of foreign exchange earnings, a vital contribution to the gross domestic product, he said.

Coffee has a special position given its strategic importance to the country which at the same time has enormous endowment of vast arable land, favorable climate and demographic dividend of youth labor.

This provides a positive scenario for the crop's prospects in the country, he said, affirming that the summit of 25 countries was vital for participating countries to use the platform to set out a declaration on coffee as a strategic commodity.

This will be in harmony with the African Union Agenda 2063, whose focus is to promote value addition, along with working out how to expand regional coffee trade. Remedial measures for underlying risks to this important cash crop would also be examined, he said.

Reports of the World Bank's Commodity Market Outlook show that world coffee prices maintained a long-term positive trend, with the price of Arabica coffee doubling over the past two decades, from an average of \$2 per kilo during fiscal 2001/02 to \$5 per kilo for fiscal 2022/23, he pointed out.

Robusta coffee prices tripled from \$0.7 per kg in 2001/02 to \$2.4 per kg for fiscal 2022/23.

Positive price changes steered the \$466bn/- globally traded coffee value in 2021, with Africa earning only 0.5 per cent of the traded

value, he said, highlighting the low prices of raw coffee and exponential prices of dominant coffee brands.

Despite the price advantage over the past 20 years, Africa remained at the tail end, accounting for 12 percent of the world's production, with coffee production steadily declining in the region, he said.

"This appeals for a ground breaking solution to reverse the pattern and take actions to unlock the untapped potential of the coffee industry, capitalizing on the rising world prices and Africa's expanding regional market of nearly 1.4bn/- potential coffee users," he declared.

"In Tanzania, we have continued to devise new measures aimed at consolidating successes in revamping the coffee industry," he said, citing up-scale supply and distribution of high-yielding Arabica coffee seedlings free of charge.

"The target is to distribute 20m seedlings per annum, with 178m seedlings during fiscal 2022/23," he said.

Effects of climate changes have detrimental impact on coffee production like higher incidences of pests and diseases along with erratic rainfall, making that environment in some areas unsuitable for coffee production.

Governments and private companies need to direct resources into modern coffee processing facilities and quality packaging to transform African coffee produce.

"I urged our farmers to increasingly adopt eco-friendly farming methods to ensure that our coffee industry leaves a positive footprint on both the environment and the people it touches," he stated.

The Inter-African Coffee Organization similarly needs to fast-track the development of the Africa Coffee Center of Excellence, slated to be set up in Tanzania, with the government ready to provide the required support, he added.



Bukoba district commissioner Erasto Sima (3rd-R) presents insecticide-treated bednets to residents of Kagera and Tabora regions who turned up at Bukoba municipality's Mashujaa Grounds yesterday for the launch of a collaborative mass campaign involving the replacement of the nets. Looking on (R) is Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollle. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Samia instructs agency to assess benefits resulting from subsidised fertiliser

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has instructed Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) to assess the results of the subsidised fertiliser provided by the government to farmers to see whether the programme has been of any benefit in the farming sector or otherwise.

President Samia gave the instructions in her visit to TFRA Fertiliser Village at the Nanenane Agricultural exhibition for farmers, herders and fishermen during the climax at Mbeya's John Mwakangale grounds yesterday.

The climax of this year's exhibition that incorporated farming, livestock and fisheries institutions in the southern Highlands regions took place yesterday at the grounds.

President Samia said in addition to having other sectors including the mineral sector, farming is the one that will rescue the nation and that is why the government came up with the subsidised fertiliser programme.

She said when the government continues providing subsidised fertiliser to farmers, it is essential for TFRA to start an in-depth assessment of the impact, whether it is bringing positive benefits or otherwise.

President Samia also called on TRFA to boost and increase the speed on the distribution of the fertiliser to reach farmers in time ready for the farming season.

Addressing reporters in regard to the President Samia's directives, TRFA managing director, Dr Stephani Ngailo said on the issue of distribution, they have already mobilised themselves in collaboration with Cooperative

societies and have increased the number of distribution agents as well as the use of village warehouses at the local council level.

He said in this strategy, he hoped that the availability of subsidised fertiliser especially in rural areas will no longer pose a challenge.

In regard to the assessment of the impact of the subsidised fertiliser programme, Dr Ngailo said it is very correct to do so in order to know the contribution of the fertiliser in the country's farming sector.

He further said the issue will be addressed at once by involving TRFA with the Agriculture Ministry Division involved in the country's food assessment as well as other economists to know the true outcome of the subsidised fertiliser programme.

“...in addition to having other sectors including the mineral sector, farming is the one that will rescue the nation and that is why the government came up with the subsidised fertiliser programme”

Minister wants execution of Dar's BRT project expedited

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has tasked Sinohydro Corporation Ltd, a contractor implementing the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project from city centre to Gongo la Mboto to increase speed so that he lives up to the completion deadline scheduled for May, next year.

The minister said the project, which is the route from the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), was essential to the

country's economy hence the need to construct it in the required standards.

“Ensure that you work 24 hours, but ensure that you manage the movement of vehicles using this road so that you do not create traffic here,” he said.

The minister called for the need for the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to work in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the road is passable throughout.

Tanroads Chief Executive

Officer Mohammed Besta said the construction of the project is divided in two phases in which the first phase involves the construction of 23.3 kilometers, 32 bus stops and the main Gongo la Mboto bus stop.

He said the second phase involves construction of a workshop within the JNIA and a feeder road at the Banana Kitunda junction.

Consulting engineer for the project Frank Mbilyini assured the minister that the company was ready to implement the directives issued by the minister to control

traffic but also ensure security during the construction period.

The Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) for Ilala Charangwa Seleman hailed the government for the investments in infrastructure especially roads.

A total of 231bn/- is expected to spent on the project which is a continuation of the government efforts to reduce and end congestion in Dar es Salaam.

Currently, the first phase Kimaracity centre is operational as well as Magomeni to Morocco with the second phase being from city centre to Mbagala which is 96 percent complete.

Prof Mbarawa is in Dar es Salaam to inspect various projects especially the Bus Rapid Transit.

Mizengo Pinda in call for awareness on climate change

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has called on the Office of the Vice President to continue advertising opportunities on the carbon trade to enable the people to have awareness on environmental conservation by planting trees to fight the effects of climate challenges.

Pinda made the appeal on Tuesday this week during his visit to the VPO pavilion at the Nanenane Exhibition ongoing at Mbeya's John Mwakangale Exhibition Grounds.

Pinda said the carbon trade involves tree planting and conservation thereof and to have in place systems to curb the production of carbon dioxide in various activities including farming, energy, industry and infrastructures, hence, he added, it is important for education in the trade to continue being provided countrywide.

“The carbon trade has come to Katavi Region and already people have benefitted by the project by increasing their earnings and boost in local councils' services as well as curbing the destruction of forests marked for preservation,” said the former PM.

According to Pinda, if adequate education is provided to the people on the subject, it is hoped that such efforts will enable Tanzanians to understand and benefit by the trade, including farmers and herders.

He explained that the main task at the moment is to mobilise the people to preserve natural forests by making sure there will be no wanton tree cutting, setting fires to them and stop other hazardous activities.

For his part, VPO Senior Environment Officer, Abdallah Lungo said in recognizing the importance of the carbon trade, the government, through VPO has started making improvements Regulations and guidelines on the trade in order to identify and benefit farmers and herder45s in the country.

“Better land use is the source of this trade in allocating areas in reserve forests and protecting them.

“We have continued to mobilise the community to preserve the environment by planting trees for various uses as well as sucking in carbon dioxide for sustainable development,” Lungo said.

During the visit, Pinda was accompanied by various Rukwa Region officials including Regional Commissioner Makongoro Nyerere, and Regional Administrative Officer, Gerald Kusaya.

“Better land use is the source of this trade in allocating areas in reserve forests and protecting them”

PM calls for youth development initiatives to nurture their skills

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called upon local government authorities to prioritise youth development initiatives to nurture skills and allow them participate in national development.

PM Majaliwa also directed that each region should prepare a special strategy to sensitise youth to engage themselves in activities that are revenue generation oriented.

The PM made the directives in Dodoma yesterday when he opened a youth forum in Dodoma where he directed district councils to ensure that they set aside budgets for youth development.

He called upon youth empowerment funds to inform the youth about the opportunities available by using media so that the opportunities reaches majority.

“Local government authorities should ensure that they invest in economic activities and that they are informed of the opportunities so that they engage themselves in such activities,” he said.

He said regional authorities should also prepare to special education which will help the youth in decision making in key areas of investment such as environmental conservation and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Majaliwa also called upon all the youth who were participating in the forum to

invest their knowledge and thinking in creating a nose for opportunities but also how to grab them.

“You have got all the knowledge on how to grab and use these opportunities now is the time for you to practice what you have learnt here but also get trained on how to expand your businesses,” he said.

PM Majaliwa said the government has developed special programmes aimed at ensuring that the youth take part in development activities through establishment of entrepreneurship activities to create jobs.

Earlier, Regional Commissioner for Dodoma Rose Senyamule said the two days forum invited the participation of more than 3,000 youth from all the districts in Dodoma, saying it is aimed at facilitating the youth to identify opportunities available in their localities.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
KATIKA MAHAKAMA YA RUFANI YA
TANZANIA
ILIYOPO DAR ES SALAAM
SHAURI LA MAOMBI YA MADAI NA.
326/17 YA 2022
GOPAL NARSHIBHAI
PARMAR.....MLETA MAOMBI
DHIDI YA
REHEMA IDD MSABAHA NA
WENZAKE WAWILI...WAJIBU MAOMBI
KWA:
NDUGU. SALEHBHAI JAFFERJEE SHEIKH

Unajulishwa kwamba maombi ya madai tajwa hapo juu, yamepangwa kusikilizwa tarehe 22/08/2023 saa tatu kamili asubuhi (3:00) katika Mahakama ya Rufani Tanzania ikiketi Dar es Salaam. Unatakiwa kufika bila kukosa mwenyewe au mwakilishi wako anayetambulika kisheria. Endapo hutafika wewe mwenyewe au mwakilishi wako, shauri hili itasikilizwa bila ya uwepo wako. Imetolewa leo tarehe hii 02 Mwezi Agosti, 2023



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Samia hails Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

By Guardian Reporter

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has hailed the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for implementing 'Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) programme.

President Samia made the remarks yesterday when visited the ministry's booth at the just ended NaneNane Agricultural exhibition at Mbeya's John Mwakangale grounds.

Samia was happy of its operations under Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega and other the officials of the ministry managing the BBT-LIFE programme in the two sectors by providing practical training for the young people in the cattle fattening, crabs, sea cocks, as well as seaweed cultivation.

She said that the meat market abroad is large, so through the BBT programme, young people who are trained to fatten cattle should use the opportunity to fatten cattle in large quantities and find markets to sell their livestock to factories and finally to be processed by cattle exported abroad.

On fishing industry, President Samia urged the youth to ensure that they make good use of the opportunity to raise aquatic species towards the blue economy by

increasing the production of such species, including fish.

She also stated that she has been looking for funds to ensure that various programmes are established and developed, including fish farming, so that young people can enter those opportunities and increase their income, thus asking them to use them well.

Minister Ulega explained to President Samia how the ministry is focused on ensuring that the BBT programme extends to different regions in the country so that more young people can participate in the programme.

He said the goal of the ministry is to see the livestock and fishing sectors increase production and raise the output of individuals and the nation as a whole.

The BBT programme beneficiaries praised President Samia for the way she had started the programme which is of great benefit to them because it increases their knowledge and their income as well.

He said the goal of the ministry is to see the livestock and fishing sectors increase production and raise the output of individuals and the nation as a whole.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R, foreground) pictured yesterday having a feel of sugar produced by Bagamoyo-based Mukulazi Holding Company Limited factory. She was at the just-climaxed Nanenane (Farmers' Day) Exhibition for the Eastern Zone - held in Morogoro municipality. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has utilised this year's Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition in the Southern Zone to implement President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives.

Said Mkwawa, TBS manager for the Southern Zone made the remarks yesterday when speaking to reporters at the just-ended Farmers' agricultural exhibition in Lindi municipality.

He called on officials in various

'TBS used Nanenane exhibition to sensitise citizenry on its services'

public institutions and other staff to come out of their offices and go to the people to educate them about their services before legal measures are taken against them.

Mkwawa said: "Hence we are here to come closer to the people to educate them in order to curb

substandard goods both produced in the country and imported."

He said the exhibition's slogan this year has spurred them, as the youth and women are the ones engaged in various food processing activities, hence they are ones creating the entire chain in the manufacture of

various products.

In that basis, Mkwawa said the bureau has participated in the exhibition to provide education on producing quality goods.

Mkwawa added that TBS has the responsibility to make sure the health of Tanzanians in regard

to food consumption and other products including cosmetics is protected.

He explained that the bureau provided education by adhering to its aims, to maintain the quality of all goods produced or imported into the country.

Mkwawa said the government values entrepreneurs by certifying the quality of their products for free, as the cost is met by the government.

He added that they are mobilising entrepreneurs to come out to have their products certified for free, noting that the government allocates between 150bn-to 200bn/- to serve entrepreneurs in this way.

He said so far more than 600 small entrepreneurs countrywide have been issued with licenses under the programme for free.

Sir Edmond Gin supports wildlife charity

By Nicola Carruthers

DUTCH brand Sir Edmond Gin has partnered with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to offer a donation to the charity for every bottle it sells.

Sir Edmond gin supports African Wildlife Foundation

For every bottle of Sir Edmond Gin sold, a donation is made to the AWF.

The AWF is an African conservation organisation that focuses on creating opportunities for wildlife and people.

For every bottle of Sir Edmond Gin sold, a donation is made to the AWF to support their efforts.

The brand said its name means 'protector', while its gin is inspired by nature and uses plants and herbs to make the spirit.

Dominique Makatita, co-founder of Sir Edmond Gin, said: "Since its establishment in 1961, AWF has been tirelessly focused on combating wildlife trafficking at every stage. Their strategy encompasses reducing opportunities for wildlife trafficking, improving detection capabilities, and strengthening prosecutorial capacity.

"Furthermore, AWF is actively engaged in reducing demand for wildlife products in target countries.

"Recognising the debt owed to Africa's extraordinary natural heritage, we decided to take action and make a significant impact in safeguarding its wildlife. Our primary objective is to raise awareness and generate funding to support the conservation efforts for African wildlife.

"We firmly believe that our actions today will secure a future where generations to come can continue to experience and cherish these magnificent creatures."

Last month, Sir Edmond Gin partnered with spirits importer and distributor Fenix Drinks to launch in the Czech Republic.

This year, the brand has already launched in Denmark, France, Poland, Hungary, and Réunion Island, described by the brand as the 'vanilla capital of the world', as well as India, Colombia and Indonesia.

We firmly believe that our actions today will secure a future where generations to come can continue to experience and cherish these magnificent creatures



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

JOB VACANCY

The Aga Khan University (AKU) invites applications for the following position based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania:

Lecturer/Senior Instructor- School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tanzania (SONAM)

Position responsibilities:

- Implement the curriculum as approved by curriculum committee and regulatory authorities' jurisdiction.
- Teach in classroom and clinical areas as assigned by the Associate Dean, SONAM-Tanzania.
- Prepare a master plan of clinical placements for students and disseminate as required.
- Monitor theoretical and clinical teaching activities.
- Provide academic support to students and colleagues. E.g., supervise and evaluate (peer-review) faculty performance as required; monitor faculty teaching and clinical hours to determine fair distribution of teaching loads.
- Compile all academic results and clinical evaluations at the end of the term, within given deadlines.
- Work with curriculum committee to improve courses based on feedback received.
- Ensure the quality of clinical learning opportunities for the various programmes (e.g., securing learning sights, preceptors etc)
- Initiate and maintain collaborations with clinical facilities.
- Actively participate in building the body of midwifery and nursing knowledge through research and publication.
- Continuously improve the quality of own practice and keep abreast of academic discipline.
- Actively participate in the management and administrative activities of the University.
- Actively contribute to the development of the nursing/midwifery profession nationally and regionally.
- Plan and/or assist with university ceremonies and functions pertaining to academic and social events.
- Orient new teachers to the programme and give necessary support and guidance.
- Perform any other duties assigned by the Associate Dean, SONAM-Tanzania.

Professional skills, qualifications, and experience

- A doctorate degree (PhD) in Midwifery or related field in Reproductive, Maternal and child health
- Minimum of 3 years teaching experience as a Lecturer and 5 years and above clinical experience in midwifery/maternal and child health
- Expertise in relevant nursing/midwifery field
- A well-established record of research and publications preferably in midwifery, reproductive and maternal health
- Experience with curriculum and course development an added advantage
- Diploma or Certificate in education or its equivalent
- Current Registration with the Nursing Regulatory Body
- Good interpersonal/communication skills
- Good understanding of computer software's and technology and digital teaching
- Ability to teach through a variety of strategies to effectively engage students in learning.
- Good organization and Counselling skills

How to Apply

If you meet the requirements of this position, please send your application package which should include an application letter and an updated CV to hr.recruitment@aku.edu. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. For further information, please visit <http://www.aku.edu>

Application Close: Open until position is filled.



The Insurer of preferred choice

Invitation for External Audit Firm Tender for year 2023

As part of our commitment for maintaining the highest standards of financial transparency and accountability, we are seeking the services of a qualified and experienced external audit firm to conduct our annual financial audit for year 2023.

We are inviting interested audit firms to submit a formal proposal so as to be considered for this prestigious opportunity. The successful bidder will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive audit of our financial statements, internal controls and compliance processes. The audit is to be carried out in accordance with applicable accounting standards, regulations and reporting requirements.

Key Information and Requirements:

Eligibility: Interested audit firms should possess relevant licenses, certifications, and qualifications required to perform audits in Tanzania.

Experience: The bidding firms must have a proven track record of conducting audits for Insurance Company.

Independence: The selected audit firm must adhere to the principles of independence and objectivity throughout the audit process.

Submission Deadline: The deadline for the submission of proposals is 17th August 2023

Proposal Format: Bidders should submit a detailed proposal by outlining their audit approach, team composition, timeline, fee structure, and any other relevant information.

Confidentiality: All information shared during the bidding process will be treated with the utmost confidentiality

Interested audit firms are requested to confirm their participation by sending an email to info@mgentanzania.co.tz expressing their intent to bid.

Sunflower farmers told to increase their yields

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Morogoro

SUNFLOWER farmers have been urged to increase production due to the presence of many oil processing factories in the country.

Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji made the call yesterday when speaking at the Eastern Zone Farmers' Exhibition being held at Mwalimu Nyerere Grounds in Tungi area in the outskirts of Morogoro Municipal. This year's exhibition is themed: "Youth and Women are a solid foundation for a sustainable food supply chain."

Dr Kijaji said the government imports more than 60 per cent of cooking oil from abroad, so farmers should increase production due to the presence of 771 oil factories in the country as this will cause the government to reduce oil imports from abroad.

By Guardian Reporter

DR Selemán Jafo, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), has appealed to farmers and herders countrywide to continue conserving the natural environment for sustainable activities.

He made the remarks yesterday during his visit at the climax of Nanenane agricultural exhibition for farmers and livestock keepers held in Morogoro.

Dr Jafo said in case the environment is destroyed it is certain the farming and livestock sectors will be affected owing to drought that will be caused by uncontrolled human activities.

"When we wantonly cut trees and engage in human activities at water sources, we cause our rivers to dry and when this happens our agriculture that depends on rain will no longer benefit to anyone, so I beseech you to conserve the environment," said Jafo

The minister commended the exhibition's organisers that incorporates Morogoro, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions that among others is used to educate to farmers and herders as well the general public.

According to him, in order to fight drought challenges, the phase VI government has decided to invest in agriculture and livestock sectors to make them beneficial to the country.

He also called upon all Tanzanians to join hands to make sure they protect the country's existing resources to benefit the whole nation.

For his part, Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima said the challenge posed by scarcity of rains is contributed by wanton tree cutting especially in mountain areas.

Hence, he stressed, that every person in the region should fully participate in the tree planting campaign as well as calling on farmers to stop farming while destroying the environment.

"Trees have been cut wanonly and that is why we have environmental effects at the moment, in which we experience little rains," he said.

He said in order to fight the situation, the Eastern Zone has

She also said that through the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the government will reach entrepreneurs who have met the criteria to get an identification logo free of charge, the aim being to help them get more markets inside and outside the country.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe, said the government will continue to improve the business environment by continuing to reduce charges and taxes that are becoming a nuisance to the business community in the country.

He was speaking when he visited a group of rice sellers (Mbeya rice group) in Mwanjelwa market with the aim of listening and solving their challenges, asking group leaders to focus more on quality in all stages of production from the farm to the factory so that the rice can be accepted in international markets.

"I ask you to put a lot of effort in the preparation of the rice when

you go to process it to get rice, make sure you prepare it well in a place where it cannot cause the rice to have sand but also look for a machine that can separate the rice in a modern way," said Kigahe

He said the government continues to talk with financial institutions and especially with groups so that the businessmen can get loans from various banks including Tanzania Investment bank (TIB).

Regarding the issue of high tax complaints by the business community, Kigahe instructed the Office of the Regional Administrative Secretary to take it up and see how to reduce the tax so that they can accommodate more businesses.

