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Govt skips tabling of Universal Health bill divisive for MPs, society

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Universal Health Insurance Scheme Bill, number 8 of 2022 that was set for the second and third reading went missing from the National Assembly schedule of activities yesterday. Parliamentary officials could not say why the postponement occurred, although it appeared on an earlier schedule of House business.

The bill for the Universal Health Insurance Scheme Act 2022 would make it mandatory for all individuals to be part of a workable and well-funded health insurance scheme. Current statistics indicate that 85 per cent of Tanzanians are not covered by health insurance, where the bill was proposing an annual payment of 340,000/- for a standard package benefit for a family with four dependents. Said Makora, the Health ministry communications officer, was lately explaining that the new legislation targets health coverage for Tanzanians from the current 15 per cent or four million people to 50 per cent coverage at the least.

The bill is part of legislative work after ratifying the Abuja Declaration at a global conference of the World Health Organization in 2010, taking up an earlier resolution in September 2000, where 189 heads of state adopted the Millennium Declaration designed to improve social and economic

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan presses a button in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam Region, yesterday to launch a project said to have capacity to supply a daily 70 million litres of water to various parts currently facing a critical shortage of the precious liquid. Left is Water minister Jumaa Aweso. Photo: State House

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed water authorities and regional administrators to control the movement of livestock and irrigation projects along Ruvu and Wami rivers.

Handing over water drilling and research equipment at Kigamboni in the city of Dar es Salaam, the president directed the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) to conduct frequent inspections to control invasion by livestock herders along river banks in Morogoro and Coast regions.

This depletes water resources and occasion scarcity of water supply in Dar es Salaam and its neighbourhood, including most of Coast Region, she said.

Livestock movements and blocking water or pumping large amounts for specific activities along the rivers propel water supply challenges, with more than five thousand cattle having invaded key water bodies, she stated.

"You should work on ensuring that livestock movement is controlled all over the country. This has been the cause of conflicts and deaths of people in various places across the country," she said, noting that one cow needs about 45 litres of water per day, expressing alarm at the number of livestock entering river bank zones.

She said the drilling equipment cost 35bn/-, money that could have been directed at other pressing needs if the water supply situation was better.

She also launched the construction of the 329bn/- Kidunda dam, intended to curb city water woes for three years within the drought atmosphere, affirming

“You should work on ensuring that livestock movement is controlled all over the country. This has been the cause of conflicts and deaths of people in various places across the country”

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Students failing to get HELSB loans can report to varsities

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has agreed to pay costs for 28,000 university students who failed to be accommodated by the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) loan issuance for the 2022 academic year.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this observation yesterday when winding up the latest session of the legislature. Students who qualify for admission but missed from the HESLB list need to report to their respective universities while the government is searching for funds, he said.

The government was taking up parliamentary recommendations for the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) to make a special audit on HESLB operations, especially for issuance and repayment of loans.

The audit will assist the government to rethink the best way of financing higher education, the premier noted.

Ezra Chiwelesa (Biharamulo) had last week raised a motion on the failure of HESLB to issue loans to thousands of students.

This year the HESLB was allocated 570bn/- for loans to students, sufficient

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C'wealth MPs with disability coming to Dar

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA will next week host the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPWD) network meeting.

The Communication and International Relations Unit of the National Assembly said in a statement yesterday that the meeting will be held in Dar es Salaam from November 14 to 18.

The network was launched with the aim to support parliamentarians with disabilities to be more effective in their roles and to help improve awareness of disability issues among parliamentarians and staff of the parliamentary

Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson is expected to grace the opening session, where participants will be drawn from South Africa, Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Mauritius and the host country.

'Parliamentarians and PwDs as champions of inclu

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This truck, which was loaded with bags of cement, skidded off Wazo Hill Road shortly after leaving Dar es Salaam's Tanzania Portland Cement Company (Twiga Cement) factory early yesterday, apparently owing to brake failure. Initial reports said it was in the process that it ended up in a multiple crash involving seven other vehicles that left one person dead and two people injured. Photo: John Badi



Govt skips tabling of Universal Health bill divisive for MPs, society

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conditions by allocating up to 15 per cent of public resources to health, adopted in the Nigerian capital of Abuja in April 2010. While the critical issues at that time were addressing pressing health challenges including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, the issue was largely resolved by greater allocations at the multilateral level. Another source of the bill is the Kigali Declaration on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a high-level declaration to secure commitments to achieve the sustainable development goal number three on neglected tropical (NTDs), delivering on the targets set out in the WHO NTDs roadmap for 2021 to 2030. An online chronicle says the resolution was the subject of extensive consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders, with a country task force co-chaired by Rwanda and Nigeria. The declaration focuses on country ownership of NTD programmes, thus the need for their integration in medical care and cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure long-term sustainability, like including non-transmissible diseases in a universal health insurance package.

The Kigali protocol also sought to increase health spending to at least 10 per cent of the national budget while directing countries to have universal health insurance coverage. Critics say that such resolutions aren't adopted because African countries are decided to adopt similar budgetary policies but to attract donor willingness to increase funds to such sectors on the basis of continent-wide health sector uplifting programmes.

The ministerial official was of the view that the proposed bill seeks to create greater equality in accessing health services, widening access to health services from the dispensary level to referral hospitals without procedural or cost limitations.

With improved health sector facilities through massive investments in building hospitals and health centres, the proposed bill sought to ensure quality health services across the population, he said.

Senior ministry officials expect that most cases referred to hospitals would be ended in district hospitals at most as they would have most diagnostic and treatment services, he said.

Under the proposed bill, the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) will be regulated by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) for the services it



Senior ministry officials expect that most cases referred to hospitals would be ended in district hospitals at most as they would have most diagnostic and treatment services

offers and by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) on how it administers investments poured into it.

The postponed bill set out three distinct groups on health insurance contributions, namely public sector and private employees contributing three percent of their monthly salary, and then the non-employed and special groups.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) pointed out in an assessment of the postponed bill that it leaves critical issues to the Minister for Health to set out via a regulatory framework.

Such issues ought to be resolved in the policy set up, provided for in the proper bill and tabled for approval by the legislature, the activist body had demanded.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi swears in Abeda Rashid Abdallah (R, seated, in head-cloth) as Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: State House

C'wealth MPs with disability coming to Dar

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sion and accessibility to public and private sectors,' is the conference theme, setting out six key topics including reviewing the education system for people with disabilities (PwDs). A local case study will guide the discussion, the statement noted. Other topics are listed

as 'Towards increased PwDs representation in Parliaments: Legal and Constitutional Amendments,' 'Promoting economic empowerment and entrepreneurship to advance the participation of PwDs in the labour market' and 'The role of parliaments in facilitating the needs of persons with disabilities.'

The parliamentarians will also discuss 'Empowering Persons with Disabilities through ICT: Challenges and Opportunities' as well as 'Sexual and reproductive health rights for women with disabilities.' The CPwD Network was established in 2017 to champion programmes to enhance the representation

of persons with disabilities in Commonwealth parliaments and to work towards the mainstreaming of disability considerations in all CPA activities and programmes. In 2020, the network established a governing committee of nine regional champions chosen to represent each of the

CPA's nine regions. They seek to promote the rights of Commonwealth parliamentarians with disabilities in their respective regions and generally represent disability interests within the larger Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) fraternity, the statement added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango plays drums to open the 41st edition of the Bagamoyo International Festival on Arts and Culture in the Bagamoyo historical coastal town yesterday. Left is Culture, Arts and Sports minister Mohamed Mchengerwa. Photo: VPO

Put herds, irrigation under control - Samia

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that the drilling machines will help sort out water challenges in the city and countrywide.

Equipment for water prospects surveys to find appropriate locations to drill, to avoid wasting resources on unsurveyed locations, she said.

The machines are part of initiatives to ensure water availability at 85percent for rural areas and 95percent in urban areas by 2025, a policy orientation meeting new challenges due to prolonged drought and reinvesting in water supply facilities in major urban areas, etc.

The president hinted that the

government intends to purchase a new ferry in a joint project with private investors so that the costs are jointly carried.

Water minister Jumaa Aweso had earlier said the government was rebuilding the water infrastructure in Dar es Salaam so that the region can more readily access water.

Handing over of the water drilling machines will help address challenges facing city residents, with a deficit of 20m litres of water supply per day.

The construction of the Kimbiji water dams in Kigamboni will enable rainwater harvesting as water flows from Ruvu and Wami rivers to the sea.

Govt will increase budget for Health ministry - Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said the government will continue to increase the budget for the Health Ministry for purposes of ensuring the provision of better health services.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday at the launch of the monitoring report of the Nairobi agreement, regarding the international conference on population and development, aimed at managing the implementation of the agreement on the provision of quality services to mothers and children.

He said in this financial year, the government increased the budget of the Ministry of Health by 8.3 percent from the amount allocated in the 2019/2020 financial year. He said the increment is part of the government's effort to achieve the Abuja Resolution which requires governments to set 15 percent of their budgets for the health sector.

Students failing to get HELSB loans can report to varsities

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to cover 42,000 despite that more than 70,000 students qualified for loans.

In other remarks, the premier urged the public to preserve food stocks in the wake of poor or intermittent rains and broad areas of drought in different regions.

"Many areas are receiving average end of year rains with unsatisfactory distribution, affecting soil moisture and thus the production of foods crops," he said, underlining that farmers need to continue holding food stocks until the next harvest when the situation is normalised.

He mentioned the distribution of 20m tonnes of food from the National Food Reserves Agency (NFRA) in 20 districts of the Mainland to offset food supply drawbacks.

Shortages of food supply in different regional markets has pushed up food prices, with the Consumer Price Index for October 3 issued by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicating that food inflation stood at 9.0 percent.

Lake Zone regions of Kagera, Geita Mwanza and Mara are currently receiving sufficient end of year rains, with recently planted crops broadly showing positive stages of growth.

He urged farmers to focus on climate smart agricultural methods like the use of manure, irrigation and growing rapidly maturing crops, asking extension officers to work with research institutes and use weather data to see how best to help farmers in ways applicable to rainfall patterns in a locality.

Providing extension services for smart agriculture tactics and ensuring food security are the key objectives at the moment, he said. He said that the government is working on a Rufiji river project to supply water to Dar es Salaam, starting with 750m litres per day, with an overall capacity for 1.5bn litres for needs of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

On a different note, the premier allayed fear of increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases, urging the public to adopt helpful lifestyles like conducting regular exercises.

Diabetes and blood pressure were lifestyle diseases contributing nearly three quarters of all deaths worldwide, he added.

Strengthen examination administration system to tackle re-emerging challenges, NECTA urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Education Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda has directed the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) to strengthen its examination administration system to address challenges that emerge from time to time.

The Minister Prof Mkenda was speaking in Dodoma yesterday when he launched the examination body's board saying strengthening the system will enhance timely action when shortfalls arise.

"The main challenge is to begin from where the previous board started including the electronic examination marking system which has been essential in reducing workload," he said.

The minister called upon the new board to carry out an evaluation to see whether it was complete including reviewing examination marking centres.

"You should review the criteria for choosing examination marking centres and examine how you choose them as well as how they operate," he said.

The minister hailed Prof William Anangisye for being appointed for the second time together with other members who have

been appointed.

Prof Mkenda hailed the committee for implementing their roles professionally but also for establishing the E-marking system calling upon the new board to improve efficiency in the system.

NECTA board chairman Prof Anangisye promised to work on the issue raised by the minister saying this will help to increase efficiency and competency in running and managing examinations in the country.

The Regional Education Officer from Dodoma Upendo Rweyemamu who represented regional and district education committees said they committed to working with the new board.



You should review the criteria for choosing examination marking centres and examine how you choose them as well as how they operate



Twenty-year-old Bukoba resident Majaliwa Jackson (standing), who is widely credited with the rescue of 24 of the people who were on board the Precision Air plane that crash-landed into Lake Victoria waters just off the municipality on Sunday morning, is introduced in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday as a guest of legislators. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

MP wants 2023/2024 development plan to address rising costs of living

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBER of Parliament for Vwawa constituency Japhet Hasunga (CCM) has said he expects the national development plan and guidelines for budget preparations for the financial year 2023/2024 to address the rising cost of living.

Hasunga made the remarks on Thursday during the closure of the debate for the 43trn/- plan presented by the minister of finance and planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba on Monday this week.

"The new development needs to address basic issues including poverty, unemployment, the low contribution of productive sectors to economic growth, productivity and slow growth of manufactur-

ing sector," he explained.

The MP said, in reality, the living standards of Tanzania are currently challenging, despite having abundant resources.

"We have a lot of resources but we live in a vicious poverty cycle," he said.

To address such challenges, the former minister recommended that 40 percent of the development budgetary allocation should be directed to productive sectors, 30 percent to social services provision and the remaining 30 percent should be directed to business services.

Hasunga called for the reinstating of the planning commission to regularly analyze the state of the economy to recommend economic priorities, as well as the forma-

tion of the national productivity council to address the issue of low productivity in various sectors of the economy.

He said, as long as Tanzania is located in a strategic area, the new development plan should come up with a strategy to unveil the plan for the development of the proposed Bagamoyo port and its associated logistic centre.

In her clarifications on the proposed Bagamoyo Special Economic Zone (SEZ), minister for investment, trade and industries Dr Ashatu Kijaji said a new master plan for the project has already been developed.

Saashisha Mafuwe, Member of Parliament for Hai constituency (CCM) said there is a need for preparation of a 50 years develop-

ment vision.

"If we are talking about industries, this needs a long-term plan," he said, noting that there is a need for reinstatement of the planning commission. "We need this commission to have capable people."

Godwin Kunambi, Member of Parliament for Mlimba constituency (CCM) said there is a need for the proposed plan to stimulate economic growth.

Based on the newly concluded population and housing census 2022 data, Kunambi said if the population growth is 3.2 percent and economic growth is 5.4 percent, then the actual economic growth is 2.2 percent.

"We need to increase more efforts on stimulating fast economic growth," he said.

He recommended that the government should also invest in research through universities, specifically on agriculture, industries, marketing, livestock and fishing sub-sectors.

The MP also proposed the increased promotion of agro-industries, targeting to promote the increase of goods exports.

Concluding the discussion of the proposed plan, minister of finance and planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said all recommendations of the Members of Parliament will be considered in preparing the new plan and budget.

Dr Nchemba also clarified the issue of whether the country has dropped from the middle-income status by saying the claims by Professor Sospeter Muhongo were

wrong and that Tanzania is still a middle-income country.

The minister said the current Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is \$1,140, noting that the MP used the wrong data from Trading Economics.

He also said that based on World Bank data, Tanzania is still the middle income and will never drop from the status due to ongoing investments in strategic projects including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant, Julius Nyerere Hydro Electric Power Project (JNHEP) the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and others.

"The GDP per capita does not measure the income status of any country, instead the World Bank is using the Gross National Income (GNI)," he said.



High Court Judge Gerson Mdemu (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday swearing in Suzan Kaganda, Tanzania Police Commissioner of Administration and Human Resources, as a member of the joint Police, Prisons, Fire and Rescue and Immigration Service Commission. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Govt asks Tanzanian Embassy in China to award outstanding Kiswahili speakers

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE government has asked the Tanzanian embassy in China to launch programmes aimed at awarding the best Kiswahili speakers in a move aimed at promoting the language for social and economic growth.

Dr Lyabwene Mtahabwa, Commissioner for Education in the ministry of Education, Science and Technology made the call this week in Dar es Salaam when he graced the fifth ceremony of the Chinese Ambassadors' Award held at the embassy's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

He said it is high time for the embassy in Beijing to start doing the same considering the potential of the Kiswahili language in the world currently.

"When I heard of this award and others that are organised by the ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Tanzania and thought it was important for the embassy back in China to emulate," he said.

The official said it was important for the government of Tanzania through the embassy to organise a similar kind of event for Chinese students who take Kiswahili language in China.

Dr Mutahabwa said being multilingual facilitates employability calling upon Tanzanians not to speak the language as a vernacular but as an official and

business channel of communication.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian said having awarded a group of Tanzanians who have practically shown their influence and competency in the language was a sign that with courage and determination, everything is possible.

"The great wall was not built in one day. Chinese language efficiency cannot be accomplished overnight. Success comes from diligence and perseverance," she said.

Adding: "Last week President Samia Suluhu Hassan paid a successful visit to China and the bilateral relations have been improved to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and a large number of mutually beneficial cooperation agreements have been signed."

Tarif Omar, a Chinese lecturer at Muslim University of Morogoro (MUM) said lots of questions come from fellows pertaining to his efficiency and fluency in Chinese speaking however marking that the secret behind his success was overcoming temptations hardworking.

The award is held annually in 2018, consisting of 125 Tanzanian students, 7 teachers from 9 schools, and 4 universities that won the Chinese Ambassador's Award.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBMISSION OF IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BULK PROCUREMENT OF DAP AND UREA FERTILIZERS

TFRA is inviting Agro-processors, Farmers' Co-operative Unions (FCUs), Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS), Village Community Banks (VICOPA), Savings & Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Fertilizer Traders and other stakeholders to submit importation requirements for DAP and Urea fertilizers which will be sold under the National Fertilizer Subsidy Program for the 2022/2023 cropping season. The requirements will be aggregated and imported through Fertilizer Bulk Procurement System (BPS) according to the Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations of 2017.

Please submit your requirements with their subsequent bank guarantees (Requirement Submission Template and Bank Guarantee Format are available at www.tfra.go.tz.) in hard copy through TFRA offices or by email to info@tfra.go.tz and copy to bps@tfra.go.tz on or before **Monday 28th November, 2022 at 4:00 pm.**

Kindly note: The Original Bank Guarantee MUST be submitted in hard copy on or before the deadline of submission date.

TFRA upholds its commitment of partnering with all stakeholders in ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizer and fertilizer supplements to all farmers in Tanzania at affordable prices and friendly payment terms.

Dr. Stephan E. Ngailo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dr. Stephan E. Ngailo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

For more information

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Iringa Girls Secondary School second master Mikidadi Rashid (2nd-L) receives a dummy cheque for 10m/- from Iringa regional commissioner Halima Dendego on Thursday. The money is contribution by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) in support of the construction of a fence around the school. Looking on are Iringa regional administrative secretary Leonard Masanja (L) and Ewura director general Modestus Lumato. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

ERB cites corruption as main obstacle to engineering sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Engineers Registration Board (ERB) has admitted that corruption is one of the major challenges thwarting the sector as it facilitates unqualified people to be granted tenders and jobs in various projects.

Speaking to journalists yesterday here, ERB registrar Benard Kavishe said many projects are constructed below standards due to hiring people who lack enough expertise in the area, something which affects development of various sectors in the country.

He was speaking on the implementation of various responsibilities of the board in the 2022/2023 financial year.

"Corruption contributes highly to poor implementation of projects, this is a chronic cancer for the nation, we have been working hard to fight this challenge but more coordinated efforts are needed to address the same," he said.

Kavishe said the board is implementing a policy known as "Zero Corruption" so as to promote adherence of ethics in the sector and fight any form of bribery for sustainable development.

He also urged the public to report to

the board or authorities whenever they see signs of corruption when seeking for engineering services.

He said certified engineers do not benefit from employment opportunities in East Africa and abroad thus calling on the experts to ensure that they are registered by the board.

"In the EAC, we have our own club of engineers and soon we will meet to discuss the possibility to allow engineers to work in any country in the region without being registered afresh," he added.

Gerson Msiwaga, government's spokesperson commended the board on how it was implementing its duties and supervising its engineers well, this time when the country is implementing a number of big projects.

"This is a huge achievement because in 1961, the country had only two engineers but the number has grown to 33,000 registered engineers," he noted.

The ERB is a statutory body established to monitor and regulate all engineering-related activities in Tanzania. This forum gives all Tanzanian engineers an opportunity to share their ideas and experience in the engineering practice.

EABC, ITC launch online platform to boost E. African small businesses

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) have launched an online platform designed to boost the competitive edge of East African small businesses.

Dubbed: "My East African Soko or Myeasoko (www.myeasoko.com)," the platform provides small businesses in the region with an avenue to support their recovery, build resilience and drive growth using digital technologies.

The platform is developed by EABC in partnership with ITC's 5-year corporate programme One Trade Africa. Traders and service

providers from across the region can interact on the platform's web portal or mobile application to access business information, market their products online, attract international buyers and expand their trade opportunities.

Speaking during the launching event, EABC executive director, John Bosco Kalisa emphasized: "EABC has leveraged digital technologies and has developed www.myeasoko.com to support the EAC's economic recovery, build resilience and drive future growth for SMEs, especially youth and women."

He stated SMEs provide goods and services that are better adapt-

ed to local markets; stimulate innovation; entrepreneurship, sustain economic growth and account for 60 per cent of jobs in the EAC.

Additional services available on the platform include an integrated e-marketplace, business listings portal and SME training academy. Small businesses will also have access to the required information to support their cross-border trade initiatives, this includes AfCFTA trade documents and procedures for pre-selected shipments of goods to any of the countries identified under the Guided Trade Initiative.

The launch of Myeasoko reinforces ITC's keen focus to lever-

age the trend in digitization and collaborate with key business support organisations to support African women and youth entrepreneurs in broadening their opportunities through intra-African trade.

ITC executive director Pamela Coke-Hamilton said: "My East African Soko will re-introduce small businesses into global marketplaces, enable them to join regional value chains and give them an opportunity to scale up"

She said a new platform is a welcome tool for East African small businesses that have borne the brunt of the Covid-19 crisis and facing the impact of the conflict in

Ukraine which has compromised a tentative recovery and disrupted global supply chains.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella reiterated the government's pledge to provide a conducive environment for SMEs and large businesses to thrive and trade beyond Tanzania's borders, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Mongella further urged SMEs to showcase their products and access the EAC and Africa markets via www.myeasoko.com.

Pamela Maassay, MP of the East African Legislative Assembly said the Assembly is steadfast to unlock barriers to intra-EAC trade

and ease business through enacting bills and policies.

