



Govt to curb elephants' invasion

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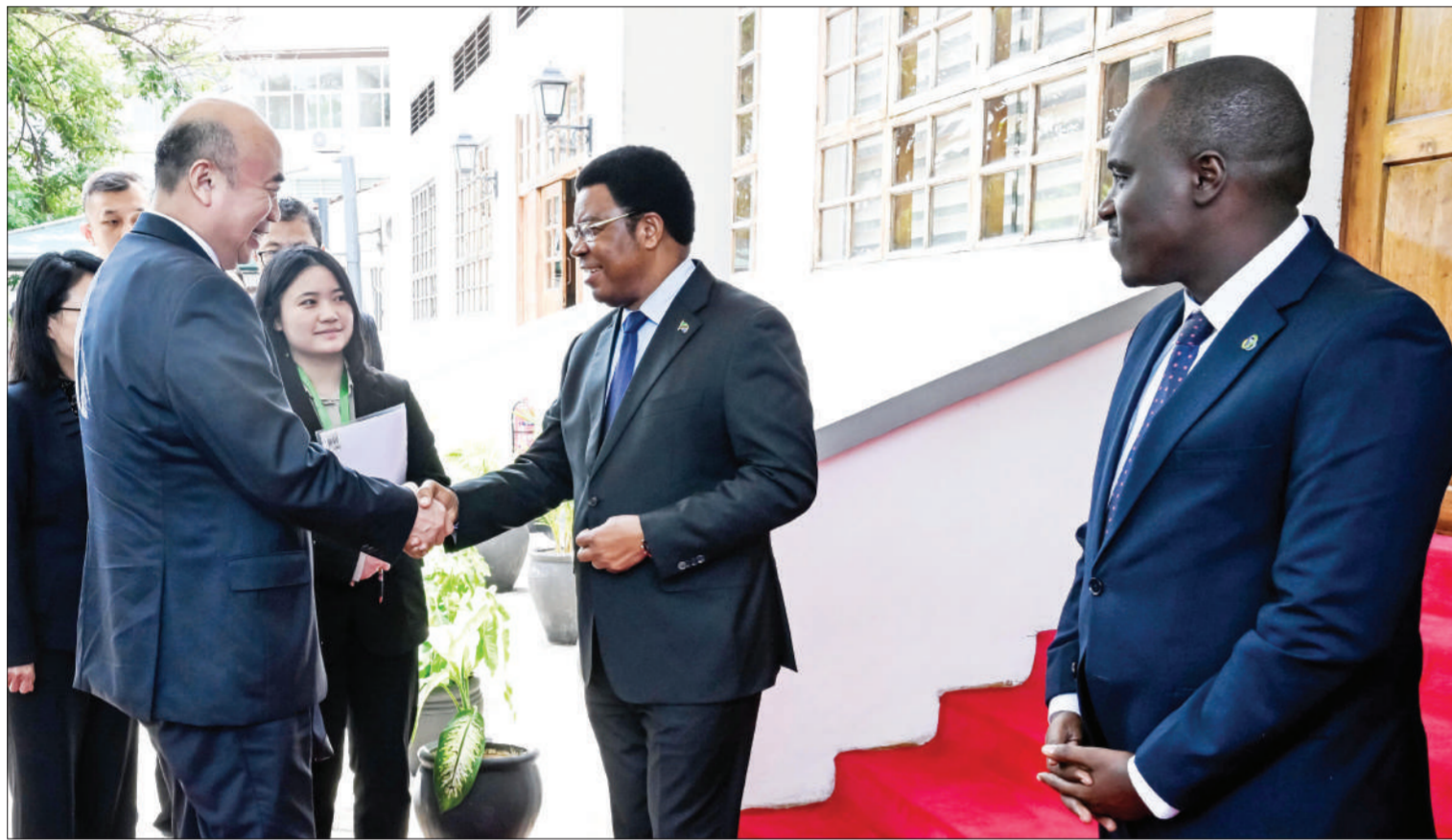
Project to boost rice productivity

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FAO, EU support Dar beekeepers

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa welcomes visiting Chinese Vice Prime Minister Liu Guozhong (L) to the Dar es Salaam sub-office of the Prime Minister Office yesterday. Right is Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko. Photo: PMO

Skin disease rife in giraffe populations

The disease type that affects the local species seems to be different from similar infections monitored elsewhere

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

RUAHA, Tarangire and Serengeti national parks are experiencing a strange skin disease that has spread to upwards of 60 percent of the giraffe populations in those parks.

Institute (TAWIRI) principal researcher, says in a formal report that dermatitis infections on the species seem to be endemic in southern conservation areas, but is spreading towards the northern parts.

This infection affects only the tall terrestrial

Dr Julius Keyyu, the Tanzania Wildlife Research

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Taifa Stars players plot DR Congo downfall in tricky AFCON duel

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AFCO: The African footballers putting their hearts on the line

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Five things learned from Tanzania versus Zambia clash in AFCON

World Bank in \$2bn project over Lake Victoria pollution

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A TEN year project billed at \$2bn is set to restore Lake Victoria's environment by controlling solid waste discharge, sanitation facilities and drainage systems that pollute the lake.

Hilda Luoga, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission project's development officer, told a stakeholders' consultation meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the commission is set to start the work right away.

The meeting coordinated by the Indian Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) based in New Delhi was attended by participants from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Project implementation will create jobs for youths involved in related activities, with preliminary consultations having been conducted with riparian states of Tanzania, Rwanda, Bu-

rundi, Kenya and Uganda, after having shown interest in the matter, she said.

Commission officials recently met with the World Bank vice president for eastern and southern Africa during a high level meeting in Addis Ababa, where the programme was agreed, especially on sanitation issues to reduce pollution in the lake, she stated.

The project design is geared at the sustainable development of the lake environment by preparing strategies to avert excessive pollution, where the channelling of sewage from habitations and industries is especially at issue, she explained.

The riparian states have been funded to take up projects to avert lake pollution, where in 2020 they conducted a study and set out the main sources of pollution.

The study noted that it is not appropriate

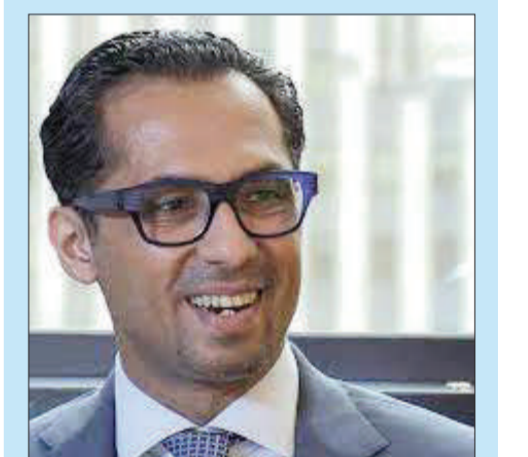
that each country puts up its own strategy, so there is now a sustainable joint strategy for riparian states in the lake-wide inclusive sanitation management project, she stated.

The strategy involves stakeholders of the participating countries to sort out existing challenges, she said, with three cities identified as the centres of environmental pollution in the lake, namely Mwanza, Entebbe and Homabay, a town on the Kenya portion of the lake.

The commission was now seeking funds to implement those strategies, having spoken with the World Bank to give proposals for a large project providing a solution for sewage systems and other solid wastes polluting the lake, she said.

Rose Mtui, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) research coordina-

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Mo wealth rises by \$0.3bn on last year

By Guardian Reporter

MOHAMED Dewji (pictured), reputedly East Africa's richest industrialist, had his net worth jumping from \$1.5bn early last year to \$1.8bn at the start of this year, on the basis of annual data update by the US wealth chronicler, Forbes' Magazine.

In the list of Africa's dollar billionaires, the Mohammed Enterprise (T) Ltd (MeTL) CEO has jumped to 12th position from the previous 13th slot. MeTL's has diversified internationally.

In the list, Mo Dewji remains the youngest dollar billionaire for 10 years in a row at the age of 48 years and he's the only billionaire in eastern and central Africa who appeared in the list.

The Tanzanian businessman created 40,000 jobs, implying adding 5,000 more jobs to the 35,000 registered last year.

METL is a Tanzanian conglomerate founded by his father in the 1970s, active in textile manufacturing, flour milling, beverages and edible oils in eastern, central and southern Africa, total of ten African countries including Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya.

As Tanzania's only dollar billionaire, he signed the 'giving pledge' in 2016, promising to donate at least half his fortune to

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Akili Platform Tanzania environment 'ambassador' Deborah Daniel (R) pictured in Tabora yesterday demonstrating proper tree planting to Boniface Sospeter, a Standard Five pupil at the municipality's Mwanzo Primary School. The NGO had set out to plant 500 trees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Mary Ndalo, acting chairperson of the Women, Constitution, Elections and Leadership coalition, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam on Monday on the need for the country's laws to place a premium on gender equality. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Women's coalition for gender equality in three political bills

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

A COALITION of Women, Constitution, Elections and Leadership (WCEL) has called for inclusion of gender equality principles in the three bills tabled in Parliament on November 10, 2023, to enable achievement of 50/50 representation. The tabled bills are the President, Members of Parliament and Councillors' election bill 2023; the political parties bill 2023 and the National Electoral Commission bill 2023. WCEL made the call on Monday during a press conference held in Dar es Salaam that also engaged other stakeholders outside the coalition. Mary Ndaro, acting chairperson of the coalition said the aim is to ensure that the country has laws specifying gender equality as well as aligning the principles of accountability for all entrusted with leadership in public service. "This is to inform the public that we

demand inclusion of gender equality principles in the three bills tabled in Parliament on November 10, 2023," she said. "The demand is guided by the principles of gender equality as stated in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 in article (12(1)) which states all human beings are born free and all are equal and article 13 (1-5) which prohibits all forms of discrimination, including gender discrimination." She said the coalition believes that building participatory democracy cannot be strengthened in the country if discrimination against women is continued and legalised. She further noted that the statement was based on the principles of equality specified in various international and regional agreements and resolutions which Tanzania has ratified as well as the national Vision 2025 which has set the goal of eradicating all forms of discrimination, including gender discrimination by the year 2025.

Gemma Akilimali, a human rights and gender issues activist proposed legal changes to facilitate the achievement of 50/50 representation through constituencies so that women are voted for by all voters instead of leaving it to political parties to use or divert women's rights to appointment as a matter of choice or charity. "The current system of special seats conflicts with the desire to build a gender-inclusive democracy by creation of hierarchy and discrimination between representatives of constituencies," she said. She further noted that the Governance, Constitution and Legal Affairs Committee which receives views of citizens and organisations on the pending amendments should incorporate the coalition's recommendations in the three bills before submitting the documents to Parliament for a second reading. The recommendations are meant to strengthen participatory democracy by obligating political parties to select

and appoint qualified female and male candidates during elections. "Likewise, we seek to avoid burdening candidates with election costs that should be taken care of by respective political parties, she said. "For private candidates the costs should be borne by their supporters."

