



Geothermal firm receives 3bn/- worth of equipment to start Lake Ngosi drills

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

THE government has acquired equipment worth over 3bn/- to drill geothermal wells for electricity generation at Lake Ngosi in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region.

The equipment, sourced from various countries, arrived in Mbeya city lately for the Geothermal Development Co. (TGDC), implementing the project.

Shakiru Kajugusi, the TGDC director, said at an event to receive that equipment, that the firm had inspected that equipment and confirmed it was in good condi

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TCAA outlines plans for sustainable aviation sector Page 3



Doors open for private sector to use Dar port Page 4



Govt pledges stable tin market to control smuggling activities Page 6



President Samia Suluhu Hassan leads a cabinet meeting at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

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Amrouche's ban ends, but future with Taifa Stars remains uncertain

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Yanga unveil Jonathan Ikangalombo after move from AS Vita

TCRA cancels 12,896 fraudulent SIM cards



By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 12,896 SIM cards were deactivated in the past three months on suspicions of being used in fraudulent messaging involving questionable online transactions.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general, issued this datum at a briefing on the sector's performance in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He cited a 19 percent decrease in attempted frauds using phone lines, with SIM cards cancelled dropping

from 16,002 from July to September 2024 to 12,896 from October to December 2024, a diminution of over three thousand SIM cards.

Regions with higher numbers of deactivated simcards as of late last year were Rukwa (5,305), Morogoro (4,278), Mbeya (930), Dar es Salaam (765), Katavi (281), Arusha (260), Songwe (150), Mwanza (132) and Tabora (122), he stated.

The quarterly report indicated an increase in attempted frauds by six percent on Halotel, 12percent on TTCL, and 52 percent on Airtel, while fraud attempts on the rebranded Yas and

Vodacom decreased by 75percent and nine percent respectively.

Few incidents were reported for Zanzibar, specifically with Pemba North (1), Pemba South (2), Unguja Urban West (1.5), Unguja North (5), and Unguja South (5).

Stressing that secure and responsible use of mobile systems is vital for sustainable growth and improvement in living standards, the regulator vowed vigilant monitoring to identify fraudulent calls, especially those coming from outside the country.

TCRA had taken appro-

priate measures enabling that have led to a decrease in reported incidents, reflecting the government's commitment to combating cybercrimes, he stated.

He praised Communication and Information Technology minister Jerry Silaa and his Home Affairs counterpart Hamad Masauni for organizing a stakeholders meeting towards the end of the year.

The meeting was attended by top officials from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), media

executives and CEOs of mobile money service providers, who exchanged ideas on ways to combat frauds exploiting the use of Sim-cards, he said.

TCRA has been working to ensure that stolen, lost or damaged phones are not being used, as well as phones that do not meet proper standards or are counterfeit, he said.

"Our efforts also include identifying and deactivating duplicate international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) numbers associated with fraudulent activities. An online entry specifies that IMEI is a numeric iden-

tifier, usually unique, for 3GPP and iDEN mobile phones, as well as some satellite equipment.

TCRA would pursue its public education efforts on safe mobile phone usage to protect users from online scammers, he said, reiterated the importance of vigilance.

The public need to report suspicious messages or calls, as phone numbers associated with fraudsters can be reported to 15040 via SMS, a toll service. Sanctions or other regulatory measures will be applied based on such reports, he added.

Tenants retold to withhold, remit 10pc of rent to TRA

By Guardian Reporter

TENANTS in residential or commercial buildings should withhold a portion of their rent payments before paying their landlords and remit the relevant amount to the tax authorities as withholding tax.

Mashenene Benny, a senior tax officer for the Kariakoo Tax Region in Dar es Salaam for the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) issued this guidance at a meeting with local government officials in the area yesterday.

He urged them to lead- ers to work closely with the TRA to ensure effective implementation of tax requirements, particularly regarding property leasing and

land sales. He said that tax regulations demand that tenants withhold 10 percent of their rent payments to the landlord before making the payment, then submit the funds to TRA on behalf of the property owner.

This withholding tax applies to all types of rental properties, for residential or commercial leases, where a tenant renting business premises and paying a

monthly rent of 1m/- will be required to withhold 10 percent of the rent.

"In this case, the tenant will pay the landlord 900,000/- with the remaining 100,000/- being forwarded to TRA," he stated, affirming that TRA shall be broadcasting this regulation to educate the public on tax obligations to ensure full compliance with the law.

A significant challenge in enforcing this regulation

is the lack of awareness among tenants and landlords, he said, insisting that the solution to the problem is assiduous TRA pursuit of educational sessions "to ensure everyone is fully informed and fulfils their tax duties."

He similarly dwelt on the taxation of profits from land and property sales, noting that under section 90(1) of the Income Tax Act, individuals making a profit from selling land or property are required to pay 10 percent of that profit as tax.

"However, if there is no evidence of costs, such as construction expenses, the tax will be calculated at three percent of the sale price of the property or land," he added.

Minister: IMF funds will cbe properly used

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

ALL development funds released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be utilised effectively to support the country's economic growth agenda, the government has reaffirmed.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, stated this commitment at a farewell event for Charalambos Tsangarides, the outgoing IMF country head of mission, who has spent three and half years on his current duty station.

The government will

persist in its efforts to securing funds for key strategic projects to foster national development and economic growth, he said

He hinted at progress being made in the implementation of reform initiatives aimed at addressing the effects of climate change, where funds are being secured from the resilience and sustainability facility (RSF) of the IMF.

"I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication in supporting our country's economic development," he said,

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Minister: IMF funds will be properly used

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stressing that staff at the Treasury will offer all the necessary cooperation to the IMF country mission.

He gestured in the direction of Nicolas Blancher, the new IMF head of mission, vowing support and collaboration from the government.

"We are excited to benefit from the expertise of another seasoned professional, just as we did with Tsangarides, in achieving our long-term economic development goals," the minister declared.

Tsangarides, in his farewell remarks, hailed the strong cooperation

he was provided during his tenure, commended the government's efforts in managing economic development.

He pledged to maintain support for Tanzania in its journey to improve public welfare, while the incoming head of mission issued assurances of full commitment to working together, building on the work done by his predecessor.

His tenure will be dedicated to ensuring the successful achievement of the country's economic goals, he added.

Ethiopian vets raise awareness on health, welfare of working horses

ADDIS ABABA

HORSES and donkeys are crucial for transport and trade in Ethiopia, yet little attention is paid to their welfare.

Brooke, an international charity dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys, and mules, says diseased animals are often abandoned and left to wander the streets.

Now, vets are trying to raise awareness about their health and welfare among the cart drivers who rely on them for their income.

Mulugeta Alemu studied veterinary medicine after witnessing the widespread abuse of horses.

He used to work for Brooke and now works for the Amen Veterinary Clinic.

"Abandoned horses on the road are affected by two diseases, ulcerative lymphangitis and epizootic lymphangitis," he says.

"While these conditions are treatable, the cost often surpasses the purchase price of the horse, reaching thousands of birr (local currency)."

Alemu says that, as a result, they sometimes have to euthanise the

most severely injured or sick animals. It is believed there are about 250,000 cart horses in Ethiopia.

Brooke says they often work long hours in harsh conditions and seldom have access to any veterinarian care.

It says this leaves many horses with wounds, eye problems, lameness, and hoof injuries, and are often plagued by parasites.

Alemu says owners are reluctant to spend cash on medicines for the animals.

"Due to their perceived low economic value, these animals often receive minimal attention and are overlooked in policy discussions. Yet, when we consider their contribution to the community, they are extremely valuable," he says.

"In rural areas with few cars, horses and pack animals are essential for transportation and provide considerable benefits. However, challenges persist, particularly regarding access to veterinary care and community awareness."

Ethiopia's Veterinary Association says regulation is needed to ensure the welfare of these horses.



The opposition ACT-Wazalendo party leader, Dorothy Semu addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, unveiling intentions to run for the presidency in this year's general election. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Geothermal firm receives 3bn/- worth of equipment to start Lake Ngosi drills

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It would soon be transported to the project site, he stated.

The Lake Ngosi project is a priority and the TANESCO subsidiary will ensure timely delivery of the equipment to begin implementation.

"We expect to start the project by the end of February or early March. With the equipment now

on-site, there will be no further delays," he said.

Hoja Honori, the Lake Ngosi geothermal project acting manager, urged the local community to help safeguard the received equipment from damage or theft, noting that this could disrupt the project's progress.

The cited the high cost of equipment and the need for its protection to ensure it is properly used

in electricity generation. Once finished, the project would benefit the country at large by increasing electricity supply, contributing to various developmental activities.

"The government has invested significantly in this equipment, and the local community should help protect it. Once completed, the project will bring significant benefits to them as well," he said.

Safina Yunde, the well-drilling

contractor, cited plans to hire local residents for non-technical tasks, such as security, materials handling and such other tasks under supervision, to maintain good relations with the surrounding villages.

TGDC has drilled a test well in the Mbaka-Kyejo area in Busokelo area, Rungwe District, and now the major Lake Ngosi project is underway, he added.



Workers cleaning the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ahead of the African Heads of State energy summit in a fortnight. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

African leaders seek collaboration, innovation to tackle climate change

LAGOS

AFRICAN leaders sought collaboration among nations and technological innovation to tackle climate change and ensure sustainable development of nations on the continent.

Addressing the 2025 Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week in the United Arab Emirates Wednesday, they maintained synergy among nations was critical to addressing climate change and growing the continent's economy for sustainable development.

Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu said no nation can walk the road to sustainability alone. He said the fight against climate change requires collaboration among nations.

"The fight against climate change is not merely an environmental necessity but a global economic opportunity to reshape the trajectory of our continent and the global energy

landscape," he declared.

For Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, political commitment alone cannot address the climate change issue and sustainable development, urging leaders to close the gap between political will and tangible action.

"We recognise that sustainable development is a collective effort. We must learn from the mistake of the past," he said, asking nations to embrace technology in tackling climate challenges for sustainable development "where politics has failed."

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, for his part, said that investment in Africa will guarantee access to the growing market.

While highlighting his country's efforts to boost the economy, and tackle environmental problems, Museveni said his country will collaborate with nations on the recommendations of the Abu Dhabi summit.

Sudan, Egypt agree to activate joint mechanisms, says council

KHARTOUM

SUDAN and Egypt have agreed to activate joint mechanisms, especially the dialogue and consultation mechanism between the foreign ministries of the two countries and the quartet mechanism of foreign and irrigation ministers.

The remarks were made when chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council and Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, met with visiting Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Badr Abdelatty in Port Sudan, in the

presence of Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Yousif, the sovereign council said in a statement.

"It was agreed to activate the joint mechanisms and the dialogue and consultation mechanism between the foreign ministries of the two countries, where a meeting will be held in this regard next month, besides holding the quartet meeting between the foreign and irrigation ministers of the two countries next month too," Yousif told reporters.

He noted that the meeting between Al-Burhan and Abdelatty reviewed Egypt's

role in supporting Sudan and the ongoing efforts to achieve peace and reconstruction.

For his part, the Egyptian foreign minister told reporters that the meeting discussed the situation in Sudan, the regional challenges and conflicts, the situation in the Horn of Africa region, and the water issue.

"There are identical positions on the importance of safeguarding the water rights and working to reach a binding legal agreement regarding the operation of the Ethiopian dam," Abdelatty said.

He emphasized the need to maintain

continued coordination between the two countries in all regional and international forums regarding the water issue and continuing to support the Nile Basin Initiative.

Abdelatty said he delivered a message from Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to the Chairman of the Sovereign Council, dealing with bilateral relations and means to enhance them as well as issues of common concern.

The message emphasized Egypt's keenness to continue supporting Sudan and its institutions to uphold its unity, pointing to Egypt's hosting of the Sudanese citizens and

offering them all possible care.

He said the meeting also discussed means of supporting the reconstruction of Sudan.

"We hope that, after reaching a ceasefire and launching a comprehensive political process, an international conference involving broad international and Arab participation will be convened to address the reconstruction and rebuilding," he said, stressing Egypt's readiness to host such a conference. Abdelatty arrived in Port Sudan earlier Wednesday on an official one-day visit to Sudan.

Over 700 CCM cadres take SGR ride to attend meeting

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete was amongst 750 members of the ruling CCM party who traveled from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma by SGR train yesterday to attend the party's special general meeting starting today.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) Director General Masanja Kadogosa expressed pride in the corporation's role in facilitating transport of party members. "It is a source of pride for us to transport members of the party," Kadogosa stated.

Kadogosa also highlighted recent developments, including the acquisition of 264 cargo wagons, which are set to undergo testing and trial runs for three months before certification. He noted that traders have already shown interest in using the wagons to transport goods from the port of Dar es Salaam

to Dodoma once operations begin. Regarding electric multiple units (EMUs), Kadogosa explained that their deployment would be demand-driven. "As demand increases, we can introduce more routes but currently, there is no significant demand," he said.

Meanwhile, CCM Secretary for Ideology, Publicity, and Training, Amos Makalla, announced that the special general meeting would follow meetings of the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee scheduled for today. Makalla outlined three key agenda items for the meeting: filling the Vice Chairperson position left vacant by Abdulrahman Kinana's resignation in 2022, reviewing party reports for 2022-2025, and assessing the progress of the CCM election manifesto implementation.

He assured members that the party has a pool of experienced and capable leaders to fill Kinana's position, emphasizing that the vice-chairmanship would be filled through high-level party nominations, rather than a contest. Makalla stressed that the party would strictly adhere to its constitution in nominating a leader committed to patriotism and political success.



Mariam Ngomaitara, CCM Parents' Wing Chairperson for Kipunguni Ward in Dar es Salaam, speaks at a meeting aimed at raising awareness about residents' duty to combat gender-based violence at the ward on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Kizimkazi port project to consider interests of local community. ZPC

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government of Zanzibar has said that the planned construction of a new port at Kizimkazi Village in Unguja South Region, will prioritise the broader interests of the community affected by the project.

Akif Ali Khamis, Director General of Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), said this yesterday during an initial meeting to present the project proposal to residents of Kizimkazi whose land will be acquired for the construction.

Khamis outlined the key components of the project, including conducting a feasibility study for the port's construction, compensating affected individuals, and fencing off the designated project area. He emphasized that the project aims to improve transportation and trade infrastructure, which will stimulate development and economic growth in the region.

Khamis also urged residents to cooperate fully to ensure the success of the project and help achieve its intended objectives.

Unguja South Regional Commissioner Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud, encouraged residents to prepare to support the project and provide constructive feedback to facilitate its smooth implementation. The port is expected to create economic opportunities for Kizimkazi villagers and the broader

South Unguja Region. While the villagers expressed their support for the project, they emphasized the importance of fairness in compensation to prevent disruptions during the relocation process.

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CSD & REGISTRY COMPANY LIMITED

OFFICE RELOCATION

We are excited to announce that our company i.e., the **CSD & REGISTRY COMPANY LIMITED (CSDR)** is relocating to a new office! This move represents a significant step forward as we continue to grow and expand. The new office is designed to better serve our needs, enhance collaboration, and reflect our dedication to excellence.

Key Details of the Move:

- New Address:** 1st Floor, the Exchange Tower, Morocco Square, Junction of Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road & Mwai Kibaki Road, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
- Move Date:** 20th January 2025

All other contact information including telephone numbers, postal address, e-mails and website addresses will remain the same.

Thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our new offices.

Managing Director,
CSD & Registry Company Limited,
1st Floor, the Exchange Tower, Morocco Square,
P. O. Box 70081
DAR ES SALAAM

Monthly interest rates as of January 2025

Term	Admin Fee	Insurance	New Loan	Refinance Loan	Consolidation Loan	Term	Admin Fee	Insurance	New Loan	Refinance Loan	Consolidation Loan
3	0.00%	0.00%	3.76%	3.76%	3.76%	61	8.47%	7.08%	1.97%	1.82%	1.82%
4	0.00%	7.08%	0.92%	0.92%	0.92%	62	8.47%	7.08%	1.98%	1.83%	1.83%
5	0.00%	7.08%	1.38%	1.38%	1.38%	63	8.47%	7.08%	1.99%	1.83%	1.83%
6	2.00%	7.08%	1.02%	1.02%	1.02%	64	8.47%	7.08%	1.99%	1.84%	1.84%
7	5.00%	7.08%	0.46%	0.46%	0.46%	65	8.47%	7.08%	2.00%	1.85%	1.85%
8	5.00%	7.08%	0.81%	0.81%	0.81%	66	8.47%	7.08%	2.01%	1.86%	1.86%
9	5.00%	7.08%	1.08%	1.08%	1.08%	67	8.47%	7.08%	2.01%	1.86%	1.86%
10	8.47%	7.08%	0.59%	0.59%	0.59%	68	8.47%	7.08%	2.02%	1.87%	1.87%
11	8.47%	7.08%	0.83%	0.83%	0.83%	69	8.47%	7.08%	2.03%	1.87%	1.87%
12	8.47%	7.08%	0.73%	0.73%	0.73%	70	8.47%	7.08%	2.03%	1.88%	1.88%
13	8.47%	7.08%	0.91%	0.91%	0.91%	71	8.47%	7.08%	2.04%	1.89%	1.89%
14	8.47%	7.08%	1.06%	1.06%	1.06%	72	8.47%	7.08%	2.04%	1.89%	1.89%
15	8.47%	7.08%	1.19%	1.19%	1.19%	73	8.47%	7.08%	2.05%	1.90%	1.90%
16	8.47%	7.08%	1.31%	1.31%	1.31%	74	8.47%	7.08%	2.05%	1.90%	1.90%
17	8.47%	7.08%	1.42%	1.42%	1.42%	75	8.47%	7.08%	2.06%	1.91%	1.91%
18	8.47%	7.08%	1.51%	1.51%	1.51%	76	8.47%	7.08%	2.06%	1.91%	1.91%
19	8.47%	7.08%	1.59%	1.59%	1.59%	77	8.47%	7.08%	2.07%	1.92%	1.92%
20	8.47%	7.08%	1.67%	1.67%	1.67%	78	8.47%	7.08%	2.07%	1.92%	1.92%
21	8.47%	7.08%	1.74%	1.74%	1.74%	79	8.47%	7.08%	2.08%	1.93%	1.93%
22	8.47%	7.08%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	80	8.47%	7.08%	2.08%	1.93%	1.93%
23	8.47%	7.08%	1.86%	1.86%	1.86%	81	8.47%	7.08%	2.09%	1.94%	1.94%
24	8.47%	7.08%	1.92%	1.92%	1.92%	82	8.47%	7.08%	2.09%	1.94%	1.94%
25	8.47%	7.08%	1.96%	1.96%	1.96%	83	8.47%	7.08%	2.09%	1.94%	1.94%
26	8.47%	7.08%	2.01%	2.01%	2.01%	84	8.47%	7.08%	2.10%	1.95%	1.95%
27	8.47%	7.08%	2.05%	2.05%	2.05%	85	8.47%	7.08%	2.10%	1.95%	1.95%
28	8.47%	7.08%	2.09%	2.09%	2.09%	86	8.47%	7.08%	2.11%	1.96%	1.96%
29	8.47%	7.08%	2.13%	2.13%	2.13%	87	8.47%	7.08%	2.11%	1.96%	1.96%
30	8.47%	7.08%	2.16%	2.16%	2.16%	88	8.47%	7.08%	2.11%	1.96%	1.96%
31	8.47%	7.08%	2.19%	2.19%	2.19%	89	8.47%	7.08%	2.12%	1.97%	1.97%
32	8.47%	7.08%	2.22%	2.22%	2.22%	90	8.47%	7.08%	2.12%	1.97%	1.97%
33	8.47%	7.08%	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%	91	8.47%	7.08%	2.12%	1.97%	1.97%
34	8.47%	7.08%	2.28%	2.28%	2.28%	92	8.47%	7.08%	2.13%	1.98%	1.98%
35	8.47%	7.08%	2.30%	2.30%	2.30%	93	8.47%	7.08%	2.13%	1.98%	1.98%
36	8.47%	7.08%	1.79%	1.79%	1.79%	94	8.47%	7.08%	2.13%	1.98%	1.98%
37	8.47%	7.08%	1.81%	1.81%	1.81%	95	8.47%	7.08%	2.14%	1.99%	1.99%
38	8.47%	7.08%	1.83%	1.83%	1.83%	96	8.47%	7.08%	2.14%	1.99%	1.99%
39	8.47%	7.08%	1.85%	1.85%	1.85%	97	8.47%	7.08%	2.14%	1.99%	1.99%
40	8.47%	7.08%	1.87%	1.87%	1.87%	98	8.47%	7.08%	2.14%	1.99%	1.99%
41	8.47%	7.08%	1.89%	1.89%	1.89%	99	8.47%	7.08%	2.15%	2.00%	2.00%
42	8.47%	7.08%	1.91%	1.91%	1.91%	100	8.47%	7.08%	2.15%	2.00%	2.00%
43	8.47%	7.08%	1.92%	1.92%	1.92%	101	8.47%	7.08%	2.15%	2.00%	2.00%
44	8.47%	7.08%	1.94%	1.94%	1.94%	102	8.47%	7.08%	2.15%	2.00%	2.00%
45	8.47%	7.08%	1.95%	1.95%	1.95%	103	8.47%	7.08%	2.16%	2.01%	2.01%
46	8.47%	7.08%	1.97%	1.97%	1.97%	104	8.47%	7.08%	2.16%	2.01%	2.01%
47	8.47%	7.08%	1.98%	1.98%	1.98%	105	8.47%	7.08%	2.16%	2.01%	2.01%
48	8.47%	7.08%	1.99%	1.99%	1.99%	106	8.47%	7.08%	2.16%	2.01%	2.01%
49	8.47%	7.08%	2.01%	2.01%	2.01%	107	8.47%	7.08%	2.17%	2.02%	2.02%
50	8.47%	7.08%	2.02%	2.02%	2.02%	108	8.47%	7.08%	2.17%	2.02%	2.02%
51	8.47%	7.08%	2.03%	2.03%	2.03%	109	8.47%	7.08%	2.17%	2.02%	2.02%
52	8.47%	7.08%	2.04%	2.04%	2.04%	110	8.47%	7.08%	2.17%	2.02%	2.02%
53	8.47%	7.08%	2.05%	2.05%	2.05%	111	8.47%	7.08%	2.17%	2.02%	2.02%
54	8.47%	7.08%	2.06%	2.06%	2.06%	112	8.47%	7.08%	2.18%	2.03%	2.03%
55	8.47%	7.08%	2.07%	2.07%	2.07%	113	8.47%	7.08%	2.18%	2.03%	2.03%
56	8.47%	7.08%	2.08%	2.08%	2.08%	114	8.47%	7.08%	2.18%	2.03%	2.03%
57	8.47%	7.08%	2.09%	2.09%	2.09%	115	8.47%	7.08%	2.18%	2.03%	2.03%
58	8.47%	7.08%	2.10%	2.10%	2.10%	116	8.47%	7.08%	2.18%	2.03%	2.03%
59	8.47%	7.08%	2.11%	2.11%	2.11%	117	8.47%	7.08%	2.19%	2.04%	2.04%
60	8.47%	7.08%	1.96%	1.81%	1.81%	118	8.47%	7.08%	2.19%	2.04%	2.04%
						119	8.47%	7.08%	2.19%	2.04%	2.04%
						120	8.47%	7.08%	2.19%	2.04%	2.04%

Doors open for private sector to use Dar port

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has called on the private sector in Tanzania to take advantage of the recent improvements at the Dar es Salaam port to engage in business activities that will contribute to the national revenue and stimulate the country's economic growth.