He said if that is done, they will take more farmers and collect more money despite collecting less but it will increase the willingness to pay taxes and thus the government will get more income.

Mbeya rice group leader, Julius Ngalawa, said that the group has 29 members with 2,000 traders and 1,000 farmers where they process 78,000 tonnes of rice sold in the country and foreign countries like Uganda, Zambia, and Botswana.

Jafo appeals to farmers, herders to protect natural environment

come up with a strategy in creating an agriculture agenda that will help farmers to engage in beneficial and sustainable farming.



THE CENTRE FOR COUNSELLING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE, (COUNSENUTH)

CARRIER OPPORTUNITIES SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICERS – (2) POSITIONS

The Centre for Counseling, Nutrition, and Health Care (COUNSENUTH) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working in the area of public health and nutrition in Tanzania. The mission of COUNSENUTH is to improve quality of life of vulnerable groups through cost-effective, evidence-based, locally appropriate interventions. COUNSENUTH achieves this mission by building a multi-sectoral advocacy movement through active engagement of citizens, policy makers, and Government authorities at all levels.

COUNSENUTH is inviting applications to fill the positions of **TWO SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICERS** whom one will be based in Dar es Salaam and the other one will be based in Chemba district, Dodoma region. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

For full description of the post and full information please refer to our [website www.cousenuth.or.tz](http://www.cousenuth.or.tz)

Deadline for receiving the applications is 22nd August 2023.

Thank you
Executive Director



CONSULTANCY POSITION FOR LOCAL PROJECT MONITOR FOR THREE ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS PROJECTS IN TANZANIA

PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited (PwC), on behalf of our client, invites eligible candidates to express their interest to provide individual consultancy services as Local Project Monitor for Three Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Projects in Tanzania through a direct support from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFA/TD).

The candidate will have responsibility to provide project decision-makers and other stakeholders with regular, reliable information and advice on the projects' progress, help partners make corrective adjustments as needed and, ultimately, achieve better development results. An integral part of this assignment is to provide a platform for communication and sharing of lessons learned and best practices to ultimately improve health programming in Tanzania.

The ideal Project Monitor will possess the following key qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree from a recognized university.
- A minimum of twelve months of experience within the last five (5) years in providing monitoring and evaluation support at the time of the RFP closing. (12 months of experience is equivalent to 220 days.)
- Professional experience providing administrative and organizational capacity support (preferably to health stakeholders).
- Professional experience in coordinating, liaising and sharing information with Government, development partner, civil society and/or private sector stakeholders (health stakeholders preferred).
- Professional experience in applying results-based management approaches in the design, planning, monitoring and evaluation of development projects or programs (for health projects preferred).

In addition to the key qualifications above, the incumbent is also expected to demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

- Advanced professional proficiency in reading, spoken and written English – level 4+ as explained in http://www.international.gc.ca/ifa-it-iaeci/test_levels-niveaux.aspx?lang=eng and the ability to work in Kiswahili will be a significant asset.
- Knowledge of the Health Sector policy priorities and processes in Tanzania, including planning, management and budgeting of public sector resources. Experience with maternal and newborn, child health (MNCH), Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), health systems strengthening (HSS), Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as well as work in community-level initiatives is an asset.

Interested individual candidates should obtain a detailed description of these services by sending a request email to procurement@fssptz.org. Requests for further information will be received up to three (3) working days prior to the submission deadline. Any request received later than that may not be responded to.

Interested candidates should send their Expressions of Interest (EOIs) ONLY electronically to procurement@fssptz.org not later than **20 August 2023 at 23:59 hours**. Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation, irrespective of the circumstances.

FSSP Manager



PETROLEUM BULK PROCUREMENT AGENCY

PRE-QUALIFICATION NO: PBPA/CPP/PQ/2024

FOR

SUPPLY OF BULK PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT IN THE YEAR 2024

- 1.0 Petroleum Bulk procurement Agency (PBPA) has been established by GN. No 423 of 2015 and mandated to coordinate importation of petroleum product through the Bulk Procurement System by, G.N. 198 of 2017, under The Petroleum Act, No 21 of 2015;
- 2.0 The Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) intends to Pre-qualify suppliers for Supply of Petroleum Products i.e. MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE in Tanzania under Bulk Procurement System (BPS). It is mandatory for petroleum products in Tanzania to be procured under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS);
- 3.0 Average monthly total volume of MOGAS, GASOIL, JET A1 & KEROSENE procured under BPS is 450,000 Metric Tons. Tenders shall be floated on cargo by cargo basis whereas the estimated number of cargoes per month is 5 to 9 with estimated cargo sizes as provided below: -
 - a) AGO- 60,000-100,000 MT
 - b) PMS 35,000- 38,000 MT
 - c) IK AND JET 20,000-25,000 MT
 - d) Comb cargo for Tanga AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
 - e) Comb cargo for Dar es Salaam KOJ1 and Mtwara AGO and PMS 25,000 -38,000 MT
- 4.0 Pre-qualification will be conducted under International Competitive Bidding (ICB), through the procedures specified in the Petroleum Act Cap 392, the Petroleum (Bulk Procurement) Regulation 2017 GN. NO. 198 and Petroleum Bulk Procurement Manual of 2020.
- 5.0 Applicants shall pay a non-refundable prequalification processing fee and shall receive a complete set of pre-qualification documents in English language, the amount payable shall be USD 5000 for international/foreign companies and Tanzanian shillings 5,000,000 for local companies. The amount shall be paid by direct deposit or direct transfer in favor of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency from Monday to Friday (Working Days) between 10:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs.
- 6.0 2023 prequalified bidders shall be eligible to participate in tenders for supply of MOGAS, GASOIL, and JET A1 & KEROSENE for the year 2024 upon payment of validation fees of USD 1000. (For Local and international companies) and submitting the required information/documents. The amount shall be paid by direct deposit or direct transfer in favor of Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency from Monday to Friday (Working Days) between 10:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs
- 7.0 Application for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelope, in English language, delivered to the address below, before or on Wednesday 06th September 2023 from 09:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs and be clearly marked **"Application to be Pre-qualified for the Supply of Bulk Petroleum Products for tender no. PBPA/CPP/PQ/2024"**;
- 8.0 Applications will be evaluated and results be announced on or before 15th November 2023 for pre-qualified suppliers to participate in tenders from for the year, 2024.

NB: However, pre-qualification of new suppliers will still be open throughout the year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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TPA- ONE STOP CENTER BUILDING,
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P.O Box 2634
DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 212 9009
E-mail: info@pbpa.go.tz
Fax: +255 22 212 9009
Website: www.pbpa.go.tz

Mine firm sponsors traders to feature in Farmers' Day fair in Lake Victoria Zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

IN supporting government efforts to boost the country's farming sector and expand markets for both farmers and livestock keepers, Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine, in collaboration with Msalala district Council, has sponsored representatives from 11 entrepreneur groups engaged in farming and livestock keeping in the mine's surrounding area to participate in the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition for the East lake Zone held in Bariadi, Simiyu Region.

Speaking at the exhibition, Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine public relations officer, Mary Lupamba said that often farmers and herders produce various products but face marketing challenges.

"In collaboration with the Msalala District Council, we have decided to make the exhibition as an opportunity, as the area has many people and farming and livestock stakeholders, hence we saw it fit to come with them so that they learn about other issues on farming and herding to enable them create market networks for their

products," she said.

She added: "They have visited demonstration farms in the vicinity and been able to learn about how to produce various crops profitably."

She said, in addition, Bulyanhulu Mine has registered more than 40 entrepreneurs from nearby villages in its tendering system to sell their products at the mine as well as giving them more entrepreneurial training and more than 500 entrepreneurs have benefitted.

Hussein Malimi, one of the entrepreneurs, said the exhibition is among opportunities for them in expanding the market network and to learn about new things.

"My coming here has enabled me to counteract new consumers of my honey products and some of us have been able to sell their goods and receive more orders," he said.

For his part, Samuel Igoko, a beekeeper said the opportunity to participate in the exhibition has given him a chance to advertise himself and expand the market for his products. The Nanenane Exhibition for the East Lake Zone has been held at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region since August 1.

ASEAN day to promote cultural heritage, deeper understanding

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Indonesian Embassy in Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the Vietnamese Embassy and the Filipino Community of Tanzania (FCT) hosted the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) day at the Indonesian Ambassador's residence to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the association.

This year's celebration is also of notable significance as Indonesia assumes the 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship, marking its fifth tenure since ASEAN's inception. Carrying the theme "Epicentrum of Growth", Indonesia's leadership focuses on maintaining ASEAN unity and centrality to promote regional peace and stability, fostering ASEAN as an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable hub for economic growth and ensuring tangible implementation of projects under the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) framework.

Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania Triyogo Jatmiko highlighted Indonesia's successful ASEAN Chairmanship, including the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia in May. "Indonesia's leadership role this year embodies the collective spirit of ASEAN, driving us towards a resilient future as 'one vision, one identity, one community,'" he noted.

He further expressed confidence in ASEAN's ability to navigate the global economic landscape, reiterating Indonesia's commitment to making Southeast Asia an epicentrum of growth, unity, and collective strength.

Despite the IMF's projection of a global economic slowdown to 2.7 percent in 2023, ASEAN's average annual growth reached 3.98 percent in the past decade, surpassing the global economic growth average of 2.6 per cent.

He said this year ASEAN is anticipating a further growth surge of 5.1 percent. At the helm of ASEAN chairmanship this year, Indonesia is well poised to drive prosperity for the ASEAN populace, leveraging its global standing as the world's 5th largest economy with a staggering worth of USD 3.3 trillion.

According to him the celebration in Dar es Salaam built on the tremendous enthusiasm and high participation of previous year's event. Attended by over 150 participants from Tanzanian and ASEAN communities, the event featured friendly sports matches including table tennis, volleyball, tug-of-war and sack races. Cultural performances and traditional culinary experiences

were showcased at the event, promoting cultural exchange and deeper understanding of the diverse heritage within the ASEAN community.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Tanzania Nguyen Nam Tienh pointed out the importance of ASEAN's achievements to people and nations. "Celebrating the day means celebrating its relevance, unity, and reliability. ASEAN's missions and achievements are significant not only for what they symbolize but also for what they enable us to achieve together," he remarked.

FCT president Agnes Aniana added, "I am pleased the ASEAN family fun games is held for the second year in Tanzania, allowing us here to mark the ASEAN Day together in a fun yet meaningful means through friendly sport matches and traditional culinary exchange."

Among the honorable guests of this year's ASEAN family fun games are the Tanzanian alumni of Indonesia's prestigious KNB scholarship ambassador Hemedi Mgaza, who is currently the Director of Middle East Department in Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

"This celebration brings together ASEAN communities with Tanzanian families and friends, building upon existing socio-cultural cooperation to further cement the bond between Tanzanians and ASEAN member states," Ambassador Mgaza noted.

With a strengthened presence in Tanzania and the EAC, ASEAN is set on a path toward resilience, sustainability, and inclusiveness. Together, ASEAN and EAC will embrace the exciting challenges and opportunities ahead, affirming commitment to deepen collaboration and work towards a future filled with shared prosperity.

ASEAN which was established in 1967 is a political and economic union of 10 member states, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia was established on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok.

"I am pleased the ASEAN family fun games is held for the second year in Tanzania, allowing us here to mark the ASEAN Day together in a fun yet meaningful means through friendly sport matches and traditional culinary exchange"



Members of a group of entrepreneurs sponsored by Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine who took part in the Lake Victoria Zone 'chapter' of the just-climaxed Nanenane (Farmers' Day) Exhibition held in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, pictured yesterday at the Barrick Bulyanhulu pavilion briefing visitors on their products. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UK legislator offers to pay college fees for lady porter

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

BRITISH Member of Parliament Tracey Crouch who was recently in Tanzania has offered a college scholarship to one of the Mt Kilimanjaro female porters after being impressed with her mountaineering services.

The legislator from the UK made the pledge after successfully conquering the Uhuru Summit on the Kibo Peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, an expedition she did as a charitable mission for breast cancer.

"I am really impressed by the female porters and mountain guides who seem to be working under tough conditions on Mount Kilimanjaro," Tracy Crouch stated upon arriving at Mweka gate, looking slightly exhausted.

Still, I would like to see more women serving as porters or guides on Mt. Kilimanjaro but it should be under a better and more conducive environment," said the MP.

The lucky mountain porter is Mariam Lucas Teele, aged 32, a resident of Sanawari area in Sekei Ward, Arusha.

Mariam says she had started out

simply as a dishwasher at mountain camps, after completing her education.

Teele later became a porter and had been carrying baggage for Kilimanjaro climbers for the last three years.

The young lady porter works for the 'Big Expedition and Safari,' the company which handled MP Crouch's mission to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Mariam now plans to enroll at Mweka College of Wildlife to undertake guiding studies through the sponsorship from the UK MP.

Angel Minja is the managing

director of Big Expedition and Safaris.

She admits that Mariam Teele is a very dedicated and hardworking member of staff and she deserved the scholarship. "Tracy Crouch's expedition was a deluxe VIP trip, which called for proper service and handling," she explains, adding the climbers enjoyed their trekking.

MP Crouch, who led a team of seven women from England, managed to raise nearly USD 200,000, translating into 150,000 pounds as charity funding for breast cancer treatment in the United Kingdom.



Asa Microfinance Tanzania Limited CEO Muhammad Shah Newaj (3rd-R), deputy managing director Abu Sayed (2nd-L), head of HR & administration Mohamed Omary (L), operations manager Hafizur Milon (2nd-R) and divisional manager Ruth Mbunde (R) hold the trophy presented to the firm in Dar es Salaam at the weekend for emerging Financial Provider of Year (Vulnerable Group) in Marketing and Customer Focus (Overall) in the 2023 Africa Company of the Year Awards. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

BRICS youth urged to find solutions to combat climate change in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

YOUTH delegates at a BRICS energy summit in Johannesburg have been looking into how the bloc can help shape the future of energy for Africa and the BRICS members.

BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa not only consume large amounts of energy but also contain about 40 percent of the world's coal reserves, a quarter of natural gas reserves

and eight percent of oil reserves.

Chair of the BRICS Youth Energy Agency stressed the need to work together.

"The energy sector and energy itself belongs to so many sectors and industries that we kind of find ourselves in other sectors beyond energy.

"But you'll be the centre of a community, you will be working with each other and building a stronger leadership. And the so-called thought leadership that is

incredibly important to drive the energy sector forward."

As one of the side events being hosted in the run up to the main BRICS Summit to be held later this month, the BRICS Youth Energy Summit brings together young entrepreneurs, researchers and activists calling on young people worldwide to lead on relevant agendas.

But speakers also urged delegates to find solutions to tackle climate change.

Director general of the South African Department for Mineral Resources and Energy, Jacob Mbele, said: "The need for energy security access and just transition is actually an opportunity, while it is a challenge, it's an opportunity for all of us, especially the youth."

"It is an opportunity for all of you to come up with game-changing solutions, taking advantage of various technological developments, including the need for us to address the issues around climate change."

The summit also tabled the urgent need for energy transition and game-changing solutions to cater for the millions of Africans lacking energy access.

FAO, TPHPA successfully test exchange of ePhytos

Just in case you were wondering, the word ePhyto stands for electronic phytosanitary Certificate. A Phytosanitary certificate is a document that goes along with agricultural consignments meant for export markets declaring the merchandise is free from pests and diseases of quarantine importance to the importing country. Now, as opposed to printing paper documents, Tanzania will be exchanging electronic versions of the same.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Through the IPPC, FAO technically supports countries to implement international standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM).

ISPM No. 12 provides a guide-

line for a structured internationally acceptable Phytosanitary Certificate which caters to clear communication on the level of a declaration of the merchandise's freedom from pests to the importing country. Any alteration to the format voids the validity of the certificate. The IPPC has also provided a hub for countries to connect and exchange phytosanitary certificates electronically.

With the introduction of the ePhyto system, personnel from Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority responsible for issuing Phytosanitary certificates need not to worry about making errors in the format as the system standardizes this. Additionally, the introduction of ePhyto will eliminate the existence of forged phytosanitary certificates, saving traders from the predicament

of rejection of merch in foreign border posts. The phytosanitary certificates are exchanged in advance to the authorities of the importing countries. It goes without mentioning the costs saved emanating from the routine printing of thousands of certificates.

FAO is the implementing agency of the project "Strengthening Plant Health Services in Tanzania for Enhanced Food Safety" (STREPHIT)*. One of the main outputs of the project is to ensure that Tanzania gets on board the ePhy-

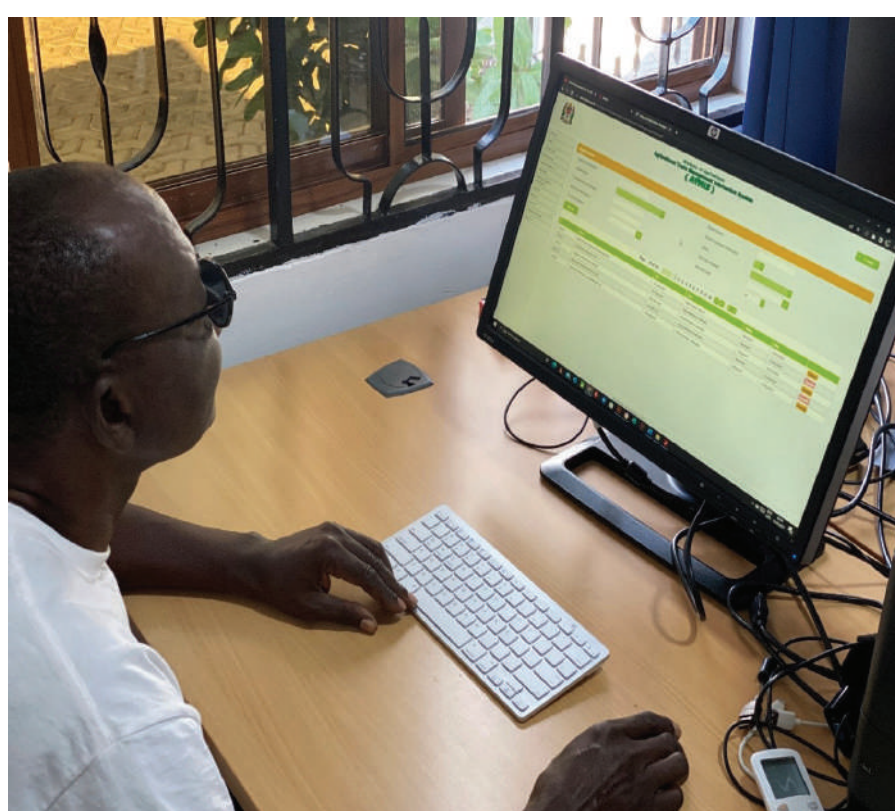
to program. This is being done by upgrading the Agriculture Trade Management Information System (ATMIS) through the addition of a module that allows it to send and receive ePhytos to and from the hub. In the first round of tests, ATMIS has managed to send and retrieve phytosanitary certificates from the hub. The second round of successful tests involved the exchange of phytosanitary certificates with TRACES which is the platform the European Union uses to exchange phytosanitary certificates through the hub.

With this new development, the country is now poised to officially launch ePhyto services to its traders. This is exciting news for the sector and the country. FAO and TPHPA are currently working together to smoothly roll out the program through capacity building and provision of the necessary infrastructure

***STREPHIT is funded through a contribution agreement between the EU (9.8Mio€), FAO (0.35Mio€), and the Government of Tanzania (0.25Mio€)**



Project Technical Advisor Mr. Monday Ahonsi (1st Right) listening to the laboratory attendants in one of the Plant control laboratories in Zanzibar during the project site management visit to assess the ground situation.



The look ATMIS Interface during testing



Strengthening Plant Health Services In Tanzania for enhanced Food Safety

Increasing access to safe and quality agricultural produce for national and international markets

€ **10.6 Million**
TOTAL BUDGET (EUR)

EUROPEAN UNION **10 Million**
EU CONTRIBUTION (EUR)

FAO **350,000**
FAO CONTRIBUTION (EUR)

TANZANIA **250,000**
GOVT. CONTRIBUTION (EUR)

2021 - 2025
DURATION

Nationwide
COVERAGE

ACTIVITIES

1. Equipping TPHPA
2. Training of Plant Health Border Inspectors and Plant Health Field Staff
3. Improvement of laboratory diagnostic and surveillance capacity
4. Enhancing field reporting and surveillance efficiency
5. Adoption of modern and innovative data collection and management systems
6. Enhancing Food Safety for export and domestic trade

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There is just no culture in absence of agriculture

PEOPLE might survive by eating just one type of food, but they will hardly thrive. People want to be healthy but many consume junk food.

Healthy eating, in particular a diet rich in fruit and vegetables adds to our health; primarily because it reduces our chances of contracting a number of eating related diseases.

Agriculture is the foundation of life, as we know it. We cannot flourish if we do not take care of ourselves and consciously sustain our own ability to flourish.

It is what led to our contemporary human societies. This means there is no culture without agriculture. Civilisation began when humans settled in one place and started growing crops.

We cannot live without a system that grows our food. We cannot flourish without healthy food. In Tanzania, like elsewhere in Africa, agriculture is the engine that drives growth and empowers people with food self-sufficiency, maintains stewardship over the environment and builds a sense of community belonging.