China plans to restore 30 pc of degraded ecosystem

BEIJING

CHINA has further enhanced its top-level design for biodiversity conservation with a 2023-30 national strategy and an action plan that promises to restore at least 30 percent of the nation's degraded ecosystems by the end of this decade. The document which was made public recently notes the grim situation for biodiversity conservation in China, saying: "The country's ecosystems, species and genetic diversity are all suffering from varying degrees of degradation and loss." With degradation to one degree or another, the country's grassland ecosystems are generally fragile, it noted. Functional degradation and loss have also occurred in the ecosystems of some rivers, wetlands and lakes. Quoting the Redlist of China's Biodiversity, the latest version of which was made public last year, the action plan said 4,088 of the higher plant species, or roughly 10 percent of the total assessed, were under threat. It said 1,050 vertebrate species in the country – excluding fish – were also under threat, representing some 22 percent of the total assessed. "There remain significant conflicts between biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development in different regions," it said. Overexploitation, intensified land use changes that have encroached upon natural spaces and the disorderly development of biological resources have further exacerbated the biodiversity conservation situation, it said. Shen Manhong, dean of Zhejiang A&F University's Institute of Ecological Civilization, said the document has made China's biodiversity conservation even more systematic. It not only includes control measures, but also incentives and awareness measures that can make people more willing to protect biodiversity, said Shen, who is also former Party secretary of the university in Hangzhou, Zhejiang's provincial capital. The action plan includes measures that aim to relieve the country from biodiversity loss. One of the priorities is to beef up the country's capability in biodiversity surveying and monitoring. By 2030, the country will strive to see ecosystems in key areas, key species and important genetic resources covered by regular surveying and monitoring, it said. The document said China will improve a mechanism known as "ecological compensation" to better protect the environment, thus helping the areas shouldering key ecological functions, source regions for important water bodies and protected natural areas be compensated economically for their efforts. "Ecological compensation is a good mechanism. But currently, China's policy support for it is still modest," Shen said. He called for payments to protectors to be significantly increased to address the costs associated with their protection efforts. The document said that by 2030, China will begin to gradually establish a mechanism under which those who intrude into and occupy ecological spaces will have to pay for the damages they cause. The document said the country will make it mandatory for enterprises to release information concerning biodiversity conservation. By 2030, a long-term mechanism will be worked out to promote enterprises to protect and sustainably utilize biodiversity resources, it said. The country will also regularly monitor and assess the risks posed by key enterprises on biodiversity resources, as well as their dependence and potential impacts on such resources, it noted.

“ The current system of special seats conflicts with the desire to build a gender-inclusive democracy by creation of hierarchy and discrimination between representatives of constituencies **”**



Muhea District Council Director Dr Jumaa Mhina (gesturing) addresses civil servants and other residents at a meeting in Muhea town on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

More investment still needed to protect Africa's marine economy

By Marcia Zali

THE world's oceans are crucial to humankind because 80 percent of global trade is maritime and oceans also provide food, medicine, renewable energy and natural resources to billions of people. Yet, blue economy receives less attention, focus and investment than many other sectors. If well managed, the resources found in the world's seas have the potential of reducing carbon emissions and protecting coastal communities from the adverse effects of climate change. This issue took centre stage at a panel discussion on the sustainability of Africa's blue economy, which was held at the African pavilion during day 9 of COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Several speakers raised the issue and alerted the audience to the fact that many of the challenges faced by the oceans are a result of pollution, overfishing, and the burning of fossil fuels. Plastic remains one of the biggest threats. Up to 14 million tonnes of plastic are floating around our seas, endangering marine life, and affecting the livelihood of communities that rely on the ocean for food and income. Scientists predict that unless action is taken soon, there will be more plastic in the seas than fish by 2030. In parallel, the increased absorption of carbon dioxide in the ocean reduced oxygen levels, which has in turn reduced the ability of animals and plants below the surface to survive. African Development Bank (AfDB) climate expert Dr Balgis Osman stressed an awareness of the impact of pollution and strengthened policies were needed to ensure a successful outcome of SDG 14, which focuses on the conservation and sustainability of oceans, seas, and marine resources. She explained that an intentional focus on the blue economy could contribute to Africa's economic development and to sustainability for

all who benefit from the oceans and seas. As part of the AfDB's Feed Africa Strategy 2016-2025, the Bank established projects to help develop blue economies in the Seychelles, Namibia, Mozambique, Morocco, Gabon, Togo, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Mauritius. Dr Balgis explained that through these projects, the Bank expects to see higher per capita annual consumption of fish from 10 to 20 kilograms, as many as 5-10 million extra jobs in trade and marketing, and the creation of small and medium enterprises for aquaculture and pre- and post-harvest services. UN figures estimate that 10 million tonnes of fish go to waste every year. In addition, if governments implemented policies to regulate and protect their blue economies, an annual \$1.3 billion could be saved by reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. "We expect to attain food and nutrition security for over 200 million Africans and provide income for over 15 million over the next 10 years, and increase value added from \$24 billion to \$72 billion by 2025. We also expect to triple intra-regional fish trade through the Malabo Declaration with half of the processing plants using clean energy and eco-certified seafood products," she added. Other panellists echoed Dr Balgis, Herland Carreaux from OceanHub Africa advocated for entrepreneurs in the ocean economy to be capacitated, trained, and given access to a network that will allow them to grow. He further stated that start-ups could benefit from having a scientist in their group. World Oceans Council's Sophie Masipa said that threats to a thriving blue economy include the conflict between development and ocean health, and cited mineral extraction and exploration that can further harm the ocean. Policies are needed to try and balance this conflict.

Patrick Greenfield

Cook stove schemes may be overstating climate benefit by 1,000 percent - study

CLEAN cook stove projects, one of the most popular types of carbon-offset schemes, are probably overstating their beneficial impact on the climate by an average of 1,000 percent, according to a new study.

Every year, an estimated 3.2 million people die prematurely from household air pollution caused by cooking with smoky fuels such as wood, paraffin or kerosene, which produce about 2 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Such cooking also drives deforestation and habitat loss, as people cut down trees for fuel. By switching from smoky fuels to cleaner alternatives such as electric cookers, cook stove projects in the developing world can have major health, social and environmental benefits: improving air quality, reducing the amount of time people spend collecting wood and slowing the loss of the world's forests.

To fund these initiatives, which are often dubbed "nature-based-solutions", projects sell on the greenhouse gas reductions as carbon credits. Each credit represents a tonne of carbon dioxide - which companies then use to "offset" their emissions, sometimes claiming their products and services are "carbon neutral".

Improving access to clean cooking facilities features in the UN sustainable development goals, and cook stove-based credits have been on the rise. From May to November last year, figures from the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project show cook stove projects issued the most new credits in the market, comprising about 15 percent of the total. They also registered the most new projects.

But a new study published in the journal Nature Sustainability has found that cook stove projects that generate carbon offsets are overstating their climate benefits by 1,000 percent on average.

The findings have been disputed by Verra and Gold Standard, both leading certifiers of carbon credits, which say the evidence in the study does not

back the conclusions drawn.

While many offsetting schemes said they were funding "clean" cook stoves, most did not meet World Health Organization standards, according to the assessment by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley.

Analysis of common rules to produce the offsets found that projects were allowed to overstate how often people used the stoves and the resulting benefits for nearby forests, dramatically inflating the benefit to the climate and biodiversity, researchers said.

The findings draw on previous research on the impact of cook stove schemes by development economists, who found they often failed to produce their potential benefits in practice.

Despite the problems, the researchers said the rules on producing carbon credits could be reformed to provide a meaningful source of climate finance that companies could trust. They offer a method that clean cook stove projects can use to avoid overstating their impact, which some of the cook stove companies have already adopted while the paper has been in peer-review.

The lead author, Annelise Gill-Wiehl, a PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley, said: "Comprehensively assessing the five major cook stove offset methodologies, we find that our sample of 40 percent of the market is 9.2 times over-credited. Extrapolating to the entire market, we find roughly 10 times over-crediting.

"Over-crediting replaces direct emission reduction and other more effective climate mitigation activities, even if some reduction is achieved. Lack of trust weakens the market,"



Julieth Mollel using a cook stove at her home near Arusha, Tanzania. Some 3.2m people a year die prematurely from household air pollution caused by wood or paraffin stoves, which produce about 2 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and drive deforestation. Photograph: Cavan/Alam

she said.

The study comes amid intense scrutiny of the unregulated voluntary carbon market, with concerns that many schemes are producing huge amounts of worthless carbon offsets.

Barbara Haya, director of the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project, who has been researching carbon credits for 20 years and is co-author of the study, said researchers hoped the quality of credits could be improved.

"A carbon credit market built on exaggerations is destined to fail. Our hope is that the specific recommendations

we offer can help make clean cook stoves a trusted source of quality carbon credits," she said.

Gold Standard, a major carbon credit certifier, disputed the findings of the study. The researchers found that Gold Standard produced the best-quality method for producing offsets, which directly monitored use of stoves, and was only 1.5 times over-credited.

"Gold Standard welcomes academic scrutiny and has engaged extensively with the authors of this study," a spokesperson said, adding that it had already incorporated some of the ideas and changes discussed in the research.

"It must be stressed that the study neither studied, nor found, over-estimation. The evidence provided does not back the conclusions drawn - which are at odds with the wider academic literature and expert view on this subject."

In a statement, Verra, the world's largest carbon standard, said it was disappointed to see continued attention on the study. The non-profit organisation is developing a new methodology for cook stoves, and said the findings did not directly relate to its current methods.

"As detailed in a September 2023 open letter from researchers and experts, there are numerous substantive concerns about this research," it said.

Verra said the proposed methodology it was developing included changes that "reflect current best practices of project design and implementation", as well as a number of measuring techniques to check how much the stoves were being used.

"Carbon finance is critical for the implementation/sustenance of improved cook stove projects, which provide access to sophisticated cooking methods and a range of other sustainable development benefits to disadvantaged communities," it said.

Ben Jeffreys, chief executive of the cook stove company ATEC, which is working with UC Berkeley to measure the benefits more accurately, said he supported the research. "Ensuring 'a tonne of emission reductions is actually a tonne' is critical if we are to reach the full potential of the cook stove carbon-market sector," he said.

Better roads contribute to rise in pupil's school attendance, academic performance

By Correspondent Idda Mushi, Morogoro

DESPITE efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve the education sector by facilitating construction of modern schools at different places across the country, there are still some transport challenges at some peripheral areas where pupils struggle to get to school.

Mgaza primary school in Mindu ward, Morogoro Region is one of the recently constructed schools, but due to poor road networks, pupils have been facing transport challenges while going to school and coming back home.

The road going to the school poses risk to pupils has turned into a danger and a threat to a large number of students due to the road they go to and from school being eaten by a water canyon for a large part and becoming dangerous especially during the rainy season passing through the area.

This reporter visited the school and some surrounding villages where she spoke to both, pupils and the villagers. They are both concerned that despite the President's efforts which includes disbursement of 420m/- for construction of Mgaza primary schools, roads heading to the school are in poor condition and sometimes become impassable especially during rains.

They also raised concerns that if necessary measures are not taken, the road will be cut off in near future, resulting in children's failure to access it. A section of the road from Bondwa area to the school has been extremely damaged, forcing pupils and other users to use an alternative road dug by villagers.