Speaking during a visit by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Acting Director of the Dar es Salaam Port, Abed Gallus, emphasised that recent upgrades have met the criteria, needs, and expectations of businesspeople, positioning the port to compete effectively in the international market.

Gallus highlighted that significant investments have been made, particularly in infrastructure, such as the loading and unloading zones, which are now equipped with modern machinery. These enhancements have significantly reduced operational times compared to previous years.

"The cranes for loading and unloading cargo have simplified operations and greatly increased efficiency at the

port. This is a unique opportunity for the private sector to capitalise on," Gallus stated.

He further revealed that the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) plans to establish an inland container depot (ICD) at Shimo la Udongo in Kurasini area of Dar es Salaam. This facility will store perishable goods, such as fruits, in specialised refrigerated rooms.

"In the past, perishable goods were routed through ports in neighbouring countries. Now, these goods will be stored in the dry port awaiting for export," Gallus explained.

He noted that complaints about delays in clearing cargo have disappeared, attributing this to the improved speed of operations. "In fact, due to the efficiency of operations, it's now the customers who are delaying the collection of their cargo," he added.

Gallus also urged businesspeople to collect their goods promptly, emphasising that the port is not designed for long-term storage. He pointed out that TPA has large storage facilities, but clearing goods on time is essential to make room for incoming shipments.



Abed Gallus (L), Acting Director of the Port of Dar es Salaam, presents a gift to Hamis Livembe, national chairman of business community association, during their visit to the port on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister orders payment of pending leave allowances for govt workers

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Ridhiwani Kikwete, has directed local government authorities to settle pending leave allowances for employees, some of which have been unpaid since 2018.

He also pledged to consult sectoral ministers to address eight key issues raised by Tanzania Local Government Workers' Union (TALGWU), including concerns over healthcare professionals being required to pay annual licensing fees.

Speaking at the opening of TALGWU General Council meeting in

Dodoma yesterday, Kikwete noted that the government has acknowledged the concerns and instructed city, municipal, district and town directors to strengthen revenue collection within their area to enable payment of salary and leave arrears.

"Leave is a legal right for employees and the government recognises that some councils have limited revenue sources. Despite government efforts to provide grants, some areas still require further emphasis. While working toward a permanent solution, I urge all employers to ensure timely payment of leave allowances," he stated.

Additionally, Kikwete directed

directors to pay duty allowances, particularly for ward executive officers who have reportedly gone unpaid for eight months.

"The implementation should begin immediately. The government will not tolerate the denial of employees' rights. I also remind directors and officials responsible for staff transfers to ensure transfers are based on budget availability, adhering to the existing guidelines," he said.

He further instructed all employers to revitalise workers' councils, warning that the government would not condone non-compliance with legal requirements.

Regarding the mistreatment of public servants, Kikwete con-

demned the practice of publicly announcing terminations and discharging reasons, stating that it denies employees their dignity and rights.

"The behaviour is demeaning and intrusive. Even when an employee is terminated, the announcement should not mark the end of addressing the individual's issue. Remember, every employee has the right to seek legal redress, including in court," he said, urging employers to stop the practice immediately.

The minister also highlighted the government's efforts to improve workers' welfare, including raising pension lump sum payment rate to 40 percent.

Tumaini Nyamhokya, TALGWU National Chairperson and President of the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), commended the government for addressing public service workers' grievances, such as reducing instances of workplace harassment.

He acknowledged progress, including the transfer of employees' salaries from local council revenues to the central government fund and addressing issues related to promotions and claims.

TALGWU Secretary General Rashid Mtima outlined eight key issues, including the delayed payment of transfer, leave, and duty allowances; incomplete implementation of the Public Employees

Performance Management Information System (PEPMIS); structural challenges in staffing and promotions; failure to establish workers' councils; and delays in resolving labor disputes through the Public Service Commission.

He urged the government to allocate leave allowances in the national budget to ensure timely payment. Mtima also suggested that healthcare workers' licence fees be covered by the government to avoid using the fees as criteria for promotions.

He noted that healthcare workers, including nurses, pharmacists, and radiology experts, are charged license fees despite not engaging in private practice and serving the



Khamis Katimba (L), Malinyi District Council Director, speaks during the launch of the district's Workers' Council on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent

Contractor, committee have 10 days to complete secondary school in Chunya

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

CHUNYA District Commissioner, Mbaraka Batenga, has given 10 days to the contractor and school construction committee to complete construction of Nkung'ungu Secondary School so that pupils selected to join the school this year can do so.

Batenga issued the directive on Wednesday during a visit to inspect development projects at Kipembawe division.

"I will not extend even a single day for the contractor and construction committee to complete Nkung'ungu Secondary School. You must increase work hours so the pupils can start their studies," Batenga stated.

He also instructed the project contractor to reimburse transport costs for materials, citing a breach of contract for failing to deliver purchased materials to the site.

Batenga urged the district engineer to oversee the project to ensure it meets the required standards and delivers real value for money. He warned that action would be taken if the standards are not met.

Erasto Kilasi, Chairman of Nkung'ungu Secondary School Construction Committee and a teacher, pledged to supervise suppliers and construction workers fully to ensure the school's completion. He assured that, in addition to completing the

construction, the buildings would meet government standards for school infrastructure.

He emphasized that the remaining time was sufficient to complete the work.

The District Commissioner's visit aimed at assessing the progress of the project which has received government funding exceeding 583.18m/-.



I will not extend even a single day for the contractor and construction committee to complete Nkung'ungu Secondary School. You must increase work hours so the pupils can start their studies

Mass drug administration to combat elephantiasis begins

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam is set to begin a mass drug administration to combat lymphatic filariasis (commonly known as elephantiasis) and hydrocele for residents in 10 most affected wards.

The initiative, which will run from January 22 to 26 this year, is expected to reach 284,035 in-

dividuals, providing them with essential preventative treatment.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule, made the announcement on Wednesday during a primary health committee meeting aimed at strategizing the implementation of the initiative.

The targeted wards for the campaign are Kijitonyama, Makumbusho, Kigogo, Ndugumbi,

Hanasifufu, Mzimuni, Tandale, Kinondoni, Magomeni and Mwananyamala.

"We still have community members suffering from lymphatic filariasis and hydrocele in our areas. These debilitating diseases disrupt daily activities and have a detrimental impact on the social and economic wellbeing of families," Mtambule said.

The district commissioner praised the ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Health and sector partners in enhancing access to healthcare and preventative measures across the country, specifically commending the distribution of treatments for these diseases within Kinondoni district.

Mtambule also urged the district health committee to continue educating the

public on the importance of taking the medication to prevent further spread of the diseases.

He issued a strong warning to anyone who may attempt to sabotage the initiative by spreading false information or misleading the public.

Dr Peter Nsanya, Kinondoni Municipal Medical Officer, explained that the council continues to provide education

to citizens and special groups regarding the significance of the treatment.

He confirmed that over 146 health workers are actively engaged in educating the public about the importance of the treatment.

The targeted beneficiaries for the treatment will be those aged five years and above. The medication will be administered by community health

workers, distributors, and trained teachers who have been instructed on the proper methods for dispensing the medication.

The mass distribution of drugs will take place across various locations, including door-to-door in residential areas, schools, public and private offices, health facilities, transport hubs, markets, and other public gathering places.



Babati District Commissioner Emmanuela Kaganda (R) hands over school supplies to pupils from underprivileged families in the district on Wednesday to enable them return to school. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

SA's Cape Town crowned 2025's best city worldwide

CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN, South Africa's legislative capital, has been crowned the best city in the world for 2025 by Time Out, climbing from its second-place ranking last year, the city government announced on Wednesday.

Time Out, a global media and hospitality leader, revealed its annual "Best Cities in the World" list, highlighting Cape Town's ranking for its beauty, overall happiness, and top-notch food scene.

"The Mother City - as it is affectionately known - is rich in history and cultural significance, and offers visitors countless opportunities to discover incredible food, culture, and nightlife, not to mention impeccable green spaces and access to nature," it said.

The ranking was determined through a survey of over 18,500 residents from cities worldwide, combined with insights from more than 100 urban experts within Time Out's network.

Cape Town topped the list, followed by Bangkok, New York, Melbourne, London, New Orleans, Mexico City, Porto, Shanghai, and Copenhagen.

In a statement, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis expressed pride in the recognition, saying it is "particularly meaningful" as the result is "largely based on the responses from residents of the city themselves."

"In addition to all the things that make Cape Town a must-visit tourism destination - our unmatched natural beauty, blue flag beaches, wonderful cuisine, nightlife, and cultural diversity - it is the overall happiness of residents that perhaps means the most in this extensive survey," he said.

"This is a shared achievement, and we're excited to continue attracting visitors from around the country, continent, and the rest of the world," Cape Town's Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth Alderman James Vos said.

"The 2023 gross value add of the industry for Cape Town was more than 27 billion rands (around 1.4 billion U.S. dollars) in addition to supporting over 91,000 jobs. This acknowledgment from Time Out and their readers is sure to be a further boost to our wonderful local tourism industry, further fuelling Cape Town's economic growth," he added.

'All huge projects in Northern Zone obtain EIA certificates'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Northern Zone has ensured that all major projects, including road construction, factories and mines, have obtained Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificates.

NEMC Northern Zone Manager, Benjamin Dotto, discussed the council's recent achievements in registering various investment projects during an interview with this paper yesterday.

Dotto highlighted that the NEMC Northern Zone has conducted several media

programmes to educate the public on the importance of environmental care, and the Council's responsibilities.

"Among our notable achievements is the successful organisation of activities to clean the environment and plant trees. In a short time, we've managed to plant many trees," he said.

He further emphasised that NEMC Northern Zone ensures that environmental policies and laws are managed effectively to align economic development with environmental preservation.

Dotto shared that the council oversees environmental care in various develop-

mental sectors. These include 1,286 health service projects, 317 tourism projects, 247 energy projects, 201 timber industry projects, 176 industrial investments, and 118 agricultural projects.

Other significant projects under its supervision include 74 warehouses, 27 construction projects, 26 mining projects, 12 livestock farming projects, 11 building projects, five communication projects, and three infrastructure projects.

He also noted that the Northern Zone is home to several important tourist attractions and ecologically sensitive ar-

reas of national and international significance.

These include the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tarangire, Mkomazi, Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara, and Arusha National Parks. Additionally, the Northern Zone features protected areas such as unsettled forests, tourist hunting parks, and reserve forests.

The region is notable for hosting Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5,985 meters above sea level, and being the sole source of Tanzanite, a precious gemstone unique to Tanzania.

Dotto assured that NEMC would con-

tinue raising public awareness about environmental management to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. He explained that before any development project is implemented, an environmental impact assessment must be conducted. Additionally, existing projects will undergo preliminary environmental inspections to obtain the necessary environmental certification.

"We will continue to provide environmental education to the public through various media platforms and coordinate studies related to environmental management and conservation," he said.



Shinyanga District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro (R) speaks after listening to various challenges affecting residents of Mwang'halanga Village in the district on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Malinyi DC unveils workers' council to address challenges

By Guardian Correspondent, Malinyi

MALINYI District Council in Morogoro Region has officially launched the District Workers' Council, urging employees to utilize it effectively to address their concerns and overcome challenges.

The council comprises members from various trade unions, including Tanzania Teachers Association (CWT), Local Government Workers Association (TALGWU) and Tanzania Government and Health Workers Association (TUGHE).

During the launch, Malinyi District Council Executive Director, Khamis Katimba, emphasised that the council would serve as a key resource to resolve challenges and strengthening interests of employees.

"Through this council, we will plan and tackle our challenges together. We have established it to ensure we communicate, plan and agree in one voice," said Katimba.

He added that the launch was timely as the council is currently reviewing the draft budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

"Although we launched it today, the priority is to review the draft budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year and share our opinions," he explained. "The draft considers several important aspects, and our goal is to work collaboratively for the benefit of citizens and employees alike."

Christina Matage from Labour Office in Morogoro Region praised the council's establishment, noting that it provides an important platform for discussing employees' interests and resolving challenges more effectively.

"You all have a vested interest in this council. Use it wisely to ensure your challenges are addressed. When you resolve your issues, you will work with dedication and integrity," she said.

She commended authorities for revitalising the council and encouraged elected members to remain committed to their responsibilities, ensuring regular meetings and self-evaluations.

Juhudi Swetu, Secretary of Malinyi District Workers Association, highlighted that the council now facilitates direct communication between employees and the director's office.

Alphone Benedict, CWT Morogoro Regional Secretary, urged members to use the council to advocate for their interests within the council, rather than seeking solutions externally.

Mohammed Mtima, Secretary of TALGWU in Morogoro Region, expressed appreciation for the council's draft budget, noting it addresses key employee concerns such as holiday allowances, transfers, medical treatment, incentives, and funding for workers' council meetings.

Botswana records grim gender-based violence

GABORONE

DESPITE efforts by Botswanan authorities to combat gender-based violence, nearly 100 women were raped and 10 murdered during the late-December festive season, officials said Tuesday.

Botswana Police Service Commissioner Dinah Marathe told reporters that 10 of the 25 murders recorded between December 19 and January 2 were related to gender-based violence. During the same period, 93 rapes were

reported.

Of all reported crimes, she said, 61 percent were related to gender-based violence.

"What comes out clear is that we are a nation with a culture of violence," Marathe said.

The government introduced laws and policies last year meant to combat gender-based violence, including courts dedicated to dealing with such cases and the establishment of a sex offender registry.

Despite the measures, the violence persists. Minister for Youth and Gender Affairs Lese-

go Chombo called for what she described as a preventative approach.

"In the way we behave with each other, in our personal and professional spaces, we all take this as a priority to ensure that we inculcate a culture that is conducive for mental health and a culture that is conducive for gender equality, so that we can curb this issue," she said.

Local nonprofit Feminists Alliance Botswana argues the government has not done enough to stop the trend.

Alliance spokeswoman Themiso Nhle-

sana said women remain vulnerable. "These figures represent a grim reminder of the pervasive violence that women and girls in our society continue to face," she said. "This is not just a statistic; it is a reflection of lives lost, futures stolen and communities broken. These numbers underscore a profound failure in protecting women and girls from violence, despite repeated calls for systemic reforms and stronger preventive measures."

Nhle-

kisana called for swift prosecution and stiffer penalties for perpetrators of gender-based violence.

"We call on the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services and the Botswana Police Service to prioritise cases of gender-based violence, ensuring timely investigations, prosecutions and convictions for perpetrators," she said.

A 2023 report by the World Bank said more than 42 percent of women in east and southern Africa experience physical and sexual violence in their lifetime.

Govt pledges stable tin market to control smuggling activities

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyerwa

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to establishing a competitive market for tin mined in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region, as part of efforts to combat smuggling activities allegedly carried out by miners.

Kyerwa District Mining Officer Dotto Ernest unveiled this here recently during New Year celebrations with local miners.

Ernest emphasized the importance of ensuring that tin minerals are properly taxed, like other resources, rather than being smuggled across borders to a neighbouring due to the absence of a local market.

He highlighted that the individuals involved in smuggling are well-known and often collaborate with various stakeholders. He urged miners to take an active role in preventing such practices, enabling the government to collect revenue to better serve the public.

"We will establish a competitive market for tin minerals to prevent their smuggling. This issue has led to significant revenue losses for the government while benefiting neighboring Rwanda, which does not possess these resources," he said.

He further warned that the government will take stringent legal measures against anyone caught engaging

in illegal smuggling activities, emphasizing that such actions will not be tolerated.

"Stop taking minerals across the border. I urge tin miners to adhere to government laws and regulations, including ensuring workplace safety. The government remains committed to supporting you," he added.

Additionally, he called on foreign workers involved in mining to comply with Tanzania's immigration laws and procedures.

Chairperson of the Kagera Region Miners Association (KAREMA), Sara Rusambagura, encouraged miners to work together to achieve shared goals.

Kyerwa District Council Chairperson Bahati Eneriko advised miners to adopt financial management systems that would enable them to save and invest for a secure future.

Acting Secretary of CCM Parents' Wing in Kagera Region, Angelus Kamugisha, urged miners to maintain unity, especially with the anticipated establishment of a competitive market and avoid dishonest practices that could harm their reputation.

"There are many pressing needs in this area, including dispensaries, water supply, and health centers. Tin represents a significant opportunity for the local community, offering immense potential to alleviate these challenges," he said.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah (C), cuts the ribbon to launch Zanzibar Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan 2025/2029 at a ceremony held in Unguja yesterday. Looking on are UNICEF Tanzania Resident Representative Elke Wisch (R) and Zanzibar Minister for Health Nassor Ahmed Mazrui. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Zanzibar unveils nutrition strategic plan 2025-2029

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBA Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing nutrition and health services for its people.

Speaking at the launch of Zanzibar Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan 2025-2029, Hemed highlighted that proper nutrition is the cornerstone of human wellbeing

and a crucial factor in developing skilled, productive youth to drive sustainable national development.

The strategic plan focuses on enhancing public health and tackling the challenges of poor nutrition such as stunted growth, underweight, and malnutrition, particularly among children under five and women of childbearing age.

Hemed emphasized that this nutrition plan will complement other

government initiatives by promoting public health, reducing disease prevalence, and alleviating the financial burden of healthcare for both domestic and international patients.

He called on leaders from all relevant sectors to uphold their responsibilities in alignment with the government's commitment to enhancing citizens' health, calling on the public to adopt healthy nu-

trition practices to prevent avoidable health issues.

Health Minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui highlighted ongoing efforts to improve maternal and child health by addressing key nutrition indicators for children under five, pregnant women, and students. He stated that these efforts aim to foster a healthy, well-nourished society essential for national progress.

Mazrui added that the ministry

has implemented nutrition programs at both regional and school levels to raise awareness about the importance of good nutrition in building a robust and sustainable community.

UNICEF Tanzania Resident Representative Elke Wisch underscored the critical role of proper nutrition in a child's growth. She pointed out that many children in Tanzania suffer from poor growth

due to inadequate nutrition for mothers and children.

Zanzibar Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan aims to ensure access to essential health services and proper nutrition for children and pregnant women. The initiative strives to create a generation free from stunting, malnutrition and preventable diseases, contributing to Zanzibar's broader development goals.

Address issues affecting people, DC tells leaders

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District Commissioner Edward Gowele has urged leaders and public servants to proactively address people's complaints against the government by ensuring efficient service delivery and resolving challenges faced by citizens in their respective areas.

Speaking during a recent meeting with youth, women and persons with disabilities at Nyakonga Ward, Gowele emphasized that some leaders have failed to fully utilize their positions and authority to address citizens' problems effectively.

"We must embrace creativity in our roles and utilise limited resources available as leaders and public servants to promptly address citizens' grievances rather than waiting solely for central government allocations," he stated.

During the meeting, he handed over 17m/- donations from the Nyakonga Ward Councillor, Simon Kiles. The funds aim to empower local groups to improve their economic status.

Gowele commended Kiles for his dedication to community development, including constructing a ward office and using personal resources to support agriculture and youth groups. He urged other representatives to emulate the example.

Kiles who is Tarime District

Council Chairperson, outlined additional support initiatives provided to the community, including distributing free agriculture inputs to farmer groups during the 2023/2024 farming season to enhance productivity.

"We are committed to building the capacity of people in groups to generate resources, including agricultural products, enabling self-reliance without relying solely on government funds," Kiles said.

Sauli Mwaisenyi, Tarime District Administrative Secretary, encouraged citizens to seek expert guidance when implementing agricultural and business initiatives to achieve better results and improve their livelihoods.

"Our experts in various council departments are encouraged to educate citizens, particularly those in rural areas, on best practices in agriculture and entrepreneurship through community groups," he said.

“We must embrace creativity in our roles and utilise limited resources available as leaders and public servants to promptly address citizens' grievances rather



Some residents of Muhoji Village in Musoma Rural constituency, Mara Region, arrange desks they purchased at the village's on Wednesday for their children who are set to begin Form One in the area next month. Photo: Correspondent

Zanzibaris urged to take preventives measures amid surging cancer cases

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR residents have been encouraged to take proactive measures to prevent themselves from the rising cases of cancer across the islands.

Zuhura Saleh Amour, Assistant Manager of Non-Communi-

cable Diseases (NCDs) Unit at the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar, delivered this message during a training session for planning officers from various government ministries at Kidongo Chekundu Maternal and Child Health Centre in Unguja Urban District.

She highlighted that many

patients from Zanzibar seek treatment at Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam, stressing the importance of early health screenings to address potential issues at early stage.

"Unfortunately, most men delay health checkups, which leads to late diagnoses and treatment,

further increasing the fatality chances," she said.

Amour emphasized that cancer is treatable if detected early and urged the public to engage in regular physical activity to maintain a healthy body and minimize risks. She also cautioned against excessive use of

edible oils, which can lead to non-communicable diseases, and advocated for consumption of balanced diet.

Dr Salum Saleh Mwinji, NCDs trainer at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, warned against the use of harmful substances such as cigarettes, shisha, electronic cigarettes,

tobacco, and cannabis, particularly among youth.

"Deaths caused by tobacco surpass those from HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. While tobacco use has decreased in developed countries, it remains prevalent in less-developed nations," Mwinji said.

Haji Khamis Fundi, Manager of Non-Communicable Diseases Community Association, elaborated on the organization's role in supporting patients by offering advocacy, counselling, and health screening, helping them follow medical advice and live healthier lives.

Partners afford \$1.5m grant for Sudanese child refugee in Libya

TRIPOLI

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Wednesday it received \$1.5 million in funding from the Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the UN global fund for education in emergencies, to address the urgent educational and psychosocial needs of Sudanese refugee children in Libya.