Farmers constitute 85 per cent of the country's workforce and they are the foundation of its economy, and the key to triggering its broader growth.

Research shows that increasing agricultural productivity is the most effective way to reduce poverty afflicting the majority rural dwellers in this great East African nation.

In fact, agricultural stakeholders say the sector offers the country its best opportunity to turn a vicious cycle of poverty into a virtuous cycle of development. That is why leaders, policymakers and bilateral donors support the country's initiatives aimed at boosting agriculture and food security.

Tanzania is ready to borrow a leaf from Korea's economic growth model that uses natural resources

in a sustainable manner towards industrialisation with minimal environmental risks.

Indeed there is a lot to learn from Korea as the East Asian nation has become a leading global force in promoting green growth as a new development paradigm.

Green growth is a term to describe a path of economic growth that uses natural resources in a sustainable manner. It is used globally to provide an alternative concept to typical industrial economic growth.

Whereas the green economy is defined as an economy that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. It is closely related with ecological economics, but has a more politically applied focus. The 2011 UNEP Green Economy Report argues "that to be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair. Fairness implies recognising global and country level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive."

A feature distinguishing it from prior economic regimes is the direct valuation of natural capital and ecological services as having economic value and a full cost accounting regime in which costs externalized onto society via ecosystems are reliably traced back to, and accounted for as liabilities of, the entity that does the harm or neglects an asset.

Green Sticker and ecolabel practices have emerged as consumer facing measurements of friendliness to the environment and sustainable development. Many industries are starting to adopt these standards as a viable way to promote their greening practices in a globalizing economy.

The term green growth has been used to describe national or international strategies.

Youths will not change for job openings; reform lifts chances, as in mobile phones

TO a wide section of society, the problem surrounding most marginalised youth is one of formation, seen at two levels, parental formation and forms of social behaviour, then schooling and formation of skills. At times the focus of social criticism and advice is on behaviour, as character is primary in what one does in life, not just education, and thus the emphasis on parental roles and even of elders in society, religious leaders, etc. There are clear gaps of advice, control.

Top national leaders have been making strident appeals on these issues, chiefly in relation to rectifying moral outlook, or alternatively, making an effort to bring up children such that they have the right moral outlook. Here government officials are like other voices in society, in their ability to influence the motion of sentiment or views on various issues. But they can't programme outcomes, as behaviour is narrowly tied to survival needs, what one can do to earn some cash.

What the government is able to do is to allocate resources for different initiatives to solve problems related to the youth bulge and declining work opportunities, owing to mass production in the main. As a matter of fact the government needs to focus on creating an environment that can usefully put most youth to gainful occupation by rendering this or that service in private units or informal sector. Older thinking about industrialization can't work as clothing is mass produced, but stylistics like sewing, printing, design adds jobs.

Examining how modest industrialisation (for things that are more economically produced locally)

is complemented by services is pivotal, and the whole world by now realises that the lower the taxes the faster industrialisation takes place. If it were possible there would be a little sales tax and corporate plus personal income tax, rather than steep rates of what is called 'value addition,' tracking a produce from farm to kitchen. East Asia industrialised fast with VAT as low as five per cent, while the usual average in East Africa is 18 per cent, earlier 20pc.

The trouble with low taxation levels is that it would fail to compensate for lowly productive or virtually unproductive spheres (in terms of government revenues) which has to be high to pay the foreign debt, and cater for often ostentatious entitlements of public officials. Instead of figuring out how to diminish the debt and the burden of entitlements, the politics focuses on who enters those spheres to earn the respect of the rest of society. Without removing plenty of taxes and levies to make goods cheaper, supposed opportunities remain imaginary as the services or goods produced have no buyers, frustrating youths taking them up.

Youths won't be different so as to gain some openings in a competitive environment where their services are too often not needed. By contrast, we need to create an environment where they will be needed in large numbers for all sorts of service work, on condition that those in control of key parameters of economy surrender them to the private sector. One can imagine how many gainful occupations would be there in telephony if TTCL had been allowed to retain monopoly over the mobile sphere. That work isn't over yet.



Guarding against military intervention in Niger

By Kingsley Moghalu

IN consideration of our own national interest, a military intervention must be an absolutely last option for Nigeria, given our own present domestic fragility.

I would recommend a very robust diplomatic strategy that focuses on weakening the regime in Niger internally, to the extent that it stands down, but without losing face... The reported appointment, by President Bola Tinubu, of former Nigerian Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar, an experienced international mediator, and the Sultan of Sokoto, Sa'ad Abubakar, to negotiate with the Niger junta is a step in the right direction.

As a Nigerian citizen, I am concerned about the situation in Niger and its implications for our country. I would advise the government of Nigeria to be very cautious. Yes, Nigeria's natural leadership role in West Africa means we can't take a back seat in the unfolding crisis. But we are not well positioned now, internally, to drive a military intervention to restore democracy in Niger. That's because we have great challenges at home at the moment. Our own security, democracy and economy are under threat. Foreign policy and power projection are best anchored on domestic strength and stability.

A military intervention in Niger would be resisted and considered by the new military junta there as an invasion and it may be backed by Russia/China, Mali and Burkina Faso. It could get very messy and protracted, despite how small and militarily weak Niger appears at first sight, in comparison to Nigeria and a combined ECOWAS military force. It could turn out like Russia's invasion of "small" Ukraine or even (in the Nigerian internal context) former Head of State Yakubu Gowon's "police action" in response to the Eastern Region's declaration of secession as the Republic of Biafra in 1967. The Federal Government's response was supposed to secure a military defeat of Biafra in a matter of weeks. However the reality was that of a full blown civil war that lasted two-and-a-half years, leaving three million people dead.

Can our economy carry the inevitable cost of an intervention in Niger? Or will it be financed through debt? Have we defeated Boko Haram and sundry other terrorists at home first? Given that Niger shares borders with Nigeria across seven states, the reality of potentially destabilising mass refugee movements into our country, not to talk of a possible "invasion" of Nigeria by terrorists from the Sahel region under the pretext of being refugees, are not distant possibilities in a scenario



President Bola Tinubu (C) with former Nigerian Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar (R) and the Sultan of Sokoto, Sa'ad Abubakar, who the president appointed to negotiate with the military junta in Niger.

of military intervention in Niger by ECOWAS, which would actually be a Nigerian military-led operation.

Every effort, economic and diplomatic, must be made to pressure the junta in Niger to return power to the democratically elected government. In consideration of our own national interest, a military intervention must be an absolutely last option for Nigeria, given our own present domestic fragility. These are not the days of our ECOMOG actions in Sierra Leone and Liberia, or even of President Olusegun Obasanjo's successful threat of military intervention in São Tomé.

Niger and the coup there, along with developments in other Sahel countries such as Mali and Burkina Faso, are part of a global power game of chess. It looks like a second scramble for Africa is taking place. In international relations, wise nations weigh their national interests side-by-side their collective multilateral obligations.

The "international community" is an aspirational phrase that hides the reality that world politics plays out in an "anarchical society" (apologies to the late Oxford University international relations scholar Hedley Bull) of nation-states each advancing its strategic interests via international cooperation in multilateral organisations. It is often the dining table at which African countries get eaten for lunch by the great and medium powers.

If we had done the right things, Nigeria should have become a certified medium power like Turkey, Brazil or South Korea by now. A big population of 200 million mostly poor and long-misgoverned people is not the equivalent of a real "demographic

power". Altering this reality for the better is our number one priority. We must not become a pawn in a global power game that carries the risk of a further destabilisation of our already troubled country.

Every effort, economic and diplomatic, must be made to pressure the junta in Niger to return power to the democratically elected government. In consideration of our own national interest, a military intervention must be an absolutely last option for Nigeria, given our own present domestic fragility. These are not the days of our ECOMOG actions in Sierra Leone and Liberia, or even of President Olusegun Obasanjo's successful threat of military intervention in São Tomé.

We are weaker, and far less internally cohesive today, than in those years. The pains to Nigerians created by the inevitable removal of petrol/forex subsidies, and the threats of nationwide strikes by labour movements, make this an inauspicious time for foreign military adventures.

The return of coups in Africa's Sahel region is a legitimate concern, and the leaders of ECOWAS and the African Union should take a strong stand against the trend. But to counter the menace more effectively, we must address its root causes: the failures of several African countries to defeat terrorism and secure their territorial integrity, a reluctance to abide by the real ethos of democracy, and a failure to provide good, effective governance.

I would recommend a very robust diplomatic strategy that focuses on weakening the regime in Niger internally, to the extent that it stands down, but without losing face. This can only be based on Niger's

internal political, ethnic, economic and other factors, but it can be done. The reported appointment, by President Bola Tinubu, of former Nigerian Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar, an experienced international mediator, and the Sultan of Sokoto, Sa'ad Abubakar, to negotiate with the Niger junta is a step in the right direction.

Of course, it's quite possible that Nigeria and ECOWAS intervenes with soldiers and topples the Niger junta quickly. Nigeria's "mojo" will be boosted. That's an IF, however, and then only if Russia and the Wagner group of mercenaries (or China) do not militarily back the junta covertly. If no world power backs them, then it would be easier to restore democracy there. But that is what intelligence and diplomacy must ascertain, and prevent, for a military intervention to work.

The return of coups in Africa's Sahel region is a legitimate concern, and the leaders of ECOWAS and the African Union should take a strong stand against the trend. But to counter the menace more effectively, we must address its root causes: the failures of several African countries to defeat terrorism and secure their territorial integrity, a reluctance to abide by the real ethos of democracy, and a failure to provide good, effective governance. These are the real points of departure.

Kingsley Moghalu, a former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, is the CEO of Sogato Strategies, a macroeconomic and geopolitical risk advisory firm, and the President of the Institute for Governance and Economic Transformation (IGET), a public policy think tank.

Nanene, youth empowerment in agriculture and Agenda 2030

By Mark Mapambano

YESTERDAY was a public holiday as Tanzanians marked National Farmers' Day, otherwise known as Nane Nane in Kiswahili, which refers to the date of the climax of the weeklong annual commemoration—the 8th of August (8/8).

Every year, the first week of August is all about agriculture in Tanzania whereby agriculture fairs are organised all over the country, culminating in the national celebration Nane Nane held rotationally in one of the seven zones.

The zonal exhibitions and the national event are meant to recognise the important contribution of farmers to the Tanzanian economy as well as new innovations and technologies in agriculture as well as inputs for uptake by famers.

The guest of honour at this year's climax held in Mbeya Region, Southern Highlands zone, was President Samia Suluhu Hassan who has since declared her big plans for the agriculture sector, including the over 300bn/- Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative in Agri-business (BBT-YIA).

Given our country's massive endowment with arable land and good climate, agriculture is often mentioned as the sector with the biggest potential to catapult Tanzania to the upper middle income country. But agriculture in our country remains largely hand-hoe, ox-driven plough and rains-fed.

Although agriculture contributes nearly one-third of our country's GDP and employs 75 percent of the population, the sector's growth is slow—just four percent annually—and over 34 percent of our children under age five are stunted and nearly 45 percent of women of reproductive age are anemic.

That is why the government is implementing a number of initiatives meant not only to improve the livelihoods of farmers but also towards achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal—to end hunger, promote sustainable agriculture, and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030.

The initiatives are also meant to increase growth of the agriculture sector from the current snail's pace of four percent to 10 percent per year by 2030.

Also, the programmes seek to ensure food security and increase export and increase the value of export of agricultural produce from USD1.2 billion.

This year's theme for NaneNane exhibition is 'Youth and Women are Strong Foundation for Sustainable Food Systems'. This is why BBT-YIA matters.

For, government has set aside 160,000 acres for over 40,000 young people. The lands are in Dodoma, Mbeya, Kigoma and Kagera Regions while other fertile areas are being searched for the same purpose.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with government officials in Mbeya city moments after jetting into Songwe Airport on Monday for the climax national Nanene celebrations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

pose. This first batch of beneficiaries has been recruited and in training in the said regions.

In January this year, President Samia said that BBT-YIA is part of efforts to widen youth engagement in agriculture with the government facilitating land ownership and loan to ensure their economic empowerment.

This came after it emerged that access to land and financing were major hindrances that locked young people out of agriculture. Because the beneficiaries are given basic training in agribusiness and agri-processing, it is hoped that the success of this initiative could attract more young Tanzanians to the sector and spur growth.

President Samia spoke while answering a question on how to make agriculture attractive to youth, access to land, technology and finance during the official opening of a three-day Second Africa Food Summit in Dakar, Senegal.

Also, in January this year, in her speech as a panelist at a session on 'Food Action in Economic Forum's Annual

Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, President Samia said Tanzania has developed a national pathway for food system transformation, which is expected to strengthen local production, improve livelihoods, help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The initiatives are anticipated to boost incomes of people as well as generate employment opportunities for the many youths considering the fact that the agriculture sector is the backbone of the economy.

This informs why the government has increased its budget for the agriculture ministry from 294bn/- in 2021/2022 to 970.7bn/- in 2023/2024, - a record increase by 330 per cent since independence. As for livestock and fisheries, the budget rose from 275bn/- in 2021/2022 to 295bn/- 2023/2024 with the aim of strengthening the sectors.

Implemented jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, BBT-YIA has already established a total of 13 incubation centres with a total

812 youth so far, comprising 282 females and 530 males, who have begun training on agriculture as a business.

But these initiatives by the government are just a drop in the ocean. Agriculture sector transformation requires massive investment from the private sector to replace hand-hoes and ox-driven ploughs with machines. It is only with machines, irrigation and value addition we can move from agriculture to agribusiness.

The author is a commentator on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

Exposing young children to violent films affects their future

By Telesphor Magobe

SOME parents or guardians like to entertain their children and make them feel happy when they are with their children or when the children are left with a house help. There are those who have bought their children toy guns they can use when they play on their own or with their peers.

If you visit some families on weekends, you may find parents, guardians or adult members of the family watching a violent film with children because they enjoy seeing how main characters in the film are shot, stabbed or speared and a few minutes later appear alive, leading their group on the battlefield.

What you will discover is that adult members of those families enjoy watching those films and their children have eventually developed interest in what they see their parents, guardians, house helps or other adult members watch.

If you travel by bus from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza or to any other regions, you will likely find fixed screens in the bus and passengers can watch a film, usually what interests the bus crew. Most of those films show violent scenes. Likewise, in our neighbourhoods, young people watch those films whose characters shoot, stab or spear each other and in each scene there is blood seen on the bodies of wounded or killed characters.

If children grow up being fed such material, what can you expect from them? Certainly, to be more or less violent in some way because that is what they were used to watching, playing and internalizing during their childhood.

Just watch children playing together, what do you often see? It is either they kick each other or pose as those playing karate or kung fu the way they saw characters playing in a film or they act as if they shoot at their friends using the toy guns their parents or guardians bought them.

One time I visited a friend of mine and found the family watching a violent film with children. I asked why they were watching it with children and the reply I got was that "children like it". I asked the family if they were interested in educational cartoons for children.

"Please, copy them for my children," said one member of the family, who handed to me a flash and said "you can format it". When I arrived at home and before formatting it I viewed the type of films in the flash and found that the entire flash was full of violent films.

Another family, which was interested in educational cartoons for children, asked me if they could give me their flash and put in it educational cartoons for children. I accepted and was handed a flash which was also full of violent films. These are just two families I know and I am sure there are many families whose members watch violent films with their children.



Passer & Smith (2009) in their book entitled "Psychology: The Science of Mind and Behaviour (Fourth Edition)" suggest that it is through socialisation that a culture is transmitted to new members and internalised by them. That is, what adult family members usually do together with their children is transmitted to those children and forms part of their behaviour either as children or as adults.

The authors argue further that "behaviour is determined by multiple causal factors, including our biological endowment ('nature'), the environment and our past learning experiences ('nurture') and psychological factors that include our thoughts and motives."

They say that from a behavioural per-

spective, people's actions are shaped by the environment and learning experiences and to change such behaviour entails changing the educational environment so that children learn new and positive responses.

"If we truly understand the causes of a given behaviour, then we should be able to predict the conditions under which that behaviour will occur in the future," it reads.

So, what should we do? The first thing we can do is to realise that children need educational material that can help them enjoy what they see and learn from it to be responsible adults and law-abiding citizens in the future.

If children are exposed to appropriate educational material they internalise what

they see and if it is done repeatedly, it is internalised as children grow up. The second thing we can do is to change the situation if we really want to choose the best for our children, especially what can help them enjoy and learn what is of value to them as children and future adults.

Millon, Lerner & Weiner (2003) in their book entitled "Handbook of Psychology (Volume 5): Personality and Social Psychology" suggest that "Neighbourhood provides the most proximal influences on behaviour. The family of origin and peers transmit the influences of society, albeit with individual variations on modal mores, values, and behaviour patterns. Observational learning combined with social reinforcement is the mechanism of influence

at the next level."

So, let us take care to ensure children are not exposed to violent films and material that influence bad behaviour. We should bear in mind that children have extraordinary capacity to learn and because of this, they should be exposed to appropriate material that helps them to internalise positive values that form socially acceptable behaviour.

Telesphor Magobe is a columnist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at mailto:t22magobe@gmail.com t22magobe@gmail.com

Ukraine exploring ways to maintain food exports after grain deal collapse

KIEV

LAST month, the Black Sea grain deal collapsed after Russia's withdrawal, prompting concerns about the impact on Ukraine's farming industry and global food security.

Russia and Ukraine signed separately with Türkiye and the United Nations the Black Sea Grain Initiative in Istanbul in July 2022, which allowed Ukraine to export its grain and other agricultural products from its Black Sea ports. The deal was extended several times. Experts and local entrepreneurs hope that ways to keep the foodstuffs exports will be found.

POSSIBLE IMPACT

"The closure of the 'grain corridor' dealt a significant blow to Ukraine's export opportunities. It would have consequences on several levels," said Anton Naichuk, head of Ukraine's Civil Diplomacy Fund.

Two-thirds of Ukraine's grain and legume exports were supplied through the corridor in the 2022-2023 marketing year, he noted. The expert also said that the collapse of the deal will reduce Ukraine's budget revenues, cause significant losses to the agribusiness industry, and force Ukrainian farmers to cut next year's harvest.

For local entrepreneurs, the breakdown of the grain deal has affected the functioning of their enterprise.

"There are no big purchases anymore. Companies that buy (grain seeds) at a good price have suspended their work. Meanwhile, the dealers are buying goods at a reduced price," said Mykhailo Semenikhin, chief of a seed-producing enterprise Experimental Base "Dachna" in the Odesa region.

The shutdown of the corridor may also shake the global food market, as Ukraine for years has been one of the key agricultural exporters, producing enough food to feed about 400 million people per year.

The International Monetary Fund has warned that the suspension of the grain deal could push up global grain prices by 10-15 percent.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Ukrainian authorities have been exploring alternative trade routes for grain export, such as establishing a new "grain corridor" through the territorial waters of Romania, Türkiye and Bulgaria.

"The weak point in this option is that any ship that enters the territorial waters of Ukraine, and it will enter the Ukrainian waters when it sails to ports, can be fired upon by Russia. Russia has warned that it does not guarantee security," Volodymyr Volya, a political expert, said in a Telegram post. Other op-



tions for companies seeking to bring Ukrainian grain to the global market are exports via rail, road and the ports of the Danube River to European countries.

However, a limited amount of grain could be exported through these routes given the shrinking transporting capacities, border crossing issues, and rising prices of such transportation.

"The situation is somewhat complicated by the political situation in the neighboring countries," Naichuk said, noting that Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia have banned the import of Ukrainian agricultural goods until Sept. 15, fearing this could affect their farmers.

CALL FOR SETTLEMENTS

During a phone call on Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative,

saying its long-term shutdown "will not benefit anyone" and the low-income countries in need of grain will suffer the most. Putin told Erdogan that the extension of the agreement was meaningless without the implementation of the part that concerned Russia and that Russia would return to the deal "as soon as the West fulfills all its obligations" outlined in the agreement.

China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun said on Thursday that the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the memorandum of understanding on Russia's grain and fertilizer exports had had a positive impact on maintaining global food security, adding that China hopes that all relevant parties can intensify dialogue and consultation to meet each other halfway, and help restore the package agreement as soon as possible.

"I do not rule out that after some time, in a month or two, Russia will agree to negotiations," Volya said. But the

resumption of the deal would depend on the influence of the global community and the situation on the frontline.

Meanwhile, Naichuk said that the issue of the grain deal revival will be discussed during a meeting between Erdogan and Putin slated for later this month.

"Ukraine expects that the Turkish side will make efforts to restore the agreements," Naichuk said, adding that if the deal is revived, Ukraine has prospects to export nearly 50 million tons of foodstuffs this marketing year, which runs from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

South Africa new police watchdog bill risks seriously weakening rule of law

By David Bruce

A new bill before Parliament proposing amendments to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) Act raises the contentious question of leadership and accountability in South Africa's criminal justice institutions.

Ipid investigates specified categories of crime committed by members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and municipal police. Due to low levels of public trust in the police, Ipid plays a critical role in criminal justice proceedings by ensuring that investigations against the police are carried out effectively.

But the bill is unlikely to build trust. It proposes weakening the provisions for appointing the Ipid executive director, by excluding Parliament and centralising control over the process in the hands of the police minister and Cabinet. This would increase Ipid's vulnerability to political interference and manipulation. Paradoxically, the bill follows a 2019 amendment to the Ipid Act that strengthened the watchdog's independence by preventing the arbitrary removal of the Ipid head.