As part of the e-commerce services available the platform has integrated a mobile app notification system to ensure continued interaction between small businesses and EABC for efficient last mile delivery.

The platform is also enabled to accept online payments, track product delivery, and provide 24hr customer support through an integrated chat support system and social media. Areas with low internet coverage will be able to access the platform using a mobile android application currently available for download.



Defying traffic regulations, including having too many 'passengers' and all without helmets, this motorbike taxi rider cruises (illegally) along a rapid transit bus lane at a Ubungu Kibo section of Dar es Salaam's busy Morogoro Road earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Foundation builds teachers' houses at Bagamoyo school

By Getrude Mbage

EDUCATION, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has hailed Flaviana Matata Foundation for constructing six houses to accommodate teachers at Msinune primary school in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

Speaking during the launching of the newly constructed houses, the minister called upon other stakeholders and the public to create a culture of giving back to the community and supporting the government's initiatives to strengthen the education sector.

The houses, which have been constructed with closer supervision of the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA), will accommodate the teachers, something which will also improve teaching and learning at the school.

"We should create a culture of giving back to the community by providing support in various areas of need as the government alone cannot fulfill all the needs," Prof Mkenda said.

He acknowledged the initiatives taken by the Foundation to support the government and assured that the ministry will continue working closely with each stakeholder that works at supporting education in the sector.

He wanted the Tanzania Education

Authority (TEA) to highlight all the areas that have a scarcity of teachers' houses so as to be considered in plans as well as stakeholders' support.

Foundation's CEO and founder, Flaviana Matata said the six houses contain all essential human needs such as water and power.

She added that within seven years of its operations, her Foundation has been a pioneer for the school development by offering different supports like constructing wells, school classes and toilets for male and female students as well as for teachers, libraries as well as water tapes for washing hands.

"This foundation intends to ensure the availability of better houses for teachers so as to make them comfortable and offer a better education for students, and let me request other stakeholders to take part in this journey to facilitate better education services in Tanzania," she added.

Flaviana said that her foundation has been offering exercise books, pens, and school bags, for students and it has a special initiative in supporting female students by providing them with sanitary pads and other necessary needs to facilitate smooth learning.

EALA, security organs to take measures against terrorism and human trafficking

KIGALI

TERRORISM continues to be a potent threat to peace and security in the East African region, with an acceleration of terrorist attacks in the region resulting in the loss of lives and property.

This is according to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)'s Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution.

In line with that, members of the committee are undertaking an oversight activity on the measures taken by the East African Community (EAC) Partner States in combating terrorism and human trafficking - two major threats to peace and security in the region.

On November 11, regional MPs will inter-

act with actors in the peace and security area in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda.

Specifically in Rwanda, it is expected that regional MPs will hold talks with the representatives from Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), Rwanda National Police, the Ministry of Justice, and civil society.

Overall, the expected outcome of this oversight activity is to strengthen the legal, institutional and policy framework for combating the vice of terrorism and trafficking in persons within the EAC region, the committee indicated in a concept note for the event.

A number of terror groups such as Al Shabab, ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) and FDLR (the Democratic Forces for the

Liberation of Rwanda) still have footprints in the East African region posing insecurity as well as undermining hard-earned governance, social and economic gains for the last decades.

MP Fatuma Ndingiza, Chairperson of EALA's Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution said that "terrorism is a threat to peace and security in this region."

She cited "Al Shabab which is prevalent in our region, especially Somalia and Kenya; but there is a time they even bombarded US embassies in East Africa in Tanzania, Kampala and Nairobi. So, it is a recurrent issue."

"There are other groups in this region, like the issue of FDLR. On one hand, it's a genocidal outfit that committed [1994]

Genocide [against the Tutsi] and is harboured in DRC, but carries out acts, like attacking Rwanda through abrupt gunfire, and continues to destabilise the security and radicalisation, especially in genocide ideology," she said.

For the region to be stable and secure to deliver on its aspirations, peace and stability are the building blocks for the free movement of persons, labour, goods and services, which are critical to EAC integration, according to the committee.

"So, we wanted to ensure that there is an engagement of countries, having consultations, especially with stakeholders in the security sector so that we understand the extent of the terrorism problem, but mainly to understand the measures put

in place, because all those problems are transboundary crimes, which means that one country cannot solve them single-handedly," Ndingiza said.

Safeguarding peace and security is key for accelerating the implementation of the common market protocol and the ultimate realisation of political federation.

There is an urgent need to address the root that causes terrorism engagement, radicalisation, armed conflicts and genocide ideology at national, regional and international levels.

On the issue of human trafficking, the committee said that it remains a global and regional security challenge and one of the most profitable illegal activities of organised criminal groups worldwide.

Ministries of Works and Transport in mainland, Isles agree to meet regularly

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Works and Transport in mainland and that of Zanzibar have agreed to meet every three months so as to discuss and find durable solutions for various challenges facing the sector.

In a joint meeting conducted in Unguja yesterday consisting of expert leaders of the ministry, the Permanent secretary of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication in Zanzibar, Hadija Hamisi Rajabu said a number of challenges facing the two and the sector at large will be addressed by joining forces.

She said that the leaders will be meeting regularly so as to discuss and come up with strong short-term and long-term strategies to address challenges facing the sector.

"Citizens have huge trust in us, what they want to see is quality services and we are the ones to plan and make this happen, so conducting joint meetings, will help us to come up with strate-

gies to address challenges, improve infrastructures and services," she said.

Hadija said that apart from the government having independent institutions on infrastructures, the emphasis placed on Union institutions will also be put on non-union institutions so as to increase efficiency and productivity.

Dr Ally Possi, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport said the meetings will stimulate hard work and speed in providing Tanzanians, both in mainland and Zanzibar with quality services.

Dr Possi said the meetings will be conducted by high-level technical experts, permanent secretaries and ministers and come up with resolutions to improve the sector.

The ministries experts met in Unguja for two days to discuss the best way to work together and cooperate well to facilitate the smooth implementation of various projects.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (2nd-R) presents a copy of a book entitled "Continuity with vision - the roadmap to success for President Samia Suluhu Hassan" to one of the Kilimanjaro Cables (Africab) directors, Mohammed Ezzi, shortly after launching it Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Observe ethics for public interest, accountant and auditors urged

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ACCOUNTANTS and auditors have been urged to adhere to professional ethics and prioritise public interests when executing their duties.

The call was made on Thursday by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) Chairperson Professor Sylvia Temu, during commemorations of international accounting day.

The event was organised by the Tanzania Association of Women Certified Accountants (TAWCA).

"We need to be patriotic and consider public interests in everything

we do, but we are not supposed to close our doors because the world is like a village and it changes every day. Let us be ready to take up huge international jobs," she said.

"We accountants and auditors have made a 50 years of history; we need to come up with strategies for the next 50 years to make this profession sustainable. We have to be flexible in adopting changes as the world changes every day," she said.

She said NBAA has started to show examples to do international accounts tenders and currently it has five years contract to coach Mozambique officials about good conduct in accounting. She

said similar pieces of training will be conducted for officials in Malawi.

She urged accountants and auditors to look for international accounting tenders because that is where they will get enough money; thus bringing respect to the profession.

Prof Temu urged accountants and auditors to fight to promote their profession by using Information Communication Technology (ICT) to afford the speed of the changing world.

"We are not supposed to allow the technology to be ahead of us; allowing this to happen will make other people who are not accountants take advantage and use technology to do things

unprofessionally," she added.

Prof Temu commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for appointing her as the first female chairperson of the board since it was introduced 50 years ago.

"I appreciate her trust in me and I promise to work hard to promote the profession and ensure that it is done professionally for the public interest," she said.

NBAA Director, Pius Maneno said they have been commemorating international accounting day every year.

He said since its establishment in 1972, NBAA has done a tremendous job and it has managed to increase the

number of accountants to 26,000 it managed to conduct auditing of 450 firms to check if they adhere to standards and laws.

"NBAA has increased the number of its examination candidates and for the examinations which were done in May and November have reached 7,000 students and we have managed to produce various accounting guidelines," he said.

He said because of accounting competencies in Tanzania, various countries came to learn best practices on accountancy adding that currently, NBAA has five years contract with Mozambique to teach their officials the best practice in accounts.

CPA Pius Maneno said with 50 years, NBAA has managed to own its building and has managed to construct a centre for accountants and auditors in Bunju, Dar es Salaam.

"We have discussed various issues concerning our profession but we have agreed to continue adhering to ethics and professional guidelines," he said.

He said Africa recognise that Tanzania is doing the best in accounting and also International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in its 2021 report mentioned Tanzania and Nigeria as the leading countries in international financial standards.



For lack of a better option, given the current critical shortage of potable tap water in parts of Dar es Salaam, residents of the city's Kigogo suburb wait for their turns to tap what little was trickling from a burst pipe near Kigogo Primary School yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Over 1,000 real estate stakeholders to participate in launching NHC's reviewed joint venture policy

By Getrude Mbagso

OVER 1000 real estate stakeholders from inside and outside the country are next week set to take part in the launch of the reviewed Joint Venture (JV) Policy of the National Housing Corporation (NHC).

The event which will be held on November 16 in Dar es Salaam is expected to be graced by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Addressing reporters yesterday, NHC Public Affairs and Information Manager Muungano Saguya said that the launching of the policy will open doors of investment in the housing sector by constructing modern and affordable residential and commercial buildings.

He said during the event, the corporation will market a number of available houses and plots to investors.

"The event was supposed to be conducted on November 14, but we have rescheduled it to November 16 so as to get more time to review and add more houses and plots which will be marketed to investors during the conference," he explained.

Saguya said the reviewed joint venture policy will stimulate massive transformation in the real estate sector by providing opportunities for private investors both local and foreign to invest their capital in the construction of modern houses and commercial buildings.

He said that the development comes after NHC announced its 11 priorities in July this year, which are going to be imple-

mented in the financial year 2022/23, including projects to be undertaken through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

According to him, the latest review of the joint venture policy was made in 2022 as the corporation remained strong-willed to attract investors.

"The major aim is to encourage the participation of the private sector in developing prime plots in various areas including city centres that have more valuable plots than the existing buildings, to increase the income of the corporation," he said.

He said the corporation is committed to redeveloping prime plots hosting condemned buildings in partnership with potential real estate investors.

Saguya said that since the start of this procedure in 1993, a total of 111 projects have been implemented countrywide worth 300bn/-.

He said out of those projects, a total of 81 worth 240bn/- have been completed, while 30 projects worth 60bn/- are expected to be completed soon.

He said that the projects have helped stimulate employment, improve the outlook of several cities, increase the corporation's income, increase the scope of government taxes, and increase areas for business and housing.

Saguya further added that the launching event will draw participants from various private and government institutions; associations and boards of professionals as well as private investors both local and foreign who have been invited.

Precision Air plane crash victims to get \$170m in compensation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

RELATIVES of the 19 people killed when a Tanzanian passenger plane crash-landed in Lake Victoria over the weekend are entitled to compensation of \$170 million.

Precision Air flight PW494 carrying 39 passengers (38 adults and a toddler) plus four crew members crashed into Lake Victoria close to the town of Bukoba early Sunday as it flew from the commercial city of Dar es Salaam.

Baghayo Saquare, Commissioner of In-

surance at the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), said the crashed airline had valid insurance.

"First of all, let me express my sincere sympathy to all the victims. Precision Air had a valid insurance cover insured by local and international brokers," Saquare said.

He added: "In short, the sum insured for Precision Air is more than \$50 million and the passengers' insurance claim is \$170 million." Saquare, who was speaking during a road safety seminar for members of parliament in Tanzania's

capital city Dodoma, said the money will be paid as soon as investigations are completed. "The victims of this plane crash accident will be paid as soon as possible because aircraft accidents are usually not controversial," he said.

The preliminary probe report will be issued in 14 days, according to the Tanzania Airports Authority. But the final investigation, which involves international experts, including the plane's manufacturers from France, is likely to take some time before it is released, local analysts said. The plane crash is Tanzania's first

deadly aviation accident in decades.

Khamis Suleiman, Chairman of the Association of Tanzania Insurers, said that in line with the principles of strict liability, the relatives of each person who dies in a plane crash are entitled to a payment of \$129,000

"Under the strict liability rules, as detailed in aviation conventions, one is required to be paid 100,000 SDRs (Special Drawing Rights), which is equivalent to \$129,000, if the country is a signatory to the Warsaw Convention and if the airline turns out not to be negligent," he told

The Citizen newspaper.

According to Suleiman, the amount could increase, considering that the victims would be free to go to court and demand compensation in line with the level of damages they may claim to have suffered in the process.

"You are talking of an incident where there were some young professionals who had just been employed. Their relatives would be free to request payment in line with their specified reason and damage as may be verified by a competent authority," he noted.

South African government workers strike over wages

JOHANNESBURG

THOUSANDS of public workers in South Africa downed tools on Thursday in a nationwide strike over wages after talks with the government hit a deadlock -- threatening to affect essential services.

The work stoppage was led by one of South Africa's largest labour unions, the Public Servants Association (PSA), which has more than 235,000 members.

The wage stalemate between the government and its employees escalated after Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi last week declared he would unilaterally implement a three percent increase across the board.

Unions want a 6.5 percent hike.

Union members including nurses, immigration workers and some police officers picketed outside the Treasury office

in Pretoria waving black placards reading "public servants are bleeding".

The PSA had warned on Wednesday that the strike would "have a serious impact" on the home affairs, transport and border control departments.

It said the minister's "irresponsible action has further damaged the already fragile relations and severe trust deficit" between the government and unions.

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana said during his October mini-budget speech that government could only afford an average wage increase of 3.3 percent.

The increase weighs below South Africa's inflation which peaked at 7.8 percent in July.

South Africa's economy recently took a blow when workers at the state rail and port firm launched a weeks-long strike which left mineral and fresh fruit exports stranded.



National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) chairperson Prof Sylvia Shayo (3rd-L) welcomes guests to an International Accounting Day ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It was organised by Tanzania Association of Women Certified Accountants. Right is NBAA executive director Pius Maneno. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Develop local content meaningful in people's daily lives, ICT experts told

By Guardian Reporter

INFORMATION, Communication and Technology (ICT) experts in East Africa have been called upon to develop locally relevant content, applications and services to make ICT meaningful in the daily lives and operations of people and organisations.

Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, said that to make ICT relevant in socio-economic development programmes in the region, experts should develop locally relevant content and applications for diverse sectors including education, healthcare, environment, agriculture, and products that are useful to local communities.

"This could also mean locally relevant applications such as software or computerised systems that present end-user solutions," said Nnauye.

In a speech read on his behalf by Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, during the opening of the 9th East Africa Internet Governance Forum at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, he singled out government information and services provided to citizens as a good example of local content that can be adapted for widespread distribution through the electronic environment as e-government services evolve.

"Locally relevant content can also be information about basic healthcare such as disease outbreaks, which can be effectively broadcast

by using different technologies such as radio, television or mobile telephony, particularly in rural areas of developing countries where in most cases there are limited medical facilities," he said.

"As individuals use ICTs for different communication purposes, ranging from communicating with family, business colleagues, or customers, this can be a significant aspect to further encourage new users of ICT," the minister added.

He observed that irrespective of the relevance of the content, application, or service, its availability in local languages was critical if ICT is to be relevant and useful to the communities and groups targeted by ICT projects and/or policies.

Nnauye said that ICT policies highlight a nation's ambitions in the

use of ICTs as a tool for better livelihoods, peace and security, good governance, and education as well as an economy with a competitive advantage in the global market.

"The potential of ICTs in economic development requires building an 'enterprise ecosystem' that offers 'end to end solutions for the poor,'" he added.

Speaking at the forum, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng Steven Mlote said that the EAC Secretariat was working with the Partner States to promote the establishment of communication infrastructure and services, as well as the standardisation of technologies and services in the region.

"The EAC has worked closely with the Partner States in the develop-

ment of National ICT policies, and efforts are ongoing towards the harmonisation of ICT policies, laws and regulations among the EAC Partner States. The region has also continued to promote ICT as a priority investment sector," said Eng Mlote.

Eng Mlote disclosed that the EAC Vision 2050 had set a target to attain 95 per cent penetration of Internet and mobile networks in the region, and 67 per cent of individuals in East Africa using the Internet by the year 2050.

"To reach these targets, the EAC has set out to build and implement ICT development programmes that are consistent with national, regional and international aspirations and commitments. The programmes will seek to attain universal access to communication infrastructure

and services; ensure availability of rich and diverse ICT content and applications; and build competence, confidence and security in the information society," said Eng. Mlote.

"With such aspirations, we shall therefore work towards reducing the cost and increasing the robustness of cross-border communications; narrowing the divide digital; and expanding digital connectivity across our region," added the Deputy Secretary General.

Eng Mlote urged the participants at the forum to critically look into the internet governance issues relevant to the region and put in place a coordinated approach to address issues concerning the information society and knowledge management in the region.



Sauda Ndeheli (seated, C, in all-black), a Pogoro traditional leader, shows journalists at Mang'ula B village in Kilombero District earlier this week various products made by members his tribal group who had just attended training on the making of items of interest to cultural tourism. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

WB announces new funding to lower emissions

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has announced a new multi-partner fund that will pool funding from the global community – including donor countries, the private sector and foundations for scalable pathways to greenhouse gas emission reduction.

The Scaling Climate Action by Lowering Emissions (SCALE) partnership will provide grants for verifiable emissions reductions and expand the funding sources for global public goods.

David Malpass, President of the WB Group said that climate finance needs major new mechanisms that pool funding from the global community to accomplish actual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across the developing world.

"SCALE offers a key non-fragmented avenue for the global community to take action on climate change. The verifiable emission reductions created by SCALE and similar mechanisms will also be an important step toward building effective carbon credit markets," he added.

SCALE will deploy results-based climate finance where countries receive grant payments for achieving pre-agreed, verifiable results, drawing on twenty years of World Bank experience in this area.

SCALE will support countries to build a track record of generating emission reductions from impactful programs and policies that they can apply toward their national emission reduction targets.

It will also yield excess credits that can be offered in carbon markets with the potential to unlock additional private sector funding.

SCALE will pool public and private resources to channel additional funding to middle and low-income countries' emission reduction programs, help bridge the gap between the supply of and demand for high-quality emission reduction credits by supporting large-scale climate investments and help countries develop high integrity credits and enhance their access to international carbon markets.

An associated fund within the SCALE umbrella—Enabling Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (ENABLE) will enhance the inclusion of marginalized communities and indigenous peoples in programs under the partnership through specially designed benefit sharing arrangements.

ASA directs dealers to sell sunflower seeds at set price

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has instructed seed dealers in all regions to market sunflower seeds at an indicative price of 5,000 per kilogramme and not otherwise.

ASA senior agricultural officer, Benjamin Mfupe said the agency has issued the warning following an inappropriate tendency by some seed dealers to market the certified sunflower seeds at unauthorized prices, of between 8000/- and 12,000/-, resulting in farmers' failure to purchase the seeds.

"We conducted a thorough research and established that most seed dealers, especially in the Singida Region, are selling the seeds at higher prices, compared to indica-

tive prices," he said.

The agency in partnership with the ministry of agriculture will take punitive measures against any seeds trader who will sell the crucial seeds at high prices, said Mfupe.

"The government, through ASA has paid for the seeds to assist the majority of farmers to get them. The move is part of government efforts to promote the cultivation of the edible oil-raw material crops," he added.

He said ASA will in this cropping season distribute the certified sunflower seeds to farmers in all sunflower growing regions with an eye to containing the shortage of edible oil.

ASA acting marketing officer, Edward Mbugi said in the forthcoming farming season, the agency is expected to distribute at

least 1,600 tonnes of improved sunflower seeds to farmers.

"The seeds will be available through our agents at different locations within the country and we are prepared to ensure agents are selling the seeds to the farmers at indicative prices," stated Mbugi.

ASA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge said in efforts to accelerate the availability of edible oil in the country, they have produced and distributed a total of 2088 tonnes of sunflower standard seed to the farmers in 23 regions.

The regions are Singida, Manyara, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Katavi, Morogoro, Simiyu, Mara, Shinyanga, Kilimanjaro and Rukwa.

Others, according to her, include Songwe, Iringa, Ruvuma, Tabora, Njombe, Mtwara,

Lindi, Mbeya, Coastal, Kigoma, Katavi, Tanga and Shinyanga.

"Total demand of sunflower seed in the country is around 5,252 MT while the availability of improved seeds is less than 400 MT, the gap is too huge, therefore, the agency under government directives managed to prepare a total of 2088 tons of Standards sunflower seeds to spur distribution among farmers and restrain the deficit," she said.

She added that "Under extremely serious challenge of seed availability, the minister is allowed under the seed Law to instruct for the properly selected and verified produce to carefully be prepared and utilised as standard seed to overcome the situation for only that particular season, this is what was done,"

Dr Kashenge stated that strong measures have been undertaken to make sure that the availability of improved seed is done for the next season.

The development is partly to comply with directives from the government to help increase the production of record variety in the country.

She appreciated efforts from the government towards capacitating the Agency to run its key activities as intended, especially on the side of sunflower seed production and distribution.

The country is currently producing only 290,000MT of edible oil, forcing it to annually import 420,000MT, and it is forecasted that demand would increase to 700,000MT by 2030.

District councils told to increase funding meant for special groups

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has called upon all district councils in the country to increase the ten per cent of domestic revenue that goes to women, youth and people with disabilities depending on collected revenues.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administrations and Local Government, Dr Festus Dugange made the appeal in the parliament yesterday, stating the amount set for the groups should increase as revenue increases.

He maintained that the funds are aimed at helping women, youth and people with disabilities to access loans for them to build their economic capabilities through agriculture and other development issues.

The deputy minister made the remarks in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Martha Mariki (CCM), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to increase loans to women in Katavi region.

"Does the government plan to increase loans to women entrepreneurs in Katavi region in an effort to uplift them economically?" she asked.