"This contribution from the ECW allows us to tackle the critical education gaps for Sudanese refugee children in Libya, ensuring that no child is left behind," said Mohammad Fayyazi, UNICEF representative in Libya, in a statement.

The programme, set to reach 19,000 children across Libya, provides both formal and non-formal educational opportunities, ensuring children facing barriers, such as lack of documentation, can still access learning, the statement said.

The statement added that the programme also integrates mental health and psychosocial support to address the trauma and challenges faced by children affected by displacement and violence.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of Sudanese refugees seeking safety in Libya has doubled, with an estimated 400 arrivals in the country daily since the start of 2024.

The ongoing Sudan crisis has driven large-scale displacement across the region, with 8.4 million people internally displaced in Sudan and 3.1 million Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, including an estimated 210,000 in Libya, the UNHCR said in late December.



Porters at Magufuli upcountry bus terminal sit on their trolleys as they wait for passengers at Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus terminus in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Over 200 survivors, 78 bodies recovered from outlawed gold mine in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

A TOTAL of 246 survivors and 78 bodies have been brought to the ground over three days of rescue operation at an abandoned gold mine in South Africa, the police said Wednesday night.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the South African Police Service (SAPS) said that 246 illegal miners had been retrieved alive from underground and had

been arrested since the rescue operation commenced on Monday at the Stilfontein mine in the North West Province. The number of bodies recovered stood at 78, the same as the previous update released at 4:00 p.m.

"We cannot say for sure that the operation has been called off at this stage," SAPS national spokesperson Athlenda Mathe told Xinhua.

She made the remarks after volunteers

involved in the rescue operation told the media that there were no more survivors or bodies underground.

Mathe said the Mine Rescue Service, which has been responsible for the operation in Stilfontein, would send a cage underground on Thursday morning "to see if any illegal miners resurface with the cage."

"We will rely on the Mine Rescue Service to confirm this with their state-of-the-art equipment. That will hopefully be able

to give us a picture of what is happening underground," she clarified. "We have indicated that as the SAPS, we have to verify this."

The spokesperson added that the police would provide further updates on the rescue operation Thursday morning.

The situation at the disused mine shafts in Stilfontein has been developing since August 2024, when small groups of illegal miners began emerging from the shafts.

Since then, at least 1,576 illegal miners have come to the surface and been arrested, with the majority of them being foreign nationals from neighboring countries, according to earlier police statements.

Many gold mines in South Africa that were closed over the decades due to declining production have been taken over by illegal foreign miners who reopen them in search of gold.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (R), inspects one of the maize crops grown at a demonstration farm managed by Tanzania Prisons Service during her visit to the service's headquarters at Msalato in Dodoma yesterday. Second (R) is Commissioner General of Tanzania Prisons Service, Jeremiah Katungu. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Sugar plant in Zimbabwe to lay off 1,000 workers amid currency crisis

HARARE

SUGAR producer Tongaat Hulett Zimbabwe plans to lay off 1,000 employees by August this year, a company official said, as it seeks to cut costs and survive the country's currency turmoil and inflationary pressures.

The company, one of Zimbabwe's biggest employers with a workforce of 16,000, has complained of soaring labour and fertilizer costs and currency losses due to the country's unstable currency.

Tongaat Hulett operates Zimbabwe's two sugar mills with a combined capacity to crush 3.5 million tonnes of sugar cane annually.

Businesses in the southern African country have endured an extended crisis which has decimated its currency and fuelled episodes of hyperinflation since the turn of the century.

Tongaat Hulett Zimbabwe spokesperson Dahlia Garwe told Reuters that 500 employees from each of the company's mills in Hippo Valley and Triangle will be laid off in three phases between February and August.

"It is very difficult to manage such a large workforce, so we need to look at ways and means of becoming a lot more efficient in how we do our business," Garwe told Reuters by telephone. The company says profit margins have plunged 55% since 2022, while labour costs have soared 113%, leaving the sugar entity with huge debts.

"It is part of a strategy to bring our costs under control and put the company on an even path," Garwe said.

Tongaat Hulett Zimbabwe has said its "unprecedented operational challenges" were not related to the business rescue process currently underway at its South African parent company.

South African operations entered business rescue proceedings in October 2022 following an accounting fraud scandal.

About 200,000 people displaced due to fighting in eastern DR Congo- WFP

KINSHASA

ABOUT 200,000 people have been displaced in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), due to intense fighting between DRC military and armed groups since November 2024, the World Food Program (WFP) said on Wednesday.

The fighting, involving rebels of the March 23 Movement (M23) and other armed groups which violated a ceasefire deal beginning on Aug. 4, 2024, resulted in the displacement of almost 200,000 people so far, said the WFP, noting that incidents of inter-community violence are reported across the eastern province of North Kivu and some other provinces.

The humanitarian situation, marked by

protracted crises and aggravated by increased conflict, continues to deteriorate, particularly in the east, the UN agency warned.

According to a recent analysis, the DRC remains one of the most food-insecure nations globally, with an estimated 25.6 million people experiencing food insecurity, including 6.2 million individuals in

the three eastern provinces, namely North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, facing acute food insecurity.

In response to the escalating crisis, the WFP said it has ramped up emergency operations to assist internally displaced people, refugees and host communities in the most affected provinces.

Last Thursday, spokesman for the Armed

Forces of the DRC Sylvain Ekenge confirmed the reoccupation of the key town of Masisi in North Kivu by the M23 rebellion, while reassuring the army's determination to liberate the occupied parts.

"The war always evolves in fits and starts. We can lose a battle, but the final victory will be Congolese, I assure you," Ekenge told the press.

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**Taking A New Look
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Recurrence of Marburg in Kagera shows severe regional health risks

FRANTIC efforts are being put up in the Ministry of Health as the government works to get to the bottom of recurrence of Marburg cases in Kagera Region, more than 12 months after an earlier outbreak was declared to be contained. This was the view coming from well-placed officials at the ministry, where a regular spokesperson said in an interview that health authorities were intensifying efforts to investigate the outbreak. They're doing it again.

There is an equally frantic effort to see to it that fall-back measures and precautions put up in the past are dusted and stand in place, as it can't be admitted too hastily that border activity was at 'business as usual' format, as it would not be helpful to keep people at far off points without any visible alarm. Now all this is back, even with a vengeance, and health officialdom as well as the people were far too shocked to talk of it. Going back to a plague is the least anyone can expect, but there is no done deal in matters of epidemics, anywhere.

Early reports circulated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicated that eight people had died in the suspected outbreak, that it was unmistakably the Marburg virus disease. The WHO leadership was in a clear manner especially careful with that information, as the Tuesday statement was signed by the agency's director general and issued through an East African Community liaison office at its Arusha secretariat. That is how the news was brought into global and regional media attention, with Health ministry corridors silent.

While an information official at the ministry hinted at government efforts to investigate the situation and avail detailed public information at that stage, it is possible it also involves extensive logistics consultations as well.

Still this information or investigation part is crucial, as being aware of the circumstances of exposure enables policy advisers to draw a picture of the scale of danger. It is vital to get a clear view for crucial measures having realistic targets.

The shock of that announcement was one thing but the difficulty lay in the manner of follow-up that could be expected, as ability for the media to liaise with official channels was limited. It would require that those in charge of the situation are proactive on the situation, but there are a range of outlays at stake which risk being disrupted by excessive fears on the situation. News management has a pivotal option of clarity as well as a risk-averse option of silence, definitely.

Thus what can be called 'deafening silence' on the matter doesn't imply that officialdom is inactive; far from it, as often the best way to take up a difficult issue is when one has the upper hand. That allows one to talk about it more or less in the past, or affirmatively holding back sources of danger. It is hence not just an issue of some additional information and updates being made available such that details of the situation are provided through official channels, etc.

It is strategically not just the situation that needs to be explained to the public but being able to say with assurance that public authorities have an upper hand on the situation, in a plausible manner. In the far off past it was up to the country to make a statement on what is indeed happening, while in the 5G global village it is easy to be upstaged both in the formal announcement as well as in the details. This situation similarly puts to a test an information ecology that hinges on happy news; it then has a tough task to take up bad news.

Africa clearly needs top-notch school of governance, not one

ACADEMIC administrators in the sphere of public organisation have some news to digest as the African School of Governance (ASG), a graduate institution designed to offer world-class education programmes in public policy, research, governance, leadership and management opens its doors next door in Kigali.

That isn't big news here as African leadership training has its roots in Tanzania with ESAMI in Arusha, initiated in the 1980s to provide a focus as southern Africa was nearing completion of the liberation process. Times change and new themes come up each decade, etc.

Reports say that the school formally launched early this week in Kigali was co-founded by Rwandan President Paul Kagame and former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

They worked in tandem with a number of African leaders, academics and philanthropists, where the ASG initiative is intended to address the continent's pressing governance challenges. The paradigm the school will pursue is equipping emerging leaders with the mindsets, skills and concepts necessary for effective leadership for Africa's future.

Someone could say that this is easier said than done, as actually imparting a mindset and a set of conceptual formulations that are assured to making a difference in the development challenge is a too hard nut to crack.

Just how the matter has a preliminary solution that has enabled cobbling together a workable curriculum to be imparted less to students seeking first de-

grees or post-graduate qualifications but emerging leaders, that is a tall order. It is unclear if the sponsors will be able to gather a team of academics who are on the same plane of ideas on governance, or they just provide case studies for seminars.

News watchers could have noticed on the presentation of the ASG president, Nigerian academic, diplomat and UN consultant Kingsley Moghalu, who had years with law institutions of the East African Community in Arusha. It is not surprising that he earned the respect of leading statesmen in the region, who now seek him out of an eventual retirement to help guide an institution that needs razor sharp clarity on what works and what doesn't work, in leadership.

Nobody can say the school will be crowned with success but it's a helpful endeavor, just as we have such efforts here with the National Defence College and the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School. The ESAMI project has finally become a routine academic institution, hence the need for a professional orientation for top administrators.

An introductory note says that in addition to its education programmes, the ASG will advance governance through dedicated research centres.

They include the Centre for Home-Grown Innovations in Policy and Governance, the Centre for African History and Leadership, the Centre for Trade and Regional Integration, and the Centre for Technology and Effective Delivery. That provides a picture of the paradigm in its orientation, a homegrown philosophy on innovation and leadership, for once.

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2025 WEATHER FORECAST



A call from African leaders, partners to electrify Africa

By Special Correspondent

FOR many of us, the simple act of flipping a switch to light up our homes or power our devices is taken for granted. Electricity fuels modern progress—it powers hospitals and schools, enables businesses and connects us to the world.

Yet, for 600 million people in Africa, this right remains out of reach. They lack access to the essential opportunities electricity provides: modern healthcare, quality education, greater quality of life, job opportunities, and economic growth.

In response, the World Bank Group (WBG) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) committed to delivering electricity to 300 million Africans by 2030 - an initiative called Mission 300. Several partners, like The Rockefeller Foundation, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), are joining forces to achieve this goal. Their efforts focus on mobilizing public and private financing, building government capacity, engaging key stakeholders, and streamlining processes to drive progress.

A unique approach to an urgent challenge

The stakes are high. The gap between those with and those without electricity exacerbates inequality, leaving rural and underserved communities further behind. Technological breakthroughs, digitalization, industrialization, and innovative finance and business models create unprecedented opportunities for powering Africa.

What sets Mission 300 apart is its scale and the fact that it is impact-driven and provides a broad partnership framework. By focusing on both on-grid and off-grid solutions, the initiative aims to deliver electricity access to some of the most remote and vulnerable communities in Africa.

This approach involves expanding national electricity grids while deploying mini-grids and standalone solar systems for regions where grid expansion is not immediately feasible.

In addition, African governments are taking the lead on Mission 300 as they prioritize reforms and actions to modernize Africa's energy sector, setting measurable targets in five areas including expanding cost-effective power generation through competitive procurement of new generation assets and by switching to lower-cost sources of supply, boosting regional power integration through cross-border trade



One of Solar power farm in Africa

that shares the benefits of lower cost generation, scaling up last-mile electrification with distributed renewable energy solutions as well as grid extension and densification as well as unlocking private investment through supportive regulatory frameworks and strengthening utilities with transparent financial management to achieve operational cost recovery.

In this journey, the Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit, to be held in Dar es Salaam on January 27-28, 2025, is a landmark gathering focused on accelerating energy access across Africa. Hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the African Union, the African Development Bank Group, and the World Bank Group, the Summit is an opportunity for governments, private sector leaders, development partners, and civil society to advance Mission 300's ambitious goal.

At the Summit, African Heads of State are expected to endorse the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration, a shared commitment to energy

reforms and transformative action across Africa. Multiple countries will present and sign National Energy Compacts outlining targets and reform commitments tailored to their unique contexts.

By mobilizing substantial development financing, technical expertise, and innovative partnerships, the Summit aims to lay the foundation for a people-centered energy transformation that fuels economic growth and expands opportunities for millions of people across Africa.

Achieving Mission 300's ambitious targets will require substantial financial resources and effective public-private partnerships. The WBG and AfDB are already scaling up their investments, with projects underway to connect over 100 million people. However, closing the energy gap will demand even greater contributions from the private sector, as well as innovative financing mechanisms.

The private sector is already breaking new ground, delivering off-grid energy solutions that are transform-

ing millions of lives. Looking ahead, deeper collaboration will be essential to scaling up these efforts and accelerating progress.

Development partners and philanthropic organizations are playing a crucial role in mobilizing additional financing. By aligning financial resources with technical expertise and community engagement, Mission 300 is building a coalition capable of driving sustainable change at scale.

Mission 300 is not just an initiative; it is a movement—a call to action for all stakeholders to come together to power Africa's future. The upcoming Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit represents a critical juncture in this journey, providing a platform to consolidate commitments, announce new partnerships, and drive momentum toward the 2030 goal. With strong leadership, robust partnerships, and a shared vision, Mission 300 has the potential to transform the future of Africa. Follow the conversation and join the mission for #PoweringAfrica.

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

DIABETES mellitus has emerged as one of the leading causes of death globally, classified as a non-communicable disease predominantly caused by poor lifestyle choices.

The term 'diabetes' is derived from the Greek word meaning 'to siphon' and a Latin word meaning 'sweet as honey', aptly describing how the disease affects the body. Fluids pass through the body of a person with diabetes as if siphoned, exiting through the urinary tract.

Diabetes occurs when blood glucose, or blood sugar, levels are too high. Glucose, the body's primary energy source, is derived from the food and beverages consumed daily.

The pancreas produces a hormone called insulin, which helps glucose enter body cells to be used for energy. However, when the pancreas fails to produce sufficient insulin or the body becomes resistant to its effects, glucose levels in the bloodstream can rise abnormally, causing diabetes.

Understanding diabetes, its risks

For a clear understanding of diabetes, one must first know how the body processes food into energy. During digestion, glucose is produced and enters the bloodstream, where insulin facilitates its uptake by muscles, fat cells, and the liver.

Without proper insulin production or function, blood sugar levels may either rise too high (hyperglycemia) or drop too low (hypoglycemia), both of which can be life-threatening.

Raising awareness about diabetes is essential in addressing this chronic condition. Education helps individuals understand risk factors, promotes early detection, and encourages lifestyle changes that can prevent or delay the onset of the disease.

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) programmes have been proven effective in equipping people with the knowledge and skills to manage their condition, reducing complications and mortality rates.

Global and local challenges

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 800 million people globally have diabetes as of November 2024. Many remain undiagnosed, including a significant portion of the population in Tanzania, where diabetes has become a growing health crisis.

Tanzania's Ministry of Health reports that, by the end

Silent killer: Tackling the rising diabetes epidemic through awareness, prevention



of 2024, 6.5 million adults—approximately 15 percent of the population—was living with diabetes, an increase from 12.8 percent in 2022.

The most affected age

group is between 20 and 79 years. In response, the Tanzanian government has launched initiatives to improve access to treatment and encourage healthier lifestyles, including better diets and regular exercise.

Symptoms, risk factors, and prevention

Diabetes often goes undetected, earning it the nickname 'the silent killer'. Common risk factors include being overweight, leading a sedentary lifestyle, having a family history of diabetes, high blood pressure, excessive stress, and the habitual use of alcohol or

tobacco. Fat accumulation around the waist and internal organs, such as the liver and pancreas, further disrupts blood sugar regulation.

Health experts emphasize that while consuming sugar does not directly cause diabetes, excessive intake can lead to weight gain, increasing the risk of type 2 diabetes. Early symptoms include frequent urination, excessive thirst, and unexplained weight loss.

Need for community education

Efforts to promote physical activity and educate communities on the importance of a balanced diet are gaining traction. On May 27, 2024, during the World Health Assembly in Switzerland, a 'Walk the Talk: Health for All Challenge' event highlighted the importance of exercise in preventing non-communicable diseases, including diabetes.

Former Tanzanian Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu emphasized the need for public health campaigns encouraging physical activity and lifestyle changes.

In Tanzania, Prime Minister Hon. Kassim Majaliwa recently launched a nationwide fitness campaign to promote a culture of exercise, aiming to curb the rise of non-communicable diseases. Dr. Francis Michael underscored the global surge in such diseases, attributing it to inadequate exercise, poor dietary habits, and the excessive use of salt, sugar, and fats.

Call for action

Stakeholders urge governments to prioritize education on preventing and managing non-communicable diseases like diabetes. With concerted efforts, including public awareness campaigns and enhanced healthcare access, the burden of diabetes can be mitigated, saving lives and improving global health outcomes.

Tanzanian scientist wins UNESCO-L'Oréal award 2024

By Janet Otieno

THE L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Young Talents Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa has been a beacon of recognition for outstanding female researchers for 15 years.

Recently, Regional Scholarship Innovation Fund (Rsif) scholar Dr Ruth Lorivi Moirana was among the recipients of this prestigious award, which honours young women scientists for their groundbreaking work.

The 2024 regional award ceremony, held in December in Cotonou, Benin, celebrated 30 talented women from 16 African countries, including 25 PhD students and 5 post-docs, who were selected from nearly 800 applicants for their innovative projects addressing the continent's major challenges. This recognition not only highlights their scientific excellence but also underscores Rsif program's commitment to empowering women in science across Africa.

Dr Moirana was a cohort 2 Rsif scholar who completed her PhD thesis at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Tanzania. Rsif is the flagship programme of the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET), managed by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) as the Regional Coordination Unit.

Her research topic was on 'Remediation of soils contaminated with fluoride using seaweed-derived materials'.

Q: Congratulations Dr Moirana for this great achievement. How has your experience as an Rsif scholar shaped your academic journey and contributed to your success?

A: As an Rsif scholar, I have had the privilege of accessing numerous resources that have significantly shaped my academic journey. In addition to providing financial support for my PhD, Rsif organizes various training programmes aimed at enhancing our research, communication, and personal skills as future African leaders. These trainings and webinars have transformed the way I think and communicate with the world.

Importantly, Rsif scholars and alumni have access to the Junior Investigation Research Award (JIRA), which supports Rsif-sponsored PhD graduates in advancing their research careers after completing their degrees. It was through the JIRA that I was able to apply for and successfully obtain the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science award. Therefore, the JIRA serves as a seed that helps us attract further funding, and I am grateful to the visionaries behind the JIRA.

Q: Who have been your mentors or role models throughout your academic journey?

A: The mentors in my academic journey have always been my supervisors: Prof Kelvin Mtei, Prof Revocatus Machunda, and Dr Marcos Paradelo. They have been a significant source of motivation and have served as role models throughout my studies, continually encouraging me to strive for more. Although he was not my supervisor, Prof Mwemezi Rwiza has also been an important mentor, offering incredible support and promotion for my work. I am grateful to all of them.

Q: What is the core focus of your research, and why is it important?

A: My research investigates how fertilizers interact with "outlier soils." Outlier soils are those that do not fit into typical soil classifications due to abnormal physical, chemical, and biological factors. These unique characteristics alter the conventional interactions between fertilizers, soils, and crops, thereby affecting the effectiveness of the fertilizers. My research aims to establish these interactions, investigate how they influence nutrient availability

for the grown crops, and design an appropriate treatment plan.

Q: How does your work address specific challenges facing your community or region?

A: Tanzania is located along the Great Rift Valley (GRV), which has both advantages and disadvantages. One significant drawback is the introduction of contaminants into the upper part of the Earth's crust, specifically the soil "Chemically contributed outlieriness". One of these contaminants is fluoride, which impacts approximately six regions of the country.

Elevated fluoride levels in the soil affect how it interacts with fertilizer elements, leading to either over- or underutilization of fertilizers, which in turn impacts their effectiveness. My research aims to ensure that farmers using fluoride-contaminated soils maximize the benefits of their fertilizers while also improving their soils' resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Q: Winning the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science award is a significant milestone. How do you feel this recognition will influence your future research and career?

A: Winning the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science award is a significant milestone for me for three main reasons related to my aspirations.

First, this award has provided financial support for my research, which is instrumental in building my career.

Second, like the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (Rsif), it has given me a platform to showcase my work and gain attention from others. This visibility is essential for both my research and my personal growth.

Third, winning this award has validated my work, showing that it resonates with others and is easily understandable. The fact that there were 788 applications screened by 90 experts, with only 30 being selected as winners, highlights the importance of this recognition for me.

Q: What changes do you believe are necessary to improve gender equality in scientific fields?

A: I believe that we all have a role to play in bringing change to gender equality. This change starts with encouraging individuals who are passionate about pursuing science, building a supportive and open-minded society that respects individual choices and further, establishing a government that implements policies that promote gender equality in education, ensure equal representation in decision-making, and empower all individuals.



Dr Ruth Lorivi Moirana (left) was among 30 talented women from 16 African countries, including 25 PhD students and 5 post-docs, who were selected from nearly 800 applicants for their innovative projects addressing the continent's major challenges.

Q: As the first female Rsif scholar from NM-AIST to defend your thesis, what message do you hope to convey to other women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)?

A: Pursuing a career in STEM can be challenging for women due to various obstacles and barriers. However, I want to share these important messages with them:

Acknowledge your obstacles and factor them into your planning, create a detailed study plan that takes into account all potential challenges, commit to hard work and perseverance and cultivate a genuine passion for what you are doing.

By following these steps, you can navigate the challenges and thrive in your STEM journey.

Q: What are your aspirations moving forward and how does it align with Rsif goals?

A: I want to help empower Africa by contributing to clean and sustainable food systems. My goal is to ensure that farmers using contaminated soils have an equal opportunity to compete in the global food market in terms of quality.