In the wake of widespread corruption and state capture in South Africa, it's clear that the independence of criminal justice institutions is vital. A joint submission by Corruption Watch and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) to the Zondo inquiry showed how State Capture under Jacob Zuma's presidency was facilitated by interference with criminal justice institution leaders. This included heads of the SAPS and its crime intelligence division, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and Ipid.

Read more in Daily Maverick: State Capture wipes out third of SA's R4.9-trillion GDP - never mind lost trust, confidence, opportunity

Preference was given to leaders who were likely to be compliant. Those who stood in the way of state capture by pursuing investigations or prosecutions against Zuma or his co-conspirators were targeted for removal. This contributed to the hollowing out of state institutions that enabled corruption to flourish.

The 2015 attempt to remove Ipid executive director Robert McBride formed part of a web of manipulation of criminal justice and state security organs under Zuma. After an Ipid investigation rejected police crime intelligence allegations used to justify the suspension of senior Hawks leaders, McBride was suspended by then police minister Nathi Nhleko.

Through legal action, McBride successfully contested the attempt to remove him. This resulted in Ipid Act provisions regarding removing the Ipid head being ruled unconstitutional in 2016. The 2019 Ipid Act amendment was passed to address the defects highlighted by the Constitutional Court in this judgment.



The Independent Police Investigative Directorate investigates specified categories of crime committed by members of the South African Police Service and municipal police. (Photo: Roger Sedres)

The Hawks are supposed to be South Africa's leading agency for investigating corruption and organised crime. It was the Ipid head who shielded Hawks investigators from being spuriously targeted by the executive and police crime intelligence division. The integrity and calibre of Ipid leadership was critical in defending the independence of a key criminal justice agency.

The Corruption Watch and ISS submission highlights that during the Zuma era, manipulation of the criminal justice system "was pursued at the expense of the crimi-

nal justice system and thus of the safety and security of South Africans." The destructive effects of this manipulation continue as levels of murder and organised crime soar in the country.

The new Ipid bill proposes that the police minister appoint the head of Ipid with the approval of the Cabinet. Rather than improving the integrity of the process, this makes selection of the executive director vulnerable to manipulation and power dynamics within the executive. Police ministers may also not necessarily exercise ap-

propriate diligence in selecting appointees and may be influenced by personal agendas.

The relevant clauses of the Ipid bill mimic current SAPS Act provisions dealing with appointing the Hawks head. But this is far from reassuring. Even though the Hawks are South Africa's principal anti-corruption investigation agency, the act authorises the police minister to appoint not only the Hawks boss, but its entire top leadership. This includes its deputy head and all provincial heads.

A transparent and consistent approach must be developed for future appointments to vital positions in the criminal justice system. A complicating factor is that the country's constitution authorises the president to unilaterally appoint the National Director of Public Prosecutions and the SAPS national commissioner. This didn't, however, prevent President Cyril Ramaphosa from establishing a panel in 2018 to recommend candidates for National Director of Public Prosecutions.

But rather than being advised by an independent panel, Police Minister Bheki Cele headed up the March 2022 interview process to recommend a new SAPS national commissioner. This is despite the government's 2012 National Development Plan recommending that the president appoint the national commissioner on the advice of a formally established selection panel.

The provisions for appointing the executive director in the new Ipid bill are unsatisfactory. The issue highlights a problem that affects the whole criminal justice system and should no longer be dealt with ad hoc. Instead, cross-cutting legislation is needed that provides for a standing panel to interview and recommend senior appointments in the criminal justice system.

South Africa's economic decline is intertwined with the stranglehold of corruption and criminal networks in the country. To establish a successful democracy that provides a reasonable standard of living to its citizens, effective rule-of-law institutions must be developed.

Rather than the Ipid bill currently before Parliament, bolder, more forward-looking legislation is required to ensure that independent and capable leaders are selected to run the country's criminal justice agencies.

African leaders praised for encouraging women, girls to achieve their potential

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has commended African leaders for demonstrating the political will and investments needed to dismantle barriers that prevent women and girls from achieving their potential.

Mark Bryan Schreiner, the UNFPA representative in Tanzania, made the commendation in a statement issued on Friday commenting on the recently ended Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the leaders demonstrated the political will and investments needed to dismantle the economic, social and environmental barriers that prevent women, girls and young people from achieving their potential and to deliver the greatest returns for the largest numbers of people, and those most left behind.

"When a youthful population enjoys good health, continuing education, and can contribute to economic growth -- the national economic payoff can be substantial, and a demographic dividend can then be

achieved," said Schreiner.

However, achieving a demographic dividend was not automatic, he said, adding that it required multiple investments, with the most essential being building the capabilities of people to realize their rights and achieve their potential.

He said for women and girls especially, this means respecting their right to realize their desired fertility, which requires achieving gender equality. "When a youthful population enjoys good health, continuing education, and can contribute to economic growth -- the national economic payoff can be substantial, and a demographic dividend can then be achieved," said Schreiner.

However, achieving a demographic dividend was not automatic, he said, adding that it required multiple investments, with the most essential being building the capabilities of people to realize their rights and achieve their potential.

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Tanzania on July 25 and 26, hosted



A vendor trims flowers at a flower shop in Nairobi. Kenya is one of the world's leading exporters of cut flowers

the Africa Heads of State Human Capital Summit (HCS), whereby a number of issues on investment in human resources were discussed.

Under the theme "Accelerating Africa's Eco-

nommic Growth: Boosting Youth Productivity by Improving Learning and Skills," brought in leaders from across the continent to focus attention and draw tangible financial and policy commitments,

prioritizing investing in people as a core driver of productivity, resilience, and growth.

It was the first time the conference has been held in Tanzania or on the African continent.

Platforms to be created in Kagera to make people communicate better

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

TANZANIA Red Cross Society (TRCS) is set to introduce a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) programme in Kagera Region to identify what is required to the communities and create platforms for communities to speak out about the issues that affect them.

Kheri Issa, TRCS's Marburg virus disease response project coordinator said here recently that the programme will make their voices heard by the government and other stakeholders to take action, influence decision making and later on provide assistance in accordance with their needs.

During the implementation of the programme, TRCS's staff will visit communities and have a face-to-face discussion with people to identify the main challenges they encounter, ask them what they think about the challenges they have in their localities and involve them in designing and developing work plans to solve the challenges.

They will also conduct research to identify effects and disasters that could possibly affect them and later on provide best solutions.

The work plan will guide them on how to operate their work more effectively, understand priorities they need, how to combat, prevent and control epidemic diseases and how to secure drugs in their localities.

"We have decided to embark on this programme after discovering that Kagera Region is a business hub for



TRCS's Marburg virus disease response project coordinator, Kheri Issa

Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and its geographical location facilitates movements for people from these countries," he said.

He said due to this, Kagera Region needs capacity building on how to prevent and control epidemic diseases including Ebola, Marburg virus disease within their localities.

TRCS was recently implementing a five-month project dubbed: 'Marburg Virus Disease Response project' that was implemented by the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), Prime Minister's office- Disaster Management Department, Medicine San Frontiers (MSF), World Vision Tanzania and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Africa) among others entailed to train volunteers to oversee its viability.

Other stakeholders include Management and Development for Health (MDH), World Health Organisation (WHO), Ministry of Health, Amref and Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

The project was executed in five councils--Bukoba municipality, Bukoba, Missenyi, Muleba and Kyerwa with funding from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Apart from that TRCS has been able to train 46 volunteers and 12 government staff for safe and dignified burials.

Cargo trucks, taxi drivers, motorcycle riders, passenger buses were screened at Kyamyorwa, Kihanga and Kyaka points of entry to control the spread of this disease.

UN calls for new approaches to realise benefits of AfCFTA

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

AFRICAN nations need to adopt new approaches to realize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and accelerate the continent's development, a UN official said Thursday.

Ozonnia Ojielo, the UN resident coordinator in Rwanda, told a development policy dialogue in Kigali, Rwanda's capital that Africa needs to build integrated, diversified and resilient economies more than ever before.

The AfCFTA is the flagship programme of Agenda 2063 of the African Union designed to boost intra-African trade in goods and services.

"AfCFTA is a game-changer but translating it into reality requires preparedness and readiness supported by accompanying measures to ensure that countries make the most of this agreement. This is where we all have a role to play," Ojielo said. "It is not about time to think outside the box. It is time to think without the box."

Ojielo highlighted a range of potential benefits of the AfCFTA, such as providing productive employment and poverty reduction, which he said are some of the urgent challenges that the continent has to address. "But without preparedness, no benefit can be realized," he warned.

He said countries need to think about how to be more intentional by

shifting to new ideas that create acceleration in terms of economic development, integration, and scaling up the number of projects.

Ojielo also mentioned the need for discussions that translate into developing reliable and efficient transboundary infrastructure, by increasing investments in education and health systems for a more competitive workforce and overall human capital.

The inaugural development policy dialogue was held under the theme "A Lens on the African Continental Free Trade Area preparedness, best practices and opportunities for East Africa and Rwanda."

Deputy Secretary General of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs at the East African Community Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe said while many people are aware of AfCFTA's benefits, concerted efforts are needed to turn the aspirations into reality.

She called for youth and women empowerment to unleash the continent's full potential and foster economic integration and inclusive growth across Africa.

Richard Niwenshuti, the permanent secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Trade and Industry, said the Rwandan government fully subscribes to regional economic integration and believes as a region much can be done within that wider market of AfCFTA.



Li Yaya teaches students Chinese characters in Zanzibar

France, Russia, ECOWAS in battle for soul of West Africa

By Promise Eze

ON July 26 2023 a man named Colonel-Major Amadou Abdramane, flanked by soldiers with military fatigues, appeared on Niger's national television to announce the execution of a coup. It was the country's fourth coup since it gained independence from France in 1960.

"The defence and security forces have decided to put an end to the regime you are familiar with. This follows the continuous deterioration of the security situation, the bad social and economic management," he said.

The country's president Mohamed Bazoum, who came to power in 2021 through Niger's first democratic elections, was removed, and his government, including the constitution, was suspended.

Before the announcement of the coup, President Bazoum had been held captive in the presidential palace. This was unexpected, as earlier in the year, Bazoum had dismissed the possibility of a military coup during an interview. However, he was ultimately overthrown by the very people who were supposed to protect him—the Presidential Guard.

Two days later, the Presidential Guard commander General Abdourahamane Tchiani was proclaimed as the new leader of the country following the army's support of the sudden military takeover.

The recent military takeover in Niger has reverberated through the international community, shocking those who regarded the country as a bulwark against the encroachment of democratic backsliding in the region.

Niger faced widespread international condemnation following the military coup. The European Union, the United States, France, and the West African regional bloc, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), were among those who unequivocally condemned the coup. France issued a stern warning, threatening to respond firmly to any violence directed at its diplomatic mission in Niger or its citizens and interests.

While this may not be the first coup in Niger, and it certainly isn't the first in the Sahel or West Africa. In recent years, the region has witnessed a series of coups where military officers have seized power from elected government officials, driven by their frustration with the increasing incidents of terrorism, corruption, and political instability in West Africa.

In January 2022, Burkina Faso witnessed two coups, which were triggered by the deteriorating security situation and the President's perceived inability to effectively address challenges, notably the Islamist insurgency.

Similarly, Mali experienced coups in both 2020 and 2021, indicating the volatility of its political landscape. In 2021, President Alpha Condé of Guinea was overthrown in a coup d'état by the country's armed forces following gunfire in the capital, Conakry.

These three nations share notable similarities: they are located in West Africa, have unstable political systems, face regular jihadist threats, and were once under French colonial rule.

Analysts argue that these coups represent direct threats to democracy in West Africa, undermining the principles of democratic governance in the region.

"The coup represents a significant setback for the small but crucial developmental strides made by West Africa and the entire African continent towards more people-oriented governance, even if not perfect.

It's disheartening to see these gains being nullified. This unsettling development raises concerns about the potential for more coups across Africa in the years to come, which is a distressing prospect.

Moreover, it is likely to exacerbate insecurity, particularly terrorism, as violent non-state actors may seize the opportunity to emerge," says Timothy Avel, a security expert, and Managing Director of Agent-X Security, based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Ibrahim Baba Shatambaya, a lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, holds the view that the army's actions in Niger were motivated by a desire to break free from France's long-standing control and exploitation of its former colonial territories.

"The coup stands as evidence that democracy is facing challenges in Africa, and it reflects the inability of ECOWAS to ensure that leaders in the West African sub-region meet the expectations of their people," he adds.



Niger's new military leader, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, has ignored one week ultimatum by west African states to reinstate civilian rule.

rise in anti-French sentiments, which is considered a key factor driving the military coups in the region.

Many people hold France responsible for contributing to the region's instability through military interventions.

Despite maintaining military bases and promising to combat Jihadism, violence and attacks persist, leading to suspicions that France might have a hand in terrorist activities.

Critics also argue that France has taken advantage of the region's resources while failing to break colonial ties. For instance, Niger, the world's fifth-largest uranium producer, supplies nearly a quarter of the European Union's uranium, used for electricity production.

However, despite its resource wealth, Niger remains one of the world's poorest countries, with a poorly diversified economy heavily reliant on agriculture. More than 41% of the population lives in extreme poverty, according to the World Bank's data from 2021.

Furthermore, Orano (formerly Areva), a French state-controlled nuclear fuel producer, faces accusations of leaving behind large amounts of radioactive waste in Niger, posing health risks to local communities. There are also concerns

about insufficient protection for workers against radiation. Orano has also been embroiled in bribery allegations in Southern Africa.

The French-backed CFA currency, used by 14 nations in West and Central Africa, including Niger, has faced criticism for enabling France to maintain control over the economies of its former colonies. This currency system requires member countries to deposit 50% of their currency reserves with the Banque de France and is pegged to the euro.

French President Emmanuel Macron has made efforts to distance himself from France's colonial past in Africa and advocate for a new approach based on partnership. However, deep-rooted suspicions and grievances persist.

Long live Russia, goodbye France

About ten years ago, Mali sought military assistance from France when Islamic militants threatened the capital, Bamako. France's arrival was initially hailed as heroic, but its presence in the West African nation did not yield long-term improvements. Instead, terrorist groups with ties to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Islamic State of the Greater Sahara carried out devastating attacks. Mali even

blamed the French for arming terrorists.

Diplomatic relations between Paris and Bamako began to deteriorate following a coup in May 2021 and resistance against democratic elections in January 2022. Consequently, Mali expelled the French and embraced the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary organisation, which has gained influence in Africa.

The Wagner Group has gained notoriety for its involvement in the internal affairs of multiple African nations, offering military and security assistance to advance Moscow's influence across the continent. Disturbingly, it has faced accusations of perpetrating massacres and acts of rape. However, despite these alleged atrocities, many discontented young Africans harbour a sense of indifference towards Wagner's actions, as their grievances with France and the West take precedence in their perspective.

Burkina Faso also expelled the French, with thousands of people rallying in the capital, Ouagadougou, in support of a military takeover that ousted President Roch Kabore. Russian flags were displayed in the streets, and some demonstrators urged Moscow to replace France in the fight against jihadists.

Even in Niger, celebrations backing the

coup plotters have swept across the country, gaining momentum despite calls for a return to democracy. There are also reports of the Niger junta meeting with the Wagner Group in Mali to seek military support.

"Nigeriens harbour deep grievances against France for various reasons, primarily due to the exploitation of our resources, which disproportionately benefits France. An evident illustration of this disparity is the supply of French electricity sourced from our uranium, while we remain 80% dependent on another country (Nigeria) for our energy needs.

"Another major concern is the issue of terrorism. Despite the presence of over a thousand French soldiers in the country with the stated objective of combating terrorists, they seem unable to effectively confront the threat. Instead, our population and soldiers bear the brunt of the attacks, leaving us vulnerable and disheartened.

"As an alternative, many Nigeriens view Russia as a potential saviour in the face of their escalating tensions with France and the rest of the world. Russia's involvement in the terrorist conflict in Mali, particularly through the actions of the Wagner Group, has further fueled this perception," Abdoulaye Hali Aboubacar, a student at the Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, tells IPS.

ECOWAS versus Niger

The growing presence of the Wagner group is clear evidence that ECOWAS has failed to do its homework. However, the new government of ECOWAS is poised to make a difference.

After taking over as the Chairman of ECOWAS on July 9, President Bola Tinubu made a firm statement, stating that the region would not accept any more successful coups, as it had experienced five of them since 2020.

A mere 15 days after Tinubu's resolute speech, the government in Niger was overthrown by officers.

In response to the crisis, Tinubu took immediate action and presided over an emergency ECOWAS summit in Abuja. Several sanctions were implemented, and notably, for the first time in the bloc's history, it demanded that the putschists restore constitutional order under the risk of facing the potential use of force.

However, there are apprehensions regarding ECOWAS, which has faced criticism for its limited ability to address coup regimes and its alleged neglect of crucial underlying issues like corruption and poverty. Some argue that ECOWAS's response to the coup might be influenced by how the news of it was received in the Western world.

"It is advisable for Nigeria-led ECOWAS to introspect before escalating the already precarious situation in Niger. The current trajectory could turn Niger into a battleground for foreign powers to settle scores, leading to a dangerous quagmire if not handled carefully by the authorities, especially Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu and his advisers," Avel cautions.



Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey students stage a protest in support of Russia and the coup plotters. Credit: Abdoulaye Hali Aboubacar

IPS UN Bureau Report

For the love of Uranium
In French West Africa, there has been a significant

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Radio One

President Samia wants farmers to resort more to agricultural insurance for income security

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassa has called upon farmers to embrace agriculture insurance for income security.

She made the call while visiting the NBC Bank booth at the Nanenane Agriculture Exhibition in Mbeya, following a report from NBC's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, regarding the bank's compensation amounting to \$33,537.89 (85m/-), up for collection by tobacco farmers who were affected by hailstorms last season.

The president named the agriculture insurance services offered by the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) as one of the vital solutions to ensuring a stable income for farmers.

She has urged farmers across the country to make the most of the various banking services provided by the government and financial institutions to improve the growth rate of the sector.

According to her, the government and financial institutions, including NBC, have put in significant efforts to design various services to empower farmers, including loans and modern farming tools. Therefore, the introduction of agriculture insurance services will ensure farmers have a stable income from their activities instead of relying on guesswork, as it was previously.

"My dear farmers, what else do you want? Currently, you are empowered at every step, including high-quality inputs,



President Samia Suluhu Hassan listens as NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (R) shows her some of the farmers who have benefited from compensation of \$33,537.88 (85m/-) paid out by the bank through its Agriculture Insurance cover run in collaboration with Jubilee Insurance, after the farmers' tobacco crops were affected by hailstorms in the previous farming season. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

modern farming tools, and various loans. Despite all these, the challenge has remained with losses arising from various calamities, including floods and hailstorms. However, NBC has introduced agriculture insurance services to end this problem, ensuring income security. What else do you want?" politely asked President Samia.

President Samia further impressed upon financial institutions to continue reducing their interest rates to attract more farmers to use their services for great

er benefits.

In further explaining NBC's agriculture insurance service offered in partnership with Jubilee Insurance Company, Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe said that it would help farmers overcome losses resulting from various calamities such as floods, fires, and hailstorms that have significantly affected the growth of the agriculture sector.

"Nevertheless, this step from NBC is the beginning of a much bigger joint implementation to ensure that

this agriculture insurance service reaches more farmers. Thus, I congratulate NBC for initiating this crucial effort," praised Bashe.

Theobald Sabi stated that the bank had already paid out \$4,000 (10m/-), during the first year of the service. He also mentioned the regions where farmers had benefited from the insurance in the second season, namely Tabora, Geita, and Shinyanga, where a total of 10 Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives Societies (AMCOS) had received compensation.

"These payments involve a total of 140 farmers from 10 AMCOS in the regions of Tabora, Geita, and Shinyanga whose tobacco crops were severely affected by hailstorms, resulting in varying degrees of damage to an area of 2,531 hectares and affecting their harvests. Through NBC's Agriculture Insurance, run in partnership with Jubilee Insurance, the farmers have received compensation," Sabi said, while encouraging farmers of various crops to take advantage of the insurance.

While visiting the NBC booth at the Mbeya Agricultural Exhibition earlier today, President Samia had the opportunity to learn about various services offered by the bank for farmers. She also spoke with Alex Chengura, a rice farmer in the region, who was one of the beneficiaries of a tractor loan from NBC at affordable rates for farmers.

Govt assures private sector on smooth operations at Dar port

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE government has assured companies including Inland Container Depots (ICD) working at the Dar es Salaam Port that its decision to find a new investor will not affect their jobs but instead, they will have to expand the business to meet the new demands brought about by the increase of services.

Temeke District Commissioner, Mobare Matinyi said this yesterday when he toured an

ICD located in Temeke district, Hesu Investment Ltd to acquaint himself with investments in the district and know businesses that contribute to the economy.

Speaking after the tour, the DC said he had a dialogue with the Director of Dar es Salaam Port where he learned that the government has plans to increase new berths at the Port that include berths 12, 13, 14, and 15.

"Presently at the Port after berth 11 we have a Kurasini oil jet which will be extended to Kigamboni berths 12 to 15 that

will store fuel, cooking oil, and gas," he said.