"We appreciate efforts by the government in improving learning environment at our schools as well as constructing new ones including Mgaza primary school which has started receiving pupils this January. We appeal to the government to also improve road infrastructures to and from

school to enable pupils to reach at the school on time," said Tunu Omary, a resident of Mgaza Street.

She added: "My two children were enrolled for early childhood education at the school; but they miss classes during rains because the road becomes impassable."

Eric Fabian said that improvement of the road going to Mgaza primary school would also serve students studying at Bondwa secondary school and other users.

"The school was opened in the past few weeks, we have seen leaders inspecting the buildings; but we are not sure if they have plans to also construct the road going to the school. We thank the President for constructing a school near our residences, but regional leaders should consider improving the road to ensure safety of pupils especially during rains," said Fabian.

A ten cell leader at Mgaza Street, Iddi Salum appealed to the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to construct the road as it poses risks to users. He said the road requires a Bridge to connect Mgaza and Lugala Streets, insisting that communication between the two streets has been completely cut off and villagers cannot move from one side to another.

Mgaza Street Chairman, Specioza Modeli said they are aware of the transport challenges facing both villagers and pupils, saying the matter has been reported to higher authorities at regional level. She said they have written a letter to TARURA asking them to repair the road.

"I recently mobilized villagers to re-dig the road; but due to extreme rains, it has been damaged further. We can longer continue repairing it as the destruction is huge," said Modeli, adding that TARURA official have promised to repair the road in near future.

Mindu Ward Councillor, Zuberi Mkalaboko said regional authorities must take measures to repair the road to enable pupils to attend classes all week days even when it rains. He said the road has been seriously damaged dur-



ing the on-going rains cutting off communication between Mgaza and other streets.

TARURA Manager in Morogoro Region, Eng Mohamed Muanda, acknowledged the challenge of the road, saying the authority is working to improve its condition as well as other roads within the municipality. He said road was previously in good condition, but it has been further damaged by the on-going rains.

"Most of the roads have been damaged due to on-

going rains; section of the road connecting Mgaza and Bondwa streets has been cut-off. We are aware of the challenges that pupils and villagers face. We are now looking for a contractor to re-construct the road so that it becomes passable throughout the year," said the TAURUA boss, noting other roads on the Lugala and Mindu side will also be repaired.

Eng Muanda noted that they are aware of contribution of villagers in repairing the road, saying the

government's intention is to see pupils enjoying the learning environment which includes the presence of better roads.

He urged citizens especially those residing in the urban areas to take precautions and make sure they do not block water passage ways and drainages. He warned that throwing wastes in water drainage would ultimately cause floods, thus damaging roads and their properties.

World's largest carbon capture plant is UK's 'next big white elephant'

By Siôn Geschwindt

IN a move that has sparked widespread criticism from scientists and politicians alike, the UK government has approved plans to install carbon capture technology at Britain's largest power plant.

Under the plans, power generator Drax will install so-called bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) technology at two of four biomass units at the Drax power station in Yorkshire.

Drax switched from burning coal to burning biomass – mostly wood pellets – in 2019. The Drax power station, which produces around 4% of the UK's power, mostly burns wood imported from North America.

Despite the switch, the plant was identified last year by climate think tank Ember as the country's single largest CO2 emitter.

However, according to Drax, its power station is climate neutral because the emissions from the wood it burns are offset by the CO2 absorbed by regrowing trees in place of those that were cut down.

By adding BECCS, the power station would become the world's first "carbon-negative" power plant and the largest carbon capture plant globally, the company claims.

The firm points to research published (albeit commissioned by the power company) from independent consultancy Baringa, suggesting the plant would strip 8 million tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere annually.

"This research shows BECCS at Drax Power Station offers the most cost-effective, straightforward, and efficient way to help the country meet climate targets and could save billions of pounds, remove millions of tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere, and support the UK's energy security," said Will Gardiner, CEO of Drax Group.

Drax's carbon capture units are set to be installed in 2030.

How will it work?

BECCS is basically like putting a giant lid on a power plant, capturing its emissions, and storing them underground in liquid form.

Under the approved plans, after the pellets are burned to produce power, flue gas containing emitted carbon dioxide would be cooled and treated before being sent through an absorption tower to remove the greenhouse gas.

Within this absorption tower, the cooled and treated gas would be subject to a chemical reaction using amine solvent, which is a compound of ammonia.

The resultant substance would then be reheated to create a pure stream of carbon dioxide, which would subsequently be transported via repurposed pipelines to be stored beneath the North Sea.

The whole project is expected to cost in the region of £2bn, a large chunk of which will need to be provided by the British government.

"UK's next white elephant development"

Drax claims that the retrofit will make it the world's largest carbon

capture facility. However, BECCS has never been undertaken on such a large scale and many doubts hang over its credibility as a renewable energy source.

The upgrade is also expected to cost the taxpayer a whopping £43bn in extra bills over the next 25 years, according to Ember.

Three conservative MPs have criticised plans to continue subsidies for Drax. "The proposed technology is not proven," said MP Peter Bottomley. "There must be no further subsidies for burning trees in our power stations beyond 2027 contracts. The Government should instead focus on increasing tree cover and backing wind, solar and nuclear energy."

If the logic that burning trees is good for the climate sounds too good to be true, it's because it probably is.

A 2018 study led by John David Sterman from MIT found that it would take up to 100 years for replanted trees to suck up the equivalent amount of carbon emitted in biomass plants. In the meantime, all that carbon would be in the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change.

"Planning permission isn't much use if it's for a technology that doesn't exist yet, wrecks the world's forests, and is probably too expensive for the UK to ever afford," said Matt Williams, senior advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a US-based environmental advocacy group. "This could be the UK's next big white elephant development."

The root of the problem

For years, Drax has been benefiting from huge government incentives based on the pretence that its power plant is one of the UK's largest producers of renewable energy – which stood at around 9% in 2021, equalling 4 percent of the country's total energy production.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the widespread support for biomass energy stems from 2009, when the EU defined burning wood for power as a renewable energy source as part of its Renewable Energy Directive.

"When these EU policies were first coming up, there appeared to be a genuine misunderstanding about the carbon impacts from biomass," explains Heather Hillaker, a staff attorney with the environmental nonprofit Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC). "This is not the magical solution we've been looking for to fight climate change."

The Drax power station has been linked to deforestation of old-growth forests in North America. Credit: Skitterphoto/Pixabay

Then there's the fact that some very big questions exist around the sustainability of the wood pellets Drax burns at its plant. A BBC investigation in 2022 found that some of Drax's wood came from mature forests in Canada that would take generations to regrow.

"The real reason Drax is pushing for BECCS is because they know they won't be allowed to carry on burning trees unabated without the promise of capturing the carbon sometime in



Just two biomass units at the Drax power plant burn through 8 million tonnes of wood pellets each year. Credit: Drax Group

the future and the UK government has fallen for the lie," said Katy Brown from British campaign group Biofuelwatch.

Drax's carbon capture plans look more like a wolf in sheep's clothing than a genuine solution to the climate crisis.

The 8 million tonnes of carbon savings that Drax points to rests on one key assumption: that the carbon released

when wood pellets are burned is recaptured by new growth.

However, several independent investigations and research papers suggest otherwise. To us, this seems like some clever carbon accounting on Drax's part.

With the plethora of proven renewable energy technologies available right now, at a lower cost, it seems silly – to say the least – to keep on pumping taxpayers' money into

technologies that could potentially make climate change even worse.

Whether the Drax BECCS project will receive the government backing it needs now rests with the Tory government – who haven't exactly had a good track record of sound environmental decision-making.



The Drax power station was the UK's top emitter in 2023 despite its recent switch from burning coal to wood. Credit: Drax

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 JIACHIE 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

Food from urban agric has carbon footprint six times larger than conventional one, study shows

MICHIGAN

A NEW University of Michigan-led international study finds that fruits and vegetables grown in urban farms and gardens have a carbon footprint that is, on average, six times greater than conventionally grown produce.

However, a few city-grown crops equaled or outperformed conventional agriculture under certain conditions. Tomatoes grown in the soil of open-air urban plots had a lower carbon intensity than tomatoes grown in conventional greenhouses, while the emissions difference between conventional and urban agriculture vanished for air-freighted crops like asparagus.

"The exceptions revealed by our study suggest that urban agriculture practitioners can reduce their climate impacts by cultivating crops that are typically greenhouse-grown or air-freighted, in addition to making changes in site design and management," said study co-lead author Jason Hawes, a doctoral student at University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS).

"Urban agriculture offers a variety of social, nutritional and place-based environmental benefits, which make it an appealing feature of future sustainable cities. This work shines light on ways to ensure that urban agriculture benefits the climate, as well as the people and places it serves."

Urban agriculture, the practice of farming within the confines of a city, is becoming increasingly popular worldwide and is touted as a way to make cities and urban food systems more sustainable. By some estimates, between 20% and 30% of the global urban population engages in some form of urban agriculture.

Despite strong evidence of the social and nutritional benefits of urban agriculture, its carbon footprint remains understudied. Most

previously published studies have focused on high-tech, energy-intensive forms of UA—such as vertical farms and rooftop greenhouses—even though the vast majority of urban farms are decidedly low-tech: crops grown in soil on open-air plots.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Cities*, aimed to fill some of the knowledge gaps by comparing the carbon footprints of food produced at low-tech urban agriculture sites to conventional crops. It used data from 73 urban farms and gardens in five countries and is the largest published study to compare the carbon footprints of urban and conventional agriculture.

Three types of urban agriculture sites were analyzed: urban farms (professionally managed and focused on food production), individual gardens (small plots managed by single gardeners) and collective gardens (communal spaces managed by groups of gardeners).

For each site, the researchers calculated the climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions associated with on-farm materials and activities over the lifetime of the farm. The emissions, expressed in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents per serving of food, were then compared to foods raised by conventional methods.

On average, food produced through urban agriculture emitted 0.42 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents per serving, six times higher than the 0.07 kg CO₂e per serving of conventionally grown produce.

"By assessing actual inputs and outputs on urban agriculture sites, we were able to assign climate change impacts to each serving of produce," said study co-lead author Benjamin Goldstein, assistant professor at U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability. "This dataset reveals that urban agriculture has higher carbon emissions per serving of fruit or vegetable



University of Michigan researchers evaluate an urban garden in Detroit.

than conventional agriculture—with a few exceptions." Joshua Newell, professor and co-director of the Center for Sustainable Systems at SEAS, led the University of Michigan portion of the project. The U-M researchers formed an international team of collaborators from universities near the various food-growing sites. Ten of those collaborators are co-authors of the *Nature Cities* study.

Farmers and gardeners at urban agriculture sites in France, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States were recruited as citizen scientists and used daily diary entries to record inputs and harvests from their food-growing sites throughout the 2019 season.

Inputs to the urban agriculture sites

fell into three main categories: infrastructure (such as the raised beds in which food is grown, or pathways between plots), supplies (including compost, fertilizer, weed-blocking fabric and gasoline for machinery), and irrigation water. "Most of the climate impacts at urban farms are driven by the materials used to construct them—the infrastructure," Goldstein said. "These farms typically only operate for a few years or a decade, so the greenhouse gases used to produce those materials are not used effectively. Conventional agriculture, on the other hand, is very efficient and hard to compete with."