To achieve this, I also aim to mentor my peers and the younger generation through teaching and supervision. This aligns with what Rsif implements through its mentorship and capacity-building programme, which pairs its alumni network with incoming new Rsif scholars with the solemn goal of fostering academic and research excellence.

Q: How do you envision your research contributing to sustainable development in Africa?

A: Africa is a continent rich in natural resources and productive land. If we focus our efforts on agriculture, we have the potential to excel in global markets with our agricultural products. However, a significant number of farmers in Africa are smallholders who face various challenges that hinder their ability to produce high-quality goods for international competition. My research aims to support these smallholder farmers by addressing one of their key obstacles: the production of contamination-free agricultural goods.

Q: What message would you like to convey to potential donors about the importance of funding initiatives like Rsif?

A: I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the donors who chose to support initiatives like Rsif. Rsif is structured to make its opportunities accessible to deserving young people across Africa and motivated by the goal of driving change. Thus, the donors should know that they are investing in the future of a transformed Africa through the emergence of a new generation of transformative leaders.

Unlike many other initiatives, I appreciate that Rsif offers ongoing support to its scholars. I hope that Rsif will continue to support us—not just financially, which is important, but also by promoting our research to increase our visibility among those who share our language. Additionally, I would like to see more opportunities for networking and the enhancement of our skills through training whenever possible.

By Special Correspondents

World's record heat is worsening air pollution and health in Global South

HUMANITY achieved a fateful milestone last year. The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service has officially declared 2024 the hottest year on record, and the first year in history with an average global temperature rising 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial period – significantly increasing dangerous climate risks.

In fact, 2023 and 2024 may well be the hottest years in 100,000 years, with all indicators pointing to it getting hotter, bringing ever-worsening global impacts. “The temperature-related extreme events witnessed [last Northern Hemisphere] summer will only become more intense,” warned Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

In 2024, extreme heat enveloped whole regions of the world for weeks on end, with severe unprecedented consequences. A deadly heat wave killed at least 1,300 people during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, while the worst drought in a century gripped Southern Africa, leaving 21 million children malnourished. Record drought also devastated South America, reducing Amazon rivers to their lowest levels ever recorded. North America wasn't spared either. Heat domes – stalled high pressure systems that retain and intensify temperatures – blanketed vast parts of the U.S. and killed more than 100 people in Mexico.

But less noticed, and harder to track, is the way in which oppressive heat helps degrade air quality, making people sick. While air pollution sources are typically local or regional, the invisible hand of climate change is further deteriorating air quality around the planet.

Stubbornly persistent heat waves, record wildfires, and drastically changing wind and precipitation patterns all “alter the formation, duration and dispersion of air pollution,” notes a World Meteorological Organization bulletin, highlighting the synergistic health effects of global warming.

The Global South, an epicenter of poor air quality, is being especially hard hit. A toxic soup of air pollutants – automotive exhaust fumes over urban India, choking dust clouds blowing across Nigeria, and suffocating wildfire smoke blanketing Brazil – are being made even deadlier by a rapidly destabilizing climate.

2024 was the first year in history seeing an average global temperature rising 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

Ozone over New Delhi

The summer of 2024 in India's capital, New Delhi, was more brutal than any Kunal Kumar can remember. The city was trapped under the longest heat wave in 13 years. Things were so bad that Kumar, a gig worker who makes food deliveries, was forced some days to give up his outdoor income.

“Better to lose my wages and stay at home than die of a heatstroke,” he said.

Delhi, a sprawling city in northern India, is nestled in the country's Indo-Gangetic Plain where summer daytime temperatures average 32°C (90°F). But a series of persistent anticyclonic wind circulation events over the northern Indian Ocean, coupled with the fading El Niño, caused clockwise wind gusts to sink over the city, creating a persistent high-pressure heat dome that pushed 2024 temperatures to relentless highs.

For weeks, brutal daytime temperatures stayed above 40°C (104°F), with little respite by night. The city's solar heat-absorbing built environment made conditions even more miserable and dangerous.

For Kumar, who spends 12 to 15 hours a day on the road making deliveries, the heat was life-threatening – as it was for the rest of the city's 33.8 million people, many of whom work outside or lack air-conditioning. In Kumar's cramped South Delhi neighborhood, heat radiated off the walls and street day and night in a textbook example of the urban heat island effect.

He was dehydrated and irritable most days. “Everywhere you look there's a traffic jam in this city. Stuck in jams, under the hot sun with hot air blowing on your body; it was unbearable,” Kumar remembers.

Normally, air pollution is perceived as a winter problem in Delhi, when a thick blanket of low-altitude smog gets trapped by cool air hanging above the metropolis. That smog is mostly composed of toxic PM2.5 particulates – very tiny particles that lodge in the lungs and can cause cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Every



Traffic in Delhi. Transportation emissions are driving dangerous ground level ozone levels

winter, PM2.5 levels peak due to seasonal crop burning and the exploding of fireworks during the Diwali festival, turning Delhi into one of the world's most polluted places.

But now, as global warming and urban development bring higher temperatures over the city in summer, the co-occurring impacts of intense heat and air pollution compound in less obvious but seriously unhealthful ways.

In hot summer months, the traffic jams Kumar and thousands of gig workers are stalled in every day become hotspots for toxins that include PM2.5 particulates and ground-level ozone. High up in the stratosphere, ozone plays a vital beneficial role, absorbing the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. But close to Earth's surface, it's a potent air pollutant whose insidious health impacts accrue in the body.

Ground-level ozone is formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), emitted from vehicle exhausts and other combustion sources such as factories, react with sunlight. A recent analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based think tank, found that new hotspots for ground-level ozone emerged across the city over the summer. Between April and July 2024, Delhi recorded ground-level ozone readings in excess of safe limits on 102 days, often for more than 13 hours at a stretch, the analysis said. Annual PM2.5 background levels have also risen steadily, driven predominantly by an increase in transportation emissions – traffic that now worsens air pollution in winter and drives ground-level ozone in summer.

Epidemiologist Poornima Prabhakaran, director of the Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends at Ashoka University, calls the increasing ground-level ozone trend worrying. India has the highest death burden of any nation from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, attributable to ground-level ozone levels, according to the “State of Global Air” report published annually by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute in partnership with UNICEF; ozone killed 238,000 people in India in 2019.

People also continue breathing other toxic contaminants released from tailpipes and smokestacks. But “The impacts of [these] secondary pollutants have not been given as much attention compared to the impacts of smog and PM2.5, probably because of lack of awareness,” Prabhakaran said.

Prabhakaran is working with scientists internationally, developing databases to track the impacts of air pollution (including PM2.5 and ozone) on a variety of outcomes, such as respiratory and cog-

nitive health functions. “We're trying to analyze, with data, every health outcome that we can get our hands on,” Prabhakaran said, adding, “Intermediate risk factors like hypertension, high blood pressure, fasting glucose, high lipid levels – all of those cardiovascular outcomes – are known to worsen with even chronic, low-dose [air pollution] exposure.”

Clean air programs have largely failed to improve air quality in India because they've been incentivized for dust control, rather than reducing transport and industrial combustion – the biggest sources of contaminants year round. “Our programs need to become more multipollutant-focused, which means taking a whole basket of pollutants [into consideration] like PM2.5, nitrous oxides, and ozone, to track improvements in air quality. Not just the level of dust in the air,” said Anumita Roychowdhary, CSE's executive director of research and advocacy.

Outdoor workers like Kumar remain very vulnerable to impacts due to their extensive exposure. The Indian government views the booming gig economy positively as an employment generator, at a time when unemployment rates have reached record highs. But those jobs often come at a considerable cost to workers' long-term health.

“I try not to take days off, even when I'm sick, because it slashes my earnings,” said Kumar. But breathing Delhi's toxic soup day in and day out could bring on disease and early death.

There's also an economic cost. Gig workers are often primary family breadwinners, laboring without insurance or paid medical leave. A survey of 10,384 app-based workers across India conducted by the People's Association in Grassroots Action and Movements and the University of Pennsylvania found that nearly 100% of respondents said they suffered physical and mental health issues due to gig work. Around 43% earned less than 500 rupees (\$5.80) a day, and a similar proportion said they took no days off.

“Companies hiring us should be more humane with benefits, wages and time off,” said Kumar, adding, “We work through the rain, through the heat.” It's heat that scientists say will only intensify in coming years.

Last year, Ewêsh Yawalapiti Waurá says he watched helplessly as drought shrank away the life-giving waters of the river near his native village in Xingu Indigenous Park. Flowing through Brazil's Amazon Rainforest, the Xingu River and its tributaries are vital to the territory's 16 Indigenous groups.

But drought wasn't the only challenge faced by residents in

2024: As the river receded below, thick plumes of choking smoke hung overhead, the result of raging wildfires described as the worst the region has seen in recent years.

Xingu Indigenous Park is located where the Amazon Rainforest biome transitions to the tropical Cerrado savanna state of Mato Grosso. The park, a protected area, was created in 1961 to preserve Indigenous culture and natural biodiversity. Waurá is the executive director of the Xingu Indigenous Land Association (ATIX), a group formed in 1994 to defend the rights of Indigenous peoples living in the Xingu region.

But how, does one protect the people from deadly wildfire smoke? In the past, “it was easy to control the fire[s]. Today any fire gets out of control, spreads out; it's difficult to control,” Waurá told Mongabay in a video interview. More than 200 firefighters from IBAMA, Brazil's environmental agency, were sent to douse fires in the Xingu territory last year, with more volunteers joining them in “full force.” But the blazes remained “really out of control,” Waurá said. The local landscape has changed dramatically in recent years, Waurá added. Climate change and deforestation for agribusiness expansion have combined to dry out the region, destroying the remaining rainforest's ability to resist fire.

Dust over Nigeria's Kano

In the commercial city of Kano, Nigeria, dust is a daily part of life. “Kano is very hot. Even when there is power and the fan is running, we find it very difficult to sleep in the room [at night] due to the heat, especially during the dry season,” Zahara Usaini, a small-scale trader and 32-year-old mother of three, told Mongabay.

Located in the arid, northern part of Nigeria, Kano's surrounding landscape is dominated by savanna grasslands. In the past, temperatures there typically rose only as high as 33°C (91°F). But last year, they reached new records – hitting 39°C (102°F), and even 41°C (106°F) in places. A prolonged heat wave, made 10 times more likely due to the effects of climate change, swept the region in 2024.

“The hotness of every dry season is increasing each year. I think it's from God,” Usaini said.

She felt anxious as she waited at Khalifa Sheikh Isyaku Rabi'u Pediatric Hospital, where her youngest child, Hauwa, had been admitted. Hauwa, just 3 years old, had developed a fever that the family initially mistook as a malaria symptom. But when she didn't respond to treatment by a local hospital, and started to convulse and lose consciousness, Hauwa was transferred to Khalifa and given the correct diagnosis: meningitis.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHOTI 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Enrolment of patients for mpox therapeutic study starts in DRC

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA CDC's support for MOSA, a pan-African randomized trial for the mpox study, has enabled enrolment of the first patients at Mbandaka Hospital in Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The patients have been randomized in the pivotal clinical trial, marking a critical step in addressing mpox health threat.

As Clade 1b cases emerge outside Africa and Clade I and II cases continue to be reported across the continent, Africa CDC, INRB, and PANTHER are leading efforts to test promising therapeutic options to combat this persistent health threat.

Declared a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security on August 13, 2024, mpox remains a significant health threat across Africa, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women, children, and individuals living with HIV.

Despite the pressing need, no therapeutic has been approved to treat mpox in the United States or Africa. Recent results from the PALM 007 and STOMP studies showed that tecovirimat did not show the expected effect on lesion resolution, underscoring the need for additional therapeutic options.

The MOSA trial demonstrates Africa's leadership in addressing this urgent healthcare gap. The

study will evaluate different antivirals, either alone or in combination. It will start by evaluating the safety and efficacy of brincidofovir.

Brincidofovir is an antiviral from the global life sciences company Emergent BioSolutions. In the United States it is available under a single-patient emergency use Investigational New Drug (IND) for Mpox. The safety and efficacy of brincidofovir to treat Mpox in humans has not been established in double-blind, placebo-controlled studies for Mpox.

In the mpox study, patients will receive either brincidofovir or a matching placebo in a liquid oral formulation, administered once-a-week, for 2 weeks.

A first interim analysis is expected by the end of Q1 2025.

"Africa is not just responding to the mpox outbreak; we are leading the charge in finding solutions by spearheading research and development for mpox therapeutics," said Africa CDC Director General, Dr. Jean Kaseya. "The mpox study represents a groundbreaking step toward developing a treatment. This effort goes beyond research—it's about African ownership and leadership in addressing our continent's health challenges through vital, innovative research."

Sponsored by PANTHER, a key research partner of Africa CDC, the MOSA trial builds upon initial funding provided by the European Union's Horizon Europe



program. "This milestone highlights the vital role of research preparedness and response. Funded initially by Horizon Europe as part of the emergency response to the mpox outbreak in 2022, I am delighted to see MOSA trial fully operational now to advance treatments for mpox." Marc Lemaître, European Commission, Director-General for Research and Innovation.

The study protocol was reviewed through the AVAREF collaborative process in 2023, ensuring it meets the highest ethical and scientific standards. The innovative study design includes pre-planned interim analyses, allowing for rapid decision-making should early signs of either futility or success be observed.

"We are proud of this important milestone illustrating PANTHER's mission in addressing continental epidemic priorities," said Prof. Samba Ousmane Sow, Director General of the Centre for Vaccine Development in Mali (CVD-Mali) and President of the Board of PANTHER.

"We hope to contribute to Africa CDC's response to the current crisis while also deriving concrete lessons to better prepare for future ones."

As Africa continues to report rising mpox cases, particularly in the DRC, the MOSA trial seeks to provide critical data on potential treatment options. The study will recruit both children and adults, focusing on those most at risk of severe outcomes,

especially in remote areas.

"We look forward to advancing MOSA, another critical research project that complements ongoing studies on transmission, vaccines and social sciences", said Prof. Placide Mbala, Principal Investigator for the study in the DRC and Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health at INRB.

"Mpox continues to be a global threat to public health, creating a need for treatments and vaccines," said Simon Lowry, M.D., chief medical officer, head of research and development, Emergent. "We applaud Africa CDC and PANTHER for their work progressing the 'Mpox Study in Africa' (MOSA) and advancing research for brincidofovir."

The US FDA Prescribing Information for TEM-BEXA® (brincidofovir) is provided for additional safety information here.

Experts share disease prevention processes with pupils in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WHEN the bell rang at Simai Secondary School in Pemba last Monday, the classroom buzzed with eager anticipation. Chinese experts from the Schistosomiasis prevention project team had arrived to deliver a unique health education session on preventing schistosomiasis, a debilitating parasitic disease.

Li Qianghua, consul general of the Chinese consulate general in Zanzibar, attended the class and hailed the long-standing traditional friendship between China and Tanzania, as well as their extensive and in-depth cooperation in the health sector.

Li said China has always been committed to working hand in hand with Tanzania and other developing countries in Africa to improve the health and economic level of the people jointly.

Through the efforts of the Chinese experts this time, he hoped that more practical and life-oriented health knowledge could be brought to the students of Pemba Island to protect themselves from schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, snail fever, or Katayama fever, caused by

flatworms called schistosomes.

Dai Yang, leader of the expert group of the schistosomiasis control project in Zanzibar, introduced the life cycle, transmission routes, and prevention methods of schistosomiasis to teachers and students present.

Taking a simple and easy-to-understand approach, Dai explained the harm of schistosomiasis and how to effectively prevent this disease through scientific methods.

Dai emphasized the importance of clean water sources in the prevention and control of schistosomiasis, calling on everyone to use clean water sources, avoid playing in ponds and streams, and bathe, and work together to create a campus environment where "everyone understands schistosomiasis control, and everyone knows how to protect oneself."

To give local students a more intuitive and profound understanding of schistosomiasis, the expert group also carefully prepared a popular science video on schistosomiasis that, through vivid animations and real cases, showed the importance of schistosomiasis control.

While watching the foot-



age, the students displayed strong curiosity, listening attentively or deep in thought with their heads down. The students gained a basic understanding of the harm of schistosomiasis and also enhanced their awareness of self-protection.

To evaluate the actual

effect of health education and stimulate students' enthusiasm for participation, the expert group organized a question-and-answer session where the local students actively participated in the question-and-answer session.

Li distributed health education supplies, such

as coloured pens and rulers, to each student who answered the questions, and when the students received the gifts, their faces were filled with joy and pride.

Through the efforts of the Chinese experts and the active participation of local teachers and stu-

dents, it is believed that in the near future, Pemba Island will become a place that has eliminated schistosomiasis and become healthier and better.

Salum Hamad, principal of the school, said that this method of health education has fully stimulated students' enthusiasm for

knowledge and brought such rich and practical disease prevention knowledge to students on the first day of school.

Hamad expressed gratitude to the Chinese experts and hoped for similar activities to be carried out in the school in the future.

Rights groups in Kenya blame police for rise in abductions of government critics

NAIROBI

HUMAN rights groups in Kenya have blamed police for a recent increase in the abductions of critics who have protested government policies. The activists say at least 29 people are missing after raising concerns about poor governance.

Kenyan cartoonist Gideon Kibet said that unknown people trailed him to a bus on his way from a meeting in the

capital, Nairobi, last month. He said he was forced into a car by masked assailants, who tore his shirt and used it to cover his eyes and tie his hands. Kibet was eventually released.

Kibet has drawn cartoons mocking government figures such as President William Ruto. One caricature, which depicted the president in a coffin, went viral.

Kibet's experience is among 82 cases of abductions

and forced disappearances in just six months, according to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. Although Kibet and four others have been released, that has not been the case for dozens of others.

From September 2023 to August 2024, Kenya saw a 44% increase in abductions compared to the same time period from the previous year, according to the national security report. Officials

say there were 52 abductions in Kenya from September 2023 to August 2024, compared to 36 the previous year.

Many of the victims are critics of bad governance, say rights groups.

"What we are seeing is essentially the use of extrajudicial power to cause fear among those citizens that are legitimately protesting against bad governance or raising concerns with the government," said Irungu

Houghton, executive director for Amnesty International Kenya.

Some Kenyans have taken to social media to protest the government on issues including increases in taxes and corruption. However, at a public event Sunday, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen referred to such critics as criminals.

"If the criminals and people with bad behaviour have moved ... to the digital space,

I want to tell you that we will follow you there because that is where we want to ensure that there is law and order," he said.

Kenyan lawyers have petitioned the country's high court to hold the inspector general of police responsible for the abductions. According to the lawyers, the state is evading accountability.

"Our question has been from July until today, no investigation has been done,

no investigation has been cleared, we are not being told the people who are responsible," said Gloria Kimani, a member of the Law Society of Kenya.

Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja and Director of Criminal Investigations Mohammed Amin are to appear in court Friday regarding the abductions. The two have snubbed three previous court summonses in the abduction cases.

Cameroon aims to double cacao, coffee production and save forests

By Yannick Kenné

CAMEROON'S government says it plans to invest heavily in agriculture over the next decade and combine economic growth and sustainable development, while preserving its forests. A recent agreement signed between the government and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) will invest \$60 million toward achieving these aims.

But the country has lost an average of 110,000 hectares (about 272,000 acres) of forest per year since 2013 – in 2023, forest loss spiked to 204,000 hectares (504,000 acres) – casting doubt on claims it's possible to both double commercial cacao and coffee production and reduce deforestation.

According to data from forest monitoring platform Global Forest Watch, Cameroon lost more than 2 million hectares (5 million acres) of forest between 2001 and 2023, primarily due to logging, mining and agriculture.

A June 2024 study published in the journal PLOS ONE identified cacao cultivation as one of the drivers of deforestation in the Congo Basin and in Cameroon in particular. Its authors suggested mitigation measures such as agroforestry systems, combined with better land planning and incentives for sustainable agricultural and forestry practices, as ways to reduce the risks of deforestation linked to cacao.

According to the letter of intent signed in October 2024, the \$60 million fund will be supported by the European Union, Norway, France, South Korea and other countries, and will back four major projects between 2025 and 2027.

One of these projects is the Development Fund for the Cocoa and Coffee Sectors. Worth approximately \$20 million, this project will enable 30,547 producers to receive payment for environmental services including things like establishing deforestation-free cacao or coffee plantations, and intensifying production on existing plantations covering approximately 92,000 hectares (227,300 acres).

A second \$20 million project will develop and implement incentive mechanisms for the management of high-value, high-carbon forests in the Grand Mbam region in central Cameroon, as well as support low-emission development of selected value chains. Another \$6.4 million of funding is intended to reconcile the demand for land and resources for economic growth with sustainable ecosystem management in the regions of Centre, South and Littoral. The fourth project will allocate \$13.6 million to support the intersectoral and multilevel coordination of Cameroon's forest and climate policy and the promotion of a green economy.

Saïdou Hamadou, an official in the country's Ministry of Finance and a member of the CAFI team in Cameroon, told Mongabay the partnership aims to improve productivity of both industrial and family-scale



Workers dry cacao beans in the sun at a Konye farming cooperative (Konafcoop) in Cameroon

cultivation on existing land.

"It aligns with national and regional land-use plans and zoning plans, as well as with agroforestry. This will provide a response to growing regional demand [for cacao and coffee], while reducing demand for new land and deforestation for agricultural production," he said.

In an email message, the CAFI secretariat said the projects aim to promote sustainable intensification and increased productivity of existing agricultural lands to meet the growing demand for food. "Producing more food on existing land reduces demand for new land and deforestation for agricultural production. This is an essential step to end deforestation and ensure food security. This is su Agriculture: cause of deforestation, or solution?"

In April 2024, several environmental protection organizations, including international NGOs Greenpeace and Milieudefensie, and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), as well as local green groups Center for Development and the Environment (CED) and Green Development Advocates (GDA), sent a letter to development partners in Cameroon to criticize

the direction of CAFI's Cameroon investments. They wrote that Cameroon must be considered a country at high risk of deforestation, due to agricultural policy that favors deforestation.

The letter's signatories called for CAFI to redirect investment toward projects that contribute to stopping the destruction of key areas of Cameroon's rainforests.

Cameroonian forestry expert Ghislain Fomou, director of the natural resources management program at the NGO Support Services for Local Development Initiatives (SAILD), also said the possibility of achieving sustainable, deforestation-free cacao and coffee production is ambiguous. But, he told Mongabay, funding from CAFI could also have been directed toward agricultural sectors that are even more damaging to Cameroon's forests.