Noting that he was not privy to how much the expansion will cost but during the discussion, he learned that construction of one berth costs \$100 million and government plans to do that through foreign direct investments.

He stressed that the purpose of the government was to increase the export and imports of goods at the Dar es Salaam Port to 38 million tonnes by 2030 or more and that was why it was

looking for an investor who will use modern operations in its day-to-day dealings.

"Going by the current data, Dar es Salaam port during the financial year 2022/23 goods export and imports was 22.2 million tonnes compared to Mombasa calendar year 2022 which was 33.74 million tonnes," he said. Noting that goods from Uganda and Rwanda passing through the Mombasa Port stood at 75 percent last year and fell this year to 65 percent because the Dar es

Salaam port took the goods following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's investment to improve the port's efficiency.

Explaining, he said that President Samia invested in three ships to show gantry (SSG) cranes that cost between Sh40 billion to 50 billion each. Adding that plans are also underway to invest in rubber-tired crane gantry that will be supported by folk lifts and other equipment that require an investor with modern technology.

"If the government decides to invest itself to modernize and expand the Dar es Salaam Port it will require at least Sh5 trillion that include the Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway projects to improve berths 8 to 15.

According to him, landlocked countries including Uganda, DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe pass 70 million tonnes of goods at ports including the Dar es Salaam Port 8.5 million tonnes and the rest pass through Mombasa, Beira, Ma-

puto, Durban, and Walvis port showing that if the country invests well it will reap more.

If the Port is improved citizens will benefit more from social amenities including schools, and health.

On his part, Hesu Investment Ltd, Manager Hafidhi Mana said they have employed 400 people where 250 are permanent and 200 temporary.

"Our work at the Ports is to reduce congestion by taking over work of the port when there is overloaded cargo," he said.

Hope as new e-verification platform takes centre stage to curb fake seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FARMERS in the Southern Highlands regions have the reason to smile following the introduction of -HAKIKI and digital agency systems to verify seed quality in the market outlets.

This was revealed yesterday here at the just-ended Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition held at the John Mwakangale Stadium in Mbeya region, whereby agricultural stakeholders including farmers were informed on the wise-use of new e-verification platforms, which are poised to revolutionize farm input certification in Tanzania.

Developed by Quincewood Group Limited, the technological systems help farmers verify their inputs, including seeds, control the use of fake seeds, and enable them to obtain inputs on time, receive information from extension officers in their areas, and assist farmers in finding a reliable market for their produce.

Innocent Michael, Kigoma based farmers who attended the workshop said that using the new platforms enable them to use verified and genuine seeds,

and also provided them with accurate information on the seeds and essential services from extension officers who are close to them.

"Using your mobile phone, whether it is a smartphone or a feature phone, by entering *148*52#, you can verify the seed package you purchased, and get sufficient instructions that have really helped us a great deal in our farming activities," said Michael, a maize farmer and leader of a group of about 100 farmers from Kasulu in Kigoma.

He said after being trained by Quincewood on the T-Hakiki system and how to verify seeds, they have been farming with confidence, assured of better yields because of using quality seeds.

"We obtain sufficient information, indicating the date on which the seeds were produced and the expiry date, among other essential details that enable farmers to make informed choices. Indeed, T-HAKIKI and the Digital Agency have helped us a lot," he said.

Justin Kitarima, Kilolo-based

farmer stated that the technology demonstrated that they have something valuable to share with their fellow farmers.

"I also appreciate the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for standing with us and providing education on the use of various seeds and teaching us how to use digital systems (T-Hakiki), which enables us to grow our crops commercially," he said.

Fatma Fernandes, Director of Quincewood Group Limited said they have been trying to educate farmers about using digital systems like T-HAKIKI and the digital agency to advance their farming activities.

She said the workshop was beneficial because they taught farmers to check the veracity of the seeds they purchase before using them.

"We work with TOSCI to educate farmers to verify the seeds they want to grow. This will bring benefits to the agricultural sector by eliminating the use of fake seeds. Through this innovation of T-Hakiki, the use of fake seeds has significantly reduced in the country," she said.



Fatma Fernandes (R), Director of Quincewood Group Limited, which developed the T-HAKIKI and digital agency systems presenting a gift to Justin Kitarima, one of the farmers who participated in the workshops on the use of the systems to verify their inputs, including seeds, and control the use of fake seeds, while obtaining information from extension officers in their areas and enabling them to find a market for their produce.

Mtetezi Agriculture Insurance spices up Nanenane

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

STRATEGIS Insurance has called on farmers all over the country to use the Nanenane (Farmers' Day) whose climax was on August 8, to learn more about the new Mtetezi Agriculture Insurance.

The Strategis Insurance Chief Executive Officer (Non-Medical) for Strategis, Jabir Kigoda said this is the right time for farmers to equip themselves with more knowledge about the new insurance and go for

it. "This is to their advantage as all they need is to be in groups as we do not offer this to individuals, it is easier that way and cost effective to the farmers," he said.

He said they will pass on the knowledge in various parts of the country as farmers converge for the Nanenane celebrations that have started all over the country.

"Various regions are commemorating this Farmers Day in a special way and we will be there to offer education about this new insurance

that most farmers have been waiting for after recording losses for many years in times of disasters," he said.

He said this is like a dream come true for most farmers and it is coming during the Nanenane period when farmers all over the country are celebrating their achievements and looking at how to improve further.

He said the contribution of agriculture insurance in the overall gross written premium in 2021 was about 1% which he believes is high

time now that all key stakeholders come together to grow this line of business.

"There is a lot of potential, and I believe Strategis Insurance, as one of the key stakeholders, has a role to play in making sure that farmers are guaranteed to get what they are expecting to produce," he added.

He emphasized the advantages of the new insurance as among others, financial protection, risk management, improved access to credit, business sustainability, encouraging investment in agriculture and

ensuring peace of mind.

He further noted that the new product was designed to ensure farmers receive comprehensive insurance that provides cover against all major perils which include drought, hail, flood, frost, windstorm, pests and diseases with the optional add-on of the Weather Index Insurance which basically covers floods and drought.

Mtetezi agricultural insurance typically covers a wide range of crops, including major crops such as Cereals, Oilseeds, Legumes,

Roots (or tubers), Sugar crops, and non-edible crops.

Strategis Insurance is a general insurance company that has been in the market for more than 20 years. The company has 5 branches in the country which include Mwanza, Zanzibar, Arusha, Dodoma and Kisumu - Dar es Salaam. Other than Container Insurance, Strategis Insurance also offers other insurance products such as Motor Insurance, Travel Insurance, Property Insurance, Marine Insurance, Medical Insurance and many more.

Safaricom Securities Exchange dominance falls to 40.6 percent

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM Plc's dominance of wealth at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) dropped further in the quarter to June when it represented 40.6 percent of the total market capitalisation.

While the company retains its position as the most valuable firm, its capitalisation as a percentage of the total NSE valuation has been declining, dropping from 56 percent in a similar quarter last year.

The drop has coincided with the stock's falling share price which has in the year to date shed 30.2 percent to close at Sh16.80 as of Friday last week from Sh24.05 on January 3.

Safaricom's market value averaged Sh675.7 billion in the quarter under review when the average total market capitalisation stood at Sh1.6 trillion.

The telco's falling share price since the start of the year mirrors the performance of the NSE that has remained under pressure mainly from sell-offs by foreign investors.

The decline of the telecoms firm share price is attributable to foreign investors holding significant interest in the company which they have been reducing, sending the stock lower.

Other top NSE stocks by market capitalisation in the quarter were Equity Group, EABL, KCB Group, Co-op Bank of Kenya, Absa Bank Kenya, NCBA Group, Standard Chartered Bank Kenya, BAT Kenya and Stanbic Holdings.

Combined, the 10 leading stocks had an average market capitalisation of Sh1.3 trillion to represent 84.2 percent of the NSE wealth.

Incidentally, Safaricom was also the most traded counter in the quarter having recorded an average turnover of Sh2.2 billion in the review period, beating the second most traded stock in Equity Group by more than two-fold.

The continued exit of foreign investors from the market has been tipped to continue driving down the valuation of NSE-listed firms.

This is despite the company's fundamental remain-



A Pedestrian walking past a Safaricom Shop along Kenyatta Avenue in Nairobi

ing sound in what some analysts have described as irrational pricing.

"Since pricing is primarily driven by demand and supply dynamics that are irrational to market and company-specific fundamentals, foreign investor apathy, and worse sell-offs, are expected to result in pervasive price erosion," noted analysts at Genghis Capital.

The foreigners' exit has been linked to the adoption of defensive portfolio strategies that favour asset classes in developed

and top-tier emerging markets.

Safaricom investors have for some time been looking for anything positive to grasp that could be considered bullish. But those hopes were quickly dashed last week when the telco released its 2022 results.

Profit after tax was down 22 percent to Sh52.5 billion, returns on equity dropped by 27.9 percent, up from 48.4 percent in the year before and earnings per share also shaved some 10.9 percent to stand at Sh1.55.

Increasing operating costs –

due to the commencement of full commercial operations in Ethiopia, high inflation, Shilling depreciation and a sharp reduction in mobile termination rates – weighed down its performance.

For that reason, the stock is likely to continue charting downward. It's lost over 50 percent in the past 52 weeks (even changing hands as low as Sh12 per share during last week's trading session).

Technically, it's weak – trading below its simple moving average (SMA) of 20, below its SMA50 and

SMA200. What investors want to know, is whether the stock is oversold or not.

To answer this, let's go back to 2015 when the stock traded around current levels. It moved sideways in that year before clearing at the start of 2016.

The move marked the start of a long upward march towards its all-time peak at Sh44 set in 2021.

The same year, some analysts believed the share was overvalued at Sh16 – due to stagnation of its voice and SMS revenue and new dominance rules coming into play – and because it spotted a P/E ratio of 20x.

However, subsequent outperformance proved them wrong. With a P/E ratio of 9.8x now coupled with the struggle against a strong bearish wave near term and no evidence of bottoming out, is the company undervalued at these levels?

Some analysts believe it's already in oversold territory, but will the market overshoot itself on the downside? Very possible.

There are reasons to believe this. Prolonged bearishness is often a sign of scepticism. Current pessimism may be a way of the market saying that the company lacks the finesse to deliver the challenging task ahead while at the same time managing its expectations.

It could be signalling a lack of confidence in the management's expectation to achieve breakeven earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation in year four in Ethiopia and so on.

You see, a depressed market begets a depressed market. Hence, a quicker resolution near term may not be realistic.

This is why betting against this crowd can be truly dangerous.

In sum, 2023 has been a brutal one for Safaricom, with the stock hitting multi-year lows – this follows a truly hellish 2022.

In the bullish scenario that we see consolidation around current prices, some rebound potential could be entertained.

But should cracks appear, then the scenario of a soft landing should be abandoned altogether and hastily.

Reimagining the future of youth employment in Rwanda: A Journey of resilience and hope

KIGALI

IN mid-June, the Mastercard Foundation held a pivotal convening in Kigali, uniting program partners, stakeholders, and participants to reflect on the transformative five-year journey of the Young Africa Works program in Rwanda.

The central theme of "Connect, Collaborate, and Co-Create for Impact" was the heartbeat of this meeting, igniting a fire within us to reexamine and reshape youth employment in our beloved Rwanda.

This gathering held personal significance for me. Having journeyed with the Foundation for over half a decade since the early days of the Young Africa Works strategy, it prompted deep self-reflection and introspection. My mind returned to the tumultuous period when COVID-19 swept over Rwanda, and the world, like a relentless storm.

Our people, our households, and our vital industries, like tourism and hospitality, took a significant

blow. The uncertainty was crushing, yet we clung to hope, constantly tuned into news updates, yearning for better days. Against all odds, we prevailed. We triumphed.

Today, Rwanda's tourism industry stands tall, a monument of resilience and determination. We've become a renowned conference destination, hosting prestigious events like the 73rd FIFA Congress Meeting, the exciting Basketball Africa League (BAL) tournament and the recent Women Deliver Conference; the largest convening for gender equality in the world, which attracted 6,000 attendees on-site.

In the midst of adversity, the country seized every opportunity, as demonstrated during the successful Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) last year.

During these trials I witnessed the beauty of unity and collaboration in action. The Mastercard Foundation and its partners were instrumental in supporting the



Rica Rwigamba, Rwanda country director Mastercard Foundation

tourism industry, training staff, and rolling out the COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Program

to safeguard the gains in hospitality and tourism.

At the heart of Rwanda's triumphs however, lies our youth. We must continue empowering and enabling them to find dignified and fulfilling work, particularly in our thriving tourism and hospitality sector. Initiatives like Tembera U Rwanda, championing domestic tourism, are gaining momentum. Our government's endorsement of domestic tourism reaffirms the importance of exploring our own country with the same passion and curiosity typically reserved for foreign visitors.

Our domestic tourism space is thriving, and its potential must not be underestimated. Campaigns like #MeetSouthAfrica and #TemberaKenya by our African peers highlight the richness of experiences we have to offer.

We must prioritize acceleration and inclusivity to restructure the future of tourism and hospitality for our youth. While building sustainable businesses and offering dignified work is commendable, we cannot stop there. We must expedite our efforts, generating more employment and scaling successful models.

Embracing and adopting accessible digital tools is essential. The pandemic under-

scored how critical digital readiness is. Businesses lacking a digital framework faced challenges, hindering their ability to process payments and reach customers. Physical presence alone is insufficient; we must prioritize recovery, encourage agility, and keep pace with global standards.

The young generation shapes the course of our future. Their innovative spirit is driving diversification in Rwanda's tourism sector, using social media and digital technology to lead us toward a bright tomorrow.

We must not overlook our young refugees and disabled youth. By prioritizing inclusivity, we can offer accessible employment opportunities, ensuring no one is left behind.

Being privy to the strong commitment of our partners, including our latest youth-led organizations at the Foundation's Kigali office, I am deeply moved by their unwavering belief in the potential of Rwanda's youth. Remarkable transformations are underway, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

Let's continue to dream, work and collaborate with our young people; together, we will achieve greatness. Our resilience and hope will illuminate the way towards a prosperous future.

Kenyans feel sting of the shilling at 150 against dollar

NAIROBI

THE Kenyan shilling has, in one of the costliest freefalls in history, lost its value trading against the US dollar by nearly half in under 50 months, making consumers pay dearly for imported goods.

Several commercial banks are already selling US dollars above the Sh150 mark in Nairobi, piling pressure on the Kenyan shilling while setting up consumers for a new wave of currency-driven price increases across imported products including fertiliser, electronics and cars.

Reports show the exchange rate to the dollar at I&M and Sidian Bank had breached the Sh150 mark as the country continued to grapple with a shortage of the foreign currency.

The average selling price for the dollar across 11 banks in Nairobi and three forex bureaus sampled by the Business Daily was racing towards the Sh150 mark.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), however, put the average exchange rate at Sh142.98, reflecting a huge variance between the official rate and the actual trading on the ground as quoted by forex dealers.

For the other nine banks, the greenback was trading between Sh146.7 and Sh149.1 as the shilling continued to weaken despite policies that the government had put in place to arrest the freefall.

Although the Sidian Bank branch we visited did not display forex prices on the exchange rate board, a cashier told us that the tier 3 lender was buy-

Kenya shilling exchange rate

- Official CBK rate stands at Sh142.98
- Debt and imports major casualties



ing dollars at Sh134.9 and selling at Sh150.9.

This means that Sidian Bank, which is owned by Centum Investment, raked in a net margin of Sh15.1, the widest spread among the 12 forex traders that we sampled.

A dollar fetched Sh152.9 at I&M, Sh149 at Standard Chartered Bank and Sh148.9 at KCB.

At Cooperative Bank and Stanbic, the exchange rate was at Sh148.5 and Sh147 respectively.

Absa was selling the dollar at Sh147.18 and DTB at Sh146.7.

All three forex bureaus that we sampled were selling dollars at an average of Sh145.

Kenya's official foreign exchange reserves recently received a major boost from development partners, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which disbursed Sh58.6 billion (\$141 million) last month.

Importers have been forced to cut their purchases even as consumers cough up more for items such as cars and electronics.

Importing a V8 car, for example, costs around \$70,000. Bringing this luxury car at an exchange rate of Sh147 today would see a dealer cough up to Sh10.29 million.

A year ago, at an exchange rate of Sh105, a dealer paid Sh7.35 million. This means if you used to import 10 V8 cars, you pay an extra Sh29.4 million.

"If you don't have that kind of money what do you do? You reduce the volumes. That is what is happening," said Charles Munyori, the secretary-general of the Kenya Auto Bazaar Association.

"Also people are not used to that kind of pricing."

David Kigo, an electronics dealer selling TVs, smartphones, home theatres and other electronics from China, said the sector was paying dearly for the weakening of the shilling.

"We have a finite amount of capital so a weaker shilling means you can only buy less than what you could buy previously," said Mr Kigo.



CPB's acting director John Maige explains something at the board's booth at the John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya City.

CPB purchases 35,000 tonnes of various crops from farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) has purchased 35,000 tonnes of various crops from farmers countrywide in this year's harvesting season.

John Maige, CPB's acting director unveiled this yesterday when speaking to journalists at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition at John Mwakangale Exhibition Grounds.

Maige said among the crops bought includes maize, rice, sunflower and beans.

He said this year, CPB plans to spend about 100bn/-, adding that so far it has already spent 29bn/-.

"We are still buying the crops at our various buying centres in Iringa, Arusha Dodoma, Sumbawanga, Songea and Tunduma," he said.

He also used the occasion to welcome members of the public to visit their pavilion to see and get various products that have already been processed.

He said after the exhibition, the CPB products will continue to be available at their offices in the Southern Highlands Zone at Iringa, Lake Zone (Mwanza), Northern Zone (Arusha), Central Zone (Dodoma) and Eastern Zone (Dar es Salaam).

Maige further said the Board's plans is to boost its business activities in buying farmers; crops, add value to them and then resell them in both local and foreign markets.

"Our products are of high quality because we adhere to East Africa quality standards.

"We produce sembe flour, wheat flour and even rice which have undergone processing using modern technology," he added.

For his part, CPB Director, Nicomed Bohay said the Board aims to solve farmer's market challenges.

Extending deposit guarantee fund mandate matters

KIGALI

THE mandate of the deposit guarantee fund could be extended to include offering financial assistance to deposit-taking institutions in case they are unable to meet financial obligations such as paying their creditors, once a new bill is voted into law.

On July 31, the Lower House's Plenary sitting approved the relevance of the draft law establishing the deposit guarantee fund. Speaker Donatille Mukabalisa said it will be carefully scrutinized by a parliamentary committee before lawmakers pass it.

A deposit guarantee fund is a mechanism established to protect depositors against the loss of their insured deposits - or indemnify (compensate) them - in the event of failure or liquidation of a bank or a deposit-taking microfinance institution.

The organization and functioning of deposit guarantee funds for banks and microfinance institutions are determined by a 2015 law. The fund is managed by the Central Bank.

Rationale for new bill

The draft law aims to address gaps noted during the implementation of the 2015 law and to comply with international standards that govern the management of the Deposit Guarantee Fund.

MP Veneranda Nyirahirwa sought clarity on the gaps identified during the implementation of the law, the inconveniences they caused to depositors, and reassurance that the new law will not have similar loopholes.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, said that the National Bank of Rwanda became a member of the International Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI) in 2018, and it was realised that the responsibilities of such a fund include backing a financial institution to save it from imminent insolvency and liquidation.

The main reasons for the initiation of the bill include harmonising the current legislation with the International Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI) core principles - to ensure that the fund operates in line with international standards.

This, he said, is aimed to highlight that the Deposit Guarantee Fund is moving from pay box - only in charge of reimbursing depositors in case the bank of deposit-taking financial institution is declared bankrupt - to pay box plus mandate. The new mandate is to assist banks or deposit-taking microfinance institutions in financial distress.

"The fund can support financial institutions that have not yet reached the liquidation level. Consideration should be made to establish what is less costly than the other - either to liquidate the bank or microfinance institution in question so that people who saved money in it get compensated or if assistance can be provided to financially recover those institutions for them to carry on their operations," he said.

So far, he said, only one payout was made, in September 2019, to members of Caisse des Affaires Financières



Aerial view of Kigali city

Isonga (CAF-Isonga Ltd) - a micro-finance institution whose head office was in Muhanga District - when it went into liquidation.

Liquidation is the process of selling off all the assets of a registered entity, settling its debts, distributing any remaining funds to shareholders, and closing it down as a legal entity.

The bill provides that the assets of the Fund are invested in government securities or in any other safe investments determined by the National Bank of Rwanda. The latter determines, by regulations, the maximum insured amount of a depositor in a contributing bank or contributing deposit-taking microfinance institution.

However, the Fund does not cover the deposits of banks and microfinance institutions; the deposits of insurance companies, pension funds, and collective investment schemes; or the deposits of Government or public agencies.

Ndagijimana said the fund has 15 contributing banks and 457 contributing microfinance institutions, 416 Umurenge Savings and Credit Cooperatives (USACCOs) included.

As of now, it has accumulated funds amounting to more than Rwf16 billion, he indicated.

Ndagijimana said that it started its operations in 2016 with three main functions including collection of premiums from contributing members; investment of premiums collected and other incomes so as to generate more revenues; and payout of insured deposits in case of failure of a bank of a microfinance institution.