In response, the deputy minister explained that loans to women at district councils are provided through the district council empowerment plans.

He said the plan that cuts across all district councils in the country wants those authorities to set aside ten per cent of the domestic revenue for women, youth and people with disabilities.

"Women loan schemes fall under the empowerment plan and the increase of the funds depends on the increased revenues," said the minister, calling upon local government authorities to increase revenue collections.

Dr Dugange also noted that district councils in Katavi have been issuing empowerment loans to women, youth and people with disabilities from the ten per cent of accrued revenues as required by the law and policy.

According to the deputy minister, in 2021/22, district councils in Katavi region disbursed a total of 980mn/-, equivalent to 105 per cent of 124 groups with 850 beneficiaries.

At the same time, he added that the councils have planned to disburse 1.45bn/-, 471mn/- being increment in 2022/23.



Participants of a Gender and Development seminar organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme pictured in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday engaged in group discussions on strategies to combat gender-based violence. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Major initiative to electrify sub-Saharan Africa with use of renewable energy in pipeline

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank Group has announced an innovative initiative to accelerate the pace of electrification in Africa to achieve universal access by 2030.

The World Bank, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and other development agencies will promote private investment in distributed renewable energy (DRE) systems to electrify targeted areas quickly and efficiently.

The Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-Up Platform (DARES) calls for joint action by the government, private investors, and development agencies to solve Africa's immediate needs while de-

veloping DRE solutions that can be applied globally.

Riccardo Puliti, World Bank Vice President for Infrastructure said: "Now more than ever we need innovative solutions that close the energy access gap. Bringing together government and the private sector to support distributed renewable energy can help extend electrification to the most vulnerable while also advancing clean energy."

MIGA Executive Vice President, Hiroshi Matano said that MIGA is in a strong position to support private investment through new and innovative risk mitigation solutions that are fit for purpose for the unique risk faced by investors.

"We look forward to working with sub-Saharan African countries to create opportunities to combine public

and private investment approaches to electrify Africa in the near future," he added.

IFC Vice President of Cross-Cutting Solutions, Emmanuel Nyirinkindi said: "Investing in distributed renewable energy is one of the most efficient ways to tackle energy access challenges and to support economic activities in Africa while addressing greenhouse gas emissions."

He said mini-grid systems are one example of DRE and can efficiently deliver energy to cities and rural areas outside the limits of a national grid.

At current rates of electrification, over a half billion people in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) will still be without electricity in 2030 unless the current electrification pace is tripled.

Present projections indicate that

only eight SSA countries will achieve universal electricity access by 2030, and some will take over 100 years to fully electrify.

Lack of energy access greatly inhibits the green, resilient, and inclusive development of many countries in SSA. The expansion of access through DRE systems will answer an urgent need quickly and support climate resilience, food security, and human capital development goals.

DRE systems generally involve a solar photo-voltaic station paired with battery storage. In rural communities, the systems can serve a health-care facility or a group of customers such as households or businesses in a village, operating independently from the national power grid.

DRE systems can be easily installed, are reliable, and do not re-

quire the large investment needed to build a utility-scale power plant.

It is the fastest and most cost-effective mechanism to accelerate clean electricity access on the continent.

Over the last 10 years, 20 per cent of all new electric connections in SSA have been through DRE systems. While DRE is now attracting private-sector financing, this support is not at the scale that is needed.

The WB is well-positioned to take the lead in scaling the DRE sector in SSA, using a different approach from traditional infrastructure investments to incentivize private financing commitment.

The WB has an active portfolio of \$2.7 billion for DRE access, targeting the electrification of about 40 million people. IFC has initiated the scaling mini-grids programme and

is building on its Lighting Africa Engagement.

MIGA has \$83 million in DRE guarantees and a \$400 million pipeline. MIGA is developing "fit-for-purpose" instruments that address the unique risks faced by distributed energy investors and is actively engaging with partners to bring together complementary solutions for its DRE clients.

DARES responds to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for "affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all" by 2030. These core targets are at the platform's foundation to ensure universal access to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The impact of this initiative goes beyond electrifying Africa. Electricity is the foundational enabler to address other critical initiatives such as



Work has begun on what is meant to grow into a commuter bus stand at Mabibo Mwisho in Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Southern Africa's integrated water, energy and food projects gain ground

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTHERN Africa Development Community (SADC) Member States have embraced the integrated planning and implementation of projects in the water, energy and food (WEF) sectors and identified priority investment projects that could be taken for bankability and mobilising financing for implementation.

This came to light during a recent WEF Nexus Session on investment planning which was organised by the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA).

GWPSA's Programme Officer, Annah Ndeketea, highlighted WEF Nexus projects that are currently being undertaken in the region, including the development of a regional project which is meant to strengthen regional collaboration for integrated source to sea management to sustainably develop the region where three countries, namely Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa are currently applying for funding from the Global Environment Facility for its implementation.

With the technical support of SADC's Nexus regional dialogues programme, Lesotho and South Africa are developing funding concept notes for a Climate Resilience Project worth US\$20 million and US\$25 million respectively, to address land degradation and reduce the effects of climate change on agriculture. Both concept notes are going to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund.

"The progress that is being registered at both national and regional levels in the implementation of WEF Nexus projects is impressive. The goal is to leverage US\$50-60 million in investment to strengthen the application of the WEF

Nexus approach within the SADC Region," said Ndeketea.

Prof Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi from the International Water Management Institute and also a professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, commended the political will being demonstrated by the SADC Member States, indicating that it was encouraging that only two nations were yet to hold national dialogues.

He advised stakeholders to address the gaps that have been identified at the national level to ensure that the WEF Nexus approach is scaled up to implementation and not just a theoretical conversation.

"Lack of legally binding and practical coordination mechanisms results in an ineffective governance system that would not give autonomy and mandate to established structures to pursue the nexus agenda.

WEF is critical in overcoming governance issues in dealing with complex and interconnected resource management challenges. Domesticating the WEF at the national level is critical to ensure that water, food, energy security and ecosystem resilience are achieved in the region," said Prof Mabhaudhi.

Zvarimwa Mashiri from TetraTech, an organisation that is helping in the implementation of the project said: "WE4F is investing US\$65 million for three main focus areas, namely water, energy and food.

Among others, the project targets to fund 30 WE4F innovators and ultimately reach one million smallholder farmers, including 250,000 women."

"Climate, water, food, and health are all interlinked systems and there's a need for integrated approaches that manage trade-offs.

Over 340 traders in Manyara don't use EFDs, TRA reveal

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

MORE than 340 traders in Manyara Region are not using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs), according to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

TRA officer responsible for Taxpayers' Education in Manyara Region, Serapio Luanda said there are 3,052 traders who are using the machines in the issuance of re-

ceipts to their customers.

Speaking during an inspection exercise yesterday, Luanda said there are some unfaithful traders who do not issue electronic receipts to customers, hence affecting revenue collections.

"We have visited a number of traders; those who are not using EFD machines have been urged to purchase the machines and use them in accordance with the laws,"

he said, adding a total of 347 traders are not using the electronic machines although they qualify to use them.

He said the authority has now embarked on a special programme to provide education to traders on the importance of using electronic devices.

Babati District Commissioner, Lazaro Twange called upon traders to make sure they use the machines as stated in the laws.

"TRA introduced the EFD machines in 2010; those eligible to use them include traders with annual sales of 11m/- and above. Eligible traders who are not using electronic devices will be penalized to pay a fine of between 3m/- and 4.5m/-.

Twange said they are also going to penalize customers who will not demand receipts after purchasing goods. He said the fine ranges between 30,000/- and 1.5m/- or

imprisonment.

An Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) is a machine designed for use in business for efficient management controls in areas of sales analysis and stock control system and which conforms to the requirements specified by the laws.

According to the TRA, the EFDs were one of the major causes of the rise in revenue collections.

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2022

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

One wishes having MDGs, SDGs made visible difference to world's children...

SOMETIME in January 2009, then Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda opened a seminar in Dar es Salaam by elaborating on what he saw as a close link between conflicts within families and the noticeable rise in the number of so-called street children in Tanzania.

He dwelt at some length on the main factors behind the fact that the country had close to half a million such children, saying irresponsible parents and guardians were the most notorious villains.

In that the PM appealed to society to take better care of children, particularly those living in difficult conditions, his remarks had a direct bearing on what were commonly referred to as the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These, which preceded the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were widely believed to be the most broadly supported, comprehensive and specific poverty reduction targets the world had ever established.

It is to be recalled that in September 2000 the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration. Under the protocol, the leaders committed their nations to a new global partnership to reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

The plan involved achieving a line-up of goals (MDGs), which each country promised to take action to help developing countries reach.

Specifically, the goals included eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, attaining universal pri-

mary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, and reducing child mortality. The others were improving maternal health, combating HIV and Aids, malaria and other diseases, and working for environmental sustainability.

While specific targets were set for each goal, many of these targets went well behind schedule, meaning that for many vulnerable groups particularly in poor countries life promised to remain full of trials and tribulations well into the future.

The 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit, officially came into force on January 1, 2016.

They were meant as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by addressing global challenges such as were related to poverty (including ensuring zero hunger), income and gender inequality, climate change and environmental degradation.

Among the specifics: aim for good health; quality education; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; sustainable cities; decent work and economic growth; peace, justice and accountability; and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

Time has surely long come for humankind to extend more support to initiatives aimed at cutting child malnutrition to the barest minimum, controlling the main childhood diseases, serving all communities with clean water, providing quality basic education for all children, and making responsible family planning available to all couples.

Private sector 'joy' at business environment good for reforms

THE private sector in the country has often faced the highest authorities in the government with sets of demands each time they had a chance of meeting.

Now, however, it is showing evidence that it is much more seriously feeling that it is part of what is taking place - and the counters should be more cordial and productive.

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has now earmarked a day to celebrate policy changes that are seen to have improved the business environment in the past two years. It is new, and evidently welcome, development. The organisers of that event, which is scheduled for the first week of next month and is set to involve various stakeholders and partners, say the day will be for celebrating achievements in the private sector as a multi-sector event. They say the purpose is to assess the accomplishments of the sector as registered in the last two years.

They say the sector proudly associates itself with increasingly conducive and supportive business and investment environment witnessed during the period. That also underlines the wish to broaden reforms in other sectors. It is noted that some of the things that could not be said in the past are now surfacing, among them that headway made during the two years in trading with Kenya, registering a 95 per cent increase.

Previously, sources suggest, not many administrators would see this as likely to contribute to our own country's economic growth, only as a negative move out to strangle our own "much less competitive" industries.

There are other somewhat unfamiliar areas like the removal of force accounts and thus more tenders being available for local construction firms.

While this celebration of achievements is pleasing for policy makers, though, it is rather evident that there is little civic or academic pressure for business-friendly reforms as we seek solutions in creating empowered public sector agencies.

We have usually tended to distinguish between local and foreign rather than competitive and non-competitive in what we do. It is good that this matrix is changing, and it is fair to say that the spirit comes from clarity of vision and the lessons policy makers are learning. The private sector's ability to contribute to policy refinement is limited, though. For instance, TPSF says the provision of agro-sector fertiliser subsidy has facilitated bumper harvests.

However, there policy measures that would quickly improve acreage? Does policy reform with respect to agro-based investments sufficiently attract investors from whatever location?

The same is seen in economic diplomacy, particularly the taking up of investment opportunities by locals.

How sharply distinct are foreign investors from local ones? Can they form partnerships and the foreign investor be treated equally? Policy could be crystal-clear, without any problem whatsoever, but how the powers of regulatory agencies are used could prove counter-productive.

All the same, all things considered, the private sector's planned celebrations are a step in the right direction.

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Interview

'Online journalism can be done professionally'

Toronto-based Nigerian investigative journalist Patrick Egwu recently caught up with long-serving Nigerian journalist Simon Kolawole (pictured) for an interview on the latter's new book, the online newspaper he has founded and the news ecosystem in his home country. Kolawole is also the founder and CEO of TheCable, one of the leading news sites in Nigeria. TheCable's revenue model is based on advertising, grant support and sponsored corporate events and it has 35 full-time journalists on its payroll. He previously was the editor of THISDAY, a newspaper where he still serves as a columnist. He recently published Fellow Nigerians, It's all Politics, a collection of essays about his home country focusing on leadership, democracy and national integration. In this interview, he speaks about the changing media industry in Nigeria, the role of donor organisations, and challenges such as press freedom, sustainability and business models. Excerpts:

Q: How, would you say, the Nigerian news industry has evolved over the years?

A: Mobile devices have taken over the world. Every profession has had to adapt to this disruption and legacy newspapers need to adapt too. Mobile phones, tablets and desktop computers have become the primary means of accessing news. Printed newspapers are not selling as they used to and the costs of production are getting out of hand.

Radio and TV are not that affected: they are easily available on mobile devices and they also provide the added value of news on the go. It is the newspapers that are badly hit, but they are also ramping up their online presence to move with the times.

Nevertheless, I still don't believe newspapers will disappear. Some people still want to hold a newspaper while having a cup of coffee. In Nigeria, newspapers are still regarded by many as the mainstream media. They won't die entirely like vinyl records and cassettes.

Tell us about your journey into journalism and the role you have played in the modern era media evolution in Nigeria.

My grandmother, who brought me up, thought I should be a lawyer because I was always arguing and asking questions, but I had fallen in love with journalism at the age of 11.

When I first applied for university admission, Dele Giwa, the editor-in-chief of Newswatch magazine, had



just been killed via a parcel bomb. Rather than discouraging me, the incident further fuelled my interest. I felt if they could go to the extent of killing a journalist, there must be something powerful about the profession.

Don't blame me: I was just a teenage secondary school student. I didn't make the cut-off mark for the admission then. But I still stuck to journalism. Since graduating in 1992, I have covered sport, entertainment, business and politics.

Years before I left my position as editor of THISDAY in 2012, I had registered Cable Newspaper Ltd and the plan was to do a daily newspaper. I chose the name "Cable" after Wikileaks published the US diplomatic cables in 2010. I liked the sound of the name. It was fresh and not yet used as the name of any newspaper.

After I left THISDAY, though, all the research I did about newspapers scared me. The financials were not encouraging. That was what opened my eyes to online journalism. At the time, news sites were not really professionally done, except for the ones run by the mainstream newspapers, which were not frequently updated. They were merely online versions of the printed paper. I felt we could do better.

Only one or two independent news sites did proper journalism back then. Others were mostly copying and pasting from the sites of established newspapers. Some were just aggregating. They did not produce original reporting and the quality of their writing was not the best. I said I could lead a team that would bring more respect to online journalism. That was how TheCable online was launched in April 2014.

I was encouraged by the fact that it was going to be low on cost and faster on news delivery. We deliberately describe ourselves as an "online newspaper" so people know we are actually a proper newspaper without the newsprint. The reception was great. We did not only report news with speed and simplicity. We also did big interviews, broke big stories, got a few

scoops, wrote interesting features and were generally creative and ethical. Many people started seeing that online journalism could be done with professionalism. I believe this has encouraged many professionals to come on board.

Why did you launch TheCable and which role do you think it's had in training a new generation of journalists across the country?

There was the motivation to do things differently, to show that online journalism can be done decently and professionally, without blackmail or extortion. The other benefits came accidentally.

I discovered that many experienced newspaper journalists didn't want to work online because they thought the influence they had would wane and the other benefits that come with working for the traditional newspapers would disappear. We started recruiting young journalists, some of them straight from the university. We were able to help them off to a sound footing in their careers. They were teachable and dynamic. They also understood the digital ecosystem better.

Today, many of those journalists have gone on to win national and international awards and quite a number are now working for international organisations. To be honest, it was not part of the original plan. We now have a graduate internship programme. It is very competitive. Applicants write tests and attend oral interviews. We train them for six months, during which we place them under senior journalists for mentorship, and we employ the best among them. The graduate trainee scheme is funded by the MacArthur Foundation through the Cable Foundation, which is a different legal entity from our main company.

There are many challenges facing the media industry in Nigeria: press freedom, sustainability, new business models, training and welfare. What is the impact of these challenges on the media industry?

The media business in Nigeria is not very lucrative. Many media houses are struggling to survive. Gone are the days when a newspaper would sell 500,000 copies per day. The industry now relies almost entirely on advertising revenue. And when the big companies have financial challenges, advertising spending is one of the first items that suffer cuts.

It is inevitable that the economic crunch would affect everything about the media: welfare, capacity building, independence and the like. Press freedom is affected in many

ways. There's state censorship and self-censorship. Increasingly, government agencies and powerful individuals are intimidating the media with claims of criminal libel and cyber terrorism.

Individuals also use senior lawyers to intimidate journalists, knowing well that it is very expensive to get good lawyers who can defend the media. Commercial concerns also mean that some journalists self-censor to avoid losing advertising patronage. Nevertheless, the press is still pushing on in the midst of these challenges.

You recently authored a debut book where you discuss leadership, democracy, national integration and the economy. How important are these issues in Nigeria, especially ahead of next year's election?

It is a collection of fresh articles as well as selected write-ups over nearly two decades. The issues we discuss in Nigeria are almost always the same all the time. My intention is to nudge Nigerian voters to question the candidates more. When they campaign, I want them to say, 'Haven't we heard this before?' I also want to prick the conscience of our leaders. I want them to ask themselves, 'Have we really given our best for the progress of Nigeria?' I generally argue that our leaders devote more energy and resources to politicking than governance.

What are your plans for the future at TheCable?

We had a growth plan from the beginning. The first stage was to establish TheCable as a news leader. We also wanted to build TheCable into a knowledge brand that will operate similar business models as the ones run by The Economist and the Financial Times. We have made good progress in news writing and reporting. We are aware that there is a massive room for improvement. But we are certainly better today than when we started out in 2014.

Along the line, we accidentally became a mentoring and training institution. We would like to take this further. Building TheCable into a knowledge company is the next item on the agenda. This means leveraging knowledge to design products and services that will be highly marketable.

Patrick Egwu is currently a William Southam Journalism Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto.

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzania registers improvement in world rule of law ranking 2022

The Law and You



TANZANIA has improved in the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2022 by moving up two positions, compared to last year's ranking. In this year's overall ranking, Tanzania is 98th out of the 140 countries and territories surveyed worldwide.

Last year, it ranked 100th of the 139 surveyed countries and territories by moving up one position, compared to 2020's ranking, when it ranked 93rd out of the 128 countries and territories surveyed.

In sub-Saharan Africa, it ranks 12th out of the 34 countries surveyed and in the East African Community (EAC) bloc, Tanzania ranks second after Rwanda which ranks 1st. Tanzania is followed by Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). South Sudan is not included in this ranking.

Among the lower-middle-income economies, Tanzania ranks 17th out of the 38 economies surveyed. In last year's ranking, among the lower-middle-income economies, Tanzania ranked 17th out of the 35 economies surveyed and in the EAC bloc, it ranked 1st.

For this year, in the eight factors that reflect the concept of the rule of law each country is ranked on, Tanzania's performance is as follows:

Factor 1: Constraints on Government Powers - regional rank: 12/34, income rank 10/38 and global rank: 77/140; Factor 2: Absence of Corruption - regional rank: 13/34, income rank: 13/38 and global rank: 91/140; Factor 3: Open Government - regional rank: 21/34, income rank: 25/38 and global rank: 115/140; Factor 4: Fundamental Rights - regional rank: 22/34, income rank: 21/38 and global rank: 112/140; Factor 5: Order and Security - regional rank: 12/34, income rank: 16/38 and global rank: 88/140; Factor 6: Regulatory Enforcement - regional rank: 18/34, income rank: 20/38 and global rank: 105/140; Factor 7: Civil Justice - regional rank: 12/34, income rank: 13/38 and global rank: 89/140; and Factor 8: Criminal Justice - regional rank: 15/34, income rank: 17/38 and global rank: 91/140.

Sub-factors of Factor 1 measure whether government powers are effectively limited by the legislature, whether they are effectively limited by the judiciary, whether they are effectively limited by independent auditing and review, whether government officials are sanctioned for misconduct, whether government powers are subject to non-governmental checks and

whether the transition of power is subject to the law.

Sub-factors of Factor 3 measure whether laws and government data are publicised, whether citizens enjoy the right to information, whether there is civic participation and whether there are complaint mechanisms.

"WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 scores for these factors reflect the perspectives and experiences of more than 154,000 everyday people and 3,600 legal practitioners and other experts in 140 countries and jurisdictions, and

they are backed by a rigorous process of validation and analysis," according to WJP Chief Research Officer, Dr Alejandro Ponce.

The WJP defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms and community commitment that delivers on the following four universal principles: (1) Accountability (public and private actors are accountable under the law); (2) Just law (the law is clear, publicised and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human rights as well as property, contract, and proce-

dural rights).

Other principles are (3) Open government (processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated and enforced are accessible, fair and efficient); and (4) Accessible and impartial justice (justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve). It is these four universal principles that are further developed to get the eight factors highlighted above.

The rankings are a reflection of how each country and territory is perceived in relation to the universal principles and factors of the rule of law. They help each country to evaluate itself to see in which areas it has performed well and in which areas it still needs improvement to make the rule of law a reality.

Putting it in the Tanzanian context in 2005, Justice James Mwalusanya wrote this about the rule of law: "I believe the rule of law means more than acting in accordance with the law. The rule of law must also mean fairness in the government. The rule of law should extend to the examination of the contents of the laws to see whether it conforms to the ideal and that the law does not give the government too much power...the rule of law requires that the government should be subject to the law rather than the

law to succumb to the government."

So, the rule of law is not just that laws are enacted by Parliament and must be followed, but that those laws are just in themselves and correspond better to the concept of justice. Justice Mwalusanya puts it better when he says: "Therefore, if by the rule of law all it means is that the government will operate in accordance with the law, then the doctrine of the rule of law becomes a betrayal of the individual if the laws themselves are not fair, but oppressive and degrading."