For example, conventional farms often grow a single crop with the help of pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in larger harvests and a reduced carbon

footprint when compared to urban farms, he said.

The researchers identified three best practices crucial to making low-tech urban agriculture more carbon-competitive with conventional agriculture:

Extend infrastructure lifetimes. Extend the lifetime of UA materials and structures such as raised beds, composting infrastructure and sheds. A raised bed used for five years will have approximately four times the environmental impact, per serving of food, as a raised bed used for 20 years.

Use urban wastes as UA inputs. Conserve carbon by engaging in "urban symbiosis," which includes giving a second life to used materials, such as construction debris and demolition waste, that are unsuitable for new con-

struction but potentially useful for UA. The most well-known symbiotic relationship between cities and UA is composting. The category also includes using rainwater and recycled gray water for irrigation.

Generate high levels of social benefits. In a survey conducted for the study, UA farmers and gardeners overwhelmingly reported improved mental health, diet and social networks. While increasing these "non-food outputs" of UA does not reduce its carbon footprint, "growing spaces which maximize social benefits can outcompete conventional agriculture when UA benefits are considered holistically," according to the study authors.

Technology transfer critical to revolutionising Africa's pharma industry

By Aimable Twahirwa, Kigali

AN agreement signed between the Rwandan government and the Africa Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF) gives impetus to Africa's domestic industry with the hope of helping the continent tackle vaccine inequity and fill the critical gap in vaccine manufacturing.

The agreement to operationalize the foundation was signed recently in Kigali, Rwanda.

What is important, according to stakeholders, is to focus efforts on building a resilient and self-reliant pharmaceutical industry for the continent. This became apparent during COVID-19, when, for example, COVAX, a multilateral mechanism for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, helped lower-income economies achieve two-dose coverage of 57 percent, compared to the global average of 67 percent.

Both officials and scientists take delight in pointing out that the benefit of having such an initiative is to close the vaccine equity gap between African countries and the world's developed nations.

During the implementation phase, the African Development Bank (ADB) has committed to investing up to \$3billion over the next decade in the development of pharmaceutical products.

The foundation, which is ready to hit the ground running in January 2024, will dedicate its core mandate to addressing some of the common challenges facing African indigenous pharmaceutical companies,

including weak human and institutional capacities and low technical capacity for using and applying new technologies.

"The Foundation was a pledge that Africa will have what it needs to build its own health defense system, which must include a thriving African pharmaceutical industry and a quality healthcare infrastructure," AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said.

These solutions, according to experts, aim to close technical capacity gaps in their use and lack the ability to focus on the production of basic active pharmaceutical ingredients for drugs or antigens for vaccines.

Prof Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Chief Executive Officer of the APTF said that access to know-how, technologies, and processes for manufacturing pharmaceutical products is clearly needed on the continent to ensure the sustainability of financial investments.

She, however, points out that, with the current move to ensure the sustainability and reliability of the domestic pharmaceutical industry in Africa, it is not enough just to have financial, infrastructural, strategic, and regulatory support.

"There is a need for a clear and coherent focus on technology transfer and knowledge sharing for capacity building and diversification within the pharmaceutical value chain," she said in an exclusive interview.

As the main transformative tool that will enable the development of a competitive pharmaceutical industry in Africa, Sampath stresses the need to



BioNTainers, facilities equipped to manufacture a range of mRNA-based vaccines have been inaugurated in Rwanda

build policy capacity to facilitate the sector.

According to her, this can be done by implementing the flexibilities contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property and then also enabling local companies to access domestic markets.

In a move to overcome these challenges, the foundation's work received a major boost with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to partner with the European Investment Bank. The European Investment

Bank will be a partner in the foundation's "regional biosimilars program for the production and innovation of relevant biosimilars in Africa and to facilitate the creation of common active pharmaceutical ingredients parks in any chosen specific sub-region of Africa," the organization said in a press release.

According to Sampath, there is a need to remove barriers to domestic innovation in Africa.

"We need to work with our universities and public research institutions to transform

them into centers of excellence," she said.

During the implementation phase, the first modular elements of the German company's factory, BioNTech, based on shipping containers, were delivered to the Kigali construction site in March and were then assembled to form the so-called BioNTainers that were inaugurated last month.

The company, which developed the most widely used COVID-19 vaccine in the Western world with its US partner Pfizer, developed a plan in 2022

to allow African countries to produce its Comirnaty-branded vaccine under the supervision of BioNTech.

BioNTech said the initial vaccine factory could, over the next few years, be part of a wider supply network spanning several African countries, including Senegal and South Africa.

At the time BioNTech announced plans to expand into Africa, the shipment of coronavirus vaccine doses manufactured in the West to the continent had been delayed, which had been the subject of much criticism.

"The African Union has come together to make a firm commitment not to find ourselves in this situation again," Rwandan President Paul Kagame said at the inauguration ceremony of the plant site located in Masoro, a suburb of Kigali.

The company, which developed the most widely used COVID-19 vaccine in the Western world with its US partner Pfizer, developed a plan in 2022 to allow African countries to produce its Comirnaty-branded vaccine under the supervision of BioNTech.

"What BioNTech's partnership with Africa demonstrates is that vaccine technology can be democratized, but we could not have reached this point without a wider set of partnerships," Kagame said.

Gelsomina Vigliotti, Vice President at the European Investment Bank, said that the bank is committed to working with its partners to strengthen public health and health innovation across Africa.

"Strengthening access to finance is essential to scaling up pharmaceutical investment and innovation across Africa," Vigliotti said.

An important manifestation of Africa's scientific and technological innovation capability, according to experts, is the application of innovations to its pharmaceutical industry development.

The newly-established plant, located in the suburb of Rwanda's capital city, Kigali, is expected to start by producing 50 million vaccines, but production will increase depending on the demand for mRNA-based vaccine candidates to address malaria and tuberculosis.

But researchers and policymakers argue that trust and cooperation are critical for the successful implementation of this innovation.

The latest estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that industrial development should be combined with national policy for universal health coverage so that local vaccine production can address local health needs.

Before the inauguration of the BioNTech factory in Rwanda, there were fewer than 10 African manufacturers with vaccine production, which are based in five countries—Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia.

The capability to produce vaccines in Africa, according to the UN agency, requires a fully integrated approach, pulling together some key elements including finance, skills development, regulatory facilities, and technology know-how.

By Joan Mbabazi

Green building cost-effective and guaranteeing long-term savings

There are quite many reasons as to why Rwanda chose to go green and they include the need to save the planet, and decrease building operation costs (energy and water), according to experts.

Green building, a resource-efficient method of construction that produces healthier buildings which have less impact on the environment and cost less to maintain, involves the application of processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle. By and large, green buildings are considered to be environmentally sustainable and economically profitable.

Sylvie Mubagekazi, the Chief Executive of the Clean Production and Climate Innovation Center (CPCIC), explained that in the global supply chain, the costs of solar and wind power, in particular, have been declining steadily over the years, making these sources more competitive as compared to traditional fossil fuels.

Established under the Nation Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), the CPCIC works to ensure that all technology, processes, and services by the private and the public sector embrace the best practices in terms of climate change resilience and cleaner or efficient production.

Mubagekazi noted that the initial investment cost for incorporating cleaner production technologies in green buildings can be relatively high. However, it's important to view these investments as long-term strategies that offer various benefits overtime.

While the initial costs may be higher, many cleaner production technologies offer long-term savings through reduced energy consumption, lower operational costs, and potentially increased property value, she explained.

She said: "Beyond financial considerations, investing in cleaner production technologies contributes to environmental sustainability. Many organizations and individuals are increasingly prioritising sustainability, and green buildings aligned with these values."

She explained that as technology advances, the costs of cleaner production technologies tend to decrease. Continuous innovation and

improvements in manufacturing processes can result in more affordable options for implementing sustainable solutions.

As noted, savings from implementing cleaner production technologies in buildings vary depending on factors like size of building, adopted technologies, efficiency of the technologies.

For example, an increase in room temperature of 10°C can increase the heating fuel consumption by 6 to 10 per cent.

"Installing automatic lighting controls (timers, daylight or occupancy sensors) saves 10 to 25 per cent of energy. Switching off one tonne window air conditioner for one hour daily during lunch hour avoids consumption of 445 kilowatt-hours." According to Yves Sangwa, the Chief Executive of Rwanda Green Building Organization, an NGO that aims to develop the local green building industry, green building costs mostly depend on the type of green building certification the client decides to use.

However, he noted that by experience, a building can achieve certification in the same budget as a non-green building, if the sustainability experts are involved at the early stages of the project. In some cases, incremental cost can be 10 to 12 per cent, which is recovered in a short time due to decreased building operations cost energy and water bills.

Sangwa noted that green construction materials can't all be local because "we can't find finishing materials factories like glass factories, and tires as most clients prefer to purchase them in China, Turkey or Dubai which is relatively cheaper compared to the locally manufactured tires, water fittings and electrical [equipment], among others."

He noted that bricks, cement, paints, and roofing are readily available, locally.

Mubagekazi explained that the durability of cleaner production technologies and construction materials can vary based on factors such as the specific technology or material, its quality, maintenance practices, and the conditions in which it is used.



I&M Bank headquarters in Kigali, one of new green buildings in Rwanda

However, a green building can last even more than 20 years depending on the maintenance and use of building. By and large, it is noted that by reducing energy and water consumption, green buildings save money on utility bills, and also require less maintenance which reduces operational costs.

Incentives
She noted that there is awareness and technical training services as CP-

CIC offers in-house assessment, audit and trainings on resource efficiency, cleaner production and climate technologies to improve industrial production processes and promote climate-friendly technologies to private operators in industrial building.

The service will be extended to materials used in construction to boost the supply of sustainable materials on the market - specifically in local value chains like stone, clays, sand, and natural soil material.

"We enable access to finance for climate tech-

nology developers, businesses and industries. This is done through expert advice, proof of concept grants or loans, prototype demonstration funding, connections to potential investors, and financial institutions providing green finance," she added.

In November 2023, Ireme Invest, a Rwandan private sector green financing facility, secured €20 million (about Rwf 26.3 billion), accompanied by a one-million-Euro grant in technical assistance from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to support projects aim

Turning protracted African conflicts into sustainable peace

By Patrick Devine

AMONG East Africa's dozens of pastoral tribes, major conflicts have erupted repeatedly, largely over land and water disputes.

Generational trauma and anger have built to create tensions and grievances that carry emotional weight even hundreds of years later.

Among some African tribes, warriors returning home from fighting are frequently greeted by women singing. And it is reported that some tribes have no name for an enemy tribe in their language; they simply substitute the word enemy.

These same people could tell you how many of their tribe had been

killed by the other tribe, how much capital was stolen, and the exact day each event happened dating back as many as 60 years.

Such cultural and linguistic practices continually reinforce and perpetuate a lingering notion of otherness and violence. And they underline a key point: Each person

involved and affected by conflict can contribute to its resolution and peace building.