The first premiums were collected in March 2017 and the first investment was made in June 2017.

In 2013 the national Bank of Rwanda (BNR) will introduce a Deposit Insurance Fund to cushion depositors in case a bank collapses.

es. John Rwangombwa, the central bank governor, said already a draft law has been done to that effect. Rwangombwa, however, said the initiative was still being discussed by stakeholders.

He added that it was part of the reforms the central bank was making in the financial sector legal and regulatory framework. "Based on the level of banks we have today and the amount of deposits as well as the number of Rwandans linked to the financial sector, it is important that we safeguard depositors' money," said Rwangombwa.

He was speaking during the monetary policy and financial stability committees' quarterly press briefing early this week. "Some years ago, the government had to use tax-payers' money to pay depositors for losses caused by the then BACAR (currently Fina Bank) and Commercial Bank of Rwanda (BCR)," he said while explaining the need for the fund. Rwangombwa noted that if there was a deposit insurance fund, it would have been easy to pay depositors.

He said once the fund is instituted, it will be mandatory for commercial banks and other deposit-taking financial institutions to make regular contributions to the fund.

The money would be used by the sector regulator to settle depositors' claims in case a bank collapsed. "Deposit insurance is a big component of a safety net of a financial system and promotes stability in a financial sector."

Benin progresses in digital development

PORTO-NOVO

A study of Benin's digital growth reveals that the country is making strides towards becoming a key player in West Africa's digital revolution.

This is according to the GIZ-commissioned study "State of the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Entrepreneurship in Benin," prepared by Acumen Network and ACED.

According to the research, digital technology is a crucial driver of economic growth and social inclusion, and the country has made significant investments in infrastructure and structural improvements.

Benin is competing to be Africa's technology spark, according to the research. Benin's digital minister, Aurélie Adam Soule Zoumarou, recently outlined ambitions to enhance the country's digital environment and, more broadly, its economy.

According to the GIZ, 102 digital organisations participated in the study, with women accounting for only 13% of the entrepreneurs running these digital businesses.

The majority of agritech, fintech, edutech, and health-tech entrepreneurs were under the age of 35, and more than 95% had a first degree or related IT expertise, according to the study.

Despite this high academic competence, several fields have skill gaps, such as advanced technologies (22%), UI/UX design (17%), business development (13%), digital product management (10%), cybersecurity (6%), and mobile development (4%).

The survey also revealed that some corporate leaders undervalue some competencies, such as company development.

Benin has achieved substantial progress on a number of fronts, according to the Report.

On the E-government development index, Benin ranks third out of eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) countries, trailing Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

In terms of telecom infrastructure and human resources, the country ranked 10th on the African continent in 2022.

Benin has also made considerable strides in e-commerce development.

Given the country's progress in promoting and securing electronic transactions, the report's authors estimate that it will soon be among the top three in the WAEMU region and among the top 15 in Africa.

Furthermore, Benin achieved a national cybersecurity index score of 58.44/100, ranking it first in the whole West African subregion and second only to Morocco on the continent.

According to the report, the Benin government has been keen on implementing a national pro-digital policy over the previous five years, which includes, among other things, the deployment of an intelligent administration (Smart Gov), widespread adoption of e-commerce, and the establishment of a friendly IT ecosystem.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

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WORLD

Niger's coup junta appoints ex-economy minister as new 'PM'

NIAMEY/WASHINGTON

ALI Mahaman Lamine Zeine, Niger's former economy minister, has been named as the new "prime minister" by the coup junta, Niger's news agency ANP reported on Monday.

The junta's spokesperson made the announcement on television late Monday night.

Born in 1965 in Zinder, Lamine Zeine was minister of finance for former president Mahamadou Tandja before joining the African Development Bank, of which he was the representative in Chad until his appointment, according to the report.

Also on Monday, US Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met Niger's coup leaders to push for a solution to the current political crisis in Niger without achieving much.

The meeting with the self-proclaimed chief of defense of the July 26 coup Moussa Salaou Barmou and three of the colonels supporting him took place in Niger's capital city of Niamey, Nuland told the press via a teleconference.

"They are quite firm in their view of how they want to proceed, and it does not comport with the Constitution of Niger," she told reporters late on Monday by phone before leaving Niamey.

"It was difficult today and I will be straight up about that."

Nuland's visit came as an ultimatum for the junta to release and re-empower the now deposed and detained Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum expired on Sunday.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional bloc comprising 15 West African nations, issued the ultimatum and threatened the use of force to "restore constitutional order" in Niger if the junta failed to comply.

US President Joe Biden, in a statement dated Thursday, called for Bazoum and his family to be immediately released, "and for the preservation of Niger's hard-earned democracy."

On Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the suspension of "certain foreign assistance programs" which he said were conditioned upon "democratic governance and respect for constitutional order." Earlier on Monday, the US State Department said "hundreds of millions of dollars" in paused US assistance was at stake if the country's junta did not reinstate the elected government.

But the junta, under self-declared head of state General Abdourahmane Tiani, former commander of Niger's presidential guard, instead closed the airspace and pledged to defend the country.

The ECOWAS has not directly responded but said on Monday it would hold the Thursday summit to discuss the standoff, a decision the European Union and United States said allowed more time for mediation.

Niger's uranium and oil reserves and its pivotal role in a war with Islamist militants in the Sahel region give it economic and strategic importance for the



In this file photo dated Oct 12, 2008, Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, then minister of Economy and Finance of Niger, briefs reporters on efforts to assist developing countries with high levels of poverty and debt, at IMF headquarters in Washington. (PHOTO / AP)

United States and Europe.

Coup leaders in Niamey have struck a defiant tone, repeatedly affirming their resolution to stand firm and fight if necessary. The junta has cited persistent insecurity as its main justification for seizing power, but data on attacks shows security had actually been improving.

In a further sign of its will to remain in power, the junta on Monday named former Finance Minister Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine as the new prime minister.

Coup leaders have also called on young Nigeriens to be ready to defend the country - a rallying call that several students at the capital's Abdou Moumouni university said on Monday they would heed.

"No sacrifice is too much ... for our country. We are ready to give our lives," said economics masters student Soumaila Hamadou on the rain-drenched campus.

Niamey appeared calm on Monday with people going about their business as usual, but the closure of Nigerien airspace disrupted the skies.

Landlocked Niger is more than twice the size of France and many flight paths across Africa would normally pass above it. Air France suspended flights to and from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and Bamako in Mali, which both border Niger, until Aug 11 and warned that some flight times would increase.

ECOWAS has taken a harder stance on the Niger coup, the region's seventh in three years, than it did on previous ones. The credibility of the 15-nation club is at stake because it had said it would tolerate no further such overthrows.

ECOWAS defense chiefs agreed on Friday on a possible military action plan if the detained president, Mohamed Bazoum, was not

released and reinstated, although they said operational decisions would be decided by heads of states.

But the bloc's unity has been broken by a promise from the ruling governments in Mali and Burkina Faso, both member states, to come to Niger's defense if needed.

Both countries sent delegations to Niamey to show solidarity, the Malian army said on social media on Monday. Later, a representative of the Malian delegation reiterated his country's backing for the junta.

A fracture within ECOWAS and escalation of the stand-off with Niger would further destabilize one of the world's poorest regions, already facing a hunger crisis and an Islamist insurgency that has killed thousands and displaced millions.

The threat of worsening security has prompted France to warn its citizens against all travel to Niger.

Hope for diplomacy

African and Western allies have imposed sanctions and cut aid to Niger to pressure the junta to step down.

Despite these looming hardships, coup organizers appear to enjoy support from at least part of the population.

A pro-coup rally drew thousands of people to a Niamey stadium on Sunday, while some locals, including women, have picketed intersections in the capital to offer non-violent resistance in support of the junta if needed.

"This proves the commitment and determination of Niger's young women to accompany and support them (the junta)," said Zeinabou Boubacar Zakou, a student and member of the Nigerien Young Women's Council.

Agencies

India to launch BRICS start-up forum

NEW DELHI

UNION Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, represented India at the virtual "7th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Industry Ministers Meeting," hosted with South Africa as the Chair.

During the meeting, Goyal announced India's plans to launch the BRICS Startup Forum in 2023, aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among start-ups, investors, incubators and aspiring entrepreneurs across the member nations.

Highlighting India's progress, Minister Goyal underscored the

remarkable growth of the start-up India initiative, which has nurtured the establishment of nearly 100,000 start-ups within the country.

Emphasizing the theme of "Transforming Production Systems," he expressed India's willingness to extend support and share insights with fellow BRICS members and the global community.

In his address, Piyush Goyal reiterated India's commitment to the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," emphasizing the nation's role as a responsible global citizen dedicated to fostering a more inclusive, tolerant and inter-



connected world.

The Industry Ministers from Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa also participated in the meeting, culminating in the adoption of a Joint Declaration.

Among the key points discussed

were the imperatives of digitalization, industrialization, innovation, inclusiveness and investment within the BRICS countries.

The declaration highlighted the growing significance of Industry 4.0 and emerging technologies in driving digital transformation across diverse economic sectors.

The BRICS members acknowledged the importance of human resource development and cooperation on upskilling and reskilling programs to facilitate technological adaptation.

Further cementing their commitment to deepening industrial cooperation, the ministers emphasized a shared goal of expedit-

ing the recovery and growth of the Industrial Economy.

They pledged to create an environment characterized by openness, fairness, vibrancy, resilience, and non-discrimination.

Recognizing the pivotal role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the ministers emphasized the necessity of integrating and diversifying these entities into global industrial chains, supply chains, and value chains.

The importance of generating market opportunities within BRICS nations for projects owned or managed by women, youth and marginalized groups was also underscored.

ANI

Medvedev confident Russia to vanquish enemies, achieve peace on its own terms

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is strong enough to achieve all of the goals of its special military operation despite facing an almost direct confrontation with all of NATO, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram.

He drew parallels between the current

conflict and the developments that took place in South Ossetia in August 2008.

"The entire NATO system is almost openly fighting against us. We are strong enough to achieve all of the goals of



the special military operation. Just like in August 2008, our enemies will be vanquished and Russia will secure peace on its own terms. Victory will be ours!" said Medvedev, who served as president of Russia in 2008-2012.

On August 8, 2008, Georgia mounted an overnight armed attack against South Ossetia. Russia intervened to protect civilians,

many of whom had obtained Russian citizenship, and its peacekeeping contingent, which had been stationed in the region since 1992.

In a five-day armed conflict, more than one thousand people, including 72 Russian peacekeepers, lost their lives. On August 26, 2008, Russia recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, another former autonomous region of Georgia. Agencies

UN official calls for new approaches to reap benefits of AfCFTA

KIGALI

AFRICAN nations need to adopt new approaches to realize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and accelerate the continent's development, a UN official said on Thursday.

Ozonna Ojielo, the UN resident coordinator in Rwanda, told a development policy dialogue in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, that Africa needs to build integrated, diversified and resilient economies more than ever before.

The AfCFTA is the flagship program of Agenda 2063 of the African Union designed to boost intra-African trade in goods and services. "AfCFTA is a game-changer but translating it into reality requires preparedness and readiness supported by accompanying measures to ensure that countries make the most of this agreement."

"This is where we all have a role to play," Ojielo said. "It is not about time to think outside the box. It is time to think without the box."

Ojielo highlighted a range of potential benefits of the AfCFTA, such as providing productive employment and poverty reduction, which he said are some of the urgent challenges that the continent has to address.

"But without preparedness, no benefit can be realized," he warned. He said countries need to think about how to be more intentional by shifting to new ideas that create acceleration in terms of economic development, integration, and scaling up the number of projects.

Ojielo also mentioned the need for discussions that translate into developing reliable and efficient transboundary infrastructure, by increasing investments in education and health systems for a more competitive workforce and overall human capital.

The inaugural development policy dialogue was held under the theme "A Lens on the African Continental Free Trade Area preparedness, best practices and opportunities for East Africa and Rwanda."

Deputy Secretary General of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs at the East African Community Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe said while many people are aware of AfCFTA's benefits, concerted efforts are needed to turn the aspirations into reality.

She called for youth and women empowerment to unleash the continent's full potential and foster economic integration and inclusive growth across Africa. Richard Niwenshuti, the permanent secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Trade and Industry, said the Rwandan government fully subscribes to regional economic integration and believes as a region much can be done within that wider market of AfCFTA.

Fierce clashes break out between Sudanese army, RSF north of capital Khartoum

KHARTOUM

VIOLENT clashes erupted on Monday between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

Witnesses reported heavy artillery bombardments in the old neighborhoods of Omdurman, leading civilians to flee the area.

The Sudanese army bombarded the RSF stations in the old neighborhoods such as Bait Al-Mal, Al-Shuhada, and Al-Mulazemin, while the RSF responded with anti-aircraft missiles, leading to casualties among civilians and the destruction of houses.

Local medics reported that the RSF randomly bombarded the area, resulting in the death of five people in the al-Sharafiyah neighborhood.

The Resistance Committees of Omdurman's Abu Rouf neighborhood stated that both the Sudanese army and RSF ordered residents to evacuate their homes, declaring the area an operation zone.

Also on Monday, the Sudanese army shared videos on its Facebook page showcasing the deployment of its forces in various areas of Omdurman.

"Today, August 7, the heroes of the special forces carrying out combing operations starting from the Al-Imtidat area to Ombada neighborhoods (in Omdurman)," the army said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Malik Agar revealed a government-proposed roadmap on his Facebook page to end the conflict.

The roadmap includes separating the warring forces, expediting humanitarian aid delivery, protecting civilians, and initiating a political process based on state establishment.

Since April 15, Sudan has experienced deadly clashes between the Sudanese army and the RSF in Khartoum and other regions, resulting in over 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, as reported by the Sudanese Health Ministry.

Xinhua

France announces new initiatives in major push for Indian students

NEW DELHI

IN a major push to Indian students and alumni, France has announced new initiatives to bolster academic excellence, cultural understanding, and long-lasting friendship between the two nations.

This comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited France as Chief Guest on country's Bastille Day on July 14, where India and France, both raised people-to-people ties as one of the three pillars of strategic partnership, an official release of French Embassy

said.

President Emmanuel Macron announced France's goal to welcome 30,000 students from India by 2030. This goal reflects France's view that enlarging its Indian student population will promote academic achievement, cross-cultural understanding, and enduring friendship between our two countries.

The establishment of "International Classes" in France will enable Indian students to flourish in their studies and easily transition to the French educational system. These specialised programmes

will offer thorough training in the French language and other academic areas. This choice demonstrates France's dedication to facilitating the lives of Indian students as much as feasible.

A five-year Schengen circulation visa for Indian alumni was also announced during PM Modi's visit to France in July.

In a belief that when an Indian student spends even just a semester in France, it creates a connection that ought to be fostered and cherished, France announced that Indian students who hold a Master's degree or above and have

spent at least a semester studying in France are eligible for a 5-year short-stay Schengen visa, the press release said.

This is a special provision for Indian alumni to enable them to keep close links with France and their French counterparts.

In order to implement these initiatives, France has also decided to strengthen its Campus France network in India with additional staff and resources.

Commenting on these announcements, the official press release quoted the Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain

as saying: "Our teams are working double time to implement the decisions taken by President Macron and Prime minister Modi in Paris to benefit students. France has always been an inclusive and diverse country, eager to share our rich cultural heritage and world-class education opportunities with Indian students."

My message for Indian students: France will always be your friend, and we will do everything possible to ensure you have an amazing academic and life experience in our country."

In light of these declarations, the

French Institute in India and the Embassy of France are excited to announce the Choose France Tour 2023.

It will be organised by the French Government and Campus France. Organized by the education fair, it will be held in four major Indian cities, Chennai (October 8), Calcutta (October 11), Delhi (October 13), and Mumbai (October 15).

It will give Indian students and their parents a fantastic opportunity to speak with representatives of the more than 40 French higher education institutions that will be present at the market and learn

about a variety of study alternatives, the press release of French Embassy in India read.

There are numerous strong reasons for Indian students to select France as their study abroad country, including a plethora of academic disciplines and programmes. Moreover, for those passionate about the culinary arts or hospitality management, France presents an exceptional opportunity to master gastronomic excellence and the art of hospitality. Without mentioning social sciences, art and design, among many others.

ANI

Russian air defenses intercept nine Storm Shadow missiles in Ukraine operation

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN air defense forces intercepted nine Western-made Storm Shadow missiles, four rockets of the US-manufactured HIMARS multiple launch rocket system and destroyed 14 Ukrainian combat drones over the past day in the special military operation in Ukraine, Defense Ministry Spokesman Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov reported on Monday.

"During the last 24-hour period, air defense capabilities intercepted nine Storm Shadow cruise missiles and four rockets of the HIMARS multiple launch rocket system. In addition, they destroyed 14 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles in areas near the settlements of Kremennaya in the Lugansk People's Republic, Kirillovka and Staromlynovka in the Donetsk People's Republic and Pologi in the Zaporozhye Region," the spokesman said.

Ukraine's military attempts attacks in four directions over past day

The Ukrainian military attempted attacks in four directions over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"During the last 24-hour period, Ukrainian armed formations continued unsuccessful attempts to advance in the Zaporozhye, Donetsk, south Donetsk and Krasny Liman directions," the spokesman said.

Russian forces improve tactical position in Kupyansk advance over past day

Russian forces improved their tactical position in their advance in the Kupyansk area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"In the Kupyansk direction, assault teams of the western battlegroup improved their forward edge position during offensive operations in areas near the settlements of Olshana

and Pershotravnevoye in the Kharkov Region," the spokesman said.

Over the past three days, Russian forces have advanced 11 km along the frontline and over 3 km deep into the enemy's defense, the general reported.

"In areas near the settlements of Sinkovka in the Kharkov Region, Novosyolovskoye and Stelmakhovka in the Lugansk People's Republic, 12 counter-attacks by units of the Ukrainian army's 14th, 32nd and 67th mechanized brigades were successfully repelled," he added.

Russian forces eliminate 110 Ukrainian troops in Kupyansk area over past day

Russian forces eliminated about 110 Ukrainian troops in the Kupyansk area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"The enemy's losses amounted to 110 Ukrainian personnel, two armored combat vehicles, three motor vehicles, a US-made M777 artillery system and a US-manufactured AN/TPQ-50 counter-battery radar station," the spokesman said.

Russian combat aircraft and artillery inflicted damage on amassed Ukrainian manpower and military hardware in areas near the settlements of Kupyansk, Kotlyarovka and Berestovoye in the Kharkov Region, the general reported.

Russian forces repel Ukrainian attack in Krasny Liman area over past day

Russian forces repelled a Ukrainian army attack in the Krasny Liman area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"In the Krasny Liman direction, an attack by assault groups of the Ukrainian army's 42nd mechanized brigade was successfully repulsed by well-coordi-



nated actions of units from the battlegroup Center, air strikes, artillery and heavy flamethrower fires in the area of the Serbryansky forestry. In addition, damage by combined firepower was inflicted on amassed enemy manpower and equipment in areas near the settlements of Raigorodka, Petrovskoye, Ploshchanka and Chervonaya Dibrova in the Lugansk People's Republic," the spokesman said.

Over 65 Ukrainian personnel, two armored combat vehicles and a D-30 howitzer were destroyed in the Krasny Liman direction in the past 24 hours, the general reported.

Russian forces repulse Ukrainian attack in Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces repulsed a Ukrainian attack in the Donetsk area, destroying roughly 135 enemy troops over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"In the Donetsk direction, units of the southern battlegroup in close interaction with aircraft and artillery successfully repulsed an attack by assault groups of the Ukrainian army's 81st air mobile brigade near the settlement of Belogorovka in the Donetsk People's Republic. In addition, damage was inflicted on amassed enemy manpower and equipment in areas near the settlements of Bogdanovka, Vesolye, Kleshcheyevka, Maryinka and Krasnogorovka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the spokesman said.

"The enemy's losses amounted to 135 Ukrainian personnel, two tanks, six infantry fighting vehicles three motor vehicles, a US-made M777 artillery system, a Msta-B howitzer and a D-30 howitzer," the general

reported.

Russian forces repel Ukrainian attack in south Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces repelled a Ukrainian army attack near the settlement of Urozhainoye in the Donetsk People's Republic over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"In the south Donetsk direction, aircraft, artillery and units of the battlegroup East repelled an attack by enemy assault groups near the settlement of Urozhainoye in the Donetsk People's Republic," the spokesman said.

Also, Russian army aircraft delivered strikes against five amassments of manpower and military hardware of the Ukrainian army's 31st mechanized brigade near the settlement of Staromayorskoye in the Donetsk People's Republic, the general reported.

Russian forces eliminate over 225 Ukrainian troops in south Donetsk area over past day

Russian forces eliminated over 225 Ukrainian troops in the south Donetsk area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"The enemy's total losses in that direction amounted to over 225 Ukrainian personnel, three tanks, four armored combat vehicles, two motor vehicles and a D-30 howitzer," the spokesman said.

Russian forces destroy 80 Ukrainian troops, howitzer in Zaporozhye area over past day

Russian forces destroyed roughly 80 Ukrainian troops, three armored vehicles

and a howitzer in the Zaporozhye area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"As many as 80 Ukrainian personnel, three armored combat vehicles, four motor vehicles and a D-30 howitzer were destroyed in the past 24 hours," the spokesman said.