"There are value chains that cause more deforestation than cacao – palm oil, for example. There is now a large area of permanent forest that has been allocated for palm oil production in Campo," he told Mongabay, echoing an example cited in the environment groups' letter to stakeholders, where 60,000 hectares (148,300 acres) of forest in the south of the

country are threatened by the expansion of oil palm plantations operated by Cameroon Vert Sarl (Camvert). "All stakeholders know that cacao production in Cameroon has less of an impact on forests due to the use of agroforestry, which increases productivity."

CAFI says it will achieve the partnership's goals of preserving and sustainably managing Cameroon's forests by strengthening intersectoral governance processes to ensure Cameroon remains economically competitive, while improving the well-being of the population through sustainable forest management.

A financing mechanism will be set up to help regional and municipal councils fund sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of forests.stainable

Government drilling teachers to enhance their ability in science, mathematics, ICT

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

EDUCATION is a vital tool in development of any nation. Developing countries like Tanzania have been making various changes in educational systems to meet the demand of the job market.

In an effort to improve science and technology education, the government, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is offering specialized training to science, mathematics, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) teachers through the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP).

The main objective is to empower teachers to use modern teaching methods, including the use of ICT and participatory approaches, to enhance student performance and skills in science, mathematics, and technology. This would ultimately prepare learners to become professionals and innovators in a number of fields both locally and internationally.

To achieve this goal, which aligns with implementation of the 2014 Education and Training Policy (2023 edition) and updated curricula, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Dr Charles Mahera, said the government is determined to ensure that teachers receive modern training to improve their teaching capabilities.

"We are offering this training to improve the ability of science, mathematics, and ICT teachers. We are equipping them with modern methods to utilize effective teaching tools based on their local environments," said the Deputy PS when opening training for science, mathematics and ICT teachers from Mara and Simiyu regions.

Elaborating, he said over 29,000 teachers have benefited from such kind of training with the government aiming to reach 40,000 teachers by January 2026.

The training involves the use of modern technology in teaching, which will enable teachers to transfer knowledge in a better way, thus preparing them to become experts in science, mathematics, and ICT.

SEQUIP Project Coordinator, Dr Nicholas Gati said the project aims to improve learning environment for secondary school students and promote the use of modern technology to increase effectiveness in teaching and learning.

He said they have so far received 85 percent of the allocated funds, adding the project also focuses on ensuring that learners, particularly girls, receive secondary education and successfully complete their studies.

The 1.2trn/- five-year project—November 2021–January 2026, aims to increase educational opportunities for girls, thus ensure participation in secondary education and improve the use of ICT.

Huruma Mageni, is the Director of Teachers Education, he said teachers have been trained on how to use modern methods to foster creativity, including the use of ICT.

He said: "Given the efforts being made to improve secondary education through the use of ICT, participatory methods, and continuous teacher training, there are hopes for improved performance in science, mathematics, and technology subjects."

The training establishes a strong foundation for academic and economic development, which will help build a productive society capable of tackling modern global challenges.

Facilitator of the training, a Senior Lecturer in Physics from Ruaha Catholic University (MUCE) in Iringa Region, Dr Talam Kibona, stated that this is an important step toward changing the way science emphasized that without physics, it would be difficult to produce professionals such as engineers, doctors, and pilots.

He said trained teacher are likely to make a significant contribution to shaping future experts in these fields for the nation's development.

Dr Kibona added that curriculum changes aim to meet the contemporary educational needs, with Tanzania aiming to be among the lead-



Applying ICT in the teaching process enables students to actively engage, leading to better understanding and improved academic performance. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga.

ing nations in providing quality education to developing nations.

Dr Grace Kinunda, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), said the training has enabled teachers to use various participatory teaching and learning methods, focusing on practical training.

She emphasized that with the use of modern methods, chemistry will be easier to understand and more enjoyable for students.

"After the time we spent in the classroom, teachers are set to complete topics on time and effectively, thus encourage students to collaborate and engage in deeper reflection," Dr Kinunda stated.

Grace urged teachers to use available resources in their environments instead of relying on industrial equipment for chemical experiments, something which would help to reduce costs and promote efficiency.

Dr Kinunda raised concerns on the low participation of female teachers in the training, stressing the importance of increasing their involvement to dispel the misconception in society that science subjects are only for men.

Dr Lilian Mulamula, a Biology Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), emphasized that integrating ICT into education is a critical component of modern teaching. She explained that ICT tools help teachers develop diverse teaching materials and create opportu-

nities for hands-on learning.

"This technology enables students to actively participate in class, leading to better understanding and improved academic performance," Dr Mulamula noted.

She highlighted that the training introduced teachers to modern tools such as computers, smartphones, and multimedia resources, which have revolutionized teaching and learning practices.

Dr Jason Mkenyele, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Dodoma, elaborated on the significant benefits the training, saying teachers have enhanced their instructional methods, aligning them with curriculum changes and incorporating ICT to boost student outcomes.

He acknowledged challenges, such as the limited availability of ICT tools, which hinder some teachers from fully implementing modern methods. He urged schools to invest in adequate ICT resources to support teachers in adopting more effective teaching strategies, enhancing classroom learning environments, and improving student performance.

Math teacher, Mzee Luchagula from Binza Secondary School in Maswa, Simiyu Region, shared his experience, noting the training equipped him with modern teaching methods, including the use of technology.

"These tools will enable me to engage more

students in class and manage large groups effectively, despite the physical challenges I face," he said.

Physics teacher, Thimon Baitu from Meatu Secondary School in Simiyu Region commended the government for providing them with the training whereas they have been equipped with essential skills such as the use of simulation videos in teaching physics. He noted that such tool makes complex topics easier for students to grasp.

Nyandamboje Lulyalya, a Chemistry teacher at Nkololo Secondary School in Bariadi District, said the training taught him to utilize local resources for laboratory instruction despite his disability.

He emphasized that participatory teaching methods would significantly improve student performance in chemistry, highlighting lack of laboratory equipment and the need for continued teacher training at district and school levels to enhance practical teaching skills.

Masanja Mashimba, Quality Assurance Officer from Rorya District in Mara Region highlighted the role of the training in promoting quality teaching. He pledged to ensure that teachers implement modern teaching methods in schools to improve instruction and boost student performance.

BUILDING MATERIALS COULD STORE MORE THAN 16 BILLION TONNES OF CO2 ANNUALLY, STUDY

BY SASHA RANEVSKA

A new study published in Science magazine looked into the role of carbon-storing building materials in the efforts to mitigate climate change. The research, conducted by academics from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California and the Department of Earth System Science at Stanford University, showed that building materials have the potential to store more than 16 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

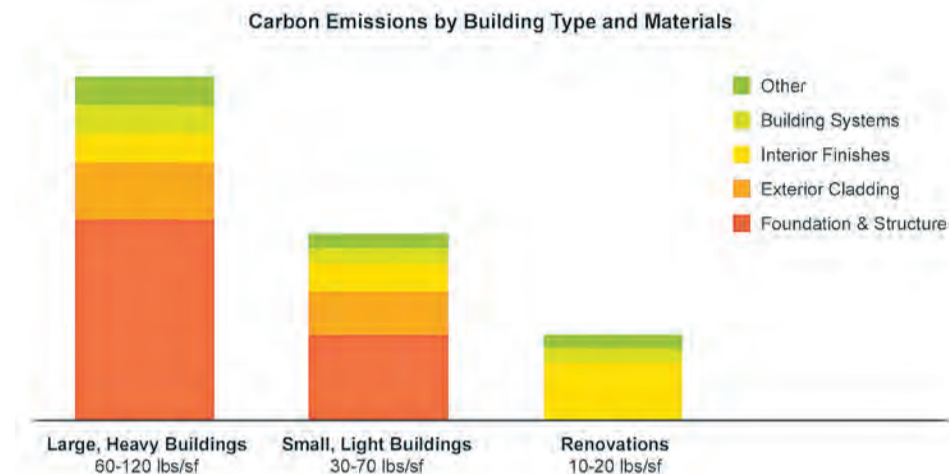
This substantial carbon storage capacity could be unlocked in a scenario where conventional building materials would be fully replaced with CO2-storing alternatives in new infrastructure.

As a result, approximately 16.6 ← 2.8 Gt of CO2 would be removed, an amount that equals roughly 50 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted from all anthropogenic sources in 2021.

The carbon-storing materials considered in this work include wood, bio-based plastic, carbonateable cement, carbonate-based aggregate, biochar cement filler, portlandite brick, biomass fiber-based brick, and bio-based asphalt bitumen.

According to the study, the total storage potential in building materials is heavily influenced by the scale of material use rather than the carbon storage capacity per unit mass.

While the authors note the work of vari-



ous companies like Carbon Upcycling, Blue Planet, and O.C.O. Technology, which are currently offering carbon-storing building materials on the market, they also stress the need for larger-scale production to be able to reach the maximum storage capacity.

Besides being produced in larger volumes, these innovative materials would also need to establish themselves as a viable option for stakeholders in the construction industry if they are to become a dominant element in the building sector.

In that regard, in order for these sustainable building alternatives to be able to compete with conventional options, they would need to be cost-effective and to deliver the same level of material performance and safety.

Policy is another factor that could enable the accelerated adoption of these materi-

als, where the governments and regulatory bodies could encourage the use of carbon-storing construction materials through incentives, building codes, and standards.

The global construction materials market size was valued at USD 1,320.01 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow from USD 1,369.86 billion in 2024 to USD 1,867.16 billion by 2032, exhibiting a CAGR of 3.9 percent during the forecast period.

Asia Pacific dominated the construction materials market with a market share of 48.44 percent in 2023. Moreover, the construction materials market size in the U.S. is projected to grow significantly, reaching an estimated value of USD 211.40 billion by 2032, driven by an ongoing infrastructure projects and technological advancements in building materials.

The growth of the market is tied to the

construction industry's overall development. Increasing infrastructure spending and rising demand for residential apartments have surged the global construction industry in recent years, particularly in growing markets.

The demand driver for the market is increasing infrastructure investments, particularly in commercial projects.

Over the past few decades, there has been intense competition for clean highways and public infrastructure in developed markets. Furthermore, rising prosperity has increased property ownership, boosting the need for highway investment, which boosts the construction materials market growth.

Over time, government-sponsored projects are expected to boost construction material demand by stimulating business growth. Due to a rise in construction and urbanization, a few limitations can hinder the market growth.

These materials industry is currently faced with several environmental issues, such as increased dust, vibrations, noise, and soil water levels caused by exploration and processing.

Moreover, stiff competition puts pressure on industry vendors with high logistic costs while strict zoning laws and regulations on natural material extraction affect the movement of various product supplies.

The COVID-19 crisis widely affected construction activities all over the world. As the governments imposed lockdowns, all construction activities were halted, leading to

a massive loss for the country and material manufacturers.

Most construction workers headed to their homes and engaged themselves in other work, unwilling to return and resume their work, which caused labor shortage in urban areas. The halt on work also directly impacted the company's revenues, jobs, and caused project delays.

Some of the world's largest employment providers include construction, infrastructure, and real estate sectors, which had been severely affected by the lockdown restrictions.

Smart building materials are adaptive and change their properties based on environmental conditions. Additive manufacturing technologies such as 3D printing help manufacturers create a market in a way that reduces waste. While 3D printing can't fully automate construction, workers are still needed to insert rebar into printed concrete structures.

Manufacturers in the construction materials industry are adapting modern technologies, which help them adapt to a shifting construction market.

Additive manufacturing methods and measurement instruments such as laser tools change the construction company's methodology.

Simultaneously, the developing fame of sustainable materials, similar to smart glass and composite shingles, makes it more comfortable for suppliers to offer feasible material choices to their clients.

Construction plastics industry to hit \$187bn in 2030

DUBLIN

The global market for Construction Plastics was estimated at US\$12.3 Billion in 2023 and is projected to reach US\$187.1 Billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 7.6 percent from 2023 to 2030, the new report by ResearchAndMarkets.com has shown.

These plastics include PVC (polyvinyl chloride), HDPE (high-density polyethylene), polystyrene, and polycarbonate, each engineered for specific properties like strength, insulation, and weather resistance.

Construction plastics are lightweight, cost-effective, and resistant to corrosion, moisture, and chemicals, making them ideal for both structural and decorative applications.

In modern construction, plastics are essential for improving material efficiency, reducing installation time, and providing sustainable

options that meet long-term performance requirements.

The growth in the construction plastics market is driven by several factors, including the demand for durable and lightweight building materials, technological advancements in sustainable plastics, and increasing urbanization.

As construction projects expand, particularly in emerging economies, construction plastics offer an affordable and reliable alternative to traditional materials.

Technological advancements, such as recycled, bio-based, and energy-efficient plastics, are enhancing the sustainability and performance of construction plastics, aligning with the industry's focus on eco-friendly practices.

Rising energy costs and environmental regulations have also driven demand for plastics that contribute to energy efficiency in build-

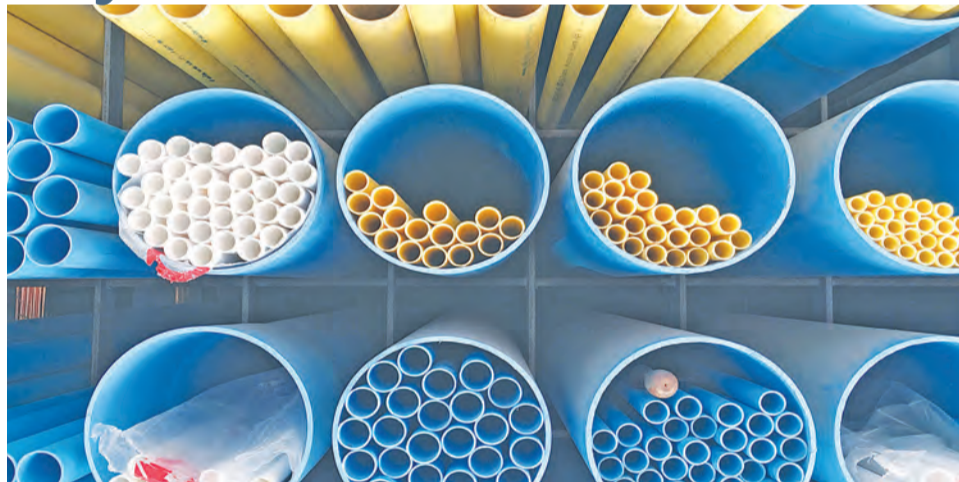
ings, such as insulated and weather-resistant materials. The growth of prefabricated and modular construction has further boosted demand for plastics, as they support lightweight, customizable, and easy-to-install components.

Additionally, the low maintenance and long lifespan of construction plastics make them an attractive choice for residential and commercial projects seeking durable and cost-effective solutions.

Together, these factors drive the robust growth of the construction plastics market, as builders seek materials that offer efficiency, flexibility, and sustainability in construction.

Construction plastics are widely used across residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects due to their durability, cost-effectiveness, and design flexibility.

In plumbing and electri-



cal applications, HDPE and PVC pipes are used extensively due to their resistance to corrosion, chemicals, and moisture.

For windows, doors, and frames, plastic materials like PVC provide insulation, weather resistance, and low maintenance requirements, making them popular in energy-efficient buildings. In roofing and cladding, polycarbonate and PVC sheets are favored for their light-

weight nature and durability, offering protection and aesthetics for commercial and industrial structures.

Insulation materials, such as polystyrene and polyurethane foams, are commonly applied in walls and roofing to improve energy efficiency by reducing heat transfer.

Construction plastics are also used in flooring and interior finishes, where they provide a cost-effective and low-maintenance option for

residential and commercial spaces. In addition, plastics are used in formwork and barriers for temporary construction, as they are easy to handle, reusable, and lightweight.

These applications highlight the adaptability and importance of construction plastics, which support efficiency, durability, and sustainability across diverse construction projects.

Technological advance-

ments are enhancing the properties and sustainability of construction plastics, making them more resilient, efficient, and environmentally friendly.

Innovations in recycled and bio-based plastics are gaining traction, allowing manufacturers to reduce dependence on virgin materials and offer sustainable alternatives.

High-performance additives improve durability, UV resistance, and fire resistance, expanding the applications of construction plastics in challenging environments, such as exterior cladding and roofing. For example, UV-stabilized PVC and polycarbonate protect against sun damage, extending the lifespan of outdoor installations.

New formulations are also making plastics more energy-efficient, with improved insulation properties that contribute to energy savings in buildings.

Self-cleaning and anti-microbial coatings are being developed to reduce maintenance needs, which is particularly valuable in high-traffic areas and healthcare facilities.

Advances in 3D printing technology are enabling custom plastic components to be produced on-demand, supporting rapid prototyping and complex designs.

These technological improvements make construction plastics more versatile, sustainable, and adaptable to the growing demands of modern construction.

UK property market swings from sellers to buyers

LONDON

The property market appears to be swinging away from being a seller's market toward being a buyer's market, buoyed by rising stock levels and greater choice for home movers; a trend reflected in the latest UK house Price Index for November 2024.

Growth in the number of properties for sale began to drive average prices down with November 2024 (£289,707) 0.4 percent lower than October 2024 (£290,959).

The trend is reflected in the last three months from September 2024 (£291,263),

although the annual change from November 2023 to November 2024 is 3.3 percent up.

On the same day, the latest inflation figures were published which showed the rate of inflation had slowed slightly in December, down from 2.6 percent in November to 2.5 percent in December.

With the Bank of England's stated objective of 2 percent inflation any movement on a base rate reduction in the early part of 2025 may now be put back.

But with many commentators and organisations presenting a positive picture at the start of the year, there is

confidence in the property sector.

Commenting on the latest ONS figures Nathan Emerson, CEO at PropertyMark said "With many political and economic challenges currently dominating the news, the housing market has proven again that it can deliver growth despite the challenges faced. With keenness from many across England and Northern Ireland to complete before Stamp Duty increases take effect in April, it is imperative there is a strong sense of confidence for people to approach the market".

"Across the last quarter, our

members have witnessed a positive uplift in the number of prospective buyers registering and an increase that represents a three-year high for the housing market. In addition, we have clarity that the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will be introduced to Parliament in March, which will empower the UK Government to make a start on their promise to deliver 1.5 million new homes before 2029. It does, however, remain imperative that there is clarity on where new homes will be built, together with how supporting infrastructure will be delivered," added Emerson.



FOUR KEY TRENDS DISRUPTING DATA CENTERS IN 2025

By Moises Levy

The data center industry has been able to effectively manage increasing demands and ensure sustainable growth. Embracing a holistic approach is key for moving beyond the conventional siloed view and enhancing our understanding of data centers for a multi-objective optimization roadmap.

This article explores trends disrupting data centers in 2025, highlighting the dynamic and evolving landscape of the data center sector. A helicopter view of energy sources and consumption is presented before diving into the key trends.

Energy

Energy has always been and remains a cornerstone of our progress. Over the next few years, energy production is expected to continue to grow, fueled by economic growth and rising demand. In 2023, the global primary energy supply hit approximately 620EJ or 172,000TWh, with a heavy reliance on oil, coal, and natural gas, which combined accounted for about 81 percent, while renewables comprised about 15 percent, and nuclear power four percent.

Electricity is a secondary energy source generated from primary energy sources. In 2023, global electricity consumption reached a record level close to 108EJ or 30,000TWh, highly dependent on coal, renewables, natural gas, and nuclear. In 2024 and 2025, the electricity demand is expected to grow at a faster rate of three to four percent year-on-year, also fueled by global electrification.

Data centers have significantly contributed to rising electricity demand in many regions. In 2022, data centers and cryptocurrency consumed approximately 460TWh globally, accounting for about two percent of the world's electricity demand. This consumption is projected to exceed 1,000TWh by 2026. While global data center electricity consumption has increased marginally, some countries with expanding data center markets are experiencing swift growth.

Skyrocketing compute-intensive workloads, new approaches to satisfy higher power requirements, liquid cooling adoption, and efforts in sustainability and efficiency, are anticipated to be key trends that will continue to disrupt data centers in 2025. It is important to recognize, however, that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to tackle these challenges.

Compute-intensive workloads



Data center workloads have been profoundly impacted by the recent explosion of compute-intensive workloads including HPC, AI, and generative AI. These workloads are boosting the production of new IT equipment, while also transforming the data center landscape by increasing the number of AI-ready or dedicated AI data centers.

The diversity and evolution of compute-intensive workloads pose new challenges. To accommodate new IT equipment with higher thermal design power ('superchips' exceeding 1kW) and higher rack power densities (50+kW, 100+kW, 300+kW per rack), data centers must embrace more efficient cooling and power solutions.

As an example of generative AI workloads, OpenAI's ChatGPT-2 model, released in 2019, ranged from 117 million to 1.5 billion parameters. GPT-3, released in 2020, contained 175 billion parameters, while GPT-4, introduced in 2023, is estimated to have around 500 billion parameters. The number of parameters indicates the models' learning and text-generation capacities.

Typically, the larger the model, the more sophisticated its understanding and generative abilities, meaning a significantly higher demand for computational resources to train and operate. We need to keep in mind that these are new workloads that have never been processed, and the applications are just starting to flood the market.

Dedicated AI data centers are increasingly becoming a reality, offering optimized compute, network, and power densities to process new compute-intensive workloads while meeting goals of efficiency, reliability, scalability, security, and sustainability. The power density is much higher compared to traditional data centers, but because workloads

and applications are increasing exponentially, facilities are also growing in size. By 2026, dedicated AI data centers are expected to consume between 100 and 300 TWh.

Nvidia is leading and dominating the AI chip market. However, the field is ripe with opportunities, as competitors introduce their own solutions. These range from startups to companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and Meta, to chip designers like Intel, AMD, Broadcom, Ampere, and Cerebras.

The energy consumed in a data center is correlated to the workload processed. Accurately quantifying the energy consumption of generative AI, such as a ChatGPT query, is difficult due to various factors, including model size and complexity, infrastructure in use, and optimization techniques applied. Trained on vast text data, it understands and produces human-like text. We could argue that the energy consumed for a ChatGPT query could range from one to 10Wh. Assuming 4.5Wh as an average, that's roughly 15 times the energy consumed by a standard Google search, estimated at 0.3Wh. Notably, the industry is actively working to improve the energy efficiency of AI systems.

Data center location, power availability, and power requirements are key variables to consider when strategizing on technology selection. A decision needs to be made on whether to pursue new construction or to retrofit existing facilities. Existing data centers may retrofit parts of their facility to support AI workloads and since AI training workloads are not latency-sensitive, they can be processed in facilities in areas with lower costs. On the other hand, low latency, reliability, and scalability are critical for processing AI inference workloads, so preferred locations may

involve higher costs.