The WJP suggests that the effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease and protects people from injustices large and small. "It is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity and peace—underpinning development, accountable government and respect for fundamental rights."

It suffices to say that adherence to the rule of law requires every act of governmental power - that is "every act which affects the legal rights, duties or liberties of any person, must be shown to have a strictly legal pedigree... [and the] government should be conducted within a framework of recognised rules and principles which restrict discretionary power" (Wade and Forsyth, 2000, p. 20).

Today's proverb: "God never shuts one door, but he opens another."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Tunisia's decades-old second-hand clothing market faces life-or-death crisis

TUNIS

IN Tunisia, purchasing second-hand goods is a local habit that sprouted after the Second World War, which has helped generate more than 200,000 jobs in its second-hand clothing market.

However, the decades-old business is facing a long-term crisis of less or even no supply, which, as insiders warned, could lead to the demise of the business in the North African country.

ADDICTION TO SECOND-HAND GOODS

In a downtown thrift market in El Hafsia District of the capital Tunis, piles of used backpacks, handbags, trousers, shirts and shoes are displayed by vendors for crowds of customers to choose from.

Noura Ben Amor, a frequenter, told Xinhua that she is "addicted" to treasure-hunting second-hand clothing here, even on workdays.

"I only have a one-hour break. Nevertheless, almost every day I take the opportunity to come here," the 28-year-old accountant said, picking over a stack of dresses for one with the least blemish.

According to Sahbi Maaloui, president of the National Chamber of Second-hand Wholesalers in Tunisia, 94 percent of people in the country are customers of second-hand shops.

"Anybody can buy high-quality goods at very low prices. That's why the second-hand shop is so popular in Tunisia," the customer Ben Amor said, adding consumers could make a good purchase both on brands and quality.

Quite a few used clothes of some of the biggest international sportswear brands are sold here for 25 to 45 Tunisian dinars (7.72 to 13.89 U.S. dollars), she noted.

Slim Mnaouar, a thrift shop owner who has been in the business for 20 years, said Tunisia's second-hand clothes come mainly from France, Italy and Germany, with a few others from Canada and the United States.

LOSING EDGE OF LOW PRICE

"More than 8,000 containers of used clothing arrived in Tunisia annually, making it a nexus of this booming second-hand market worldwide," Mnaouar told Xinhua.

People, rich or poor, flock to his shop every Sunday to handpick from freshly unpacked new batches of clothes, he said.

Buying second-hand goods have become so universal in Tunisia throughout the past decades that lo-



People walk around a second-hand market in the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia, Nov. 8, 2022. Xinhua

cals even refer to them as "Tunisians' purchasing power barometer."

"The economic crisis and the increasingly significant decline in the purchasing power of Tunisians make the second-hand shop even more popular," Mnaouar noted.

Tunisia's economic growth has hit one hurdle after another since 2011, the latest of which was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, even the prices of

second-hand goods rise sharply in Tunisia given weak imports and surging inflation when the U.S. dollar and global commodity prices remain strong.

In October, the country's inflation rose for 13 consecutive months to 9.2 percent, hitting a three-decade high.

According to Mnaouar, the price of one bale of second-hand clothes can reach 1,000 dinars these days, almost double the price 10 years ago.

VANISHING "FRIPE"

More than 70 years of French colonial rule left deep marks in nearly every aspect of Tunisian life, including the language. Thrift shops here are known as "fripe" shops, or just "fripe," a French word meaning old clothes.

However, the second-hand business in Tunisia, which was established even before the national independence in 1956, is declining amid a supply crisis.

This is because consumers in the West, also affected by rising inflation and economic downturn, increasingly opt for cheap used clothing, said Tunisian business insiders.

Maaloui told the private radio station Shems FM that European countries are encouraging this shift

during the economic hardship, especially after the pandemic.

Another reason for Tunisia's reduced second-hand inflows is that other emerging markets, such as Egypt, Türkiye and some Eastern European countries, are more competitive in absorbing the supplies.

"For the first time since 1944, when the business emerged in Tunisia, we lack merchandise. In 2021, the quantity of imported second-hand goods dropped by over 50 percent," Maaloui told Nawaat, another local media.

What is currently sold in Tunisia are stockpiles, he noted, warning that if the situation continues, the country's second-hand clothing market could disappear by 2025.

BY JOHN SUDWORTH

US ELECTIONS:

John Fetterman's victory in Pennsylvania boosts Democrats

FOR TV personalities-turned-politicians, Pennsylvania delivered a stinging rebuke in this election. Not only for Mehmet Oz, the celebrity doctor who came to fame on The Oprah Winfrey Show, but for Donald Trump too, the - well, you know the back story.

Mr Trump lent Dr Oz his endorsement in April, saying that his chosen candidate for the crucial Senate race would help "stop the Radical Left maniacs from destroying our country".

Instead, he's gone down to a convincing defeat at the hands of his Democratic opponent John Fetterman, who successfully courted blue-collar Pennsylvanians with a traditionally left-wing raft of policies, including a promise to tackle corporate greed.

And - in a further twist that could be right out of a Hollywood script - the slick TV physician came up short against a candidate who's been struggling to overcome the debilitating effects of a stroke on the campaign trail.

Dr Oz's political demise arguably leaves Mr Trump's role as Republican kingmaker on life-support, and the ex-president's chance of a third tilt at the White House in 2024 now the subject of serious probing.

Even his staunchest of allies are advising that he puts on pause a widely anticipated announcement, earlier teased to come next week.

No wonder Pennsylvania is being so roundly cheered by Democrats.

It is the highlight of an election that looks to have been about rejecting the Trumpian alternative at least as much as any condemnation of President Joe Biden's handling of the economy.

Livid Trump, triumphant Fetterman

And it is with no small degree of relish that insiders are sharing tweets - unconfirmed - suggesting that the former president is furious, with one claiming he has even begun blaming his wife Melania for the choice of Dr Oz.

Trump warns DeSantis against presidential bid

How bad was Donald Trump's night?

Mr Biden took Pennsylvania in the 2020 presidential vote by a narrow margin after appealing to white working-class voters and winning them back from Mr Trump.

The hoodie-wearing, tattooed Mr Fetterman - once mayor of the former steel-town Braddock, and director



John Fetterman has overcome medical and political adversity to get elected

of its youth programme - has used those credentials to do the same.

But the health setback introduced a huge note of uncertainty on the campaign trail, particularly after he was seen to be struggling to articulate fluently in last month's TV debate.

How much would his stroke weigh on the minds of voters and raise questions about his fitness to govern?

When we caught up with Mr Fetterman before polls opened, his minders were working hard to keep reporters at bay as he posed for photos outside a United Steelworkers Union chapter in Coatesville, a suburb of Philadelphia.

"Are you feeling confident?" I shouted out over their heads, but there was no reply.

However, as votes were counted into the early hours of the morning, it was clear he had overcome the doubters, and the personal and the political came together in an emotional victory speech.

"I'm proud of what we ran on," he told supporters.

"Protecting a woman's right to choose, raising our minimum wage, fighting for the union way of life, health-care as a fundamental human right. It saved my life and it should be there for you if you all ever need it."

Did abortion help win it for Fetterman?

Pennsylvania also brought another key election issue into sharp focus - the central role that abortion is playing across the US political landscape.

Mr Fetterman referenced it in his victory speech, and it was something female voters we spoke to outside the

polling stations mentioned, too.

One young woman told us it was the only issue she was voting on - turning out for Mr Fetterman for his pro-choice stance.

Another woman - an anti-abortion Republican mother - said she could no longer speak about politics to her voting-age daughter because they were so firmly in opposite camps.

In his televised debate, Dr Oz's weakest moment was seen by many to come when he said that abortion was an issue for "women, doctors [and] local political leaders" to decide. His strong anti-abortion stance was already known, but that formulation - seeming to conjure the image of lawmakers in the room alongside women and doctors - was considered a major blunder.

Democrats may be buoyed by the midterm results, but they would be wrong to be complacent.

Mr Trump still holds significant sway with a large swathe of the Republican base and still has a major financial war-chest at his disposal.

And even if he is now politically weakened, he may have to face bigger threats out there.

The triumph of Ron DeSantis in Florida - re-elected governor with a massively increased majority - is a victory for a culture warrior promising to make Florida a place where "woke comes to die".

The result is seen as raising his chances of winning the Republican 2024 nomination for the presidency.

Some argue he may be a far more formidable rival for Democrats than Mr Trump - but harbouring the same anti-democratic instincts.

The former president is certainly treating Mr DeSantis as a threat, warning this week that he would reveal things about the governor that "won't be very flattering" if he does launch a presidential bid of his own.

For now, though, Republicans appear to have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory as their predicted "red wave" is turning into little more than a ripple.

And perhaps more than anywhere else, it is the victory in Pennsylvania of a man who - just a few months ago suffered a stroke that nearly killed him - that has kept Democrat hopes alive.

BBC

Culture of oracle bone inscription well inherited, developed in ancient city in central China

By Zheng Na, Zhang Junjun

ORACLE bone inscription, an ancient form of Chinese writing that was engraved on animal bones and turtle plastron for divination during the late Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 B.C.), is the source of Chinese characters and the root of the fine traditional Chinese culture. It was included on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register five years ago.

Three thousand years later, an ancient city in central China's Henan province inherits and develops the inscription in brand new ways to protect and revitalize the ancient form of Chinese writing.

Anyang city is where the World Heritage Site Yinxu, or the Yin Ruins, locates. It is the ruins of the late Shang Dynasty capital and a major excavation site of oracle bone inscription.

Oracle bone inscriptions can be seen everywhere in Anyang, which is known as the "capital of Chinese characters," such as the grand Shang-style buildings, oracle bone inscription ornaments on the outer walls, the public service advertisements of the ancient inscriptions and the ubiquitous street signs contrasting oracle bone inscriptions with simplified Chinese characters.

Anyang has never stopped its efforts to safeguard the root of the Chinese civilization and carry forward the fine traditional Chinese culture.

An "oracle bone script classroom" held by the National Museum of Chinese Writing in Anyang has hosted over 1,500 activities on the culture of Chinese characters. These activities were joined by more than 45,000 families and 80 state-level experts in characters, history and other cultural disciplines.

Anyang has built 17 schools with education on oracle bone inscriptions at provincial level and 37 at municipal level. Besides, the city has set up a number of oracle bone inscription-themed book houses in communities, parks, factories, schools and villages.

As oracle bone inscriptions become a part of everyday life in Anyang, more and more people in the city are getting to know the ancient form of Chinese characters and attracted to it.

Anyang has paved a unique path to the protection and utilization of cultural relics by bringing relevant cultural industries closer to the people. Over recent years, the city has vigorously promoted the integrated development of the cultural and tourism sectors to expand the influence of Chinese civilization.

For instance, an archaeology-themed tourist site is well underway in the city, making progress towards a world-class archaeological



Students learn Chinese calligraphy featuring oracle bone inscriptions in a primary school in Anyang, central China's Henan province, April 18, 2022. (People's Daily Online/Ma Xiaoran)

cal cultural experience area.

The expansion project of the National Museum of Chinese Writing is also about to be completed with another four themed exhibition areas. A Chinese character-themed park will also open to the public soon, providing six areas displaying the origin and development of Chinese characters.

A museum for the World Heritage Site Yinxu is expected to be put into use the next year. It will serve as an international platform for studying and display-

ing oracle bone inscriptions and the Shang culture. Besides, a national archaeological park has begun construction in the city.

Anyang is also using digital technologies to build new scenarios for the display of oracle bone inscriptions. The managing company of Yinxu and other relevant departments jointly developed three non-fungible tokens, with each being issued 10,000 copies. "All of them were sold out in five seconds," said Shen Weiwei, general manager of the company.

A number of oracle bone inscription-themed cultural products became hot sellers, including memes, blind boxes and ice cream, thanks to cultural activities launched in the city. Besides, dramas and movies related to the ancient form of Chinese characters are also on the rise.

"We aim to make alive oracle bone inscriptions and bronze ware collected at museums by promoting integrated development of culture and tourism sectors," said Xue Wenming, head of Anyang's culture, broadcasting, sports and tourism bureau.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists time slots and program names like MORNING JAM, LETE RAHA, DW-RADIO, CLUB 101, DALA DALA, HABARI, BOZOUK TIME, HALI HALISI, SPORTS, MUKIZI, MCHAGANGANYIKO, etc.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Zanzibar can record fast growth by diversifying tourism - WB report

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR can increase its economic growth and cut poverty significantly if it diversifies its tourism sector by investing in projects that can improve living standards in rural areas.

A new report released yesterday shows that despite substantial improvements in living conditions and a drop in poverty between 2009 and 2019, poverty reduction in Zanzibar has been slow relative to its economic growth.

The World Bank Group report, *Towards a More Inclusive Zanzibar Economy: Zanzibar Poverty Assessment 2022* released yesterday shows while Zanzibar's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita grew at 2.9 per cent per year during 2009 to 2019, consumption per adult equivalent grew by only 1.7 per cent per year over the same period. The 'growth elasticity of poverty', which reflects the extent to which economic growth leads to poverty reduction, was low, although similar to the average of sub-Saharan Africa and somewhat higher than mainland Tanzania.

Despite the relatively high GDP growth, the creation of wage jobs between 2014 and 2019 was limited and unemployment went up from 17 to 19 per cent, while inactivity increased, according to the labour force surveys conducted in those years.

Also, despite poverty declining by nine percentage points between 2009 and 2019, falling from 34.9 to 25.6 per cent, the high population growth has resulted in the number of poor people remaining high in

Zanzibar. With a population growth above three per cent per year, according to the preliminary results of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, Zanzibar has one of the highest population growth rates in the world and the number of poor people in Zanzibar barely changed between 2009 and 2019.

Moreover, the difference in the poverty rate between urban and rural areas increased, driven by large welfare gaps between Zanzibar's main islands of Pemba and Unguja. The report calls for urgently taking advantage of opportunities for more inclusive growth through higher local content tourism, diversification of tourism products, and leveraging the 'blue economy' for improving household incomes more broadly.

The Poverty Assessment launched yesterday shows fast improvement in various non-monetary poverty indicators (living conditions). Between 2009 and 2019, gross enrollment in secondary education (forms 5 and 6), for example, increased from 51 to 66 per cent. The proportion of households with access to the electricity grid network grew from 38 to 57 per cent, with another six per cent having access to solar power.

"This shows that the significant increase in investments in basic social services in all districts in Zanzibar as part of the implementation of its Development Vision 2050 has led to important gains in human capital," said Preeti Arora, Acting World Bank Country Director. "However, as only half of economic growth per head translated into improved welfare, there are important op-



portunities for making Zanzibar's GDP growth result into better welfare for its population."

Tourism contributes an estimated 27 per cent to Zanzibar's GDP, around 80 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings, and an estimated 60,000 jobs. With the COV-

ID-19 crisis, GDP growth in Zanzibar slowed to an estimated 1.3 per cent in 2020, driven by a decline in tourism activity. GDP per capita fell by 1.6 per cent. Most severely hit was the accommodation and food services sub-sector which decreased by 13 per cent. Urban poverty may

have increased by almost 2 percentage points in 2020, according to simulations.

The authors of the report recommend a series of policy measures to accelerate poverty reduction including making tourism more inclusive by promoting the establishment of locally owned

small accommodation establishments, diversifying to small-group rural destinations and activities including historical and cultural tourism and marine tourism, and promoting investment in Pemba.

"There is also scope to further strengthen back-

World Bank Group appoints new country director for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

WASHINGTON DC

THE World Bank Group has appointed Nathan Belete as the new Country Director for Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Belete is an Ethiopian national and a development professional with over 25 years of work experience across Africa, East Asia, and South Asia. He was previously the World Bank's Country

Director for Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal, based in Dakar.

Belete will be based in Dar es Salaam from where he will oversee a portfolio of about

\$12.5 billion in total commitments for the four countries. This support covers priority areas of human capital, agriculture, infrastructure, private sector development, climate, and gender, among

others.

Prior to Mr Belete's country director assignments, he managed the World Bank's Food and Agriculture Global Practice in the East Asia and Pacific Region, based in Viet-

nam, from 2014 to 2019. Prior to that, he was the Sector Manager for the World Bank's Sustainable Development Department in Indonesia. His career at the World Bank has included assignments in the

World Bank's country offices in Nairobi, New Delhi, and Beijing with responsibilities for investments and technical assistance activities in agriculture and rural development, among others.

US \$31 billion of investment interests mobilised at Africa investment forum

ABIDJAN

AFRICA'S largest transactional investment marketplace managed to mobilise over US\$31 billion of investment interests in projects.

The mobilisation was conducted last week (2 to 4 November) during the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) 2022 convened in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

President of the African Development Bank Group Akinwumi Adesina said, "I was impressed to see heads of state and ministers acting as CEOs of their countries to attract investments."

Adesina (pictured) stressed that what makes AIF different, is that it is about excellent projects.

Despite the geopolitical developments around the world, AIF managed to mobilize \$63 billion of investment interest this year alone in this edition and the previous one which was in March, he continued.

"Next year we will work on Agri-industrial zones across Africa. Our lower bar is that Africa feeds itself, the high bar is that Africa feeds the world."

He revealed that AfDB will launch a US\$20 billion programme to create the largest solar zone in the world, across 11 countries providing electricity for 250 million people.

"To do so we need to manufacture poly-silicon here on the continent, which is used to build solar panels and we will support that."

The bank will also work to develop value chains for lithium batteries which are used in electric vehicles.

The Africa Investment Forum 2022 is Africa's largest transactional investment marketplace, bringing together deal sponsors, deal brokers, and dealmakers from around the world.

This year's edition witnessed the participation of several African heads of state, namely presidents of Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia. Also, vice presidents of Liberia, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire attended the forum.

The leaders vowed to continue working to strengthen the economic resilience of their countries against external shocks.

Since its inception in 2018, the Africa Investment Forum plat-



form has mobilized investment interests of over US\$100 billion, which now

will hit the US \$131 billion mark. AIF is an initiative of the African Development

Bank; Africa 50; the Africa Finance Corporation; the African Export-Import

Bank; the Development Bank of Southern Africa; the Trade and Develop-

ment Bank; the European Investment Bank; and the Islamic Development Bank.

Climate crisis will have huge impact on Africa's economies, study says

EGYPT

AFRICAN countries, which are the least responsible for the global climate crisis, face seeing their GDP growth rate fall by up to 64 percent by the end of the century, according to research - even if the world succeeds in limiting global heating to 1.5C.

As world leaders hustle over climate action at the UN summit in Egypt, a study commissioned by Christian Aid has found that burning fossil fuels at the current rate will have a huge impact on the finances of African countries.

The average hit to GDP

per capita could be as much as 34 percent, finds the report, while the effect on GDP growth will lead to an average 20 percent reduction in rates by 2050 and a huge 64 percent on average by 2100.

The findings underscore the urgent need for tangible progress on climate finance for adaptation and loss and damage - key areas on which developing nations will push richer polluting countries in Sharm el-Sheikh on Wednesday, which is finance day at Cop27.

"Climate finance is not charity, it climate justice," said Na-beel Munir, a Pakistani diplo-

mat and chief negotiator for the G77 developing countries at Cop27.

The 54 countries of Africa account for 15 percent of the world's population but contribute less than 4 percent of the CO2 heating the planet, in contrast to 27 percent from China, 15 percent from the US and 17 percent from the EU.

But it is the continent most affected by catastrophic climatic changes such as rising sea levels and melting glaciers, as well as increasingly erratic and destructive extreme weather events such as drought, wildfires, floods and heat waves.

The study analysed the estimated GDP growth for 50 African countries if there was no global heating, compared with the best and worst case scenarios of 1.5C and 2.4C by 2100.

Under current climate policies, the GDP growth of eight countries - Sudan, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, and Nigeria - could be reduced by as much as 75 percent.

The worst hit nations generate less than 0.43 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) per person, in contrast to the US and Canada generating 14 and Saudi Arabia 18 tonnes per

person.

Sudan, where this year heavy rains and flash floods affected more than 250,000 people in 15 out of 18 provinces, economic growth could be hit by a staggering 84 percent under global current climate policies.

The study did not factor in new climate adaptation measures, so the GDP downside could be less severe. But nor does it take into account the economic damage caused by extreme weather, so the downside could conceivably be even worse.

"This analysis shows the huge drag that climate change

will have on the economic development of Africa, and these numbers might be conservative estimates," said Marina Andrijevic, an economist at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna and a study co-author.

So far this year, more than 200,000 homes have been destroyed by floods and landslides in Nigeria, while 37 million people face starvation after four consecutive droughts in the Horn of Africa.

A UN report published last week found that international adaptation finance is five to 10 times below what developing countries actually need, and

the gap is widening every year.

Mohamed Adow, the director of the climate think tank Power Shift Africa, said the shocking economic forecasts should be a wake-up call. "The fact that African countries will suffer painful economic harm, even if we limit global heating to 1.5C, shows the need for a loss and damage fund to help those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

"These countries have contributed the least to cause the problem, and yet they face such grave economic consequences created by others. That is why climate change is a matter of injustice."

As US President Biden hosts a summit of African leaders, governance in the Sahel must be priority

BAMAKO

THE upcoming Africa Leaders' Summit - slated to take place in Washington, DC in December - is well-timed. The Biden administration has made a welcome and significant push over the past two years to support democracy, anti-corruption and peace-building around the world- and in Africa in particular.

From the Summit for Democracy to the new Sub-Saharan Africa and Countering Corruption strategies- policies and practices within the US government have shifted in ways that can support much needed reforms across the continent.

It is in the Sahel where many of the biggest challenges remain- and these should be a priority during the upcoming Summit. The recent coup in Burkina Faso was the 7th in Africa in just over two years. Here in Mali, jihadists continue to march eastwards, killing hundreds of innocent civilians as they go.

Across our borders in Niger and Chad we see klepto-military elites pilfering state resources at a breathtaking rate, undermining public finances, stability and any kind of hope for a better future. All of this opens up the region to the influence of Russia and China. The Russian mercenary outfit the Wagner group are operating freely in the Central African Republic and Mali, for example- and we know from Syria and Ukraine how catastrophic this can be.

Focusing on the symptoms of

these problems- such as rising violent extremism- with militarized responses has never worked. After 9 years and more than \$880 million of euros for the Barkhane operation, the French found this out in Mali before being forced out of the country recently.

Now, the people of Burkina Faso are demanding a diplomatic break with France and a new partnership with Russia and possibly the Wagner Group. The Western democratic alliance has failed in the Sahel; and this has inevitably led to a tilt towards more authoritarian partners.

Equally, allowing post-coup militarized regimes to get away with the trappings of a transition plan for democracy without putting in place any meaningful changes in decision-making is also a mistake.

The regime in Mali has consistently postponed the hand-over of power to a civilian government since the coup last year; and the process to develop a transitional charter in Burkina Faso recently also gives no indication that there is any real intention to hand back power to elected representatives.

At their core, these are issues of governance. Stability in the Sahel will come not through the rule of the gun but through the rule of law. The Biden administration can use the Africa Leaders' Summit to reset approaches to the Sahel.

First, it must make anti-corruption front and center of every conversation with leaders from the region. The US Africa strategy lists openness and open societies as



Stability in the Sahel will come not through the rule of the gun but through the rule of law. The Biden administration can use the Africa Leaders' Summit to reset approaches to the Sahel. Credit: William Lloyd-George/IPS

making. This sounds difficult but we forget that it has been done successfully before in Mali. Following Amadou Toumani Touré's coup in 1991, power was returned to a civilian government, allowing Alpha Oumar Konaré to be elected president in 1992.

In the Sahel, we need among other reforms, a shift in civilian law enforcement to other bodies such as the police; empowerment of accountability institutions within militaries; and political work with reformists within the army to push for a return of troops to their barracks.

The US must also fully support regional organizations like the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) to push Sahelian countries to follow clear plans, processes and timelines for the return to or maintenance of civilian rule.

Finally, longer-term stability in our countries requires a fundamental generational shift. The median age in Mali is 16; in Niger it is just 15 years old. Our countries are passing through a massive demographic change- and this has to be reflected in the systems we use to govern ourselves, or extremist groups will continue to recruit young people that have more of a stake in overthrowing systems than rebuilding them.

The US cares about young people on paper- now is the time to create the spaces for a new generation to lead. After all, they cannot be any worse than the corrupt elites we have seen mismanaging our politics for decades.

The African Leaders Summit is an important opportunity for the US to reinforce its commitment to governance in the Sahel; and to a foreign policy that places a primacy on governance and inclusion rather than simply on economics and security. The people of the region deserve it.



Across our borders in Niger and Chad we see klepto-military elites pilfering state resources at a breathtaking rate, undermining public finances, stability and any kind of hope for a better future. All of this opens up the region to the influence of Russia and China

the 1st of four priorities- and now is the time for the US to follow-through on these.

At the same time there is work to be done at home- progress on critical domestic anti-corruption efforts in the US- such as passage of the Enablers Act and full implementation of the Corporate Transparency Act would demonstrate commitment to these issues.

Second, it is imperative that it is made clear that post-coup political agreements include a focus on citizen voices and bottom-up accountability. This means pushing those in power to conduct meaningful consultations with civilians to ensure even the most excluded are heard.

In Mali, the transitional authorities have launched "Assises Nationales de la Refondation de l'Etat"- a series of consultations at the communal and national levels to give the entire population a voice on key issues such as governance and justice. We have to make sure that these kinds of processes are meaningful, inclusive and backed with real implementation- otherwise they can lead to further disappointment and disengagement.

Third, whether within a post-coup environment or more generally it means finding larger ways to shift systems to slowly remove the military from politics and consolidate civilian control of decision-

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 384 00--

WORD-FIT

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters EVE, ZEN, TUG,
4 letters AFAR, MENU, MEAT,
5 letters FRESH, STAGE, TUBER, ADOWA, VOICE, BELOW, ELOPE
6 letters FRANCE, ARDENT, ENDURE, RAYGUN
7 letters EATERY, ENAMEL,
8 letters MEGABIT
9 letters OSSIFIED
RINGOUZEL, HONEY MOON

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
5 6
7 8 9 10
11 12
13 14
15 16
17 18
19
20

SOLUTIONS

GRABBLE, L, KENYATTA, FROBE, NOUN, LIE, MEL, AGENT, G, LIBYAN, AMOK, BUAH, HOMA, GE, I, O, A, S, S, BEMBA, Y, E, M, A, S, S, S, Y, O, N, O, T, R, Y, A, V, E, R, L, E, T, I, K, A, T, A, N, G, A, O, N, N, C, A, R, E, E, R, M, A, S, T, E, M, U, J, U, N, E, M, E, U, A, I, D, E, L, S, T, A, I, N, A, U, N, U, F, R, O, M, D, U, E, L, E, R, O, O, F, A, Y, E

CLUES: Across

1 nicknamed Bulldozer
2 country speaking English and maori
7 the area of variation between limits in a particular scale
9 a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly
11 a person who is in charge of a Newspaper
13 the place where one lives
14 a mischievous child
15 Bamako is her Capital city
17 grumble
18 two sides of a leaf of a book
20 the time from noon to evening

CLUES: Down

1 a king or queen
2 a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy
3 burned materials to produce heat
4 make less powerful
6 lowest in rank
8 gawgaw
10 a charge payable to use road
12 word meaning you exist
16 once more
17 Village Jesus turned water to wine
19 an immoral act

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One [Instagram] [Facebook] [Twitter] **Radio One**

ITC and EABC launch digital platform for small businesses

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Business Council (EABC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) have launched an online platform designed to boost the competitive edge of East African small businesses.

The platform provides small businesses in the region with an avenue to support their recovery, build resilience and drive growth using digital technologies.

The platform My East African Soko or Myeasoko is developed by EABC in partnership with ITC's 5-year corporate programme One Trade Africa. Traders and service providers from across the region can interact on the platform's web portal or mobile application to access business information, market their products online, attract international buyers and expand their trade opportunities.

Additional services available on the platform include an integrated e-marketplace, business listings portal and SME training academy. Small businesses will also have access to the required information to support their cross-border trade initiatives, this includes AfCFTA trade documents and procedures for pre-selected shipments of goods to any of the countries identified under the Guided Trade Initiative.

Several high-level officials attended the event including EABC Executive Director John Kalisa; ITC Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton; EABC Board Director Kake Dhariwal, Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella, East African Legislative Assembly MP Pamela Maassay, Members of East African Women in Business Platform, British Business Group Arusha Chapter and Tanzania Association of Horticulture, YouLead Africa and Steve Machage, Lead Expert, One Trade Africa-ITC.

The launch of Myeasoko reinforces ITC's keen focus to leverage the trend in digitization and collaborate with key business support organizations to support African women and youth entrepreneurs in broadening their opportunities through intra-African trade.

"My East African Soko will re-introduce small businesses into global mar-

ketplaces, enable them to join regional value chains and give them an opportunity to scale up" said Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton.

The new platform is a welcome tool for East African small businesses having borne the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis and facing impact of the conflict in Ukraine which has compromised a tentative recovery and disrupted global supply chains.

During the event's opening, EABC Executive Director John Bosco Kalisa emphasized "EABC has leveraged digital technologies and has developed to support the EAC's economic recovery, build resilience and drive future growth for SMEs especially youth and women," John Kalisa.

He stated SMEs provide goods and services that are better adapted to local markets; stimulate innovation; entrepreneurship, sustain economic growth and account for 60% jobs in the EAC.

Arusha Regional Commissioner John Mongella reiterated the Tanzanian government pledge to providing conducive environment for SMEs and large business to thrive and trade beyond Tanzania's borders, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

RC Mongella further urged SMEs to showcase their products and access the EAC.

EALA MP, Pamela Maassay said the assembly is steadfast to unlock barriers to intra-EAC trade and ease business through enacting bills and policies.

As part of the e-commerce services available the platform has integrated a mobile app notification system to ensure continued interaction between small businesses and EABC for efficient last mile delivery.

The platform is also enabled to accept online payments, track product delivery, and provide 24hr customer support through an integrated chat support system and social media.

The platform's launch was a featured highlight during the regional EAC business gathering themed "Embracing New Trading Trends Amidst Global Shocks: Business Rebound & Building Back Better."

I&M Bank: Manufacturing to drive lending

KAMPALA

I&M Bank has said it is confident that manufacturing and agri-business will be the key movers of lending for financial institutions in the near future.

Speaking during a press briefing, in which the bank highlighted a number of activities to celebrate one year in Uganda, Sam Ntulume, I&M chief operations officer, said the confidence is premised on government's commitment to cut the import bill through import substitution.

"Going forward we shall put key emphasis on small and medium enterprises that are engaged in import substitution industries and those that are adding value to agricultural exports," he said, noting that bankers under Uganda Bankers Association, had already endorsed the creation of a Shs1 trillion fund to support manufacturers in the export sector.

As bankers we resolved to support government in its endeavour of growing the manufacturing sector. However, how much each bank will commit to the cause, is yet to be known," Ntulume said, but noted lending has been curtailed by the increase in the Central Bank Rate (CBR).

Bank of Uganda has since June increased the CBR from 6.5 percent to 10 percent, thus increasing the cost of commercial borrowing to between 19 percent and 24 percent.

"When the CBR moves it affects all businesses including banks. Of course, borrowers don't want to pay high interest rates but it is a decision of the



I&M chief operations officer Sam Ntulume.

Central Bank," Ntulume noted.

Currently inflation is at 10.7 percent with some food crop prices increasing by more than 25 percent.

Last month Bankers, under Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA), launched a Shs1 trillion Regional Export Facility that seeks to support exporters within Uganda and the East African Region.

The facility, which will be operationalised beginning November 1, will carry a 12 percent interest rate per annum for shilling-denominated loans and 6 percent from foreign currency-based loans.

The Regional Export Facility is a framework through which financial sector stakeholders will support exporters to revive and grow export volumes to the regional markets including South Sudan, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi Tanzania and Kenya among others.

Speaking at the launch in Kampala yesterday, Mr Wilbrod Owor, the UBA executive director, said the facility was is being championed by financial institutions under UBA, development financial institutions and partners to support manufacturers and exporters in regional trade.

This, he noted, will also support growth of export volumes by de-risking regional export market to unlock market access.

The facility will also seek to support improvement of cross border export risks and will be critical in supporting recovery of businesses that main-

ly target regional markets.

A number of businesses are struggling to shake off the devastating impact of Covid-19, exacerbated by the global supply constraints, contraction of markets and attendant cash flow issues, among others.

Access to the money and the amount, Owor said, will have no limit but will depend on the purpose and needs of the exporter, which will be appraised as key requirements of the facility.

UBA also indicated that the facility will be available to individual exporters, SMEs, local corporate exporters and multinationals.

"The facility will be used primarily to provide financial loans to export oriented businesses that have suffered financial distress arising from the effects of Covid-19 and can show potential for recovery," Owor said.

It will have a tenure of three months to five years, depending on the purpose and structure of the business with an annual interest of 12 percent and 6 percent for shilling and foreign currency-based loans, respectively.

However, borrowers will be expected to possess sufficient collateral, whose adequacy will be determined in accordance with existing lending policies.

Ms Sarah Arapta, the UBA chairperson and Citibank managing di-

rector, said in July, while holding the annual bankers' conference, they had identified a missing link in financing the needs of manufacturers, among which included establishing an export financing mechanism that provides better priced facilities to support and manage export risks.

"As a country we have established a reasonably strong manufacturing sector and with support & coordination from the government we can position ourselves as a trading hub serving the regional markets with numerous products for which we have comparative advantage," she said, noting that Uganda has seen strong export growth for a number of goods, among which include cement, steel bars, iron sheets and paint in addition to fast moving consumer goods such as scholastic material and personal care products.

Interested

According to Bank of Uganda executive director supervision Tumubweine Twinemanz, the Central Bank is interested in what will be charged as interest on the facility because it should be reasonable to support business into recovery.

He also believes that beneficiaries should, apart from doing paper documentation, must understand the terms under which the facility will be advanced.

NMB's Fanikiwa account empowers many women to get out poverty trap



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof. Aldof Mkenda (R) hands over the book "Continuity with vision - the roadmap to success for President Samia Suluhu Hassan" to the NMB Bank head of government business Vicky Bishubo, after the book's launch in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

NMB Bank Plc has described its Fanikiwa account as having enabled many women to strengthen themselves economically and increase their capital, which attracted many, especially those in rural areas.

Vicky Bishubo, bank's head of government business said this in Dodoma yesterday when speaking to hundreds of people who showed up at the launch of the book titled; 'Continuity with Vision the Roadmap to Success for President Samia Suluhu Hassan.'

NMB Bank was among the key players who succeeded in the identification activities and the launch of the book about President Samia, especially in her work within the government.

Vicky said that since they intro-

duced Fanikiwa Account, it has received a great response as many women, especially small business people, have been running there after seeing that the conditions are easy and the loan money comes out quickly with low interest as well.

"In a short time we have given 9265 loans worth 30bn/- to women entrepreneurs, so when we say NMB Karibu, this is the real meaning," said Vicky.

In addition to that account, the official said that they have currently come up with the NMB Bank Asili programme which is a platform to enable women to achieve their dreams in the country and abroad with more priority being given to rural women.

In showing that the response is great for the bank, she said that in April this year they set targets for

Bonds in the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) and set a target of collecting 25bn/- but the response led to them collecting around 75bn/- which is 300 percent of the target.

On the book, the representative of the NMB Bank Plc CEO said that they will continue to support the efforts made by the government and academics in any way that affects the lives and interests of poor Tanzanians.

Launching the book on behalf of the Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Aldof Mkenda thanked the Eastern and Southern African Universities Research Program (ESAURP) who facilitated the compilation of the book that carried the Tanzania chapter of their leader's life.

Prof Mkenda said that the book

with 624 pages out of 29 chapters was written by 45 academics and scholars and edited by top academics including Professor Ted Maliyamkono and Prof. Provident Dimoso of the Dodoma-based Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP)

The minister thanked the institutions that made the gathering possible including NMB bank and asked them not to stop there as the government relies on them in many things including empowering its people economically.

Prof Mkenda suggested the need for Tanzanians to read books to build awareness as Tanzania needs to make major reforms in education, so some people may find themselves left behind if they do not make efforts to study and be curious.



Nairobi Securities Exchange trading floor.

Foreign investors sell 360m shares in nine-month capital flight to West

NAIROBI

FOREIGN investors at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) cut the number of shares they hold at the bourse by 360 million in the nine months to September, reflecting the sustained flight of capital from emerging economies to the West in the period.

The Capital Markets Authority in its market soundness report for the third quarter shows that foreign individual and institutional investors held 16.84 billion shares at the bourse at the end of September, down from 17.2 billion at the beginning of January.

This is indicative of these investors selling more than they were buying in the period, which resulted in a net outflow of Sh19.5 billion on their portfolios.

The NSE has 97.4 billion issued shares in total, out of which 82.7 percent is in the hands of local and East African investors. Safaricom is the biggest stock in the market in terms of issued shares, with 40.06 billion units.

Foreign investors, while holding less than a fifth (17.3 percent) of the issued stock at the market, have been dominating trading at the bourse, accounting for more than 50 percent of turnover on most months, although this fell to 35.9

percent in September as they shifted their attention to the US market.

The developed markets are currently battling high inflation that has forced their central banks to adjust rates upwards. For smaller markets like the NSE, the pullout of foreign capital is damaging due to the relatively low trading of equities by local investors.

The effect of the foreign selling has been reflected in the falling valuations of the NSE's largest companies, which include Safaricom, Equity Group, KCB and EABL which by virtue of good liquidity and solid fundamentals have been a favourite of external investors.

The market capitalisation of the bourse has as a result fallen to Sh1.99 trillion from Sh2.636 trillion at the start of the year.

The CMA said in its soundness report that the NSE is leaning on new initiatives such as day trading to stimulate higher local participation in the bourse, which would unlock latent value in the market considering that these investors hold over 80 percent of shares issued.

The proposal by the government to utilise the market for privatisation plans for parastatals is also likely to stir the market back to life through initial public offerings that introduce new generations of investors to stocks.

How CoSS delivered to the public through 57 years of its existence

By Francis Kajubi

As it marks the 57th anniversary, the College of Social Sciences (CoSS) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is reviewing its teaching curriculum so that it aligns with the current social behavior changes among youths attributed to technology advancements.

In a recent interview, Prof Christine Noe, Principal CoSS told The Guardian that the review is being conducted in line with social behavior changes mostly driven by social media.

"Our recent research results have proved that we need new approaches for teaching social sciences. The generation is changing as technology becomes a new driver of today's lifestyle especially for the youth," said Prof Noe.

Prof Noe underlined that the college has so far realized remarkable success since its establishment, looking forward to initiating more transformations in teaching and serving the community through different programmes.

She said CoSS, as it was called then, the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FASS) was established in 1964 as the second academic unit after the then Faculty of Law.

In 2009, FASS was changed to the College of Arts and Social Science (CASS), which continued to grow in terms of departments and programmes. She said, in 2013, the College was split into two Colleges, the College of Social Science (CoSS) and the College of Humanities (CoHu).

In addition, in 2020, CoSS nurtured and saw one of its core departments (Economics) grow into the School of Economics (SoE).

Todate, Prof Noe said, the College is formed by four departments namely Geography, Political Science and Public Administration, Sociology and Anthropology, and Statistics.

Apart from these traditional departments, the College has four units namely Information Studies in Library, Social Work, Anthropology and Psychology in the department of Sociology.

Research centers in the College have increased in number and diversity. The centers are namely Population Studies and Research center, Research for Democracy in Tanzania (REDET), Center for Strategic and Peace Studies, Society and Religion Research center as well as Research Chair in Forced Migration.

"The College has grown into a real success. Over 5,000 higher learners have been graduating from the College on an annual ba-



CoSS Principal, Prof Christine Noe.

sis since the 2000s," said Prof Noe.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

During its 57 years of existence, CoSS has been working closely with the community through its sensitization programmes on behavioral change.

Prof Noe said the College had through all these years helped special groups such as orphans, elderly groups and drug victims with physical and mental health care services.

Recently, she said, the College provided food staff worth 4.8 million/- to Muungano Recovery Center (MRC) a non-government organization dedicated to helping drug addicts as part of its 57 years anniversary.

The center, which is based in Kigamboni district of Dar es Salaam, owns seven Sober Houses hosting almost 210 drug victims from the city.

According to her, the food staff included bags of rice, sugar, beans, maize flour, cooking oil and water cartons. However, the College provided boxes of soaps.

Prof Noe said that the aid was part of the College activities that involved promotion of social well-being apart from teaching sociological and psychological studies.

"CoSS vision is building a responsible and civilized society,

A lot of things are happening in our society related to behavioral change attributed to globalization and lifestyle in general;

Under the department of Sociology and Anthropology, the College has dedicated a special focus to social groups such as drug addicts," said Prof Noe.

WIDER SUCCESS

Dr Richard Sambaiga, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology said in terms of services and products, the College through its departments and centers, has concentrated mainly on the core University mission and purpose that include teaching, research and public service.

"The College currently offers nine undergraduate programmes, 14 masters degree programmes, five PhD by thesis, and three PhD by coursework," said Dr Sambaiga.

Following its nature of multidisciplinary, the competences and expertise from the College has made significant contributions to the society through engagements in research and consultancy, short term trainings, annual and occasional social science conferences and other public services of academic and professional interests to the College and the general public.

CHALLENGE WITHIN SUCCESS

The College is called upon by the government and development partners to allocate enough funds for social sciences research projects so that scientific solutions for community-based problems are found.

Prof Bernadeta Killian, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research said the college is always left behind when it comes to research projects financing regardless of its core role in addressing social-economic challenges.

"We need to conduct more research related to social development and the goal cannot be achieved without sufficient funds. Social science research is a pillar to shaping our communities," said Prof Killian.

According to her, if the government is to address social economic challenges, financing of research projects is inevitable.

According to her, the core purpose of social science is to achieve a nuanced understanding of all these dynamics and how people respond to them demands theoretical and empirical reflections by social scientists to inform academic debates, decision-making, policy and programmes.

"The African continent is considered to be at the receiving end of transformations that originate

from other regions of the world, some changes have recently emanated from within Africa;

The continent is experiencing a redefinition of societal norms, knowledge systems and approaches, and policy landscape," she said.

She said developments in information technology and the growing influence of social media in particular are shaping the public space and social interactions in significant ways.

She said CoSS observes repositioning of the continent which is premised on rediscovering and putting the African knowledge systems at the centre.

It further observes diversification of diplomatic and trade relations from the West to non-western rising powers.

WAY FORWARD

Commenting on the College's 57 years of existence and success, some government officials who spoke to this paper, counseled higher learning institutions to change teaching methodologies and allow students to discuss real challenges facing societies by bringing possible solutions.

Dr Laurean Ndumbaro, Permanent Secretary President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance said that it is high time for CoSS to revisit its teaching curriculum so that it aligns with the current social behavior changes especially to youth brought by technology advancements.

"We need new approaches in teaching social sciences. The generation is changing as technology becomes a new driver of today's lifestyle especially for the youth;

However, our teaching methodology must change to less lecturing but more and deep discussions that will make higher learners bring up solutions to social challenges," said Dr Ndumbaro.

He said that he was glad to learn that the College has started considering reviving the then 'School of Thought' that gave a room of discussions and debates on current affairs going down in and outside the country.

Prof William Anangisy, Vice Chancellor UDSM, said that gender equality has been growing on a yearly basis through students' admission. He said as of the current academic year nearly 50 percent of admitted students at the College are female.

"At CoSS, almost 51 percent of admitted students are female. This is a good indication of the realization of gender equality in education especially at the higher learning level," said Prof Anangisy.

Tanzanian cashews win hearts of US consumers

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN cashew nuts have won hearts of United States consumers because they are delicious and have unique flavour. The qualities have been proven by consumers during a three-day celebration that was held in New Orleans starting November 4, 2022. The celebration, the first ever in the US, was entitled TanzaFest and consumers tasted the cashew nuts that were air-shipped directly from Dar es Salaam to New Orleans in the first major market event to launch 'TanzaNutz'. TanzaNutz is the flagship brand of Ward Holdings Tanzania, a subsidiary of Ward Holdings International, LLC.

In a video on the event from the Ward Holdings International Company and availed in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Managing Director of the company, Lloyd Ward, says it has been proven beyond doubt that Tanzanian cashew nuts have unique qualities: "they are big and have very good taste," he says in that film on the event, adding that he has no doubt "these qualities will make Tanzanian cashew nuts continue to win hearts of American consumers and a bigger market here in the United States.

This is one of agricultural products that will be imported into United States from Africa."

This is the first time cashew nuts grown, harvested and consumer-packaged in Tanzania have been exported directly from farmers through Ward Holdings Tanzania (WHT) to US consumers.

The event was attended by Tanzanian Ambassador in the US, Elsie Kanza and President of WHT, Godfrey Simbeye. Ambassador Kanza praised WHT for a successful struggle that has enabled Tanzanian cashew nuts to enter US market. "Africa is a producer of agricultural products that non-African nations put on world market while Africa gets nothing.

Time has come for Africa to benefit from its resources," she says in the video. She calls on Tanzania cashew nut growers to observe proper cashew nut husbandry and all market requirements in order to retain the American market. Simbeye says their company is waiting for consumer feedback from many parts of the US where nuts have been sent in order to improve on the product marketed as TanzaNutz. "The event was a success as one can see. So we are very optimistic as we wait for feedback across the US," he says.

A press spokesman of Ward Holdings International, a Detroit, Michigan-based firm, Stephanie Frederic, said their company is a global market development and investment company. He said their company is committed to the advancement of Tanzania through industrialisation of its agriculture industry and high-value crops, such as cashew nuts.

Fibre alliance to reach unconnected towns

CAPE TOWN

AN alliance to supply internet connectivity via fibre, established by Nokia, its partner Liquid Intelligent Technologies and PayGoZo, will provide Nokia fibre technologies to supply economical, uncapped and ultra-fast internet as part of the Kayamandi Township Fibre Project.

Kayamandi Township is located in Stellenbosch, Western Cape province in South Africa.

The initial proof of concept phase, launched in September 2022, will see more than 15,000 people connected.

As per the agreed terms of the partnership, Nokia will serve as the technology provider, Liquid Intelligent Technologies as Nokia's partner, and PayGoZo as a new innovative Internet Service Provider in Stellenbosch.

The team worked closely to use the conventional Nokia Fibre-to-the-X (FTTX) solution to provide a highly scalable solution for The Kayamandi Fibre Project.

Users are offered unlimited data, but on a time-based and pay-as-you-go pricing scheme, which is both more cost effective and user friendly than mobile data solutions. Nokia is providing both fibre access nodes



for the fibre exchange and fibre modems to connect a Wi-Fi network across the entire township. Integration services within the PayGoZo network will be supported by Nokia's Access Management System.

Nokia's ISAM FX optical line terminals (fibre access nodes) were selected for their ability to deliver high bandwidth services to a large number of users and their easy upgrade capacity in line with the growing demand.

The companies argue that digitisation of business services, education, healthcare and entertainment continues to accelerate

globally. However, more than three billion people still lack internet access, putting them at a massive disadvantage.

The situation is exacerbated by the high cost of mobile data, which hinders equitable access to the internet for all segments of society.

Deon Geysler, CEO of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, South Africa, said: "In the last two decades, Liquid has been working tirelessly to ensure that every person in Africa has access to high-speed connectivity.

Partnering with Nokia to support PayGoZo in bringing the Kayamandi project to life is

a reiteration of our commitment. This is one of our first projects in using innovative technology to bring access to fibre connectivity to the masses. We look forward to partnering with Nokia to replicate the success in other remote locations in South Africa and the wider continent."

Rich Henn, CEO of PayGoZo, added: "We are committed to providing high-quality yet optimally-priced internet to connect those who are unable to afford expensive mobile network-based internet.

Collaboration with Nokia and Liquid Intelligent Technologies has helped us fine-tune our approach, and we look forward to rolling out the project beyond the initial pilot phase, so that more people in Kayamandi can start benefiting from low-cost internet."

Naveed Kashif, Head of Southern Africa Market at Nokia, said: "Fibre is by far the best connectivity solution for South African townships, providing affordable and uncapped internet essential for home workers and learners.

We are proud to be partnering with Liquid and PayGoZo on this important project which adopts an innovative approach to provide affordable internet without compromising on the quality."

Why Nigeria picked Ethiopian Airlines as national carrier partner

LAGOS

WITH just a month before the inauguration of the ambitious Nigerian Air, Nigeria's Federal Government on Thursday, advanced reasons for choosing Ethiopian Airlines as the preferred airline to partner with Nigeria in floating the new entity.

Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, said at a news conference in Abuja that apart from being one of the biggest and most efficient airlines in the world, Ethiopian Airline was the only airline that responded to its requests for expression of interest and fulfilled all the stipulated conditions laid down by Nigeria to be picked.

The Minister also explained that other airlines in the world ignored Nigeria to join hands with it to float a national carrier despite the fact that he personally went to such airlines and met with them at several air shows and international aviation forums to convince them to partner with the country.

Besides, Sirika pointed out that Ethiopian Airlines has proved to the world that it is not only efficient



Hadi Sirika, Minister of Aviation

and prosperous by registering over \$1 billion profit after tax even in the wake of Covid-19 but has continued to flourish despite the challenges in the aviation sector globally.

The minister explained: "We did not cede Nigeria Air to Ethiopian Airlines. It is the only airline in the world that made \$1 billion profit even during Covid-19 pandemic. It is the most prosperous, efficient and leading airline in the African continent and it was the only airline that responded to our request for

cept Ethiopian Airlines, which has been allotted 49 percent shares while Nigerian institutional investors take up 45 percent while the federal government will take up only five percent.

"The choice of Ethiopian Airlines is good for Nigeria and it is in line with the African Union Agenda and spirit and to take advantage of the over 1.2 billion population in Africa. Our desire is for Africa to come together and lead the African aviation market through our new partnership with Ethiopian Airlines. The partnership will also reduce cost of operations and air fares for Nigerian and African air travelers as opposed to the current situation.

"Contrary to what people think, let it be known that Ethiopian Airlines emerged as the preferred partner of Nigeria Air through a transparent and credible process that cannot be faulted because we want the project to succeed so that Nigeria can have an airline that does not suffer the fate of the former Nigeria Airways," Sirika said.

The minister also announced that going forward, all airports in the country must be built and operated

in accordance with the Aviation masterplan that had been developed in order to avoid chaotic situations that have already sprung out in many of the airports including Lagos International airport, where many structures have already been marked for demolition in overall public interest despite the cost involved.

Regarding the Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Abuja, the minister pointed out that the entire stretch running from Bill Clinton Way through Gwagwalada has been captured under the Abuja Airport Masterplan and that any development that does not fit into the masterplan would be demolished.

He therefore, cautioned individuals and entities currently carrying out development project along that stretch measuring about 12,000 hectares of land, to pause and await further information to avoid demolition.

tion Organisation and global best practice and polices that delivered safe, strong and efficient industry as Buhari's greatest achievement between 2016 to date.

The minister also warned international airlines operating in Nigeria to respect Nigeria's sovereignty, dignity and honour in their operations under the Bilateral Air Services Agreement that they signed with the country and not to threaten it at random because of the delay in repatriating their funds.

He said that those airlines need Nigeria just as Nigerians need their services and that they should therefore show respect, patience and understanding with Nigeria, which has promised to clear the back log of the accrued funds before the end of the year.

The Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, who moderated the press conference, had earlier made it clear that Nigeria has no intention to clampdown on any media in the country but would not allow anyone to cause anarchy in the land through the use of social media to breed fake news, disinformation and hate speech.

Mobile money users transact an average of Sh184,000 monthly

KAMPALA

MOBILE money subscribers on average receive or send Shs184,000 in a month, according to Uganda Communications Commission (UCC).

The details are contained in the UCC Market Performance Report for the quarter ended June.

The report indicates that person-to-person transactions average at Shs92,000 have grown by 17 percent from Shs78,000 in April. Uganda currently has 40.7 million digital wallets shared between mobile network operators and non-mobile network operators, transacting an average of Shs5.99 trillion in person-to-person transfers.

Mobile money has become an important aspect of Uganda's financial markets with more than Shs156 trillion transacted through the platform as of June, according to Bank of Uganda data.

The platform has over the years registered massive growth in terms of transaction value and volumes, which as of June had increased by 37.6 percent and 22.1 percent, respectively.

Bank of Uganda data indicates, volume of transactions grew from 3.9 billion to 4.8 billion as of June 30.

The UCC report, which analyses Average Monthly User Profile, further indicates that mobile money users conduct an average of two person-to-person transactions per month.

It also profiles other monthly user behaviour, among which include volume of calls on and off-networks made by an average mobile phone user, number of MBs used and the number of international calls made or received by a mobile phone subscribers.

On average, the report noted, mobile phone subscribers that stand at 31.3 million, use 174 minutes on on-network calls per month and just two minutes for off-network calls.

During the period between

April and June, Ugandans used 16.4 billion worth of domestic minutes on calls, of which 16.3 billion were on-network (calls within the same network), while 143 million minutes were off-network calls.

Similarly, UCC indicated that international traffic remained stable, recording a total of 126 million minutes of international calls, of which 84.8 million minutes were incoming while 84.5 million were outgoing calls.

Voice, which mainly involves calling and receiving calls, remains an important revenue stream for telecoms but has been experiencing declines in the last 10 years.

However, the decline is being compensated with growth in data consumption and mobile mobile money, which have both become important revenue sources for telecoms.

UCC indicates that the growth in internet usage could to some extent account for the stagnation in traditional voice traffic as consumer gradually change to data led-consumption patterns.

During the period ended June, UCC noted that an average mobile internet-enabled device had used an average of 1,180 MBs per month.

However, the report doesn't show growth patterns for individual users.

However, the report doesn't show growth patterns for individual users.

In the three months to June, UCC indicated that Uganda had posted the highest volume of internet traffic, growing by 17 percent to 110 billion MBs from 93.62 billion in April.

The growth, the report noted, is largely indicative of increased broadband usage boosted by an increase in mobile and wireless internet connections, which during the period accounted for 102 billion MBs, while fixed internet connections accounted for 7.75 billion MBs.



MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	CAPITAL
TUESDAY 8 Nov 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afa ya jami 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum 13:40 Shikabamba 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shikabamba 14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 14:40 Kipindi maalum rpt: PSSSF 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:45 Makala maalum: 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	WEDNESDAY 9 Nov 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Uchumi wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Bundesliga rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt 14:15 Makala maalum: 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
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Terrorism intensifying across Africa, says UN deputy chief

UNITED NATIONS

TERRORISM is intensifying across Africa, exploiting instability and conflict, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said on Thursday.

"Terrorists and violent extremists including Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates have exploited instability and conflict to increase their activities and intensify attacks across the continent," the UN deputy chief told the Security Council high-level debate on "Counter-Terrorism in Africa - an Imperative for Peace, Security and Development" on behalf of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Their senseless, terror-fueled violence has killed and wounded thou-

sands and many more continue to suffer from the broader impact of terrorism on their lives and livelihoods," she said.

"Terrorist and violent extremist groups aggravate instability and human suffering. And they can plunge a country emerging from war back into the depths of conflict," Mohammed said.

Meanwhile, terrorists, non-state armed groups and criminal networks often pursue different agendas and strategies, fueled by smuggling, human trafficking, and other methods of illicit financing - sometimes impersonating legitimate armed forces, said the UN deputy chief.

And as digital tools spread hate and disinformation, terrorists and other



In this file photo, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed gestures as she delivers a speech to students of Kawangware primary school, during a visit in Nairobi on March 1, 2022.

criminal groups are exploiting inter-communal tensions and food insecurity triggered by climate change, she added.

In today's hyper-connected world, Mohammed said, the spread of terrorism in Africa is "not a concern for African member states alone."

"The challenge belongs to us all. Countering international terrorism requires effective multilateral responses," she added.

Outlining five suggestions to advance counter-terrorism efforts in Af-

rica, Mohammed reminded that "prevention remains our best response."

"We must address the instability and conflict that can lead to terrorism in the first place, as well as the conditions exploited by terrorists in pursuit of their agendas."

The UN deputy chief called for community-based, and gender-sensitive "whole-of-society" approaches.

Other suggestions include calling for "sustained and predictable funding" to prevent and counter terrorism.

Agencies

Russian ambassador says no thaw in sight in Moscow-Washington ties

MOSCOW

THE relations between Russia and the United States are currently in a deep crisis with no thaw in sight, Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov said in an interview with Izvestia, published yesterday.

"I find it naive to assume, judging from media leaks only, that any transformation in approaches toward putting Russian-US relations on a new track is underway. Our relationship is facing a deep crisis, and there is no light at the end of the tunnel yet," Antonov (pictured) maintained.

According to him, Washington is still racing to press on with economic sanctions and political pressure on Russia. "Politicians there believe that these moves should lead to a weaker Russia that would be unable to defend its rights on the international arena. By the way, that's what Washington is aiming at in its efforts to squeeze us out of multilateral mechanisms and institutions," the Russian envoy emphasized.

"We, diplomats, especially those of us who are working in Washington, would like to see a different relationship between Russia and the US. A relationship that could be built on the respect of national interests and based on equal rights," Antonov added.



Palestinians mark 18th anniversary of late leader Arafat's death

GAZA/RAMALLAH

PALESTINIANS on Thursday commemorated the 18th anniversary of the death of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

In the coastal enclave of Gaza Strip, tens of thousands of local residents participated in a rally for the first time in five years after a ban was lifted by the ruling Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Many participants raised flags of Palestine and the Fatah party, while carrying huge portraits of Arafat and chanting slogans saluting him as the "spark of the Palestinian revolution." As the Fatah's founder, former chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and president of the Palestinian National Authority, Arafat has been revered by many Palestinians as the embodiment of their national aspirations.

During the gathering, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said in a recorded speech that Arafat had left "a rich national legacy for us that we all have to preserve and develop." Abbas vowed his movement would follow the same path as Arafat's, stressing that the Fatah-led PLO will remain the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"The internal division with Hamas has taken our issue steps backwards... and threatens to waste the gains made by the Palestinian people, the price of which was exorbitant sacrifices of the martyrs, prisoners and wounded," Abbas said.

He added that the Palestinians will not accept less than an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Abbas also called on the Palestinians to prepare for the next stage "to thwart the Israeli annexation plans as we defeated them before."

Amed Helles, a senior Fatah official in Gaza, underlined the importance of restoring reconciliation between Palestinian political factions as soon as possible, in order to hold democratic elections and create a suitable life for the new generations who deserve to live in dignity. In the West Bank, hundreds of Palestinians marched through the city Ramallah at noon toward the mausoleum of Arafat, carrying his portraits and chanting slogans of "You will be in hearts, minds and future."

"We are here to tell the world that we keep his approach and values so that we can complete his path until we achieve what he was martyred for," said Mahmoud al-Aloul, a senior Fatah official in Ramallah.

"The Palestinians are facing many challenges in the current stage," he said, adding Israeli right-wing bloc's winning Israeli elections last week would threaten the Palestinian land and the holy place of al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. "In a bid to protect ourselves from the Israeli violations, we (Palestinians) have to unify our national efforts through achieving reconciliation soon," al-Aloul said. He also called on the international community to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli actions and practices.

On Nov. 11, 2004, Arafat died at the age of 75 at a military hospital near Paris, France due to an unknown illness. Arafat's remains were exhumed in November 2012 to take samples for investigations, during which polonium substances were found after tests by French, Swiss and Russian scientists.

Arafat's wife resorted to the French judiciary to look into her husband's death. In September 2015, French judges investigating the claims closed the case without bringing any charges.



Media: Japan's PM Kishida plans to sack justice minister

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has firmed up his intention to sack his justice minister, media reported on Friday, raising the possibility of a second minister leaving the cabinet because of a scandal in less than a month.

The departure of the minister, Yasuhiro Hanashi, could further undermine Kishida's support, which has slumped to the 30 percent level in many recent polls, close to a danger zone that would make it hard for him to promote his agenda.

Hanashi has come under widespread criticism over comments reported in the media in which he made light of his duties, specifically signing

off on executions, which he referred to as "tedious".

He was also reported to have suggested there was little political advantage to his cabinet post and that he only made the news for "approving an execution in the morning".

Japan carries out capital punishment by hanging and does not inform prisoners until the morning of the day of their execution, a policy that rights groups have criticised for decades.

Hanashi, a member of Kishida's faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), apologized on Thursday for the comments and told parliament that he "took them back".

Hanashi's office declined to comment when asked about



the media reports that the prime minister was preparing to sack him, though media reports later said he was planning to submit his resignation.

Kishida put off his departure for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Phnom Penh to Saturday from Friday afternoon, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, but added that they did not know the reason. The outcry over his Hanashi's comments follows widespread public criticism of

the government over ruling party links to the Unification Church, a group some critics call a cult. Kishida has struggled to overcome revelations of deep and longstanding ties between the ruling party and the church in following the July assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The suspected killer has said his mother was bankrupted by the church and has blamed Abe for promoting it. The LDP has acknowledged many lawmakers have ties to the church but that there is no organisational link to the party.

Economic revitalisation minister Daishiro Yamagiwa resigned on Oct 24 due to his ties to the religious group, but Kishida came under fire for what voters saw as his delayed and clumsy handling of the situation.

Further damage for Kishida has come from Internal Affairs Minister Minoru Terada, who has been embroiled in a political funds documentation scandal amid calls that he, too, resign.

Israel's Netanyahu faces pressures on verge of returning to power

LONDON

BRITAIN'S economy shrank in the three months to September at the start of what is likely to be a lengthy recession, underscoring the challenge for finance minister Jeremy Hunt as he prepares to raise taxes and cut spending next week.

Economic output shrank by 0.2 percent in the third quarter, less than the 0.5 percent contraction analysts had forecast in a Reuters poll, Friday's official data showed.

But it was the first fall in gross domestic product since the start of 2021, when Britain was still under tight coronavirus restrictions, as households and businesses struggle with a severe cost-of-living crisis.

Britain's economy is now further below its pre-pandemic size - it is the only Group of Seven economy yet to recover fully from the COVID slump - and is smaller than it was three years ago on a calendar-quarter basis.

The Resolution Foundation think tank said that although the fall was smaller than inves-

tors had feared, it left Britain on course for its fastest return to recession since the mid-1970s.

Its research director James Smith said the figures provided a sobering backdrop for Hunt's Nov 17 budget announcement, when he will try to convince investors that Britain can fix its public finances - and its credibility on economic policy - after Liz Truss's brief spell as prime minister.

"The Chancellor will need to strike a balance between putting the public finances on a sustainable footing, without making the cost-of-living crisis even worse, or hitting already stretched public services," Smith said.

Responding to the data, Hunt repeated his warnings that tough decisions on tax and spending would be needed.

"I am under no illusion that there is a tough road ahead - one which will require extremely difficult decisions to restore confidence and economic stability," Hunt said in a statement.

"But to achieve long-term, sustainable growth, we need to grip inflation, balance the books and get debt falling," he added.



A pedestrian walks past residential properties displayed for sale in the of an estate agents' in London on Sept 30, 2022. AFP

"There is no other way."

Recession reality

The Bank of England said last week that Britain's economy was set to go into a recession that would last two years if interest rates were to rise as much as investors had been pricing.

Even without further rate

hikes, the economy would shrink in five of the six quarters until the end of 2023, it said.

"Fears of a recession are turning into reality," Suren Thiru, economics director for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, said.

"This fall in output is the start of a punishing period as higher

inflation, energy bills and interest rates clobber incomes, pushing us into a technical recession from the end of this year."

In September alone, when the funeral of Queen Elizabeth was marked with a one-off public holiday that shut many businesses, Britain's economy shrank by 0.6 percent, the Office for National Statistics said. That was a bigger monthly fall than a median forecast for a 0.4 percent contraction in the Reuters poll and the largest since January 2021, when there was a COVID-19 lockdown.

But gross domestic product data for August was revised to show a marginal 0.1 percent contraction compared with an original reading of a 0.3 percent shrinkage, and GDP in July was now seen as having grown by 0.3 percent, up from a previous estimate of 0.1 percent.

The upward revisions to July and August's GDP data mostly reflected new, quarterly figures on health and education output, alongside some stronger readings from the professional and scientific and wholesale and retail sectors, the ONS said.

PHOENIX

TWO days after Americans went to the polls, the political world remained on tenterhooks on Thursday, with both chambers of the US Congress up for grabs as election officials painstakingly tallied hundreds of thousands of votes in a process that could take days to resolve.

Republicans have secured at least 211 House of Representatives seats, Edison Research projected, just seven shy of the 218 needed to seize control from Democrats and put an end to President Joe Biden's legislative ambitions.

But 30 races are yet to be determined, including 19 of the most competitive based on a Reuters compilation of the leading

nonpartisan forecasters.

The fate of the Senate, meanwhile, rests with a trio of fiercely contested states. Either party can win a majority by sweeping the races in Nevada and Arizona, where counting late-arriving ballots is expected to last several more days.

If those races don't deliver a majority for either party, Senate control will be decided in a runoff election in Georgia for the second time in two years. Democratic incumbent Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker will go one-on-one on Dec 6 after both fell just short on Tuesday of the 50 percent threshold needed to win outright.

US Congress control at stake as Arizona, Nevada count ballots

Though Republicans remained favored to take over the House, their performance on Tuesday was seen as underwhelming. Some Republicans blamed former President Donald Trump after some of his endorsed candidates, including celebrity surgeon Mehmet Oz of Pennsylvania, lost high-profile races.

Trump's diminished brand could further encourage Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to challenge for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, after he won re-election with a resounding majority on Tuesday.

In a statement on Thursday, Trump took aim at his would-be rival, calling him "Ron

DeSanctimonious" for a second time in recent days and taking credit for his political rise. The former president was expected to announce his third White House run next Tuesday, though the mercurial Trump could still change course.

Even a slim House majority would allow Republicans to block Biden's priorities and launch investigations into his administration, while setting the stage for bruising battles over pressing matters like raising the nation's spending limit.

A Republican Senate would hold sway over Biden's judicial appointments, including any potential Supreme Court vacancies.

Vote-counting chugging along

As ballots were tallied, Democrats expressed cautious optimism about both the Nevada and Arizona Senate races.

In Nevada, Republican challenger Adam Laxalt, the state attorney general, clung to a lead of less than 2 percentage points, but his advantage over Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto has shrunk as ballots in populous Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, are counted.

Arizona presented a mirror image: Democratic incumbent Mark Kelly has seen his margin over Republican challenger Blake Masters narrow since Tuesday, though he still led by more than 5 percentage points.

Six keywords of CIIE showcase China's market potential

SHANGHAI,

FROM a humanoid robot to a virtual reality mining experience, visitors were dazzled at a variety of new products, technologies, and services showcased at China's import expo, a platform for the country to share its development opportunities with the rest of the world.

The fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE), which concluded in Shanghai on Thursday, saw 73.5 billion U.S. dollars worth of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, up 3.9 percent from that of last year, Sun Chenghai, deputy director of the CIIE Bureau, told a news conference.

Here are six keywords of CIIE that offer a glimpse of China's market prospects and the enthusiasm of exhibitors to tap into the huge Chinese market.

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING-UP

Exhibits turning into merchandise, exhibitors turning into investors, first-timers turning into regular participants -- the CIIE has seen many transformations since its inauguration in 2018, reflecting China's steady advancement toward a higher-standard open economy.

"The CIIE is the perfect platform for collaboration. I think there are no other ones in the world that are able to bring so many industries and country representatives together and have this dialogue that allows us to look at opportunities," said Fabrice Megarbane, L'Oréal North Asia Zone president and chief executive officer of L'Oréal China.

Apart from promoting the free flow of goods and factors, China has stepped up its efforts in continuing institutional opening-up. The country has kept shortening the negative list for foreign investment, passed laws and regulations, including the Foreign Investment Law, and set up some pilot free trade zones (FTZ).

In a recently released openness index, which gauged the openness levels of 129 economies from 2008 to 2020, China's openness index jumped from 0.7107 in 2012 to 0.7507 in 2020, up 5.6 percent, and its ranking rose from 47th to 39th.

HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

The fifth CIIE attracted 145 countries, regions, and international organizations, as well as more than 2,800 enterprises in the commercial exhibition area, and debuted 438 new products, technologies, and services.

What has enticed global firms to gather at the CIIE is China's vast opportunities brought about by its high-quality development drive.

During the 2013-2021 period, China's average contribution to global economic growth exceeded 30 percent, ranking first across the world, according to a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics in September.

As the first healthcare multinational to settle in the Lingang new area of the Shanghai pilot FTZ, Novo Nordisk on Nov. 6 announced its intent to invest 400 million yuan (55.63 million U.S. dollars) in establishing a holding company in the area.

Novo Nordisk hoped to seize the opportunities of China's high-quality development to upgrade the lay-



The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. [Photo/VCG]

out of the whole industrial chain, said Zhou Xiaping, global senior vice president and president of Novo Nordisk Region China.

Eyeing brightening future prospects, foreign enterprises are casting a vote of confidence with actions. More than 100,000 square meters of exhibition areas for the next CIIE have already been reserved.

SHARING BENEFITS

China has held several major expos this year, including the CIIE, China International Fair for Trade in Services, and the China International Consumer Products Expo, to honor its commitments to turning the country's vast market into enormous opportunities for the world.

Every edition of the CIIE saw more than 100 countries, regions, and international organizations attending, including developed countries, developing countries, and some least developed countries. The CIIE particularly invited small and medium-sized companies from dozens of the least developed countries to participate in the expo.

Afghan exhibitor Ali Azghar Faiz be-

lieved that the CIIE is a helpful platform for countries such as Afghanistan.

He said that with the help of the CIIE, he is able to not only introduce Afghan products to China, but also promote them to many other countries, and this would be a support to the Afghan people.

Still on the move to expand its "circle of friends," China will continue to implement the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and advance its accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement.

DUAL CARBON

Since China in 2020 announced the goals of striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, the country has aligned its strength with pro-ecology and low-carbon efforts to fast-track the pursuit of its carbon goals.

Seeing visible ecological progress, firms in various industries, including traditional energy, construction, clothing, food, and new materials, all incorporated the low-carbon vision into their products

and services showcased at the expo.

New Zealand's dairy brand Theland, for instance, exhibited its "carbon-neutral milk," which displayed a low-carbon whole industrial chain.

"We want to contribute efforts to China's 'dual carbon' goals," said Sheng Wenhao, CEO of Theland Asia Pacific Region.

A report from the French bank Societe Generale estimated that to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, China's green investment needs to reach 2.2 trillion yuan per year in the current decade, and the amount will grow to 3.9 trillion yuan in the period from 2031 to 2060.

INNOVATION

From a virtual reality mining experience, 5G excavator remote-driving, to customized perfume scent recommendations using brainwave scanning devices, various high-tech gadgets reflect an innovation-driven industry upgrade in China.

"China has led the world in digital management of supply chain and digital application of consumption and living styles. This is not only the foundation for China's economic resilience but also the reason why global firms are flocking to China," said Michael Bi, EY Greater China markets managing partner.

The country's digital economy reached 7.1 trillion U.S. dollars in 2021. It accounts for more than 18 percent of the amount of 47 major countries included, ranking second after the United States, said a white paper issued by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

HEALTH

The size of China's healthcare industry is expected to reach 16 trillion yuan by 2030, according to a "Healthy China 2030" outline released by the Chinese government.

To cater to Chinese people's increasing fitness and sports demands, Decathlon, a leading global sporting goods retailer, debuted a multi-function rowing machine, which combines the features of a piece of furniture and fitness equipment.

"Chinese people are pursuing a higher-level living standard, which includes voluntary promotion of sports awareness and consumption upgrade for sports," said Pascal Bizard, Decathlon China senior vice president.

The company believed that China's sports industry, a trillion-dollar-worth industry, will continue unleashing market dividends and opportunities, according to Bizard.

Xinhua

Withdrawal of forces to left bank of Dnieper a forced, correct decision, lawmaker says

MOSCOW

THE relocation of Russian forces to the left bank of Dnieper is a correct decision, necessary to preserve the lives of Russian servicemen, says head of the LDPR party, chairman of the State Duma Committee on international affairs Leonid Slutsky.

He made this remark during the working meeting of the LDPR Duma faction delegation with Kherson Region Acting Governor Vladimir Saldo, which took place in Genichesko on Thursday.

"As for the withdrawal of forces from the right bank, it is a forced decision, it is a correct decision, made to preserve the lives of our servicemen. We will definitely come back to Kherson, we will definitely win in the foreseeable future," Slutsky said, according to the LDPR press office.

"The collective West has concentrated an incredible amount of modern lethal weapons in Ukraine, we assess this situation objectively. We will definitely win. Nobody is going to give up Kherson once and for all. Russia does not leave anyone behind," he added.

According to Slutsky, LDPR intends to constantly work with Kherson Region residents. The lawmaker noted that the delegation visited schools and a central district hospital in the Kherson Region.

"We also visited a temporary deployment facility for those who will shortly get comfortable residence, we will participate in that. Our main goal is to resolve the problems that Kherson faces right now," he added.

On November 9, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu ordered to withdraw Russian forces from the right bank of Dnieper under the proposal of Russian Joint Forces Group Commander Army General Sergey Surovikin. Surovikin underscored that Russian forces have been successfully repelling Ukrainian attacks, and the decision to withdraw the forces was connected to the threat of isolation of the group because of potential flooding of the territory below the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam. According to Surovikin all civilians who expressed their desire have been evacuated from the right bank - over 115,000 people.

China speeds up efforts to expand, renovate expressways



A rest area along the G25 Changchun-Shenzhen Expressway is being constructed in Changxing county, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, June 2022. (People's Daily Online/Chen Haiwei)

CHINA has basically completed the construction of the framework of its expressway network after four decades of endeavors. The total mileage of the country's expressways stands at nearly 170,000 kilometers, the longest in the world.

However, the country is still seeing unbalanced and inadequate development of its expressway network. Transport service capacity of some expressways built in the old days is on a decline.

To meet new demands and strengthen areas of weakness, China has accelerated its steps to expand and renovate its expressways.

Key technologies have been widely applied to connect new and old roadbeds, reinforce old bridges, and recycle pavement materials and safety facilities,

said an official with the Ministry of Transport.

According to the official, China has approved over 70 projects of expressway expansion and renovation since 2016, with a total mileage of more than 6,000 kilometers.

Expressway expansion and renovation has played a positive role in improving road transport service and promoting regional development, as indicated by projects that were completed in the recent years.

For instance, a 248.7-kilometer section between Luzhai and Nanning along the Liuzhou-Nanning Expressway in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region has been expanded to a two-way eight-lane road.

"The section was once the busiest expressway in Guangxi and the most jammed one on

holidays," said Zhu Zhiqin, vice general manager of the company responsible for the expansion project.

He told People's Daily that the section's traffic capacity has significantly improved thanks to the project. Nowadays, about 54,600 vehicles are running along the section per day on average, up 62.8 percent before the project was implemented.

The Nanjing-Hangzhou section of the G25 Expressway that connects the northeastern city of Changchun and Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province has significantly improved its capability in diverging traffic after a renovation project was implemented. The project effectively alleviated the traffic pressure of Hangzhou.

Due to limited capital, technology and cognitive level, some expressways built by

China long ago were not very satisfying technically. Expansion and renovation projects can effectively improve the performance of these expressways and upgrade them in an intelligent manner, thus improving traffic safety, capacity and services, said Shi Liangqing, vice president of the Transport Planning and Research Institute under the Ministry of Transport.

According to relevant planning, China will renovate a number of busy expressways in its central and eastern regions such as the G2 Beijing-Shanghai Expressway, the G4 Beijing-Hong Kong-Macao Expressway, the G25 Changchun-Shenzhen Expressway, the G60 Shanghai-Kunming Expressway and the G30 Lianyungang-Khorgas Expressway.

People's Daily

US judge strikes down Biden's student debt relief plan

A federal judge in Texas on Thursday ruled that President Joe Biden's plan to cancel hundreds of billions of dollars in student loan debt was unlawful and must be vacated, delivering a victory to conservative opponents of the program.

US District Judge Mark Pittman, an appointee of former Republican president Donald Trump in Fort Worth, called the program an "unconstitutional exercise of Congress's legislative power" as he ruled in favor of two borrowers backed by a conservative advocacy group.

The debt relief plan had already been temporarily blocked by the St Louis-based 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals while it considers a request by six Republican-led states to enjoin it while they appealed the dismissal of their own lawsuit. The judge's ruling came in a lawsuit by two borrowers who were partially or fully ineligible for the loan forgiveness Biden's plan offered. The plaintiffs argued it did not follow proper rulemaking processes and was unlawful.

The borrowers were backed by the Job Creators Network Foundation, a conservative advocacy group founded by Bernie Marcus, a co-founder of Home Depot.

The US Justice Department promptly moved to appeal the ruling. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement the administration strongly disagreed with the decision.

About 26 million Americans have applied for student loan forgiveness, and the US Department of Education has already approved requests from 16 million. Jean-Pierre said the department would hold onto their information "so it can quickly process their relief once we prevail in court."

"We will never stop fighting for hard-working Americans most in need - no matter how many roadblocks our opponents and special interests try to put in our way," she said.

Biden's plan has been the subject of several lawsuits by conservative state attorneys general and legal groups, but plaintiffs before Thursday had struggled to convince courts they were harmed by it in such a way that they have standing to sue.

The plan, announced in August, calls for



giving up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for borrowers making less than \$125,000 per year, or \$250,000 for married couples. Borrowers who received Pell Grants to benefit lower-income college students will have up to \$20,000 of their debt canceled.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office in September calculated that debt forgiveness would eliminate about \$430 billion of the \$1.6 trillion in outstanding student debt and that over 40 million people were eligible to benefit.

In his 26-page ruling, Pittman said it was irrelevant if Biden's plan was good public policy because the program was "one of the largest exercises of legislative power without congressional authority in the history of the United States."

Pittman wrote that the HEROES Act - a law that provides loan assistance to military personnel and that was relied upon by the Biden administration to enact the relief plan - did not authorize the \$400 billion student loan forgiveness program.

"In this country, we are not ruled by an all-powerful executive with a pen and a phone," Pittman wrote. "Instead, we are ruled by a Constitution that provides for three distinct and independent branches of government."

Elaine Parker, the president of the Job Creators Network Foundation, in a statement said the ruling "protects the rule of law which requires all Americans to have their voices heard by their federal government." Agencies



Junior ballers from various parts of Dar es Salaam in action at a recent training which took place at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Simba SC and Yanga to discover opponents in CAF CL, CAF CC group stage next week

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's soccer giants Simba SC and Yanga will, on Wednesday next week, discover their respective opponents in the group stages of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League and 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

The Additional Second Preliminary Round of this season's CAF Confederation Cup came to an end on Wednesday and paved the way for the draws for the prestigious Africa inter-club showdowns.

The draws for the group stages will be held at the headquarters of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Cairo, Egypt starting with the CAF Champions League and then the CAF Confederation Cup.

Clubs that made it to the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup on November 9 are Yanga (Tanzania), Marumo Gallants (South Africa), US Monastir (Tunisia), Saint Eloi Lupopo (DR Congo), ASKO Kara (Togo), Diables Noirs (Congo), Al Akhdar (Libya), and AS Real Bamako (Mali). Future FC (Egypt), ASEC Mimosas (Ivory Coast), Pyramids FC (Egypt), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), USM Alger (Algeria), Daring Club Motema Pembe (DR Congo), Rivers United (Nigeria), and FAR Rabat (Morocco) complete the list.

Outfits that constitute the CAF Champions League group stage are Al Ahly (Egypt), Al Hilal SC (Sudan), Al Merreikh (Sudan), Atletico Petroleos (Angola), Coton Sport (Cameroun), CR Belouizdad (Algeria), Esperance Tunis (Tunisia), and Horoya AC (Guinea).

JS Kabylie (Algeria), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Raja Athletic Club (Morocco), Simba SC (Tanzania), Vipers SC (Uganda), Wydad AC (Morocco), Zamalek (Egypt), AS Vita

Club (DR Congo) are the other group stage contenders.

Simba SC managed to qualify for the group stage of the premier continental showdown via the outfit's 4-1 aggregate win over Angola's CD Primeiro de Agosto in the second knockout round. In the first leg match that took place in Angola, Simba SC commanded a 3-1 victory over CD Primeiro de Agosto, following goals scored by Clatous Chama, Israel Mwenda, and Moses Phiri.

The rematch which was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam ended with Simba SC commanding a 1-0 victory over CD Primeiro de Agosto and booking their place in the group stage.

Zambian Phiri notched Simba SC's lone goal in the 33rd minute of the rematch off an assist by fullback Mohamed Hussein to catapult his outfit to the lucrative stage of the continental showcase.

Mainland Tanzania Premier League winners, Yanga, confirmed their qualification for the CAF Confederation Cup's group stage, edging Tunisia's Club Africain 1-0 in the Additional Second Preliminary Round's rematch in Tunis last Wednesday, making it a 1-0 aggregate win.

The Additional Second Preliminary Round's first leg involving the clubs, which took place in Dar es Salaam, saw them settle for a barren draw.

Yanga's all-important goal in the rematch was notched by Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki in the 78th minute after he was set up by forward Fiston Mayele's header.

Yanga, who showcased solid displays in the rematch, have managed to reach the round of 16 of the CAF Confederation Cup after crashing out of CAF Champions League following a loss to Sudan's Al Hilal SC.

Yanga needs to focus on doing well in African inter-club competitions

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's football supporters were on October 23 having their attention fixed on the 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash involving domestic soccer giants, Yanga and Simba SC, which took place at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The much-hyped tie eventually culminated in a 1-1 draw. Had Yanga defeated Simba SC, I hardly know what would have happened and Yanga fans, as is the case for their Simba SC counterparts, would as well not have understood.

Yanga was officially knocked out of this season's CAF Champions League's Second Preliminary Round by Al Hilal SC of Sudan.

Simba SC advanced to this season's CAF Champions League group stage after beating CD Primeiro de Agosto of Angola, I hardly want to talk about field tactics.

Hopefully, every domestic soccer enthusiast had seen what Simba SC's attacker Moses Phiri did at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium when the outfit locked horns with CD Primeiro de Agosto.

It is also hoped the enthusiasts saw what Yanga's goal-getter Fiston Mayele did when his side faced Al Hilal SC in Khartoum. There were two different performances showcased by the footballers.

Simba SC and Yanga have seemingly decided to take different directions this season. Had Yanga beaten Simba SC, the former would have done so for the third time.

Why should Yanga not concentrate on preparing well for African inter-club tournaments the way they do once they are about to confront Simba SC in domestic tournaments?

It has become clear that there is something that Simba SC knows but unfortunately Yanga is hardly aware of it.

I do not know what it is but the truth is that Simba SC is many steps ahead of Yanga when it comes to taking part in African inter-club tournaments.

The truth is that Simba SC did not play against very difficult opponents in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary rounds but it has done its job well away and smoothly wrap up with good results at home.

Yanga also did not play against very difficult opponents but failed to implement its tactics well both at home and away.

A person can say that Yanga played against tough opponents in Al Hilal SC but it is not surprising that such an individual would not say the same if the Sudan club had taken on Simba SC.

An individual can think that Simba SC had locked horns with easy opponents in CD Primeiro de Agosto but the individual would not have said the same if the Angolan side would have played against Yanga.

There is something that Simba SC has in continental competitions ties that Yanga lacks. Simba SC is confident, the side knows what it is doing on and off the pitch.



Tanzania's Yanga right fullback, Kibwana Shomari (C), shoots past Tunisia's Club Africain center-back when the outfits faced each other in a 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round's rematch that took place at the latter's backyard on Wednesday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

That aspect has spread to the Msimbazi Street squad's players, fans, officials, and the technical bench, they confidently feel they can book a place in the following stage and they ultimately live up to expectations.

Yanga's followers normally believe their club's match against Simba SC is challenging, it is always characterized by strong emotions.

How can Yanga excel in African inter-club tournaments? Why should such feelings by the club's enthusiasts not be channeled to continental competitions? It is a question they will continue to ask themselves.

Simba SC has a secret that the outfit is hiding from Yanga. With the squad that Yanga now has, I think the outfit deserved to bundle Al Hilal SC out.

What is missing in Yanga is awareness of continental competition matches on and off the pitch, Simba SC has a sense of belonging and the side has built confidence.

The same can be said of England's Liverpool when it comes to the outfit's participation in UEFA Champions League.

Something pushes the club and tells it that the showdown belongs to the side and when it comes to games taking part at the club's home turf, Anfield Stadium, something is pushing the club's followers and players to put spirited showing.

In 2005, when Liverpool won the UEFA Champions

League, it was as if the outfit was returning to the tournament it was used to excel.

Liverpool failed to make it to the English Premier League's top four in 2005 season but managed to win the UEFA Champions League.

Soccer followers ought to remember that Liverpool had gone 15 years without winning the English Premier League title but the outfit managed to win UEFA Champions League.

Yanga won two easy matches against South Sudan's Zalan FC Rumbek in the First Preliminary Round but in the Second Preliminary Round matches against Al Hilal SC, Yanga had to command victory over the Sudan outfit.

If an outfit knows that Khartoum Stadium, used by Al Hilal SC, is difficult then the former should win in its home home against the latter before thinking about anything else.

Simba SC once conceded five goals in two consecutive matches against Egypt's Al Ahly and DR Congo's AS Vita but in the return leg ties, it was as if the two clubs were playing against two different teams.

In the continental tournament's away fixtures, Simba SC was completely different from the one that played at home.

In Yanga's two matches against Al Hilal SC, soccer followers had seen that the former was the same in both duels, the only difference was probably Yanga attacker Fiston Mayele's goal scored against Al Hilal SC in Dar es

Salaam.

Yanga leadership can request a secret meeting with their Simba SC counterparts to discuss issues about excelling in African inter-club competitions.

There is something Simba SC is doing to achieve success in African inter-club tournaments and such a tactic is implemented by the club's officials. Teams change, fans change, and leaders change but the outfits' faith always remains the same.

Yanga has focused on excelling in domestic tournaments whereas Simba SC is concentrating on holding sway in CAF club tournaments.

One can see that Simba SC was in the past taking part in the CAF Champions League's group consisting of tough clubs but the Msimbazi Street club's fanatics started to feel that their club will hold sway.

Finally, Simba SC made it to the quarterfinals, this is a positive belief that gives the players a lot of motivation to perform well. Yanga has not yet embraced this belief and their players are also not yet infused with such belief.

Yanga's Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki who was in great form when turning out for Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas is hardly the same footballer now donning the Tanzanian outfit's jerseys.

There is something Yanga has to do, they have a good squad that might be better than Simba's, but the latter has something special that hardly needs a good team.

Simba SC midfielder misses out on Premier League clash against Ifehu SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

Simba SC Malawian attacking midfielder Peter Banda has returned to Dar es Salaam following the injury he suffered in his side's 2022/23 NBC Premier League match against Singida Big Stars that took place in Singida on November 9.

Banda, who had replaced defensive midfielder Jonas Mkude in the second half of the match, helped Simba SC manage a 1-1 draw with Singida Big Stars after registering an equalizer.

The offensive midfielder did not manage to finish the game safely, given the footballer was on the receiving end of a reckless tackle by a Singida Big Stars player, which forced the former to be taken to hospital for treatment.

Banda will for that matter not be part of Simba SC that locks horns with Ifehu SC in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel against Mbeya's Ifehu SC slated for today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The midfielder was signed by Simba SC at the beginning of last season from Malawi's Nyasa Big Bullets.

Simba SC made its way back to Dar es Salaam early on Thursday from Singida via Dodoma to prepare for today's fixture.

Simba SC had traveled to Singida for the NBC Premier League game against Singida Big Stars played at Liti Stadium and ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Msimbazi Street club arrived in Dar es Salaam aboard an Air Tanzania plane and directly headed to its camp to prepare for the duel against Ifehu SC.

The results of Simba's top-flight tie against Singida Big Stars have made the former notch 18 points to sit third in the league log behind Azam FC now placed second and log leader Yanga that have 20 points apiece.

Ifehu SC which locks horns with Simba SC later in the afternoon is languishing at the bottom of the NBC Premier League standings with five points after playing nine games.



The NSSF Veterans football side's player Hamis Msumi (2nd R) negotiates his way past Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park side's players during a friendly tie which took place at the center's venue in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Israelis, Palestinians can fly on same flights to World Cup

JERUSALEM

SOCCER fans from Israel and the Palestinian territories will be able to fly directly to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar from Tel Aviv for the first time, soccer's global governing body announced Thursday. The development is a breakthrough agreement for Israel and Qatar – two countries without diplomatic relations.

The charter flights to Doha from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv for the tournament starting Nov. 20 will be open to all Palestinians, FIFA said. That includes residents and accredited media workers from the occupied West Bank and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, which has been under a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade for 15 years.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza do not have their own airport and must apply for a hard-to-obtain airport permit to use Ben Gurion. Such permits are only approved, if at all, shortly before takeoff.

Israel may still refuse to grant exit permits to residents of blockaded Gaza seeking to fly out of Tel Aviv to attend the World Cup. Such permission is only granted in exceptional circumstances.

Israeli officials had no immediate details on how many flights would take place or how many Palestinians would be allowed to travel. When asked for comment on the arrangement, Ahmad Deek, the director-general of the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, said it was the first he'd heard of.

Israeli citizens cannot ordinarily fly directly to Doha or enter Qatar on their Israeli passports. Relations have soured since Doha closed an Israeli trade office in 2008 over the Gaza war. Even without diplomatic relations, Qatar helps mediate between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers during rounds of conflict.

Washington lauded the development and said it will "benefit Israeli and Palestinian soccer fans alike as a step towards expanding greater freedom of travel for all."

"The United States congratulates FIFA, Israel, and Qatar on the historic step of opening direct flights between Tel Aviv and Doha for the duration of the World Cup," said U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price. "Today's announcement is a historic development and an important step that also holds great promise to bolster people to people ties and economic relations."

However, the breakthrough travel arrangement could still fall apart.

The Qatari government said that Doha told Israel that "any escalation in Jerusalem, Gaza or the West Bank during this time will risk the cancellation of the agreement – including the direct flights."

Violence in the West Bank has surged in recent months as Israel has escalated nightly arrest raids, making 2022 the deadliest in the occupied territory since 2006.

FIFA also announced on Thursday that a temporary consular service would assist Israelis in Doha during the tournament. Some 3,800 Israelis and 8,000 Palestinians have applied for the Hayya card, which acts as an entry visa to Qatar for the soccer tournament.

"Consular services for Israeli citizens will be provided in coordination with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a designated privately operated international travel company based in Doha," FIFA said. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid welcomed the agreement as the result "hard work over the course of many months."

A Qatari government statement said the travel arrangement for Israeli citizens was "part of Qatar's commitment to FIFA's hosting requirements and it should not be politicized."

Israel has previously made inroads into the region in part due to international events. Dubai's Expo 2020 world's fair saw Israel participate. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalized relations with Israel two years ago.

To head off criticism, Qatar stressed that "its stance on normalization has not changed" and that the country continues to support the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel as the solution to the decades-old conflict. There have been no serious peace talks in more than a decade.

"As of late, we have not seen any positive developments in the peace process that would merit a change in our policy," the Qatari government added.

Qatar consented to welcoming all fans into the country when it started campaigning to host the World Cup, and when it signed contracts with FIFA after winning the vote in December 2010. A similar obligation was made to respect FIFA commercial partners by easing Qatar's strict limits on the consumption and purchase of alcohol so it could be served at official World Cup sites.

The tournament – the first World Cup to be hosted in the Middle East and an Arab nation – runs from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18.

However, Israeli and Palestinian fans won't be rooting for their national teams. The Israeli national team, which has not played in Asian qualifying for the World Cup since the 1970s for security reasons, did not advance to the tournament in Qatar from its European group. The Palestinian team was eliminated in a preliminary qualifying group won by Saudi Arabia.

Only fans with match tickets are allowed to enter Qatar until Dec. 2 to ease the demand on a limited supply of accommodation in the tiny emirate when all 32 teams are still playing. Ticketless fans can arrive later, in time for the first knockout round of 16 teams.

Arab nations eye breakthrough at World Cup in Qatar

By KEN MAGUIRE

PLAYING on more familiar ground this time, Arab nations will get another chance to shine at this year's World Cup after a disappointing showing in Russia.

None of the four Arab teams at the 2018 tournament made it out of the first round, with only a consolation victory each for Saudi Arabia and Tunisia in their final group games.

That record-high number of four teams has been matched this time with Morocco in the tournament, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia back again, plus host nation Qatar.

Qatar lobbied to move its opener against Ecuador to Nov. 20 so it gets the worldwide spotlight in its first-ever World Cup game. Saudi Arabia takes on an Argentina team led by Lionel Messi two days later.

No pressure. "Everyone on the team is dreaming to get to the second round and, of course, some of them are dreaming of winning the World Cup but, for us, we just need to focus on our first game against Argentina," Saudi Arabia coach Hervé Renard said. "It will be a fantas-



Tunisia players pose for a team picture during the international friendly soccer match between Brazil and Tunisia at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. (AP Photo)

tic challenge for us, but we must be ready."

Arab teams have reached the round of 16 only three times in tournament history. Morocco did it in 1986 – in a first for Africa, as well – followed by Saudi Arabia in 1994 and Algeria eight years ago.

Eight Arab teams have played in the World Cup, beginning with Egypt at the second tournament in 1934.

ASPIRATIONAL

It's the first time the World Cup will be held in the Middle East and in an Arab country.

There hasn't been an Arab nation making its debut since Saudi Arabia in 1994. Resource-rich Qatar qualified automatically as host but they've

spent years – and lots of money – developing a competitive national team.

They have done it through the Aspire Academy, which hired foreign directors and coaches to scout and develop young Qataris. At one point the academy recruited young Africans, though FIFA later tightened eligibility rules.

The work is paying off. Qatar won the Asian Cup in 2019, beating favored Japan 3-1 in the final to claim its first major soccer title.

Aspire said 70% of that Qatar team was developed at its academy, including the tournament's top scorer, Al-moez Ali.

INFLUENCE

Whether or not Arab

teams excel in Qatar, it's clear wealthy Persian Gulf states are wielding influence.

"We're finally beginning to recognize the truly global appeal of the game, the fact that it no longer belongs to one region, one country or one set of football associations, but in fact it's something that's become much more invested in by people from all over the world," said Abdullah Al-Arian, an associate professor of history at Georgetown University in Qatar.

Some of Europe's best-known clubs have Gulf ownership: Manchester City (Abu Dhabi), Paris Saint-Germain (Qatar) and Newcastle (Saudi Arabia).

Qatar spent billions

building stadiums to host soccer's marquee tournament amid complaints about its treatment of migrant workers.

The Saudis use the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund to invest in a variety of sports – which critics say is an effort to mask the country's poor human rights record.

"The fear becomes that the fans, who are the heartbeat of the entire game, get left behind as all of these other actors are jockeying for their own influence," said Al-Arian, who edited a book called "Football in the Middle East."

ON THE FIELD

Algeria's debut at the World Cup was a shocker – a 2-1 win over West Germany in 1982. But the North Africans didn't advance after the German team eased to a 1-0 win over Austria four days later in a controversial game known as the "Disgrace of Gijón."

The Saudis still talk about Said Al-Owairan's Diego Maradona-like individual effort in a 1-0 victory over Belgium in 1994 at RFK Stadium in Washington.

Today, coaches even at domestic levels try to emulate the successful

tactics of top European clubs.

Andy Roxburgh, the technical director of the Asian Football Confederation, said trends like high pressing are becoming popular in Asia.

"The kind of high pressing game that Al Hilal have been showcasing lately has been extremely rare in West Asia and Asian football at large," Roxburgh said at an AFC forum, citing the powerhouse Saudi club. "We can now see a gradual increase in the number of teams who are beginning to practice this."

The Saudi and Qatari coaches say one of their advantages is all of their players come from their domestic leagues, so they are tight-knit groups.

Most of Qatar's players have been in training camps since June.

"We have the luxury to be five, six months preparing for the World Cup," Alberto Mendez-Villanueva, head of fitness at the Qatari soccer association, told the Aspire Academy Global Summit this month. "But other federations have the luxury to have players in Madrid, Barcelona, Manchester, Chelsea. So, I'm not sure which way will be the best one."

AP

Politics of Israel and Iran ensnare 1st World Cup in Mideast

JERUSALEM

QATAR may hope soccer fans ignore politics at the first World Cup in the Middle East. But Israel and Iran, foes locked in conflicts across the region, are bringing sensitive flashpoints to the tournament's doorstep.

Israel is not competing, but it sees the massive spectacle as a way to further integrate into the Middle East after establishing ties with two of Qatar's Gulf Arab neighbors. Thousands of Israeli tourists, long shunned, are expected to fly to the Qatari capital of Doha on unprecedented direct flights.

Iran, convulsed by protests that erupted over the Sept. 16 death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, in the custody of the country's morality police, has much at stake. The pitch could provide Iranian activists a vast audience for a protest. Or it could deliver Iran a victory on the world stage in a first-round match against its rival, the United States.

The tournament's location in the Persian Gulf emirate, just a short flight away from Israel and Iran, adds another layer of tension. Iranian and Israeli fans have rubbed shoulders at World Cups before, but never at such an event in their own backyard.

"It's always possible for Israeli and Iranian tensions to play out," said Mehrzad Boroujerdi, an Iran expert and college dean at Missouri University of Science and Technology. "One can expect hard-liners to try and make a statement."

For Israel, sporting tournaments have been pivotal in its quest for acceptance despite the unresolved conflict with the Palestinians.

In 2018, two years



FILE – The official FIFA World Cup Countdown Clock on Doha's corniche, overlooking the skyline of Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022. Qatar may hope soccer fans ignore politics at the first World Cup in the Middle East. But Israel and Iran, foes locked in conflicts across the region, are bringing sensitive flashpoints to the tournament's doorstep. (AP Photo)

before the United Arab Emirates formalized relations with Israel, the Israeli national anthem played and the country's flag flew at a judo competition in Abu Dhabi.

The scene of an Israeli Cabinet minister weeping as she sang "HaTikva" in the UAE capital induced whiplash after years of Arab and Iranian players refusing handshakes with Israelis and pulling out of matches.

The so-called Abraham Accords that Israel struck in 2020 with Bahrain, Morocco and the UAE marked a decisive turn in the region. The prospect of Israeli normalization with Qatar, which helps bankroll the Gaza Strip's militant Hamas rulers, may appear far-fetched after Doha shuttered an Israeli trade office there in 2008.

But the unprecedented influx of thousands of Israeli fans into the conservative Muslim country could advance Israel's ambitions to become just another country in the region, experts say.

In a breakthrough agreement announced Thursday, Qatar promised to allow soccer fans from Israel and the Palestinian territories to fly directly to Doha. That includes residents

changed."

Many Israelis are seizing on the tournament as a rare opportunity to see an emirate otherwise off-limits.

"There's only this one time that we can go," said Gil Zilber, a fan from the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan with World Cup tickets. "I hear they (Qatar) support Hamas but I'm not afraid."

Iran – and its soccer showdown with the U.S. on Nov. 29 – has also thrust the World Cup into combustible politics.

The protests sweeping Iran have morphed into one of the boldest challenges to the ruling clerics since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Security forces have sought to quash dissent, killing over 270 people, according to rights groups.

Iranian activists have demanded that FIFA, world soccer's global governing body, eject Iran from the World Cup, citing the country's violent crackdown and restrictions on female fans in soccer stadiums.

Ukraine's top soccer club also made the request over Iran's military support for Russia in its war on Ukraine. Iran is still competing,

however.

What will happen on the field – whether team members wear arm-bands in solidarity with the protests as they did during the 2009 Green Movement or shake hands with their American rivals as they did in 1998 – is a fraught question. Already, dissidents abroad have called for protests during the matches.

Some Iranian players have spoken out in support of the protest movement. In an Instagram post later deleted, Iran's international striker Sardar Azmoun said he would sacrifice his place in the tournament for "one hair on the heads of Iranian women." In an act of defiance, he did not celebrate when he scored at a match in Vienna in late September.

Former soccer stars have been more vocal. Two were arrested over their support for the protests.

"Soccer players in Iran have always sided with the people," said Alex Vatanka, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington.

They will be closely watched. When Iranian climber Elnaz Rekabi competed in South Ko-

rea without wearing her country's mandatory headscarf, she became a lighting rod of the protest movement. Some expect a similar international incident at the World Cup. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi tasked his foreign minister last week with "predicting and preventing possible problems," state-run IRNA news agency reported.

"Considering the geographical proximity to Iran and the fact that exposing the regime has become so important, we will likely see Iranians and expats utilizing the World Cup as a spectacle to voice their protest," Boroujerdi said.

Iran initially sought to cash in on that proximity – promoting its island hotels to World Cup fans – but the plans quickly fell apart. Meanwhile, foreigners have been arrested amid the protests. A Spanish hiker trekking from Madrid to the World Cup disappeared after crossing into Iran.

"No one is willing to visit Iran in the current situation," Tehran-based tour agent Omid Gholamhosseini said.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Arab nations eye breakthrough at World Cup in Qatar

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George Mpole vs Geita Gold FC saga takes new twist

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GEITA Gold FC leadership has issued a detailed explanation about the saga involving the outfit and forward George Mpole who has left the club to reportedly pressure the squad to pay part of the money he demands.

The club's chairman Constatine Morandi said: "Mpole is a Geita Gold FC player, he is needed in the camp soon and the allegations are not true, he has to return to the club and he cannot be bigger than the club as is the case with any other player."

The official noted: "He needs to show that he is a good player by playing, not basking in the ego of achievements he attained last season."

However, Geita Gold FC's information officer Samuel Didda clarified the matter, saying: "Geita Gold FC has not reached a situation where a player goes on strike because of interests, we respect the rights of the players, this is an institution under the Geita Town Council so its guidelines go in line with the service manuals."

Didda revealed: "This has happened because the information has been coming out without any confirmation but, at the moment, everything is fine, I think Mpole is one of the players whose needs have been completed to a large extent."

The leader pointed out: "He has not only got what he needed before signing the contract but also after signing it, everything went well."

He revealed: "Mpole left after our game against Coastal Union which took place in Tanga, he left in the morning when we were preparing to return to Geita to prepare for the game against Namungo FC."

The official noted: "He informed the team manager that he will not be going back to Geita because he is going to Dar es Salaam to see his doctor because he feels he has thigh pain."

"The leaders asked the team doctors about his report and they said they did not have any information about him."

"The leaders wanted to meet Mpole to ask him about his problem, maybe our doctors could help him but he did not come."

"We traveled to Dar for the game against Ruvu Shooting, Mpole came to practice and head coach Fred Felix allowed him to practice."

"On the day of the match against Ruvu Shooting he was not in the coach's plan, after that game we went to prepare for the game against Yanga but Mpole did not come back and continued to stay in Dar es Salaam."

"So we continue to believe that he is not at his place of work, but we see on social media that he claims Geita Gold FC has not fulfilled his needs."

Mpole, who finished as the Premier League top scorer last season, revealed the information is not true except that he is outside the Geita Gold FC camp as NBC Premier League rages on.

He said he is still a legitimate player of Geita Gold FC and if any of the club's leaders have complained in the media about his absence in the camp, they should look for him to find out what is going on with him at the moment.

"Is there a leader who issued information about me? I can't talk about anything concerning the team. They should look for me and find out what I am into. I have no problem with the leader and I am a legitimate player of Geita Gold FC," Mpole noted.

The goal-getter said: "No leader called me, I have injuries and I'm having treatment, I got pain when we played against Coastal Union in Tanga."

"Our teams have challenges in treatment, these are the challenges facing Tanzanian football. I'm thankful that I'm doing well."

"The leaders who say I'm not in the team are the ones saying I should not be paid salary but there are some players who stayed at home for more than two months and got their salaries on time."

The footballer revealed: "I don't know why this has happened to me, I have done a good job at Geita Gold FC but I'm not happy with them in this."

Simba SC out to continue strong home form in NBC Premier League



Simba SC attacker, Kibu Denis (R), challenges Singida Big Stars FC's winger Deus Kaseke as the clubs took on each other in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League match that was played in Singida on Wednesday and ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will look to continue their strong home form in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League when they host Ihefu SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening, with kick-off scheduled for 19h00.

After a frustrating midweek 1-1 draw with Singida Big Stars in Singida, Simba SC desperately needs a confidence-boosting win today. It helps that they are at home, pitted against bottom-placed Ihefu SC.

The 1-1 draw with Singida Big Stars saw Simba SC drop to third, two points behind leaders Young Africans SC,

alias Yanga, who have a game in hand.

Simba SC needs a quick and possibly huge win and they just cannot ask for a better option at the moment.

They will have the backing of their home crowd, and they are going after one of the worst teams in the NBC Premier League.

The Msimbazi Street squad has claimed 13 points from a possible 15

having played five home matches this season, with their last game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium bringing a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar on October 30.

Speaking to the press ahead of the game, Simba SC head coach Juma Mgunda admitted it is a tough challenge and they cannot afford to underestimate Ihefu SC despite their bottom

position in the league table.

The gaffer said: "The preparations are going well. We are ready to play Ihefu SC. Every team indeed has its objectives, and to achieve the goals you must win."

He revealed: "This league is tough and each team has shown it is ready to compete. Simba SC can't underestimate Ihefu SC and will approach the game with the same determination to be prepared to fight for victory."

Coach Mgunda will continue missing the service of midfielder Clatous Chama who is serving a three-match ban.

Winger Peter Banda is also sidelined with an injury since limping off against Singida Big Stars.

Israel Patrick Mwenda has returned to training but is still a doubt for the game due to match fitness.

On the other hand, not only is Ihefu SC a new addition to the NBC Premier League, but the club has had a single win to its name since August in the league.

The Mbarali District side has claimed just one point from five away matches this season with their last result on the road a 1-0 loss to Azam FC on 31 October.

All along they conceded goals in plenty, and to make matters worse they have a poor head-to-head record against Simba SC too.

In head-to-head stats, Simba SC and Ihefu SC have met in two previous league matches.

Both of those encounters took place in the 2020/21 season, with Simba SC winning both games.

Simba Queens in pursuit of bronze medals in 2022 CAF Women's Champions League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER a heartbreaking semi-final defeat to South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies on Wednesday, Tanzania's Simba Queens will today look for amends and end their participation in the 2022 CAF Women's Champions League held in Morocco with something to cheer about.

Simba Queens will slug it out with Nigeria Women's Premier League and WAFU-B Zonal Qualifiers' champions, Bayelsa Queens, in the third-place playoff match that will take place at Stade Moulay Hassan, Rabat with the bronze medals at stake for both sides.

In their maiden appearance at this stage, reaching the semi-finals was a good feat for Simba Queens.

After seeing their dream of making it to the final dashed, Simba Queens' head coach Charles Lukula is confident his side can bow out of the tournament on the high.

The 45-year-old Ugandan coach said bronze medals would be a good consolation for his girls who have won the hearts of millions of African football fans with free-flowing football but were undone by



Simba Queens' defensive midfielder, Vivian Odhiambo (2nd L), shoots past Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies' goalkeeper Thalea Smidt as the outfits faced each other in a 2022 CAF Women's Champions League semi-final in Morocco on Wednesday. Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies cruised to a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS SC

the inefficient use of chances in front of goals in the two defeats they suffered against the two finalists, defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies, and hosts AS FAR WFC of Morocco.

"This is an important game, we need to at least go

back home with a medal, I will need to concentrate and see how I can score goals if I get those chances I wasted because going back home with the medal would be better for the girls," Lukula said.

To return home with

bronze medals, Simba Queens will have to improve on their finishing which let them down.

They will hope skipper Opah Clement who has netted two times, is more clinical in front of goal as she looks to catch up with

tournament top scorer, Lelona Daweti of Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies who has four goals.

On the other hand, Bayelsa Queens who were left to lick their wounds after Ibtissam Jraidi's first-half fine finish was all AS FAR WFC needed to dash the West Africans' title dream at Stade Moulay Hassan on Wednesday will be looking to bounce back with bronze medals on top of the USD 200,000 they are guaranteed to receive as one of the semi-finalists.

In Mercy Itimi, who has two goals to her name, Bayelsa Queens has a player that represents a danger for Simba Queens' defense that has conceded three goals so far.

The Confederation of African Football launched the CAF Women's Champions League in 2021 with the first edition played in Cairo, Egypt in November.

South African club, Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies won the maiden championship after defeating Ghana's Hasaacas Ladies 2-0 in the final.

The CAF Women's Champions League is the flagship competition of women's club football competition on African soil and a giant step towards advancing women's football in Africa.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