In the Zaporozhye direction, three enemy attacks were successfully repelled by the skilled operations of units from the Russian battlegroup, air strikes and artillery fire near the settlements of Uspenovka and Rabotino. Near the settlement of Novosyolovka in the Zaporozhye Region, the activity of a Ukrainian subversive and reconnaissance group was thwarted. Also, Russian forces inflicted damage on Ukrainian army units in areas near the settlements of Yablonevoye and Novodanilovka in the Zaporozhye Region, the general reported.

Russian forces destroy 20 Ukrainian troops, two howitzers in Kherson area over past day

Russian forces destroyed roughly 20 Ukrainian troops and two howitzers in the Kherson area over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"In the Kherson direction, as many as 20 Ukrainian personnel, three motor vehicles and two D-30 howitzers were destroyed," the spokesman said.

Russian forces wipe out ammo depots of three Ukrainian army brigades over past day

Russian forces destroyed ammunition depots of three Ukrainian army brigades over the past day, Konashenkov reported.

"Three ammunition depots of the Ukrainian army's 117th territorial defense, 14th and 43rd mechanized brigades were destroyed near the settlements of Seredina-Buda in the Sumy Region, Cherneshchina and Sinkovka in the Kharkov Region. Near the settlement of Yampol in the Donetsk People's Republic, a command post of the Ukrainian army's 95th air assault brigade was eliminated," the spokesman said.

During the last 24-hour period, operational/tactical and army aircraft, missile troops and artillery of the Russian groupings of forces struck 107 Ukrainian artillery units at firing positions, manpower and military hardware in 126 areas, the general reported.

In all, the Russian Armed Forces have destroyed 458 Ukrainian warplanes, 245 combat helicopters, 5,548 unmanned aerial vehicles, 428 surface-to-air missile systems, 11,165 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, 1,143 multiple rocket launchers, 5,787 field artillery guns and mortars and 12,116 special military motor vehicles since the beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine, Konashenkov reported.

Agencies

Two dozen US House Democrats visiting Israel

TEL AVIV

A delegation of 24 Democrats from the US House of Representatives will visit Israel this week to discuss the Iranian threat and judicial reform, among other topics.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York and previous House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland are leading the group, which is making its second such trip to the Jewish state during the 118th Congress, according to a press release from Hoyer's office.

The delegation will meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials and activists and also talk about the prospects for a two-state solution, combating terrorism and the development of the Abraham Accords.

"With this trip, House Democrats reaffirm our commitment to the special relationship between the United States and Israel, one anchored in our shared democratic values and mutual geopolitical interests," Jeffries said.

"We will learn ways Congress can continue strengthening this alliance and enable peace and stability between Israel and its neighbours. As we listen and learn, we reiterate our ironclad commitment to the safety and security of Israel and to the existence of Israel as a prosperous and Jewish, democratic state."

Jeffries led a delegation of 12 congressional Democrats to Israel in April. The congressman met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during that trip.

Netanyahu thanked Jeffries and the other legislators, emphasizing "the importance of the relationship between Israel and the United States."

The premier also discussed with them "the need to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, the Abraham Accords and the opportunities for expanding the circle of peace with additional countries."

In February, Netanyahu met with a Republican Senate delegation led by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky).

This week's trip is being organized by the American Israel Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization affiliated with AIPAC.

Republicans hold the majority in the House after last November's election, while Democrats retained control of the Senate. The president, Joe Biden, is also a Democrat. **ANI**

3D-printed figurines chased after by athletes at Chengdu Universiade

By Sun Longfei

CHINESE hurdling star Wu Yanni, who competed at the recent 31st FISU World University Games held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, recently received a special birthday present - a 3D printed figurine of herself.

The miniaturized model depicted Wu holding a Rongbao, the mascot of the Chengdu Universiade, in one hand and a torch in the other.

"This is unbelievable," Wu exclaimed upon seeing the vivid details like the strands of hair in her braids. She was amazed that the gift captured her likeness so intricately.

Such an exquisite figurine is available to all members of the Chengdu Universiade delegations whose birthdays fall between July 22 and Aug 11 at a 3D photo studio in the Sci-tech Services Workstation of the Universiade Village.

The studio, which covers only seven square meters, is equipped with 82 cameras that can take 800 photos of a person from different angles in three seconds. Through AI modeling, the studio builds a lifelike 3D model of the person and then prints the figurine with photosensitive resin.

According to Gu Li, who works at the studio, such figurines normally can be printed in heights of 9 cm,



Photo shows a 3D-printed figurine of Chinese hurdling star Wu Yanni. (Photo by Sun Longfei/People's Daily)

12 cm, 15 cm and 18 cm, and the details are presented better on bigger ones. She said the souvenirs received by the members of delegations were the 18 cm version.

"The 3D printing technology is very mature now. The figurines don't fade easily and can be preserved for many years," she told People's Daily.

Transforming 2D photos into 3D models, this ingenious technology infuses the

souvenirs with warmth, creating treasured memories for participants from around the world.

Many athletes showed their signature moves while taking photos. A Singaporean rhythmic gymnast did a needle split; a Polish athlete mimicked drawing a bow; an athlete flexed his muscles wearing a cute Rongbao hat to show a sharp contrast. Some posed in front of the cameras

wearing swimsuits and medals.

The diverse and lively figurines will be a unique memory of members of delegations around the world to the Chengdu Universiade.

Gu said that a Brazilian coach had recently brought a group to have their figurines made. They visited the studio early for two days in a row, eager to receive their finished models.

To meet demand, the normal 15-day production time was compressed to 4 days. So far, over 100 people from dozens of delegations have received their birthday gifts from the studio.

It will effectively promote China's technology and culture when participants bring home the souvenirs with Chinese and Chengdu characteristics, said He Xingcheng, business director of SW 3D, the company that runs the studio.

Apart from the studio, there are many other tech products that bring convenience to the "villagers," including a smart online interpretation system that supports 83 languages, a cooling vest that maintains a consistent temperature of 23 degrees Celsius, and a robotic barista that can make customized coffee in 90 seconds. The Chengdu Universiade just amazed the world with technologies.

People's Daily

UK Premier Sunak announces new tech partnership to stop illegal migration

LONDON

THE United Kingdom's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced that there will be a voluntary partnership between social media companies and the government to tackle the information, which criminals share on illegal Channel crossings, that was being shared on the online space.

In the statement released by the UK government on Sunday, PM Sunak (pictured) said, "To stop the boats, we have to tackle the business model of vile people smugglers at the source. That means clamping down on their attempts to lure people into making these illegal crossings and profit from putting lives at risk."

"This new commitment from tech firms will see us redouble our efforts to fight back against these criminals, working together to shut down their vile trade," he added.

"This move came as the new figures show the government continues to make progress on the Prime Minister's plan to stop the boats: crossings remain down on last year, the legacy asylum backlog has been reduced by a third since December 2022, and enforced returns of people with no right to be in the UK are at their highest level since 2019," the statement read.

While figures from the National Crime Agency show that over 90 per cent of online content linked to people smuggling is taken down when social media companies are notified, the partnership between tech firms and the government will drive forward efforts to clamp down on the tactics being used by criminal gangs who use the internet to lure people into paying for crossings, as per the statement.

This content can include discount offers for groups of people, free spaces for children, offers of false documents and false claims of safe passage - targeting vulnerable people for profit and putting people's lives at risk through dangerous and illegal journeys.

Talking about this new move, Home Secretary Suella Braverman said, "Heart-

less people smugglers are using social media to promote their despicable services and charge

people thousands of pounds to make the illegal journey into the UK in unsafe boats. They must not succeed."

"This strengthened collaboration between the National Crime Agency, government and social media companies will ensure content promoting dangerous and illegal Channel crossings doesn't see the light of day," she further added.

This new partnership will build on the close work already in place between the government and social media companies and includes a range of commitments to explore increased collaboration, according to the statement.

Under this initiative, social media companies will look to increase cooperation with the National Crime Agency to find and remove criminal content and step up the sharing of best practices both across the industry and with law enforcement.

The voluntary partnership also includes a commitment to explore ways to step up efforts to redirect people away from this content when they come across it online.

This approach is already widely being used successfully by platforms, for example around harmful content promoting extremism or eating disorders, where people are presented with alternative messages to displace, rebut or undermine the damaging content they searched for - diverting them away from harmful messaging and misinformation, as per the statement.

Alongside the partnership, the government will also set up a new centre led by the National Crime Agency and Home Office to increase the capacity and capability of law enforcement to identify this content on social media platforms.

ANI

SPORT



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Saidi Yakubu (C) speaks when he hosted experts from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Dar es Salaam last weekend. The experts have traveled to Dar es Salaam to inspect Benjamin Mkapa Stadium's infrastructure given the venue will host African Football League's kick-off in October. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

CAF officials arrive in Dar to inspect African Football League kickoff preps

By **Badru kunambi, TUDARCO**

MINISTRY of Culture, Arts, and Sports Permanent Secretary, Saidi Yakubu, has received a team of experts from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to inspect preparations for the official opening of the African Football League slated to kick off in Dar es Salaam on October 20.

The Permanent Secretary's talks with the African Football League experts focused more on the improvement of Benjamin Mkapa Stadium's infrastructure.

The experts visited the stadium to inspect the areas that will be renovated before the hosting of the showpiece's kickoff to be held at the venue.

The African Football League is expected to have many economic benefits for Tanzania by bringing about 400 famous guests, including sports leaders from FIFA and CAF, to attend the showdown.

Yakubu noted the ministry has already entered into a contract with a foreign contractor- Beijing Construction

Engineering Group Co Ltd (BCEG)- for the venue renovation.

The Permanent Secretary emphasized that the contractor has officially been allowed to carry out the stadium renovation.

The initial renovation will include various aspects that CAF wants to be worked on early, some of which are paid for as part of the contract and some are the costs provided by CAF for the opening match of the African Football League.

There will not be any match to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium until October 20 to complete preparations including the clearing of the playing area at the expense of CAF and restoring the grass's quality.

The African Football League will include eight teams from across Africa, with Simba SC being the only representative of the East African region.

It is further a milestone for Tanzania to host the African Football League's launch.

The African Football League will be an annual continental club football competition run by the CAF that is set to kick off in October 2023.

It was announced on November 28, 2019, by Gianni Infantino, FIFA president, and was initially launched as the African Football League on August 10 2022 in Tanzania with a kickoff date of August 2023.

The league was set to include 24 elite African clubs with a promotion/relegation system but will be scaled down to eight teams for its inaugural campaign.

It will run alongside CAF's other main club competition, CAF Champions League, and will not be a replacement for it.

The essence of holding this tournament is the huge financial returns, projected to exceed \$100 million, to be used to develop and improve stadiums, infrastructure, and the promotion of African football.

The initial details of the format were announced during the launch ceremony in 2022, in which the competition would have 24 teams divided into three regionalized groups (North, Central/West, South/East), for eight teams per group, and there would be a maximum of three teams per country.

The teams would have been from 16 countries, representing approximately 1 billion people, and the competition would have 197 matches (with a maximum of 21 matches played by the finalists) and promotion/relegation play-offs.

The final would have been played in a single match, with the final designed to become 'the Super Bowl of Africa'.

The details of the eight-team format to be used in 2023 are not yet known. It is currently unknown if the previously announced format would be used in the future.

SPORTS

Lions cricketers step up quest for 2023 DC Saturday T20 League title

By **Guardian Reporter**

AN impressive batting performance by Karim Kiseti propelled Lions Cricket Club into the knockout round of this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Saturday T20 Division A-League with a resounding eight-1. It ended as a memorable success for the match's eventual winners, given they took the pitch as a modest opponent.

Lions Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bowl in the encounter, restricting ALAF Aces A to 128/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

Reliable players in ALAF Aces A had a good day at the crease, given they chipped in with meaningful contributions.

Opens Ejaz Aziz and Hamza Ally notched two-digit figures, in which Aziz posted 17 runs and Ally recorded 14 runs, as was the case for the remainder of the top-order.

Jaffary Kanyita's 14 runs, Ally Hassan's 13 runs, and Azim Thakur's 15 runs proved to be crucial to efforts by ALAF Aces A's cricketers to amass a convincing figure by the time their innings concluded.

Ally Mpeka, coming in as a middle-order cricketer, ended as the most impressive having posted 26 runs and cracking two fours in his stint.

Two quick dismissals of other dependable cricketers, Kibwana Salum and Mohammad Ali, put a dent in the side's efforts to end with an imposing total.

Salum could only score two runs whereas Ali ended four runs short of a two-digit figure- leaving the crease once he was caught by Lions Cricket Club's Rehaan Rafiq from Umar Shaikh's delivery.

Low-order cricketers, Jatin Prajapati and Ayoub Hamisi made their way back with not out spells but they could not chip in with two-digit figures for the batting squad.

Gulraiz Haideri and Umar Shaikh successfully led Lions Cricket Club's bowling attack, securing three wickets apiece.

Haideri gave away 22 runs in his three overs, ending with the 7.33 economy rate, and in Shaikh's four overs, the bowler gave away 12 runs and notched the 3.00 economy rate.

They were ably assisted by Rehaan Rafiq as the cricketer chipped in with two wickets for 28 runs in three overs.

Needing 129 runs to grab victory, Lions Cricket Club confidently got down to the chase, registering 129/2 in 17 overs.

Although the outfit's chase got a knock following an early exit of Haideri that returned without a run, the batting squad was unperturbed given it went on to chase the opponents' total.

Solid batting by youthful cricketers, Karim and Shaikh, saw to it the team mount the chase with three overs to spare.

The cricketers put up an unbeaten partnership as Karim ended with 61 runs not out, nailing eight fours and a six, and



Players making Lions Cricket Club pose for a photo shortly after defeating ALAF Aces A in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Saturday T20 Division A-League tie which took place last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Shaikh notched 58 runs not out clearing the boundary on seven occasions.

Experienced pacer Mpeka posted two wickets in three overs for ALAF Aces A in what turned out to be a significant contribution which could unfortunately not ensure the club contain the batting side.

Shaikh was in the end declared as the Best Player of the Match for his stellar all-round performance for Lions Cricket Club.

Caravans Cricket Club and Pak Stars topped Group A and Group C respectively while Lions Cricket Club- which stood tall against prominent sides like Aga Khan SC and ALAF Aces A- brought a pleasant surprise to all cricket stakeholders in the city thanks to the outfit's solid run the other group.

Lions Cricket Club Chairman Atif Salim said: "This is a very good win for the club being in its first year in the top division.. it has not been an easy start of the year with results particularly not complementing the performances and efforts the players had put in the 50 Over tournament and Caravans T20 Cup."

Salim noted: "We were missing the finishing touches but we are realizing our potential with every coming game."

The official disclosed: "The biggest plus point about the club's history has been the emergence of youths in the team with most of them happening to be offsprings of senior players in the team."

He added: "For them to inherit the interest of the game from their fathers and learning the game with so much interest has left all club leaders amazed, as we never opened the club having such high ambitions."

Salim revealed: "Their inclusion in the senior team may have happened by chance after missing key senior players during match day but now it's become very hard to take them out of the team."

"Lions had six youthful players playing in the game against ALAF Aces A with Umar Shaikh Basha and Karim Kiseti simply running and dominating the batting with each scoring a half-century."

Salim noted: "Both players have recently come back from the national U-19 cricket squad's camp and despite not having a successful tournament, it was good to see them perform to their potential in the game as they both want to prove their worth."

Shaikh and Kiseti were among the cricketers that made up Tanzania's U-19 cricket team that battled it out in this

year's ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier which took place in Dar es Salaam from July 23-30.

Six teams- Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Tanzania- battled for Africa's spot at the global showpiece slated for next year in Sri Lanka.

Namibia U-19 squad was crowned champion of the Africa Qualifier and has booked a berth for the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup set to take place in Sri Lanka next year.

The Lions Cricket Club Chairman added: "We want to thank our title sponsor- Libya Apartments- and our co-sponsors GP, FLTC Construction, Motor36.com, I&M Auto Parts, AMB Limited, Riyakh Logistics, RAK Energies, and AR Technologies."

The win sees Lions Cricket Club qualify for the knockout round which will have the squad confronting Caravans and Pak Stars in home and away ties, the top two squads will then play the final.

The DC Saturday T20 Division A-League is a league that involves nine clubs in Division A which have been divided into three groups.

Zanzibar U-18 women's football team eyes participation in international tournaments

By **Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona**

ZANZIBAR Football Federation (ZFF) says the Isles' U-18 women's football team wants to participate in many international tournaments.

Suleiman Jabir, ZFF president, disclosed while commenting on Zanzibar's U-18 women's football team's performance in the just-ended CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship which took place in Dar es Salaam.

He said the Zanzibar women's football team needs to play more international games to get exposure and experience.

The ZFF boss added although the team did not record any victory in the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship, ZFF is happy with the side's footballer's performance.

During the CECAFA U-18 women's tournament, Zanzibar's U-18 women's footballers conceded 14 goals and scored one goal.

They lost 3-0 to Uganda, 1-0 to Mainland Tanzania, 6-1 to Ethiopia, and 4-0 to Burundi.

The ZFF boss hailed the Isles U-18 women's squad's footballer Hawa Ali Juma 'Kido' who scored the only goal for the team.



Zanzibar U-18 women's squad defender (R) challenges Burundi U-18 women's team attacker when they took on each other in the 2023 CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship duel at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week, with Burundi U-18 women's team cruising to 4-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

The official noted: "We did not record any victory at the just-ended CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship in Dar es Salaam but I'm happy with the way our team played."

"They were attacking and defending as a team, yes we conceded 14 goals and

scored one goal in the whole tournament but that was something which we are proud of."

"I have said so because, in the past tournaments, our team conceded more than 15 goals in one game," he said.

Jabir said Zanzibar has

talented footballers that can do the country proud in any international tournament, only that they are not given the much-needed priority.

He said to improve the women's league in the Isles, they will look for sponsors and increase the number of

competing teams from the current six to 12.

Jabir noted with a strong women's football league it will be easy to select good players for national team duties.

Mainland Tanzania's U-18 women's team emerged as champions of the CECAFA U-18

Women's Championship which took place at Azam Complex Stadium, Chamazi.

Six countries competed in the 2023 CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship held from July 25 to August 6 in Dar es Salaam.

In the released tournament fixtures, the participating countries took on each other in a single-round robin format from the opening day, with the last head-to-head fixture slated for August 5.

Kenya, which missed out on the tournament, was initially meant to host the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship from June 29 to July 11 in Nairobi but the competition was pushed further ahead because of delay in funding.

However, after CECAFA members met in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the sidelines of the CAF Ordinary Assembly, it was decided that the championship would be hosted by Tanzania at the Azam Complex Stadium.

Initially, Kenya's U-18 women's squad 'Rising Starlets' had been in camp for three weeks before Football Kenya Federation broke the camp due to a delay in funding.

Auka Gecheo, CECAFA Executive Director however made it clear that Kenya

would not take part in the championship because of ongoing school games and later examinations around the same period.

According to sources in Uganda, after a previous spell in the camp that was later postponed due to uncertainties, Uganda U-18 women's squad head coach Ayub Khalifa selected up to 25 players for the showpiece.

After the CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship, the Zonal CAF Women's Champions League qualifier will take place in Uganda from August 12-30.

The other tournaments expected to take place in the 2023 season include the CECAFA U-18 Boys Championship, CECAFA U-15 Boys Championship, CECAFA Kagame Cup, and CECAFA U-23 Championship.

The first CECAFA tournament of the season was initially penciled to take place from June 3-17, before being pushed to start on June 24 and conclude on July 8.

It was again changed to start from June 29- July 11 2023 but that also did not happen leading to another postponement until the latest confirmation.

England survive Nigeria fright but must improve to win World Cup

BRISBANE

THE best teams find a way to win when playing badly, so says the football cliché, but England will surely be out of the Women's World Cup if there is a repeat of their display against Nigeria.

The European champions got away with one on Monday in Brisbane as they stumbled into the quarter-finals 4-2 on penalties.

Nigeria are ranked 40th in the world to England's four but they hit the woodwork twice and were clearly the better side, even before Lauren James was sent off in the 87th minute.

It was not like Sarina Wiegman's players had not been warned.

Nigeria had defeated co-hosts Australia 3-2.

Brazil, Germany and Olympic champions Canada were all dumped out in the group phase as lower-ranked teams progressed.

Back-to-back defending champions the United States were then bundled out on penalties by Sweden in the last 16.

That left England as favourites to win the World Cup for the first time but they looked ponderous and devoid of ideas as they clung on for a 0-0 draw against Nigeria to force penalties.

Former England defender Anita Asante said there would be some "hard truths in the changing room".

"England are very lucky to have progressed to the quarter-finals," she told the BBC. "And they definitely need to step up their performances if they want to get all the way to a final."

- 'Lost her emotions' -

England find themselves three victories away from winning the World Cup but they have been a mixed bag so far in Australia and New Zealand.

They needed a penalty to squeeze past tournament debutants Haiti in their opening game, beat a limited Denmark by the same 1-0 scoreline and then blew

away China 6-1.

The talented Chelsea attacker James scored the only goal against Denmark and then almost single-handedly demolished China with two goals and three assists.