Founded in 2009 in the aftermath of Kenya's disputed elections of 2007-2008, Shalom-SCCRR is a non-governmental organization created to help mitigate conflicts in eastern Africa. To date, the organization has initiated about 1,000 interventions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, among other countries.

Today, we confront religious ideological radicalization, extremism and conflict in both urban and rural environments and along the entire Kenyan coast. And the only answer to it is to truly empower local people.

SCCRR is committed to transforming conflict into social development and reconciliation, reflecting a belief that violence is fundamentally based on inadequately met human needs.

The aim of our team goes beyond the absence of physical violence to a deep-rooted positive peace where all parties are committed to each other's well-being, uprooting the causes - not just addressing the symptoms - of conflict by creating transformative grassroots networks

Trust in SCCRR is fostered in large part by our long term - 5 to 10 year - commitments to building local capacity for negotiation, mediation, and joint problem solving, and by involving community members who can then themselves build their own architectures of peace.

Our staff have, at minimum, masters level university qualifications. These highly-educated peacebuilding practitioners train local politicians and other key thought leaders - chiefs, elders, religious, education, women's groups, youth and other community influencers.

SCCRR's approach to reconciliation is based on four pillars:

- Ending violence
- Truth, with each side listening to the other, sharing

perceptions on their conflicts, justice, which requires truthful people genuinely open to objective consideration. Sadly, conflict has a very robust, resilient memory, frequently distorted by erroneous historical narratives and mendacious media reporting and mercy: without which, a negative situation will be entrenched forever in endless cycle

We also advocate on behalf of communities with governments to develop and upgrade institutions to meet, for example, medical, legal or education needs (particularly interethnic or interfaith schools, and education equality).

Over the years, SCCRR has successfully trained over 28,000 community leaders in conflict transformation skills, leading to over 600 local community development projects, to the benefit of over 200,000 school aged children and many others.

While SCCRR can provide bricks and mortar, communities must provide the site, water, and labor, for example. And it is essential to success that a community owns a project themselves.

In recent times, women have made up 60 percent of the main beneficiaries of SCCRR interventions. Extreme, systemic, inter-ethnic conflict has left countless people killed, injured or displaced, and debilitated many communities in eastern Africa.

And it is impossible to promote sustained development in places where humanitarian institutions are periodically destroyed or incapacitated. That is why conflict transformation is fundamental to social development and reconciliation.

Rather than seeking new places to live, communities need practical tools for self-sustainability that empower them to thrive where they are.

And as the world grapples with a global migration crisis, the success of SCCRR's work takes on heightened significance, offering helpful insights and a template for action.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 65 -

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 11 Go in Kiswahili, 12 Deputy in Kiswahili, 14 a person of greater age than one, 15 United states senator from Utah in 2019, 17 unpleasantly rough or jarring to the senses, 18 a very large expanse of sea. Down: 1 extreme scarcity of food past and past participle of inlay, 2 male holding the highest hereditary title in the British and certain other peerages, 3 Natives of Asia, 4 Promised land for Israel a mixture or blend, 5 a honey-yellow colour, 6 Service, 7 An angel in Kiswahili, 10 leader of prayers in a mosque.

Word fit puzzle grid with words: VICEROY, LAVENDERS, LOVED-UP, VICARIMATE, EDELWEISS, RWA, UPON, OMIT, DRIED, PAY, PA, ETALON, ROADS, RATS, AMID, AISLE, SPEAR, LEE, EA. Includes 'Yesterday's solution' grid with words like BESTIDE, DENSELY, AEFURE, RWANDA, NEWSMAN, GATED, DRAT, UEFA, TRESV, TNGOT, SL, SHOUT, TEENS, C, ALA, S, EUROPE, GROTTOS, STORY, A, EINA, SE, O, ALLOT, SPENDER.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Schedule table for Monday through Sunday with time programmes. Includes social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and the slogan 'Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One'.

BUSINESS

MARKETS ROUND-UP:

Foreign investors record about 3.5bn/- net outflows for 3 weeks

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN investors on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded the net outflows amounting to 3.5bn/- during the first three weeks of this month.

The amount was more than net outflows recorded during the first quarter of last year, and more than a third of net outflows recorded during the fourth quarter of 2023.

The DSE market report shows foreign investors sold shares valued 3.6bn/- during the reviewed period, which is equivalent to 36.47 percent of total value of shares sold, against buying of shares valued 135mn/-, or 1.37 percent of total value of shares bought.

During the reviewed period, local investors dominated the market, as they account for 98.63 percent of total value of shares bought and 63.53 percent of the total value of shares bought, which indicates strong absorption capacity, in time when foreign investors are exiting the market.

Analysts expect the continued share selloff among foreign investors, specifically blue chip companies, as may be targeting to invest in fixed assets in developed world markets, where interest rates are increasing.

Another factor which is causing foreign investors share selloff, according to analysts are shortages of foreign currencies in emerging markets, which results into weak currencies.

During the fourth quarter of last year, foreign investors recorded a net outflow amounting to nearly 10bn/-, after selling shares valued 117bn/- against buying shares valued 107bn/-.

The major transaction during the fourth quarter of last year involved Tanga Cement Company limited counter, after transferring 43 million shares from

Afrisam Mauritius to Scancem International D.A at 2,440/- . The total value of the transaction was 106bn/-.

However, the transaction involved shares' changing hands among foreign investors.

The DSE market report shows a total turnover of 9.8bn/- has so far been recorded during the start of this quarter, which is nearly a half of the total market turnover recorded during the first quarter of last year.

In the opening of this week, the DSE report shows a total turnover of 324.4mn/- was recorded, following the transaction of 438,469 shares traded in 155 deals.

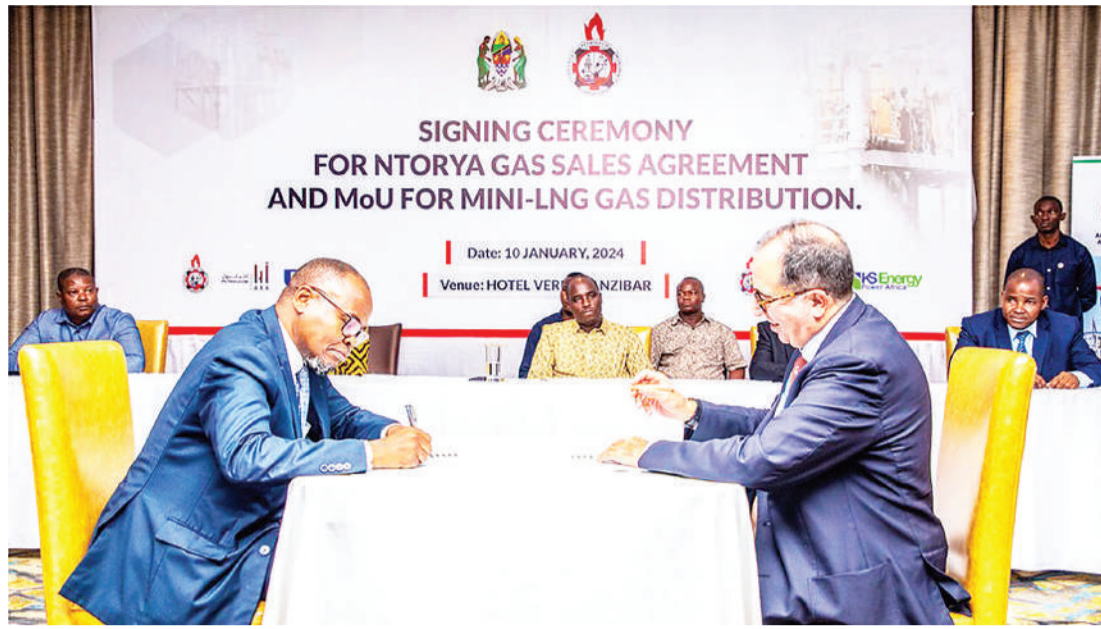
Top mover during the opening session of the week was CRDB Bank, the largest bank in terms of total assets, which transacted 377,559 shares valued 173.59mn/- traded at a price ranging from 455/- to 465/- per share in 100 deals.

The second top mover was NMB Bank Plc, the largest in terms of total assets, which transacted 31,608 shares valued 142.25mn/- traded at a price ranging from 4,400/- to 4,600/- per share in 13 deals.

The third top mover was TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL), which transacted 27,090 shares valued 5.17mn/-, traded at a price ranging from 190/- to 200/- per share in 21 deals.

All shares indices including Tanzania Share Index (TSI) and all share index (DSEI) started the week in red, following the depreciation of share prices among two cross-listed and one locally listed companies.

Cross listed companies which recorded the share decrease were East African Breweries Limited (EABL) by 1.09 percent and KCB Bank by 2.94 percent while the locally listed company was TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL), which its share price fell by 5 percent.



TPDC MD Mussa Makame (L) and KS Energy Group CEO Steve Martin sign the agreement witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister and minister of energy Dr Dotto Biteko. File Photo

Financial closure for \$90m mini-LNG plant will soon be unveiled

By Darren Parker

ENERGY solutions company KS Energy is targeting financial closure this year for the first phase of a small-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply chain in partnership with a Tanzanian gas producer, with first gas offtake expected in early 2026.

The capital expenditure for the liquefaction plant will be less than \$90-million.

Some of the LNG will also be delivered to a proposed hybrid 140 MW combined cycle power plant plus a 70 MW solar photovoltaic project in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The LNG will be delivered by truck to off-pipeline consumers along the coast, as well as in Arusha, Tanga, Morogoro, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Kilimanjaro, Songwe, Mbeya and other potential sites.

On January 10, it was announced that the Tanzanian government, through the State-owned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and in partnership with KS Energy, had entered into an agreement for the construction of a small plant to convert natural gas into LNG.

At the signing, Tanzanian Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr Doto Mashaka Biteko said the project would be the first LNG production project in the country and would reduce the country's reliance on diesel and other more carbon-intensive fuels.

TPDC MD Mussa Makame added that the completion of the project would enable the development of other natural gas activities to be carried out, such as the construction of infrastructure to collect gas from wells and for preliminary cleaning, the provision of water and the construction of a 34 km pipeline to transport natural gas to the processing plant located in Msimbati, Madimba in the Mtwaru region.

The small-scale LNG plant being developed by KS Energy will have a capacity of between 17-million

and 34-million standard cubic feet a day, and will be strategically situated near existing commercially viable wellheads or pipeline locations.

With a yearly volume ranging between 6.2-billion and 12.4-billion standard cubic feet, this amounts to about 6 PJ/y to 12 PJ/y.

KS Energy Group CEO Steve Martin explained to Engineering News that the LNG would be primarily designated for power generation offtakers in Tanzania and Zanzibar.

In addition, the LNG supply will go to off-pipeline consumers that are not currently connected to the TPDC pipeline.

"We want to help create another fuel in addition to hydro, sun and wind to help Tanzania balance a sustainable grid. We are trying to create a more sustainable and energy-equitable future for Africans. "We are not trying to sell LNG. We are selling a more sustainable solution that gets people away from burning firewood to make their breakfast or using diesel in their vehicles," he explained.

Martin said the use of LNG would help reduce the carbon emissions associated with other types of fuels such as diesel, with carbon emission reductions of up to 30 percent.

However, to take full advantage of this, downstream energy consumers will need to carry out conversions on their vehicles and generators to allow for a changeover from diesel to LNG.

KS Energy advised that, if this is done on a wide enough scale, reductions in carbon emissions could be as much as 120 000 t/y at the beginning, reaching up to 240 000 t/y once production is at full capacity.

The aim is to use both marine and road transportation routes to deliver LNG to the offtakers, thereby minimising the burden on existing Tanzanian pipeline capacities.

"This is an important project because we don't actually need any of the existing pipeline infrastructure," Martin explained.

Gold mine firm bids farewell to interns of 2023

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has concluded its 2023 internship programme and awarded certificates to 50 university students who participated in the programme.

The interns, consisting of 30 females and 20 males, were recruited in January 2023 and began their internships in February of that year. They completed the programme in January 2024.

The company said yesterday in a statement that the move to offer university students work experience in various areas of the mine is part of their plan to support the government's efforts to enhance graduate employability.

The largest gold miner said in a statement yesterday that is dedicated to promoting sustainable development in the communities surrounding the mine and building local skills and capacity.

It believes that workplace learning models are essential tools in achieving its goals. To this end, the company has implemented various initiatives, including apprenticeships, internships, and practical training for employees, contractors, students, and graduates from various institutions.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, GGML Managing Director, Terry Strong, congratulated the graduates on their professionalism and dedication to their work over the year at the mine.

He said that the graduates had worked hard and demonstrated their skills in various areas assigned to them by their supervisors within GGML.

He also asked them to be good ambassadors to promote GGML for all the good things they have learnt during the year.

Terry also praised some of the trainees who were selected to stay on at the mine and continue to develop their young careers.

Out of the 2023 cohort, 15 individuals were retained. Five of them secured permanent employment, while ten were elevated to the ABU Graduate program.

Following the year-long internship, Julieth Lwehabora one of the interns, expressed gratitude towards GGML for the opportunity and unique experience provided, hoping it would serve as a springboard for their career.

Another intern shared her positive experience, stating that the time spent at the mine would open up further opportunities for them. She believes that the company is committed to being a role model for other private companies to recognise the importance of internships in identifying young talent that can nurture their careers while adopting a corporate culture.

Since the commencement of the GRP/Internship programme in 2009, GGML has enrolled 218 graduates onto its internship programme, comprising 131 males and 87 females. The 2024 internship programme received a large number of applicants, and GGM expects to recruit a total of forty (40) interns, with twenty (20) females and twenty (20) males starting on 1st February 2024.



The interns, consisting of 30 females and 20 males, were recruited in January 2023 and began their internships in February of that year. They completed the programme in January 2024



Absa secures top employer certification

JOHANNESBURG/DAR ES SALAAM

ABSA has earned the esteemed top employer designation for the year 2023, marking the third consecutive year of recognition by the prestigious Top Employer Institute.

This accolade extends across five key markets, namely South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, Botswana, and Kenya.

The certification underscores Absa's steadfast commitment to upholding exemplary people practices and initiatives that consistently surpass rigorous global benchmarks, according to a statement issued by Absa yesterday.

Absa has been commended for its exceptional performance in digital HR, learning, career development, ethics, and integrity, placing the Group above industry standards.

"This recognition emphasizes Absa's dedication to fostering a human-centered work environment, nurturing talent at all organizational levels, and continuously optimizing employee experiences," it said.

Jeanett Modise, Absa Group Chief People Officer, expressed pride in receiving this certification once again, emphasizing that it highlights Absa's unwavering commitment to cultivating a workplace where excellence thrives, setting the standard for the financial services industry.

Modise stated, "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our entire team and reaffirms Absa's position as a leading employer of choice."

In a strategic move towards building an empowering organization, Absa introduced a landmark Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) staff scheme last year, the statement further said.

This initiative includes a Colleague Share Scheme, providing colleagues in South Africa with equity ownership in Absa Group, colleagues in participating Absa Regional Operations (ARO) and other interna-



Obedi Laiser, Absa Bank Tanzania MD

tional entities will engage in a Colleague Phantom Share Scheme.

In naming the scheme eKhaya, meaning "home" in isiZulu, the scheme allows each colleague to own a portion of the Absa home. Modise emphasized that

awarding employees with shares aligns with Absa's commitment to being an active force for good and reinforces the organization's mission of "Empowering Africa's Tomorrow, Together, One Story at a Time." The Top Employer certi-

fication also reflects Absa's adoption of a flexible and hybrid work model, showcasing its adaptability to the changing Human Capital landscape.

The statement noted that Absa's leaders are equipped and experienced in leading

winning teams remotely.

A noteworthy achievement is the increasing number of boomerang employees within Absa's workforce, reflecting the organization's culture and confirming Absa as a place where employees find inspiration and continuously return.

Boomerang employees are those who return to a former employer after working elsewhere, highlighting Absa's status as a great workplace.

Obedi Laiser, Managing Director, Absa Bank Tanzania, expressed a pride in being part of the Top Employer Group in Africa, emphasizing the organization's commitment to empowering employees beyond their career aspirations.

In addition to the Top Employer designation, Absa received accolades such as being rated among the "25 Best Workplaces to Grow Your Career" by LinkedIn and recognition from Forbes as a top African organization championing women at work.

Furthermore, Absa was featured in Forbes's World's Best Employers ranking.

"Absa remains unwavering in its commitment to excellence, fostering diversity and inclusion, and empowering its workforce to shape a brighter future for Africa," he added.

INTERVIEW:

Jennifer: Promoting reading culture through establishing community library services

BOOK reading culture is necessary tools to enhance knowledge among the members of communities. However, lack of enough community libraries remain a major challenge to promote reading culture among Tanzanians. To resolve this challenge, Jennifer Mkunde Dickson, a second-year medical student took up self-initiative by establishing a community library in Mwanga District, Kilimamjaro Region. She spoke to the Guardian on what motivated her to create the idea, and her future plans.

Q: Tell us your personal background and how did you come up with an idea?

A: I am currently a 2nd year medical student at the University of Global Health Equity in Butaro, Northern Province, Rwanda. I completed my Advanced Level education in 2020 at the Dar es Salaam Independent School, where I took Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics.

After my high school education, I took a gap year. Initially, I planned to volunteer at a local primary school in Ugweno, Mwanga district, where my father grew up, to contribute to my community by teaching Mathematics and English. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic schools were shut down. With the desire to still make an impact in the village, I began to brainstorm wider ideas. Eventually, the idea of a library came to me.

As a long-term and sustainable initiative in the village, I deemed the library to be a great idea. I approached my parents and they agreed to the idea as well!

How did your family influence, support you to achieve your dream?

First, my father is a retired civil servant and my mother is a nephrologist (kidney disease specialist).

I would say that I grew up in a household where excellence in education was the be all and end all. As a kid, education was fascinating and when I understood that it could facilitate my dreams and aspirations; with a promise of being rewarded for excellence by mother and father, I worked hard.

My parents were always supportive of my interests. Growing up, I developed a deep love for reading. Hence, they invested heavily by purchasing books for me, taking my sister and I to bookstores on a regular basis, and encouraging me to explore other genres.

Furthermore, I love community service, especially educating children. During my gap year, I had the opportunity to help out children in Dar es Salaam, and my parents were always there to support my passion whether that was transporting me, chipping some money into an activity and developing skills to effectively teach certain concepts.

My parents have been a massive help to establish the library. Since I am a medical student abroad, I don't have a lot of time for myself. Without being on the ground, it is difficult to implement and conduct the requirements for the library. Thankfully, I had my mother who really helped with the day-to-day tasks, went over my presentations, and ensured my meeting with donors went well. I can't thank her enough!

My maternal grandmother has also been a great influence as I grew up around her as both my parents had busy careers. Bibi Cecilia Ezekiel instilled the hard work ethos in me, always insisting on excellence in whatever I do and never forgetting to help the less fortunate. I owe a lot of these attributes too in achieving my dream of establishing this library.

Where did you get other supports to achieve your dream?

Many kind donors of who are family, friends, and communities I am part of. To mention a few, I received major support from Bishop of the ELCT Mwanga Diocese, ELCT Msangeni Parish in Ugweno Mwanga, ELCT Msangeni Parish Diaspora, Barrick Gold Tanzania, Bayport Financial Services, Jenga Tanzania Agriculture, Art and Frame Gallery, Tanzania Library Services Board, Mkuki and Nyota Publishers and Elite Computers.

This list would not be complete without mentioning



The Founder of Martha Onesmo Community Library Jennifer Dickson (with microphone) explains something to Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (R) during the opening of the facility in Mwanga District recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Omari Issa, Hatibu Senkoro, Walter Bgoya, Dr. John Msuya, Prof. Bonaventure Rutinwa, Amb. Dr. James Msekela, Ronald Rugimbana and Dr. Deusdedit Basil Mwemezi.

What was your initial plan for the library?

My initial plan for the community library namely Martha Onesmo, was to provide access to knowledge through books and the available computers. Later on, I hope to establish the place as a learning hub for creative writing, creative design, financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, crop health, which will serve the entire community.

I intend to develop a volunteer program for people of all ages and backgrounds to help educate the Msangeni residents. For the older community members, I would like to create relevant courses for them to learn, such as financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills - so as to assist them conducting proper businesses. For the students, a course in IT skills would highly serve them in today's world.

Throughout the run of the library, I expect to have book clubs for different demographics of the village so as to promote the culture of reading.

What is your opinion about library services in the country, especially in rural areas?

Library service is necessary. Particularly in the rural settings, schools struggle to acquire the textbooks they need in time, as well as attain enough. In a classroom with high student to teacher ratios, students would benefit from the library by seeking the extra help they need, learn and cement concepts and explore the depths of different teachings from multiple sources. By establishing greater library services, you're not only providing access to more books, but a greater chance

to succeed in school.

Furthermore, the infrastructure itself provides a great environment for students to study from. When one invests in developing the knowledge of students, the impact is immense. The libraries would yield better results, such as better grades at school and higher percentage of students passing.

The library in rural setting gives the rural adults a chance to learn skills they never had a chance to learn at school and which are vital in today's world such as IT skills, business management and agriculture markets.

How necessary is book reading among Tanzanians?

In today's world, it is understandable to believe books are boring, especially with the existence of short-form content like TikTok. However, one should read a piece of writing on a regular basis, which can be a novel, a newspaper article, or a feature in a magazine.

Growing up, I always loved to read. As this interest grew, the benefits of it began to seep into my work. Writing an essay was a simple task, synonyms were at the tip of my fingers, and my critical thinking skills increased. The main benefit of reading books is its ability to improve one's language skills by expanding their vocabulary, exposure to different sentence structures, and use of different literary devices to elicit certain reactions.

One may find it hard to read because they haven't found the right genre for them. Hence, I encourage everyone to find their favorite genres and explore the many books it has to offer. It makes the task of reading enjoyable!

Are there any challenges you have faced in your journey?

Establishing a library is difficult, but "where there is will there is a way". I believe the most difficult aspect was finance but I

must say for me; once the donors were convinced with the efforts I had initially put on my own in collecting 6750 on my own and that I was ready to be accountable to a razor sharp implementation plan, donations came through.

My experience has revealed that communities have no problem contributing to projects in their communities especially diaspora groups but they need to be convinced that their contributions are dedicated to the tasks they agreed to and projects are executed in time with no cost overruns. I thank the many donors that supported this cause and made it happen!

In some cases, I have had to search for a book and not find it in my library has been frustrating. I believe the digitizing of libraries has benefited many in terms increasing access to people and the availability of books. With digital libraries, it is very easy to keep up with demand, unlike older services that depended on publishers and distributors.

Interview by Special Correspondent

India tops Hong Kong as world's 4th largest stock market

MUMBAI

INDIA'S stock market capitalization has overtaken Hong Kong's for the first time as the South Asian nation's growth prospects and policy reforms make it an investor darling while global capital pours out of China.

The combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges reached \$4.33 trillion as of Monday's close, versus \$4.29 trillion for Hong Kong, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That makes India the fourth-biggest equity market globally. Its value crossed \$4 trillion for the first time on Dec. 5, with about half of that coming in the past four years.

Equities in India have been booming, thanks to a rapidly growing retail investor base and strong corporate earnings. The world's most populous country has positioned itself as an alternative to China, attracting fresh capital from global investors and companies alike, thanks to its stable political setup and a consumption-driven economy that remains among the fastest-growing of major nations.

The relentless rally in Indian stocks has coincided with a historic



slump in Hong Kong, where some of China's most influential and innovative firms are listed. Beijing's stringent anti-Covid-19 curbs, regulatory crackdowns on corporations, a property-sector crisis and geopolitical

tensions with the West have all combined to erode China's appeal as the world's growth engine.

"We see India as the best structural growth story across not just emerging markets, but worldwide,"

said Evan Metcalf, CEO at Global X ETFs. "While China's growth has stalled and is mired in uncertainty, India has a generational opportunity to emerge as the growth engine of emerging markets. Demograph-

ics are a key advantage, coupled with a surge in educated youth and a progressive government pursuing key structural reforms."

Meanwhile, Chinese and Hong Kong equities are suffering a rout of epic proportions, with the total market value of their stocks having tumbled by more than \$6 trillion since their peaks in 2021. New listings have dried up in Hong Kong, with the Asian financial hub losing its status as one of the world's busiest venues for initial public offerings.

Some strategists have been expecting a turnaround. UBS Group AG sees Chinese stocks outperforming Indian peers in 2024 as battered valuations in the former suggest significant upside potential once sentiment turns, while the latter is at "fairly extreme levels," according to a November report. Bernstein expects the Chinese market to recover, and recommends taking profits on Indian stocks, which it sees as expensive, according to a note earlier this month.

On Tuesday, equities in mainland China climbed after the nation's authorities were said to consider a package of measures to stabilize the slumping market.

That said, momentum seems to be on India's side for now.

Foreigners who until recently were enamored with the China narrative are sending their funds over to its South Asian rival. Global pension and sovereign wealth managers are also seen favoring India, according to a recent study by London-based think-tank Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum.

Despite a 2.8 percent rally on Tuesday, the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index - a gauge of Chinese shares listed in Hong Kong - is down more than 10 percent in 2024 after capping a record four-year losing streak in 2023. It is near hovering its lowest level in almost two decades, while India's stock benchmarks are trading close to record-high levels.

Overseas funds poured more than \$21 billion into Indian shares in 2023, helping the country's benchmark S&P BSE Sensex Index cap an eighth consecutive year of gains.

"There is a clear consensus that India is the best long-term investment opportunity," Goldman Sachs Group Inc. strategists including Guillaume Jaisson and Peter Oppenheimer wrote in a note Jan. 16 with results of a survey from the firm's Global Strategy Conference.

Moscow ready for dialogue with those seeking to stop using Ukraine against Russia – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will be ready to listen to anybody who is interested in stopping the use of Ukraine as an instrument of war against Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with CBS.

"Anybody who is sincerely interested in justice, including justice being established in the relations between Russia and Ukraine, which would involve, of course, stopping the Western policy of using Ukraine as an instrument of war against Russia, we would be ready to listen to," the minister said.

Lavrov (pictured) recalled a remark by Russian President Vladimir Putin who had dismissed as untrue allegations that Russia is against negotiations. "Actually, [US Secretary



of State) Antony Blinken said this in Davos a few days ago. It is not true," Lavrov maintained as he insisted that Russia had always emphasized that it would be ready to discuss "any serious proposal that would include

the discussion of the situation on the ground, of the origin of this situation, and of reaching a solution that would guarantee legitimate, national interests of Russia and the Ukrainian people."

According to the Russian foreign minister, Russia has been warning its Western partners since 2007 or 2008, when NATO expansion was going too far, despite all the promises given by the North Atlantic Alliance to former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev not to expand their lines. "Five waves of expansion, and then NATO at the last moment, at the end of 2021, found itself just on the borders of the Russian Federation," Lavrov continued. "The West has discredited itself completely," he concluded. **Agencies**

After 5 years, India's criminal justice system will be most modern in world - Amit Shah

GANDHINAGAR

EMPHASIZING the importance of three new criminal laws, Union Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday said that after 5 years, India's criminal justice system will be the most modern in the world.

Amit Shah, while addressing the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) said that the inauguration is happening at a time when India's criminal justice system is entering a new era.

"IPC, CrPC and Evidence Law have been scrapped and new laws have been introduced. I have been piloting these laws and with great courage, we have taken the decision that we have made compulsory the visit of forensic science officers at every crime scene for cases with punishment of 7 years or more. This will make the investigation easier, work of the judges will also get easier. Along with this, we are also trying to modernize the entire process. Right now it will take 5 years because it has different levels. But after 5 years, India's criminal justice system will be the most modern in the world," he said.

"If a government remains in power for 50 years, it makes 5-6 changes, but in just 10 years we have made more than 50 changes in every field," he added.

Union Home Minister asserted that after 5 years, the country will get more than 9,000 scientific officers and forensic science experts every year.

"Our government has brought the new education policy after 40 years. I can say that this education policy is completely built based on India but it will make our children prominent in the world stage also. After 5 years, this country will get more than 9,000 scientific officers and forensic science experts every year. We have made such arrangements in advance. In preventing crime, behavioural science plays as much role as strict administration," he asserted.

Further, Amit Shah added that the government is finding a technical solution for the police stations of the country which are located on the hills.

"We are also finding a technical solution for the police stations of the country which are located on the hills. Except for 7 police stations, every police station in the country has been connected to the computer and linked to the database. More than 15 crore prosecution data has been made online in the e-court and it speaks in all the languages of India. We have been able to record the data of approximately 2 crore prisoners through e-prison. We have made available 19 lakh results of e-forensic for the last 3 years in online data," he added. **ANI**

3rd South Summit calls for ending Israel-Palestine conflict

KAMPALA

THE Third South Summit ended on Monday in the Ugandan capital Kampala with participating leaders calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the protection of civilians.

The two-day summit, which brought together leaders of the Group of 77 members and China, urged the United Nations Security Council to undertake efforts to implement its resolutions to end the Israel-Palestine conflict without delay.

The South Summit is the supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77 comprising 134 members. High-level representatives of nearly 100 countries and heads of United Nations agencies attended the meeting.

"We also reiterate our demand for the immediate and full lifting of the Israeli blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, which constitutes massive collective punishment," the leaders said in an outcome document of the meeting.

They called for the complete dismantlement and immediate cessation of all illegal Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The leaders said that Israel is in violation of the UN Charter and international law for its strikes on Syrian civil infrastructure, including civil airports, which threaten the livelihood of civilians, hinder UN humanitarian operations, and



A Palestinian child looks onboard the French LHD Dixmude military ship, which serves as a hospital to treat wounded Palestinians, as it docks at the Egyptian port of Al-Arish on Jan 21, 2024, amid ongoing battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas

jeopardize the safety of civil aviation. They further stated that Israel should end its violations of Lebanese sovereignty by air, land and sea, which threaten its security and economic development.

"We also call on Israel to refrain from using white phosphorus against Lebanon in contravention of international humanitarian law," the document said. The leaders also emphasized that Israel should withdraw from all occupied Lebanese territories in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution.

The summit was held under the

theme "Leaving No One Behind". Uganda took over the chairmanship of the summit from Cuba. This was the first time that the South Summit was held in Africa. The previous two summits were held in Havana, Cuba, in 2000, and in Doha, Qatar, in 2005, respectively.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said during the country's chairmanship, it would reach out to countries facing tensions or conflicts with a view to reaching a win-win solution. He added that the country would also focus on promoting trade among member countries.

Israel mounts "fiercest fighting" in S. Gaza's Khan Younis, killing dozens

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI forces have intensified their assault on the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis, storming medical centers and killing dozens of Palestinians, in their fiercest fighting in the area thus far, Israeli and Palestinian sources said on Monday.

Israeli tanks surrounded the city's Al-Amal Hospital, imposing a siege, while troops stormed another one, the Al-Khair Hospital, arresting medical staff. In a statement, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) expressed deep concern over the safety of its teams "trapped inside" the Al-Amal Hospital. The PRCS also reported an unspecified number of casualties

among displaced people due to Israeli bombings at shelter centers. At least 50 Palestinians were killed, and 100 others injured in the strikes on Khan Younis over the past day, the Gaza-based Health Ministry Spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra told Al Jazeera TV news.

Many others are feared to be trapped under the rubble, unable to be reached by rescue teams. At least 25,295 Palestinians, mostly women, children, and the elderly, have been killed by the Israeli strikes on Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023, the Gaza-based Health Ministry updated Monday.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed in a statement that it launched "a combined attack" of four brigades on western Khan Younis, adding that

the forces were closing in on the city's refugee camp.

"The divisional attack will continue for several more days," IDF said, adding it "will include raids and other military operations to dismantle the military infrastructure of Hamas in the region."

At nightfall, the army announced in a statement that three officers from the Paratroopers Brigade were killed, including a deputy battalion commander, a company commander, and a platoon commander.

According to official Israeli figures, a total of 198 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the country waged a war against Hamas, following the Hamas-led assault on southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7, 2023, in which about

1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, were killed and more than 200 were taken as hostages to Gaza.

In Jerusalem, dozens of supporters and relatives of hostages barged into a meeting at the Israeli parliament, demanding more action to free captives from Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that Israel has been discussing a new ceasefire deal with Qatari mediators. The proposal includes the release of civilian hostages in exchange for "a significant" period of ceasefire and the release of additional Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody, reported Kan, citing Israeli officials. **Xinhua**



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar co-chairs the 6th India-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting with Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, in Abuja on Monday. ANI

India-Nigeria bond underpinned by administrations that doesn't leave anyone behind - EAM Jaishankar

LAGOS

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the sixth India-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with his counterpart Yusuf Tuggar on Monday (local time) and discussed new opportunities of cooperation in various sectors.

"Co-chaired the 6th India-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting along with FM @YusufTuggar. Noted the expansion of our economic cooperation especially trade and investment. Discussed new opportunities in energy, power, renewables, transport, healthcare, fintech, agriculture and security," Jaishankar posted on X.

"Agreed to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, mobility and consular cooperation. India and Nigeria also cooperate closely in multilateral forums and will take that tradition forward," he added.

Speaking on the age-old relationship between the two countries, he said that the strong bonding is underpinned by two administrations which believe that no one should be left behind.

Addressing the meeting, Jaishankar said, "India and Nigeria share a long-standing and friendly relationship which is rooted in history. We are the largest democracies of the world and are the leaders in our continents. In recent years, this has been renewed by contacts between our leaderships".

"What underpins our bond, is today, we have administrations in the two countries, that truly believes that no one should be left behind. And it is this inclusive approach, which I think creates a strong bonding between us and allows us to work so closely in international organizations," he added.

The EAM also emphasised that a large number of Indian companies have made huge investments in Nigeria are among the largest employers in the country.

"Today as an economic partner of Nigeria, whose investments are estimated broadly at about USD 27 billion, which has an annual trade turnover with this country of somewhere between USD 13-15 billion," Jaishankar said.

He added, "When we have about 130 Indian companies who have really put their economic future struck roots in this country to a point where actually they have become one of the largest employers in this country, I think there is a very, very strong foundation on which we would be building".

After the conclusion of the meeting, Jaishankar also addressed a joint press conference with counterpart Tuggar and said that he was satisfied with the discussions.

He also elaborated on the agreements signed between the two countries ranging from the areas of solar energy, health and transportation, adding that the two countries are also looking at the use of digital technology for cashless payments.

"One of the agreements we signed was on solar energy, so we are going to see a lot more cooperation in the field of green and clean energy. Nigeria and India, we both face health challenges. So, how do we make medicines accessible, affordable, how can we work on transportation, other forms of energy. We are even looking at how do we use digital technology for cashless payments," the EAM further said.

EAM Jaishankar is on a visit to Nigeria from January 21-23.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar addressed the India-Nigeria Business Forum. He also addressed the Nigerian Institute Of International Affairs (NIIA) in Lagos on India and the Global South.

He also visited the Indian High Commission in Abuja. There, he unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi and planted a sapling in the High Commission premises.

India and Nigeria have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations. This is EAM's first visit to Nigeria, which will further consolidate bilateral relations between the two countries, according to Ministry of External Affairs release.

Prior to this, he also led the Indian delegation at the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to be held in Kampala, Uganda. He met several foreign leaders and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the summit. **ANI**



Today as an economic partner of Nigeria, whose investments are estimated broadly at about USD 27 billion, which has an annual trade turnover with this country of somewhere

NEW DELHI

FIRM GDP growth forecasts, inflation at manageable levels, political stability at the central government level and signs that the central bank is done with tightening its monetary policy have all contributed to painting a bright picture for the Indian stock market.

India pipped Hong Kong to become the fourth-highest equity market globally, Bloomberg reported. The combined value of shares listed on Indian exchanges

reached USD 4.33 trillion as of Monday's close, versus USD 4.29 trillion for Hong Kong, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

India's stock market capitalization crossed USD 4 trillion for the first time on December 5, 2023, with about half of that reportedly coming in the past four years. The top three stock markets are those of US, China, and Japan.

Cumulatively, the past 12 months have been stellar for investors who parked their money in Indian stocks. Though there has been some turbulence, the

calendar year 2023 gave handsome monetary dividends to stock market investors. In 2023 itself, Sensex and Nifty gained 17-18 per cent, on a cumulative basis. They gained a mere three to four per cent each in 2022.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index cumulatively declined 32-33 per cent over the past year, data showed.

Notably, foreign portfolio investors have again trained their sight towards India, becoming net buyers in the country's stock market. In the process, it helped Indian

benchmark stock indices taste their all-time highs recently.

According to the Bloomberg news report, India, which last year became the most populous country has positioned itself as an alternative to China, attracting fresh capital from global investors and companies alike, due to its stable political setup and a consumption-driven economy that remains among the fastest-growing of major nations.

As Indian stocks rallied, it coincided with a historic slump in Hong Kong, where some of Chi-

na's most influential and innovative firms are listed.

According to the news report, stringent anti-COVID-19 curbs, regulatory crackdowns on corporations, a property-sector crisis and geopolitical tensions with the West have all combined to erode China's appeal as the world's growth engine. New listings have dried up in Hong Kong, with the Asian financial hub losing its status as one of the world's busiest venues for initial public offerings (IPOs). Here are some of the views of analysts and experts on India

surpassing Hong Kong stock market in capitalisation terms: Sneha Poddar, AVP, retail research, Broking and Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services:

India remains the fastest-growing country among the top 10 global economies. The strong post-pandemic recovery and resilient performance amid global headwinds demonstrate the inherent strength of the economy. Strong growth, prudent policy reforms, government's focus on infrastructure and capex, healthy corporate books, comfortable fo-

rex reserves, and lower commodity cost inflation could protect India from any external shocks and position it to outpace other countries in the coming decade.

Thus, we remain firm believers in the medium term India story and expect the overall trend to strengthen with multiple themes at play - financialization of savings, private capex revival, rising discretionary consumption, strengthening of real estate cycle, and the massive creation of digital and physical infrastructure. **ANI**

Mayele foresees a grueling tie between DR Congo and Tanzania

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



SPORT

E. Guinea crush Ivory Coast in huge AFCON shock, Egypt edge through

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



DR Congo national football team's forward Fiston Mayele (L) battles for the ball with Morocco's fullback, Achraf Hakimi, in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Group F match that took place in Ivory Coast last week. AGENCIES

Why Taifa Stars coach remains confident after Zambia setback

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team interim head coach Hemed Suleiman has candidly reflected on the recent draw against Zambia in the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, attributing the outcome to a momentary lapse in concentration.

In a game that held high stakes for both teams, Tanzania seized an early advantage. Simon Msuva, assisted by Mbwana Samatta, found the back of the net in the 11th minute, setting a positive tone for the Taifa Stars.

However, as the match progressed, Suleiman observed a shift in his team's focus.

"It was a difficult match. We started well by trying to push them. Then we quickly scored in the first quarter of an hour. But unfortunately, we were already trying to manage the match in the first half," he explained.

Suleiman's insights point to an overemphasis on defense following their early lead, a strategy that may have inadvertently allowed Zambia to regain footing.

The interim head coach noted: "I knew this team. We followed them and analyzed them well. In football, teams with 10 players are often more dangerous."

"We lacked concentration. Which cost us a goal in the last minute," he added, highlighting the unexpected resilience shown by Zambia, even after captain Roderick Kabwe's red card just before halftime.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Zambia's Chipolopolo demonstrated remarkable grit.

Forward Patson Daka's equalizer in the dying minutes of the match was a testament to their tenacity, bringing the score level and blunting Tanzania's early momentum.

Looking ahead, Tanzania faces a crucial encounter against DR Congo in their last group match at Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium today.

With a point already in their kitty, a victory in this fixture could secure them a spot in the knockout stages.

Understanding the stakes, Suleiman has promised a more concentrated effort.

"We were going for three points but we are going to take the point. It's football. We have a young team that continues to learn and progress game after game," Suleiman noted.

"Some players fell physically today but we will work on that. And certainly in the next match, we will be even better," he stressed.

Taifa Stars players plot DR Congo downfall in 2023 AFCON

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, is set to face DR Congo in a crucial last clash of Group F of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals taking place in Ivory Coast, today.

The match, slated to kick off at 11 pm EAT, will be held at the Amadou Gon Coulibaly Stadium in Korhogo.

Taifa Stars' chances of qualifying for the showdown's round of 16 will depend on the outcome of the other Group F match, which will see Zambia take on Morocco in San-Pédro at the same time.

Currently, Morocco leads the group with four points, followed by DR Congo and Zambia which have been tied on two points apiece, then followed by the bottom-placed Tanzania with one point.

Taifa Stars' interim head coach Hemed Suleiman targets improvement as the gaffer admitted that lack of concentration cost the team when it took on Zambia, with the two squads sharing the spoils with a 1-1 draw.

Suleiman, however, expressed confidence in his squad's ability to bounce back in today's duel against DR Congo.

"We started well, but unfortunately, we were already trying to manage the match in the first half, which allowed Zambia to equalize," Suleiman noted.

"We have learned from our mistakes and are now fully focused on winning the last match. We believe in our team's ability, and we are determined to make our fans proud," he added.

Taifa Stars players have vowed to work hard despite facing a tough challenge and securing a victory against DR Congo.

The Tanzania squad's forward Simon Msuva acknowledged the difficulty of the match but emphasized that anything is possible in football.

"We are sad after failing to win against Zambia, but that is not the end of the road. We still have another match that will decide our fate. Our target is to win the encounter," Msuva revealed.

Left-back Mohammed Hussein echoed Msuva's sentiments and stressed the importance of avoiding the mistakes made in the previous match against Zambia.

"It will be a crucial match for us. We need to be very keen and avoid



Tanzania's senior national football team interim head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco' (C), and his assistant Juma Mgunda (L), chat with the team's captain Mbwana Samatta when it was taking part in training in Ivory Coast early this week to shape up for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Group F ties. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

mistakes," the footballer said.

Midfielder Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto' remains optimistic despite the disappointing draw against Zambia and believes the team is focused on today's match against DR Congo.

"It is part of the game. We made mistakes and got punished in the last minutes. I believe the technical bench will rectify all and win the last match against DR Congo," Salum said.

The clash between Taifa Stars and DR Congo promises to be a thrilling encounter with both teams fighting for their AFCON dreams.

The outcome of the match will have a significant impact on the final standings in Group F and determine which teams will advance to the knockout stages.

Morocco has emerged as the undeniable front-runner in Group F as they garnered a 3-0 victory in their first match against Tanzania.

The Atlas Lions later on were held to a 1-1 draw by DR Congo in their second group stage encounter, positioning themselves as the group leaders with 4 points.

In the fierce battle for the second qualifying spot, both DR Congo and Zambia are vying for supremacy, with DR Congo slightly edging ahead owing to their superior goal difference.

This intensifies the competition as the

two teams strive to secure their progression to the group stage.

While the Taifa Stars remain mathematically in contention, their path to the next stage is narrow.

To keep their hopes alive, they must secure a crucial victory against DR Congo and rely on a favourable outcome in Morocco versus Zambia clash.

Morocco's stellar performance has not only solidified their standing as group leaders but has also set the stage for a compelling narrative as they aim to maintain their dominance in subsequent matches.

As the tournament unfolds, the dynamics of Group F promise further excitement and unpredictability, with each team fighting fervently to secure a coveted spot in the next phase.

The impending clashes in the group will undoubtedly showcase the resilience and determination of the teams involved, creating an engaging spectacle for fans and adding an extra layer of anticipation to the unfolding competition.

Today's match between Taifa Stars and DR Congo is a must-watch for fans of African football.

The result will have a major impact on the outcome of Group F and will determine which teams will continue their AFCON journey.

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHILE SHOPPING, HOLD YOUR WIFE'S HAND: IT IS NOT ONLY ROMANTIC BUT ALSO ECONOMICAL

YOU WILL THANK ME FOR THIS TIP

Mayele stressed the importance of entering today's match with respect for their opponents while emphasizing their preparedness to fight for their country's qualification into the last 16