It is not surprising that new data center developments, including dedicated AI data centers, are scaling up to hundreds of megawatts, propelling the electricity demand for new projects into the gigawatt range. These substantial power requirements present challenges but opportunities are also emerging in the form of various solutions tailored to meet these needs, such as microgrids (distributed energy resources), energy storage systems, UPS with grid interaction capabilities, turbines, gensets, fuel cells, nuclear, and renewable energy sources.

Top players in the data center industry, including Schneider Electric, Vertiv, Eaton, ABB, and Huawei, are already offering innovative solutions to address the growing power demands of data centers. In the realm of specific technologies numerous firms that specialize in these areas are at the forefront of the industry.

As data centers handle more compute-intensive workloads, their heat transfer requirements become more stringent due to the higher thermal design power and higher power densities. The thermal behavior is influenced by the power demand of the IT equipment, contingent on the processed workload. Liquid cooling has emerged as the main solution to manage the heat transfer of new IT equipment while improving operational efficiency and reducing energy consumption. The table below shows the main drivers and challenges for data center liquid cooling.

Drivers and Challenges

Different approaches for liquid cooling have been successfully tested, with single-phase direct-to-chip emerging as a frontrunner, facilitating hybrid solutions that combine air and liquid cooling. Concurrently, various

technologies are maturing with no clear leader in the foreseeable future, such as traditional cold plates, microfluidic microchannels, micro-convective, or other approaches. There are also positive and negative pressure systems, single-phase and two-phase cooling, immersion, spray, a combination of cold plate and immersion, or entirely novel methods. In the next few years, it is expected that most data centers will at least partially implement some form of liquid cooling technology.

Governments have adopted an active role in promoting innovative technologies. As an example, the US Department of Energy's ARPA-E Coolerchips initiative aims 'to reduce total cooling energy expenditure to less than five percent of a typical data center's IT load at any time and any US location for a high-density compute system.' This initiative is specifically supporting the development of disruptive liquid cooling solutions.

The liquid cooling market is being propelled by numerous companies, each offering its own innovative solutions. From top vendors in the data center cooling space including Vertiv, Schneider Electric, Trane, Stulz, and Johnson Controls, to liquid cooling niche companies such as Accelsius, Asperitas, Chilldyne, CoolIT Systems, GRC, Iceotope, Jetcool, LiquidStack, Mara, Quantas, Submer, and Zutacore. Additionally, companies like Dell, HPE, Gigabyte, Huawei, IBM, Inspur, Lenovo, Sugon, Supermicro, and Wiwynn are providing liquid-cooled IT equipment solutions directly to final users.

The data center industry's actions and commitments, coupled with innovative technologies and supportive government policies, are vital for driving continuous advancements in efficiency and sustainability. As the drive for

decarbonization gains momentum, AI has emerged as a pivotal player in transitioning towards a low-emission or net-zero future, with the potential to bolster sustainability efforts and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, the challenge of tackling sustainability and climate change is hampered by the fragmented collection and utilization of information.

AI offers a revolutionary approach by not just processing, aggregating, and analyzing vast datasets but also optimizing complex systems with remarkable efficiency to improve forecasting. For instance, Google is pushing for more energy-efficient computing infrastructure and identifying practices to significantly reduce the energy required to train AI models. Trillium, their sixth-generation Tensor Processing Unit (TPU), is more than 67 percent more energy-efficient than the previous generation, the TPU v5e.1. In 2023, Google's average annual PUE was 1.10, and 100 percent of its annual electricity consumption has been matched with renewable energy since 2017.

Google is leveraging AI models to reduce GHG emissions, including a fuel-efficient routing model, considering traffic, terrain, and a vehicle's engine; a hydrological model to predict floods up to seven days in advance; and a traffic model to optimize the timing of traffic lights reducing stop-and-go traffic and fuel consumption. Google aims to achieve net-zero emissions across its operations and value chain by 2030.

While maintaining optimism about AI's potential to drive a positive impact on optimization and performance, we need to be realistic about the environmental footprint and the collaborative effort needed to navigate this fast-evolving landscape. Responsible management of AI's resource consumption is crucial. Our grasp of its present demands is clear, yet its future path is still uncertain.

Integrating modularity with pre-engineered and prefabricated infrastructure -Adopting environmentally friendly materials and technologies

Sustainability reporting is set to become a best practice, complete with specific sustainability and efficiency metrics. Stakeholders are increasingly asking for more transparency about sustainability practices to cut down greenhouse gas emissions, while also embracing more resource-efficient approaches, viewing it as a competitive advantage.

Moises Levy, Ph.D., is managing director of Research and Market Intelligence at Datacenter Dynamics

DUBAI

UAE - Investors in Dubai real estate notched up record profits of almost AED60 billion (\$16.34 billion) from the re-sale market last year, according to a report.

The report by fām Properties showed the secondary market generated capital gains of AED59.7 billion in 2024, representing 32 percent of Dubai's all-time high total re-sale value of AED188.1 billion last year.

Underlying the soaring value of investment in Dubai real estate and its global appeal, total re-sale profits last year were 34 per cent up on 2023, completing a dramatic 1300 per cent leap over the last five years.

Data from DXBinteract covering 136 areas across the emirate revealed that the highest amount of capital gain, AED6.48 billion, was achieved on Palm Jumeirah, the report said.

Prominent residential areas like Dubai Marina, Dubai Hills

Estate, Downtown Dubai and Business Bay also featured in the top ten for annual capital gain. So did Jumeirah Village Circle, which was also the top-performing area for ready property developer sales in 2024, and placed second after Dubai Marina in total re-sale transactions.

Firas AlMsaddi, CEO of fām Properties, said: "The substantial capital gains realised by investors underscores the market's dynamism and the effectiveness of our regulatory framework, managed by an astute government.

"Our expectation is that these profits will encourage reinvestment and attract new capital, as investors recognize the long-term resilience and potential of our market.

"We commend the Dubai Land Department for its



transformative measures last year, and look forward to further advancements in 2025, enhancing Dubai's global real

estate standing." Record total re-sale figures for 2024, up 21 per cent in value and rising 14 per cent in

volume to 61,100 transactions YoY, reflected buyers shifting to ready homes, investors attracted by high rental yields,

and infrastructure upgrades increasing the appeal of properties.

It was a record-breaking year all-round for Dubai real estate, with annual growth in each property segment, topped by a 42 percent YoY rise in the overall volume of apartment sales, with 141,168 transactions adding up to AED260.6 billion, the report said.

Villa sales increased by 21.1 per cent to 30,938 units worth AED164.1 billion, commercial property transactions were up 10.1 per cent in volume to 4,304 units at AED9.7 billion, while 4,352 plots sold for AED86.5 billion, a 2.6 per cent increase.

The Dubai real estate market is expected to grow in 2030, driven by population growth, tourism, and govern-

ment initiatives. Investors and homeowners can expect to see new developments, rising prices, and a shift in the type of properties being built.

Dubai's population is expected to grow to 5.8 million by 2030, which is a 43 percent increase. This growth is a sign of Dubai's growing appeal to families and individuals worldwide.

The UAE government has implemented policies to make the real estate market more accessible to expatriates.

The government has expanded the 10-year golden visa program and introduced residency permits for retirees and remote workers.

Data from consulting group ValuStrat, using Dubai Land Department figures, reveals that the average home size is down to 1,450 square feet, while the average price per square foot is steadily increasing to Dh1,490 (\$405) - its highest yet.

CONSTRUCTION

NIGERIA NEEDS N5TRN FOR 2.7M NEW HOUSES ANNUALLY

BY KINGSLEY ADEGBOYE

Nigeria is grappling with a huge housing challenge of a 21 million-unit deficit, just as its population currently stands at 220 million, is growing at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent.

Also, the country's urbanisation rate is rapidly growing, and the United Nations has projected that unless something drastic is done urgently, about 60 per cent of the country's population will be living in the cities by 2030.

However, with this huge gap, there are hundreds of thousands of unoccupied housing units in various residential estates across the states of the federation, particularly those built by private developers, probably due to high prices, just as there are countless abandoned housing projects by both governments and private developers across the country.

But to bridge the 21 million-unit gap, stakeholders who spoke to Vanguard on the worrisome situation, said the country needs over five trillion Naira and 2.7 million housing units annually to close the growing housing gap in 10 years.

However, real estate experts who spoke at the Africa International Housing Show in Abuja recently, said that Nigeria needs N5.5 trillion to close its housing gap, estimated at 20 million units. They added that the country also



Floating slum in Lagos

needs to build about 550,000 housing units annually for the next decade to be able to bridge the gap. According to Nuel Osilama, an estate surveyor and valuer who is also Vice President, Real Estate Developers' Association of Nigeria, REDAN, North Central, "The estimated figure, because of the data problem, based on figures available, is about 21 million to 22 million. But if you want to just oppose it with the growth rate of the Nigerian population, it should have hit like 50 million but let's not exaggerate, let's just put it at the figure that is defendable that is presently in the public

domain which is 21 million deficit as of today.

"Based on your question, if we are looking at 20 years, we need to build one million houses every year for 20 years to be able to bridge the gap. And if we are looking at 10 years, we need to build a minimum of two million houses annually to bridge the gap, and if we are going to work with ten years, which is feasible because it is not too long, each of the state governments has to create the enabling environment and be ready to work. This is 2025, there should be a vision for 2035 to bridge the 21 million housing deficit in the

housing sector of the country. If each state can produce a minimum of 56,000 housing units every year, in 10 years, this gap will be completely bridged."

"For how many years? If we have 21 million, it means we need a minimum of two million houses to close this gap in 10 years. The same thing, we need a minimum of one million houses to close this gap in 20 years and we need a minimum of five million houses to close this gap in five and a half years. That's what it is."

On what is responsible for abandoned housing projects across the country, Osilama who

is the chief executive officer of Nuel Osilama Global, said the economy is responsible, pointing out that the value of the Naira is the major cause of abandoned projects. He noted that with the variation in the exchange rate, most of the building materials are imported, adding that apart from cement, every other thing is imported.

"Another reason is because of the variation in the quotation. Some of these projects that are official projects, like government projects, at the time the projects were costed, the value of Naira was maybe around N400, like when this present administration in Nigeria today assumed office, the exchange rate for a Dollar was still about N400, it rose to N700, from N700 to N900, N900 to N1,000, and today we are at N1,600.

"So you can imagine a job that was quoted for at N1 billion cannot be delivered with N2 billion now. So, that's one of the reasons for abandoned projects. To check this, government needs to either subsidize building materials or support local manufacturing, alternative building materials, like NIBRI, and it was set up to mitigate this and they are doing very well but they are not getting the necessary support from government. The support they need is to mass-produce all the innovations that they have.

"They have alternative materials for almost every building

material in the market but except they have large scale industry to mass-produce them, they cannot meet the demand of the market. The Nigerian market is very huge."

On why we experience housing shortfalls in the country when the vacancy rate in most of the residential states across the nation is high, REDAN's vice president said "Well, you are trying to say that there are so many vacant houses and yet so many people don't have houses. The difference is very clear. Most of the houses that are empty are not low-cost housing. They are high luxury accommodation. These luxury houses cost a lot of money, so they can't give those houses to people who cannot afford the rent. That's one reason why the houses are empty.

"Some of these houses are also used for saving their money, maybe for investment so that after a very long time, their money can appreciate instead of putting them in the banks that are no longer secure like it used to be."

In his reaction to high vacancy rate in residential estates across the country, an advocate of affordable housing and executive director, The Housing Development Advocacy Network (HDAN), Mr Festus Adebayo, said the problem is responsible for abandoned housing projects or unoccupied housing units in Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt.

BY ZENG GANG

China's real estate market has been fluctuating in recent years, leading to a decline in market confidence, reduction in transaction volumes, and price adjustments. These developments have impacted economic growth and social stability.

As such, stabilizing the real estate market has become crucial for China to achieve high-quality, sustainable development.

The central leadership has reiterated the need to stabilize the real estate market. That the Central Economic Work Conference in December also decided to sustain efforts to stabilize the real estate market indicates that supportive policies will continue to be implemented.

The importance of stabilizing the real estate market cannot be overstated. First, a stable real estate market facilitates growth. The real estate sector is a pillar of China's economy, with extensive links to industries such as construction, home furnishing and finance. A stable real estate market can drive the development of related industries, boost investment and consumption, and promote steady economic growth.

Second, stabilizing the real estate market is crucial to prevent systemic financial risks. The real estate market is tied to the financial system, with mortgages and land transfer fees significantly affecting banks' and local

Why stabilizing China's housing market matters

governments' revenues. As a result, severe market fluctuations could trigger financial risks and threaten social stability.

Third, by stabilizing the real estate market, the authorities can advance urban renewal and coordinated regional development. Stable policies not only ensure short-term market stability but also promote long-term development.

To stabilize the market, both the central and local governments have implemented a series of measures both the supply and demand sides. On the financial front, the People's Bank of China reduced the reserve requirement ratio twice last year, while releasing 2 trillion yuan (\$273.15 billion) in medium- to long-term funds.

Additionally, the authorities have cut one-year and five-year loan prime rates (LPRs) by 35 and 60 basis points, respectively. Looking ahead, monetary policy is expected to remain accommodative, with further reductions in the five-year LPR anticipated for 2025 lowering homebuyers' costs.



Optimizing mortgage policies is another key financial measure. For first-time homebuyers and those seeking better housing, the government has introduced policies to reduce payment requirements and mortgage rates, easing financial burdens. For example, in Zhuzhou, Hunan prov-

ince, the local government has fixed the minimum down payment for first and second homes at 15 percent, and reduced existing mortgage rates.

Additionally, the government is exploring the possibility of "old-for-new" financial support, where homeowners selling old property with outstanding loans can convert existing mortgage balance into new home loans,

reducing costs and boosting the demand for better housing. On the fiscal side, local governments are issuing more special bonds, allocating funds for purchasing land and housing stock, which can be used as project capital and help reduce inventory. Many local governments are offering purchase subsidies and tax relief measures, providing financial support for homebuyers and reducing transaction costs by reducing taxes and optimizing housing standards.

The government has also implemented a 300-billion-yuan loan policy for affordable housing, and is promoting the conversion of existing commercial housing into affordable units, meeting both inventory and low-income housing needs.

Besides, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development has announced an additional 1 million units for renovation, extending the scope to 300 cities at the prefecture

level and above, using a monetized resettlement approach. In the future, the scale and intensity of the revitalization of urban villages will further increase, with plans to combine housing vouchers and acquisition of existing commercial housing for resettlement aiding inventory reduction.

The government is also issuing special bonds to acquire idle land and commercial properties, optimizing land supply and improving urban renewal plans. But to boost demand, the government needs to relax purchase and loan restrictions. In fact, major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen have relaxed purchase restrictions, lowered social security requirements, and removed the distinctions between ordinary and non-ordinary housing, releasing pent-up demand. And many regions have reduced down payment requirements and mortgage rates, optimizing loan policies to make homebuying easier.

Overall, the sustained efforts to stabilize the real estate market are beginning to show results. Since late September 2024, the market has seen a phase of stabilization, with transaction volumes in key cities leveling off and market confidence gradually recovering. As policies continue to be implemented, the real estate market is expected to gradually recover in 2025, laying a solid foundation for China's high-quality economic development.

Zeng Gang is director of the National Institution for Finance and Development in China

US homebuyers face tough year

CALIFORNIA

After restrictive mortgage rates and soaring prices put off house hunters in 2024, the affordability picture isn't brightening as 2025 unfolds.

Just weeks into the year, borrowing rates have peaked above a psychologically daunting level, while price trends are cause for more gloom.

According to Fannie Mae's Home Price Index, single-family home prices rose 5.8 percent year-over-year in the fourth quarter, up from 5.4 percent in the previous quarter. The reading ended a trend of price deceleration that had taken place in previous

months.

Difficult supply and demand factors are exacerbating affordability issues, as there continues to be more interested buyers than available homes for sale across much of the US.

"Inventories of existing homes for sale have improved from a year ago but remain historically low, due largely to the so-called 'lock-in effect,'" Mark Palim, Fannie Mae's senior vice president and chief economist, said. The lock-in effect refers to a phenomenon in which homeowners are reluctant to sell their properties given high mortgage rates in the current market.

While lower borrowing costs would help incentivize sales and unlock needed supply of existing homes for sale, the opposite has occurred in recent weeks. Rising mortgage rates are exacerbating the lock-in effect, Palim said.

This week, the 30-year mortgage rate rose to its highest level since May 2024, peaking at 7.09 percent. The uptick results from dimming views of future rate cuts from the Federal Reserve, with investors coming around to the idea that borrowing costs will likely remain high this year.

The expectation of fewer rate cuts has pressured 10-year Treasury

yields to move higher since the Fed began easing monetary policy, with mortgage rates edging up in tandem.

"Bond yields in the US and abroad continued to move higher in response to concerns over a sticky inflation outlook and still too-high budget deficits, which pushed mortgage rates higher for the fifth consecutive week," said Joel Kan, vice president at the Mortgage Bankers Association.

These factors haven't put an end to house hunting in the new year, and Redfin noted a slight pick in home tours at the beginning of 2025. It could signal that buyers are accepting the outlook for



elevated rates, or are taking advantage of any new supply that has entered the market.

However, that hasn't translated into more sales, the real estate firm said. During the four weeks ending January

5, pending home sales fell 3.1 percent from a year ago.

Looking at the year ahead, 2025 will look a bit like 2024, Palim said in mid-December. Mortgage rates are likely to stay above 6 percent, price growth

will ease but remain positive, and supply will remain tight, though this will vary by region.

Homebuyers shouldn't expect a flood of supply of existing homes for sale, given that over 73% of mortgage borrowers are holding on to a rate below 5%. However, Oxford Economics noted that 40% of owners don't have a mortgage, and these households could use the proceeds of a home sale to purchase a new property without taking on high mortgage costs.

Palim suggested that even if the needed supply does come online, that might not immediately bring affordability relief to sidelined buyers.

"The housing market in 2025 faces a difficult balancing act, with a notable decline in mortgage rates likely needed to help unwind the lock-in effect and thaw the supply of existing homes for sale," he said.

WORLD

UN agencies welcome Gaza ceasefire amid frustration in aid delivery

UNITED NATIONS

UN relief agencies and humanitarian workers, led by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, on Wednesday welcomed the Gaza ceasefire accord reached between Israel and Hamas, and called for a massive scaling up of humanitarian operations.

Guterres said the world body's priority must be to ease suffering caused by the conflict once the ceasefire takes effect, scheduled for Sunday, calling for rapid, unhindered, and safe humanitarian relief for all needy civilians.

"It is imperative that this ceasefire removes the significant security and political obstacles to delivering aid across Gaza so that we can support a major increase in urgent lifesaving humanitarian support. The humanitarian situation is at catastrophic levels," he said.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Tom Fletcher, the UN relief chief, said in a statement that the ceasefire agreement offers much-needed hope to millions of people whose lives have been devastated by the conflict.

Anticipating the accord, he said that humanitarian agencies have been mobilizing supplies outside Gaza to scale up aid delivery across the strip.

"We will do our utmost to respond with the ambition, creativity, and urgency this moment demands, despite the significant security and political challenges to our work," Fletcher said. "To help us save lives, we urge all parties to adhere fully to international humanitarian law."

He said that means protecting civilians and civilian infrastructure, allowing aid workers safe, unfettered access to people in need, whoever and wherever they are, and removing all obstacles to the entry of essential aid.

Fletcher said it will be critical for the Israelis to enable entry of commercial supplies in addition to admitting to Gaza UN humanitarian workers and their partners.

Catherine Russell, executive director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), welcomed the ceasefire announcement long overdue for the children and families of Gaza who have endured more than a year of bombardment and deprivation and for the hostages in Gaza and their families in Israel. "UNICEF and partners are ready to scale up our response," she said. "The ceasefire must, finally, afford humanitarian actors the opportunity to safely roll out the massive response inside the Gaza Strip that is so desperately needed."

The aid response must include unimpeded access to all children and families with essential food and nutrition, health care and psychosocial support, clean water, sanitation, education, learning, cash assistance, and the resumption of commercial trucking operations, Russell said.



Palestinians react to news on a ceasefire deal with Israel, in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip on Wednesday. XINHUA

ped access to all children and families with essential food and nutrition, health care and psychosocial support, clean water, sanitation, education, learning, cash assistance, and the resumption of commercial trucking operations, Russell said.

Citing the collapse of essential services across Gaza, Russell said it is urgent for action to save lives and help children recover.

"Less than half of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functional, increasing the risk of infectious disease outbreaks and putting children at risk," she said. "Water production is at less than 25 percent capacity. Nearly all of the territory's 2.1 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity. And 95 percent of Gaza's school buildings have been damaged or destroyed."

Russell added that a secure environment is necessary to allow UNICEF to increase the screening and treatment of children suffering from malnutrition, facilitate vaccination catch-up for 420,000

children under 5 years, and support the prevention of disease outbreaks, including polio, measles, and cholera.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported earlier Wednesday that there are continuing efforts to scale up aid operations despite the continuing challenges. Humanitarians have long complained of Israeli authorities in Gaza blocking or impeding aid deliveries.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the secretary-general, told reporters at a regular briefing that Israeli authorities continue to deny UN-led efforts to reach the North Gaza governorate, where Palestinians have been under siege for more than three months.

He said attempts made Tuesday and Wednesday to reach besieged areas to deliver critical humanitarian assistance were denied. Across Gaza, the UN planned 21 coordinated humanitarian missions. Less than half were facilitated. Seven were denied outright, and four were impeded.

UAE may host Putin-Trump meeting, Russian expert says

MOSCOW

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) has a strong track record of hosting summits and could serve as the venue for a potential meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump, Oleg Karpovich, Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs at the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told TASS.

"During his election campaign, Donald Trump stated that he would contribute to resolving the Ukraine crisis. The time has come to move to the next stage and fulfill the promises made," Karpovich said.

He added that Trump has realized the policy pursued by outgoing US President Joe Biden has led to a deep crisis in Russian-US relations, making the Caribbean crisis seem like "a mere walk in the park." "Certain actions clearly need to be taken as the world has become highly electrified," the expert noted.

He dismissed Switzerland as a possible location for the meeting. "Switzerland has ceased to be a neutral country since it joined anti-Russian sanctions. It is no longer the neutral ground it once was," he stated.

"Thus, a Middle Eastern country is likely to be chosen. In this regard, the UAE stands out as a viable option, given its history of facilitating various exchanges, negotiations, and consultations. The UAE has a positive track record of hosting such talks," he explained.

Karpovich recalled Putin's remarks during his Direct Line Q&A session in December, where the Russian leader stated that if Trump proposed a meeting, he would be open to discussing a broad range of issues concerning the Ukraine crisis. "Of course, Russia's position is that we will base our actions on the real situation on the ground. Russian troops are advancing," he concluded.

African School of Governance inaugurated in Rwanda

KIGALI

The African School of Governance (ASG), a graduate institution designed to offer world-class education programs in public policy, research, governance, leadership, and management, was formally launched Tuesday in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

Co-founded by Rwandan President Paul Kagame and former Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, in consultation with other African leaders, academics, and philanthropists, the ASG initiative aims to address the continent's pressing governance challenges by equipping emerging leaders with the mindsets, skills, and knowledge necessary for effective leadership in Africa's future.

Speaking at the launch, Desalegn said the ASG would serve as a center for cultivating purpose-driven leaders prepared to tackle the continent's most significant challenges and opportunities by blending Africa's distinctiveness with global best practices.

"The first step for Africa to reclaim its greatness is to build an understanding and appreciation of its history, political economy, and empowered mindsets in its leaders. Based on this solid foundation, leaders can then shape Africa's trajectory," he said.

At the event, ASG President Kingsley Moghalu said the school would focus on creating a sustainable governance model rooted in African realities. "Today's event is of profound historic importance.

ASG, as an accredited pan-African graduate-level institution, is dedicated to leading the transformation of governance in Africa," he said, adding that the ASG would offer a comprehensive suite of academic programs to address governance, leadership, and policy deficits across Africa. Joseph Nsengimana, Rwanda's minister of education, said at the launch that the ASG has found a natural home in Rwanda, a country that reflects the very principles the institution seeks to cultivate.

"Hosting ASG is our shared responsibility to contribute to Africa's future by investing in the next generation of leaders. As we inaugurate ASG today, let us celebrate not only its opening but also the promise it holds for our continent and the globe at large. Together, let us invest in leadership that will steer Africa toward a prosperous future," said the minister.

The ASG will offer a diverse range of academic programs, including the Master of Public Administration and the Executive Master of Public Administration, tailored to mid-career professionals and senior executives, respectively, according to a press statement released earlier by the ASG.

The school will also provide specialized executive courses designed to enhance specific leadership skills for professionals. Additionally, the Young Leaders Program and the Senior Leadership Fellowship will cater to high-potential undergraduates and seasoned professionals nearing the end of their careers, ensuring leadership development at every stage.

ANI

Chinese Navy hospital ship returns home following humanitarian mission

HANGZHOU

THE Chinese Navy hospital ship "Peace Ark" arrived at a port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, yesterday morning after completing humanitarian medical services during its "Mission Harmony-2024" deployment to 13 countries across Asia and Africa.

Since its departure on June 16, 2024, the ship traversed over 30,000 nautical miles in 215 days, breaking records for the mission series as its longest duration and most extensive task.

The vessel visited countries including the Seychelles, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Djibouti and Sri Lanka.

During the mission, the ship's medical personnel treated 82,980 cases of common and prevalent diseases and performed 1,392 surgeries. The crew also participated in professional seminars, as well as cultural and sports exchanges with the host countries.

The "Peace Ark" is the first standard ocean-going maritime hospital independently designed and built by China. Since commencing the "Mission Harmony" in August 2010, it has visited 49 countries and regions, providing medical services to over 370,000 individuals.

Xinhua



The Chinese Navy hospital ship "Peace Ark" arrives at a port in Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang Province. The Chinese Navy hospital ship "Peace Ark" arrived at a port in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province yesterday morning after completing humanitarian medical services during its "Mission Harmony-2024" deployment to 13 countries across Asia and Africa. Since its departure on June 16, 2024, the ship traversed over 30,000 nautical miles in 215 days, breaking records for the mission series as its longest duration and most extensive task. Xinhua

Ex US President Obama expresses gratitude to Biden for his leadership

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Barack Obama on Thursday expressed his gratitude and admiration for US President Joe Biden's administration.

Obama praised Biden for his way of recovering the US economy after the Covid 19 pandemic.

"Four years ago, in the middle of a pandemic, we needed a leader with the

character to put politics aside and do what was right. That's what Joe Biden did," he said.

Obama said that Biden created 17 million new jobs and lowered healthcare costs,

making it the world's strongest recovery.

"At a time when our economy was reeling, he drove what would become the world's strongest recovery - with 17 million new jobs, his-

toric wage gains, and lower health care costs. He passed landmark legislation to rebuild our nation's infrastructure and address the threat of climate change," he said.

ANI

Embodied intelligence makes humanoid robots smarter

TWO humanoid robots Walker S1 developed by Chinese robot manufacturer UBTECH recently conducted practical training in a logistics warehouse of Chinese new energy vehicle manufacturer BYD in Changsha, central China's Hunan province.

The two robots, 172 centimeters in height, each squatted down and picked up a six-kilogram material box from a tray. Holding the box in front of their chests, they backed up and turned, took small steps towards an unmanned logistics trolley, bent, and placed the boxes onto it. After this task was accomplished, they returned

to the tray to repeat the process for another round.

"Since late October 2024 when they entered the factory for training, their handling efficiency has doubled. From the initial run-through of all handling scenarios by a single humanoid robot, to achieving collaborative operations with unmanned logistics trolleys, and now to two robots working together," said Jiao Jichao, vice president of UBTECH.

This is not the first time for UBTECH humanoid robots to enter an automobile plant. Previously, when the 400,000th vehicle manufactured by Chinese carmaker Zeekr rolled off the produc-

tion line, a Walker S1 was at Zeekr's 5G intelligent plant, practicing millimeter-level precision quality checks for vehicle logos and car lamps. At the turn of the year, the Walker S1 also worked in three other manufacturing enterprises for training.

At the 2022 World Robot Conference, only three humanoid robots were showcased, and the number increased to 10 in 2023 and 27 in 2024. As of Nov. 18 last year, the humanoid robot sector had witnessed 49 financing events totaling 8 billion yuan (\$1.09 billion), with the largest single investment nearing 1 billion yuan, according to Jiang Lei, chief

scientist of the National and Local Co-Built Humanoid Robotics Innovation Center.

Jiang said the number of humanoid robot manufacturers across China has increased from 31 in early 2024 to 80, and the number stands at over 200 globally.

In addition to humanoid robots, embodied intelligence has also gained significant attention. Recently, many technological experts in autonomous driving sector have shifted their focus to embodied intelligence, leading to a surge in investment and entrepreneurship activities in this area.

Embodied intelligence refers to integrating artificial

intelligence into physical entities such as robots, enabling them to perceive, learn, and interact dynamically with the environment like humans do, Jiao explained.

This concept, first proposed in 1950, emphasizes that intelligent behavior is generated through the interaction between the intelligent agent's body and the environment. In China's national artificial intelligence development strategy, embodied intelligence is seen as the only way for artificial intelligence to interact with the physical world, which will have profound implications on the real world.

Humanoid robots are one

physical form of embodied intelligence. Academician Sun Ninghui of the Chinese Academy of Engineering said that embodied intelligence refers to intelligent entities with physical bodies able to interact with the physical world, such as robots and unmanned vehicles. These entities process various sensory data inputs through multimodal large models which generate motion commands to drive the intelligent agents, replacing traditional rule-based or mathematical formula-based motion control methods. This approach achieves a deep integration of virtual and real worlds.

Jiang said that there are two

paths for the development of humanoid robots. One is the Honda ASIMO (Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility) path, which emphasizes that robots are just a hardware platform and focuses more on the mechanical engineering and motion capabilities. However, this path ceased development in 2018.

The other path is the Tesla path, which advocates for integrating the development of humanoid robots with embodied intelligence, emphasizing the support of artificial intelligence infrastructure such as intelligent computing center, data center, and cloud service platform.

People's Daily

China, Sri Lanka bolster BRI bond

BY CAO DESHENG

CHINA and Sri Lanka have outlined a plan to further boost high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, amid a series of agreements they signed on Wednesday to enhance bilateral ties.

President Xi Jinping and visiting Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake witnessed the signing of the cooperation documents between the two countries, including an agreement on Sri Lanka's export of agricultural products to China, after their official talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi told Dissanayake that China will actively support Sri Lanka in focusing on economic development, and will advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, enhance collaboration in fields such as modern agriculture, the digital economy and the marine economy, and create new highlights in bilateral cooperation.

In response, the Sri Lankan president said that his country remains committed to joint construction of the Belt and Road to enhance mutual connectivity in the re-

gion, and welcomes more investment from Chinese enterprises.

Dissanayake started a four-day state visit to China on Tuesday, and analysts said the trip has far-reaching economic and geopolitical implications. This is his first visit to China since taking office as Sri Lankan president in September, and his second overseas trip, following a visit to India in mid-December.

In recent years, China has deepened its strategic cooperative partnership with Sri Lanka with fruitful outcomes on Belt and Road cooperation, including the building of a container terminal in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, as well as roads and railways, and the development of Hambantota Port and Port City Colombo.

During their talks, Xi emphasized the long-standing traditional friendship between China and Sri Lanka. He said that over the 68 years since they established diplomatic relations, the two countries have maintained a healthy and stable relationship, setting an example of friendly coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation



President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Jan 15, 2025. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

between nations.

Xi said that China-Sri Lanka relations now face historical opportunities to build on past achievements and open up new prospects. He called on both sides to handle their relationship from a strategic perspective and work together to build a China-Sri Lanka community with a shared future.

China is committed to taking Sri Lanka as a priority in its foreign relations, and pledges continued support for the country in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as its independent choice of the development path that suits its national conditions, he said.

Xi assured Dissanayake that as China

is committed to comprehensively deepening reform and advancing the modernization drive, new opportunities will be created for Sri Lanka's development.

He also expressed the country's willingness to strengthen coordination and cooperation with Sri Lanka in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, and to work together to address major global challenges like climate change.

Both countries should uphold unity and self-improvement among the countries of the Global South to contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity, Xi added.

Dissanayake expressed his appreciation for China's significant achieve-

ments in the fields of economy, technology and infrastructure, saying that China has always been a reliable friend and partner to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka highly values its relationship with China, firmly adheres to the one-China principle, and appreciates China's valuable support in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, he said.

He expressed Sri Lanka's commitment to enhancing cooperation with China in a broad range of areas including infrastructure, energy, agriculture, finance, poverty reduction, digital transformation, tourism and personnel training.

Noting that China is a leading country of the Global South and plays a positive role in international affairs, Dissanayake said Sri Lanka is willing to continue strengthening coordination and mutual support with China within a multilateral framework to safeguard their common interests.

Before their talks, Xi held a grand welcoming ceremony for Dissanayake at the Great Hall of the People.

Xinhua

US President Biden warns of 'oligarchy' formation in US

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden on Thursday highlighted the formation of an 'oligarchy' in his farewell address from the Oval Office.

Biden warned of the concentration of wealth in a few hands, as it would give them the opportunity to abuse their power.

"In my farewell address tonight, I want to warn the country of some things that give me great concern. And this is a dangerous -- and that's the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultrawealthy people, and the dangerous consequences if their abuse of power is left unchecked. Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead. We see the consequences all across America. And we've seen it before," he said.

Biden said that the solution did not lie in punishing the wealthy, but to make them pay proportionately.

"More than a century ago, the American people stood up to the robber barons back then and busted the trusts. They didn't punish the wealthy. They just made the wealthy play by the rules everybody else had. Workers want rights to earn their fair share. You know, they were dealt into the deal, and it helped put us on the path to building the largest middle class, the most prosperous century any nation the world has ever seen. We've got to do that again," he said.

Biden highlighted that the wealthy must put forth their fair share in taxes.

"The last four years, that is exactly what we have done. People should be able to make as much as they can, but pay -- play by the same rules, pay their fair share in taxes. So much is at stake," he said.

Biden also highlighted the threats of climate change, and said he signed the clean climate law, which is the most significant in history.

"Right now, the existential threat of climate change has never been clearer. Just look across the country, from California to North Carolina. That's why I signed the most significant climate and clean energy law ever, ever in the history of the world. And the rest of the world is trying to model it now. It's working, creating jobs and industries of the future. Now we have proven we don't have to choose between protecting the environment and growing the economy. We're doing both," he said.

He added that the 'powerful forces' are using their influence to eliminate the steps taken to tackle the climate crisis.

"But powerful forces want to wield their unchecked influence to eliminate the steps we've taken to tackle the climate crisis, to serve their own interests for power and profit. We must not be bullied into sacrificing the future, the future of our children and our grandchildren. We must keep pushing forward, and push faster. There is no time to waste. It is also clear that American leadership in technology is unparalleled, an unparalleled source of innovation that can transform lives. We see the same dangers in the concentration of technology, power and wealth," he said.

Biden quoted Former US President Dwight D Eisenhower, who warned of 'misplaced power' and spoke of military-industrial complex.

"You know, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower spoke of the dangers of the military-industrial complex. He warned us about, and I quote, 'The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power.' Six decades later, I'm equally concerned about the potential rise of a tech-industrial complex that could pose real dangers for our country as well," he said.

Biden warned of the perils of misinformation and lack of free press.

"Americans are being buried under an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation enabling the abuse of power. The free press is crumbling. Editors are disappearing. Social media is giving up on fact-checking. The truth is smothered by lies told for power and for profit. We must hold the social platforms accountable to protect our children, our families and our very democracy from the abuse of power."

ANI

India welcomes ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel

NEW DELHI

INDIA yesterday welcomed the agreement on release of hostages and ceasefire in Gaza.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said that India hoped that this will lead to a safe and sustained supply of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza.

"We welcome the announcement of the agreement for the release of hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza. We hope this will lead to a safe and sustained supply

of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza," the statement read.

The MEA reiterated India's call for return to diplomacy.

"We have consistently called for release of all hostages, ceasefire, and return to a path of dialogue and diplomacy," the statement said.

Earlier in the day, US President Joe Biden announced the successful negotiation of a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, ending over 15 months of conflict. The deal, structured in three phases, includes a complete ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and the release of hostages, including Americans, in the first phase.

Biden also highlighted the diplomatic effort involved, noting the pressure from Israel and US support, as well as a coalition of 20 countries that stood against attacks from the Houthis.

While delivering remarks on reaching a ceasefire and hostage deal, Biden said, "It's a very good afternoon because at long last, I can announce a ceasefire and a hostage deal has been reached

between Israel and Hamas. More than 15 months of terror for the hostages, their families, and the Israeli people and more than 15 months of suffering by the innocent people of Gaza. Fighting in Gaza will stop and soon the hostages will return home to their families."

Following the ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu engaged in discussions with US President-elect Donald Trump and current President Joe Biden.

ANI

Exhumation of USSR heroes' remains in Lvov reveals essence of Kiev regime - Kremlin

MOSCOW

KIEV'S plans to exhume the remains of Soviet war heroes reflect its true nature, while the West chooses to look the other way at such actions, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"As for the exhumation of the remains of a Great Patriotic War hero, this is, unfortunately, the reality of Ukraine under the Kiev regime, where they exhume the remains of

war heroes and glorify Nazis and their collaborators in every way possible," Peskov said.

The spokesman emphasized that "the essence of the Kiev regime has repeatedly manifested itself in such actions." "To our regret, the curators of the Kiev regime, the countries of Western Europe, constantly turn a blind eye to this," he added.

Moving the Hill of Glory



Earlier, the Ukrainian Zakhid.net website reported that

the executive committee of the Lvov city council had authorized the relocation of the Hill of Glory memorial complex.

To do this, the remains of Soviet soldiers, including scout Nikolay Kuznetsov, need to be exhumed and then reburied in the new location.

Nikolay Kuznetsov was a Soviet intelligence officer who operated behind enemy lines during the Great Patriotic War.

Using the alias of a German officer, Paul Siebert, and documents identifying him as an employee of the secret German police, he conducted intelligence activities in Rovno. In March 1944, he was killed in a battle with the Banderites.

He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and his ashes were buried on the Hill of Glory in Lvov in July 1960.

BY ZHANG SIYUAN

FORMER US president Jimmy Carter passed away at the age of 100 last month.

Carter played an important role in shaping the China-US relations. On January 1, 1979, during his presidency, China and the United States officially established diplomatic relations.

This milestone event marked the beginning of a new era in bilateral ties, exerting significant impact on the two countries and the wider world. Carter also received Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping for an official visit to the United States, which left a significant mark in the history of China-US exchanges.

Carter once said "I always have believed that the most important bilateral relationship in the world is between the United States and China. It is very important for our two countries and the world to maintain that relationship with mutual respect."

Carter considered establishing diplomatic relations with China one of the best decisions he ever made. He

Carter's message on China-US relations still holds true

repeatedly emphasized that China's rise was not a threat, and that the US engagement policy with China had brought unprecedented peace and prosperity to both countries and the world at large. Despite differences, he believed that the two countries could still cooperate in many fields.

The one-China principle is at the very heart of the political foundation of China-US relations and the Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive in China-US relations.

In establishing diplomatic relations with China, the US government, under Carter, agreed to the three principles put forward by the Chinese government, namely, to sever the so-called diplomatic relations between the US and the Taiwan authorities, abrogate its Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan, and withdraw US forces and military installations from Taiwan.

On December 15, 1978, Carter made an address to



Former US president Jimmy Carter takes questions from the media during a news conference at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, US, in this Aug 20, 2015 file photo. (Photo/Agencies)

the nation and read live on television and radio the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. The communiqué says "The United States of America recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China.

The Government of the

United States of America acknowledges the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China." Since then, China-US relations have been normalized and have continued to develop.

The history of diplomatic ties between China and the United States demonstrates to the world that two major countries with different political systems, histories, cul-

tures and stages of development can come together and do great things.

Over the years, the two countries have conducted all-round cooperation and made joint contributions to world peace and prosperity.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-US bilateral trade has grown from less than \$2.5 billion to more than \$660 billion, and two-way investment has increased from insignificant levels to more than \$260 billion.

Chinese goods have diversified the choices available to US consumers and reduced their living costs, while Chinese investments have boosted US employment and contributed to local economic development.

The two countries have established 286 pairs of sister relations between their provinces, states, and cities, and have worked together to combat terrorism, respond to financial crises and tackle climate change.

The stable development of

China-US relations has not only brought tangible benefits to the people of both countries, but also provided strong momentum for global peace, stability and prosperity.

As the new US administration prepares to take office, China-US relations are at a new historic juncture. The world is closely watching the direction of this relationship. Both countries stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

Therefore, it is crucial for the two countries to choose dialogue over confrontation and win-win cooperation over zero-sum games. China is ready to maintain communication with the United States, expand cooperation, manage differences, and continue exploring the right way for the two countries to get along with each other in the new era. His words inspire much confidence.

China has maintained a stable and consistent policy toward the United States. Its principles of mutual respect,

peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation in managing China-US relations remain unchanged.

Its position on resolutely safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests is consistent and clear.

And its aspiration to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two peoples remains steadfast. China believes the Earth is big enough to accommodate the respective development and common prosperity of China and the United States.

For those working on China-US relations, the best way to honor Carter's memory is to recall the elder generations' leadership and courage in looking beyond differences and envisioning a better world through a sound China-US relationship.

Zhang Siyuan is a Beijing-based commentator on international affairs, writing regularly for Xinhua News, Global Times, China Daily etc. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.



Arajiga to officiate CAF Confederation Cup game between RS Berkane and Stellenbosch in Morocco

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has appointed referee Ahmed Arajiga and three Tanzanian assistants to officiate the Group B match of the CAF Confederation Cup between RS Berkane of Morocco and Stellenbosch of South Africa, scheduled for Sunday.

Both teams have already qualified for the quarter-finals. Berkane lead the group with 13 points, followed by Stellenbosch in second place with nine points. Stade Malien are in third place with four points, and Lunda Sul finish at the bottom of the group with two points.

The match will be played at the Stade Municipal de Berkane, in Berkane, Morocco. In their first encounter, the Moroccan league leaders won 3-1. Arajiga's last CAF match was on September 14, last year, between Red Arrows and TP Mazembe in the second group qualifications round of the Champions League.

In this match, Arajiga (pictured) will be assisted by fellow Tanzanian referees Mohamed Mkonjo, Kassim Mpanga, and Nasir Salum.

This is not the first time Tanzanian referees have officiated an international match together. On November 14, Arajiga, along with Frank Komba, Hamdani Said, and Elly Sasii, officiated an AFCON qualifying match be-

tween Lesotho and the Central African Republic.

Since receiving his FIFA badge at the beginning of 2022, Arajiga has been performing well and has been assigned various international matches.

Six teams have already qualified for the quarter-finals of the competition, with two more spots still up for grabs in the final group stage matches.

In Group D, defending champions Zamalek lead with 11 points, followed by Al Masry (6 points), Enyimba (5 points), and Black Bulls (4 points). Zamalek have secured qualification, while the remaining three teams are vying for the final spot.

USM Algers lead Group C with 11 points and have qualified as group winners. The other teams are still in contention for the remaining quarter-final berth: ASC Jaraaf (8 points), ASEC Mimosas (5 points), and Oropa United (2 points).

RS Berkane (13 points) and Stellenbosch FC (9 points) have qualified from Group B. Stade Malien (4 points) and Lunda Sul of Angola (2 points) have been eliminated.

In Group A, Simba have qualified with 10 points and will play CS Constantine (the current leaders with 12 points) in Dar es Salaam to determine the group winners.

Bravos Do Maquis have 7 points, while CS Sfaxien have been eliminated without any points.

Yanga unveil Jonathan Ikangalombo after move from AS Vita

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) have officially announced the signing of Jonathan Ikangalombo from AS Vita, completing a free transfer for the talented attacking midfielder.

The 22-year-old (pictured) has penned a two-year deal with the club, including an option for an additional year.

Ikangalombo's arrival is timely, as he has been registered in time to feature in Young Africans' crucial CAF Champions League match against MC Alger tomorrow.

With only one group stage match remaining, Young Africans' hopes of progressing to the knockout stages depend on securing a win against the Algerian side at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Ikangalombo's signing adds significant quality to the Young Africans midfield.

He was one of the standout performers at the 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Algeria, where he earned two 'Man of the Match' awards in goalless draws against Uganda and Ivory Coast.

His stellar performances saw him included in the Group Stage Team of the Tournament, becoming the only player from the DR Congo to make the prestigious list.



After CHAN 2022, Ikangalombo's career took a tumultuous turn. He fell out with his former club DC Motema Pembe, and rumours of a move to an unnamed Danish club circulated before he eventually joined AS Vita in the 2023/24 season.

His move to Young Africans marks an exciting new chapter in his career, where he will link

up with fellow Congolese players Maxi Nzegeli and Chadrack Boka.

The departure of Jean Baleke, another Congolese player, has opened up foreign player space for Ikangalombo's arrival.

Young Africans' ability to strengthen their squad by adding both Ikangalombo and Israel Mwenda comes after FIFA

lifted multiple transfer bans earlier this week, allowing the club to complete its January transfer business.

This marks a significant boost for Young Africans as they prepare for the second half of the season, with Ikangalombo now part of their ambitious squad aiming for success both domestically and internationally.

Relegation-threatened Pamba return to training ahead of league resumption

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER nearly three weeks of inactivity, Pamba Jiji players have returned to training in preparation for the resumption of the Premier League.

The league has been on hold due to the ongoing African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament, which has seen matches suspended since December 29, 2024.

This week, the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) made an important announcement regarding the league's

schedule. Initially, the league was expected to resume on March 1, 2025, after the completion of the Mapinduzi Cup and the CHAN finals.

However, with changes to the CHAN calendar, the Premier League will now restart in the first week of February 2025.

This decision comes after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) shifted the CHAN finals from February to August 2025, freeing up the opportunity for the TPLB to continue league fixtures.

The resumption will begin with postponed matches involving top clubs Simba and Yanga, before the regular round of fixtures continues.

The official date for the league's return and the full revised schedule are expected to be announced shortly.

For Pamba Jiji, the timing of their return to training is crucial. Sitting in 14th place with just 12 points, the Mwanza-based side is deep in the relegation zone and facing a tough fight to secure survival in the top flight.

Their most recent match was a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to fellow relegation battlers, Tanzania Prisons. This defeat has made their battle for survival even more difficult.

Pamba Jiji's next match will see them travel to Dodoma Jiji before returning home to face Azam.

With only 13 games remaining, every point will be crucial as they strive to avoid the drop and retain their place in the Premier League.

Caravans hammer Lions A in 2024 TCA DC Super League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

CARAVANS cricketers have grabbed a second consecutive victory in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) DC Super League, hammering Lions A by three wickets in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Solid bowling by Caravans cricketers, led by Akhil Anil, turned out to be an excellent approach that had the side convincingly coming out victorious.

Lions A cricketers took the crease first in the encounter at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venue and posted 146/10 in 47.5 overs.

The early exits of Mohamed Salim and Dylan Manish, who opened the innings, did not prevent Lions A from seeing to it that the squad amasses a respectable figure.

Skipper Salim made his way back with a mere four runs, whereas his fellow opening batsman Manish returned much earlier with just a run to his name.

Karim Kiseto gave Lions

A hopes with his well-taken shots, finishing with 32 runs.

Kiseto, who had a great showing when turning out for Tanzania's U-19 cricket squad in an ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier in the city last year, ended up as the batsman with the most runs during Lions A's turn with the bat.

Umar Shaikh, who scored 19 runs, and Johnson David, who secured 12 runs, more-over chipped in with two digits for Lions A.

Mohamed Hamza offered Lions A hopes of getting more runs after garnering 26 runs.

Lions A were 127-8 at the time Hamza made his way back in the 40th over.

Goodluck Andrew more-over ended up with two digits, posting 13 runs for the batting team.

Augustine Mwamele and Rehaan Atif were three runs short of two digits when they batted, somewhat boosting their club's figure.

The youthful Atif, coming in as the low-order batsman, had a not out showing in 22 balls he executed.



Caravans cricketers.

Eighteen extra runs made up of 14 wides, two byes, and two no-balls somewhat boosted the batting squad's total.

Anil enjoyed a scintillating bowling showing for Caravans having taken 4-25 for the squad.

The senior national cricketer had a 10-over bowling turn and posted a 2.50 economy rate for his team.

Anil was ably assisted by seasoned spinner Kassim

Nassor, whose 2-28 for Caravans ensured Lions A ended up with a manageable total.

Much as there was an achievable target in sight, Caravans had to cover every blade of grass to get down to a successful chase, posting 148/7 in 30 overs.

Skipper Jitin Singh gallantly led the chase, ending two runs short of a half-century for the batting side.

It was a valuable showing for the seasoned cricketer,

having endured below-par outings in club tournaments during the closing stages of last year.

Fellow opener Amal Rajeevan and Ajith Augustine, coming in at number three, fought to prove their worth with good figures in last weekend's clash.

Rajeevan notched 21 runs and Augustin got back with 16 runs.

Anil's 14 runs and promising cricketer Issa Safari's 13

runs not out put the match beyond Lions A's reach.

Caravans' quest for a victorious end was moreover buoyed by 21 extras conceded by Lions A's bowling unit, led by Mohamed Jawed.

The extras constituted two leg byes, 17 wides, and two no-balls.

Even though Jawed had a good bowling game for his team, taking 4-42, his efforts failed to bail Lions A out.

Much as Mwamele fought to give Lions A hopes of keeping Caravans in check, having ended with 2-16, he could hardly fulfil his plan.

The youthful cricketer wound up with the most impressive economy rate, posting 3.20 in his five overs, as his squad's efforts ended in vain.

Caravans cricketers opened their campaign in the showdown gallantly, thrashing Strikers by 215 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method on January 5.

Hosting the showdown is a continuation of TCA's efforts to develop the sport domestically.

The league, a TCA off-icer stated, features the top cricket teams in Tanzania, put into two groups.

Group A teams are Aga Khan SC, Delaware Upanga SC, A, Patel Brotherhood A, Dar Indian Titans, and Pak Stars A.

Group B clubs are: Caravans, Strikers, Aces A, Gymkhana, and Lions A.

The showdown began on January 4, 2025, marking an exciting start to Tanzania's premier cricket competition.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by TCA Chairman, Balakrishna Sreekumar, who highlighted the league's significance in elevating the standard of cricket in Tanzania.

Sreekumar stated: "This league is not just about competition... it's about fostering talent, building camaraderie, and taking Tanzanian cricket to new heights."

The 2024 TCA DC Super League is off to a thrilling start, promising top-tier cricket action in the weeks to come.

Bayern are showing a reaction after last season's disappointment, says Kompany

MUNICH

BUNDESLIGA leaders Bayern Munich are proving they are hungry for success again and are delivering a reaction to their disappointing previous season, coach Vincent Kompany said after his team's 5-0 demolition of Hoffenheim on Wednesday.

Bayern found no resistance from struggling Hoffenheim and bagged three goals in a span of 19 minutes in the first half to quickly put the game to bed.

They added two more goals after the break to restore their four point lead in the standings over champions Bayer Leverkusen, in second place on 38.

"I am happy with our performance and the mentality of the team," Kompany said. "We defended aggressively and played a good game. We must keep it up."

"We are showing in every game that we are hungry and showing a reaction after last season. We have to keep at it."

Bayern's Bundesliga dominance since 2013 ended last season when Bayer Leverkusen won the domestic league and Cup double without defeat.

The Bavarians have conceded just 13 league goals in 17 matches while scoring 53.

"We approached this game with a lot of respect for the opponents. For us it was not that we thought it would be easy but we have a lot of good players and today we showed a joy for the game," Kompany said.

Asked whether he thought his team could score 100 goals this season, the Belgian, in his first season in charge, said the amount of goals was not important for him.

"Over 100 goals? For me it is only about the next game and for us to remain dangerous," he said.

REUTERS

Inzaghi easy on Inter after disappointing Bologna draw

MILAN, Italy

INTER Milan coach Simone Inzaghi spared his players any blame for a disappointing draw at home against Bologna on Wednesday that saw their Serie A winning streak of six games come to an end.

Inter went a goal down after 15 minutes but quickly bounced back through Denzel Dumfries, and Lautaro Martinez put them in front ahead of the break before the defending champions slowed down after the restart and had to settle for one point.

"We are not happy at all, but I have nothing to reproach the lads for," Inzaghi told a press conference.

"They played an excellent match, against a worthy opponent. Bologna must be recognised for having played an excellent, organised game."

"Despite some numerical difficulties, the lads put in a great performance. We had many situations (but) we could have done better, like their two goals which were both deflections... However, I saw an excellent team against a physical opponent."

Champions League side Bologna beat Inter in two of their previous four competitive head-to-heads, and they looked determined to yet again upset the hosts.

"When we go on the pitch we want to take the victory, especially at home," said Inter defender Matteo Darmian.

"We had a good reaction, even taking the lead, then we suffered their equaliser. We take a point in a positive way, having made 44 points in the first 19 games is an important result."

Halfway through the campaign, Inter are three points off leaders Napoli, the last team who saw them drop points in a 1-1 draw at San Siro last November.

"I think that we had an important first half of the season," Darmian added.

"Maybe we didn't start in the best way (but) we got back on track and I don't think we should make comparisons with last year. We have to continue what we've been doing... We are in a good position and we have to continue like this."

Inter, who embarked on the defence of their title with a 2-2 draw at Genoa, Milan have been unbeaten since losing 2-1 against AC Milan in late September.

REUTERS

Courageous derby win shows Arsenal firmly in title race, Arteta says

LONDON

ARSENAL'S Mikel Arteta hailed his side's 2-1 comeback win against north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday as proof his side remains firmly in the Premier League title race, although he rued their failure to kill the game off despite ample opportunity.

Arsenal rekindled their title hopes when they came from a goal down to secure a win that brings them back within four points of leaders Liverpool albeit having played one game more.

"I think we were sensational," Arteta told reporters after the game which had come after his side had lost two cup games in quick succession and suffered another major injury blow, this time to Brazilian forward Gabriel Jesus who is out for the season.

"It is a test of attitude, what we are made of, the courage that we have and how much we really care only about a result," Arteta said.

A 2-0 defeat at home by Newcastle United last week in the League Cup semi-final first leg and then a penalty shootout exit at home against Manchester United in the FA Cup third round had left Ar-



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard scores their second goal during their Premier League match against Tottenham Hotspur at Emirates Stadium, on London, Britain on Wednesday. Agencies

senal's season in danger of unravelling.

Asked whether Wednesday's result had proved to any doubters that Arsenal remain serious title chasers, Arteta said: "We are, because there is so much to play for, and we can see how difficult it is for every team to win."

Son Heung-min had put Tottenham in front in the 25th minute but Arsenal drew level when an inswinging corner was deflected into his own net by Spurs striker Dominic Solanke. Leandro Trossard then fired in the winner just before halftime.

Arteta's side failed to take several chances

to finish off Tottenham and were never entirely comfortable.

"We should have put the game to bed much earlier, but it is what it is, then we have to suffer."

Meanwhile, Ange Postecoglou described Tottenham Hotspur's dismal Premier League campaign as unacceptable after they slumped to a lame 2-1 defeat at north London rivals Arsenal on Wednesday.

Son Heung-min gave Tottenham a 25th-minute lead against the run of play but in the end the scoreline flattered Postecoglou's side who have now won only once in nine league

games. Tottenham sit 13th in the table on 24 points and are now far closer to the relegation zone than the top four where they had hoped to be challenging in Postecoglou's second season. While they have reached the League Cup semi-final and won the first leg 1-0 against Liverpool, they have lost 11 league games this season. Injuries have been a factor, but Postecoglou made no attempt to sugar-coat the current predicament which is inevitably raising questions about his future.

"Not good enough, especially the first half. We just were way too passive. We allowed Ar-

senal to take control of the game and dictate the tempo and paid the price," Postecoglou told reporters. "That's just not who we are."

"It's not the way I set the team up. It's not the way I want to play, to be sitting in there and allowing Arsenal to play. The tempo just wasn't good enough."

Postecoglou's team offered little against Arsenal who led by halftime with a Dominic Solanke own goal and Leandro Trossard's left-footed drive -- both goals not making happy viewing for Tottenham's new keeper Antonin Kinsky.

The former Celtic manager said there was

no "magic cure" and called on his players to battle to turn around their league form, starting away at struggling Everton at the weekend.

Lose that and the north Londoners could even start looking over their shoulders at the relegation zone.

"I want them (the players) disappointed. This can't be accepted by anyone at the club," Postecoglou, whose side are now winless in five league games, said.

"Losing so many games in the league season is not right. I know we've gone through a tough time, and yes, we are asking big jobs, but I hope they're hurting. The reality of it is that our results and our form in the league have been nowhere near good enough. That needs to change."

Tottenham captain Son, who was substituted during the second half, echoed Postecoglou's thoughts.

"Very disappointing. The manager is right. We were too passive. Second half was a little better. The first half was not good enough," the South Korean, who has now scored eight Premier League goals against Arsenal, said.

"We have to do better in every aspect. When you look at the table it's not good enough."

REUTERS

No shock revelation for Moyes as Everton fail to score again

LIVERPOOL, England

THE league table told the story before he arrived but after his first match back in charge of Everton on Wednesday David Moyes was even more clear that the team's underlying problem is a failure to score, or even really look like scoring.

The 1-0 home Premier League defeat by Aston Villa meant that Everton have failed to score in nine of their last 12 league matches - winning one of them - and their paltry total of 15 goals in 20 games this season is the second-worst after bottom club Southampton's 12.

"I didn't think we played that well, we offered a little bit more in the second half but ultimately couldn't quite score a goal that was required," Moyes (pictured) said after Ollie Watkins's 51st-minute goal settled his first game since replacing Sean Dyche last week.

"We're lacking people to score, we're lacking creating those chances. We probably had two or three good chances, half chances... I thought Jesper (Lindstrom) had a good chance to score with his head and Dom (Dominic Calvert-Lewin) at the end as well - but we need to create even more than that."

Calvert-Lewin is having a torrid time, the last of his two goals coming in September. The stoppage-time miss was a first-time clip over the bar from an awkward low cross, but he also failed to make the most of two decent opportu-

nities in the first half.

He looks a million miles away from the player who scored four goals in 11 England appearances in 2020 and 2021 and unless he rediscovers even a hint of that form, Everton look destined for another nervous relegation fight as they currently hover two places and one point above the drop zone.

The striker's travails are only a part of the problem, however, with a midfield desperately short of guile, particularly in the continued absence of the injured Dwight McNeil.

"It's a huge challenge," said Moyes, who regularly had Everton in the top eight during his 11 years in charge up to 2013.

"I think we've got a really good group of lads and they're committed. They've been great in training and they're up for the fight. We're desperately needing some players to create and craft goals - and finish them as well. We need to get those levels up."

"I thought the crowd were great and I was really thankful for their reception. But I'm kind of keeping my head down because I've had some great memories with the supporters but right now we've lost tonight and we're near the bottom of the league. I need to find a way to score more goals and get more wins."

Moyes also revealed that injury-ravaged on-loan striker Armando Broja would be out of action for 10-12 weeks with ankle ligament damage sustained in



last week's FA Cup win over Peterborough and that he might have to return to Chelsea.

Meanwhile, a sixth successive league defeat for Leicester City was a major blow to the club, said manager Ruud van Nistelrooy after a 2-0 home loss to Crystal Palace on Wednesday kept them floundering near the foot of the Premier League.

Second-half goals from Jean-Philippe Mateta and Marc Guehi handed Palace a 2-0 win as they shrugged off Leicester taking the early initiative and coasted to a comfortable victory.

The home side squandered chances to be ahead at the break before being thoroughly outplayed after halftime.

"It's hard. We kept spirits up

after five losses and we will also do it after today's loss," said Van Nistelrooy.

"There's hope there, there's spirit there in the team. But today is a big blow. I think it's the lowest we've felt so far in my spell."

Van Nistelrooy came in to replace Steve Cooper, who was sacked in November, but has lost six of nine matches in charge in all competitions, with two wins and a draw.

"It's a worry when you concede the amount of goals we do at the moment, it's hard to win games," he added.

"It's something we addressed. I addressed it from the first day I came in but we haven't got that right."

Van Nistelrooy bemoaned a lack of consistency.

"In spells we're doing it very well. There's a split second where we allow an opponent to dribble through the middle and give the assist for the first goal, then we're not sharp enough on a set-piece."

"You put a lot of effort in and you start the game with great expectations and hope and belief and spirit. But again we came short and that's a big blow," he added.

Leicester are second bottom in the standings, with 14 points from 21 games.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Courageous derby win shows Arsenal firmly in title race, Arteta says

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Amrouche's ban ends, but future with Taifa Stars remains uncertain

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE eight-match ban given to the head coach of the Tanzania national team, Taifa Stars, Adel Amrouche, for making serious accusations against the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (RMFF), is over.

However, there has been silence regarding the coach's future within the Tanzanian national team.

The Algerian coach (pictured) was sanctioned by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Disciplinary Committee on January 18, last year, after the Stars were defeated 3-0 by Morocco in their first group stage match of the 2023 AFCON finals held in Ivory Coast.

He subsequently made statements alleging that the RMFF has influence within CAF to fix matches and influence referees.

This action resulted in the CAF Disciplinary Committee suspending the coach for eight matches and fining him 10,000 US dollars (24 million Tanzanian shillings).

The Executive Committee of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) also announced his suspension on January 19, in support of CAF's action, and appointed assistant coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman to complete the final group stage matches against Zambia and DR Congo.

After those two AFCON final matches, the Stars (Tanzania's national team) played six more matches in the AFCON 2025 qualifiers and successfully qualified under the interim head coach, Hemed Morocco, in addition to the 2026 World Cup qualifying matches.

These matches completed the eight-match ban that coach Amrouche received from CAF.

Despite the eight-match ban being completed, the TFF has not yet released any statement regarding Amrouche.

As national team activities continue under 'Morocco', discussions have begun among sports stakeholders about the future of the former Harambee Stars (Kenya's national team) coach.

Amrouche was hired by the TFF in March 2023 on a three-year contract expected to end next year, and it is understood that his salary is paid by the government.

However, TFF Information Officer, Clifford Ndimbo, when contacted about the future of the coach, stated that an official statement will be released.

"For now, I cannot say anything. An official statement will be released regarding the issue of Coach Adel (Amrouche)," said Ndimbo.

Following their success, the local technical bench under Morocco is expected to continue leading the team for the foreseeable future, with sources within the federation suggesting that coach Amrouche will not return.

Taifa Stars land in favourable Group B for CHAN 2024



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA has been placed in Group B of the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) 2024, a tournament for home-based players, scheduled for August this year.

The tournament will be co-hosted by three East African countries: Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Group B will consist of Tanzania, Mauritania, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic.

In the final draw held Wednesday, Taifa Stars (Tanzania's national team) found themselves in a group where none of the other teams have ever reached the finals of the competition.

Madagascar is the only team in the group with prior success in the tournament, having finished third in the 2022 CHAN

finals.

Mauritania's best achievement in this competition was reaching the quarter-finals in 2022, while both Taifa Stars (Tanzania) and Burkina Faso have only ever reached the group stage.

The weakest team in the group is the Central African Republic, which is participating in the CHAN finals for the first time.

Co-host Kenya, who will be making their debut in the CHAN tournament, have been placed in Group A in what many consider

the "Group of Death."

They will face two-time champions Morocco, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia.

This year's tournament will have four groups. The first three groups (A, B, and C) will each have five teams, while Group D will have four teams.

The 2024 CHAN finals will be the third time that Taifa Stars (Tanzania) have participated, having also competed in the 2009 and 2020 finals, where they were eliminated in the group stage each time.

In the 2009 finals, Tanzania finished third in their group after collecting four points in three matches.

They started with a 1-0 loss to Senegal, then secured a 1-0 victory against Ivory Coast, and the final match ended in a 1-1 draw with Zambia.

In the 2020 CHAN finals, Tanzania again finished third with four points, losing to Zambia 2-0, then defeating Namibia 1-0, with their final match also ending in a draw.

The 2024 CHAN features 19 teams across four

groups, with Groups A, B, and C comprising five teams each, while Group D has four.

The top teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals, setting the stage for intense competition.

Full Draw:

- Group A: Kenya, Morocco, Angola, DRC, Zambia
- Group B: Tanzania, Madagascar, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, CAR
- Group C: Uganda, Niger, Guinea, Q2, Q1
- Group D: Senegal, Congo, Sudan, Nigeria

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) are ready to host Algeria's MC Alger in a crucial Group A encounter of the CAF Champions League tomorrow at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The Jangwani Street-based side need nothing less than a victory to secure a spot in the tournament's quarter-finals.

Young Africans head into this decisive clash with the majority of their squad fit and ready, except for two players.

Ivorian defender Yao Kouassi is sidelined with an injury that will keep him out for at least four weeks and up to six weeks. Midfielder Maxi Nzungeli, who has been recovering from an injury, is making progress but is unlikely to feature in this game.

"Our player Yao will be out for a period of no less than four weeks and no more than six weeks. Maxi is progressing well with training. If the coach deems him physically fit, he could be considered for the next game. But as of now, he is fine and continuing with his recovery," said Ali Kamwe (pictured), the club's Information and Communication Officer.

This positive update on the team's readiness is a major boost for Young Africans as they prepare for what is arguably their most significant match of the season. The rest

Yanga now gear up for decisive CAF Champions League clash



of the squad is in excellent condition and ready to give their all in the must-win encounter.

The excitement among Young Africans' fans and

members has been palpable, with ticket sales for the match soaring. The club has expressed its gratitude for the overwhelming support, with officials predicting a near-

capacity crowd of 50,000 to 60,000 fans at the stadium.

"I would like to congratulate the fans and members. Many tickets have already been purchased even before the official motivational meeting or announcement of sales."

"The level of awareness and enthusiasm has been incredible. The fans have shown through their actions just how much this match means to them," said Kamwe.

The club believes that the electric atmosphere created by the supporters will provide the much-needed motivation for the players to deliver on the pitch.

Group A is still up for grabs, with Al Hilal having already secured a spot in the quarter-finals with 10 points. However, the Sudanese giants are yet to confirm their position as group leaders.

Young Africans currently sit in third place with seven points, trailing MC Alger, who are second with eight points. A win for Young Africans would take them to 10 points, securing a quarter-final berth and leapfrogging MC Alger.

The Algerian side, on the

other hand, need only a draw to advance.

Young Africans head coach Sead Ramovic is expected to employ an aggressive strategy, focusing on exploiting MC Alger's defensive weaknesses while ensuring their backline remains solid against the visitors' counter-attacks.

This match is a pivotal moment for Young Africans, as advancing to the quarter-finals would mark a significant milestone in their CAF Champions League campaign.

The team has shown resilience throughout the group stage, and tomorrow's match presents an opportunity to solidify their status as one of Africa's footballing powerhouses.

With a nearly full-strength squad, fervent support from their fans, and the stakes at an all-time high, Young Africans are determined to seize the moment and make history.

The stage is set for a thrilling encounter at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, where the destiny of Group A's final quarter-finalists will be decided.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