But her sending-off for a needless stamp on Michelle Alozie will mean she misses at least Saturday's quarter-final against Colombia or Jamaica. They play on Tuesday in the last 16.

James will be a major miss, although Wiegman did have the consolation of key midfielder Keira Walsh returning from a knee knock against Nigeria.

Wiegman refused to blame the 21-year-old James.

"I think, in a split-second, she just lost her emotions," said Wiegman, who took her native Netherlands to the World Cup final four years ago, where they lost 2-0 to the United States. "And of course, she does not want to hurt anyone."

- 'England will be ready' -

Wiegman has earned rich praise in England since taking the hosts to European Championship glory last summer, the country's first major title in women's football.

But she appeared lacking in ideas against a Nigeria side who seemed perfectly set up by their American coach Randy Waldrum to nullify England's 3-5-2 formation.

Perhaps most damningly, England actually looked much more comfortable once James had been sent off and Wiegman reverted to a tried-and-tested back four, without ever really looking like scoring.

On the positive side, England have now got the experience of taking part in -- and winning -- a penalty shootout at this World Cup.

"If you're going to go all the way and win a World Cup, you might need to win a shootout," Arsenal manager Jonas Eidevall told the BBC. "Now, if this comes up in the competition again, England will be ready for it."

AFP

Australia 'can beat anyone' as World Cup hosts hit stride

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA were in danger of a humiliating early exit after a surprise defeat to Nigeria but they are now into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals and belief is growing that they can go all the way.

Throw a returning Sam Kerr into the mix and add in the departure of holders the United States, and the co-hosts sense that a first World Cup triumph is within their grasp.

The 3-2 loss to Nigeria in the group phase put Australia's hopes in peril but they responded with a 4-0 thumping of Olympic champions Canada and beat Denmark 2-0 in the last 16.

Skipper Kerr's belated appearance at the tournament after a calf injury made the headlines but it was Caitlin Foord and Mary Fowler who together blew Denmark away in front of nearly 76,000 spectators in Sydney on Monday.

The Matildas will face France or World Cup debutants Morocco in the last eight and they have all the momentum as they close on a first World Cup semi-final and possibly more.

"If we play like this we can beat anyone," Arsenal forward Foord said after giving the Danes a torrid time with her pace, movement and power.

The 20-year-old Manchester City forward Fowler was just as impressive.

It was her vision and inch-perfect ball down the left wing which teed up Foord for a clinical finish in the first half at a near-capacity Stadium Australia.

Fowler was instrumental again in the second goal, 20 minutes from time, with Hayley Raso applying a deadly finish.

But one of the biggest cheers was yet to come, when 10 minutes later talismanic striker Kerr climbed off the bench for her first action at the tournament.

There was a nervous moment for the home fans when she slipped late on, but the Chelsea goalscorer appeared unharmed and her return is perfect timing for Australia.

The 29-year-old still may not start in Saturday's quarter-final in Brisbane, given she is only fresh off three weeks out with her calf problem. But if Australia are chasing the game she will be the ultimate super-sub.

Foord called Kerr's return "a massive boost for us".

"For (other) teams looking ahead it's pretty scary to know that she's back in the team and she's going to be a part of it with us," she added.

- Handling the pressure -

And then there is the home support.

A more clinical side than Denmark, who were contesting their first knockout game at the World Cup since 1995, might have punished the home team in the first 20 minutes.

The Stadium Australia crowd sensed their players needed a lift and responded with chants of "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie".

Denmark failed to capitalise on their early dominance and then Fowler and Foord combined to deadly effect to put Australia on their way to a deserved victory.

Australia's coach Tony Gustavsson had tears in his eyes afterwards when asked about the home support.

"I get emotional, I really do," the Swede said. "The support we feel, thank you. Wow."

Player of the match Foord called the fans their "12th man" and said she felt support for the team building around Australia.

"The whole country is behind us and we do feel it, we do see it," said the 28-year-old.

With growing expectation comes growing pressure, but Foord is confident they can handle it.

"I think you feel pressure when you're not prepared," she said. "And we feel prepared. We feel like we're ready for any scenario, every match."

"I don't think we feel any pressure, we are just enjoying our performances and building on that," she added. "We know we have to take it up another level if we want to go all the way."

AP

France ease past Morocco to set up Australia World Cup clash

ADELAIDE

EUGENIE Le Sommer scored twice as France eased to a 4-0 win over Morocco at the Women's World Cup yesterday and set up a quarter-final with co-hosts Australia.

Morocco had upset the odds to qualify for the last 16 at the expense of Germany in their debut appearance at the tournament but they never managed to lay a glove on Herve Renard's French side in Adelaide.

Kadidiatou Diani opened the scoring on the quarter-hour mark and it was 3-0 just after the midway point in the first half as Kenza Dali and Le Sommer added further goals.

Veteran striker Le Sommer, who is France's all-time top scorer, netted again 20 minutes from time before a crowd of 13,557 as Les Bleues advanced to the last eight with a minimum of fuss.

They will now play Australia in Brisbane on Saturday, with the winners of that going on to play either England or Colombia in the semi-finals.

While France are desperate to win a first major women's international title, Morocco came into this game with the pressure off, their World Cup already a huge success.

Their coach, the former French international midfielder Reynald Pedros, named an unchanged starting line-up following the 1-0 win over Colombia that sealed their place in the knockout phase.

Renard made five changes from the France side that beat Panama 6-3, including recalling Sakina Karchaoui at left-back.

Karchaoui, whose parents are Moroccan, set up the opener with a great run down the left flank, a quick exchange of passes with Selma Bacha, and a cross for Diani to nod in.



France players celebrate during their match against Morocco. Agencies

It was Diani's fourth goal at the tournament after her hat-trick against Panama in the final group game. The second goal arrived in the 20th minute as Diani cut the ball back for Dali to sweep home a first-time finish in off the far post.

And it was 3-0 three minutes after that following a defensive error, with Nesryne El Chad trying to clear but only succeeding in playing the ball off Diani, who set up Le Sommer.

At that point Morocco might have feared an even heavier defeat than the 6-0 hammering they received from Germany in their first game. However, France took their foot off the pedal after that and only scored once more.

In the 70th minute substitute Vicki Becho crossed from the right for Le Sommer to head in her 92nd international goal at the back post.

Meanwhile, Catalina Usme scored the only goal as Colombia kept their Women's World Cup charge on track yesterday by beating Jamaica 1-0 to secure a maiden quarter-final against European champions England.

The South Americans failed to qualify for the 2019 tournament, but have taken huge strides since, topping their group in Australia and stunning world number two Germany along the way.

The 25th-ranked Colombians carried the form -- and only -- shot on target,

into a sold-out Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, grinding down a resolute and physical Jamaica side who had not conceded a goal all tournament.

Colombia's intense, attacking ethos under coach Nelson Abadia finally paid dividends in the 51st minute when the dangerous Usme got the breakthrough with a composed finish inside the box to unlock a previously impenetrable defence.

It set a cagey game alight and sent the pumping pro-Colombian crowd into deafening delirium, with the Reggae Girlz unable to find a way back.

Colombia will now play England in Sydney on Saturday for a place in the semi-finals after the Lionesses came through a gripping penalty shootout against Nigeria.

Four years after crashing out of the 2019 tournament with three heavy defeats, 43rd-ranked Jamaica, like Colombia, also came to Australia with low expectations.

And despite the crushing defeat, they will leave with their heads held high after clean sheets against France, Panama and Brazil.

In front of riotous fans, who boomed whenever Jamaica touched the ball, both sides pressed early in a stop-start opening that saw several players go down under heavy challenges.

The chances were few and far between in the opening 20 minutes with Colombia's Diana Ospina having the best -- and only -- shot on target,

but it didn't have enough power to trouble the keeper.

But the South Americans began to find some rhythm as their supporters urged them on and the opportunities started flowing, with Leicy Santos and Usme both going close.

With Colombia assuming control, Jamaica resorted to some clumsy challenges and Chantelle Swaby and Drew Spence both picked up yellow cards in a tough-tackling half.

The breakthrough came six minutes after the restart with teenage World Cup debutant Ana Guzman pinning a beautiful ball to Usme who took one touch before side-footing home.

Fired up, Jamaica almost had an immediate reply with Jody Brown's shot cleared off the line in a frantic goalmouth scramble that then saw Colombia break on a counter-attack which nearly led to Real Madrid sensation Linda Caicedo doubling the score.

Behind for the first time at the World Cup and facing the exit door, Jamaica abandoned their defensive posture and three players forward frantically looking for the equaliser.

Spence almost grabbed it with a header that spun just wide.

But despite giving everything, Colombia hung on to keep their World Cup dream alive and almost scored a second at the death when Santos's header hit the post.

AFP

Community Shield proves Arteta's transfer gambles will shape Arsenal's season

By Richard Jolly

PEP Guardiola has emulated Sir Alex Ferguson in several ways. Usually, however, that tends to be something to savour. As Manchester City's most decorated manager became the first coach to lose three consecutive Community Shields since his Manchester United counterpart, he could have taken solace in the bigger picture.

Call it the curse of the Community Shield, perhaps, but then, as now, its winners rarely went on to taste Premier League glory. Only one of the previous 12 victors -- albeit City themselves in 2018 -- have been able to call themselves champions of England 10 months later. Arsenal won the Community Shield in 2020 and only finished eighth that season. Three years on, they were happy to ignore history. The celebrations suggested it was more than just a pre-season trinket to them.

"This is what I envisioned when I joined," said Declan Rice and although Arsenal hope their £105m recruit actually imagined something more glorious, the previous time they made a midfielder the most expensive Englishman of all time, Alan Ball won nothing in their colours.

Rice had no trophies to show for the first 244 games of his club career: he has two in two now, even if the Europa Conference League and the Community Shield are not the most prestigious prizes in football.

The broader question -- and a perennial one at this stage -- is whether the Community Shield is a marker for the campaign. Arsenal got a first glimpse of what £200m bought them.

Rice was disciplined and diligent in midfield but an unspectacular outing may be a deceptive debut: for the majority of matches, he is likely to be a lone defensive midfielder, rather than dovetailing with Thomas Partey, in a team who seem primed to exchange attacking ambition for more mettle.

Meanwhile, Kai Havertz was bought to operate in midfield and instead deputised for the injured Ga-



Mikel Arteta lifted the Community Shield (PA Wire)

bril Jesus in attack. Arteta branded the £65m man "superb" but it felt a microcosm of the Chelsea Havertz: intelligent movement, eager pressing, ineffectual finishing.

There is a case for saying that Havertz performed too accurate an impression of Jesus: Arsenal prospered last season by sharing the goals around, with Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and Martin Odegaard all getting either 14 or 15 in the Premier League.

Leandro Trossard provided their Community Shield equaliser, even if it required a huge deflection. Whether Arsenal can afford profligacy in attack, or from Havertz, remains to be seen but the reinvention of the German in midfield may yet be the gamble that shapes Arsenal's season, one way or another.

Jurrien Timber's bow may have been the most auspicious: quietly

assured, the versatile Dutchman slotted in at left-back, though it is perhaps only his third-best position; Kieran Tierney, seemingly on his way out, fared less well when he replaced the Dutchman and Cole Palmer scored. That Arteta bought Raya is a sign he is willing to create a threat to those who had seemed entrenched in his team.

Ben White could be dislodged by Timber, Aaron Ramsdale by Raya. The goalkeeper's match-winning display showed he had produced the right response and suggested competition could be healthy.

Ramsdale's rhetoric was instructive, too. He argued a mental block against City, forged in three years of defeats, was lifted. That City had returned to training two weeks later than Arsenal and removed Erling Haaland at 0-0 offered the impres-

sion that victory meant less to them; the result will nevertheless assume an added importance if it helps shift the balance of power in the Arteta-Guardiola rivalry.

A clearer indication may arrive when they meet in October. Perhaps then Arsenal will borrow from their Wembley gameplan, reuniting two defensive midfielders, fielding a back four who -- unlike when Oleksandr Zinchenko twice faced City last season -- are all specialist defenders, playing deeper to limit space both behind and in front of their rearguard.

If last season's Arsenal was about idealism and excitement, the surprise surge of a youthful team, perhaps this season's side are charged with showing more physicality, solidity and nous against City, borrowing from a greater strength in depth to alter their style of play.

Such wins can feel signs of progress, staging posts on the route to something greater. Arsenal beat Liverpool, Manchester United, Tottenham and Chelsea last season, taking 19 points from a possible 24 against them, but not City. But such occasions can also be a false dawn.

After their triumph in the 2020 Community Shield, they won their first two league games, but only two of the next 12. They sank as low as 15th. A repeat feels implausible. But more than most, Arsenal know it is hard to judge precisely what winning the Community Shield signifies.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

France ease past Morocco to set up

Australia World Cup clash

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzanian swimming coach Ramadhan Namkoveka (L) instructs one of the swimmers with disabilities in a recent training in Dar es Salaam.

Paralympic swimming gala attracts 30 contenders

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIRTY Paralympic swimmers are expected to battle it out in a swimming gala organized by the Tanzania Paralympic Swimming Association (TPSA) in conjunction with Jou Ultra Sports Association.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, the TPSA secretary-general, said the gala has been slated for October 14 at a venue to be announced later.

He said this will be the first time that TPSA is organizing a Para Swimming Gala, adding it will be used to select Paralympic swimmers that will represent the country in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

The TPSA official revealed: "On October 14, which is Mwalimu Nyerere Day commemoration, TPSA in conjunction with Jou Ultra Sports Association has organized a Para swimming gala which will be held in Dar es Salaam."

Namkoveka added: "We expect 30 Para swimmers to compete, this will be the first time that the country is hosting Para Swimming Gala."

"We are calling upon individuals, clubs, and institutions involved in Para swimming to start preparations for the gala and, more importantly, we are encouraging female Para swimmers to register for the gala," Namkoveka noted.

"The country has no female Para swimmers, so, this will be the opportunity for them to show their swimming potential, the gala will also help us have data base for both local and foreign-based Para swimmers," he said.

The TPSA official disclosed that Para swimmers who will show exceptional talent at the gala will be offered the opportunity to be trained by the association's coaches.

Tanzania has two national Paralympic swimmers, Gerald Sokolo and Amos Boniface Nderwa, whereas Sokolo is the only swimmer that has been certified by World Para Swimming Association (WPSA).

Classification is necessary for all Para swimmers, there are 14 classes of classification, of which one to 10 is for those with disabilities, 11-13 for the visually impaired, and class 14 is for those with mental disorders.

Para swimming has been inactive in Tanzania due to many challenges, the major challenge being financial.

In 2020 the Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) planned to send two Para swimmers to the World Swimming Series in Singapore.

The then TPC secretary-general Tuma Dandi said that the Swimming World Series is aimed at preparing swimmers ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

The other series were held in Melbourne, Australia, Ligano Sabbiadoro (Italy), Sao Paulo in Brazil, Sheffield in the United Kingdom (UK), Indianapolis in the United States of America (USA), and Berlin in Germany.

Dandi, now TPC president, said his association planned to send two swimmers to the Singapore event.

Namkoveka has been involved in Para swimming since 2017 and, in his involvement in the sport, the country managed to make some strides in the sport.

The milestones include organizing seminars for coaches and having swimmer, Sokolo, as the only local Para swimmer classified by WPSA.

The TPSA leader, a high-profile swimming coach, scouts his athletes in schools and centers, where people with disabilities are taken care of, and sometimes in the streets.

Namkoveka disclosed that his efforts face a lot of challenges some of which are lack of female swimmers and transportation.

TFF leader aims to elevate Zanzibar women's football

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, is adamant that he will ensure that women's football in Zanzibar takes a step further after Mainland Tanzania won the 2023 CECAFA U-18 Women's Championship.

Karia stated the victory garnered by Mainland Tanzania gives the impression that women's football in Tanzania is growing, but they will make sure that Zanzibar moves up further and matches Mainland Tanzania.

The TFF boss disclosed Mainland Tanzania has started to gain experience, so what remains is to push Zanzibar to reach its goals.

"This is a good start for Mainland Tanzania and I congratulate the players and the coach after winning the title after good results, but the fans who came in full in the stadium are exceptional," the TFF leader stated.

"They have fought and offered our players motivation, but there is still a little bit for our colleagues in Zanzibar, they are not doing well, we are going to ensure they elevate," Karia noted.

Zanzibar U-18 women's team conceded 14 goals in four matches and scored only one goal in the competition.

In four matches, Zanzibar has, moreover, scored only one goal which was scored by Hawa Juma via a penalty kick in the 22nd minute of the game against Ethiopia, which ended with the Isles' squad losing 6-1.

Zanzibar has no experience with such competitions but there are still some matches that witnessed the Isles squad putting spirited showing and surprising spectators.

Perhaps the establishment of the Zanzibar Women's Premier League will at least help the team gain experience and achieve good results in various competitions.

Zanzibar U-18 women's team's coach Abdulmutik Haji revealed that far from conceding those goals, his team is getting stronger.

The coach noted that previously Zanzibar was conceding 14 goals in one match, so letting in the same number of goals in four matches is a good step for them because they have neither league nor other competitions.

"We are thankful for finishing this tournament safely, I and my players have learned something and if we make it to another CECAFA tournament we will do well and this is a good step for us to learn," Haji disclosed.

Mainland Tanzania took home three awards set aside by CECAFA for the showdown, namely the Best Coach, Best Goalkeeper, and Best Player of the Tournament.

Tactician Bakari Shime won the Best Coach award for helping the Mainland Tanzania U-18 women's side win the showdown title.

The hosts' keeper, Husna Zubeir, took the Best Goalkeeper award given she ended with the most clean sheets.

Mainland Tanzania U-18 women's Winfrida Gerald laid her hands on the Best Player of the Tournament award for netting the winning goal for the squad when it came up against Uganda U-18 women's squad in the final as well as showing great potential.

Burundi U-18 women's team won the award for the Most Disciplined Team because, despite the defeats they suffered, they were shown few cards.

Ethiopia U-18 women's squad's Emush Daniel received the tournament's top goal scorer's award, having scored five goals in two matches, which included a hat-trick.

Yanga confronts Azam FC in Community Shield knockout tie



Azam FC's striker Prince Dube (R) negotiates his way past Yanga's right-back Kibwana Shomari (C) and midfielder Salum Abubakar (L) during a match. The teams faced each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel which took place in Dar es Salaam on September 6, 2022. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

THE Tanzanian football season gets underway today as the country's football followers are braced for a fierce meeting between Young Africans SC and Azam FC.

The two sides head to Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga for their first taste of competitive action this season, as they battle in the Community Shield knockout showdown's tie.

It will be the first time Young Africans SC's Argentine coach Miguel Gamondi and Azam FC's Senegalese Yousouph Dabo lead their teams out in front of spectators with a trophy in line.

Young Africans SC, also known as Yanga, won the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, Community Shield, and Azam Sports Federation Cup and reached the CAF Confederation Cup final while Azam FC finished third in the league table.

Azam FC is coming into this match on the back of a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Zanzibar Premier League side KMKM FC in a friendly which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The victory was the second successive in pre-season training for Azam FC following the squad's 2-0 win against Kenyan Premier League side Bandari FC on Saturday.

However, there have been some negatives for Azam FC in pre-season preparations as the squad was beaten by Esperance de Tunis, US Monastir, and Stade de Tunisien when having a camp in Tunisia.

The ice cream vendors have not made many signings, the former Yanga duo of Yannick Bangala and Feisal Salum has been joined by Senegal imports Allasane Diao and Cheikh Sidibe as well as Gambian winger Gibril Sillah at Azam FC.

Feisal, Sidibe, and Sillah are expected to start while Bangala will miss the game after picking up a knock during training.

Last season's club's top goalscorer Prince Dube is likely to lead the line, flanked by Sillah and Abdulhamis Suleiman.

On the flip side, having lifted this trophy on the last two occasions, Yanga has won this competition more times than Azam FC and will be keen on getting one over these opponents early in the season to set a marker down for the rest of the campaign.

The venue has proved to be a lucky one for Yanga in recent times, having lifted the Azam Sports Federation Cup last season by beating Azam FC 1-0 in the final.

After the Jangwani Street-based Yanga

swept all-comers aside last season, the team looks set to head into this fixture with a slightly changed squad that triumphed in Tanga less than two months ago.

The club's influential striker Fiston Mayele was lured to Egyptian giants Pyramids FC while Bernard Morrison, Tuisila Kisinda, Dickson Ambundo, and Djuma Shaban have been released.

Tanzania international midfielder Feisal and Congolese midfielder Bangala switched to Azam FC for a combined transfer fee of \$130,000.

The Premier League defending champions have spent money on Ugandan defender Gift Fred, South African winger Mahlatse 'Skudu' Makudubela, Ivorian full-back Yao Attohoulou, and Tanzanian midfielder Jonas Mkude.

Left-back Nickson Kibabage, Congolese midfielder Max Nzengeli, and Ghanaian striker Hafiz Konkoni are some of the other newly signed players.

Yanga comes into today's game having defeated Friends Rangers 6-1 in the former's final friendly tie of the pre-season training last week.

They also secured a 1-0 win over South African side, Kaizer Chiefs, in a friendly which was played in Dar es Salaam last month - a tie which moreover coloured the former's 'Siku ya Mwananchi' festival.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

You MAY NOT BE YOUR BEST FRIEND'S BEST FRIEND.



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia.